

SCENE 2: RICHMOND COUNTY, GEORGIA, 1899

Newspaper Masthead of Locale and Time
Music and Costumes of the Period

Characters: Mother, African American
John, young African American male
Judge

(Lights up, finding John and his Mother in their home at supper table. They are eating and talking.)

JOHN

Darn right, Momma. I'm entitled to go to school, just like the white boys.

MOTHER

Now what school you going to go to, John? And don't use that kind of language. Your school's closing down. And they sure aren't going to let you go to the white boys' school.

JOHN

I read something, Momma. Have you ever heard of Homer Plessy?

MOTHER

That colored man who got himself thrown off that train car reserved for whites a few years back?

JOHN

That's him.

MOTHER

What does that have to do with this? Plus, as I recall, he lost his case when he tried to get something done in court. And that was only three years ago.

JOHN

Well, I've been reading. And I read what one of the Judges had to say about it.

MOTHER

Well, did that Mr. Plessy win his case, or not?

JOHN

Just listen to what one of the Judges had to say.