

SCENE 5: Rumbblings From An Entire Nation

Newspaper Masthead: 1951, Topeka

Characters: Thurgood Marshall
Kenneth Clark

Ensemble of Actors playing multiple roles

(Lights come up on Oliver and Leola Brown, at home)

OLIVER BROWN

Leola, I've been asked to do something, and I'd like your feelings on it..

LEOLA BROWN

At the meeting last night?

OLIVER

That's right. At our NAACP meeting. Wish you could have been there.

LEOLA

What do they want you to do?

OLIVER

Now, you know when I've gone for walks with Linda, and we walk right by Sumner School, so close to our own house, it often occurs to me to wonder why it is that our daughter has to go a mile and a half to school when there's one right down the street. Why she must leave home at 7:40 to be at school by 9:00. Having to cross the railroad tracks when the cars are switching in order to catch her bus.

LEOLA

And our NAACP wants you to help them look into it?

OLIVER

More than that, Leola. They have asked me to take Linda right down here to Sumner School and try to get her enrolled there.

LEOLA

She likes Monroe, and it's a fine school. Marvelous teachers...every bit as good as the white schools, if not better.