

ABBOTT ELEMENTARY SPEC

"EVERYONES HISTORY"

Written by

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Based on ABC's ORIGINAL SITCOM, "ABBOTT ELEMENTARY."

Logline: When Janine's student is disinterested in learning about Black History, she teams up with Barbara to put on a Black History performance to change her mind; Jacob misspeaks to his class, causing friction between him and Gregory.

Previously on "Abbott Elementary":

After Jacob reveals a detail about his personal life, Janine realizes she doesn't know the other teachers as well as she thought; Gregory's stern teaching approach is causing his whole class to underperform.

COLD OPEN

INT. JANINE'S CLASSROOM - DAY

JANINE, dressed as Civil Rights activist Claudette Colvin, scribbles "HAPPY BLACK HISTORY MONTH" on the chalkboard.

JANINE

Today starts my favorite month of the year! Can anyone tell me which month that is?

Janine looks to the chalkboard. BRITTANY yells out.

BRITTANY

February!

JANINE

Well...yes, Brittany! AND what happens in February?

Janine stretches her arm towards the scribble. AMBER raises her hand.

JANINE (CONT'D)

Amber?

AMBER

Valentine's day?

JANINE

It's Valentine's Day and yes, but *also--*

Janine sings until SHAWN interrupts...

SHAWN

Groundhog Day.

JANINE (CONT'D)

Black History Month.

BRITTANY

My momma said 'margarita day' in February.

JANINE

That is probably true AND it's Black History Month.

AMBER

Is that why you dressed like that?

Janine twirls in her 50s attire, then winks at the camera.

JANINE

Yes, it is. Thank you for noticing!

JANINE TALKING HEAD

JANINE (CONT'D)

I am so excited for this year's Black History Month. Today, I dressed as Claudette Colvin, the first tired black woman. Well, I'm sure she wasn't the first tired black woman, I'm sure our exhaustion dates back centuries.

INT. JANINE'S CLASSROOM - DAY

Janine shakes a 'Black History Month' decorated SHOE BOX.

JANINE

Alright, kids, this week I have a fun project planned. You will select one black person from this special box to learn all about, and then, you get to present them to the class. Who wants to pick first?

The KIDS all sit quietly in their seats.

JANINE (CONT'D)

Don't all jump at once.

(beat)

Brélin?

BRÉLIN lifts her head. AVA walks into Janine's classroom.

BRELIN

I don't want to pick a black person from the box.

AVA

Janine, what kind of slavery stuff you got going on in here?

JANINE

(to Brelin)

No, you're not picking an *actual* black person from the box--that's just a metaphor. See? It's only pictures.

Janine pulls out a picture of Angela Davis.

AVA
 Why don't you teach them about
 black people who actually made a
 difference for US like... Luther
 Vandross, or Beyonce, or ME?

Ava smirks for the camera. Janine places the photo in Ava's
 eye line of the lens.

JANINE
 This is Angela Davis.

AVA
 Who?

JANINE TALKING HEAD

JANINE
 You guys know who Angela Davis is,
 right?

INT. JANINE'S CLASSROOM

Ava squints at the photo. She shakes her head 'No' and leaves
 the classroom.

JANINE
 Okay, class. I want each of you to
 choose one black person.

Janine walks around and each kid takes a photo from the box.

JANINE (CONT'D)
 Alright, Lewis Howard Latimer. He
 invented something we're using
 right now! Can anyone guess?

They don't, she moves on. She leans in front of Amber with
 the shoe box. Amber pulls out a photo of BILL COSBY.

JANINE (CONT'D)
 Oh no! How did that get in there?
 They don't talk about Bruno, and we
 don't talk about Bill. I'll take
 that.

Janine stuffs the photo in her pocket.

JANINE (CONT'D)
 Okay, Brélin, it's your turn.

BRELIN
Ms. Teagues, I don't care about
Black History month.

Janine gasps.

END COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

INT. TEACHER'S LOUNGE - DAY

JACOB, dressed in a black suit with a white collar shirt, pulls a container from the microwave. TEACHERS sit around the tables eating. Ava walks in.

AVA

Why every time I come in here,
y'all in here?

BARBARA

It is the teacher's lounge.

AVA

And Jacob, why you dressed like Men
in Black?

MELISSA

I was thinking John Travolta, Pulp
Fiction.

Jacob joins BARBARA and MELISSA at their table.

JACOB

Janine and I committed to upping
the ante on Black History Month.
Today, we are paying homage to
Civil Rights leaders-- it's right
there on the bulletin.

Everyone turns to the bulletin. Ava snatches the flyer from
bulletin.

BARBARA

I assumed it was old.

MELISSA

No one reads those.

AVA

(reading)

Join us in being Civil Rights--

Ava tosses the flyer in the trash. Janine walks in.

AVA (CONT'D)

So that's why you're dressed like
Rosa Parks?

JANINE
I'm Claudette Colvin...The first
black woman to refuse her seat.

Janine finds the camera.

AVA
I thought that was Rosa Parks.

BARBARA
Everyone did.

AVA
(to Janine)
We just going to tell people you're
Rosa Parks.

JANINE
But, I'm Claudette Colvin.

AVA
Stop trying to add people to the
list, tryna confuse everybody.

JANINE
What list?

AVA TALKING HEAD

AVA
Everybody knows you got your same
ten black people during Black
History month. It's like the 106
and Park countdown of Black
History.

AS WE WERE

BARBARA
Martin Luther King--

MELISSA
Malcolm X--

AVA
Oprah--

BARBARA
George Washington Carver--

AVA (CONT'D)
Ooh, Denzel Washington!

JANINE
Which is why I think it's best to
expand our students knowledge.
There are so many great black
people who have contributed to--

AVA

So Barbara, did they put you on the chair board for the Black History Month committee?

BARBARA

They're supposed to send the email today, let me check.

Barbara scrolls on her iPad.

BARBARA (CONT'D)

Oh, they did. I--

The teachers wait for Barbara.

BARBARA (CONT'D)

Didn't get it. No, they gave it to a...white woman?

AVA

You need to see if *she's* cheating on her husband.

BARBARA TALKING HEAD

BARBARA

I can't believe it! I applied to be the head of the Black History Committee, and they selected a white woman?

GREGORY TALKING HEAD

GREGORY

I'm not surprised by anything that happens in this district anymore.

MELISSA TALKING HEAD

MELISSA

Sometimes you learn not to have an opinion.

Melissa stops talking. She zips her lips with her hand, throws away the imaginary key.

AVA TALKING HEAD

AVA

At least we know she won't complicate the list.

AS WE WERE

JANINE

Barbara, I know that must be painful. But, maybe if we bring back excitement to Black History Month for our students, the district will see how committed you are and reconsider.

BARBARA

Janine, I fear this might be over our heads.

JANINE

No, I think we can really change this. I have this student, Brélin. She told me today that she doesn't care about Black History Month at all.

AVA

Girl, there are a lot of things that come out of your mouth that I don't care about. Like now.

Ava leaves the lounge. Janine zones in on the teachers.

JANINE

I think it's time we tear up that list and teach kids more about Black History!

The teachers continue their conversations. Janine looks at the camera, embarrassed. Gregory gets up and taps Janine as he leaves the lounge. He smiles.

GREGORY

I think it's a good idea.

He's caught in his tracks by the camera. Gregory scurries out the lounge.

MELISSA

So, Barbara what are you going to do?

JANINE

I know what Claudette Colvin would do.

JANINE TALKING HEAD

JANINE (CONT'D)

I get it, learning about new black history means we are forced to further stretch our materials and be even more creative. Well, I'm ready to put the old books aside and teach these kids more than what's on Ava's list.

INT. BARBARA'S CLASSROOM - DAY

Barbara is teaching her students about Dr. Martin Luther King.

BARBARA

Dr. King was an American minister, who became a civil rights leader in 1955.

KAMYA raises her hand.

BARBARA (CONT'D)

Yes, Kamy?

KAMYA

What's a minister?

JANINE

(sings)

Ms. Howard--

Janine walks into the classroom with a stack of papers.

BARBARA

(to the class)

Ah, class-- Heads down, thumbs up!

(to Janine)

What is this?

The students all bow their heads, with their thumbs in the air. Janine fans a stapled stack at Barbara.

JANINE

These are resources.

Barbara grabs the papers from Janine and flips through it.

JANINE (CONT'D)

We have to expand our students knowledge.

BARBARA

Janine, you can't just change the curriculum without the approval of the--

JANINE

Committee. I thought you'd say that, that's why I decided to put on a black history program and invite them.

BARBARA

Oh, Janine. I don't know about this.

JANINE

Come on. You and Melissa have years of camaraderie, you and Jacob have the garden, you and Ava did the grant together--

BARBARA

I can't believe I am saying this, but alright, I'm in.

JANINE

Great...because I already invited them to come out this Friday! So, yay.

BARBARA TALKING HEAD

Barbara stares blankly into the camera.

JANINE TALKING HEAD

JANINE (CONT'D)

I knew Barbara would agree, so I was three steps ahead of her. I called the districts committee and told them they made a big mistake by not granting Barbara that seat as chair.

BARBARA TALKING HEAD

BARBARA

I don't know why I agree to do things like this.

JANINE TALKING HEAD

JANINE

I'm so excited. Janine and Barbara. Barb and Jan. No one calls me Jan, but I'd imagine that if I had a nickname it would be Jan. 'Neen,' reads like nine and that'll get all crazy. So, yeah--

Janine smiles at the possibilities.

INT. JACOB'S CLASSROOM - DAY

Jacob holds up a picture of Vice President Kamala Harris to his STUDENTS.

JACOB

I know you know who this is.

The kids don't respond.

JACOB (CONT'D)

Okay, I'll give you a hint. She's not the president, but--

They stare at him, confused.

JACOB (CONT'D)

Vice President--

GIGI yells.

GIGI

Michelle Obama!

JACOB

Close, but Michelle Obama is the former First Lady.

Another student yells out.

STUDENT

I thought Melania Trump was the first lady.

GIGI

My momma said she's not her first lady.

Political chatter builds amongst the students as Jacob tries to control the class.

JACOB

Alright, alright! No need to go back and forth. I'll just tell you. This is Kamala Harris. The first black lady Vice President. This was a big move for you all, especially the colored girls.

The class gasps and fixates on Jacob, who sinks into his poor choice of words.

INT. ABBOTT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

JACOB TALKING HEAD

JACOB

I've gotten so used to saying people of color that I just tried to rephrase the words and--

Gregory walks up behind Jacob.

GREGORY

What did you say?

Jacob cowards his head.

JACOB

I rephrased people of color.

GREGORY

To?

Jacob looks into the camera for help.

INT. TEACHER'S LOUNGE - MOMENTS LATER

Janine passes out her packets to the rest of the teachers.

JANINE

I thought we could each choose one page to focus on with our students. This way, by the end of the month each grade level will have learned at least ten new Black American pioneers.

Gregory and Jacob burst into the lounge arguing.

JACOB

Bud. Come on! My boyfriend's black.

MELISSA

Uh-oh, anytime one of us says that,
you know what that means.

JACOB

I am not ra--I can't even bring
myself to say the word.

JANINE

Of course you aren't! What
happened?

GREGORY

Jacob is trying to take us back 60
years.

JACOB

I switched the words around.

BARBARA

Switched what words around?

JACOB

I accidentally called the young
black girls in my class...colored.

He mumbles 'colored'.

BARBARA

I'm sorry, did you say colored?

JANINE

Jeez Jacob.

GREGORY

He says it was an honest mistake.

JACOB

It was. You know me...

Jacob pleads to Barbara.

JACOB (CONT'D)

Barb--my little garden tool--
partner. My little gardening
partner. You know me.

Jacob's shaking.

MELISSA

We barely know you, kid. You're
still wet behind the ears here.

JACOB

I've been here for two years.

BARBARA

The boy is nervous. Shaking like a leaf on a tree in Chicago.

JANINE

Well, I know you Jacob, and I know you wouldn't deliberately say that to hurt the kids. I'm sure it was an honest mistake.

JANINE TALKING HEAD

JANINE (CONT'D)

Jacob's not like that. Sometimes, I even switch it up. It's 2022 and there are so many different acronyms. Really. It is. Even for the LGBTQQIP2SAA. Sometimes, I still mix that up. Sometimes.

Janine tries.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. JANINE'S CLASSROOM - DAY - LATER

Janine writes on the board as Barbara sits back watching her.

JANINE

Okay, so, here we have the normal
five people that we all know.

Janine writes as she speaks.

JANINE (CONT'D)

Dr. King, Malcolm X, Rosa Parks--

She turns to the camera.

JANINE (CONT'D)

Who I am not dressed like today.

BARBARA

I mean, you could be--they all
dressed the same.

JANINE

Okay! Coretta Scott King, Oprah.
(beat)
We are just going to do this.

Janine takes a red dry erase marker and strikes through Dr.
King.

BARBARA

Oh no! I don't know how I feel
about you striking through the
Reverend Doctor Martin Luther
King's name like that!

JANINE

It's just for the purpose of this
lesson, I'm not actually striking
through his contribution to
history.

BARBARA

It kind of feels like it, though.

BARBARA TALKING HEAD

BARBARA (CONT'D)

Where I come from, we don't talk
bad about Jesus, and we don't talk
bad about Dr. Martin Luther King.

AS WE WERE

JANINE

How about we just do this instead?

Janine erases the red line as best she can.

BARBARA

That's better.

Barbara glances at the camera.

JANINE

I was thinking that we could add
Garrett Morgan, Madam C.J. Walker,
Oh--Lonnie Johnson, the super
soaker. Kids love to play with
that. They should know it was
invented by a black man.

BARBARA

I don't disagree with you that we
should educate them on more
successful black inventors, but I
just don't want to erase the ones
they do know.

JANINE

Of course not. Listen, you've been
doing this for a very long time.

BARBARA

Yes--

JANINE

And I just want to add to what
you've already done.

BARBARA

So, you just went digging for new
black people to teach about?

JANINE

Actually, my first real
introduction to it was in college,
when I switched my major to African
American studies--

BARBARA

Oh wow, Janine. I didn't know you majored in African American studies!

JANINE

Well, I switched it back within the hour, but I was *super* in it for those 47 minutes.

Barbara glares at the camera.

JANINE (CONT'D)

So, I'm thinking we put on a play. It's a sure way to entertain, while educating.

Barbara's light goes off.

BARBARA

Oh, Janine... A play? I haven't done theater in so long. I don't even know if I remember how.

BARBARA TALKING HEAD

Barbara sings, "Dreamgirls."

BARBARA (CONT'D)

I love theater. I starred in Merriam Theater's black box performance of "Dreamgirls." It's another reason why I don't understand how Taylor could live in New York City and not do Broadway.
(beat)
Selling booze.

AS WE WERE

JANINE

I used to do a little writing as a kid, so I've already taken care of the script.

BARBARA

Okay, let's see it.

Janine grabs the script from her desk and hands it to Barbara.

BARBARA (CONT'D)

Janine, this is good.

JANINE

Right?

BARBARA

Sure it is. Just a few minor changes and it'll be perfect.

JANINE TALKING HEAD

JANINE

I can't explain how excited I am to be working alongside Barb to do this. She's like my work idol, and it's an honor.

BARBARA TALKING HEAD

BARBARA

The script is horrible, but she's got so much spirit, y'know?

INT. AUDITORIUM - DAY

The kids stand on the stage holding scripts. Janine and Barbara stand in front of the kids.

JANINE

Okay, and then Brittany you step up and say--

Janine motions for Brittany. Brittany steps into the spotlight and reads from the paper.

Janine mouths the script word for word.

BRITTANY

I'm tied of these naps poppin'. Something gots to give. I think I might make a cream to straighten this here hair out.

Barbara turns on the light.

BARBARA

I'm sorry, Janine.

JANINE

What's up?

BARBARA

I just think there's a better way to tell the audience that she's Madam C.J. Walker.

JANINE
I was just thinking that we should add real relaxer--

BARBARA (CONT'D)
Like talking about *what* she invented instead of *why*?

JANINE (CONT'D)
Right. That's exactly where I was going with it.

BARBARA
Like for instance, Brittany try this... "I created a line of hair products that changed how black women see their hair. I am Madame C.J. Walker."

Janine looks at the camera, and then back at Barbara, who is taking her place on the stage.

JANINE
Oh okay. That's very literal.

BARBARA
And maybe sway a little this way when you say it.

Barbara sashays across the stage.

BARBARA (CONT'D)
You know what? Add a little tune to it. Can you hold a note?

Brittany stares at Barbara.

INT. GREGORY'S CLASSROOM - DAY

Gregory's class is down for a nap, he looks through Janine's packet. Jacob walks in.

JACOB
Hey!

GREGORY
Shh!

Gregory whispers. Jacob follows suit.

JACOB
Sorry.

GREGORY
Where is your class?

JACOB
They're still in the room. I
haven't been back since--you know.

GREGORY
You segregated them?

JACOB
Gregory. Come on man. It was an
honest mistake.

GREGORY
Who's watching your class?

INT. JACOB'S CLASSROOM - SAME TIME

A TikTok of Ava projects on the chalkboard. Ava smiles, while she stands at the back of the classroom.

AVA
Ha! I remember when I did this one
right here! Yes! Now, *this* is black
history.

She reenacts the TikTok.

INT. GREGORY'S CLASSROOM - SAME TIME

GREGORY
You have to go back to your class.
Or at least get out of mine before
you wake Darius up. You do not want
to wake Darius up.

JACOB
No, no I don't. I just wanted to
make sure we were cool. You know,
best buds?

GREGORY
We were never best buds.

JACOB
Right, but we were cool. We're
still cool?

GREGORY
Yeah.

Gregory goes back to reading his packet.

JACOB
Great! Okay. I'll just-- I'll head
back to my class.

JACOB TALKING HEAD

JACOB (CONT'D)
I think that went well, right?

GREGORY TALKING HEAD

GREGORY
We are not cool.

INT. AUDITORIUM - DAY

Students dance across the stage. Barbara stands with a cane --
a la Debbie Allen, Fame.

BARBARA
Yes! Yes! And then, Garrett Morgan--

Shawn steps to the front. He sings:

SHAWN
I am big on safety, so I did it
again. The traffic signal and
breathing mask. I am Garret Morgan.

Janine claps. She's amazed. Brélin sits at the back of the
auditorium. Janine notices her and joins her.

BARBARA
Good job, Shawn! Next time, give me
more shimmy.

SHAWN
What's a shimmy?

Barbara demonstrates.

JANINE TALKING HEAD

JANINE
Mrs. Howard is so good at this. The
kids just love her. Normally, I
would feel like I lost my kids to
her, like when Ava tried to take
over my step team, but just to
watch how Barbara interacts with
the kids and to be able to learn
from all of those years of
experience, just warms my heart.

BARBARA TALKING HEAD

BARBARA

I didn't think I would enjoy working with Janine, but she really stays out of my way and that's why I think this is working so well. Those kids--marvelous performers. Janine has me thinking about putting on a production. Look at me--getting all Janine-like. Hopeful. Let me get back in there. I don't want to cool down.

Barbara sashays down the hall.

INT. JACOB'S CLASSROOM - DAY

Jacob stands in front of his students.

JACOB

Okay class. Today, I said something that I definitely shouldn't have.

MONICA blurts out.

MONICA

I texted my momma and she said she's on the way.

JACOB

I understand that you did what you felt you needed to do. I know what I said was not the correct terminology, but I didn't mean to offend anyone.

(to Monica)

Also, what kind of car does your mom have? Nevermind.

INT. AUDITORIUM - DAY

Melissa sits front row next to Barbara.

MELISSA

I gotta say, I knew it'd only be a matter of time before you hopped back on that stage.

BARBARA

Oh, Melissa. I'm not performing. I'm just helping Janine.

MELISSA

Helping Janine. It looks like you've taken over. I'm sure for pretty good reasons, too.

BARBARA

You should've read that script.

MELISSA

I trust you. I don't need to.

In the back of the auditorium--

JANINE

Hey there. Why aren't you up on that stage?

BRELIN

I told you, Ms. Teagues.

JANINE

Yeah, but why don't you like Black History? It's *your* history.

BRELIN

It's everyone's history.

Brélin's comment resonates with Janine.

JANINE TALKING HEAD

JANINE

Wow. She's right. They say that kids say the darnest things, but sometimes they really bring us to our senses. It's our history because our people lived it, but it's American History because we're American. As much as people would like to separate the two, they're united. I can't believe I never saw it that way.

AS WE WERE

JANINE (CONT'D)

I can understand why you feel that way, and it makes perfectly good sense. I, also, want to teach you why Black History is important to me.

(MORE)

JANINE (CONT'D)

Not many years ago, people who shared our same skin color worked very hard to accomplish things, harder than most, and for a while, they weren't given the credit. Lots of people tried to erase them and their accomplishments or worse, they tried to take the credit away and give to white people.

BRELIN

That's not fair.

JANINE

It's not fair. In order to keep those voices alive, we started to document our own journey and sharing it with those coming behind us.

BRELIN

So we won't forget?

JANINE

So we'd always remember.

Brélin smiles at Janine.

BRELIN

Can I be Angela Davis?

JANINE TALKING HEAD

JANINE

It's not every day that you get through to a kid, but today is one of those days.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. AUDITORIUM - BACKSTAGE - DAY

Behind the curtain, Barbara and Janine stand with the kids.

JANINE

I just want to say, I am so proud of you all. I want you to go out there and just have fun--

BARBARA

Do not embarrass me. My name is on this production, and I have a perfect performance record to uphold.

JANINE

Uh--and also, have fun!

BARBARA

Break a leg.

Barbara scowls at the children as they take their places on stage.

JANINE TALKING HEAD

JANINE

Whoa. That got pretty intense. I didn't know theater was so serious to Barbara.

BARBARA TALKING HEAD

BARBARA

I've won best actress in every local performance I've ever done. Every.

AS WE WERE

Ava walks behind the curtains. Barbara stands at the edge of the table coaching the kids. Ava approaches Janine.

AVA

Who approved this performance?

JANINE

Ava, I told you about it.

AVA

Oh, yeah--that's right. I wasn't listen.

JANINE

I am so excited. Brelin has even opened up to the idea of Black History. She asked me if she could be Angela Davis...from the photo I showed you the other day?

Ava doesn't respond. Janine smiles at the camera.

JANINE (CONT'D)

Ava?

AVA

Huh?

(beat)

Oh, you were talking to me?

Janine fines the camera.

INT. AUDITORIUM - DAY

Students fill the seats. Gregory and Jacob walk their students into the auditorium.

JACOB

Oh look, we're at the same showing.

GREGORY

There's only one showing.

JACOB

I was making small talk.

Gregory sits down next to his students. Jacob sits on the opposite side.

JACOB (CONT'D)

I can't tell you not to be bothered by my slip up because I understand.

GREGORY

You understand?

JACOB

Sure. I was called all types of things because of my decision to love who I love.

GREGORY TALKING HEAD

GREGORY

He's comparing being black to being gay. I'm not saying being gay isn't a hard life--but, it's not comparable.

AS WE WERE

JACOB

I am sick to my stomach imagining how I must have made those kids feel. Because if they felt anything like I did--

GREGORY

I think... you're supposed to be quiet in the theater.

Jacob sits back into his chair.

Barbara coaches from the side of the curtain. Janine takes a seat in the front row next to Melissa.

MELISSA

I never thought I'd see the day that Barbara Howard would return to theater.

JANINE

What do you mean return?

MELISSA

When I first got here, Barbara was the head of the theater department.

JANINE

There was a theater department?

MELISSA

You bet.

JANINE

Wow. I had no idea. What happened to it?

MELISSA

We vowed not to talk about it.

MELISSA TALKING HEAD

MELISSA (CONT'D)

It was more like a don't ask, don't tell.

(MORE)

MELISSA (CONT'D)

You know--some things you'd like to just forget about, like my cousin Finny's 28th birthday party.

AS WE WERE

MELISSA (CONT'D)

And why are you down here? I thought this was your show?

JANINE

Well, clearly Barbara is in her element here. I'm just glad I was able to get her a reconsideration from the board members.

Janine looks around. Ava sits beside Janine and Melissa.

JANINE (CONT'D)

Have you seen the board members? I told them it started 15 minutes early, so they'd be here on time.

AVA

Oh! That's what she was talking about!

JANINE

Who?

AVA

A few people from the board walked into the office asking about a performance. I told them we weren't having a show here. Sent them down to the other poor school.

(beat)

I figured they had the wrong school. All poor schools look alike.

Ava pulls popcorn out of her bag and sits back as the curtain opens. Janine looks into the camera.

The lights dim in the auditorium as the performance begins.

Brittany, Amber, Shawn, Kamyia and Brélin stand in front of the other students. They are all dressed like Black American Legends.

Brittany steps up from the line.

BRITTANY

Welcome to the Black History program, we hope you enjoy the show.

Brittany steps back and Shawn steps into the spotlight.

SHAWN

I am big on safety, so I did it again. The traffic signal and breathing mask. I am Garrett Morgan.

AMBER

I didn't like spies, I wanted to keep them down. I created the security camera, I am Marie Van Brittan Brown.

KAMYA

How can you see who's calling your phone you're asking? I invented caller ID. I am Shirley Jackson.

BRITTANY

In the hair industry, I am a true marker. I invented the relaxer. I am Madam C. J. Walker.

BRELIN

I feared for my people, I knew I had to save us. I am a philosopher, author, and political activist. I am Angela Davis.

Brélin smiles at Janine.

The show continues with a dance routine. Barbara dances from the side of the curtain.

INT. AUDITORIUM - MOMENTS LATER

PARENTS and STUDENTS clear out of the auditorium. Janine approaches Brélin at the edge of the stage.

JANINE

That was so great!

BRELIN

Really?

JANINE

It absolutely was!

A WHITE COUPLE, mid 30s, walks up behind Janine. Brélin runs down the stairs.

BRELIN
Mommy! Daddy!

Janine turns around to the parents.

JANINE
Oh--

JANINE TALKING HEAD

Janine smiles. It's awkward.

JANINE (CONT'D)
I did not have that on my bingo card. But, now it makes sense.

AS WE WERE

BRELIN
This is my teacher, Ms. Teagues.

MOTHER
Ms. Teagues! We have heard so much about you.

JANINE
I had no idea.

MOTHER
I'm sorry?

Janine looks at the camera. She fumbles her words.

JANINE
I mean, I didn't know about you-- haven't heard about--It's so good to meet you...Brélin is great.

Janine forces a smile.

The parents look at each other. Mother whispers to Brélin and Dad. He walks her off.

MOTHER
We had Brélin's biological aunt enroll her in school because of this reaction--

JANINE
Oh no! I don't mean to be rude--

MOTHER

It's not rude, it's natural. You can see the difference ten miles away. But, what people can't see is how much we love our daughter. Her biological mother was my childhood best friend. When Brélin was an infant, she was dying of cancer, I promise I'd take care of her baby and love her to the end of the moon.

JANINE

Wow. I am so sorry for your loss.

MOTHER

Thank you.

(beat)

I just wanted to say thank you for taking the time to teach her about her heritage. She told us how much she's learned and now, she's coming home to teach us. And we didn't know how or where to start, but you have helped us, tremendously.

JANINE

That is great to hear. She's such a great kid and lucky to have two parents who adore her.

INT. GREGORY'S CLASSROOM - DUSK

Gregory packs his bag for the day. He flicks off his light.

INT. ABBOTT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Gregory walks out of his classroom. Jacob startles Gregory.

JACOB

Hey bud!

Gregory stares into the camera.

JACOB (CONT'D)

I still feel horrible about earlier. You know I didn't mean it. I completely understand how you must feel. People have called me all types of slurs to identify my sexuality--

GREGORY
It's not the same.

JACOB
What do you mean?

GREGORY
Being black is not the same as
being--

Gregory motions toward Jacob.

JACOB
Gay?

GREGORY
Yes. It's not the same. No one
knows you're--

JACOB
Gay.

GREGORY
Yes--from looking at you. We don't
have that luxury. I could be in
this outfit and walk pass a white
couple and they'd try to hide their
belongings.

JACOB
I see.

GREGORY
And it took a lot of time for us to
overcome those terms, so while I
understand it was a mistake, it's
still triggering.

JACOB
Right. I am truly sorry, Gregory.

Gregory smiles.

GREGORY
Thanks. And sorry that I was so
hard on you. It's just that I grew
up at an all white school and those
words flew around me pretty often.

JACOB
Man, I can't imagine how you must
have felt.

GREGORY
 Thanks for that. We're cool.
 (beat)
 Let's get out of here.

Gregory walks off. Jacob stands there.

JACOB
 Like grab a beer and hang like
 friends?

GREGORY
 No, like the school's closed, and
 Mr. Johnson's turning off the
 lights.

The hallway light goes off on Jacob as he catches up.

JACOB
 Right!

EXT. ABBOTT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - DUSK

Barbara, Janine and Melissa walk out of the school for the
 day.

MELISSA
 Barb, you really out did yourself
 with that performance.

JANINE
 I almost regretted asking you to
 help, but it turned out great!

BARBARA
 I felt so alive on that stage with
 those kids. It really brought back
 memories.

They stand on the sidewalk.

MELISSA
 Oh no--

BARBARA
 The good kind. I miss theater! I
 think it's time for me to do it
 again.

JANINE
 You're going to quit teaching and
 go on Broadway?!

BARBARA

No! I'm going to reopen the theater program here. That is if you'd help?

JANINE

Wait--are you asking me to be your partner, Partner?

BARBARA

Don't make me regret it.

JANINE

I won't!

Janine starts to dance and sing:

JANINE (CONT'D)

It's Barb and Jan. Jan and Barb.
Barb and Jan--

MELISSA

You don't look like a Jan. I would've went with Neen.

Melissa and Barbara walk off, leaving Janine on the sidewalk.

JANINE

But when you spell it, it reads nine.

END OF ACT THREE

TAG

EXT. ABBOTT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - NIGHT

Gregory walks out of the school. Jacob surveys the front before stepping out of the door.

GREGORY
What are doing?

JACOB
Looking for Monica's mom.

GREGORY
Come on man.

Jacob cautiously walks out. A car drives by. Gregory winks at the camera.

GREGORY (CONT'D)
There she is.

Jacob takes off running to his car. The car keeps going. Gregory smiles at the camera.

END OF EPISODE