Alliance Theatre

institute

A SUPER FLY STUDY GUIDE

Created as part of the Alliance Theatre Institute's Dramaturgy by Students Program By: Grade 7 Drama Students of Dekalb Elementary School of the Arts

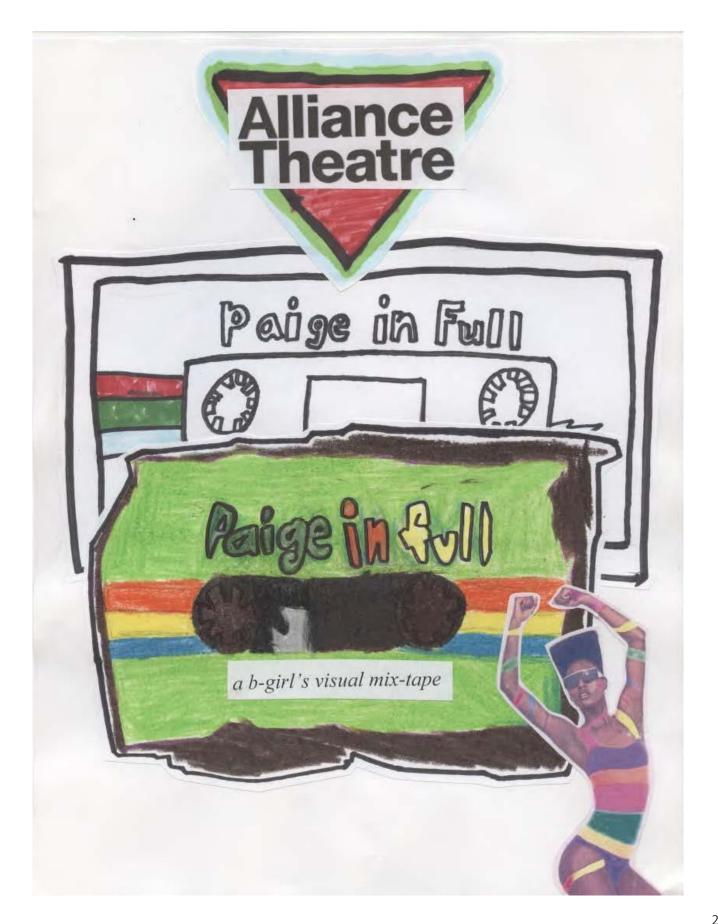
> Under the Guidance of: Melissa Word, Teaching Artist and Dorothy Bell, Drama Educator



Written, choreographed and performed by Paige Hernandez Directed by Paige Hernandez and Rosemary Newcott

> October 6-13, 2018 Rich Theatre

Recommended for Grades 6-12





Eric B. and Rakim, creators of "Paid in Full," a source of inspiration for the play

PLAYLIST

Georgia Standards of Excellence	4
How to Use This Study Guide	5
About the Playwright	
Synopsis	7
Pre-Show Reflection Questions	7
Vocab in Part	
Setting	
Time Period	
Fashion + Style	11-12
Dance in the 80's	
Music Icons	
Identity	16-17
Post-Show Reflection Questions	18
Sources	19
Who We Are	19

GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE

English Language Arts (Grades 6-12):

• ELAGSE6RL3: Describe how a particular story's or drama's plot unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters respond or change as the plot moves towards a resolution.

• ELAGSE7RL3: Analyze how particular elements of a story or drama interact (e.g., how settings shape the characters or plot).

• ELAGSE7RI3: Analyze the interactions between individuals, events, and ideas in a text (e.g., how ideas influence individuals or events, or how individuals influence ideas or events).

• ELAGSE7RI5: Analyze the structure an author uses to organize a text, including how the major sections contribute to the whole and to the development of the ideas.

• ELAGSE8RL3: Analyze how particular lines of dialogue or incidents in a story or drama propel the action, reveal aspects of a character, or provoke a decision.

• ELAGSE8RL6: Analyze how differences in the points of view of characters and the audience or reader (e.g., created through the use of dramatic irony) create such effects as suspense or humor.

• ELAGSE9-10RL4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the cumulative impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone (e.g., how the language evokes a sense of time and place; how it sets a formal or informal tone.)

• ELAGSE9-10RL5: Analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure a text, order events within it (e.g., parallel plots), and manipulate time (e.g., pacing, flashbacks) create such effects as mystery, tension, or surprise.

• ELAGSE11-12RL5: Analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure specific parts of a text (e.g., the choice of where to begin or end a story, the choice to provide a comedic or tragic resolution) contribute to its overall structure and meaning as well as its aesthetic impact.

Theatre Art (Grades 6-8):

• TA6.RE.1: Engage actively and appropriately as an audience member.

- a. Identify the role of the audience in different environments.
- TA6.RE.2: Critique various aspects of theatre and other media.

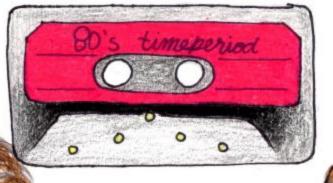
• TA7.CR.1.b: Compare and contrast character types and relationships by analyzing character motivations, objectives, and goals.

- TA7.CR.1.c: Compare the physical, emotional, vocal, and social dimensions of a character.
- TA7.CN: Explore how theatre connect to life experiences, careers, and other content.
- TA7.CN.1.b: Articulate relationships between theater and life.
- TA8.CR.1.a: Differentiate the physical, emotional, vocal, and social dimensions of a variety of characters.

b. Compare the relationships and interactions between characters by analyzing character

motivation (objectives, obstacles, strategy, action, stakes, outcome).

• TA8.PR.1.a: Demonstrate the physical, emotional, vocal, and social dimensions of a character in different types of theatre performances (e.g. rate, pitch, volume, inflection, posture, facial expression, motivation, physical movement).



HOW TO USE THIS STUDY GUIDE:

This study guide was created as a resource for anyone and everyone who sees "Paige in Full", by the 7th grade drama class at Dekalb Elementary School of the Arts.

Our wish is that it's a relevant and helpful guide for understanding and appreciating Paige's world, while making connections to your own.

Our process for researching the script was almost entirely student led: we spent 10 class sessions reading the script, taking notes about what we didn't know and felt others may need to know before seeing the play, and of course, lots of researching. The contents of this study guide

reflect our interests, curiosities, and unknowns.

Inside you'll find discussion questions we asked ourselves, activities and resources for further exploration! ENJOY!

lassic whit

800-257-12

Michael

Jackson

PAIGE AS PLAYWRIGHT

As the writer, choreographer, and performer, Paige Hernandez is responsible for writing the script, creating the dance sequences and for shaping how it's delivered on the stage.



Paige is a critically-acclaimed performer, playwright, director, choreographer and educator. As an educator she has taught students in grade K-12, collegiate, private and public settings. She has taught thousands of students and adults over the years. Paige is one of the most acclaimed performers in the industry and has performed in many different environments. She is known for her shows *Havana Hop* and *Paige in Full* to name a few, which have toured nationally. *Paige in Full* first premiered May 11-May 29, 2010 at the Mead Theatre Lab at Flashpoint.

Paige was born was born in Baltimore, Maryland and she identifies as Black Cuban and Chinese. These are both very important aspects of *Paige in Full*.



In the script, Paige demonstrates the following character traits:

- + Open, vulnerable, honest, and unafraid to speak her mind
- + Quick to stand up for herself (example: when she encounters bullying at school based on the way she looks)
- + Not afraid to fight for herself or others
- + Helpful, considerate of others, and imaginative
- + Dedicated to dance, hip-hop, and poetry

Synopsis

"LOVE IS MULTIFACETED, HIP-HOP IS MULTIFACETED... I'M MULTIFACETED"

Paige Hernandez offers us her deeply personal, autobiographical tale forged in the streets of Baltimore in the 1980's. We follow Paige's quest for true love and self-discovery, a journey shaped by popular culture, her love for hip-hop and her ethnic identity. She lets us in on her process of finding her voice, while everyone around her tries to tell her story for her. From her pre-conception to present day, she retells the major moments of her life through the lens of hip-hop and dance, as if her life could be organized and recorded as a 60-minute mixtape (a "b-girl's visual mixtape" to be exact).

Scratchhhhhh... HOLD UP, WHAT'S A MIXTAPE?

A mixtape is a compilation of favorite pieces of music. It also describes various manners in which music is distributed. With origins in the 1980's, it's typically referred to as a homemade compilation of music onto the cassette tape, CD, or digital tape.

Mixtapes were made the way we make digital playlists now, often for someone else as a gesture of affection. Say you have a crush on someone at school and the year is 1989. What do you do? You make them a mixtape. Before the dawn of mp3s, iTunes, and anytime internet music streaming, there was an art to crafting the perfect selection of songs to tell someone how you feel about them. And while there are no real rules for expressing yourself in this format, using another artist's poetry to create a narrative of your own takes practice, planning, and deep consideration.



OK, back to our regularly scheduled programming....

PRE- SHOW REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- + What are the defining aspects of your identity? Who shares these traits with you?
- + Describe a time when you felt like you had to prove some part of your identity to someone else.
- + Think of a challenging moment in your life when you surprised yourself with what you were able to accomplish.
- + What does the phrase 'visual mixtape' mean to you?
- + How many different languages and/or dialects would you draw upon to tell your story?

VOCAB IN PART

In her play, Paige samples from African American Vernacular English, Standard English, Bawlmorese (a dialect of English native to Baltimore), Spanish, and Chinese in her word choice. We discovered over 170 words or phrases in need of further research. We highlight an abbreviated selection here:

- Alpha Female: a strong, confident, and dominant woman •
- Amped: filled with energetic excitement and enthusiasm
- Arab: originally from the Arabian Peninsula and neighboring territories, inhabiting much of the Middle East and North • Africa
- **Banked**: to be assaulted or beat up
- Beat Machine Drum: an electronic musical instrument that creates percussion
- Bolero: refers to two distinct genres of slow-tempo Latin music and their associated dances •
- Break Beat: a repeated sample of a drumbeat, usually forming a fast-syncopated rhythm, used as a basis for dance music
- Cassette Player: a machine for recording audio cassettes that are an analog magnetic tape recording format for audio • recording and playback. Released by Philips in 1962
- Chivalry: the combination of qualities expected of an ideal knight, especially courage, honor, courtesy, justice, and a • readiness to help the weak
- Cordial: warm and friendly toward someone or something. Ex: The atmosphere was cordial
- Cutthroat Chicks: people who don't care about who gets harmed to get what they want .
- Feng Shui: in Chinese thought, a system of laws considered to govern spatial arrangement and orientation in relation • to the flow of energy (qi), and whose favorable or unfavorable effects are taken into account when siting and designing buildings
- FILA: A type of sneaker
- Guaguancó (pictured): a popular sub-genre of Cuban Rumba, combining percussion, vocals and dance •
- Havana: the capital city of Cuba
- Heinz 57: a steak sauce •
- Indecisive: not having or showing the ability to make decisions quickly or effectively •
- Kowloon: an urban area in the northern part of Hong Kong, a popular arts and entertainment district •
- **Marauding:** going about in search of things to steal or people to attack
- Pathological Liar: when an individual constantly lies for no personal gain •
- Saved By The Bell (pictured): an American television sitcom that aired on NBC from 1989 to 1993 .
- Sike: a word used at the end of a statement intended to mislead or to be sarcastic
- Squander: to waste (something, especially money or time) in a reckless and foolish manner •
- Squalor: a state of being extremely dirty and unpleasant, especially because of poverty or neglect
- Time Capsule: a container storing a selection of objects chosen as being typical of the present time, buried for discovery in the future
- Walkman (pictured): a portable audio player

Cuban Guaguancó dancers

Saved by the Bell Walkman

Setting



Bawlmore, B-More, Smalltimore, Harm City...where are we?

Central to the story of Paige is her hometown of Baltimore, Maryland. The play is as much about the city as it is about her. She gives us a sense of the way a place can really shape a person.

Let's take a look at some important neighborhoods she points out...

North Ave Market: The North Avenue Market is a historic market in Baltimore, Maryland, located on North Avenue between Charles Street and Maryland Avenue. One interesting fact about North Ave is that after World War II many stores and companies began to leave the Baltimore city area, to the point where there were only 30 lots in use in 1968. In that year a fire shut down a large portion of the market.

Douglass High School: Frederick Douglass High School, established in 1883, is an American public high school in the Baltimore City Public Schools district. Originally named the Colored High and Training School, Douglass is the second-oldest U.S. high school created specifically for African American students.



Lexington Market: Huge indoor market established in 1782, with food stands & produce, meat & seafood purveyors.

Baltimore School of The Arts: The Baltimore School of the Arts is a public arts high school/secondary school in Baltimore, Maryland and is part of its Baltimore City Public Schools system. Paige went to school here, and so did the music artist Tupac.

Pikesville: Pikesville is a census-designated place in Baltimore County, Maryland, United States. Pikesville is just northwest of the Baltimore city limits. It is the northwestern suburb closest to Baltimore. The population was 30,764 at the 2010 census.

Dundalk: Between 1960 and 1970, Dundalk was the largest unincorporated community in Maryland. It was named after the town of Dundalk, Ireland.

Pimlico Race Track: Its name is derived from the 1660s when English settlers named the area where the facility currently stands in honor of Olde Ben Pimlico's Tavern in London. It is a track for horse racing.

Morgan State University: Commonly referred to as MSU, Morgan State, or Morgan, Morgan State University is Maryland's designated public urban research university and the state's largest American historically black college and university (HBCU). In 1867 the University, formerly known as the "Centenary Biblical Institute", changed its name to Morgan College to honor Reverend Lyttleton Morgan, the first chairman of its board of trustees who had donated land to the college. It became a university in 1975. MSU is a member of Thurgood Marshall College Fund.

TIME PERIOD: 1980S-1990S

To understand Paige's story, we must take a journey back in time and sample the mood, culture and events of the 1980's and early 1990's

1980 Mount St. Helens erupts. John Lennon is murdered. Kurtis Blow, the first rapper to appear on national television (Soul Train), releases "The Breaks."	1981 AIDS is recognized by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. The first IBM Computer is released. The Beastie Boys is formed.	1982 Grandmaster Flash releases "The Adventures of Grand Master Flash on the Wheels of Steel." The first annual International Rubik's Cube Championship is held in Budapest.	1983 The first commercial cell phone call is made. Michael Jackson releases "Thriller." Cabbage Patch dolls are released in US markets to record sales.
1984 Russell Simmons and Rick Rubin launch Def Jam Records. "The Cosby Show" debuts. Michael Jackson does 'the moonwalk' at the Grammys, borrowing b-boy dance elements from LA breakers.	1985 Hole in the ozone first reported. Nike releases the Air Jordan 1. "Back to the Future" starring Michael J. Fox is released.	1986 National Association for the Advancement of Colored People headquarters relocates to Baltimore. The Beastie Boys release "Licensed to III" on Def Jam.	1987 U.S. and Canada sign free trade agreement. Eric B. and Rakim release "Paid in Full." Clarence H. ("Du") Burns becomes the first African American mayor of Baltimore City.
1988 Nintendo "Gameboy" is released. CDs outsell vinyl records and tapes for the first time. Big Daddy Kane releases album "Long Live the Kane."	1989 The Berlin Wall falls. "The Simpsons" television show debuts. The Internet goes global.	1990 Exxon Valdez oil spill. Nelson Mandela freed from prison in South Africa.	1991 The World Wide Web is publicly debuted as an Internet service. Cold War ends as the USSR dissolves.
1992 The Los Angeles Uprising occurs. Now and Later candy company sells to Nabisco.	1993 A Tribe Called Quest release their third album, "Midnight Marauders." Wu-Tang Clan release album "36 Chambers."	1994 Nas' first album "Illmatic" goes gold.	1995 Queen Latifah wins a Grammy in the "Best Rap Solo Performance" category for her hit "Unity." Eric Wright (Eazy-E of N.W.A) dies of AIDS on March 20th at the age of 31.

FASHION + STYLE















Pictured trends:

- finger waves
- big hair with a bandana
- off the shoulder shirts
- Vans sneakers
- afros with picks
- colorful friendship bracelets
- hoop earrings with words

Reflection questions:

- + Do you think fashion is an important way to mark the passage of time?
- + What fashion styles from the past do you see making a comeback today?
- + How would you describe the current use of fabric, textures, hairstyles, accessories that are unique to this time and place?

FASHION + STYLE An Inspiration Board



DANCE IN THE 1980S

Paige is influenced by dance in popular culture and references Soul Train, The Fly Girls, B-Girls and B-Boys, to name a few.



What's So Important About "Soul Train"?

According to NPR: Now for a lot of people, just hearing that theme song brings back powerful memories. But for others, know this-for more than three decades the TV show "Soul Train" served as a national showcase for black music and culture. The thing about "Soul Train" was that it wasn't just dancers and the music of African Americans, but you began to see black commercials. So, what "Soul Train" did was take black joy, the excitement, the vitality, the spirit of soul music, of black music, of funk, of the beginnings of disco and put it here in a format for everyone in their living rooms.

THE FLY GIRLS DANCE TROUPE



Who were the Fly Girls?

The Fly Girls were a dance troupe in the American television show *In Living Color* and had various members over its fiveseason run. The original lineup consisted of Cari French, Carrie Ann Inaba, Deidre Lang, Lisa Marie Todd, and Michelle Whitney-Morrison. Rosie Perez was the choreographer for the first four seasons. In *Paige In Full*, Paige watches the Fly Girls, and in a section of her act, Paige daydreams about being a part of the original fly girls!



B-boys and B-girls are dancers that practice breakdancing. B-boying was invented in the early 1970's in the South Bronx, and it was a very big thing during the 70's and 80's. Breakdancing consisted of mainly four movements: top rock, down rock, power moves, and freezes.

Robot dance breaks have been inspired by the cultural influence of hip hop music. In the 1970's when hip hop began, people like B-boys and B-girls executed this style of movement. The style includes movements such as Popping, Locking and Prepping. Popping is imitating how we think a robot moves. Dancing the robot is a style of Popping that uses sharp movements, isolates different body parts, combined with a clean dime stop.

MUSIC ICONS

Paige references over 30 musical artists in the play, here are a few we think are most important in the play:

Name	Picture	About
Anita Baker		Anita Denise Baker is an American singer-song writer who was born January 26, 1958 (age 60) in Detroit, Michigan. She started singing at the age of 16. She was known for her powerful voice. She has won eight Grammy Awards and has five platinum albums and one gold album. Her main influencers are Roberta Flack, Chaka Khan, Aretha Franklin, and Nina Simone.
Big Daddy Kane		Antonio Hardy was born September 10, 1968 (age 50) in Bedford-Stuyvesant, New York City. His main influencers were Kool Moe Doe, Melle Mel, Grandmaster Caz. He is a Grammy award winning American rapper and actor.
Biggie		Christopher George Latore Wallace know as Biggie Smalls, was born May 21, 1972 in Brooklyn, New York. When he was younger he used to sell drugs. Biggie was also an American rapper. His main influencers were Kool G Rap, Grandmaster Flash, Big Daddy Kane, Rakim, Heavy D, and Rap Attack. Biggie was considered "One of the best rappers of all time." He died March 9, 1997 in a drive-by shooting.
Eazy E	dampton	Eric Lynn Wright was born September 7, 1964 in Compton, California. His main Influencers were Ice-T, Prince, Redd Foxx and many more. He was known as "The Godfather of Gangsta Rap", a record producer, and an entrepreneur. He died March 26, 1995.
Eric B	a many kada pada	Eric Louis Barrier was born November 8, 1965 (age 52). He was born and raised in East Elmhurst section of Queens, New York. He was a DJ and producer. Eric B was in a duo with Rakim. He was nominated for the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Paid in Full was named the greatest hip hop album of all time by MTV.
Michael Ja ckson		Michael Joseph Jackson was born August 29, 1958 in Gary, Indiana. His main influencers were James Brown, Jackie Wilson, Diana Ross, Fred Astaire, and many more. Michael signed to Motown in 1969 and became known as "The King of Pop." He died June 25, 2009.
Monie Love		Simone Johnson is an English rapper and radio personality. She was born July 2, 1970 (age 48) in London, England. Her main influencer is Slick Rick. Monie Love was one of the first BritHop artists to be signed and distributed worldwide by a major record label.

MUSIC ICONS

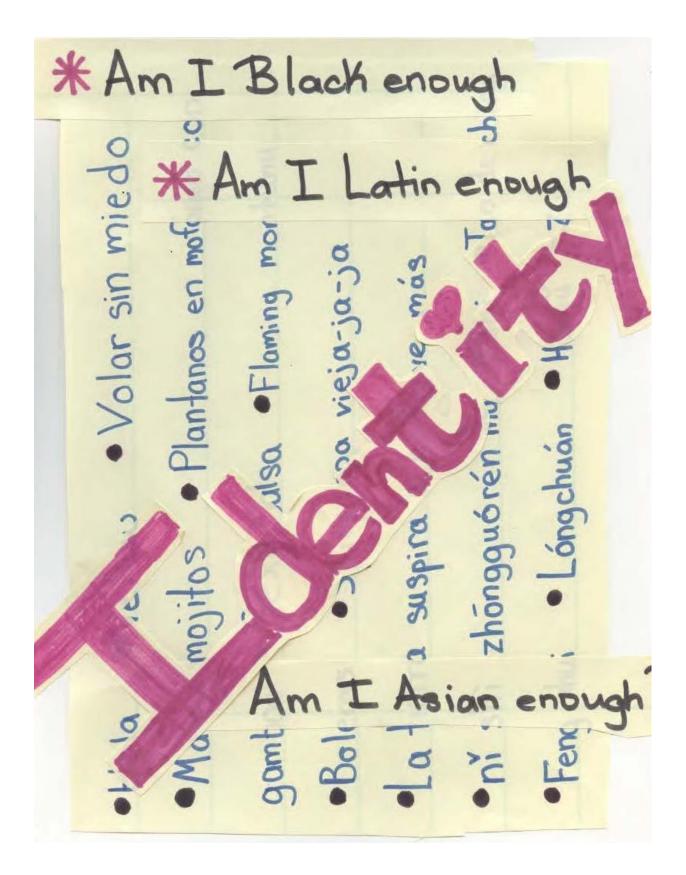
continued

Name	Picture	About
Queen Latifah	OLDEN ILOBE WARDS WARDS	Dana Elaine Owens is an American rapper, songwriter, singer, actress, and producer who was born March 18, 1970 (age 48) in Newark, New Jersey. She was featured in movies like <i>Set It Off, Girls Trip, Just Wright</i> , and other movies. She also had hits with her songs "All Hail the Queen" and "Name Callin". Her main influences are EMPD, KRS-One, LL Cool J, and many more. She and Roxanne Shante were considered the first ladies of Hip-Hop.
Rakim		William Michael Griffin Jr. was born January 28, 1968 (age 50). He grew up in Wyandanch, New York. His top 3 major influences are Melle Mel, Kool Moe Doe, and Grandmaster Caz. Rakim was in a duo with Eric B. He was named "Top 50 lyricists of all time". The duo created Paid in Full which the album peaked at number fifty-eight on the Billboard 200 chart.
Roxanne Shante		Lolita Shante Gooden was born November 9, 1969 (age 48) in Queens, New York. She was a hip-hop musician and one of the first female rappers. Lolita started rapping at age 9 and changed her name to Roxanne Shante at age 14. Roxanne was a part of the Juice Crew. Her associated acts were Biz Markie, Sparky D, Big Daddy Kane, Kool G, Rap and DJ Polo, 2 Deep, Steady B, UTFO, Marley Marl, and Mr. Magic.
Тирас		Tupac Amaru Shakur Lesane Parish Cooks (known as 2pac) was born June 16, 1971 in East Harlem, New York. He died September 13, 1996 (age 25) in a drive- by shooting. 2pac was an American rapper and actor. He was considered the "Best Rapper of all Time". He sold over 37.5 million records and 75 million albums. He was also featured in the movie "Poetic Justice" with Janet Jackson.

Reflection Questions:

- + Who are the musical artists that are shaping your generation?
- + Who are they influenced by? Can you trace their musical lineage to any of the artists Paige mentions here?

IDENTITY brainstorming notes



IDENTITY

Identity is the fact of being who or what a person is. Some important components of Paige's identity are that she is Black, Cuban, and Chinese but was originally born in Baltimore (B-more).

QUESTIONS!!!!!

1. Why does Paige not like people making assumptions based on her looks? Paige doesn't like people making assumptions based on her looks because people just assume she's "mixed." Even though Paige *is* "mixed," she is more than that. Paige's ethnicity includes Black, Cuban, and Chinese. As stated in the script, Cherria called Paige "light brown wit good hair." People rarely ask Paige what her ethnic backgrounds include and assume she is this "mixed" girl.

2. How does your family's ethnicity affect your ethnicity? Your family's ethnicity determines your ethnicity in some ways. How you choose to identify is also somewhat up to you. If your paternal side is Black and your maternal side is Cuban, but you were raised in America, you can identify as whatever you take pride in. Another thing that affects what you identify as is the time of your family's immigration. If your great-great-great-great grandparents were Cuban, but your family since then has been American, you're more likely to identify as American. In "Paige In Full," Paige identifies as Black, Cuban, and Chinese even though she lives in Baltimore, which is up to her.

Identity Scenes in "Paige in Full"

Struggles: Paige struggles with knowing if she's Black enough, Latin enough, or Chinese enough. So, basically, she struggles with knowing who she is (her identity). Also, she struggles with people judging her by her looks and guessing what she is by her looks. She wants to tell her story.

What She Says About Herself: Paige speaks about her identity by describing each of her ethnic backgrounds close to the end of the play. She wonders if she is enough of all her ethnicities and explains some memories. She also says things like: "Check out the grain of my hair or the shape of my eyes" and "I'm not Indian, I'm Black, Cuban, and Chinese." She also speaks the languages to prove it.

Wisdom: Near the end of the play, Paige realizes that it's okay to be different. She had a hard time at school with people always saying she is "light brown wit good hair." People didn't understand what she really was. She gives her wisdom to us with the script, and the audience with the play.



POST – SHOW REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- + If you were to record the key, defining moments of your life thus far, how would you visually represent them? What would the soundtrack be?
- + Paige ultimately creates this mixtape as a gift to herself, a gesture of self-love and self-acceptance. What are some ways you offer this kind of care and devotion to yourself as you navigate the ups and downs of your life?
- + What can we learn from Paige's experience with young and dumb love? What can we learn from Paige's relationship with an abusive person? What did this type of challenge illuminate within her?
- + Throughout the show, Paige projects hip-hop production terminology and definitions during specific scenes. Why do you think she does this? How does this shape your understanding of the scene and its connection to the rest of the play?
- + In the play, Paige creates a series of Haikus about distinct neighborhoods of Baltimore that are important to her story. Think of a neighborhood, a building, or part of Atlanta that is meaningful to you and create a Haiku--a three-line poem organized in terms of syllables.

First line=5 syllables / Second line=7 syllables / Third line=5 syllables

Examples from our classroom:

Atlanta traffic Where Migos are blasting 3 to 6 traffic -Sydney

> Ooh it's Atlanta With MLK's home Where else could it be? -Zahra

> > Georgia Weather

Bi-polar weather Frostbite and burned the same week Two inches of snow -Danielle

SOURCES

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Dance Styles:

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The Fly Girls: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_In_Living_Color_cast_members

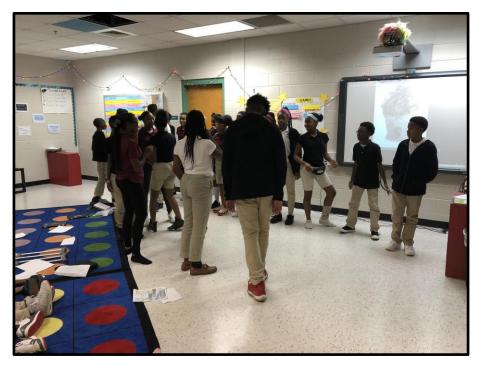
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WHO WE ARE



Pictured: Student Dramaturgs setting up a Soul Train line!