



Study Guide 2018 - 2019

In the Heights

Book by Quiara Alegria Hudes
Music by Lin-Manuel Miranda
Lyrics by Lin-Manuel Miranda

Florida Standards

Language Arts

LAFS.910.RL.1: Key Ideas and Details
LAFS.910.RH.1: Key Ideas and Details
LAFS.1112.SL.1: Comprehension and Collaboration
LAFS.910.W.1: Text Types and Purposes
LAFS.1112.RL.1: Key Ideas and Details

Theater

TH.912.F.2: Careers in and related to the arts
TH.68.S.1: The arts are inherently experiential.

PG-13

Curse words, alcohol is referenced, sexual jokes, sensual dancing, hand to hand combat

Most appropriate for Grade 8 and up. Children under 5 will not be admitted to the theater.

In The Heights Table of Contents

Introduction	3
 Enjoying Live Theater	
Theater is a Team Sport	4
The Actor/Audience Relationship	5
 About the Play	
Summary	6
Meet the Characters	7
Musical Numbers	8
Meet the Creative Team	9
 Activities	
Spectrum of Difference	10
Write a Review	11
 Discussion & Themes	 12

In The Heights An Introduction

Educators:

Thank you for taking the time out of your very busy schedule to bring the joy of theatre arts to your classroom. We are well aware of the demands on your time and it is our goal to offer you supplemental information to compliment your curriculum with ease and expediency.

We are excited to announce we have a new workshop for middle and high school students! Fostering Collaboration in the Classroom is an interactive workshop that leads students through the fundamentals of collaboration. Using theater games, students explore how the use of eye contact, listening, working together and supporting one another informs everyday interactions.

Please take a moment to explore our website at orlandoshakes.org/education for the following ways to add to your curriculum.

- “On your feet “ activities to energize students
- Shortened Shakespeare scripts that range from 60 – 120 minutes long that are perfect for school productions
- Study Guide Spotlights for quick reference to the standards addressed in each production

We look forward to hosting you at the Lowndes Shakespeare Theater. Additionally, should you wish to bring our Actor/Educators into your classroom, we will work around your schedule. Feel free to contact us at Orlando Shakes should you have any questions or suggestions on how we can better serve you. We are always learning from you.

Thank you for your tremendous work in nurturing our audiences of tomorrow.

Anne Hering
Director of Education

Brandon Yagel
Education Coordinator



In The Heights

Enjoying Live Theater

Theater is a Team Sport

The **Playwright** writes the script. Sometimes it is from an original idea and sometimes it is adapted from a book or story. The Playwright decides what the characters say, and gives the Designers guidelines on how the play should look.

The **Director** creates the vision for the production and works closely with the actors, costume, set and lighting designers to make sure everyone tells the same story.



Sound Designer -
Britt Sanducky
Photo: Rob Jones



Stage Manager -
Stacey Renee
Norwood
Photo: Rob Jones

The **Actors** use their bodies and voices to bring the author's words and the director's ideas to life on the stage.

The **Designers** imagine and create the lights, scenery, props, costumes and sound that will compliment and complete the director's vision.

The **Stage Manager** assists the director during rehearsals by recording their instructions and making sure the actors and designers understand these ideas. The Stage Manager then runs the show during each performance by calling cues for lights and sound, as well as entrances and exits.



Costume Designer -
Denise Warner
Photo: Rob Jones

The **Shop** and **Stage Crew** builds the set, props and costumes according to the designer's plans. The Stage Crew sets the stage with props and furniture, assists the actors with costume changes and operates sound, lighting and stage machinery during each performance.



Creative Team of The Merry Wives of
Windsor
Photo: Rob Jones

The **Front of House Staff** welcomes you to the theater, takes your tickets, helps you find your seat and answers any question you may have on the day of performance.

The **Theater** is where it all takes place. Orlando Shakespeare Theater In Partnership with UCF is the only professional, classical theater company in Central Florida, reaching students and audiences in the surrounding eight counties.

Mission:

To enrich our community with engaging professional theater, inspiring educational experiences, and thought-provoking new plays.

In The Heights

Enjoying Live Theater

The Actor/Audience Relationship

The Audience is the reason Live Theater exists. At Orlando Shakes, we cherish the Actor/Audience relationship, the unique give and take that exists during a performance which makes the audience an ACTIVE participant in the event. The actors see the audience just as the audience sees the actors, and every, laugh, snuffle, chuckle and gasp the audience makes effects the way the actor plays his next moment. We want you to be engaged, and to live the story with us!



Photo: Rob Jones

There are certain Conventions of the Theatrical Event, like, when the lights go down you know that the show is about to start, and that the audience isn't encouraged to come and go during a performance. Here are some other tips to help you and your classmates be top notch audience members:

- Please make sure to turn off your cell phones. And NO TEXTING!
- Please stay in your seat. Use the restroom before you take your seat and stay in your seat unless there is an emergency.
- Please do not eat or drink in the theater.

Talkback

After the performance, the actors will stay on stage for about 10 minutes to hear your comments and answer any questions you have about the play and the production. We'd love to hear what you felt about the play, what things were clear or unclear to you, and hear your opinions about what the play means. This last portion of the Actor/Audience Relationship is so important to help us better serve you and enrich your artistic experience.

Consider the Themes and Key Questions above and ask yourself:

1. What Key Questions did the play answer?
2. Do you agree with everything the play said about these themes?
3. How did the actors, directors, and designers all address these themes?
4. What opinion did the artists bring to the process, did those opinion change throughout the process (designing, rehearsing, performing) and how did that impact their work?

In The Heights

About the Play

Summary

At the crack of dawn, on the hottest day of summer, Usnavi chases away a graffiti artist from his tiny bodega in Washington Heights, opens the store, and introduces the major characters ("In the Heights"). Last to appear is Nina Rosario, back from her freshman year at Stanford University, who readies herself to give her parents some bad news ("Breathe"). Meanwhile, Nina's parents, Kevin and Camila, seek an emergency loan to keep their struggling taxi dispatch afloat, temporarily leaving Benny, a young employee and friend of Nina's, in charge; the two reconnect ("Benny's Dispatch").

At the hair salon across the street, Vanessa, Usnavi's potential love interest, dreams of escaping to a studio apartment in the West Village, remaining optimistic despite her own financial insecurity ("It Won't Be Long Now"). When Vanessa stops by Usnavi's bodega, Usnavi's younger cousin Sonny asks her out to a romantic evening on Usnavi's behalf, and she accepts.

Nina's parents return and she reveals how she lost her academic scholarship and dropped out of Stanford. Kevin is devastated that he cannot provide for his daughter ("Inútil"). Nina seeks comfort from Vanessa, but the salon owner and local gossip, Daniela, sits Nina down for a makeover, coercing Vanessa into admitting that she cares about Usnavi's decisions; Nina then reveals to the salon that she has dropped out ("No Me Diga").

After Usnavi discovers that he sold a winning lottery ticket worth \$96,000, everyone on the block dreams of how they would each spend the small fortune ("96,000"). Later, Abuela Claudia—the beloved neighborhood matriarch who "practically raised" Usnavi as a young orphan—reflects on her childhood journey from Cuba to New York in 1943, showing the audience that she secretly holds the winning lottery ticket ("Paciencia y Fe").

Nina and Benny take a tour of the neighborhood and reminisce, sharing romantic feelings ("When You're Home"). The local Piragua Guy comes out and sings a song in an attempt to sell his piragua ("Piragua"). Later, at a dinner party, Kevin announces that he has sold the family car service to pay for Nina's tuition. Vanessa and Usnavi then enter a dance club for their date, followed by a furious Benny, who is now out of work, and an apologetic Nina;

tensions rise on the dance floor because Vanessa and Usnavi are attempting to make each other jealous, while Benny drunkenly hits a man dancing with Nina ("The Club"). The entire club breaks out into a huge fight when, suddenly, the power goes out throughout the city, probably due to the intense summer heat. The neighborhood erupts into chaos and Usnavi, Vanessa, Nina and Benny all look for each other in the darkness. Meanwhile, Sonny and his mischievous friend from the opening of the show, Graffiti Pete, attempt to distract the bodega from any potential looters by setting off fireworks obtained in preparation for the Fourth of July; at the same time, Abuela Claudia reveals to Usnavi that she won the lottery, while Nina and Benny find each other, argue, and then kiss ("Blackout").

Benny and Nina have spent the night together and it is now the morning of the Fourth of July. Nina teaches Benny some Spanish phrases, while he shares his stress over what Kevin will think of their new relationship ("Sunrise"). Down on the street, Usnavi's bodega has been looted. Abuela Claudia convinces Usnavi they should use her lottery winnings to move to Usnavi's homeland: the Dominican Republic, encouraging him to 'find his island'. Usnavi agrees to pursue this lifelong dream at last ("Hundreds of Stories").

Nina's parents have been searching for her all night, and when they learn that she has been with Benny, Kevin is furious. Kevin vows that Benny will never be a part of the Rosario family because he is not Latino, but Camila ends the family fight ("Enough"). It is high noon and all are frustrated by the extreme heat and continuing power outage. The locals, led by Daniela, muster enough energy for a last celebration before the bodega, salon, and dispatch shut their doors forever. Vanessa complains about having been brutalized during the blackout the previous night, and Daniela finally snaps, telling the whole neighborhood "we all know that he loves you". Usnavi publicly announces that Abuela Claudia won the lottery, and he and she will soon leave for the Dominican Republic; the neighborhood celebrates, though Vanessa is heartbroken, and Sonny feels abandoned. When Daniela publicly gossips about Benny and Nina's night together, Sonny snaps, having a crush on Nina himself, and goes into a rant about how once "they close the bodega, the neighborhood is gone". Usnavi comforts him, revealing that he and

Claudia plan to split the money three ways- a third for Abuela, a third for Usnavi, and a third for Sonny. Quelling Sonny's fears of it being their last time all together, Usnavi manages to rally the block for a huge blowout ("Carnaval del Barrio"). Kevin makes a sudden announcement over the taxi radios: Abuela Claudia has died ("Atención"). The neighborhood holds a vigil for Claudia, while Usnavi, attributing her death to a "combination of the stress and the heat," makes an impromptu eulogy ("Alabanza"). Usnavi and Nina rummage through boxes of Claudia's keepsakes ("Everything I Know"). As Nina discovers photographs from her own high school graduation, she decides to accept her father's sacrifice and return to Stanford.

Across the street, as Daniela closes her salon, she reveals one last bit of juicy news: she will co-sign on Vanessa's dream apartment in the West Village, thanks to a little convincing from Usnavi ("No Me Diga" – Reprise). Meanwhile, the Piragua Guy's rival, Mr. Softee, is unable to sell due to his truck being broken down, and Piragua Guy celebrates the flourishing of his business ("Piragua" – Reprise). Vanessa brings a bottle of champagne to thank Usnavi and, though she flirts with him, he is so flustered by Claudia's death that he is unable to appreciate Vanessa's attempts; Vanessa finally kisses him and leaves ("Champagne"). Meanwhile, Benny worries about his relationship with Nina, since her decision to go back west, and they stand together while the sun sets, uncertain of their future ("When the Sun Goes Down").

The next morning, Usnavi wakes up early to begin closing up shop. In just a few weeks, Usnavi imagines that the block will be completely changed. Sonny, however, has commissioned Graffiti Pete to paint a mural of Abuela Claudia on the bodega's grate. Sonny now rolls down the bodega grate in front of Usnavi, revealing the memorial. Usnavi is stunned that they completed this all in one night; he tells Sonny to spread the news that he has changed his mind to stay, promises to pursue Vanessa, and realizes that "I've found my island, I've been on it this whole time- I'm home!" ("Finale").

Courtesy of themusicallyrics.com

In The Heights

About the Play

Meet the Characters

Usnavi de la Vega is the narrator of the play's exposition and a major character throughout; he is the owner of a small bodega in Washington Heights called De La Vega Bodega. He was named after one of the first sights his parents saw when they arrived in America, a ship with the sign "US Navy" on it. Abuela Claudia, the neighborhood matriarch, "practically raised" him when his parents both died during his early childhood. He dreams of moving to the Dominican Republic. He is in love with Vanessa.

"Abuela" Claudia is the loving matriarch of the barrio who knows everybody and is like a grandmother to all ("abuela" means "grandmother" in Spanish). She is the one who looked after Usnavi when his parents died. She and her mother moved from Cuba to New York in 1943 while she was a child. She worked as a maid for several years but never earned the money for her and her mother to travel home.

Vanessa is Usnavi's love interest who works at Daniela's salon. She is stunningly beautiful and catches the eye of every guy in the Heights, however she takes interest in Usnavi. She lives with an alcoholic mother and dreams of getting out of the Barrio and getting an apartment downtown, but cannot yet afford it.

Nina Rosario is the first in her family (and from the Barrio) to go to college (Stanford University), and everyone in the barrio admires her as the "one who made it out." However, she returns home from school for the summer to reluctantly tell her parents that she has become overburdened and dropped out. She is the typical "good girl" and always got along with her parents. Now, though, she loses patience constantly over her father's over protectiveness and his refusal to accept Benny, with whom she gets into a romantic relationship.

Benny works at the dispatch of Nina's father, Kevin. The only character in the play who does not speak Spanish, Benny falls in love with Nina. He dreams of opening his own business.

Sonny de la Vega is Usnavi's sassy, superficially lazy, yet ambitious younger cousin who works with Usnavi in the bodega. He is typically the jokester of the Barrio, but he also has an intelligent and thoughtful side that yearns for social justice.

Daniela is the outrageously dramatic owner of the salon where the neighborhood girls come to gossip. She is very bold and loud and loves to banter.

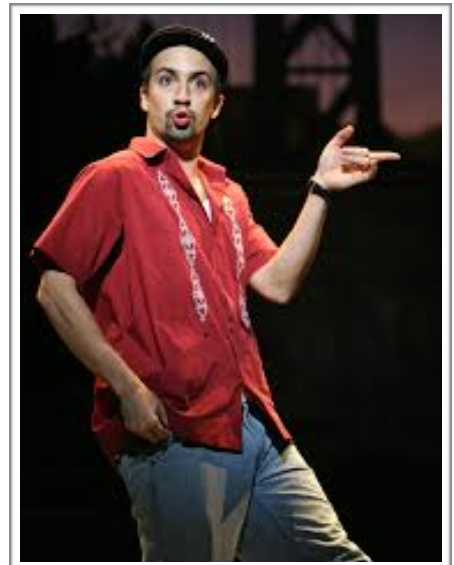
Carla works at Daniela's salon along with Vanessa, and is Daniela's close friend; young and pretty, but a little slow to get the others' jokes and innuendos, she is of Chilean, Cuban, Dominican, and Puerto Rican descent.

Kevin Rosario is Nina's overprotective father, who, coming from a long line of farmers, has worked hard to resist following in his own father's footsteps. He now owns his own taxi cab service: Rosario's.

Camila Rosario is Nina's strong-willed mother, who wants what is best for Nina. She is typically tolerant of Kevin's control issues, but in the course of the show, reveals her real feelings.

The Piragua Guy (Piragüero) is the owner of a small piragua stand that competes with Mister Softee.

Graffiti Pete is a graffiti artist. He is good friends with Sonny and is one of the few characters who acknowledges Sonny's dreams. Usnavi believes Pete is a trouble-making vandal (constantly referring to him as a 'punk'), until Pete reveals his amazing skills as an artist.



In The Heights About the Play

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

- "In the Heights" — Usnavi and Company
- "Breathe" — Nina and Company
- "Benny's Dispatch" — Benny and Nina
- "It Won't Be Long Now" — Vanessa, Usnavi, and Sonny
- "Inútil" (Useless) — Kevin
- "No Me Diga" (You Don't Say)— Daniela, Carla, Vanessa, and Nina
- "96,000" — Usnavi, Benny, Sonny, Graffiti Pete, Vanessa, Daniela, Carla, and Company
- "Paciencia y Fe" (Patience and Faith) — Abuela Claudia and Company
- "When You're Home" — Nina, Benny, and Company
- "Piragua" — Piragua Guy
- "The Club" — Usnavi, Vanessa, Nina, Benny, and Company
- "Blackout" — Usnavi, Vanessa, Benny, Nina, Kevin, Sonny, Graffiti Pete, Abuela Claudia, Carla and Company

ACT II

- "Sunrise" — Nina, Benny, and Company
- "Hundreds of Stories" — Abuela Claudia and Usnavi
- "Enough" — Camila
- "Carnaval del Barrio" (Neighborhood Carnival) — Daniela, Carla, Vanessa, Usnavi, Sonny, Piragua Guy, and Company
- "Atención" (Attention)— Kevin
- "Alabanza" (Praise) — Usnavi, Nina, and Company
- "Everything I Know" — Nina
- "No Me Diga (Reprise)" — Carla, Nina, Vanessa, and Daniela †
- "Piragua (Reprise)" — Piragua Guy
- "Champagne" — Vanessa and Usnavi
- "When the Sun Goes Down" — Nina and Benny
- "Finale" — Usnavi and Company



In The Heights

About the Play

Meet the Creative Team



Lin-Manuel Miranda (Music/Lyrics)

Native New Yorker Lin-Manuel Miranda is an award-winning actor, performer and writer known for his groundbreaking Broadway musicals 'In the Heights' and 'Hamilton.'

Who Is Lin-Manuel Miranda?

Born in 1980 in New York City, Lin-Manuel Miranda developed a devotion to musical theater and hip-hop before attending Wesleyan University. He wrote and starred in the Tony-winning 2008 musical *In the Heights* before working on additional Broadway productions and making screen appearances. Inspired by reading Ron Chernow's biography of Alexander Hamilton, Miranda eventually developed the musical *Hamilton*, a groundbreaking work that tells the story of the U.S. Founding Father with hip-hop/R&B musical forms and a black and Latino cast. With Miranda in the titular role, the production was a phenomenal success commercially and critically, winning the Pulitzer Prize and 11 Tony Awards in 2016. Miranda also scored a Grammy Award and an Oscar nomination for composing the song "How Far I'll Go" from the 2016 animated film *Moana*.

Background and Early Life

Lin-Manuel Miranda was born on January 16, 1980 in New York City, the son of Puerto Rican parents. His clinical psychologist mother, Luz Towns-Miranda, and his political consultant father, Luis A. Miranda, Jr., settled in the Inwood neighborhood of Manhattan. Miranda and his sister grew up in a musically-oriented family. Both siblings taking piano lessons and were encouraged by their parents who loved the music of Broadway. (Luis particularly adores the show *The Unsinkable Molly Brown*.) While the Mirandas weren't able to routinely see live performances, they were nonetheless able to listen to cast recordings.

Exposed to a wide range of musical genres while growing up, Lin-Manuel also developed a love of hip-hop, including the music of the Beastie Boys, Boogie

Down Productions and Eric B. & Rakim. During his pre-teen and teenage years, Miranda performed in student stage productions while he attended Hunter College's elementary and high schools. He went on to major in theater studies at Wesleyan University. After graduation, he worked as a high school English teacher for a time

Quiara Alegría Hudes (Book/ Script)

Quiara Alegría Hudes is a playwright, strong wife and mother of two, Distinguished Professor at Wesleyan University, barrio feminist and native of West Philly, U.S.A. Hailed for her work's exuberance, intellectual rigor, and rich imagination, her plays and musicals have been performed around the world. They include *Water By the Spoonful*, winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Drama; *In the Heights*, winner of the Tony Award for Best Musical and Pulitzer finalist; and *Elliot, A Soldier's Fugue*, another Pulitzer finalist. Hudes is a playwright in residence at Signature Theater in New York, and Profile Theatre in Portland Oregon dedicated its 2017 season to producing her work.



Originally trained as a composer, Hudes writes at the intersection of music and drama. She has collaborated with renowned musicians including Nelson Gonzalez, Michel Camilo, Lin-Manuel Miranda, Erin McKeown, and The Cleveland Orchestra.

Hudes recently founded *Emancipated Stories*. It seeks to put a personal face on mass incarceration by having inmates share one page of their life story with the world.

In The Heights **Activities** **Spectrum of Difference**

Answer each question by making a mark on the line between disagree and agree. The closer you are to either side, the more certain you are. Have friends and family also make marks.

People are inherently good or evil.

Disagree	Unsure	Agree
----------	--------	-------

Where you come from is more important than where you're going.

Disagree	Unsure	Agree
----------	--------	-------

A positive outlook will often change your life.

Disagree	Unsure	Agree
----------	--------	-------

Higher social class = greater worth.

Disagree	Unsure	Agree
----------	--------	-------

Add your own: _____

Disagree	Unsure	Agree
----------	--------	-------

Add your own: _____

Disagree	Unsure	Agree
----------	--------	-------

Analyze your results. Did your family and friends feel the same way as you or did they feel differently. What does that say about the statement being investigated?

In The Heights Activities Write a Review

Write a Review

Explain to students that the director's job is to take the words on the script from the printed page to the stage and bring them to life. Explain that theater critics review shows and publish their opinions. For AmericanTheatreCritics.org, critic Sherry Eaker wrote, "My point of view was that it wasn't the theatre critic's place to tell the playwright what he or she should be doing; instead, the critic should focus on what is already there and explain either why it works or why it doesn't work."

After seeing the production, have each student write a review of Orlando Shakes' production of *In The Heights*. The review should include one paragraph each for:

Introduction – What did you watch, where and when, and maybe, why?

The script – Did you like the writing, the story, the characters? Why or why not?

The score - Did you like the music? Why or why not?

The acting – Did you believe and care about the characters as portrayed? Why or why not?

The design – Did you like the set, costume and light designs? Why or why not?

The staging – How did the director stage the violence? Was it effective?

The audience – What ways did the audience respond to particular moments?

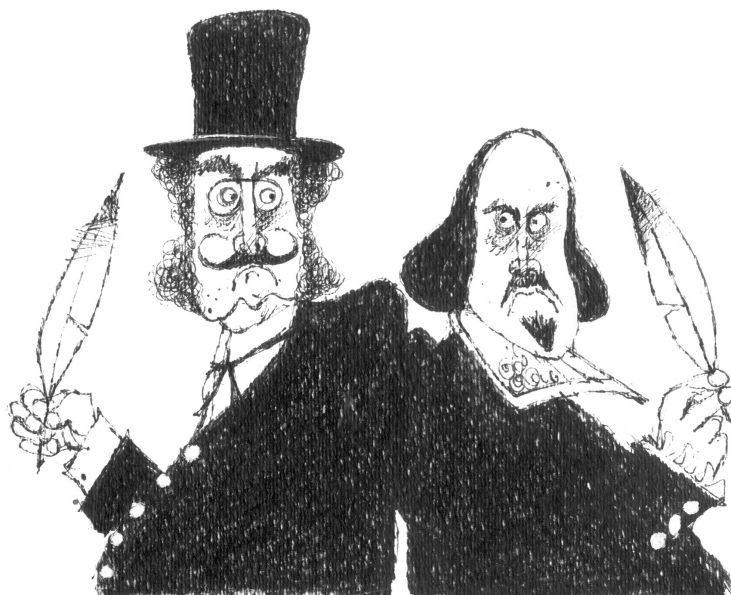
Conclusion – What will you remember about this performance?

If you wish, send your reviews to us at: anneh@orlandoshakes.org

We'd love to hear your opinions of our show!

Read more: How to Become a Theater Critic

ehow.com/how_2079002_become-theater-critic.html#ixzz1v9tEyMnc



In The Heights Activities Discussion & Themes

Identity

How much is identity defined by ourselves and/or those around us? How would you say Usnavi defines his identity? How would you say Nina defines her identity?

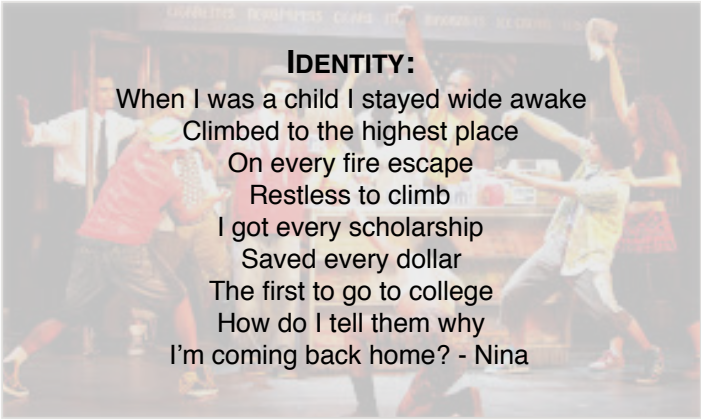
Family

How would you define family? Is it defined by blood, proximity, or shared values?

Hope

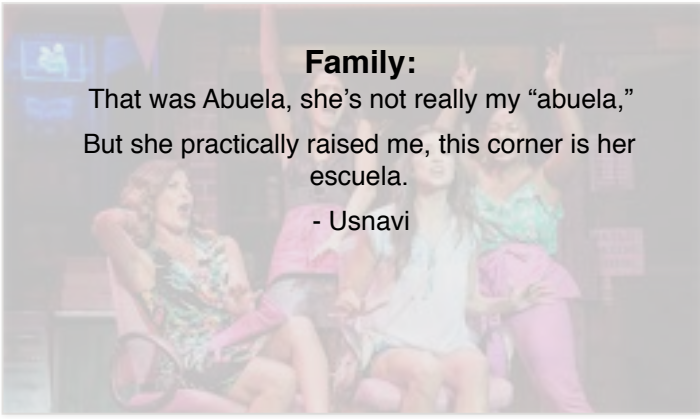
What is hope? What role does hope play in the lives of the members of this community in Washington Heights? What role does hope play in your life?

IDENTITY:



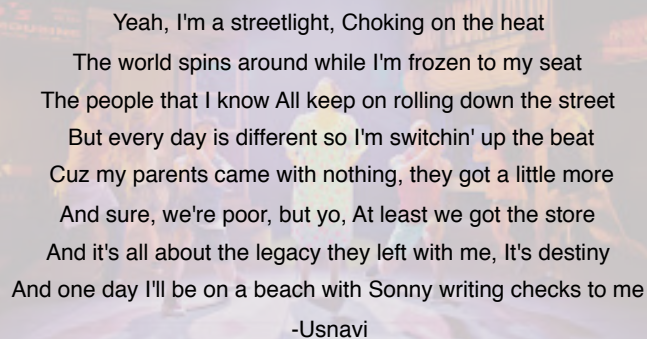
When I was a child I stayed wide awake
Climbed to the highest place
On every fire escape
Restless to climb
I got every scholarship
Saved every dollar
The first to go to college
How do I tell them why
I'm coming back home? - Nina

Family:



That was Abuela, she's not really my "abuela,"
But she practically raised me, this corner is her
escuela.
- Usnavi

HOPE:



Yeah, I'm a streetlight, Choking on the heat
The world spins around while I'm frozen to my seat
The people that I know All keep on rolling down the street
But every day is different so I'm switchin' up the beat
Cuz my parents came with nothing, they got a little more
And sure, we're poor, but yo, At least we got the store
And it's all about the legacy they left with me, It's destiny
And one day I'll be on a beach with Sonny writing checks to me
-Usnavi