

ACT I

Character Sides for "Underground"

Ruby/Ricky

(A black GRANDMOTHER [72], sits downstage in a rocking chair in a cozy room warmed by a fireplace. She is frail and hunched, but has a strength in her that could only come from living through a tragedy. She sings quietly to herself.)

GRANDMOTHER

OPPRESSED SO HARD, WE CAN NOT STAND.
LET MY PEOPLE GO...

(RUBY/RICKY [10], her strong-willed granddaughter/son, enters the room in her/his pajamas behind GRANDMOTHER.)

RUBY/RICKY

It's late granny. Why you out here all by yo'self?

GRANDMOTHER

Come, come child.

RUBY/RICKY

Aren't you tired?

GRANDMOTHER

I got my mind fixed on somethin' else. Sit down and let me talk to ya.

RUBY/RICKY

Granny... Its time for bed.

GRANDMOTHER

Child, I said sit down. We hadn't spoken 'bout this before. But, its time you learn.

GRANDMOTHER

WE NEED NOT ALWAYS WEEP AND MOURN...

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(This is the singing portion of the audition, you can sing this song, a negro spiritual - Swing Low, Sweet Chariot - or a spiritual of your own choosing.)

SWING LOW, SWEET CHARIOT,
COMING FOR TO CARRY ME HOME.
SWING LOW, SWEET CHARIOT,
COMING FOR TO CARRY ME HOME.

OH, I LOOKED OVER JORDAN AND WHAT DID I SEE?
COMING FOR TO CARRY ME HOME.

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A BAND OF ANGELS COMING AFTER ME.
COMING FOR TO CARRY ME HOME.