

INT. Ho House Living Room - Afternoon

Same as before.

THUY TIEN enters from STAGE RIGHT, leading the way for IMANI.

THUY TIEN: (removes shoes as she runs into the room) Come on in! (turns around) Wait, can you leave your shoes by the door?

IMANI: Sure! (removes shoes, then looks up and around)
Wow, I really like your place!

THUY TIEN: Thanks!

IMANI: It's really charming!

THUY TIEN: Um... I guess it is?

IMANI: Is there no one home right now?

THUY TIEN: I think Kevin is home. He's been "sick." (air quotes) I think he's just faking it though.

IMANI: Oh...

THUY TIEN: Yeah, but my mom's not home yet, so we can practice our dance routine here for a bit!

IMANI: You mean she wouldn't want us to practice here?
If that's the case, we can go somewhere--

THUY TIEN: No, no, no. It's okay! It's no big deal!

IMANI: If you say so.

THUY TIEN: Ooh, I need to use the bathroom. I'll be right back!

IMANI: Okay! Take your time!

THUY TIEN exits STAGE RIGHT. Meanwhile, IMANI takes a seat on a "couch" STAGE CENTER. KEVIN enters from STAGE RIGHT.

KEVIN: Um... who are you?

IMANI: Hi, you must be Kevin. I'm Thuy Tien's friend,
Imani.

KEVIN: Oh, okay.

IMANI: So I heard you're sick.

KEVIN: ...Yeah.

IMANI: Are you feeling better?

KEVIN: Maybe. (fakes a cough)

IMANI: Oh... (awkward silence) So what grade are you in?

KEVIN: Sixth.

IMANI: How are you liking your classes?

KEVIN: No.

IMANI: ... (awkward silence) Oh, uh... why not?

KEVIN: ... (awkward silence)

IMANI: It's okay. You don't have to tell me if you don't
want to.

KEVIN: Sorry.

IMANI: No, don't be sorry! I was just curious.

KEVIN: (quietly) I'm just not used to anyone asking about me.

IMANI: Oh, no! Why not?

KEVIN: My mom's really busy now, and Thuy Tien is busy now too I guess.

IMANI: What about your dad?

KEVIN: Oh, Thuy Tien didn't tell you? He died a couple months ago.

IMANI: (stands up) What?! No... (sits down) she didn't tell me.

KEVIN: (looks away)

IMANI: Is that why you're pretending to be sick?

KEVIN: (caught off guard) I'm not pretending. (cough)

IMANI: (gives him the look)

KEVIN: Okay, yes. But it's not really because of my dad. I just don't want to go to school.

IMANI: But Kevin... you shouldn't skip school.

KEVIN: I know, but it's really hard. And all my friends are really smart and get perfect grades without trying.

IMANI: Grades aren't everything.

KEVIN: I know, but I'm just sick and tired of people calling me the dumb Asian.

IMANI: So you think it's better to be known as the smart Asian?

KEVIN: Well... yeah.

IMANI: You know, Kevin. I grew up thinking I was dumb too. Not because I was actually dumb but because people told me I was dumb, so I believed them.

KEVIN: Well, that's different. People expect me to be smart.

IMANI: No, it's the same! They're all stereotypes. We're all more than just smart or dumb, and to be honest, I wouldn't want people to think I'm smart anyway. Yes, I may not get straight A's, but I work for those B+'s. And that is something I can be proud of.

KEVIN: ...

IMANI: If I could get perfect grades without trying, what would those grades show? That I was lucky enough to be born smart? They can keep them straight A's. I'll take my B+'s.

KEVIN: ...

THUY TIEN enters from STAGE RIGHT.

THUY TIEN: Sorry for the wait! The toilet got clogged! Are you ready to get started? (notices Kevin) Oh, hi Kevin.

KEVIN: Hi.

IMANI: Yeah, I'm ready to get started. It was nice chatting with you, Kevin.

THUY TIEN and IMANI start dancing while Kevin looks away, deep in thought.

FADE TO BLACK.