



Directed by Jacie Knight

Written by Janet Langhart Cohen

Study Guide*

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anneandemmett.com

Synopsis

Anne & Emmett is an imagined conversation between Anne Frank and Emmett Till, both victims of racial intolerance and hatred. Frank is the 13-year-old Jewish girl whose Diary provided a gripping perspective of the Holocaust. Till is the 14-year-old African-American boy whose brutal murder in Mississippi sparked the Modern American Civil Rights Movement.

The play opens with the two meeting in Memory. The beyond-the-grave encounter draws the startling similarities between the two youths' harrowing experiences at the hands of societies that couldn't protect them.



From left to right: Anne Frank, circa 1942; Otto Frank circa 1941; Emmett & Mamie Till, circa 1950

The Cast

Emmett Nicholas Jonas Gyasi Livingston

Anne Frank (double cast) Ella Kozak
Nicola Wahl

Otto Michael Bruckmueller

Mamie Kimetha KaeJae Johnson

"They remember so we never forget".

CHARACTERS

ANNE FRANK: 13-year-old Jewish girl whose diary provided a gripping perspective of the holocaust.

EMMETT TILL: 14-year-old African-American boy whose brutal murder in Mississippi sparked the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s-1960s.

OTTO FRANK: Anne's father. Otto found Anne's manuscripts after her death, arranged for its publication as *The Diary of a Young Girl* in 1947, and oversaw its transition to stage and screen.

MAMIE TILL: Emmet's mother. The murder of her son catapulted this quiet woman into a lifetime of advocacy, starting with seeking justice for Emmett.

YOUTH PERFORMANCE COMPANY ANNE & EMMETT CAST BIOS

MICHAEL BRUCKMUELLER - OTTO FRANK

Michael is grateful to once again work with the inspiring artists at YPC. Michael holds an MFA in Theater Pedagogy from Virginia Commonwealth University. He works at CS2 Twin Cities as a performer and teacher, as an adjunct professor at the University of St. Thomas and St. Catherine University, and is the co-founder of MNprov, a nonprofit that utilizes improv to build and strengthen social skills for neurodivergent learners. With his work in *ANNE & EMMETT*, Michael shares, "In bringing the tragic stories of these two young victims of hate I hope we can initiate conversations about and shine a light on the insidious hatred that we as humans continue to struggle with." Michael is grateful for the love and support of his amazing partner, Amy, his incredible daughter, Violet, and his well-meaning dog, Reed.

ELLA KOZAK - ANNE FRANK

Ella's love of theater began when she watched her brother perform in YPC's *JUNIE B. JONES* in 2019. This led her to pursue her own acting opportunities, most recently *ELF*, *THE MUSICAL JR.* and *YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, CHARLIE BROWN* at Stages Theatre Company, and *JUNIE B. JONES JINGLE BELLS* and *MEAN* here at YPC. Seventeen-year-old Ella is currently a high school junior and portraying Anne Frank in *ANNE & EMMETT* has been a very meaningful experience for her; "I've learned so much about these stories and myself. It's been a unique challenge to develop this role. Being able to be on this stage with this amazing cast means so much to me, especially telling such an important story."

KIMETHA (KAE JAE) JOHNSON - MAMIE TILL MOBLEY

Kae Jae, a Chicago native, resides in West St. Paul where she is the President and Founder of Residents of Color Collective; a nonprofit focused on resources for families of color. She is a spoken word artist, poet, songwriter, and public speaker. Her portrait, by Keith Christensen, was featured in the exhibit "Advocates and Activist" at the Minneapolis Central Library which will soon be a printed book. She was featured in the printed ad campaign "Why We Vote" for the 2018 elections which traveled throughout the Midwest and ended in NYC. Kae Jae is also the proud mother of two daughters and one son, and Nana of three amazing grandchildren. This is Kae Jae's first staged theater performance, and it means a lot to her. As a Chicagoan, she grew up hearing and understanding the horror of Mamie's story and she is honored to play this role. She identifies with Mamie on levels she didn't understand before being cast and can relate to the fear and love Mamie had for her son, Emmett, as a black male in this country. In 2016, Kae Jae's son became a victim of gun violence, and the stories of Mamie's strength helped her fight for her child.

NICHOLAS JONAS GYASI LIVINGSTON - EMMETT TILL

Nicholas is a middle school student in Northfield, Minnesota, and calls himself a rookie actor because Emmett is his first role ever in a play. He feels sharing the stories of Anne Frank and Emmett Till is very important and states, "...to share this story is just an opportunity I cannot miss". Nicholas also shares that portraying Emmett in *ANNE & EMMETT* has "made me more aware of the racism that I experience and will experience while making more friendships and memories." Besides his new found love of acting, Nicholas also enjoys science, anime, comics, horror, and spicy foods.

NICOLA WAHL - ANNE FRANK

Nicola, a homeschooled eighth-grader from West St. Paul, is very excited to be portraying Anne Frank in *ANNE & EMMETT*, her first YPC production. Before this show, Nicola was in *ANNIE* and *MATILDA* at the Children's Theatre Company, and *BEYOND THE RAINBOW* at the History Theatre, as well as productions at SteppingStone Theatre and Lundstrom Performing Arts. Nicola's first taste of theater came when she was three years old and portrayed the Lion in *THE WIZARD OF OZ*. She has loved it ever since. In her work in *ANNE & EMMETT*, Nicola shares, "I've learned so much about Anne Frank and Emmett Till and am so grateful to be able to share their stories."

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT JANET LANGHART COHEN



Janet Langhart Cohen, President of Langhart Communications an Emmy-nominated journalist, author, and playwright.

Janet began her television career on CBS in Chicago. During her 25-year career, Mrs. Cohen has appeared on ABC, CBS, NBC, and BET; hosted ABC's "Good Day in Boston," covered special assignments for Entertainment Tonight; and produced several programs, including "On Capitol Hill with Janet Langhart." As an overseas correspondent, she covered news in Europe, Africa, and the Middle East.

Mrs. Cohen was also a mentee of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and was active during the Civil Rights Movement.

Throughout her career, Mrs. Cohen interviews many major newsmakers and leaders of the 20th century. Among the prominent people, she interviewed are President Bill Clinton, who acknowledged her during his last State of the Union address, President Jimmy Carter, Margaret Thatcher, Rosa Parks, Mel Gibson, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Denzel Washington, Dan Rather, Oprah Winfrey, Whoopi Goldberg, Barbara Walters, and Larry King, as well as David Duke, former head of the KKK.

Janet Langhart Cohen has also worked as a columnist for the Boston Herald, U.S. News and World Report, and served as a spokeswoman for Avon Cosmetics. She has been a judge for the White House Fellows Program and served as a judge for the Miss America Organization an unprecedented 4 times.

Mrs. Cohen is the wife of former Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen. She was known as the "First Lady of the Pentagon" due to her active and visible public role to support the military and their families while her husband was in office.

She wrote her first book, a memoir entitled, *From Rage to Reason: My Life in Two Americas* in 2004. In 2007, she and her husband co-wrote *Love in Black and White*, a memoir about race, religion, romance, and the bonds Langhart and Cohen share over similar life circumstances and backgrounds. She was also awarded an Honorary Doctorate from Emerson College.

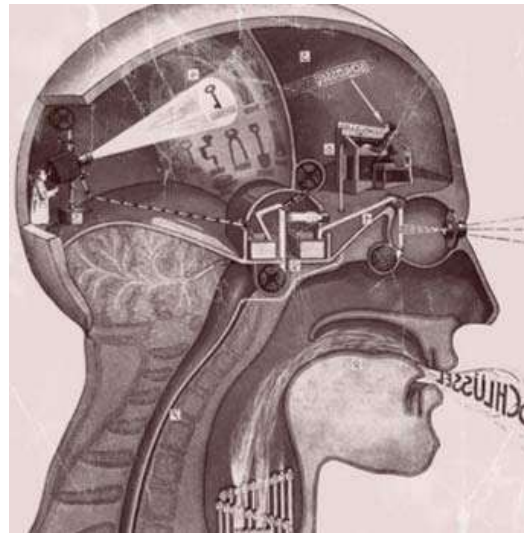
Most recently, Mrs. Cohen has written a play, "Anne and Emmett," an imaginary conversation between Anne Frank, a victim of the Nazis, and Emmett Till, a victim of the Jim Crow southern United States. She is also actively involved in the provision of higher education for underprivileged children.

A Magical Place Called Memory

“Let’s start from scratch in thinking about what memory is for, and consequently, how it works. Suppose that memory and conceptualization work in the service of perception and action. In this case, conceptualization is the encoding of patterns of possible physical interaction with a three-dimensional world. These patterns are constrained by the structure of the environment, the structure of our bodies, and memory. Thus, how we perceive and conceive of the environment is determined by the types of bodies we have. Such a memory would not have associations. Instead, how concepts become related (and what it means to be related) is determined by how separate patterns of actions can be combined given the constraints of our bodies. I call this combination ‘mesh.’

To avoid hallucination, conceptualization would normally be driven by the environment, and patterns of action from memory would play a supporting, but automatic role. A significant human skill is learning to suppress the overriding contribution of the environment to conceptualization, thereby allowing memory to guide conceptualization. The effort used in suppressing input from the environment pays off by allowing prediction, recollective memory, and language comprehension. I review theoretical work in cognitive science and empirical work in memory and language comprehension that suggest that it may be possible to investigate connections between topics as disparate as infantile amnesia and mental-model theory.

- Arthur M. Glenberg



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“Memory refers to the processes that are used to acquire, store, retain and later retrieve information. There are three major processes involved in memory: encoding, storage and retrieval. In order to form new memories, information must be changed into a usable form, which occurs through the process known as encoding. Once information has been successfully encoded, it must be stored in memory for later use. Much of this stored memory lies outside of our awareness most of the time, except when we actually need to use it. The retrieval process allows us to bring stored memories into conscious awareness.”

–Kendra Cherry

memory (noun)
the mental capacity or faculty of retaining and reviving facts, events, impressions, etc., or of recalling or recognizing previous experiences.

Symbols of Separation: The Star of David & Skin Color

Anne & Emmett both share the similar pain of racism.

What would you say the most important thing they have in common is that even you share with them?

Create an Acrostic poem using the word that describes what you have in common with them.



The Star of David



Tattoos were issued as identification to the majority of Jews in German concentration camps.



Various Skin Colors

The *Magen David* (shield of David, or as it is more commonly known, the Star of David) is the symbol most commonly associated with Judaism today, but it is actually a relatively new Jewish symbol. It is supposed to represent the shape of King David's shield (or perhaps the emblem on it), but there is really no support for that claim in any early rabbinic literature. In fact, the symbol is so rare in early Jewish literature and artwork that art dealers suspect forgery if they find the symbol in early works.

<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Judaism/star.html>

Racism exists when one ethnic group or historical collectivity dominates, excludes, or seeks to eliminate another on the basis of differences that it believes are hereditary and unalterable. An ideological basis for explicit racism came to a unique fruition in the West during the modern period. No clear and unequivocal evidence of racism has been found in other cultures or in Europe before the Middle Ages. The identification of the Jews with the devil and witchcraft in the popular mind of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries was perhaps the first sign of a racist view of the world. Official sanction for such attitudes came in sixteenth century Spain when Jews who had converted to Christianity and their descendents became the victims of a pattern of discrimination and exclusion.

http://www.pbs.org/race/000_About/002_04-background-02-01.htm

Who is a "Jew"?

- In the Bible, Jews were called Hebrews or Children of Israel
- The terms "Jew" and "Judaism" come from the tribe or kingdom of Judah
- "Jew" now refers to all physical and spiritual descendants of Jacob
- A person can be Jewish by birth or by conversion

Traditionally, Jewish status passes through the mother, not the father

<http://www.jewfaq.org/whoisjew.htm>

The Holocaust



A Timeline of Events:

The Holocaust was the murder by Nazi Germany of six million Jews. While the Nazi persecution of the Jews began in 1933, the mass murder was committed during World War II. It took the Germans and their accomplices four and a half years to murder six million Jews. They were at their most efficient from April to November 1942 – 250 days in which they murdered some two and a half million Jews. They never showed any restraint, they slowed down only when they began to run out of Jews to kill, and they only stopped when the Allies defeated them. The crime of being a Jew was so great, that every single one had to be put to death.


Most of the Jews of Europe were dead by 1945. A civilization that had flourished for almost 2,000 years was no more. The survivors – one from a town, two from a host – dazed, emaciated, bereaved beyond measure, gathered the remnants of their vitality and the remaining sparks of their humanity, and rebuilt. They never meted out justice to their tormentors – for what justice could ever be achieved after such a crime? Rather, they turned to rebuilding: new families forever under the shadow of those absent; new life stories, forever warped by the wounds; new communities, forever haunted by the loss.

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The Herero genocide carried out by the Germans is one of the earliest cases of genocide in the 20th century. They were subjected to concentration camps and medical experiments. The population of 80,000 Herero was reduced to 15,000 "starving refugees" between 1904 and 1907. –wikipedia.org

1889 - 1919	
Frank Family	Nazi Movement
1889 May 12 – Otto Frank (Anne's father), is born in Frankfurt am Main, Germany.	April 20– Adolph Hber is born in Austria.
1900 January 16 – Edith Holander (Anne's mother), is born in Aachen, Germany.	
1914-1918 Otto Frank serves in German Army during WWI as a lieutenant.	Adolf Hitler also serves from 1914-1920, as a Corporal.
1918 Otto Frank 	November 11 - The Armistice which ends World War I is signed. June 23 - Germany accepts the Versailles Treaty.
1919 Edith Holander 	September 12 - Hitler joins the National Socialist German Workers' party.

11/ 23/21: Mamie Carthan is born to John and Alma Carthan in a small town near Webb, Mississippi.

1920 - 1932	
Frank Family	Nazi Movement
	January – The National Socialist German Workers' Party (Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei), known as the Nazi Party, holds its first rally in Munich.
1925 May 12 – Otto Frank and Edith Holander are married in Aachen, Germany.	July 18 - Mein Kampf, Hitler's autobiography and anti-Semitic plan, is published.
1926 February 16 - The Franks' first daughter, Margot, is born in Frankfurt am Main, Germany.	
1929 June 12 - The Franks' second daughter, Anneliese Marie or Anne, is born in Frankfurt am Main, Germany.	
1932 Anne and Margot 	July 31 - The Nazis receive 37.3 percent of the vote and are asked to form a coalition government.

1933 - 1939

Frank Family	Nazi Movement
<p>1933</p> <p>Summer - The Franks decide that the family must move to the Netherlands because of increasing tensions in Germany. Edith, Margot and Anne Frank join Grandmother Hollander in Aachen. Otto Frank travels to Holland.</p> <p>September 15 - Otto Frank establishes his firm Opekta Werke in Amsterdam.</p> <p>October - Alice Frank-Stern, Anne's paternal grandmother, moves to Basel in Switzerland.</p> <p>December 5 - Edith and Margot Frank move to Holland.</p>	<p>January 30 - Hitler is appointed Chancellor of Germany.</p> <p>February - Freedom of speech and assembly is suspended by the Nazi government.</p> <p>March - The Gestapo, or Secret State Police, is established. Dachau, the main concentration camp for political prisoners, is built.</p> <p>April 1 - The Nazis declare a boycott of Jewish businesses and medical and legal practices. A law excluding non-Aryans removes Jews from government and teaching positions.</p> <p>May 10 - Books by Jews, political enemies of the Nazi state, and other 'undesirables' are burned in huge rallies throughout Germany.</p> <p>July 14 - Hitler bans all political parties except for the Nazi Party.</p> 
<p>1934</p> <p>February - Anne Frank joins her family in Holland. Anne Frank attends the kindergarten of the Montessori School.</p>	<p>January 1 - Forced sterilization of the racially 'inferior', primarily Gypsies and African-Germans, and the 'unfit', the mentally and physically disabled, begins.</p>
<p>1935</p>	<p>September - The Nuremberg Laws are passed defining Jews as non-citizens and making mixed Aryan and Jewish marriage illegal.</p>
<p>1936</p>	<p>March 7 - Germans march into the Rhineland, violating the Versailles Treaty.</p>
<p>1937</p> <p>Summer - The van Pels family flees from Osnabruck to Holland.</p>	<p>Summer - Olympic games are held in Berlin, Germany. The United States participates.</p>
<p>1938</p> <p>December 8 - Fritz Pfeffer flees Germany and arrives in Holland.</p>	<p>March 12 - Germany annexes Austria</p> <p>November 9, 10 - Kristallnacht. Jewish businesses and synagogues are looted and destroyed in Germany and in Austria by order of the strike.</p>
<p>1939</p> <p>March - Grandmother Hollander comes to live with the Frank family.</p>	<p>March 15 - Germany occupies Czechoslovakia.</p> <p>September - Hitler implements the T-4 program, authorizing killing of the institutionalized, the physically disabled and the mentally handicapped.</p> <p>September 1 - Hitler invades Poland and starts World War II.</p>



Afro German girl in the 1930s

Both before and after World War I, many Africans came to Germany as students, artisans, entertainers, former soldiers, or low-level colonial officials, such as tax collectors, who had worked for the imperial colonial government. Hilarius (Lari) Gilges, a dancer by profession, was murdered by the SS in 1933, probably because he was black. Gilges' German wife later received restitution from a postwar German government for his murder by the Nazis. <http://www.ushmm.org>

Racist propaganda against black soldiers depicted them as rapists of German women and carriers of venereal and other diseases. The children of black soldiers and German women were called "Rhineland Bastards."

Hitler charged that "the Jews had brought Negroes into the Rhineland with the clear aim of ruining the hated white race by the necessarily resulting bastardization". <http://www.ushmm.org>

The racist nature of Adolf Hitler's regime was disguised briefly during the Olympic Games in Berlin in August 1936, when Hitler allowed 18 African American athletes to compete for the US team. However, permission to compete was granted by the International Olympic Committee and not by the host country. <http://www.ushmm.org>

1936: Jesse Owens, US Olympic athlete won 4 gold medals in track & field.

The Gestapo (German secret state police) had secretly rounded up and forcibly sterilized many of African German children. Some were subjected to medical experiments; others mysteriously "disappeared." <http://www.ushmm.org>

1940 - 1945

Timeline: The Murder of Emmett Till
©www.pbs.org

Frank Family

Nazi Movement

June 1940: Mamie Carthan graduates from Argo Community High School.
October 14: Mamie Carthan marries 18-year-old Louis Till.

1940

December 1 - Otto Frank's company moves into the premises at number 263 Prinsengracht.

April, May - Germany invades Denmark and Norway, the Netherlands, France, Belgium, and Luxembourg.

1941

May 8 - Opekta-Werke changes its name to Messrs. Gies & Company.

Summer - Anne and Margot attend the Jewish School Amsterdam.

July 31 - Hermann Goering authorizes Reinhard Heydrich to find a 'Final Solution' to the Jewish question.

December 11 - Germany declares war on the United States.

1942

January - Death of Grandmother Hollander.

June 12 - Anne receives a diary for her thirteenth birthday.

July 5 - Margot Frank, 16, receives a call-up notice to report for deportation to a labor camp. The family goes into hiding the next day.



July 6 - The Frank family leaves their home forever and moves into the 'Secret Annex'.



July 13 - The van Pels family, another Jewish family originally from Germany, joins the Frank family in hiding.

November 16 - Fritz Pfeffer, the eighth and final resident of the Secret Annex, joins the Frank and van Pels families.



1943

February 2 - The encircled German Sixth Army surrenders to Soviet forces at Stalingrad, Russia. The tide of the war begins to turn against Germany.

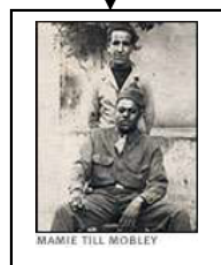
June - SS leader Heinrich Himmler orders the complete liquidation of all Jewish ghettos in the Soviet Union and Poland.

July 25, 1941: Emmett Louis "Bobo" Till is born in Chicago's Cook County Hospital to Louis and Mamie Till.



1942: Louis and Mamie Till separate.

1943: Louis Till is drafted by the Army to serve in World War II.



MAMIE TILL MOBLEY

1944 - 1945

Frank Family

Nazi Movement

1944

August 4 - The residents of the Secret Annex are betrayed and arrested. They are taken to a police station in Amsterdam.

August 8 - They are all taken to the transit camp at Westerbork.

September 3 - The eight prisoners are transported in a sealed cattle car to Auschwitz, on the last transport ever to leave Westerbork. Hermann van Pels is gassed on September 6, 1944.

October 6 - Anne and Margot Frank are sent to Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in Germany.

December 20 - Fritz Pfeffer dies in Neuengame.

June 6 - D Day. The Allies invade Western Europe.

November 26 - To hide Nazi war crimes, the demolition of the crematoria at Auschwitz begins.

1945

January 26 - Edith Frank dies at Auschwitz-Birkenau.

January 27 - Otto Frank is liberated from Auschwitz by the Russian Army. He is taken first to Odessa and then to France before he is allowed to make his way back to Amsterdam.

February or March - Anne and Margot Frank die at the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp within days of each other.

Spring - Mrs. van Pels dies in Theresienstadt concentration camp in Czechoslovakia.

May - Peter van Pels dies in Mauthausen.

June 3 - Otto Frank arrives in Amsterdam, where he is reunited with Miep and Jan Gies. He concentrates on finding the whereabouts of Anne and Margot.

October 24 - Otto Frank receives a letter telling him that his daughters died at Bergen-Belsen

April 30 - Adolf Hitler commits suicide.

May 7 - Germany surrenders, and the war ends in Europe.

November - The Nuremberg Trials of Nazi war criminals begin.

What American historical events can you name that happened in 1944?



1945: Mamie Till learns that Private Louis Till has died while in Europe. She is not given a full report of her ex-husband's death. One of his few possessions received by Mamie is a signet ring inscribed with his initials, L.T.



law2.umkc.edu



1946 - today

Frank Family

1946 April 3 - An article in Het Parool discusses Anne's diary.

1947 Summer - 1,500 copies of Anne's diary are published by Contact Publishers in Amsterdam.

1951 The diary is translated into English.

1954 The Dutch Red Cross officially declares that Anne and Margot died at Bergen-Belsen in 1945.

1955 The play based on The Diary of Anne Frank opens on Broadway

1960 May - The Anne Frank House opens.

1980 August 19 - Otto Frank dies in Birsfelden, Switzerland. He is 91.

1988 Rescuer Miep Gies writes Anne Frank Remembered.

1995 The 'Definitive Edition' of the Diary is published in the United States.

1997 A new adaptation of The Diary of Anne Frank opens on Broadway.



May 17, 1954: The Supreme Court orders public schools desegregated in *Brown v. Board of Education*. The watershed case overturns the separate-but-equal doctrine, which dated back to the 1896 decision in *Plessy v. Ferguson*. Southern segregationists vow to oppose the ruling, and label this day *Black Monday*. Mississippi Circuit Court Judge Tom P. Brady becomes the intellectual godfather of the Mississippi Citizens' Council, a white supremacist organization that will be replicated throughout the South. July 11: The first Citizens' Council meeting is held in Indianola, Mississippi.

1955:

May 7: The Reverend George Lee, a grocery owner and [NAACP](#) field worker in Belzoni, Mississippi, is shot and killed at point blank range while driving in his car after trying to vote. A few weeks later in Brookhaven, Mississippi, Lamar Smith, another black man, is shot and killed in front of the county courthouse, in broad daylight and before witnesses, after casting his ballot. Both victims had been active in voter registration drives. No one will be arrested in connection with either murder.

August 19: A day before her son is to leave for a summer stay with family in Mississippi, Mamie Till gives Emmett the ring once owned by his father, Louis Till. It is inscribed with the initials L.T.

August 20: Mamie Till rushes her son Emmett to the 63rd Street station in Chicago to catch the southbound train to Money, Mississippi.

August 21: Emmett Till arrives in Money, Mississippi, and goes to stay at the home of his great uncle [Moses Wright](#).

August 24: Emmett joins a group of teenagers, seven boys and one girl, to go to Bryant's Grocery and Meat Market for refreshments to cool off after a long day of picking cotton in the hot sun. Bryant's Grocery, owned by a white couple, Roy and Carolyn Bryant, sells supplies and candy to a primarily black clientele of [sharecroppers](#) and their children. Emmett goes into the store to buy bubble gum. Some of the kids outside the store will later say they heard Emmett whistle at Carolyn Bryant.

August 28: About 2:30 a.m., [Roy Bryant](#), Carolyn's husband, and his half brother J. W. Milam, kidnap Emmett Till from Moses Wright's home. They will later describe brutally beating him, taking him to the edge of the Tallahatchie River, shooting him in the head, fastening a large metal fan used for ginning cotton to his neck with barbed wire, and pushing the body into the river.

August 29: J. W. Milam and Roy Bryant are arrested on kidnapping charges in LeFlore County in connection with Till's disappearance. They are jailed in Greenwood, Mississippi and held without bond.

August 31: Three days later, Emmett Till's decomposed corpse is pulled from Mississippi's Tallahatchie River. Moses Wright identifies the body from a ring with the initials L.T.

September 1: Mississippi Governor Hugh White orders local officials to "fully prosecute" Milam and Bryant in the Till case.

September 2: In Chicago, Mamie Till arrives at the Illinois Central Terminal to receive Emmett's casket. She is surrounded by family and photographers who snap her photo collapsing in grief at the sight of the casket. The body is taken to the A. A. Rayner & Sons Funeral Home.

The *Jackson [Mississippi] Daily News* decries the "brutal, senseless crime" but complains that the NAACP is working "to arouse hatred and fear" by calling Till's murder [lynching](#).

In Belgium, the newspaper *Le Drapeau Rouge* (the Red Flag), publishes a brief article entitled: "Racism in the USA: A young black is lynched in Mississippi."

September 3: Emmett Till's body is taken to Chicago's Roberts Temple Church of God for viewing and funeral services. Emmett's mother decides to have an open casket funeral. Thousands of Chicagoans wait in line to see Emmett's brutally beaten body.



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September 6: Emmett Till is buried at Burr Oak Cemetery.

The same day, a grand jury in Mississippi indicts Milam and Bryant for the kidnapping and murder of Emmett Till.

They both plead innocent. They will be held in jail until the start of the [trial](#).

September 15: *Jet* magazine, the nationwide black magazine owned by Chicago-based Johnson Publications, publishes photographs of Till's mutilated corpse, shocking and outraging African Americans from coast to coast.

September 17: The black newspaper *The Chicago Defender* publishes photographs of Till's corpse.

September 19: The kidnapping and murder trial of J. W. Milam and Roy Bryant opens in Sumner, Mississippi, the county seat of Tallahatchie County. Jury selection begins and, with blacks and white women banned from serving, an all-white, 12-man jury made up of nine farmers, two carpenters and one insurance agent is selected.

Mamie Till Bradley departs from Chicago's Midway Airport to attend the trial.

September 20: Judge Curtis Swango recesses the court to allow more witnesses to be found. It is the first time in Mississippi history that local law enforcement, local NAACP leaders and black and white reporters team up to locate sharecroppers who saw Milam's truck and overheard Emmett being beaten.

The French daily newspaper *Le Monde* runs an article reporting that the American public is following the Till case "with passionate attention."

September 21: Moses Wright, Emmett Till's great uncle, does the unthinkable -- he accuses two white men in open court.

While on the witness stand, he stands up and points his finger at Milam and Bryant, and accuses them of coming to his house and kidnapping Emmett.

September 23: Milam and Bryant are acquitted of murdering Emmett Till after the jury deliberates only 67 minutes. One juror tells a reporter that they wouldn't have taken so long if they hadn't stopped to drink pop. Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam stand before photographers, light up cigars and kiss their wives in celebration of the not guilty verdict.

Moses Wright and another poor black Mississippian who testified, Willie Reed, leave Mississippi and are smuggled to Chicago. Once there, Reed collapses and suffers a nervous breakdown.

September 26: In Belgium, two left-wing newspapers publish articles on the acquittal. *Le Peuple*, the daily Belgian Socialist newspaper, calls the acquittal "a judicial scandal in the United States." *Le Drapeau Rouge* (the Red Flag) publishes: "Killing a black person isn't a crime in the home of the Yankees: The white killers of young Emmett Till are acquitted!"

In France, *L'Aurore* newspaper publishes: "The Scandalous Acquittal in Sumner" and the daily newspaper *Le Figaro* adds: "The Shame of the



CHICAGO DEFENDER



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Sumner Jury."

September 27: The French daily newspaper *Le Monde* runs an article: "The Sumner Trial Marks, Perhaps, an Opening of Consciousness."

September 28: In Germany, the newspaper *Freies Volk* publishes: "The Life of a Negro Isn't Worth a Whistle."

In France, the French Communist Party newspaper *L'Humanité* writes: "After the Mockery of Justice in Mississippi: Emotion in Paris."

September 30: Milam and Bryant are released on bond. Kidnapping charges are pending.

October 15: *The Memphis Commercial Appeal* publishes an article reporting that Louis Till was executed by the U.S. Army in Italy in 1945 for raping two Italian women and killing a third. Mississippi Senator James O. Eastland has leaked the information to the press.

October 22: The American Jewish Committee in New York releases a report urging Congress to bolster Federal civil rights legislation in light of the Till case. Their report includes quotes from newspapers in six European countries expressing shock and outrage after the Till verdict.

November 9: Returning to Mississippi one last time, Moses Wright and Willie Reed testify before a LeFlore County grand jury in Greenwood, Mississippi. The grand jury refuses to indict Milam or Bryant for kidnapping. The two white men go free.

December 5: One hundred days after Emmett Till's murder, Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat on a city bus, launching the Montgomery, Alabama bus boycott and the [civil rights movement](#). The boycott will last 381 days.

January 24, 1956: *Look* magazine publishes an [article](#) written by Alabama journalist William Bradford Huie, entitled *The Shocking Story of Approved Killing in Mississippi*. Huie has offered Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam \$4,000 to tell how they killed Emmett Till. Milam speaks for the record.



January 22, 1957: William Bradford Huie writes another article for *Look* magazine, "What's Happened to the Emmett Till Killers?" Huie writes that "Milam does not regret the killing, though it has brought him nothing but trouble." Blacks have stopped frequenting stores owned by the Milam and Bryant families and put them out of business. Bryant takes up welding for income, and both men are ostracized by the white community.

April 25, 1959: Three days before his scheduled trial, Mack Charles Parker, a 23-year-old African American truck driver, is [lynched](#) by a hooded mob of white men in Poplarville, Mississippi. Parker had been accused of raping a pregnant white woman and was being held in a local jail. The mob takes him from his cell, beats him, takes him to a bridge, shoots and kills him, then weighs his body down with chains and dumps him in the river. Many people know the identity of the killers, but the community closes ranks and refuses to talk. Echoing the Till case, the FBI will investigate and identify at least 10 men involved, but the U.S. Department of Justice will rule there are no federal grounds to make an arrest and press charges. Two grand juries -- one county and one federal -- will adjourn without indictments.

1980: December: J. W. Milam dies in Mississippi of cancer.

1990: September: Roy Bryant dies in Mississippi of cancer.

2003: January 6: Mamie Till Mobley dies of heart failure, at age 81. Her death comes just two weeks before *The Murder of Emmett Till* is to premiere nationally on PBS.

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"I thought about Emmett Till, and I could not go back. My legs and feet were not hurting, that is a stereotype. I paid the same fare as others, and I felt violated. I was not going back."
~Rosa Parks

Rosa Parks,
December 1, 1955

ANNE & EMMETT Discussion Questions

1. What are some of the facts Anne & Emmett introduce to one another in the play regarding race and religion? How do you feel about the honest observations they make?
2. Both Mamie and Otto lost their beloved child while they were still alive and they share their thoughts about this in the play. What did you think and/or feel during these moments?
3. Do you think remembering the past is important? If so, why?
4. Anne & Emmett both found themselves in situations in which they could no longer live the life they knew and were used to. Think about the things you enjoy doing. How would you feel if you suddenly couldn't do them anymore?
5. Over the past few years, Minnesota has been in the national news due to racial and religious relations and events, some of which have caused death and loss. What recent events in Minnesota come to mind? How might these events have a connection to what Anne and Emmett experienced?

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