'Street Scene Readers’ Theatre

Jamal
Sammy
Sal
Marco

Sound effects: car screeching, footsteps, grunting, police siren, slamming car doors

ANY CHARACTER: This scene is from Chapter 5 of Paul Kropp’s novel *Street Scene*. Today’s actors are ______________________

JAMAL: The thing about trouble, my mom says, is that it shows up when it wants to – not when you’re ready for it. When the trouble came, we weren’t thinking about it. We were thinking about basketball.

SOUND EFFECT: bouncing basketball

SAMMY: Jamal and I were just walking down the street, going to the Rec Centre. I guess we were joking around too, about those “tough” west end guys. Those guys hadn’t done nothing to us for three days now. It all seemed like a big laugh…. Until the car zoomed up beside us.

SOUND EFFECT: car screeching to a halt, car doors opening and closing.

JAMAL: Three guys came out. The first two guys were just your average greaseballs. They were all bigger than me and Sammy, but didn’t look too smart or too fast.

SAMMY: I figured that we could either deke those guys out or outrun them if we had to. Then Sal climbed out of the car (SFX: car doors or footsteps) and I started to sweat a little.

SAL: So look who’s here. Must be Jamal and his little buddy.

MARCO: Just the guys we were looking for. (Sal and Marco laugh)

SAMMY: Somebody jabbed me in the side, so I said, “Hey, man! What you doing?” But Jamal didn’t want to wait around.

JAMAL: Let’s get out of here!
SAMMY: So I ran one way and Jamal went the other way. Jamal had three guys chasing him. I just had the guy in the car.

SOUND EFFECT: running footsteps – two boys first, then one, then the rest of the gang.

JAMAL: (out of breath). Got to use my brain. Got to get away from these guys. I jumped over a fence and tried to get away.

SOUND EFFECT: racing footsteps

SAL: (breathing hard) Hey man. Don’t think you can get away that easy.

MARCO: You see him?

SAL: He had to go this way!

SOUND EFFECT: more running. Crashing garbage cans.

Jamal: I knew I couldn’t get away from those guys, so I had to hide. I squeezed between two sheds and waited. (breathing hard) I picked up a piece of wood, for insurance.

SOUND EFFECT: footsteps, running, then slowing down.

MARCO: He’s got be around here some place.

SAL: Check between the sheds. I think I hear something.

JAMAL: I was trying not to make noise. I would have stopped breathing if I could. But they still found me.

MARCO: Well, look who’s here.

SAL: We’ve got you now, Jamal. (laughter)

JAMAL: (scared) Stay back, man.

SOUND EFFECT: wood smashing against metal.

SAL: Tough guy, eh? Marco, you give him a poke with that old pipe. We’ll see how tough this guy is.

JAMAL: Marco began to jab at me.

MARCO: Come on out, guy. We’re waiting for you.

SAL: Now we got you!

JAMAL: I tried to swing at them with my piece of wood, but Sal grabbed it. In a flash, Sal punched me in the side. (Jamal grunts.) Then Marco got ready to take a swing at me.
MARCO: This is for you, boy.

JAMAL: This is the end – that’s what I thought to myself. I’m never going to get up from here after they get through with me. (pause) But then I heard something.

SOUND EFFECT: Police siren (coming closer) Slamming doors.

SAL: It’s the cops.

MARCO: Let’s get out of here!

SAMMY: Sal and Marco tried to run, but the police had blocked the alley. They were trapped. As the cops rounded up the gang, I walked up to Jamal.

SOUND EFFECT: footsteps

JAMAL: (still scared) Sammy, is that you?

SAMMY: Yeah, man. I lost my guy, then figured you might need a little help.

JAMAL: You figured right. Sometimes a little help is a real good thing. (laughter)

(Closing music - end)