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Dr. Wintersteen
Production Book 1
Justification and Synopsis

Eleemosynary : Justification and Synopsis

Synopsis:

Eleemosynary is a play about a young girl named Echo, who is extremely intelligent, being pawned off by her mother to be raised by her grandmother. Echo, who is studying for and participating in the National Spelling Bee, is trying to find the balance between her mother and grandmother. After Artie, the mother, and Dorothea, the grandmother, are brought together again after a long alienation due to Dorothea suffering a stroke, they must deal with their issues in order to come together to recreate some sort of life together. Once Dorothea passes away, Artie and Echo begin to understand their need for one another and attempt to accept each other after only being connected through phone calls.

My scene is the climax of the show when Echo reaches out to her mother, creating an ultimatum for Artie to attend the National Spelling Bee, come up to Echo, congratulate her, and then kiss Dorothea on the cheek or never hear from her again. Artie and Dorothea both attend the spelling bee, not knowing where the other is, but aware that they are present. Echo is dealing with the emotions of the spelling bee but also dealing with the emotional issues of her family. The audience begins to realize Echo's complete obsession with needed to be the best, and this realization is also seen through Artie. When Echo wins the National Spelling Bee, her demands of her mother are met, but doesn't solve any of the issues she assumed these demands or winning to bring.

Justification:

I believe this scene is important to be seen at Concordia. I think everyone has been at a point in their lives where they thought if they were perfect at something, everything would come out better. This is not always the case and is something to relate to. We need to fight for what we believe in and what, but not always believe it's our fault when it's out of our control. Cobber's are so focused on success and think that we need to remind them, even myself, that there is more to life. If you are so narrowly focused, you will miss the beautiful things around you or lose your compassion for others. Echo loses this compassion for others in her sole focus of winning. I think we all need like reminders every now and again.

Today society is full of broken families, and we still don't know how to deal with it. Can we accept that we came out okay? Can we understand that it's not our faults? This scene is very emotion driven but its direct address to the audience is something that I feel can be very powerful to the audience, very relatable. These characters are very real, they have strengths and they have faults. The littlest moments in life can remind us of these, Artie realizes it, and so can we. It's not a bad thing to have our eyes opened to acknowledge these things, for they build us as people and help us strive to be better people.