

1. FENCES, by August Wilson

Cory is the son of Troy and Rose Maxson. He is an African American teenager living in the late 1950's, who aspires to become a professional football player. He and his father are constantly at odds, because of his father's resentment over the possibility of Cory's success. Troy was also a star athlete in his youth, having played baseball in the Negro League, but never rose to the status he'd hoped because he was too old to play by the time the major league teams started accepting black athletes. Troy is a trash collector and spends much of his time drinking with friends and cheating on his wife. His son is aware of his exploits and finds the courage to stand up to his father in this moment.

Cory: I live here too! I ain't scared of you. I was walking by you to go into the house cause you sitting on the steps drunk, singing to yourself. I ain't got to say excuse me to you. You don't count around here any more.

Now why don't you just get out my way.

You talking about what you did for me... what'd you ever give me? You ain't never gave me nothing. You ain't never done nothing but hold me back. Afraid I was gonna be better than you. All you ever did was try and make me scared of you. I used to tremble every time you called my name. Every time I heard your footsteps in the house. Wondering all the time... what's Papa gonna say if I do this?... What's he gonna say if I do that?... What's he gonna say if I turn on the radio? And Mama, too... she tries... but she's scared of you. I don't know how she stand you... after what you did to her.

What you gonna do... give me a whupping? You can't whup me no more. You're too old. You're just an old man.

You crazy. You know that? You just a crazy old man... talking about I got the devil in me. Come on... put me out. I ain't scare of you. Come on! Come on, put me out. What's the matter? You so bad... put me out! Come on! Come on!