

INT. PROBATION OFFICER'S CAR – DAY		
00:00:07		(police radio)
00:00:27	ON-SCREEN TEXT (on paper)	Joseph McGee
EXT. JOEY'S HOUSE – DAY		
00:00:30		(dog barks)
00:00:37	PROBATION OFFICER	Hi.
00:00:38	JOEY	Hi.
00:00:39	PROBATION OFFICER	You must be Joseph.
00:00:40	JOEY	Yeah.
INT. JOEY'S HOUSE – DAY		
00:00:42	PROBATION OFFICER	So what's going on Joseph?
00:00:45	JOEY	Nothing much.
00:00:46	PROBATION OFFICER	What do you mean nothing much? Wouldn't be here if something's not going on. Well, I'd rather hear it from you. Your side of things.
00:00:58	JOEY	I just don't go to school, I guess.
00:01:00	PROBATION OFFICER	Why?
00:01:01	JOEY	I never wake up.
00:01:03	PROBATION OFFICER	How late are we staying up?
00:01:05	JOEY	12... I'll wake up about one.
00:01:08	PROBATION OFFICER	One o'clock?
00:01:09	JOEY	In the afternoon, yeah.
00:01:11	PROBATION OFFICER	That's 13 hours. Are you using drugs?
00:01:13	JOEY	No. (laughs)

00:01:15	PROBATION OFFICER	Father in the household? Step-dad?
00:01:19	JOEY	(OS) He's in prison now... and I don't want to do high school.
00:01:24	PROBATION OFFICER	You don't want to do high school?
00:01:25	JOEY	I have 150 credits to make up and I don't feel like doing them.
00:01:29	JOEY'S MOM	(cries)
00:01:31	PROBATION OFFICER	This is really bothering you, isn't it?
00:01:33	JOEY'S MOM	(OS) I have done everything. I've taken -- even the point where I took his door.
00:01:37	JOEY'S MOM	There was like six months where he didn't have a bedroom door. I took everything out of his room --
00:01:40	PROBATION OFFICER	(OS) -- Is it still that way?
00:01:41	JOEY'S MOM	No.
00:01:41	PROBATION OFFICER	(OS) Why not?
00:01:42	JOEY'S MOM	-- 'Cause he started doing good and then he does good and then he...
00:01:46	PROBATION OFFICER	Okay, well... what do you want out of life? And what do you expect to get without an education?
00:01:55		(music)
00:01:56	ON-SCREEN TEXT	THE BAD KIDS
EXT. DIRT LOT - SUNRISE		
00:02:24		(bus engine)
00:02:27		(brakes, hydraulics)
INT. SCHOOLBUS - DAY		
00:03:31	JENNIFER	(VO) My family's been out here forever.

INT. JENNIFER'S HOUSE - DAY		
00:03:34	JENNIFER	(VO) There's really nothing for kids to do, like... it causes us to get into a lot of bad things.
INT. BUS - DAY		
00:03:29	STUDENT	(walks fingers along seat)
EXT. ROAD - DAY		
00:03:33	ON-SCREEN TEXT (road sign)	Joshua Tree POP 8,272 ELEV 2,750
EXT. LEE'S PORCH - DAY		
00:03:38	LEE	(VO) I never really had a childhood. Like other kids thought the world was all happy -- I tell them like no. The world's actually a dark place.
INT. SCHOOLBUS - DAY		
EXT. ROAD - DAY		
00:03:55	ON-SCREEN TEXT (road sign)	29 Palms 21 Amboy 70
00:03:59	JOEY	(PRELAP) I don't wanna stay here. I wanna be something.
INT. JOEY'S HOUSE - NIGHT		
00:04:01	JOEY	(VO) I don't care what it is. Just something.
EXT. BLACK ROCK HIGH SCHOOL - DAY		
00:04:05	STUDENT	(raises flag)
00:04:14	ON-SCREEN TEXT	Located in California's Mojave Desert, Black Rock is an alternative public high school for students who are truant or at risk of dropping out. Black Rock is their last chance to earn a high school diploma.
INT. SCHOOLBUS - DAY		

00:04:34		(bus brakes)
00:04:39		(door creaks, students' voices)
EXT. BLACK ROCK HIGH SCHOOL - DAY		
00:04:43	MS. VILAND	Good morning! How are you?
00:04:45	STUDENT 1	Tired.
00:04:46	MS. VILAND	Tired!? Because you've been working so hard, right? Good morning! I'm glad you're back.
00:04:52	STUDENT 2	Good morning, Ms. Viland.
00:04:53	MS. VILAND	Good morning!
00:04:54	STUDENT 3	Good morning, Ms. Viland.
00:04:55	MS. VILAND	Good morning! Hi!
00:04:56	JENNIFER	Good morning, Ms. Viland.
00:04:57	MS. VILAND	You have a smile on your face. I like that!
00:05:00	MS. VILAND	Good morning! Good morning! I missed you yesterday, Scott. I'm glad you're back. Who's been sucking on your neck there?
00:05:07	STUDENT 4	No one! An octopus.
00:05:08	MS. VILAND	Ah, yeah. We need to talk about that!
INT. BLACK ROCK FRONT DESK - DAY		
00:05:10		(bell rings)
00:05:16		(students' voices)
INT. BLACK ROCK HALLWAY - DAY		
00:05:17		(students shuffle)
00:05:20	MS. VILAND	Alright. Let's go, let's go! Ladies! Ladies! Ladies! Get going for first period, please! Let's go, let's go, let's go, let's go, let's go!

00:05:26	COUPLE	(makes out)
00:05:27	MS. VILAND	(OS) You two -- I'm going to have you work in Ms. Larson's room.
00:05:30	MS. AMBROSIUS	(PRELAP) Hi! This is Ms. Ambrosius calling from Black Rock High School... So what's your responsibility as an 18 year old?
INT. BLACK ROCK FRONT DESK - DAY		
00:05:36	MS. AMBROSIUS	To get yourself up. And? Come to school.
00:05:41	MS. AMBROSIUS	(OS) You missed Monday... And now today you're home again. So what's going on?
00:05:42	STUDENT	(punches timecard)
INT. MS. VILAND'S OFFICE - DAY		
00:05:50	MS. VILAND	If you're looking for a place to hide, this isn't it. Because at a traditional high school, you can come in and you can sit in the back of the room and slouch down. And let the other people answer the questions, and the bell rings and you get up and leave, right?
00:06:04	MS. VILAND	At our school, the teachers are going to watch over your shoulders a lot. They're gonna be: "What are you doing? Why are ya doing that? Do you need help with that?" At our school, we want you to demand -- to <i>demand</i> -- that we help you.
00:06:17	MS. VILAND	(OS) There is no shame in asking for help. Okay. Alright, Joey. So...
00:06:23	MS. VILAND	(ON/OS) I'm Ms. Viland. Let's start first with how our school differs from a traditional high school, okay? This is a self-paced program. That means you gotta have a burn and a desire to get your butt up every day and get on with it, okay?
00:06:38	JOEY	Alright.
00:06:38	MS. VILAND (OS)	It's gotta come from inside.

00:06:40	MS. VILAND	At our school, you're only stuck here as long as it takes you to do your work. So, the day you finish that last assignment is the day you can stop coming to school. So, you showing up here shows to me that you've realized you've got to get the diploma.
00:06:56	JOEY	Yeah
00:06:57	MS. VILAND	So, how... how we gonna do this, Joey?
00:07:00	JOEY	I don't really know, honestly. I've never really done schoolwork.
00:07:04	MS. VILAND	I know you haven't. I know. I know.
EXT. DESERT - DAY		
00:07:09	JOEY	(plays guitar)
00:07:22	ON-SCREEN TEXT	JOEY
00:07:26	JOEY'S LITTLE BROTHER	(throws rocks)
00:07:30	JOEY	(VO) I was never a bad kid. I mean, junior high, yeah, but... I just had a lot going on in my life. My mom was on drugs and my stepdad was, well, he was on drugs too. I wanted to be like him. I decided to break into houses and steal stuff from everyone.
INT. JOEY'S HOUSE - DAY		
00:07:51	JOEY	(VO) That's how I chose to survive, at that time. Now I'm on probation.
00:07:55	JOEY	(sings) <i>But I won't hesitate no more. No more, no more, no more. This cannot wait. I'm yours.</i>
00:08:12	JOEY	(VO) This town kinda swallows people and brings them down.
00:08:17	JOEY	(VO) I don't want to end up like everyone at 29 Palms.
INT. BLACK ROCK HIGH SCHOOL - DAY		

00:08:21	TEACHER	(OS) Okay, after school in the parking lot, but right now we're talking about genetics.
00:08:25	STUDENT	(OS) I did that before.
00:08:26	TEACHER	(OS) Do you see the three up there? Now Joey, which of these traits is the recessive gene most common?
00:08:37	JOEY	My gene's most common.
00:08:37	TEACHER	(OS) -- the dominant gene is most common, the recessive is most common.
00:08:39	STUDENT	(laughs)
00:08:41	JOEY	Our genes.
00:08:42	TEACHER	-- which means that the dominant trait is the lowest.
00:08:43	STUDENT	(laughs)
00:08:44		(PRELAP) (dial tone, dialing)
INT. BLACK ROCK FRONT DESK - DAY		
00:08:45	MS. AMBROSIUS	Hey, Anthony. It's Ms. Ambrosius. I'm calling because we have people looking for you here.
00:08:53	MS. AMBROSIUS	(OS) I'm looking for you for attendance, your teachers are looking for you for [...]
00:08:54	ON-SCREEN TEXT (on sign)	THE WITCH IS IN
00:08:56	MS. VILAND	(PRELAP) Here's the thing: my philosophy is [...]
INT. MS. VILAND'S OFFICE - DAY		
00:08:57	MS. VILAND	I have no punishments here. You will not get a punishment. We have no lunch detentions, no after-school detentions, no Saturday schools.
00:09:05	MS. VILAND	(OS/ON) 'Cause that's not the way it works in the real world. If I get in trouble with my boss, she doesn't say, "Oh Ms. Viland, you have Saturday school!" Oh,

		no, no, no. She comes in she closes the door and she says, "Look woman, you better get your act together and do it my way or I'm going to fire you." And that's how I handle discipline.
INT. BLACK ROCK HALLWAY - DAY		
00:09:21		(music)
00:09:22	MS. WEITZ	(PRELAP) He did quite well in English.
INT. BLACK ROCK CLASSROOM - DAY		
00:09:25	MS. WEITZ	(ON/OS) 3.4 credits in one credit-check is pretty good. But when I look here, he hasn't gotten any science done at all.
00:09:32	MS. VILAND	(PRELAP) Okay, you keep saying [...]
INT. MS. VILAND'S OFFICE - DAY		
00:09:34	MS. VILAND	[...] that you are adult enough and responsible enough.
00:09:38	MS. VILAND	(ON/OS) Okay. You need to stop saying it and start showing it. Yes?
00:09:41	STUDENT	Yeah. (exhales) Okay.
INT. BLACK ROCK CLASSROOM - DAY		
00:09:43	MR. BECK	You realize you're 8.7 credits above being a freshman.
00:09:48	STUDENT	Yeah.
00:09:49	MR. BECK	And next year's your senior year.
00:09:52	STUDENT	Yeah. If I make a credit every day, starting next year, I'll graduate two months early.
00:09:56	MR. BECK	(OS) How about a credit every day, starting next week?
00:09:57	STUDENT	We'll I'm going to try and do that.

00:09:58	MR. BECK	(OS) No! Not try. Try tells me that you're not gonna do it.
00:10:02	MS. VILAND	(PRELAP) You and I talked a lot about this.
INT. BLACK ROCK CLASSROOM - DAY		
00:10:04	MS. VILAND	You're angry...
00:10:04	STUDENT	(OS) Mhm.
00:10:05	MS. VILAND	And, used to be when you were angry, you would hit somebody. That was the first step, right?
00:10:09	STUDENT	(OS) Yeah.
00:10:10	MS. VILAND	Okay, and I said, okay, we're gonna make a little step and we're gonna hit walls now. Alright? And we didn't hit -- and we hit walls. Now, this morning, you got angry -- did you hit anything?
00:10:19	STUDENT	No.
00:10:20	MS. VILAND	You didn't hit anything?
00:10:20	STUDENT	I just walked away.
00:10:21	MS. VILAND	You just walked away. Little bit further at a time.
INT. MS. VILAND'S OFFICE - DAY		
00:10:27	MS. VILAND	(PRELAP) Lee, you and I have a deal, right?
00:10:29	LEE	(PRELAP) Yes.
00:10:31	MS. VILAND	(OS/ON) We're gonna help you, but you're gonna have to help yourself. You're gonna have to be using your time. You need to be here every day. You need to get everything done. Alright? So, this looks like a good plan. 10, 10.7, 15.7, 15.8.
00:10:46	MS. VILAND	And then you need to get four credits in electives. In any of these ones here, either in careers or fitness.
00:10:54	MS. VILAND	(OS) So is this do-able?

00:10:57	LEE	I think it is. (laughs)
00:10:58	MS. VILAND	(OS) I think it is, too. You now have a huge responsibility. Because if you don't graduate, your baby won't graduate.
INT. BLACK ROCK ASSEMBLY ROOM - DAY		
00:11:09		(student chatter)
00:11:16	LEE	(OS/ON) Like, you might be going through some hard times. You might. I might. Any of us can. But that don't mean you just tear down because of it. I'm not giving up. I'm still tryna graduate.
00:11:24	LEE	I'm gonna graduate. I'm not gonna drop out of scho-- I'm gonna graduate. The mother's gonna graduate and we're gonna start out better off in life. Because we didn't give up on our child.
00:11:37	DENNEN	(stabs pencil into table, chanting) <i>Oh, I have all my fingers. Knife goes chop chop chop. If I miss the spaces in-between my fingers will come off. Oh!</i>
00:11:46	DENNEN	(stabbing faster) <i>Chop, chop, chop, chop, chop, chop, chop. I'm picking up the speed. And if I miss the space between my hand will start to bleed.</i>
00:11:53	VOICE	Have a good day guys. See you all tomorrow.
00:11:54		(bell rings)
00:11:55	VOICE	Alright, bus is here, time to go!
EXT. TOWN - DAY		
00:12:00		(cars pass, students' footsteps)
00:12:13		(dog barks)
EXT. LEE PORCH - DAY		
00:12:17		(dog barks, kid shouts)
00:12:20	ON-SCREEN TEXT	LEE

00:12:25	LEE	(VO) Everyone has a kid in them still. I don't want the little kid in me to die.
00:12:32	LEE	(VO) I feel like... stuck in-between a man and a child, still trying to build his way to becoming a good man. A man my son can be like, "Oh, I'm proud of Daddy. He did it. I want to be like that!"
00:12:47	LEE	(kisses baby) (VO) I'm not just gonna be some deadbeat who drops out and never go anywhere in life.
00:12:52	LEE	(OS/ON) I stay dedicated to my girlfriend, my work and my child, trying to graduate school. That's what makes me different as a teen father. I'm not going around causing trouble trying to party.
00:13:03	LAYLA	-- I don't do that either. I'm always with him. Taking care of him.
00:13:11	LEE	(OS) What was your first reaction when you found out you was pregnant and having a baby?
00:13:17	LAYLA	I don't know -- I was scared. I don't know. I didn't know what to do...
00:13:20		(baby sounds)
00:13:23	LAYLA	... everything.
00:13:24	LEE	(OS/ON) My first reaction was... uh, eh, it was gonna happen sooner or later, so, you know, let's see where it goes. (laughs) That was actually my first reaction. I wasn't scared, I wasn't nervous. I was like, I'm gonna face it head on.
00:13:36		(baby sounds)
00:13:37	LAYLA	(laughs)
00:13:37	LEE	I'm not gonna run from it.
EXT. ROAD - DAY		
00:13:39		(music) (stroller rolling against pavement)

00:13:47		(ambulance siren)
INT. BLACK ROCK CLASSROOM - DAY		
00:13:55		(paper shuffle)
00:13:56	MS. ALEXANDER	(OS) Okay. Earth Science. Have you done any of these?
00:14:00	JOEY	I have one done. So... and I'm working on another one now.
00:14:04	MS. ALEXANDER	(ON/OS) Okay, so you got the one here. Have you done an essay yet?
00:14:08	JOEY	Mm-mm.
00:14:10	MS. ALEXANDER	(OS) Why not?
00:14:11	JOEY	(OS/ON) I haven't done any English since I've been here.
00:14:14	MS. ALEXANDER	(OS) Okay you know... Joey? You need almost 30 credits in English. That's three years. You need to be doing these essays every credit check if you're serious about graduating.
00:14:27	JOEY	(OS) That sucks.
00:14:29	MS. ALEXANDER	(OS/ON) Joey? You have the ability. This is totally do-able. Okay?
00:14:36	JOEY	(mumbles) I know.
00:14:38	MS. ALEXANDER	Are you hearing me?
00:14:38	JOEY	(OS) Mmhm.
00:14:39	MS. ALEXANDER	(OS) Not just listening. You're hearing what I'm saying?
00:14:43	JOEY	(mumbles) Yeah.
INT. MS. VILAND'S OFFICE - DAY		
00:14:45		(dialing)

00:14:52	MS. VILAND	(OS/ON) I'm sitting with Joey McGee right now. He... is confused. Is he still on probation or off probation? Okay, thanks. Bye-bye.
00:15:06	MS. VILAND	(ON/OS) I believe you're off probation. Now, that doesn't mean you can do whatever the hell you want.
00:15:13	JOEY	(OS/ ON) I haven't been doing anything. Still staying out of trouble.
00:15:16		(phone rings)
00:15:16	MS. VILAND	(OS) Okay. I don't want you to stop coming to school.
00:15:17	JOEY	I -- oh.
00:15:20	MS. VILAND	'Cause, you know, I don't want you to sell yourself short.
00:15:26	JOEY	Hopefully I can get out of this stuff, just..
00:15:28	MS. VILAND	(ON/OS) Alright, Joey. Most things that you do here probably won't apply to your life. It's all playing a game. And I know because you're gifted musically, you don't yet realize the importance of the diploma. But I'm telling you, there are more homeless, talented people out there, because they didn't fit into the societal expectations. You know what I mean?
00:15:54		(PRELAP) (guitar)
INT. BLACK ROCK ASSEMBLY ROOM - DAY		
00:15:55	JOEY	(CONT'D) (plays guitar)
00:15:55		(student chatter)
00:16:06	STUDENT	Would you like to play?
00:16:07	JOEY	Huh?
00:16:08	STUDENT	Would you like to play?
00:16:08	JOEY	I wanna play with you, man. I need a rhythm. So bad.
00:16:13	STUDENT	I'm not good. I'm still practicing.

00:16:14	JOEY	(plays guitar) No such thing as "I'm not good."
00:16:18	JOEY	(OS/ON) I used to be like that. I've been playing for 7 years, though. I've got that kind of bluesy sound to me, though. A lot of pain in my music for whatever reason, I don't know why.
00:16:29	STUDENT	(OS) What are you starting off with? What's the chord, what is it called?
00:16:35		(music rises, voices muffled)
00:16:39	JACIANNA	(VO) I have one friend. But it's good that way 'cause when I had a lot of friends, I did bad. I did a lot of drugs and I had to take care of my baby brother and stuff 'cause my mom was never home.
MONTAGE: INT. BLACK ROCK CLASSROOMS - DAY		
00:16:57	STUDENT 1	(VO) If I get my high school diploma, I can turn my life around for the better. I mean, I really do want to get out of that trailer. And I don't want to keep using food stamps. I don't like using that as a crutch. I'm just using it 'cause no one can really afford food in my house.
00:17:12	STUDENT 2	(VO) I remember sometime in the fourth grade, one of my teachers told me I would never amount to anything. So I kinda just, like, stuck with that, that I would never amount to anything, so I thought everything I did was just for no reason.
00:17:24	STUDENT 3	(VO) I get really bad stressing out to the point where, like... I do not talk to anybody or anything. Or I just, like, try to block out everybody.
00:17:37	STUDENT 4	(VO) Anger builds up in me because of my dad, like... he yell at me a lot of times. He want me to be a better person than he is. He just bring me down and I don't feel like living sometimes no more.
00:17:49	STUDENT 5	(VO) Oh my god... I'm seventeen and pregnant. What am I gonna -- I'm not even out of high school.

00:17:57	STUDENT 6	(VO) I don't wanna be trapped anywhere. I won't ever be trapped ever in anything. I see a lot of people who are trapped in this town.
00:18:03	STUDENT 7	(VO) My mom is... I still don't know her address. I still don't know where she's at. She's somewhere [...]
00:18:06	STUDENT 8	(VO) I don't care about what other people say.
00:18:08	STUDENT 9	(VO) Everybody knows me to be the happy guy, smiling all the time. But I do feel sad. [...]
00:18:13	STUDENT 10	(VO) [...] My mom... she didn't finish high school.
00:18:15	STUDENT 11	(VO) My mom? I don't know where she is.
00:18:17	STUDENT 12	(VO) [...] I'm a stubborn kid. That's first and foremost, that's basically why I'm here. I didn't want to do my work.
INT. BLACK ROCK HALLWAY - DAY		
00:18:24		(students' voices overlap)
00:18:32		(students chatter)
INT. BLACK ROCK CLASSROOM - DAY		
00:18:35		(bell rings)
00:18:36	MS. VILAND	(OS) Okay guys, time for second period please!
00:18:44	JENNIFER	(VO) My whole 7th, 8th, 9th grade year... I really don't even remember school those years. Like, they really didn't exist.
00:18:53	ON-SCREEN TEXT	JENNIFER
EXT. DESERT ROAD - DAY		
00:19:00	JENNIFER	(VO) When I was younger, my mom just like left. I don't know where she went, I just started living with my grandma.
EXT. JENNIFER'S HOUSE - DAY		

00:19:08	JENNIFER	(VO) My dad, my real dad, he's just been in and out of my life. He's never really been there for me.
00:19:13		(dog barks, wind chimes)
00:19:18	JENNIFER	(VO) And then, when I was in grade school, my grandma's husband molested me.
00:19:24		(wind chimes)
00:19:25		(VO) I was probably the most depressed teenager. I just don't think teenagers are supposed to be that depressed.
INT. JENNIFER'S BEDROOM - DAY		
00:19:34	JENNIFER	(VO) We can't control the events that happen to us. But we can choose not to be reduced by them. I'm just gonna be strong. Not somebody that's gonna let what happened to them break them.
INT. MS. VILAND'S OFFICE - DAY		
00:19:51		(students chatter)
00:19:52	MS. VILAND	(OS) You said there was drama the other night.
00:19:54	JENNIFER	(OS) Yeah...
00:19:55	MS. VILAND	(OS) What happened?
00:19:56	JENNIFER	(OS/ON) It's like, I wouldn't feel as responsible if he just stopped popping up. Like, not still doing stuff to still hurt my grandma. I feel like it's all my fault a lot of the time.
00:20:07	MS. VILAND	(OS) But Jennifer, we've talked about this before. Do you want you Grandma with somebody who, first of all, does things like that to you, but secondly who treats her that way?
00:20:16	JENNIFER	If I would've just dealt with what he was doing to me and never told my grandma, he wouldn't...
00:20:21	MS. VILAND	(OS) Honey...

00:20:22	JENNIFER	Like I just feel like it's my fault. Like I could've just dealt with it without having my grandma to deal with it.
00:20:28	MS. VILAND	(OS/ON) No. Honey. Let me ask you this. If I got one of the counselors, but somebody like a sexual assault counselor, because this is... it's common. It's common that the victims feel that responsibility and they shouldn't. It's not... you can't... it's never the victim's fault.
00:20:50	JENNIFER	(OS) But I blame myself a lot.
00:20:52	MS. VILAND	(OS/ON) I know you do and that's what I worry about. Is that you take everything on your shoulders and then it becomes a road block for you from doing what you need to do for you. You know what I mean? You were the victim. You're the child. You're not the adult.
00:21:08	JENNIFER	(ON/OS) I feel like it. It's just I don't... I want to be more focused on school and I feel like I'm really really trying. 'Cause I really really wanna graduate this year.
00:21:19	JENNIFER	(ON/OS) But I just... I couldn't come to school yesterday because I don't like people here seeing me break down. 'Cause I'm not --
00:21:24	MS. VILAND	(OVERLAP) Honey, we all break down here. That's what's great about it is that you can break down here.
00:21:29	JENNIFER	I know. I can break down to <i>you</i> here, but not... everybody else here.
00:21:33	MS. VILAND	(OVERLAP) (OS) The kids all do it. We see every... I mean you see it. Everyone who goes here has something. That's why they go here.
00:21:43	JENNIFER	I know.
INT. BLACK ROCK CLASSROOM - DAY		
00:21:45		(music)
00:21:45	STUDENT	(dozes off)

INT. FACULTY MEETING - DAY		
00:22:04	MS. VILAND	(ON/OS) We talked real briefly at the last staff meeting about adopt-a-student again, and just kind of refreshing your memory. If you can please make sure to touch base with your students and if we can just do a go around to who you're working with again.
00:22:15	MS. HILL	Did we find out what's going on with Jesse?
00:22:17	MS. VILAND	(OS) Yes. He and his mom have been evicted. So they're couching it.
00:22:20	MS. HILL	(OS) He's so smart.
00:22:21	MS. VILAND	(OS) So.. He is, he is. But that's why... the connection of why we've seen the anger. 'Cause lately it's been, if you even look at him cross-eyed, he's been angry. Um, but obviously... you know, justly so.
00:22:35	MS. ALEXANDER	(OS) Maurice... he said he wasn't here yesterday because he had nowhere to stay Monday night and didn't have clean clothes yesterday.
00:22:41	MS. VILAND	(OS) Yeah, he was kicked out. In fact, Jeanie texted me this morning, "Is Maurice there? I'm worried!" Because he was kicked out, but I asked him today and he said he got back in.
00:22:49	MR. BECK	Someone else told me that story about not having clean clothes and it wasn't him.
00:22:53	MS. VILAND	Okay, just please tell him to bring a whole bag of clothes in and we'll wash them for him. That's not a problem at all. That's not a problem at all.
00:22:58	MS. ALEXANDER	(OVERLAP) (OS) Well and I told Maurice, we'll feed you. Just get here.
00:23:01	MS. WEITZ	(ON/OS) I just inherited Victor. He talked with Vonda and he's got a lot of stuff going on. Got his story...
00:23:06	MS. VILAND	(ON/OS) He was in tears in my office. And very embarrassed about breaking down in tears. His

		biggest worry is that this is all he has for life. Because this is where he started. And he doesn't want to end up on welfare. He doesn't want to live the life that his family lives. And he's afraid he's going to get sucked into it. And he said it's hard for him some days just to get out of bed because he just can't face it.
EXT. DESERT - DAY/NIGHT		
00:23:34		(car engines)
00:23:42		(wind howling) (leaves rustling)
INT. MS. VILAND'S HOUSE - MORNING		
00:23:49	ON-SCREEN TEXT (clock)	3:36 AM.
00:23:54	MS. VILAND	(heavy breathing) (jump rope hits ground repeatedly)
EXT. DESERT ROAD - MORNING		
00:24:02		(crickets) (car engine)
00:24:19		(turn signal)
INT. BLACK ROCK - MORNING		
00:24:26		(typing on a keyboard) (mouse clicks)
00:24:36	ON-SCREEN TEXT (PowerPoint)	Students drop out for many reasons...but most cite the number one reason is not having a personal relationship with a caring adult
00:24:46	ON-SCREEN TEXT (PowerPoint)	Dropouts earn 60% of what graduates earn
00:24:51	MS. VILAND	(OS) Good morning Miss Jan. Time to get up! It's Ms. Viland. Jan, it's time to get up. I'm gonna expect you here at 7:30 this morning. See you in a bit. Love ya, bye.
00:25:03	MS. VILAND	Good morning sweetie, it's Ms. Viland. How are you this morning? Good. You sleep well? Alright it's time to get in here and get to work.

INT. BLACK ROCK HALLWAY - DAY		
00:25:10		(student chatter)
00:25:14	MS. VILAND	White milk anyone? Anyone getting rid of anything today? Do you want white milk?
00:25:21	MS. VILAND	Too many hungry people.
INT. BLACK ROCK CLASSROOM - DAY		
00:25:27	MS. AMY	(OS/ON) So if you could tell me one thing about yourself, what would it be? What is one thing that you feel like I need to know about you?
00:25:38	STUDENT 1	I have a three month old son.
00:25:39	MS. AMY	(OS) Really? Aw he's a baby...
00:25:43	STUDENT 2	I could care less what you think about me.
00:25:45		(student laughter)
00:25:45	MS. AMY	(OS) That's good to know. Luckily for you I don't think anything about anybody.
00:25:52	STUDENT 3	I'm an emotional wreck.
00:25:54	MS. AMY	(OS) Who says?
00:25:56	STUDENT 3	Me. Everybody. (laughs)
INT. BLACK ROCK CLASSROOM - DAY		
00:26:01	TEACHER	(OS) Okay, so take this.. This is a list of different feelings. What are some feelings you have felt in a dating relationship? Lee write yours down. You're going to have some good ones, I know.
00:26:12		(student chatter)
00:26:12	TEACHER	(OS) Intense.
00:26:13	STUDENT 2	(OS) Intense?
00:26:13	TEACHER	(OS) Mmmhmm.

00:26:13	JENNIFER	Tell me why I'm circling every one of these and it's horrible...
00:26:17	TEACHER	(OS) Jennifer, what's going on with your 3 boys?
00:26:20	JENNIFER	No, I'm only talking to like one right now but.. I don't know, it's just past relationships are horrible.
00:26:28	TEACHER	(OS) Lee.
00:26:29	LEE	(OS) I would say lonely in a relationship.
00:26:32	TEACHER	(OS) Lonely?
00:26:33	LEE	Want a person to understand you, and they don't even try to talk to you at all. It makes you feel lonely.
00:26:38	TEACHER	(OS) Yeah?
00:26:38	LEE	(OVERLAP) Like, why did we get together if I knew it was going to be like that.
00:26:41	TEACHER	(OS) Yeah.
00:26:43	LEE	That's how it makes you feel.
00:26:45	TEACHER	(OS) Any others you guys?
00:26:46	JENNIFER	Unworthy and victimized.
00:26:48	TEACHER	(OS) In your relationships?
00:26:50	SUMMER	(OS) Afraid.
00:26:51	TEACHER	(OS) Afraid? And why did you feel afraid?
00:26:54	SUMMER	Because like I would always have to take care of him, like non-stop. I would have to make sure he wouldn't have to like... kill himself! Him doing too many drugs, or doing like too much drinking and everything. 'Cause I would be having to stick my finger down his throat and clean up his puke and stuff.
00:27:13	SUMMER	But I'm happy for what I've been through. Even though it's like really, really, really bad stuff that I

		went through and everything. It's just... I'm a better person now and I'm stronger because of it.
00:27:24	JENNIFER	And I feel like it's 'cause, we went through stuff so young -- like how I've watched my grandma be in the cycle -- now that we've gone through it so young, we can be like, okay, this is what not to do instead of being stuck in it our whole lives and dealing with it.
00:27:38	TEACHER	(OS/ON) That's the key, is breaking that cycle, right? Like how many more kids do we have to danger and mess up before somebody is going to break the cycle?
EXT. PARK - DAY		
00:27:51		(banging on aluminum) (student chatter)
EXT. LEE'S HOUSE - DAY		
00:28:30	LEE	(OS) Have a good day at work, love you mom. (dog barking)
00:28:36	LEE	Say "bye grandma, love you grandma. Have a good day at work."
00:28:44	LEE	Look at Midnight... What'chu doin' Midnight?
00:28:53	LEE	See, I gotta do three chapters of life science, two essays, history. I gotta do 2.2 government, I gotta do 2.5, and all together he takes more time than all of it put together.
00:29:07	LEE	Where's your momma? Joy!
00:29:11	JOY	(OS) Yes?
00:29:11	LEE	Where's Layla?
00:29:13	JOY	(OS) Where's Layla?
00:29:13	LEE	Yeah.
00:29:14	JOY	(OS) I don't know.
00:29:15	LEE	Man, tell her to hurry up.

EXT. MONTAGE: DESERT, LEE'S HOUSE, BLACK ROCK		
00:29:17		(music rises)
00:30:08		(muffled talking)
00:30:32		(baby crying)
INT. BLACK ROCK CLASSROOM - DAY		
00:30:49	LEE	(OS) You can drop out any time in school. My friend dropped out and he wasn't even a freshman in high school. I should just drop out.
00:30:56	STUDENT 1	(OS) You can't dropout.
00:30:57	STUDENT 2	(OS) I made 20 credits in one week!
00:30:58	STUDENT 3	(OS) Why are you gonna drop out?
00:31:00	LEE	I should just drop out. Because making 20 credits is too much...but Layla graduating, that's good for her.
EXT. BLACK ROCK HALLWAY – DAY		
00:31:19	MS. VILAND	Give me a hug....I'm hearing that you're saying that you think it's too hard.
00:31:25	LEE	It is.
00:31:28	MS. VILAND	Tell me what's too hard.
00:31:30	LEE	Getting 20 credits is hard
00:31:32	MS. VILAND	I would guess that you're like flipping through and not really reading, right?
00:31:35	LEE	I'm just not getting history, like, in any area, it's hard to do.
00:31:38	MS. VILAND	Okay let's just put that to the back burner and work on something else.
00:31:42	LEE	Me and Mike, he was talking, we was both talking about just dropping out like this year or something.
00:31:48	MS. VILAND	No, you're not dropping out.

00:31:49	LEE	(OVERLAP) (ON/OS) We was like it's hard we might as well just drop out 'cuz we know we can't do it. And when it comes to school I just I don't believe I have what it takes.
00:31:57	MS. VILAND	That's just silly talk. You know, Lee, sometimes you get into this silly mode. Yeah. And dropping out is just silly mode. You're gonna need benefits for the baby. You're gonna need a job.
00:32:10	LEE	(OS) That's what Layla's gonna do right? She is graduating.
00:32:14	MS. VILAND	No. Lee, who is in charge of this?
00:32:19	LEE	Yeah, I'm in charge of that but How others believe in me when I don't even believe in myself?
00:32:22	MS. VILAND	(OVERLAP) There we go, that's the key.
00:32:23	LEE	(OVERLAP) I don't even believe I can make it.
00:32:25	MS. VILAND	You can do this, if you choose...If you choose to do it, you can do it. We will help you.
00:32:27	LEE	(OVERLAP) I don't think I can.
EXT. BLACK ROCK - DAY		
00:32:43	MR. BARTZ	(plays guitar)
00:33:04	STUDENT	(knits)
00:33:08	STUDENT	(walks)
00:33:12	STUDENT	(skates)
00:33:24	MR. BARTZ	Joey! I bought an electric! Want to play it?
00:33:28	JOEY	Yeah, I want to play it.
00:33:29	MR. BARTZ	(OVERLAP) It's fun.
00:33:30	JOEY	(plays guitar)
00:33:35	MR. BARTZ	Isn't it fun?

00:33:59	MR. BARTZ	That was worthy of it. All right!
00:34:04	JOEY	That thing is too smooth.
INT. LOUNGE - DAY		
00:34:07	MR. BARTZ	You know... a lot about math.
00:34:13	JOEY	I don't know Mr. Bartz --
00:34:15	MR. BARTZ	Well, let's think about that... do you know A440 megahertz?
00:34:25	JOEY	No! I don't even - I've never heard of that in my life. What is that?
00:34:29	MR. BARTZ	Don't you have a guitar tuner?
00:34:31	JOEY	Ohhh yeah... that's crazy!
00:34:34	MR. BARTZ	But it's all math! You're doing math when you're playing music. What happens when you take that A string, and you come up to the double dots and play?
00:34:43	JOEY	It's the same...
00:34:44	MR. BARTZ	It's an A note, an octave higher. So, what is that A string at the double dots? A 880.
00:34:51		(laughter)
00:34:53	MR. BARTZ	See, you've been doing math...
00:34:54	JOEY	Oh crap.
00:34:56	MR. BARTZ	(music rises) Well now here, solving inequalities with variables on both sides. If you subtract $10y$ from both sides, you're going to have a negative!
00:35:04	MR. BARTZ	And you'll get to where you don't even write minus $2a$ on each side. By the time you're in college, you'll just be bringing it down, saying I've got $2a$ left, minus 20 [...]
INT. BLACK ROCK CLASSROOM - DAY		

00:35:14	TEACHER	(OS) Okay, look at the second stanza, the third line. "Dust thou art, to dust returnest". What message did you get? Yes, Jennifer?
00:35:22	JENNIFER	(ON/OS) Like not to... like how it says not to be like, "dumb driven cattle," don't just go along with whatever people say. Make your life more you.
00:35:33	TEACHER	(OS) Excellent! Anyone else?
INT. BLACK ROCK CLASSROOM – DAY		
00:35:37	TEACHER	(OS) Lee? How's that coming?
INT. BLACK ROCK CLASSROOM – DAY		
00:35:43	CAITLIN	My eyes hurt.
00:35:44	TAMRA	(OS) Where's Hobbes at? ...I need to find Hobbes.
00:35:47	JOEY	Hobbes... that's the guy that thinks poorly about the human kind, the human race.
00:35:52	TAMRA	(OS) Oh, okay. I got him and Locke mixed up then.
00:35:57	JOEY	John Locke's the opposite. He's the good guy. Thinks everybody should have their own rights.
00:36:00	TAMRA	(OS) It sounds like he should be more of a bad one because of his last name, Locke.
00:36:04	JOEY	Yea... And Vol-Vol-Voltaire?
00:36:06	TAMRA	Voltaire.
00:36:07	JOEY	Yeah he's my favorite. That is my favorite philosopher ever. (music rises)
INT. MS. VILAND'S OFFICE		
00:36:16		(music continued)
INT. BLACK ROCK ASSEMBLY ROOM - DAY		

00:36:30	MS. VILAND	This credit check, we chose to recognize the student who improved the most in each homeroom.. From Ms. Alexander's homeroom... Joey McGee!
00:36:40	STUDENTS	(applause)
00:36:45	MS. VILAND	Nice! Congratulations.. Keep up the good work! From Mr. Beck's homeroom, Scott Johnson!
00:36:55	STUDENTS	(applause)
00:37:04		(bell rings)
INT. BLACK ROCK HALLWAY - DAY		
00:37:11	MS. AMBROSIUS	(PRELAP) Where have you been?
00:37:12	STUDENT	I didn't have a ride.
00:37:15	MS. AMBROSIUS	Oh my gosh! You're so full of it! You don't have a ride?
00:37:18	STUDENT	Yeah.
00:37:18	MS. AMBROSIUS	(OS/ON) There are people that are homeless, there are people that are pregnant, that are able to get here! You look like a well-bodied young man who would be able to get to school if you had to. If that was your priority.
INT. MS. VILAND'S OFFICE – DAY		
00:37:35	MS. VILAND	(OS) Why did you flip the bus driver off?
00:37:38	STUDENT 1	I didn't flip the bus driver off.
00:37:39	MS. VILAND	(OS/ON) Well...let's go back to why <i>would</i> you flip the bus driver off?
00:37:45	STUDENT 1	(OS) I don't know.
00:37:46	MS. VILAND	(ON/OS) 'Cuz you don't like the bus driver...So let's go back to... am I right on why you flipped the bus driver off?
00:37:53	STUDENT 1	Yeah.

00:37:54	MS. VILAND	This is what we were talking about yesterday out there, where ya heading man?
00:37:59	STUDENT 2	I'm not gonna beat him up.
00:38:00	MS. VILAND	Do I have your word on that?
00:38:01	STUDENT 2	You have my word on it.
00:38:03	MS. VILAND	As a man, do I have your word, you're not gonna beat him up?
00:38:06	STUDENT 2	I'm not gonna beat him up.
00:38:07	MS. VILAND	Okay.
INT. BLACK ROCK FRONT DESK - DAY		
00:38:11	MS. AMBROSIUS	McGee? Or...
00:38:13	PROBATION OFFICER	Yeah. Joey.
00:38:15	MS. AMBROSIUS	(OS/ON) Can I get Joey McGee please? Thank you.
00:38:31	PROBATION OFFICER	Good morning, Joey.
00:38:31	JOEY	Morning.
00:38:32	PROBATION OFFICER	Your choice, which one do you want? You get a gift certificate for such good attendance.
00:38:38	JOEY	What!?
00:38:41	PROBATION OFFICER	You get a \$5 gift certificate.
00:38:42	JOEY	(OVERLAP) Subway. Subway sounds good.
00:38:46	PROBATION OFFICER	Okay, but I need you to sign this.
00:38:50	JOEY	Right here?
00:38:51	PROBATION OFFICER	(OS) Yeah, right there.
00:38:52	JOEY	Okay.
00:38:57	MS. VILAND	Everything okay? You're not in trouble, are ya?

00:38:59	JOEY	Not that I understand.
00:39:02	PROBATION OFFICER	No, he's doing really good actually.
00:39:04	JOEY	I guess I'm getting a gift card.
00:39:05	MS. VILAND	Heeeeeey! For?
00:39:08	JOEY	Good attendance.
00:39:09	MS. VILAND	Alright, that's what I like to hear!
00:39:12	PROBATION OFFICER	Okay, here you go.
00:39:13	JOEY	Sweet.
00:39:13	PROBATION OFFICER	(OVERLAP) Congrats.
INT. MS. VILAND'S OFFICE - DAY		
00:39:18	MS. VILAND	(OS/ON) Okay, so it showed that you needed five credits at the beginning when you first came here on your transcript right?
00:39:23	MICHAEL	Mmhmm.
00:39:25	MS. VILAND	(OS) And the other one is in econ. It shows none.
00:39:29	MICHAEL	Yeah 'cause I'm just waiting for those credits to come in.
00:39:31	MS. VILAND	(OS/ON) Okay, alright. You're going to be out of here before you know it aren't you?
00:39:34	MICHAEL	(OS/ON) Yeah I'm trying to. So all I need is seven more credits and I'm done? That makes me feel so happy.
00:39:41	MS. VILAND	I am too Michael. Very excited for you.
00:39:44	MICHAEL	Cool, thank you.
00:39:45	MS. VILAND	I'm kinda sad.
00:39:47	MICHAEL	You don't want to see me graduate? You do but you don't? That's funny.

INT. BLACK ROCK CLASSROOM - DAY		
00:39:51	ADVISOR	So all this is done?
00:39:53	CAITLIN	Mmhmm.
00:39:54	ADVISOR	Aaaaaand econ... you have four chapters of econ left. That's it! That's amazing!
INT. BLACK ROCK FRONT DESK - DAY		
00:40:01	MS. VILAND	Are you done!?
INT. BLACK ROCK HALLWAY - DAY		
00:40:04	MS. VILAND	(over PA system) Black Rock High School if you would please join me in congratulating graduate #29 Caitlin Jeffries!
00:40:13		(Pomp And Circumstance playing) (applause)
00:40:50	MS. VILAND	Alright! Another one! Alright! I am looking for number 30! That's what I'm looking for! I'm looking for number 30!
EXT. BLACK ROCK HIGH SCHOOL - DAY		
00:41:06	MS. AMBROSIUS	Alright, one, two, three. (snaps photo) You look prettier than a flower.
INT. BLACK ROCK HALLWAY - DAY		
00:41:13		(bell rings) (guitar playing)
INT. BLACK ROCK ASSEMBLY ROOM - DAY		
00:41:17	AJ	(guitar playing CONT'D) (PRELAP) This is one of my songs.
00:41:22	AJ	(singing) <i>I'll be back, one of these days But for the moment I'm running away I'm missing out on too much that awaits I'll be far away and I'll live life amazed</i>
00:41:30	AJ	<i>And life is a maze Moving too fast man life is a race</i>

		<i>Trying to keep up an impossible pace Last place, getting lost in space</i>
00:41:38	AJ	<i>No place to go and no place to sleep No cash to show and no place to eat School days that were a waste to me, Living free is the place to be</i>
00:41:45	AJ	<i>Pocket lint and these faded jeans With my backpack on just chasing dreams With a broken heart that's provoking art Art that's not judged by A's and B's</i>
00:41:58	AJ	<i>Streets are cracked and the road is long The world's on my back just loaded on I'm on the edge just holding on 'Til I slip away, then I'm floating on</i>
00:42:00	AJ	<i>Cuz I'm lost, but I'm not that lost I'm scared, but I'm not that scared I care, but I just don't care Right now anywhere is better than here</i>
00:42:09	AJ	(speaking) (OS) Thank you.
EXT. BLACK ROCK - DAY		
00:42:18		(music rises) (bus brakes squealing)
00:42:34	MS. VILAND	(PRELAP) Just a reminder that we are officially half way through the credit check.
00:42:40	STUDENT	Yikes.
00:42:41	MS. VILAND	Yes. Yikes, exactly! That means in 3 weeks, we're half way through the year. That means it is so important that you are looking at your plan folders, that you are looking at what work you need to get done, what your credit goals are. and that you're in line for that.
INT. BLACK ROCK CLASSROOM - DAY		

00:42:59	TEACHER	We're going to take our compass, find a point anywhere on it, probably the larger arch. The longest we can get. So, probably out here. Joey?
INT. BLACK ROCK CLASSROOM - DAY		
00:43:11	TEACHER	Joey? Joey? Rise and shine. Let's have some sparkle.
00:43:23	TEACHER	Joey! Joey!
00:43:25	JOEY	Yes, I heard you.
00:43:26	TEACHER	Okay, you're not going to sit here like that. You want to go to the office and lay down?
00:43:31	JOEY	I already went there last period.
00:43:32	TEACHER	Well, you're going again!
00:43:34	JOEY	Why?
00:43:34	TEACHER	'Cause you can't be in here doing that.
00:43:40	JOEY	(mumbles) Then I won't fucking sit here. Stupid high school.
00:43:46	TEACHER	If you're not well then you can go lay down somewhere else.
00:43:49	JOEY	I'm fucking tired.
00:43:50	TEACHER	(OS) You don't get to sleep in class.
INT. BLACK ROCK BACK ROOM - DAY		
00:44:01	MS. VILAND	Why are we in here? Hey you... Why are you in here? You're supposed to be in Ms. Weitz's, remember? We had a deal!
00:44:12	JOEY	I don't know, I don't remember. Tired.
00:44:15	MS. VILAND	How come you're so tired?
00:44:17	JOEY	I took care of a baby last night.
INT. BLACK ROCK OFFICE - DAY		

00:44:20	MS. VILAND	Your ex...
00:44:22	JOEY	Had a baby--
00:44:23	MS. VILAND	-- Had a baby...
00:44:24	JOEY	[...] with one of my other friends and got with another one of my other friends and then he went to jail so he wanted me to take care of the kid so...I'm helping out.
00:44:30	MS. VILAND	Yeah, but Joey... Before you can take care of someone else, you have to take care of yourself.
00:44:34	JOEY	I know... I'm working.
00:44:35	MS. VILAND	Yeah, okay. (sighs)
EXT. BLACK ROCK - DAY		
00:44:43		(student chatter)
INT. BLACK ROCK FACULTY MEETING - DAY		
00:44:49	TEACHER	(PRELAP) [...] the conversations Lee and I had before his conversation with Rhonda.
00:44:52	MS. RIGDON	(OS) And I think Lee knows enough of us and trust enough of us, several years even, that I don't think he'll leave us.
00:45:01	MS. VILAND	I don't either. But he's... but I--
00:45:03	MS. RIGDON	He feels like it right now. Because he's in my 6th period --
00:45:05	MS. WEITZ	I think it's because Layla is so close that's the reason.
00:45:10	MS. RIGDON	And I know right now he's upset 'cause his friends and all the kids that are in his class and everything are gonna graduate--
00:45:17	MS. VILAND	(OS) --Which is why today he got into a thing of "I hate graduations, they want me to come out and applaud for somebody that I don't care about' ... it's because they're all his friends and he's not. Really, I

		do think it's hard for him because he's only got 100 credits and everybody's graduating.
INT. BLACK ROCK ASSEMBLY ROOM - DAY		
00:45:30	LEE	(bangs head against chair)
00:45:34	MS. VILAND	(ON/OS) This many students earned over 20 credits these past six weeks. It's fabulous. I am just astounded by the work ethic of all of you. When I tallied these up, my first thought was of empathy for all of the teachers and how much grading it seems that they've done. Earning 28.5 credits, Layla Schneider!
00:45:58		(student applause)
00:46:00	LEE	(laughs)
00:46:14	STUDENT	What's your problem?
00:46:16	MS. VILAND	And now we're going to make a bit of a leap. Earning 31.5 credits, Miguel Alvarado!
00:46:23		(student applause) (music rises)
EXT. BLACK ROCK - DAY		
00:46:39		(music continues)
INT. MS. VILAND'S OFFICE - DAY		
00:47:15	MS. VILAND	Do you want to talk about what was going on at the house? Was this a particularly bad week at the house?
00:47:21	JOEY	No, everyone was just hungover partying at my house.
00:47:25	MS. VILAND	Is there a reason for that? Is it the beginning of the month and there is more money?
00:47:29	JOEY	No, it's just... we go through phases where our house is crazy, and then we'll go through weeks where it's pretty boring. I don't know last night there was

		people.. I'm surprised I woke up. I'm up until like three o'clock in the morning.
00:47:44	MS. VILAND	I thought you and I had talked about the fact that you weren't using?
00:47:49	JOEY	I wasn't.
00:47:50	MS. VILAND	So are you drinking then instead?
00:47:52	JOEY	I drink occasionally.
00:47:53	MS. VILAND	You see what that kind of lifestyle creates, right?
00:47:57	JOEY	Yeah, nobody's responsible.
00:48:00	MS. VILAND	What if we put you in two science classes? You need to start getting that feeling of success again, that you had when you first came here. Once you start seeing the credit slips come in, and you start feeling that level of success, then you're going to get back on track.
00:48:19	MS. VILAND	(OS/ON) Joey, I can't fix the home life. I can't fix that.
INT. BLACK ROCK FRONT DESK - DAY		
00:48:30		(music rises)
EXT. STORM CLOUDS - DAY		
EXT. JOEY'S HOUSE - DAY		
00:48:54		(shouting)
INT. JOEY'S HOUSE - DAY		
00:49:06		(shouting continues)
00:49:10	JOEY'S MOM	(OS) Get out of the house!
00:49:11	MAN	(OS) -- Fuck you!
00:49:12	JOEY'S MOM	(OS) Get out!
00:49:13	MAN	(OS) Fuck you!

00:49:19	JOEY	I'm not really sure. (strums guitar)
EXT. BLACK ROCK - DAY		
00:49:30		(rain)
00:49:35		(swaying branches)
INT. BLACK ROCK FRONT DESK - DAY		
00:49:37		(phone rings)
INT. BLACK ROCK CLASSROOM - DAY		
00:49:47	MS. VILAND	(OS/ON) I'm missing some students that I care about, that I'm trying to get a hold of. Does anyone have a way of contacting Joey McGee? What about Lee Bridges? You don't know? You haven't seen him around or anything?
00:50:02	STUDENT	He lives in 29.
00:50:03	MS. VILAND	He's living in 29 now?
INT. MS. VILAND'S OFFICE - DAY		
00:50:04	MS. VILAND	(on the phone) Lee, where are you? Why are you still at home? You need me to come get ya?
INT. BLACK ROCK FRONT DESK - DAY		
00:50:12	MS. VILAND	(opens door)
INT. MS. VILAND'S CAR - DAY		
00:50:14		(cars zoom by)
00:50:23		(turn signal)
00:50:31	MS. VILAND	What happened with you and your mama?
00:50:33	LEE	She... Basically her husband talked her into saying that... into kicking me out next month or so.
00:50:40	MS. VILAND	Because you don't have a diploma?

00:50:41	LEE	Because I have a baby and I don't have a diploma. So they say they kicking me out anyways. If my mom want to be like that over a dude, then I don't care. When I leave, I don't even want her a part of my life if that's really how it's gonna be.
EXT. JOEY'S HOUSE - DAY		
00:50:57		(dog barking)
00:50:59	JOEY	(VO) I'm about five minutes from blowing my brains out if I just keep trying. I'm done trying. I'm just gonna go with it.
INT. JOEY'S HOUSE - DAY		
00:51:06	JOEY	Everyone thinks I suck at everything I do, 'cause I never commit to it. I don't care. I hate to sound like a punk ass teenager but I just don't care anymore. I don't want to live my life by a plan. I don't want to live in-between lines that tell you you have to do these certain things, fuck that. I'm tired of everyone telling me I need to do something.
00:51:26	JOEY'S MOM	(OS) Nobody's ever told you you need to do this, this and this --
00:51:28	JOEY	-- Yes they do! Everyone does! Fucking go to school, get your high school diploma, go to -- no, fuck that.
00:51:37	JOEY'S MOM	I'm all out of options. I have no idea. He doesn't have a TV, I took his guitar, I dumped five gallons of water on him. You know I'm not making it comfortable at home for him. We quit doing dishes - there's no clean dishes in this house.
00:51:54	JOEY'S MOM	(OS) Look at where I am. And look at how hard I struggle right now.
INT. BLACK ROCK CLASSROOM - DAY		
00:52:09	JENNIFER	(sniffles)
00:52:15	JENNIFER	(PRELAP) I really really want to graduate a year early.

00:52:18	MS. ALEXANDER	(ON/OS) I know. So we're just going to focus on this one day at a time, okay? You can do it. Jennifer. Senior portfolio is almost done right? This workbook's done. That's already done. Public speaking will be done tomorrow. Okay? Pick one thing to work on on A+ at a time, and it's gonna just... we're gonna do it.
00:52:42	JENNIFER	I'm so...
00:52:43	MS. ALEXANDER	I know.
00:52:45	JENNIFER	I keep rubbing my eyebrows and I just got them done, so it burns!
00:52:52	MS. ALEXANDER	(pats Jennifer's back) It's okay, you can do it, okay? Look at how fast it went away. Elective --
00:52:57	JENNIFER	My dad was mean to me last night though, and it made me sad...
00:52:59	MS. ALEXANDER	(OVERLAP) Really? Who?
00:53:03	JENNIFER	My dad. (sniffles)
00:53:04	MS. ALEXANDER	Don't worry about him. He'll -- You'll graduate, you'll walk. And you know what, if you don't, you're still gonna graduate, and that's what's most important --
00:53:12	JENNIFER	(OVERLAP) I know but I invited him to my graduation and he yelled at me for graduating early...
00:53:17	MS. ALEXANDER	(OS) Oh my goodness, Jennifer.
00:53:20	JENNIFER	(crying) He's just mean...
00:53:21	MS. ALEXANDER	(OS/ON) So you know what? You're gonna go to college and you're gonna make something and you can go mmmeh in his face. Right? Mad because you're graduating early? What parent does that? We'll show him. He can come to your college graduation and be mad because you graduated college, darn you! Stinking kid doing good with your life. We're over that. That's all you're focusing on. When you're finished those, you come see me.

00:53:56	JENNIFER	Okay.
INT. MS. VILAND'S OFFICE - DAY		
00:53:49	MS. VILAND	Let me ask you this... are you doing it for him or are you doing it for you?
00:54:03	JENNIFER	I'm doing it for me.
00:54:04	MS. VILAND	Okay. I know it's hard, because you want his approval, I get that, I understand that. But ultimately, you've gotta do stuff for you. You know what, when my dad died, I was cleaning out his house and he was a hoarder. I found a letter in there that was to his lawyer when my mom and dad divorced, saying that he wanted my brother but he didn't want me and there was no way in hell he would take me. Okay? And I sat and I just cried and cried and cried. All my life I wanted his approval, I wanted his acceptance. And you know what? I never got it. And you know what? Didn't need it. Okay? So don't let him have another moment of your life in sadness.
INT. BLACK ROCK CLASSROOM - DAY		
00:54:59	TEACHER	(OS) You know, people who are being abused or are abusing others, you learned about yourselves. You got to discuss yourselves and what your hot buttons were, and how to handle yourself when you're becoming angry. And how to break that cycle.
00:55:02	LEE	Ever since I had a baby, it fucked my life up. I'm getting kicked out of my mom's house even if I don't graduate, which is fucked up because her husband wants me to get kicked out. That's fucked up. I'm not graduating because I had a baby and since I focused on him so much, I can't graduate, I never got to do my work. And since I deal with his mother who nags at me 24/7, I couldn't do my work. So all together my life is fucked.
INT. MS. VILAND'S OFFICE - DAY		

00:55:27	MS. VILAND	You know what, honey, I'm gonna tell you you're right. You don't have control over your life. Because you do have a responsibility. But that's not a bad thing.
00:55:35	LEE	(OS/ON) I wanted to graduate so bad, but I've put so much, <i>so much</i> focus on the baby and on the woman of the baby that --
00:55:42	MS. VILAND	(OS/ON) But the problem started before the baby came in. You had too much going against you beforehand because you needed too many credits beforehand. It's an easy thing for you to blame Layla and the baby, but that's not gonna help.
00:55:52	LEE	(OS/ON) I don't want anything to do anymore. I don't want to deal with family or none of that 'cause I see how it is now.
00:55:58	MS. VILAND	(OS) I do understand that. --
00:55:59	LEE	It's me all by myself, I gotta do it all by myself. I see no one - no one's gonna be there for me.
00:56:08	MS. VILAND	(OS) Lee, whether the baby had been there or not you and I would have had the same conversation this morning. And Layla, I don't want you to take this personally and you and I and Lee will get together again later, after Lee gets some of his frustrations out.
00:56:19	LEE	(OS) It don't even matter if I get a job. She fucked my life over anyways.
00:56:21	MS. VILAND	(OS/ON) -- Okay, go ahead and go out, alright? Okay, Lee...
00:56:40	MS. VILAND	You and I talked on day one. And I told you that this was going to be a huge responsibility, right? Remember that? And remember what else I told you? I told you that I believe that you could handle all this responsibility and you've done a good job. You're just overwhelmed right now. You know in your heart that she is not the problem. You've got a lot on your

		plate right now, you've got several issues. You've got your mom, you've got school, you've got Layla, you've got the baby. You've got the fact that you want to be a teenager still.
00:57:13	LEE	I want to graduate - it's not even that I wanna be a teenager. I want to graduate. That's what it is.
00:57:14	MS. VILAND	(OVERLAP) You want to graduate?
00:57:17	MS. VILAND	Okay, then alright, you know what Lee? If you show me - show me! Get 20 credits, this credit check - 6th credit check - and I'll let you come back and finish in the fall. You and I both know that there were times that Lee didn't work because Lee didn't feel like it.
00:57:35	LEE	Alright, that one was my blame, but... (laughs)
00:57:37	MS. VILAND	(OS/ON) Right. You need to stop bitching about it and if you want to make it work then I will give you my word that if you get 20 or more credits, and are working during this next credit check, I'll let you come back. I know, Lee, what a good man you are and what a big heart you have. So don't act big bad and tough with Layla and the ones you love.
INT. BLACK ROCK - MONTAGE		
00:58:06		(music)
00:59:12	ON-SCREEN TEXT (LEE'S backpack)	DADDY LOVE WORLD PEACE
00:59:19		(bell rings) (student chatter)
EXT. BLACK ROCK - DAY		
00:59:46		(music)
01:00:20		(passing basketball)
01:00:23	STUDENT 1	(OS) Ow, my eyes!
01:00:24	STUDENT 2	(OS) Someone's gonna get hit bad!
01:00:26		(students laugh, talk)

INT. BLACK ROCK FRONT DESK - DAY		
01:00:57	MS. AMBROSIUS	(dialing phone)
01:01:05	MILDRED	(on phone) Hello?
01:01:06	MS. AMBROSIUS	Hi, Mildred? It's Ms. Ambrosius at Black Rock High School. Hey, so we're a little bit concerned about Joey. He's not here again today. He was out yesterday and last Friday and... What's going on?
INT. MS. VILAND'S OFFICE - DAY		
01:01:24	MS. VILAND	(on the phone) Good morning! I'm assuming Joey's being impossible this morning. What did he do? He's gone? Okay... um... I would call the police.
EXT. LAUNDROMAT - DAY		
INT. LAUNDROMAT - DAY		
01:01:53	JOEY	(VO) Yesterday, and the day, and the day before that, and the last two weeks, I've been sleeping on Daniel Debord's fucking recliner outside of his shed. With a blanket. So I've been wearing the same clothes for two weeks, two-and-a-half weeks.
01:02:15	JOEY	(PRELAP) I really want to graduate from Black Rock.
EXT. PARK - DAY		
01:02:17	JOEY	(PRELAP) You guys have to understand that but it's just like...(plays guitar) but I'm not going back to my mom's. I'm not now, I just.. just stressed out. Need to get a job, need to start paying some bills. Stop being dependent on somebody else.
01:02:34	JOEY	She's not a bad person, it's just she changes when the drugs are involved. And I don't even care that she does drugs I just wish she would be consistent with me. She always talks about wanting to bond and do stuff together and like, we never do.
01:02:48	JOEY	(singing) <i>My momma told me when I When I was young</i>

		<i>Do as I say, not as I've done Be a simple man, just fall in love</i>
01:03:07	JOEY	<i>(cont'd) Find you a girl that you can trust and one day, I know that you'll leave That day came sooner than she expected I wonder why</i>
01:03:28	JOEY	<i>(cont'd) I wanted to hang out with my best friend because you know you were never my mom in the end You were never You were never in the end</i>
01:03:45	JOEY	<i>(cont'd) Back in the days, when we used to say I love you past the moons and stars Way beyond, way too far I'll always be the one that you can...</i>
EXT. ROAD IN 29 PALMS - NIGHT		
01:04:06	JOEY	<i>(cont'd) No, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no (x4)</i>
01:04:20	MS. VILAND	<i>(PRELAP) So, have you heard from Joey?</i>
01:04:21	AJ	<i>(PRELAP) Nah.</i>
INT. MS. VILAND'S DESK - DAY		
01:04:23	AJ	Like I said, I'm always here to catch him if he falls but it's like, you know, you can't help someone that doesn't want to be helped. If he was really in a situation in which he couldn't go home, he would come to my house. And then usually, when he doesn't come to my house and he doesn't want to go home, that's just the whole, you know, like drugs thing. So like at this point I think he's just kinda given up on himself. It's his future, you know what I mean?
01:04:47	MS. VILAND	So how'd you get to be so wise beyond your years?
01:04:50	AJ	Like that joke I was telling you. I been 18 since I was 13. Just... just lookin'.
01:04:58	MS. VILAND	I wish I could bottle that.

INT. JENNIFER'S HOUSE - DAY		
01:05:00		(music)
01:05:02	GIRL	Jen!
01:05:04	JENNIFER	(OS) Yes?
01:05:05	GIRL	Did you find your nail polish?
01:05:08	VOICE	(OS) This is not the lipstick I had in mind!
01:05:14	JENNIFER	(OS) Look, you made it bigger so now it's bigger on both sides!
01:05:21	JENNIFER	(OS/ON) Mom, where are you? Mom, you need to be here by 4! I'm not giving you a hard time -- I'm, I'm stressed out, mom, I'm stressed. Okay, well can you just be here!
01:05:36	JENNIFER	(OS) Mommy, I want you to be here!
01:05:40		(music builds)
INT. MS. VILAND'S OFFICE - DAY		
01:05:51	JENNIFER	(crying)
01:06:08	MS. VILAND	It's okay to cry, just let it out.
01:06:09	JENNIFER	(cries more)
01:06:10	MS. VILAND	(OS) You've been trying to keep it in too long...
01:06:26	MS. VILAND	(OS) Okay, you're overwhelmed. You gotta feel good about yourself. You gotta celebrate your accomplishments because in life, you're the one you can count on. Alright?
01:06:36	JENNIFER	Mmhmm. (sniffles)
01:06:36	MS. VILAND	(pats Jennifer's back)
INT. BLACK ROCK HALLWAY - DAY		
01:06:42	MS. VILAND	(over P.A.) Teachers, we will meet in Ms. Hill's room in five minutes. Thank you.

01:06:48	MS. VILAND	(PRELAP) With the students [...]
INT. BLACK ROCK CLASSROOM - DAY		
01:06:50	MS. VILAND	(OS/ON) [...] you guys all give with your heart and soul. And it's the hardest job in the district. What kind of toll does working here have on you guys?
01:07:01	MS. WEITZ	(OS/ON) You have to face reality every single day. You have to face the same reality, in a way, every single day. 'Cause they're not going anywhere, their issues aren't going anywhere. You get involved. You get personally involved. You're gonna have to take care of it. And that's emotionally draining.
01:07:20	MS. HILL	(OS/ON) I lose sleep. I think about our kid that went straight to a homeless shelter. I don't like that. (cries)
01:07:31	MS. VILAND	(OS/ON) I think there are a lot of tears, because you do have the weight of not just... can they read the assignment, but do they have a place to sleep tonight? Do they have food? And buying gift certificates for the family that the grandma's taken in all the kids. And buying water for the boy who didn't have water at his house.
INT. BLACK ROCK HALLWAY - DAY		
01:08:00		(music)
EXT. DESERT - DAY		
01:08:24		(rain)
01:08:41		(birds chirping)
EXT. BLACK ROCK - DAY		
01:08:55	MR. BARTZ	(looking at rainbow) Oh, wow, you can see the whole thing! That's great!
01:09:00	TAMRA	So pretty!
INT. MS. VILAND'S OFFICE - DAY		

01:09:11	MS. VILAND	Alright, gonna give you a heads up. That this is kind of a depressing, overwhelming conversation, and I do it with all seniors, and it's called kind of the facts of life speech, okay? So, what we're going to do it pretend you're 29. 12 years from now, right? Now, what we're going to do is we're going to look at how you're gonna support your family.
INT. BLACK ROCK CLASSROOM - DAY		
01:09:29	MS. HILL	The more you know about money, the easier your life is going to be. The better you are with your money, the easier your life will be.
01:09:37	MS. HILL	(OS) Who wrote you a letter of recommendation?
01:09:38	GUILLERMO	This beautiful lady right here.
01:09:39	MS. VILAND	Awww...
01:09:39	MS. HILL	(OVERLAP) (OS/ON) This wonderful, fabulous, thank you so much, Mrs. Viland. I would be sucking up to her saying thank you, thank you for doing this at the very last moment. Anytime somebody does something for you, a short note - sincerely comma, put your name underneath, put it in the envelope and you're going to hand it to them.
INT. BLACK ROCK COMPUTER LAB - DAY		
01:09:54	MS. VILAND	I want you to start realizing that not only are you in charge of your lives here, you're in charge of your lives when you leave here. So what I want us to start doing is I want us to start getting that initial plan for what you're going to do after Black Rock. What comes next, right?
INT. MS. VILAND'S OFFICE - DAY		
01:10:11	MS. VILAND	(OS) Now what are your plans for next year?
01:10:15	LAYLA	Next year... not sure. Well, hopefully get a job at Petco and then...
01:10:26	MS. VILAND	Okay. Have you put in an application with Petco?

01:10:29	LAYLA	(OS) Yeah.
01:10:30	MS. VILAND	You did it online? Yes? Is there a reason that you picked Petco?
01:10:36	LAYLA	Umm... I like animals and it's a new business, so...
01:10:43	MS. VILAND	Okay. Layla, I think that sometimes you sell yourself a little short. I would like to see you consider going out to Copper Mountain College. You're a smart young lady. But I think sometimes you don't have enough confidence in yourself and sometimes you need somebody to remind you how smart you are. You can get your job at Petco, or wherever. And you can still go to college. And you can still be a mommy. And I know it's a lot to juggle, but you know what? Women do it all the time. How are things going with Lee?
01:11:18	LAYLA	Good. It's just he has his days sometimes, where he just gives up on everything.
01:11:22	MS. VILAND	(OS) Right. Is he being good to you?
01:11:26	LAYLA	Yeah... well, not when he's acting like that.
01:11:30	MS. VILAND	(OS/ON) Not when he's acting like that. Here's the thing... is that you deserve to be treated really, really nicely. And if you're not... that's not good for you to put up with that, right? Because I care about you. I want to make sure you're okay.
01:11:47	LAYLA	Thank you.
01:11:49	MS. VILAND	Okay.
EXT. BLACK ROCK - DAY		
01:11:54	MS. VILAND	Good morning! Good morning, good morning! How are you?
01:11:59	MS. VILAND	(gasps) I was so worried! I had everybody looking for you.
01:12:04	JOEY	Yeah, I know, I heard.

INT. BLACK ROCK HALLWAY - DAY		
01:12:06	JOEY	Tot!
01:12:14	STUDENT	How are you?
01:12:15	JOEY	Been better. (laughs)
01:12:16	STUDENT	How's your mom? (beat) I'm not even going to ask.
01:12:19	DENNEN	(OS) Joey! You still need a place to stay?
01:12:20	JOEY	(OS) I got a place to stay for now, 'til it erupts and then... I don't know.
01:12:25	AJ	(hugs Joey)
INT. BLACK ROCK CLASSROOM - DAY		
01:12:29	JOEY	I miss my coffee pot. I miss my coffee grinder. I miss... I miss everything about my house. I really do. (laughs)
01:12:35	STUDENT	(OS) Why'd you leave?
01:12:38	JOEY	(OS/ON) My mom. She just accused me of stealing somebody's drugs. I just woke up to her screaming and yelling at me. Nothing new. I just thought she was on another bad trip. I walked out the door. My mom was making it like a joke, like, "Oh Joey's leaving! Watch this!" She thought I was joking.
01:13:00	STUDENT	(OS) If I lived at my parents' house, I'd invite you to stay. But I don't go there much.
01:13:04	JOEY	I'm not mad at you for not giving me a place to stay. It's a lot to ask dude. It's why I didn't even ask. It's like, "Hey, friend's mom! Can my buddy Joey stay and live with us? And can you feed him and clothe him? And buy him a toothbrush?"
INT. MS. VILAND'S OFFICE - DAY		
01:13:21	MS. VILAND	(OS) Hi.
01:13:22	JOEY	Hi.

01:13:23	MS. VILAND	(OS) How are you?
01:13:24	JOEY	(shrugs)
01:13:26	MS. VILAND	(OS) What does that mean?
01:13:27	JOEY	I came to school. (laughs)
01:13:28	MS. VILAND	(OS) That's a step in the right direction. That's a step in the right direction.
01:13:31	JOEY	I needed to sleep yesterday, though. I've slept in some strange places. (laughs)
01:13:37	MS. VILAND	(OS) Such as?
01:13:39	JOEY	Well, there was a bus stop. (laughs)
01:13:41	MS. VILAND	(OS) The one in 29?
01:13:42	JOEY	Yeah there was one over in Stato Brothers - I slept in a bus stop there. That was the best one.
01:13:47	MS. VILAND	(OS) And... the reason being?
01:13:50	JOEY	I just wasn't going back to that house.
01:13:52	MS. VILAND	(OS) Okay, why what's going on in the house?
01:13:54	JOEY	It was just pretty rough.
01:13:57	MS. VILAND	(OS) Mom being grumpy?
01:13:58	JOEY	She's always awake. (laughs)
01:14:00	MS. VILAND	What's that?
01:14:01	JOEY	She's always awake. (laughs)
01:14:02	MS. VILAND	(OS) Are you partying?
01:14:03	JOEY	Nah.
01:14:04	MS. VILAND	(OVERLAP) Are you clean?
01:14:05	JOEY	Eh, kind of.

01:14:05	MS. VILAND	(OVERLAP) No, you're not. I can tell by the way you say that.
01:14:07	JOEY	(laughs) Kind of, on and off.
01:14:10	MS. VILAND	(OS) You've been in here bitching about the effect of that on your mom --
01:14:13	JOEY	(OS) It's the only way I can deal with her --
01:14:15	MS. VILAND	(OVERLAP) I know but do you see the illogical path that is?
01:14:19	JOEY	(OS) I don't do what she does. I'm completely opposite of her. I've always been opposite of her.
01:14:23	MS. VILAND	(OS) Well, what do you do, then?
01:14:24	JOEY	What do I do?
01:14:25	MS. VILAND	(OS) Mmhmm.
01:14:26	JOEY	I like to clean the house. I like to sit in my room, play guitar, play with my little brother.
01:14:29	MS. VILAND	(OVERLAP) No, no, what I'm talking about is as far as drug usage goes.
01:14:32	JOEY	Oh, what do I? -- Me and her are in the same boat. Same stuff.
01:14:38	MS. VILAND	(OS) Well, I thought she was using meth...
01:14:39	JOEY	Mmm.
01:14:41	MS. VILAND	(OS) Oh dear god, Joey.
01:14:42	JOEY	(OS) Yeah... I'd have never... Ah, shish, last couple months have been too crazy.
01:14:50	MS. VILAND	Joey... that.... I have a pit in my stomach right now about that...
01:14:57	JOEY	Agh...

01:14:58	MS. VILAND	I mean honestly, you can have all these great goals and everything -- I bet your mother at your age had great goals. But what happened is she got involved with drugs, right?
01:15:10	JOEY	(OS) Yeah.
01:15:11	MS. VILAND	Okay, so...
01:15:12	JOEY	(OS) I still have hopes and dreams, though.
01:15:13	MS. VILAND	(ON/OS) Well, but I'm saying to you the drugs will take those away.
01:15:16	JOEY	Nah.
01:15:21	MS. VILAND	Are you gonna do the school thing and do it --
01:15:23	JOEY	Oh yeah, I'm here.
01:15:25	MS. VILAND	Okay.
01:15:26	JOEY	(OS) I'm going to graduate.
01:15:28	MS. VILAND	(ON/OS) Okay, here's what we're going to do. I would like to, for a while, I would like to have a check in, check out with you. That means, in the morning, I would like you to check in with me and show me what you did the night before, and one of the questions that will always be asked is: "Are you clean today?"
01:15:47	JOEY	Okay.
01:15:47	MS. VILAND	(OVERLAP) Alright.
EXT. BLACK ROCK - DAY		
01:16:00		(flag pole clinks)
INT. BLACK ROCK CLASSROOM - DAY		
01:16:14	MS. VILAND	For those of you who aspire to graduate this year, it's time to pick up the pace. It's time to stop any wasting of any time and daydreaming and socializing and start picking up the pace.

01:16:27	MS. WEITZ	(ON/OS) This is everything as of seven o'clock this morning. Okay. Right now you have 10.5. I know you had a deal with Ms. Viland about 20, so this next week you're gonna have to... move on it.
01:16:42	MS. ALEXANDER	(OS) Okay... and then you have your government. I want you to focus on the english and the histories.
01:16:49	JENNIFER	Okay.
01:16:50	MS. HILL	(ON/OS) Ooh, this can be ugly. You really gonna need to get busy on this. Which one did you just turn in?
01:16:55	SUMMER	(OS) Chapter one.
01:16:56	MS. HILL	(OS) Do you have a computer at home?
01:16:58	SUMMER	(OS) No.
01:16:19	MS. HILL	So, let's get you into one of the classrooms and get you zippin on A+, and get this stuff done. On your mark, get set, go.
INT. MS. VILAND'S OFFICE - DAY		
01:17:07	MS. VILAND	(PRELAP) So, you will graduate this credit check. There's no doubt in my mind.
01:17:10	SAVANNAH	Yeah I... Oh my god, this is scary.
01:17:13	MS. VILAND	I know, it is!
01:17:14	SAVANNAH	I don't want to leave high school.
01:17:16	MS. VILAND	And! I've had students get done and keep coming here. They just keep coming. We don't kick ya out. As long as you have good attendance and aren't a discipline problem, you can come work on your electives and read and work on more things, just 'cause you want to. You can get more credits at our school.
01:17:29	SAVANNAH	(OVERLAP) That's so scary.

01:17:31	MS. VILAND	It is scary. What are you planning on doing when you're done?
01:17:34	SAVANNAH	(crying) I'm planning on working up at Sky Harbor, but I don't want to graduate high school. It's scary.
01:17:39	MS. VILAND	Okay, you know what, honey, listen. You're not alone in that. You want to know how many times I have this conversation with people? Because it's scary.
01:17:47	SAVANNAH	(ON/OS) It's been really scary. And I don't want to graduate... from high school. It's just scary thinking about how I'm going to be an adult soon. I don't want to grow up.
01:17:59	MS. VILAND	(laughs) You know what? You don't have to grow up. Look at Ms. Ambrosius. Has she grown up yet?
01:18:05	SAVANNAH	(OS) No.
01:18:05	MS. VILAND	No, she hasn't.
01:18:06	SAVANNAH	(OS) It just looks so hard. Like, I watch my parents go through it, and it's too hard. I don't want to do it.
01:18:13	MS. VILAND	(OS) Okay, well what scares you the most?
01:18:15	SAVANNAH	I'm going on my own. Like, my parents said that I'm going to have to do it on my own. You're gonna find a way to do it on your own. They're gonna teach me how life is, and that's just how my parents grew up.
01:18:32	TEACHER	(PRELAP) Don't forget, your service learning log [...]
INT. BLACK ROCK CLASSROOM - DAY		
01:18:34	TEACHER	(OS cont'd) [...] is worth a credit. You need to get those pre-approved. So within the next week, I want to see your P. E.... psst... within the next week. I want to see your service learning log plans.
01:18:45	MS. VILAND	(PRELAP) What are we gonna do about Joey? I don't know what to do about Joey.

INT. BLACK ROCK FRONT DESK - DAY		
01:18:50	MS. VILAND	He needs counseling right now. He needs support. He needs somebody who is there who cares.
01:18:57	PROBATION OFFICER	(OS) I ain't giving him a referral for counseling. I don't--
01:19:01	MS. VILAND	Why -- he won't go.
01:19:03	PROBATION OFFICER	(OS) I know.
01:19:04	MS. VILAND	I mean I haven't put a referral in either because he tells me he won't go. He won't do it.
01:19:08	PROBATION OFFICER	(OS) I've done it before and that's what happens, he doesn't go.
01:19:12	MS. VILAND	(ON/OS) I'm desperate for solutions. I think he's using again. I'm worried he's spiraling downward and I don't know what more to do. Well I-- yeah.
EXT. BLACK ROCK - DAY		
01:19:28	JENNIFER	(OS) The fact that my dad is, like, not supporting me is really hard.
01:19:36	JENNIFER	He thinks my grandma's a horrible person. He doesn't like my mom. He thinks we're all... he thinks bad of my side of the family. And I think the fact that I grew up with them and around them and the fact that they raised me, he expects me to be just like them. My grandma's not a bad person, but she didn't graduate high school. My mom and my grandma, they've all worked in bars. He just expected me to be a part of that cycle, which I'm not, which I think he's mad at.
EXT. STREET - DAY		
01:20:06		(music)
01:20:13		(bus drives by)

01:20:23	CAITLIN	(footsteps)
01:20:30	CAITLIN	(VO) I see myself, and what I've been through, and I sit there and I think, "How many other people have been through this?"
EXT. DESERT - DAY		
01:20:38	STUDENT	(VO) I want to better my life. Better than my dad's. Better than my mom's. They used to tweak all the time when I was little and I've seen what it's done to them.
01:20:42		(gunfire)
EXT. SUMMER'S BACKYARD - DAY		
01:20:52	SUMMER	(VO) Not many people actually help people. They don't even, like, care about other people's problems in this world. I just can't live like that.
01:21:04		(music rises)
EXT. SKATE PARK - DAY		
01:21:09	MICHAEL	(VO) I guess I'm still a kid. I still just want like play around and mess around and stuff. I feel like I'm just in prison in the high desert. I just need to get out of here.
INT. AJ'S ROOM - DAY		
01:21:25	AJ	(VO) You gotta learn how to just, like, take care of yourself and take care of your brothers. You just grow up when you have to.
EXT. PARK - DAY		
01:21:33	JACIANNA	(VO) I want to be my own person and be, like, accepted as such. I don't look down on people for little things like their past or anything. What I look down on is, like, if you have so much opportunity and you don't take it. Why do you choose to fail?
INT. BLACK ROCK ASSEMBLY ROOM - DAY		

01:21:50	AJ	(drums with fingers)
01:21:56	AJ	(VO) You know, I'm not mad at you at all. I'm more just like... I can't be mad at you for something you're doing because it only affects you.
01:22:03	JOEY	(plays guitar)
01:22:08	AJ	(VO) I'm more of just upset, you know, like, you know what's right and wrong. I can't be mad at you for your life. I'm just... upset... because you can do way better. You're smart, and you and I both know that you're just choosing not to.
INT. MS. VILAND'S OFFICE - DAY		
01:22:34	MS. VILAND	(OS) Wha... I'm --- help me out. Because what're you gonna... what're you gonna do? I know you turn 18 in... what? A month?
01:22:43	JOEY	Two.
01:22:43	MS. VILAND	(OS) Two months. What are your plans? You're smart enough to know you gotta have some plans.
01:22:50	JOEY	I don't know yet.
01:22:55	MS. VILAND	(OS) Your choice, then, is to not... not play the game that you need to do.
01:23:05	JOEY	What game? The game where I have to find something to eat everyday? Yeah, I play that game every day...
EXT. BLACK ROCK - DAY		
01:23:20	MS. VILAND	(OS) Diaz, Boyden, Montgomery, Martin, Trail, Coffield, Schmidt, Jassin...
01:23:31	JOEY	What is that?
01:23:32	MS. VILAND	Your school ID, do you have your ID?
01:23:34	JOEY	You guys took it.
01:23:36	MS. VILAND	No, we gave it to you. We don't keep the [...]

01:23:36	JOEY	(OVERLAP) You never gave it to me.
01:23:39	MS. VILAND	At the beginning of the year, we gave it to you...
01:23:40	JOEY	(OVERLAP) You never gave me my ID back, I never got it.
01:23:43	MS. VILAND	Well, though, if your mom's already receiving services for you back home, then --
01:23:46	JOEY	(OVERLAP) My mom doesn't do shit.
01:23:48	MS. VILAND	Where are you living?
01:23:51	JOEY	My grandma's, she's fucking broke.
01:23:52	MS. VILAND	No, no, don't use that profanity with me... we're going to start doing thing the way all students do things.
01:24:01	JOEY	Whoops.
INT. BLACK ROCK CLASSROOM - DAY		
01:24:02	MS. LARSON	So is x zero in this case?
01:24:03	STUDENT 1	(OS) No.
01:24:04	MS. LARSON	No, so is it an intercept?
01:24:05	STUDENT 1	(OS) No.
01:24:06	MS. LARSON	No. So, for us to see that that's an intercept, x would be zero right away, right? Okay, good. So it's not an intercept. But I do have a point and a slope, so I can start at point-slope form, correct? Which is our new form that we... are learning, correct?
01:24:23	STUDENT 1	(OS) So we can do point-slope form at this point?
01:24:24	MS. LARSON	Point-slope. Here we start with that. So it is y , right? Minus what?
01:24:24	STUDENT 2	(pokes and scratches Joey with a plastic ruler)
01:24:27	STUDENT 1	(OS) Three.
01:24:28	MS. LARSON	Three... is equal to...

01:24:31	STUDENT 1	(OS) One over four.
01:24:32	MS. LARSON	Slope... which is one-fourth.
01:24:32	STUDENT 1	(OS) (OVERLAP) [...] Inequality [...]
01:24:33	STUDENT 2	(bends ruler to slap Joey, but stops)
01:24:35	MS. LARSON	You're too fast for us there! X... (laughs) What?
01:24:39	STUDENT 1	(OS) Positive two. Plus two.
INT. BLACK ROCK HALLWAY - DAY		
01:24:40	MS. LARSON	(OVERLAP) Minus a negative, is plus two...
01:24:43	ZARI	(baby noises)
01:24:44	LEE	The little shoes.
01:24:45	ZARI	(baby noises)
INT. BLACK ROCK CLASSROOM - DAY		
01:24:54	MS. WEITZ	Good! That's good.
01:24:56	MS. WEITZ	(hugs Lee)
01:24:58	MS. WEITZ	(OVERLAP) If you can bust out the electives in the summer, you can be at 65 or a little bit lower for a year. Normally, we do 16 a year anyway. So, totally doable for you. You did 20 this one, if you do 20 for every single credit check next year for the first two credit checks, you'll be graduated within the semester. Woo woo! That'd be awesome, huh? See this right here? This shows us what we already knew. That you could do it. (laughs) You just have to decide to. Which you did. Which that's what we want. Okay? Proud of you. Nicely done. And I'll see you tomorrow for your gift card, okay?
INT. BLACK ROCK HALLWAY - DAY		
01:25:35	LEE	It's all good now?
01:25:35	STUDENT 1	(high fives LEE) Yes!

01:25:36	LEE	(laughing) Yeah!
01:25:37	STUDENT 2	I'm good.
01:25:38	LEE	(hugs STUDENT #2)
01:25:39	STUDENT 3	Ohhh (hugs LEE)
01:25:41	LEE	Aw that's Sage, girl...
01:25:42	SAGE	Hey! (hugs LEE, laughs)
INT. MS. VILAND'S OFFICE - DAY		
01:25:47	MS. VILAND	(typing)
01:25:51	ON-SCREEN TEXT (Paper slip)	Incident Report Name: Joey McGee Date: 1/5/15 Defiance I asked Joey to put his head up from the desk, twice. The 3rd time I told him he had to stand, he left class w/o permission!
01:25:56	MS. VILAND	(OS/ON) Hi, thank you for calling me back. I know I was excited to have him back. He just has fallen right back into the same patterns. So, if you can talk some sense into him and tell him to get productive and do things, that's great. If not, I need someone to come get him because he just isn't doing anything except being defiant.
INT. BLACK ROCK - DAY		
01:26:22	MS. VILAND	This is what he wants to do all day. And you ask him to do anything, he throws a fit.
01:26:27	JOEY'S GRANDMOTHER	Joseph! Get up!
01:26:31	MS. VILAND	He doesn't want to work.
01:26:34	JOEY'S GRANDMOTHER	You know what, I don't know what you're thinking buddy, but... whatever it is, it's not working out for

		you. You've lived on the streets, you've lived in shit holes...Get up, Joe.
01:26:46	JOEY	(OS) Alright, leaving?
01:26:47	JOEY'S GRANDMOTHER	Get up. Pull your pants up... Where's your jacket?
01:26:51	MS. VILAND	He never had one when he got off the bus this morning.
01:26:53	JOEY'S GRANDMOTHER	Yeah, he did. He has a black jacket, somewhere he left...
01:26:53	MS. VILAND	(OVERLAP) Maybe he put it in my office already... He must have put it in my office before I talked to him. I hope that he'll be... when he's ready to learn, we'll be here for him. And when he turns 18, he decides he's dropping out, call me and I'll classify him as a dropout and fill his spot with somebody. I hope he doesn't make that decision but -- he has you. He has AJ. He has the support.
01:27:18	JOEY'S GRANDMOTHER	Everybody has a sad story... that brings them to right now and today.
01:27:23	MS. VILAND	Yeah. It's what they're gonna do with it?
01:27:24	JOEY'S GRANDMOTHER	(OVERLAP) They can either be a victim of it, or...
01:27:27	MS. VILAND	Yeah. And he's at the point now where you either choose you're gonna be a victim or you're gonna go forward.
EXT. BLACK ROCK PARKING LOT - DAY		
01:27:34		(music)
01:28:04	MS. VILAND	(PRELAP) So what's the plan?
INT. MS. VILAND'S OFFICE - DAY		
01:28:05		(music continues)
01:28:05	STUDENT 1	I dunno. I've been working more lately though.

01:28:07	MS. VILAND	(ON/OS) Well, more is not quite enough, I'm sorry to say. Going from 10% up to 30% is not enough.
01:28:16	STUDENT 1	But my attendance -- I've been doing better with my attendance.
01:28:18	MS. VILAND	Better, better.
01:28:19	STUDENT 1	My only problem is sleep, though. Like, when I don't sleep good, yeah...
01:28:21	MS. VILAND	(OS/ON) Okay, but just a second -- you know what? It's time to grow up. You know? Go. Use your time wisely.
01:28:30	MS. VILAND	(PRELAP) Give me your phone, Alexis.
01:28:32	MS. VILAND	You and I had a talk about this the other day.
01:28:34	ALEXIS	(OS) Yeah, but I shut the power off. I wasn't texting or anything.
01:28:36	MS. VILAND	(OVERLAP) (ON/OS) It doesn't matter. It's not your opinion. Hand me your phone Alexis.
01:28:40	ALEXIS	What if I don't?
01:28:41	MS. VILAND	Then I'll suspend you.
01:28:42	ALEXIS	Then suspend me.
INT. BLACK ROCK - DAY		
01:28:48		(music continues)
01:28:49		(student chatter)
01:28:59	MS. VILAND	(PRELAP) "On the way home from the field trip, [...]"
INT. MS. VILAND'S OFFICE - DAY		
01:29:00	MS. VILAND	"[...] we had a bus pull over due to Brianna's yelling profanity and threatening physical injury to another student. I was certain she was going to hit me..." (exhales)

01:29:10	MS. VILAND	Obviously, I have to go through with the expulsion. This process is going to hurt me just as much as it hurts you. Because your daughter is me... 40 years ago. I do not want this to be a roadblock for you. I do not want this to set you back. We all cried a little bit on Friday together. 'Cause we love you. We love you. And we all make mistakes. And we learn from them. And we go forward.
EXT. DESERT TRAIL - DAY		
01:29:46		(music rises)
01:29:46	MS. VILAND	(footsteps)
EXT. BLACK ROCK - SUNRISE		
01:30:34		(music fades)
01:30:40		(birds chirp)
01:30:54		(student chatter)
INT. MS. VILAND'S OFFICE - DAY		
01:30:58	MS. VILAND	(shuffles papers)
INT. BLACK ROCK FRONT DESK - DAY		
01:31:06	MS. AMBROSIUS	(typing)
INT. BLACK ROCK HALLWAY - DAY		
01:31:11		(student chatter)
01:31:15	STUDENT	(twists back and forth)
INT. MS. VILAND'S OFFICE - DAY		
01:31:22	ON-SCREEN TEXT (PowerPoint)	WHY BLACK ROCK???
01:31:30	ON-SCREEN TEXT (PowerPoint)	The poverty rate for dropouts is 30.8%.
01:31:31	JENNIFER	(OS) Hello.

01:31:32	MS. VILAND	Hi!
01:31:32	JENNIFER	(OS) I was gonna ask you. I kind of want to say something to them about my -- about how Black Rock changed my little...
01:31:34	ON-SCREEN TEXT (PowerPoint)	(OVERLAP) Children raised by dropouts are more likely to drop out, creating a vicious cycle.
01:31:37	MS. VILAND	(OVERLAP) That'd be perfect. That would be great. That's gonna be perfect.
01:31:42	JENNIFER	I was just thinking about it last night, because Black Rock -- it did make a big difference to me and I want them to know that this school is important to the kids that are at the school.
01:31:50	MS. VILAND	(OS) That'd be really great. What you can do is... right after you show all the senior pictures, you can say, "and I just want to take a minute personally to..."
01:31:58	JENNIFER	(OS) That's exactly what I wrote! I'm so proud of myself.
01:31:59	MS. VILAND	(OVERLAP) Perfect. Perfect.
01:32:01	JENNIFER	(PRELAP) Students drop out for many reasons, but the number [...]
INT. BLACK ROCK ASSEMBLY ROOM - DAY		
01:32:05	JENNIFER	(cont'd) [...] one reason is not having a personal relationship with a caring adult. High school graduates live longer, are less likely to be teen parents, are more likely to raise healthier and better educated children, are more likely to engage in civic activities like voting and volunteering. Continuation schools make a difference. We hope you will take a minute to read the report being passed out to you.
01:32:12	ON-SCREEN TEXT (PowerPoint)	High School graduates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Live longer - Are less likely to be teen parents - Are more likely to raise healthier, better educated children

		- Are more likely to engage in civic activities like voting and volunteering
01:32:30	AUDIENCE	(applause)
01:32:38	JENNIFER	I would also like to add on a personal note, just for me, without Black Rock, I don't think I would have put the effort into even trying to graduate, nor would I have had the confidence to be graduating a year early this year. So I would like to thank all the staff and teachers at Black Rock and thank you guys for keeping Black Rock.
01:32:55	AUDIENCE	(applause)
INT. MS. VILAND'S OFFICE - DAY		
1:33:00		(music)
01:33:01	ON-SCREEN TEXT (Certificate)	Super Honor Roll Lee Bridges
01:33:02	MS. VILAND	(OS/ON) I knew you could do it. I wasn't worried. Pretty cool huh? This is about you. 'Cause Lee, anything you set your mind to you will do.
INT. BLACK ROCK FRONT DOOR - DAY		
01:33:17	LEE	(VO) I got my 20 credits, so I'm gonna be here next year to finish for good.
INT. LEE'S BEDROOM - DAY		
01:33:22	LEE	(VO) I didn't believe in myself, I didn't think I could do it, but Layla talked to me, gave me some hope. She told me that she knows I'm smart and putting myself down isn't going to help my education or further me in life.
01:33:36	ZARI	(baby noises)
INT. MS. VILAND'S OFFICE - DAY		
1:3:40		(music)

01:33:40	MS. VILAND	Alright, let's check. Let's make sure I got everything here... Detention not set... Okay, and guidance...
01:33:50	JENNIFER	Are we missing something?
01:33:55	MS. VILAND	Nope. You're good.
01:33:57	JENNIFER	(exhales) I think I'm going to have a heart attack!
01:33:57	MS. VILAND	(OS) You're done! You're done, you're done, you're done!
01:34:02	MS. VILAND	(OS) Okay, so let's go to the next step here, huh? And that is... checking out of school!
01:34:08	JENNIFER	(laughs)
01:34:09		(music rises)
INT. BLACK ROCK HALLWAY - DAY		
01:34:10		(music)
01:34:10		(applause)
INT. MS. VILAND'S OFFICE - DAY		
01:34:24	MS. VILAND	You still need 10 in English, four in government, five in econ. So, you still could make it this year, if you busted your ass. Hahaha! You're gonna make it!
INT. BLACK ROCK HALLWAY - DAY		
01:34:40	ON-SCREEN TEXT (Chart)	GRADUATED
01:34:45		(applause)
EXT. BLACK ROCK - DAY		
01:34:53	JENNIFER	(smiles for photo)
INT. BLACK ROCK HALLWAY - DAY		
01:35:03		(applause)
01:35:03	AJ	(walks down hall with MS. VILAND, hugs classmates)

INT. BLACK ROCK CLASSROOM - DAY		
01:35:10	JENNIFER	(skips into room, hugs MS. ALEXANDER)
01:35:13	MS. HILL	(OS) Did you finish baby?
01:35:15	MS. VILAND	(PRELAP) Yay! I needed that too.
01:35:19	JENNIFER	(hugs MS. VILAND)
01:35:23	JENNIFER	(hugs MS. HILL)
01:35:25	MS. HILL	It's a very good thing. Ugh, you're awesome.
01:35:30	JENNIFER	(wipes away tears) I'm so happy.
01:35:33	MS. VILAND	(OS) I'm proud of you! (laughs)
01:35:34	MS. ALEXANDER	(OS) It's happy tears.
01:35:36	GUILLERMO	(hugs JENNIFER) Congrats!
01:35:36	JENNIFER	So. Happy.
01:35:38	GUILLERMO	I'm happy for you!
EXT. BLACK ROCK - DAY		
01:35:42		(bus engine)
INT. BLACK ROCK FRONT DESK - DAY		
01:35:49	MS. VILAND	(looks out window)
01:35:53	JOEY	(PRELAP) (singing) <i>I've been sitting around</i>
EXT. TOWN - DAY		
01:35:56	JOEY	(OS) (singing) <i>Watching this world go round and round / Spinning my head 'til I hit the ground</i>
01:06:02	JOEY	(singing) <i>Take a deep breath, let's leave this town / Let's leave this fucking town</i>
INT. BLACK ROCK FRONT DESK - DAY		
01:36:16		(bell rings)

01:36:18	MS. VILAND	I don't know who you are, hi!
01:36:21	ADAM	Hi, my name's Adam.
01:36:23	MS. VILAND	Hi Adam! Nice to meet you.
01:36:24	ADAM	(OVERLAP) Nice to meet you, um... I was wondering... do you accept ninth graders?
01:36:30	MS. VILAND	Oh no, honey, We only have eleventh and twelfth graders. Because we have a waiting list even for them.
01:36:35	ADAM	Oh.
01:36:36	MS. VILAND	(OS) Where are you going to school now?
01:36:37	ADAM	Right now I'm going to Hope Academy. But I'm trying to get out of there, because I need a more structured environment.
01:36:44	MS. VILAND	(OS) Right.
01:36:45	ADAM	Because at Hope I can just, like, I can pretty much just walk out whenever I want.
01:36:51	MS. VILAND	(OS/ON) Yeah that wouldn't fly here, would it? Yeah, unfortunately, we used to take tenth, eleventh and twelfth graders. But now we can only take eleventh and twelfth graders, 'cause we're so full with just eleventh and twelfth graders. All I can say is keep going to school, keep earning credits and when you get into the eleventh grade we can take you. Okay? I'm sorry.
01:37:10	ADAM	(OVERLAP) Okay... Well... Is there a way I can get on the waiting list, so right when I--
01:37:13	MS. VILAND	(OVERLAP) (OS/ON) We'll take your name, absolutely. We'll put it in our book and then the end of your tenth grade year, we'll give you a call.
01:37:20	ADAM	(writes name down) Okay, thank you.

01:37:22	MS. VILAND	You bet. Absolutely. I got to go meet the bus. It was nice to meet you and I admire you. You did a good job.
01:37:27		(music)
01:37:33	MS. VILAND	(VO) Hi everyone! Welcome, welcome! Good morning!
01:37:37		END CREDITS