



# STUDENTS LIVE: PASSPORT TO BROADWAY

## “JOURNEY TO AMERICA” Sample Synopsis

**Prologue:** Four Siblings (Sam, Lee, Amanda & Rose) arrive at JFK Airport. They are excited and hopeful as they begin their journey of self discovery in pursuit of their dreams.

### ACT 1

**Scene 1:** They enter the very busy airport where they are met by their cousin Kim and her best friend Margaret. In the Song “One,” led by Kim, the siblings and all of the people in the terminal express their optimism and their feelings about being unique and starting on their journey.

**Scene 2:** The scene transitions to Times Square, the heart of New York City, where everyone is in a hurry to get somewhere and accomplish something. In the songs “Some People,” and “NYC,” Sam, Lee, Amanda, and Rose, surrounded by the hustle and bustle of busy New Yorkers, express their dream of becoming successful. They are a little naïve, but open to the possibilities that this great city offers.

**Scene 3:** expresses hopefulness and determination, as Kim and Margaret, who both want to be actors, bring Sam, Lee, Amanda, and Rose to an audition for a Broadway show. During the songs “The Music and the Mirror” and “I Hope I Get It,” Sam and Amanda join the singing audition, while Kim, Margaret, Lee, and Rose participate in the dance portion of the audition. Eventually the Director casts everyone and all express their excitement in the song “This is the Moment.” Left alone on stage, the members of the ensemble reveal their ambitions and competitive nature in the song “I Want it All.”

**Scene 4:** finds the four siblings exploring life in New York and trying to figure out where they will fit in. They fall into step with passersby on the street, and arrive at a great symbol of American achievement, the Empire State Building (“Corner of the Sky”). There are some tourists on the Observation Deck enjoying the sights; others are leaving, having completed their visit. Kim, Margaret, Sam, Lee, Amanda, and Rose are joined by Diana and Peter on the Observation Deck. During the song “On a Clear Day,” they express their optimism that they will find their destinies.

After everyone leaves the top of the Empire State Building, they enter the subway (**Scene 5**). Change is coming. Girls and boys are saying goodbye to each other as the girls enter trains and leave. Nell, a friend of Margaret and Kim, appears for the first time and is introduced by Kim and Margaret to the siblings. The boys are waiting for the girls to leave so that they can do a bit of gambling (“Luck Be a Lady”). Sam wants to win and is very unhappy when it is Lee who is the winner. Adapting to a fast-paced and big city life has made them all a little less innocent and more self-involved. The beginnings of romance are felt between Sam and Diana and Peter and Amanda. Chris, who first noticed Rose at the audition, is unable to express how he feels about her just yet. Jealousy begins to surface, and a little bit of rift begins in the family. Everyone leaves to go their hotel to get ready for a night at a club.

In **Scene 6**, we find people in their hotel rooms, getting ready to go out for an evening of dancing and adventure. Sam and Lee, who share a room, are not speaking to each other. Amanda and Rose, in their room, express their nervousness and excitement about what might be happening next, as they and the others on stage sing “Something’s Coming.” The feeling is excitement and a little bit of fear of the unknown.

Scene 7: - As everyone leaves to go to the club, Amanda confronts Sam about his behavior (“Defying Gravity”). He is defiant. They argue.

Scene 8: – The feeling of anger, selfishness and frustration continues as Lee sings “I’m Not Afraid of Anything,” followed and then joined by members of the Ensemble, and, finally, Nell, who has come forward to express her feelings for and support of Lee. Rose, who has been quiet and reserved up until now, finally breaks out of her shell and opens up about her need to be recognized as she sings “Rose’s Turn.” Lee acknowledges Rose’s needs and supports her, as they begin to sing “Defying Gravity.” As they make peace with each other, Sam and Amanda return, still arguing, followed by the other people who were in the hotel rooms. As they continue the song, they express their need to become their own people. There is an emotional storm going on that is reflected in the way everyone on stage behaves. The act ends defiantly.

## **ACT II**

ACT 2 opens at the club. Friendship and romance are in the air. Things start out well, as the club patrons, in couples, and in small groups sing “Tonight,” expressing how positively they feel about each other. Amanda, Lee, Nell, and club patrons, gently tease Sam and Diana, who clearly like each other, into becoming a couple. Sam, Diana, Kim, Margaret, and other club patrons do the same for Peter and Amanda, as they sing “Hey There.” Interest in the opposite sex is not always romantic. Sometimes it can be just a big tease, as some of the girls demonstrate as they sing “Big Spender” to the boys. Lee and Nell express their deepening feelings for each other in “The Last Night of the World,” and Peter and Amanda teasingly explore their feelings in “Light My Candle.” Not every relationship is working out, however. The friendship between Kim and Margaret is showing signs of strain, which they express strongly in “Take Me or Leave Me.” Rose is also concerned that she and the people she cares about are going to be hurt; she is joined in this by Chris. They are still afraid to face their feelings for each other, as they sing “The Word of Your Body.” In contrast, perhaps a little blindly, Sam and Diana, Peter and Amanda, and Lee and Nell sing “They Say it’s Wonderful.” The “cool” guys who have been at the back of the club, break the sad mood and remind everyone that you just have to be cool – “Who Loves You,” a feeling that all the boys join in to express.

We find ourselves out on the street in front of the club as Scene 2 begins. Things are not working out as well as everyone had hoped. Characters are feeling pain, sorrow, hurt, heartbreak, and even loneliness, and express this through a series of songs. Diana discovers that Sam wants to be “just friends.” Rose, singing “On My Own,” thinks about liking someone who doesn’t seem to care about her. Kim, missing her friend Margaret, sings “Who Can I Turn To.” Diana and Sam sadly sing “A Fine, Fine Line,” which talks about the difference between love and friendship. Nell’s sadness is expressed through the song “I Dreamed a Dream,” and Margaret, also sad, wants to believe that “Time Heals Everything.” Nell wonders if she is “Losing My Mind.” However, when everyone on stage seems to be at her lowest point, our intrepid Ensemble returns and reminds them that you are never really alone – community can help you see the bigger picture and restore some hope as they remind everyone to enjoy “Seasons of Love.”

Scene 3 finds us in Kim’s neighborhood. People who live in the neighborhood are playing games, babysitting, walking dogs. Kim and her cousins read letters in the newspaper about life in New York City (“I Write America”). There is a sense of irony and more reality settling in. Other neighbors run in and in a satirical song, “Everyone’s a Little Bit Racist,” sing about the way things really are in this city. The neighbors who have been on stage from the top of the act respond, continuing the satire with “If You Could See Her.” Together, through the song “America,” they shine a light on some serious issues that pull people apart. Peter, who is very strong and influential, sees the potential opportunity to exploit the feelings people are expressing, gain control of them, and exploit the underlying anger to a point where war is possible. He leads everyone in “Do You Hear the People Sing,” which they follow almost without thinking. Chris helps Peter achieve his goal by singing “Tomorrow Belongs to Me,” a song filled with prejudice and misuse of power. People on stage begin to fall under their spell and develop a group mentality as Peter and Chris successfully brainwash them. They begin to dance like puppets to “Glory”. Sam, Lee, Amanda, and Rose fall strongly under the spell as they dance. As the dance ends, however, the American characters come to their senses and sing “Children Will Listen” to break the spell on Peter, Chris, and the siblings. They remind everyone that life doesn’t have to be warlike and harsh. Our future can be hopeful. Sam gets the message completely. He realizes what is important and apologizes to Lee. The siblings now realize that life in New York can be wonderful if they stay strong.

Hopefulness, acceptance, tolerance, and love will help everyone have a bright future, and the entire cast builds a crescendo into our finale, with the songs "Tomorrow," "Aquarius," and "Song of Purple Summer." By the time the cast has reached the song "No Day But Today," all characters have disappeared, and everyone is equal, hopeful, joyous, and positive on the stage together.