

NORTHLIGHT THEATRE

Season Access Curriculum Preview

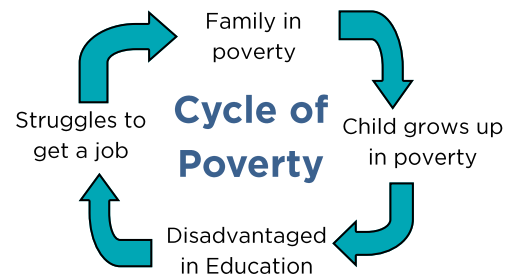
Student Matinee April 4



The Cycle of Poverty

generations of a family, are unable to rise out of poverty. This cycle explains how one disadvantage, such as lack of access to healthy food, can contribute directly to another, such as inability to do well in school.

The cycle of poverty recognizes that blame is not on families but, rather, that extenuating circumstances and systemic oppression are major contributing factors. In Christine's case, she experiences this cycle as she struggles to find safe and adequate housing with her daughter. She struggles to maintain housing because her violent boyfriend's outbursts threaten eviction and she struggles to keep up on rent because she must support both herself and her daughter on a minimum wage job. There are only six states in the USA where residents are able to afford a two-bedroom apartment if they make less than \$15 per hour, while the national minimum wage is about half that at \$7.25 per hour.



The Fair Housing Act serves to protect individuals trying to rent or buy housing. The act was passed in 1968 and, at the time, addressed discrimination against buyers and renters based on the characteristics of religion, national origin, color, and race. The Fair Housing Act was also known as Title VIII, a section of the Civil Rights Act of 1968. In 1974, "sex" was added and in 1988 "disability" and "familial status" were added.

Fair Housing Act & Section 8

In *Landladies*, Marti hints that she cannot evict Christine because of her daughter (i.e., because of "familial status"); therefore she must find other, legitimate reasons on which to base an eviction - failure to pay rent, nuisance ordinances, damage to property, etc. Landlords attempt to circumnavigate these rules by illegally setting terms or operating their properties in a way that causes the tenant to be discriminated against.

"Section 8" is another housing related term that appears in *Landladies*. When the Housing Act of 1937 was amended to become the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, the "Section 8" housing stipulation was added. Today, Section 8 is referred to as the "Housing Choice Voucher Program". Landlords often seek Section 8 renters, as Marti does in *Landladies*, because their rent comes directly from the government and not the renter themselves, so the money is stable.



Resource!

An excerpt from Matthew Desmond's book:
["Forced Out: For many poor Americans, eviction never ends"](#)

To learn more about Northlight's Season Access
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or

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