

## SIDES FOR 26 PEBBLES AUDITON

Pick 2 different characters from the sides. Make physical and vocal choices that differentiate from character to character. You do not need to be memorized, but you should know them so that you can make choices without having your eyes stuck in the text.

Due to the nature of this play, we will not change the gender of the characters. Select sides that mirror your identity and how you would feel comfortable performing on stage.

It is recommended that you read the play. Two copies have been placed on reserve at the Edgewood College Library. Ideally you have read the play to understand the context in which your side is said. The play is short. It takes on average 1 hour to read. If you are a community member please email [AStandish@edgewood.edu](mailto:AStandish@edgewood.edu) for an electronic copy.

Please pay attention to the character descriptions at the front of the play.

## FEMALE IDENTIFIED CHARACTERS and SIDES

**YOLIE.** I felt, well maybe I could absorb some of this sadness or maybe I could deflect some of this by just standing in this like, vigil. Sort of like silent vigil. I woke up and thought, "Oh my God, if this is what my town is now known for, I just couldn't bear it." And what was this? I was compelled and I had this dream and I said, I woke up and I said, "I have to go make a sign. I have to go make a sign and go sit out somewhere."

So I called my friend Vicky and said to her, "I'm gonna make a sign and it's gonna say 'I am love, I am Newtown' and I'm gonna sit at the highway exit. Exit ten. So that it's the first thing they see when they come in and the last thing they see when they leave. So, me and my daughter, made this sign.

**KAT.** It was just evil. It was just evil, there was no reasoning, ya know? A soul was lost and took others with him, ones that didn't deserve to go. My spiritual belief is though that they will be back, just different names, different families, different everything, so there'll be another soul coming back through.

Um, I think I did pray more to Gaia, you know Mother Earth, and was real taken aback that she would take that many young souls, uh...at one moment.

I know there's evil on this earth and sadly it's found its way to our town and I just asked her to bring those souls back quickly, ya know?

**CARRIE.** The thing was, people kept telling me, “Well, God gave you free will. He did this, it wasn’t God’s doing. It was his free will. He chose to do this.” But I guess my questions are, well, if he had a mental illness then it isn’t really free will. He can’t help it right?

Then my daughter asks me, “Is he in hell?” And we tried to explain, “Well you know, he was probably sick and he didn’t know what he was doing.” And then she would ask, “Well if he was sick then that means he wasn’t an evil person, so would God forgive him? What if he’s sorry? Does he still have to go to hell?” These are questions that we as adults don’t have the answer for.

*(CARRIE turns and faces the rest of the cast.)*

What does a parent do?

**JENN.** Well, ya know, of course I’m – I’m angry. I’m angry at his mother especially and I’m angry at his father and his brother, because obviously there was a lot more to this story in terms of his upbringing and his... Just the lack of care that he probably received as a child and all that. And I also blame her friends because did anybody not see this woman wasn’t all together? And did nobody say anything? And what about her ex-husband? Didn’t he ever go to the house and see these guns?

**CAROLE.** This – this is what happened to us, because so much happened that we weren’t allowed a moment to really grieve for these babies.

But I remember the morning the flags went back up, because I had heard about it, and I drove in – I was getting there at some, at some crazy hour in the morning. I called David on the phone, my guy who helps me with the building, and I said, “Get over here and get that flag up! I want the big flag up in the center of town. Raise those flags, get ’em back up where they’re supposed to be!” And then we just watched. David raised the flags back up and I thought, “Okay, alright, we’re getting our town back. Now all you people leave!”

*(CARRIE turns back.)*

**CARLA.** I don't know if you believe any of this stuff, but you seem to be open-minded, so, uh, I heard from one of the kids that died. Jesse Lewis. I told a friend and he said to me, "You gotta talk to Scarlett, you gotta talk to Scarlett Lewis." So I asked him to ask her if she would let me do a free healing on her. I didn't want to say, "I just heard from your son," you know? So we became closer and I channeled her son for her. If I wasn't able to communicate with Jesse, you know what I mean, I think that... I don't... I think I'd be a real mess. I think

that the way I felt from Jesse's side was he's very strong and he actually told – he and his mother both knew he wasn't going to live very long.

And before he died, I can show inside, I'll show you inside, he drew on his chalkboard three words, "Healing," "Nurturing" and "Love."

He drew this on his chalkboard and he's like six, you know? And when I connect with him, he's very strong, he feels like a general. And he saved like ten kids' lives during the shooting, when the gun jammed, he was like, "Go, go, go! The gun jammed!"

He's six years old! And he got these kids running, and they're all in shock and if he hadn't said that, they'd be standing there. There'd be ten more bodies. And I think he was already shot at the time and he still said that, and ummm...he's so, so strong. And he's so amazing. So maybe I need that, maybe that helps me keep faith.

## MALE IDENTIFIED CHARACTERS and SIDES

**RABBI.** People were falling on the floor, crying, tearing their hair out and then they spread... They were spreading out.

After the announcement came there was a rapid fire of clergy, and that was something that was very powerful for me. This was the – this was real. This was real religion.

One guy starts to pray and he says his prayer and he's done. Then another guy gets up and he says his prayer, like a rapid fire, you know? And it's just a scene of tragedy, of a national scale mega tragedy, and these are the last rites or the last, you know, utterances of the spirit. Our different houses of worship there delivering it up.

**JOE.** I stood in line for the principal's funeral and had to miss class. Here I am thinking, "It's a town away, I'm going to go pay my respects."

I had a card I had prepared, um, to leave for the family, a-a-a note I had written, and I got there a bit late. There were news cameras, that weren't allowed to be up close, and lots of police, and the line went out the building, around the block, down the corner and we're talking about, like, rural blocks. You know, like, a mile, there's a mile-long line easily. So I went to the end of the line and I stood there with my hands in my pockets freezing my ass off and I wouldn't leave.

I'm just standing there looking at the flag. They had put, it was like really iconic, they had dropped a gigantic American flag from a boom arm of a fire truck right over the road, right before the whole crowd would walk in to pay their respects to them. And it was a really strong gathering moment. Everybody was there because she represented what was wonderful about that school.

**DARREN.** We don't know all the things that are broken, we're still discovering them, 'cause we've been asleep and haven't been paying attention. I've read a lot about Columbine, ya know, ten to fourteen years later on. The principal, um, said he, ya know, he's had kids go through that were fine. They appeared to be fine, went to college, ya know, appeared to be fine, got married, appeared to be fine, had children and bam! They just fell to pieces. Generational PTSD. With our society, it's – it's a sense of, ya know, a – a bit of shame. Especially for younger people to say, and now that's why I came out and said, "Look, yes, I've got PTSD!" I'm thinking of having a T-shirt made, ya know, "Got PTSD? I do."

**FATHER WEISS.** I really have been put into a very different role than I ever expected. Well you know now... I've... I'm like the leader of the community and I don't see myself in that role, you know? I saw myself as a pastor of St. Rose and that's what you do. That's the way I understand it, that's what priests do. And, you know, so now I have this, I can never decide if it's ascribed or achieved leadership. It's put a lot of pressure on me, um, that I normally wouldn't put on myself, you know? I'll be honest, I've kept my distance from the families because I'm a mess personally. We had eight of the funerals here, and um, it...it still gets to me. I just can't talk with them. We're very present with them, we have staff doing everything they can to support and encourage them, but I just have to keep my distance from them right now.



**MIKE.** There are only so many places to go in Sandy Hook and that's what I told everybody. Where do you want them to go? Where do you want them to park? Explain it to me. Can't go to the schools. Can't go to the firehouse. The park is jammed. The park – I don't know if you've been to – you couldn't park there. Where could they go? Where could those people go? You have to be rational about it. People here are sick, they're crying too. I had news reporters crying. They said, "I've never cried before." They'd been to wars. And when I saw them emotional, I knew we're all in this together. The whole country is in this together. What are you going to do?

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**CHRIS.** Facebook being the wonderful thing that it is, um, somebody decided it would be a wonderful idea to start sending to – to, uh, send teddy bears to Newtown. And I had seen it in the news and I didn't think much of it. By Monday morning she had brought in a couple of bags, my girlfriend, 'cause they were, they were giving teddy bears and toys and stuff across the way. She says, "If I could get more that would be great," so we went to the church and they had a fourth grade classroom full...to my waist! And you're as big as I am.

*(Points to a member of the audience.)*

It was just, it was just a full fourth grade classroom with thousands of bears in that one room alone, that was just over that first weekend. So, um, that opened my eyes a little bit as to what the scale was going to be like.