



Kimberly Akimbo
By David Lindsay-Abaire & Jeanine Tesori
Audition Side
SETH – Side 1
A1:S6

School library. On the bookshelves, large decorative letters spell out the words learn and read. Upstage, the TEEN QUARTET is whispering and playing UNO as KIMBERLY and SETH sit in beanbag chairs and get to work on their assignment.

SETH

So I looked up a bunch of stuff. About your disease. And I just want to make sure it's all correct.

KIMBERLY

Okay.

SETH

(Looking over his notes) So it says here that it's a super-rare condition that only affects one in fifty million people.

KIMBERLY

(Tries to keep it light) I'm very special.

SETH

Right on. *(Back to his notes)* And your body ages four times as fast as it should?

KIMBERLY

Between four and five, yeah.

SETH

So when you were four, you looked... eighteen?

KIMBERLY

Pretty much.

SETH

And when you're twenty you'll look...

KIMBERLY

Ninety, I guess. But no one really reaches— The average life expectancy is only sixteen, so...

SETH

(Realizing) Oh.

KIMBERLY

It's just an average though.

(He nods a little, then makes a few more notes. KIMBERLY notices he's wearing a ring on a chain around his neck.)

What's on that chain?

SETH

Just a ring.

KIMBERLY

It's kind of girly.

SETH

It's my mom's.

KIMBERLY

She lets you wear it?

SETH

She left it to me.

KIMBERLY

Oh. Sorry.

SETH

That's okay.

KIMBERLY

(After a couple beats) Well so far this has been a very awkward conversation.

SETH

Hey, I have a question. Do you by any chance like anagrams?

KIMBERLY

Anagrams?

SETH

Yeah, that's where you scramble all the letters of something to spell out something else. Like Federal Government can be rearranged to spell out Large Fervent Demon.

KIMBERLY

Oh yeah.

SETH

And Mother-in-Law turns into Woman Hitler. My dad loves that one. *(Pulls a card from his wallet)* Check it out. I'm a member of The Junior Wordsmiths of America, an organization dedicated to the puzzleistic arts.