

#17A Finale Act I

CELIE
NETTIE
LETTERS

Shug hands her the letter. Celie takes it. Instantly she feels the presence of Nettie in the letter. She rubs the envelope, then rubs the stamps and looks at the writing.

It's from Nettie!

CELIE

Nettie steps onstage, in her white dress in Celie's memory.

NETTIE

Dear Celie, I know you think I am dead. But I am not. I been writing to you every week all these years but I guess you didn't get any my letters because you haven't written back.

CELIE

She's alive.

NETTIE

You probably won't get this one either, cause I'm sure Mister is still the only one to take mail out of the box, but if you do, one thing I want you to know, I love you, and I am not dead.

Music comes up under as Celie clutches a letter to her heart.

CELIE

Nettie's alive! She's alive!

NETTIE

Dear Celie, dear Celie, dear Celie.

DEAR CELIE, OH I LOVE YOU.
YEARS GO BY AND STILL YOU'RE WITH ME.
ALL WE SHARE IS ONE BIG SKY
I PRAY FOR YOUR REPLY

← (READ AS
SPOKEN LINES)

CELIE

I'm here, Nettie!

NETTIE

When Mister threw me out that day, I was so mad, I went straight to the church, but when the Reverend's wife opened the door, she had two little children with her. And something about those children made my mad go away. So I asked if they needed help with those children, and they said they were going to Africa as missionaries and maybe I could come with them.

CELIE

Nettie a missionary!

Celie jumps up. She moves toward Nettie. Underscore continues.

NETTIE

Then one day on the boat over here...the Reverend asked me about my family. And I told him about you and everything happened to you...And he told me, Celie! He's the one Pa gave your babies to! Adam and Olivia are right here with me.

Nettie shows Celie the children and Celie sees them for the first time.

CELIE

My babies!