

Plot outline

Scene	Action	Purpose
1. Prologue	Follows the appropriate Aboriginal protocols of respect for the dead.	Immediately indicates to the audience that the play will respect and uphold cultural traditions.
2. Sobbing	Introduces the idea of grief.	Metaphor of light and dark to suggest revelation.
3. Purification	The symbolic ritual of purification is performed before the play can commence.	A respectful act.
4. Nana's story	A story of the older generation.	Memories contained in the person.
5. Photograph story	Memories through photographs – which can't be seen once the person dies.	Shows the relationship between the past and the present.
6. Story of a father	A brief monologue demonstrating the protagonist's pain.	Explores the strength of family connections and mentions key individuals whose views have discriminated against Indigenous Australians.
7. Front and centre	The theme of grieving and disconnection is emphasised by a narrative involving a woman who does not know where she comes from.	Shows the ongoing effects of the Stolen Generations and the sense of isolation and dislocation experienced as a result.
8. Family gallery	Family portraits are shown.	Emphasises the importance of family.

9. Black skin girl	A traditional dance.	Uses the Kamilaroi (Murri) language, includes dance as a means of storytelling.
10. Invasion poem	Blank verse exploring the effects of white colonisation on Indigenous Australians.	Shows the universal effects of the invasion through performance poetry.
11. 1788	Colloquial language anachronistically berating the Europeans for arriving.	Creates humour and demonstrates the protagonist's strength and voice.
12. Murri gets a dress	Stand up comedy humorously exploring the Woman's experiences of discrimination	Demonstrates the inequitable treatment of Indigenous people
13. Aunty Grace	A soliloquy examining the Woman's ex-pat aunt who migrates to England and loses touch with her roots.	Gives a different perspective on cultural dislocation.
14. Mugshot	A court report covering the facts surrounding a death in custody.	A factual account of a traumatic event.
15. March	The Woman recounts her experiences at a protest march.	Links Scene 14 to Indigenous activism.
16. Bargaining	Mime as the Woman grieves for the loss of land.	Shows the sacredness and desecration of the land after white settlement.
17. Home story	Examines the importance of cultural customs surrounding skin groups.	Informs the audience and allows them to appreciate the complexities of customs.

18. Story of a brother	A monologue retelling the protagonist's experiences relating to her brother's arrest.	Emphasises the negative cycle of crime and discrimination which can begin with a small misdemeanour.
19. Gallery of sorrow	Shows the phases of grieving.	Links to the title and reminds the audience of the structure of the play.
20. Suitcase opening	A display of images in a suitcase as the woman mimes.	Links back to the centrality of family in the play.
21. Wreck/Con/Silly/Nation poem	Cleverly makes puns on the word 'reconciliation'.	Expresses the 'mess' created and the gap between hopes and reality.
22. Everything has its time	Follows on from the poem.	Moves towards reconciliation.
23. Plea	A poem about grief and its need for expression.	Frames the play as an act of storytelling.
24. Walking across bridges	Retells the story of the Walk for Reconciliation, a watershed moment in recent Indigenous history.	Reconciliation. Locates the play within its political context.