



Arts Engagement  
and Education

## PHILLIP

“I took a walk tonight. I walked over to Broad and Olney.”

From *Orphans*

By Lyle Kessler: <http://www.lylekessler.com>

Gender: Male/Male Presenting

Style: Contemporary Dramatic

Age Range: 20's

**Link to buy script:** [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

### ***Play Synopsis:***

Two grown orphan brothers live in an old dilapidated row house in North Philadelphia—deserted in childhood by an unfaithful father and by the death of their mother.

Treat, the elder brother, has chosen to keep Phillip, the younger, closed off from the world, convincing him that he has a condition that will kill him if he's exposed to the outdoors. With the protectiveness of an older brother and an orphan's fear of abandonment, Treat takes away Phillip's chances to grow up, depriving him of knowledge and forcing him to live in a world of illiteracy and innocence: relegating him to their lost childhood.

Meanwhile, Treat comes and goes from the home, making his way through the world as a violent pickpocket and thief. One day, Treat kidnaps a middle-aged businessman named Harold, who manages to turn Treat's life on end by enlightening young Phillip, thus threatening the relationship between the two brothers. Harold turns the tables around and puts himself into the role of teacher, healer and surrogate parent.

### **Before this moment:**

Harold has perceived that Phillip is actually an intelligent young man who has simply been deprived of an education and contact with the outside world. He opens the window and persuades Phillip to put his head outside. Phillip is amazed that he is not gasping for breath, as Treat warned him would be the case. Harold gives Phillip a map of Philadelphia and circles where he lives on the map. He decides it is time for Phillip to venture outside. While encouraging the young man to trust his own instincts rather than what Treat tells him, they go out in the city for a walk where Phillip notices that he is perfectly fine and none of those things his brother claimed would happen to him happened. When he returns home, he finally rebels against the tyrannical rule Treat has had over him for so long.

**Monologue (Act II Scene IV)**

I took a walk tonight. I walked over to Broad and Olney. I was breathing okay, Treat. I didn't have no allergic reaction like you said I would. I took the subway, Treat. Harold told me the secret. You can stand all day at the turnstile putting in nickels and dimes, you can say Open Assasime and all kinds of words, but it won't do any good unless you have one of these magical coins. If Harold hadn't given me one I never would have been able to take that ride. You never told me about them token booths! You never told me nothing! You told me I would die if I went outside. I can breathe, Treat. Look! My tongue ain't hanging out. My face ain't swollen! (Pause) I walked over to Broad and Olney tonight, Treat. I seen people walking, and I heard children laughing. I wasn't scared no more 'cause Harold gave me something. (Takes out a map) He gave me this! You never gave me no map, Treat. You never told me I could find my way! Nothing's gonna happen to me, Treat, 'cause I know where I am now. I know where I am, and you ain't never gonna take that away from me. I'M AT SIXTY-FORTY NORTH CAMAC STREET, IN PHILADELPHIA, TREAT! I'M ON THE EASTERN EDGE OF THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA! I'M ON THE NORTHERN AMERICAN CONTINENT ON THE PLANET EARTH, IN THE MILKY WAY GALAXY, SWIMMING IN A GREAT OCEAN OF SPACE! I'M SAFE AND SOUND AT THE VERY EDGE OF THE MILKY WAY! THAT'S WHERE I AM, TREAT! And you're it, Treat.

**Helpful Links:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C9nZ5-5wiR8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u-aOUN0Lgng>