Holding Space for African American Stories Exercise

Edit the passage below. Pay special attention to the dialogue. How can you edit the story without erasing the author's voice?

| Mama gazed slightly in my direction before sifting her attention to her cellphone. "What are you talking about, little girl?" Her nose twitched as she pursed her full glossy lips. |
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| "You need to worry bout graduating high school and less about my bidness." |
| "But, Mama" I reasoned. Before I could finish my sentence, her body straightened releasing the back of the plush grey loveseat. |
| "I said mind yo damn bidness! Now shut the hell up talking to me!" |
| I sunk in my seat holding my lips tight. The last thing I wanted was for Mama to get up and slap the hell outta me. I hated living with her. She never listened. She was always mad and going off. I couldn't wait to graduate and bail outta there. I can't stand her. |
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