

# MR. POTCHER'S HOLIDAY

## By Bob Silberg & Barbara Klaskin Silberg

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ISBN: 978-1-61588-429-2

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# MR. POTCHER'S HOLIDAY

By Bob Silberg & Barbara Klaskin Silberg

**SYNOPSIS:** Mr. Potcher cancels the arts and extracurricular activities in the school where he has been hired as consultant. Darcy, a student desperate to fit in with the other kids, tries to change his mind. But she not only fails, she also inadvertently gives him the idea to eliminate all the holidays, which he does with a magic calendar. The outraged students ostracize Darcy.

Darcy has a nightmare of being taunted by Mr. Potcher and the students. But then, still dreaming, she consults with Plato and Shakespeare and hatches a plan with Cupid, Santa, Easter Bunny, Leprechaun, Jack-O'-Lantern and Thanksgiving Turkey to change Mr. Potcher's mind.

The next day, Darcy is amazed to see that the scheme goes into effect. Mr. Potcher winds up madly in love and open to the beauty in life. He reinstates the arts classes, extracurricular activities and all the holidays. And the students hail Darcy as the hero she aspired to become.

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

*(8-10 females, 8-14 males, 0-1 either, 0-1 extra, 2+ ensemble)*

### STUDENTS:

DARCY (f).....	Desperately wants to fit in with the other kids. <i>(125 lines)</i>
SHALENA (f).....	Darcy's best friend. <i>(30 lines)</i>
CHLOE (f).....	School's student body president. <i>(23 lines)</i>
MERYL (f).....	Captain of the school's debate team. A member of the Theater Arts Club. <i>(4 lines)</i>
CARMEN (f).....	Best friends forever with Andi (they have been known to finish each other's sentences). Star member of the Cheerleading Squad. <i>(13 lines)</i>

- ANDI (f) ..... Best friends forever with Carmen (they have been known to finish each other's sentences). Star member of the Cheerleading Squad. (15 lines)
- ZIMMER (m)..... Shalena's younger brother and Darcy's wisecracking friend. (20 lines)
- HARRY (m)..... Self-appointed leader of the Theater Arts Club. (27 lines)
- LORNE (m) ..... The school's star quarterback and captain of the football team. (3 lines)
- WILL (m)..... At the lower end of the age range. Good friends with Jake. Serves as political advisor to Chloe. A member of the Theater Arts Club and the school's marching band. (24 lines)
- JAKE (m)..... At the lower end of the age range. Good friends with Will. Serves as political advisor to Chloe. A member of the Theater Arts Club and the school's marching band. (22 lines)
- FACULTY AND STAFF:**
- MR. POTCHER (m) ..... 35-55; Consultant to the school's administration. (75 lines)
- MISS TEAFORD (f)..... 30s-40s; English teacher and faculty advisor to the Theater Arts Club. (36 lines)

- COACH (m)..... 45-65; Doesn't tolerate fools. He played football for Wagstaff when he attended the school, and he considers that the best thing he ever did in his formative years. *(3 lines)*
- MISS SNOOD (f) ..... 45-65; Part of the cafeteria staff. She loves her job. *(18 lines)*

### **HOLIDAY CHARACTERS:**

- CUPID (m)..... Pretty fed up with Valentine's Day and the whole god-of-love thing. *(39 lines)*
- LEPRECHAUN (m) ..... Represents St. Patrick's Day, is Irish through and through, including the accent. *(24 lines)*
- EASTER BUNNY (f) ..... A soprano. She is kind and sympathetic. *(12 lines)*
- JACK-O'-LANTERN (m) ..... Represents Halloween and is appropriately spooky. *(13 lines)*
- TURKEY (m/f) ..... Represents Thanksgiving and is usually a little behind the curve with regard to what's going on. Tends to hang with Jack-o'-lantern. *(4 lines)*
- SANTA CLAUS (m) ..... He's chubby, he's jolly, and he loves making children happy. *(21 lines)*
- CHILDREN'S DAY GUY (m)..... This is the iconic character for the holiday of Children's Day, which was in August until a sorceress eliminated it from existence. *(20 lines)*

### **DREAM AND FANTASY CHARACTERS:**

- CONDUCTOR (m) ..... Mr. Potcher's foil in the comedy song, "Potcher's Heroes." *(Non-Speaking)*

MONA LISA (f) .....	The famous painting by Leonardo da Vinci, come to life. (1 line)
PLATO (m).....	The famous Greek philosopher. (13 lines)
SHAKESPEARE (m).....	The famous playwright. (10 lines)

**ENSEMBLE:**

DARCY'S MOTHER (f) .....	Offstage voice. (1 line)
STUDENT (m/f).....	(1 line)
STUDENT CHORUS (m/f).....	Any number, optional. (Non-Speaking.)

**OPTIONAL DOUBLING**

MISS TEAFORD can double as MONA LISA.  
 COACH can double as SANTA and/or PLATO.  
 MERYL can double as EASTER BUNNY or TURKEY.  
 CHLOE can double as EASTER BUNNY or TURKEY.  
 LORNE can double as CHILDREN'S DAY GUY or JACK-O'-LANTERN.  
 HARRY can double as CHILDREN'S DAY GUY or JACK-O'-LANTERN.  
 WILL can double as CUPID or LEPRECHAUN or TURKEY.  
 JAKE can double as CUPID or LEPRECHAUN or TURKEY.  
 SHAKESPEARE can double as CONDUCTOR.

*Quick Costume Changes Note: Any student who doubles as a holiday character will have to change quickly during Act II, scene 5. If Santa and Plato are played by the same actor, he will have to change very quickly at the start of Act II, scene 3.*

**DURATION:** 90 minutes

**TIME:** Present.

**SETTING:** Quincy Adams Wagstaff Community School

**MUSICAL SYNOPSIS****ACT ONE****SCENE 1: AUDITORIUM STAGE****SONG #1: THANKSGIVING SONG**

*SHALENA, ZIMMER, MERYL, HARRY, CHLOE, JAKE, WILL, DARCY,  
STUDENT ENSEMBLE*

**SCENE 2: SCHOOL CAFETERIA****SONG #2: ANOTHER ONE FOR DARCY**

*DARCY, HARRY*

**SONG #3: I HEARD FROM A GUY**

*HARRY, CARMEN, ANDI, JAKE, WILL, SHALENA, MERYL, LORNE,  
DARCY, ZIMMER, CHLOE, STUDENT ENSEMBLE*

**SONG #4: TOO BUSY: STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT**

*CHLOE, STUDENT ENSEMBLE*

**SONG #5: TOO BUSY: FOOTBALL CAPTAIN**

*LORNE, STUDENT ENSEMBLE*

**SONG #6: TOO BUSY: DEBATE CAPTAIN**

*MERYL, ZIMMER, CHLOE, LORNE, STUDENT ENSEMBLE*

**SONG #7: TOO BUSY: DARCY!**

*DARCY*

**SONG #8: HAIL TO DARCY**

*STUDENTS*

**SCENE 3: MR. POTCHER'S OFFICE****SONG #9: POTCHER'S HEROES**

*MR. POTCHER*

**SCENE 4: CLASSROOM****SCENE 5: SCHOOL CAFETERIA****SCENE 6: MR. POTCHER'S OFFICE****SCENE 7: ISLAND OF LOST HOLIDAYS****SONG #10: AUGUST HAS NO HOLIDAYS**

*CHILDREN'S DAY GUY, HOLIDAY CHARACTERS ENSEMBLE*

**SCENE 8: CLASSROOM****SONG #11: FILLING IN THE BUBBLES**

*HARRY, ZIMMER, CARMEN, ANDI, MISS SNOOD, JAKE, WILL,  
CHLOE, STUDENTS*

**SONG #12: ANYONE BUT ME**

*DARCY*

*INTERMISSION*

**ACT TWO**

**SCENE 1: SCHOOL CAFETERIA**

**SONG #13: KEEP A GOIN'**

*ZIMMER, SHALENA, MISS SNOOD*

**SCENE 2: ISLAND OF LOST HOLIDAYS**

**SONG #14: ISLE OF LOST HOLIDAYS**

*HOLIDAY CHARACTERS*

**SCENE 3: DARCY'S BEDROOM & SHALENA'S BEDROOM**

**SONG #15: NIGHTMARE MEDLEY**

*MR. POTCHER, MONA LISA, PLATO, NIGHTMARE CHORUS*

**SONG #16: AT THE TOUCH OF LOVE**

*DARCY, SHAKESPEARE, PLATO, MONA LISA, NIGHTMARE CHORUS*

**SCENE 4: SCHOOL CAFETERIA & ISLAND OF LOST HOLIDAYS**

**SONG #17: LULLABY FOR POTCHER**

*LEPRECHAUN, SANTA, EASTER BUNNY, JACK-O'-LANTERN,  
TURKEY, DARCY, MISS TEAFORD, MR. POTCHER,*

**SONG #18: TAKE A CHANCE**

*MR. POTCHER*

**SONG #19: ISLE OF LOST HOLIDAYS (REPRISE)**

*HOLIDAY CHARACTERS, MR. POTCHER, DARCY*

**SCENE 5: IN FRONT OF CURTAIN**

**SCENE 6: AUDITORIUM STAGE**

**SONG #20: AS WE GO 'ROUND THE SUN**

*ALL STUDENTS, MISS TEAFORD*

**SET**

SCHOOL AUDITORIUM STAGE: decorated for Thanksgiving pageant in scene 1. Decorated for pageant celebrating Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa in final scene.

SCHOOL CAFETERIA:

1. Tables with chairs or benches (enough for multiple students to sit)
2. A cafeteria food station

MR. POTCHER'S OFFICE: Door, desk, desk chair

CLASSROOM: chairs or desk-chairs for all students

ISLAND OF LOST HOLIDAYS: A typical desert island, with a palm tree or two embedded in the sand and the ocean visible in the near-background.

DARCY'S BEDROOM: Bed

SHALENA'S BEDROOM: minimal suggestion of a girl's bedroom.

**SOUND EFFECTS**

- Island Sounds: ocean waves and seagulls
- Cupid Slurping 1 and 2: Slurping sounds through a straw
- Cupid's Arrow: an arrow flying through the air and hitting its target.
- Sploosh!: Mr. Potcher plopping face-first into a bowl of apple sauce.

**PROPS****ACT ONE****SCENE 1**

- pom-poms
- football helmet

**SCENE 2**

- snacks and beverages for the after-show party
- clipboard or tablet
- Chloe's appointment book
- Lorne's newspaper with full-page ad for "all the shrimp you can eat" seafood restaurant.



**SCENE 3**

- papers and other stuff for the top of Mr. Potcher's desk
- framed portraits of Captain Hook, Ebenezer Scrooge, and "Image Not Available"
- orchestra conductor's baton
- CRUD sign or banner

**SCENE 4**

- 2 laptop computers or tablets

**SCENE 5**

- cafeteria trays with food

**SCENE 6**

- magic calendar
- eraser

**SCENE 8**

- guest passes for Mr. Potcher to hand out
- pencils
- papers for students to hand in
- cafeteria trays with "food"
- serving spoon for Miss Snood
- boxes, supposedly holding holiday decorations

**ACT TWO****SCENE 1**

- fork and plate holding a slice of pumpkin pie

**SCENE 2**

- elaborate tropical drink for Cupid
- beach lounge chair for Cupid
- 5 upright beach chairs for the other holiday characters

**SCENE 3**

- 2 phones
- 2 laptop computers or tablets (again)
- Darcy's bedside lamp
- palette and brush for "Leonardo da Vinci"
- picture frame with removable print of Mona Lisa
- Cupid's bow and heart-tipped arrows
- coconut and straw

**SCENE 4**

- several big reference books
- plate of cookies
- 3 glasses of milk
- bowl (supposedly containing apple sauce), big enough for Mr. Potcher's face to fall into
- cauldron and stirrer
- sparkly material for Jack-o'-lantern to toss into the cauldron
- Cupid's bow and heart-tipped arrow (again)
- magic calendar (again) with big quill pen

**PRODUCTION NOTES**

You are encouraged to cast all the characters without regard to ethnicity, including the holiday characters.

All Sound Cues are available at the end of the script.

Detailed Character Descriptions are available at the end of the script.

**CUPID'S ARROW EFFECT:** As CUPID releases the bow's string, when the "Cupid's arrow" sound cue is played, he moves his arrow out of view of the audience. Simultaneously, MR. POTCHER holds a duplicate arrow, which he had been hiding, at his chest. The audience will only see the shaft and feathers of this arrow since the heart-shaped tip has presumably penetrated his chest. The HOLIDAY CHARACTERS watch the arrow's imaginary flight from Cupid's bow to Mr. Potcher's chest, thereby encouraging the audience to redirect their attention to Mr. Potcher as Cupid hides his arrow.

“AUGUST HAS NO HOLIDAYS”: It is important that as the holiday characters sing backup, they do the synchronized, stylized choreography that is characteristic of doo-wop songs. For great examples, find videos of *The Temptations*.

MAGIC CALENDAR SUGGESTIONS: Make an oversized book or calendar-type object for Mr. Potcher to manipulate, and project the pages onto a screen for the audience to see. To add mystery, hide a light inside the magic calendar to make it glow.

### PREMIERE PRODUCTION

*Mr. Potcher's Holiday* was the first musical to win Texas Nonprofit Theatre's biennial “TNT POPS!” competition. The Bastrop Opera House produced the show's premiere at the Jerry Fay Wilhelm Center for the Performing Arts in Bastrop, TX.

### DEDICATION

To our parents,  
whose original cast albums fostered our love of musicals.

**ACT ONE, SCENE 1**

**AT START:** Auditorium Stage – evening. SHALENA, ZIMMER, HARRY, MERYL, WILL, JAKE, and CHLOE, plus optional supplemental CHORUS stands facing the audience. They are lit dramatically, as if in some dark, avant-garde theatrical piece. One by one, they start singing of their sorrows and tribulations.

**SONG #1: THANKSGIVING SONG**

SHALENA, ZIMMER, MERYL, HARRY, CHLOE, JAKE, WILL,  
DARCY, STUDENT ENSEMBLE

**SOUND CUE 1****SHALENA:**

IT'S LATE NOVEMBER.

**ZIMMER:**

HALLOWEEN CANDY'S GONE.

**MERYL:**

I CAN HARDLY REMEMBER  
SLEEPING TILL AFTER DAWN.

**HARRY:**

IT'S DARK BEFORE DINNER.

**CHLOE:**

IT'S HOMEWORK UNTIL THEN.

**JAKE:**

CHRISTMAS IS JUST IN MY DREAMS

**WILL:**

AND IT SEEMS IT WILL NEVER BE SUMMER AGAIN.

**DARCY:** *(Enters.)*

BUT... *(Exits.)*

*The lighting brightens, revealing a cheerfully decorated Thanksgiving-themed set, and all the kids sing and dance joyfully. What starts out as a Thanksgiving pageant evolves into a classic Broadway-style number in which the kids use pilgrim hats as top hats.*

**STUDENT ENSEMBLE:**

HEY! IT'S THANKSGIVING!  
PASS THE PUMPKIN PIE.  
JUST PUT A DRUMSTICK ON MY PLATE AND  
MY SPIRITS FLY!

HEY, IT'S THANKSGIVING  
LIKE DAYS OF OLD.  
CRANBERRY SAUCE AND MASHED POTATOES  
AND JELL-O MOLD.

DON'T BE SAD  
DON'T BE BLUE  
THOUGH AUTUMN WINDS ARE BLOWING  
AND WINTER'S ALMOST DUE.

TELL YOUR CARES  
TOODLE-OO.  
WHAT IF SKIES ARE MURKY  
AND YOU'RE FAR FROM PERKY.  
IF YOU'RE NOT A TURKEY  
YOU OUGHT TO GIVE THANKS  
FOR ALL THAT YOU'VE GOT, SO...

LET'S ALL BE GRATEFUL  
AND CELEBRATE-FUL  
AND THEN WE'LL HAVE ANOTHER PLATEFUL  
OF HAPPY TIMES.

AND WHEN I GET THAT WISHBONE  
I'LL WISH WITH ALL MY MIGHT  
THAT IT COULD ALWAYS BE THANKSGIVING  
AND WE COULD ALWAYS HAVE THANKSGIVING  
'CAUSE IT WOULD ALWAYS BE THANKSGIVING  
EACH AND EV'RY NIGHT!

AND IF YOU'RE STILL GRIM  
MAKE LIKE A PILGRIM  
GRINNING FROM EAR TO EAR, 'CAUSE  
IT'S THANKSGIVING  
AND YOU KNOW THANKSGIVING'S  
THE VERY BEST TIME OF THE YEAR!  
YEAH!

*On applause, MISS TEAFORD enters, also applauding.*

**MISS TEAFORD:** *(To audience.)* The Quincy Adams Wagstaff Community School Theater Arts Club!

*STUDENTS bow.*

**MISS TEAFORD:** And let's hear it one more time for the Wagstaff Wolverines, who are going to win the big Thanksgiving game!

*STUDENTS cheer. CARMEN and ANDI enter and prepare to flank the entering football player.*

**MISS TEAFORD:** Team captain Lorne Winfield!

*LORNE, in uniform and carrying his helmet, runs onto the stage from the wings between the waving pom-poms of ANDI and CARMEN.*

**CARMEN and ANDI:** *(Doing a cheer.)*

Fight the fight!  
Dream the dream!  
Disembowel the other team!  
Yaaaaaaaaay!!

*CARMEN and ANDI cross to the other side of the stage to flank MERYL.*

**MISS TEAFORD:** And please join me in wishing good luck at the Fall Forensics Festival to our debate team, the Wagstaff Wordsmiths, led by our own Meryl Darrow!

*MERYL steps forward and acknowledges the applause in a stately manner.*

**CARMEN and ANDI:** *(Doing a cheer.)*

Argue! Argue!  
Yaaaaaaaaay!!

*MERYL looks askance at them and steps back into line with the other singers.*

**MISS TEAFORD:** Thank you so much for coming to our Thanksgiving program. We hope to see you again in just three weeks for our big winter holiday show. It's going to be great! Thanks again, good night, and Go Wolverines!

**ALL STUDENTS:** Go Wolverines!

**SOUND CUE 2:** *Transition to Act One, Scene 2.*

## ACT ONE, SCENE 2

**AT START:** *School Cafeteria – night. All STUDENTS in previous scene are celebrating at a cast party. COACH crosses the stage with a paper cup in one hand and a paper plate loaded with cookies in the other. MISS SNOOD, a cafeteria worker wearing the typical hairnet, apron, and plastic gloves, crosses with a tray of goodies. CARMEN and ANDI spot DARCY at the refreshments table and rush over to her.*

**CARMEN:** Darcy! There you are!

**ANDI:** Are you going to have all those torn pom-poms fixed before the Saturday game?

**DARCY:** Oh yeah, no problem!

**HARRY:** *(To STUDENTS.)* Listen everybody! Like Miss Teaford said, we've only got three weeks till the Christmas show, so we better get started making plans. *(Consults his clipboard or tablet.)*

**CARMEN:** *(To DARCY.)* Oh, and don't forget the shoe polish.

**ANDI:** Scuffs count against us!

**DARCY:** OK. But listen, when do I get to try out for the squad?

**HARRY:** Now who's going to do set design and decoration?

**SHALENA:** I'll do design if you'll help me decorate.

**HARRY:** Great! Ticket sales?

*ALL look around at each other.*

**HARRY:** Ticket sales. Anybody? *(No takers.)* I guess that's another one for Darcy. OK, Darcy?

**DARCY:** *(To HARRY.)* 'Scuse me?

**HARRY:** Ticket sales?

**DARCY:** Oh. OK, sure.

**ANDI:** (*To CARMEN.*) Ohmygod, I almost forgot! Who's bringing Marvin the Mascot for the halftime show?

**CARMEN:** That's another one for Darcy.

**DARCY:** OK, but what about the tryout? I've been waiting all semester.

**ANDI:** Oh sure, sure.

**CARMEN:** Real soon.

**ANDI:** It's just that the team is full right now.

**CARMEN:** You know how it is.

**HARRY:** Cast party committee?

**CHLOE:** (*Flirting with HARRY.*) Want to work on that together, Harry? It'll be fun!

**HARRY:** (*Not enthusiastic.*) OK, sure. Cleanup committee?

**CHLOE:** Definitely another one for Darcy.

*ALL STUDENTS voice their agreement.*

**HARRY:** OK Darcy?

**SONG #2: ANOTHER ONE FOR DARCY**

*DARCY, HARRY*

**SOUND CUE 3: ANOTHER ONE FOR DARCY, Part 1**

**DARCY:** (*Gives the audience a look that says "See what I have to put up with?" and then sings.*)

ANOTHER ONE FOR DARCY  
 ANOTHER CHANCE TO SHINE  
 AT CLEANING OUT THE MASCOT'S CAGE  
 OR HANGING UP A SIGN.  
 OR SELLING ALL THE TICKETS,  
 THAT'S MY BIG CLAIM TO FAME.  
 WELL, I DON'T MIND, NOT REALLY.  
 AT LEAST THEY KNOW MY NAME.

ONLY...

SOMETIMES I THINK  
 IT SURE WOULD BE COOL  
 IF ONE DAY AS I'M WALKING  
 HOME AFTER SCHOOL,  
 THERE'S A HOLE IN THE GROUND



**DARCY:** *(Continued.)*

AND A CROWD, AND THEY SHOUT  
THAT A TODDLER FELL IN  
AND HE CAN'T GET OUT!  
THERE'S POLICE, PARAMEDICS,  
AND FIREMEN AND ALL.  
BUT THEY CAN'T GET IN  
'CAUSE THE OPENING'S TOO SMALL.

THEY SEE ME JUMP IN.  
THEY HEAR ME HIT BOTTOM.  
THEN SILENCE...  
TILL THEY HEAR ME CALL OUT: "I GOT 'EM!"  
I CARRY HIM OUT  
WITH GRACE AND APLOMB  
RIGHT TO THE ARMS  
OF HIS DAD AND HIS MOM.  
THEY THANK ME FOR SAVING  
THEIR CHILD FROM HIS FALL.  
AND I SAY "IT WAS NOTHING,  
NOTHING AT ALL."

IT GETS ON THE NEWS  
AND EV'RYONE SEES.  
AND NEXT DAY AT SCHOOL  
THEY DROP TO THEIR KNEES  
AND THROW LITTLE FLOWERS  
WHEREVER I WALK  
AND LISTEN IN RAPTURE  
WHENEVER I TALK  
AND I'M THE MOST POPULAR  
GIRL IN THE SCHOOL!  
IT SURE WOULD BE NICE.  
IT SURE WOULD BE COOL!

**HARRY:** Darcy? Darcy? Cleanup committee? OK?

**DARCY:** Oh, yeah. No problem.

**SOUND CUE 4:** ANOTHER ONE FOR DARCY, Part 2

**DARCY:** *(Continued.)*

BUT MEANWHILE, I KEEP DOING  
JUST WHAT THEY WANT ME TO.  
WHENEVER THERE'S THE TYPE OF JOB  
THAT NO ONE ELSE WILL DO.  
I'M MISS RELIABILITY.

**DARCY:** *(Continued.)*

ON ME THEY CAN DEPEND.  
AND I'M VERY NEARLY ONE OF THEM.  
I'M KIND OF LIKE THEIR FRIEND.

ONLY...  
SOMETIMES AT NIGHT  
WHEN I LOOK AT THE SKIES,  
I THINK WHAT IF THEY NEEDED SOMEONE  
JUST MY SIZE  
TO FLY IN A SPACESHIP  
AND TOUCH DOWN ON MARS  
THEN LOOP AROUND SATURN  
AND ON TO THE STARS.

I DISCOVER A PLANET,  
STRANGE AS CAN BE,  
THAT'S RULED BY A GIRL  
WHO'S EXACTLY LIKE ME!

AND WHEN I RETURN  
THEY HAVE A PARADE  
AND THE PRESIDENT'S THERE  
AND SPEECHES ARE MADE.  
AND THEY SAY AS A MEDAL  
IS HUNG ON MY CHEST:  
"THAT'S ANOTHER ONE FOR DARCY,  
'CAUSE DARCY'S THE BEST!"

**HARRY:** Oh – Darcy? Can you possibly wait by the loading dock from four to seven in the morning in case the guy tries to deliver the backdrop?

**DARCY:** Um, yeah... I guess.

**HARRY:** That's great! He's not sure he'll make it. But we need someone there just in case, you know?

**DARCY:** No problem.

**SOUND CUE 5:** ANOTHER ONE FOR DARCY, Part 3

**DARCY:** *(Continued.)*

WELL, FANTASY'S FUN  
AND DREAMING IS FINE.  
BUT IT'S NOT REAL LIFE.  
AT LEAST NOT MINE.

**DARCY:** *(Continued.)*

AND SO I SAY: "NO PROBLEM,"  
AND THEN I GIVE A GRIN.  
I DO WHATEVER'S NEEDED  
AND HOPE THAT I FIT IN.  
I GUESS I'M SORT OF USED TO IT.  
I'M PRETTY MUCH RESIGNED.  
IT'S NOT SO BAD, NOT REALLY.  
I KIND OF LIKE DON'T MIND.

**HARRY:** OK, we need someone to hand-clean the mud off the costumes that are too delicate for the dry cleaner. Anyone?

*ALL look at DARCY.*

**DARCY:** Got it.

**SOUND CUE 6:** ANOTHER ONE FOR DARCY, Part 4

**MISS TEAFORD:** *(Enters.)* Kids, you did a wonderful job tonight. I'm proud of you all!

*STUDENTS cheer themselves.*

**MISS TEAFORD:** Enjoy yourselves at the party. But get a good night's sleep – we've got to start work on the next show tomorrow!

**HARRY:** I've already started the sign-up sheet.

*MR. POTCHER just barely enters. He is dressed in black, somber and foreboding.*

**MISS TEAFORD:** Oh, that's great. So tomorrow—

**MR. POTCHER:** Miss Teaford. May I have a word?

**MISS TEAFORD:** Oh. Certainly, Mr. Potcher. Excuse me, kids.

*MISS TEAFORD crosses to MR. POTCHER and they exit together.*

**DARCY:** Who was that?

**HARRY:** Mr. Potcher? He's a consultant.

**DARCY:** A what?

**ZIMMER:** A consultant. The school pays him to tell them all the things they're doing wrong.

**CHLOE:** Gee, my mother does that for free!

**MERYL:** He's kind of creepy, isn't he?

**HARRY:** (*Knowing laugh.*) You have no idea!

**MERYL:** What do you mean?

**CHLOE:** (*Eagerly.*) What do you know?

**HARRY:** Are you ready for this? Listen!

**SONG #3: I HEARD FROM A GUY**

*HARRY, CARMEN, ANDI, JAKE, WILL, SHALENA, MERYL, LORNE, DARCY, ZIMMER, CHLOE, STUDENT ENSEMBLE*

**SOUND CUE 7: I HEARD FROM A GUY, Part 1**

**HARRY:** (*Very confidentially.*)

I HEARD FROM A GUY,  
WHO HAS NOTHING TO GAIN,  
THAT POTCHER'S CONTROLLED  
BY A CHIP IN HIS BRAIN,  
INSTALLED BY HIS MASTERS  
IN SOME FOREIGN LAND  
TO MAKE HIM DO ANYTHING  
THEY MAY COMMAND.  
WHEN THEY SEND THE SIGNAL,  
WHEN HE GETS THE CALL,  
HE'LL PICK UP A HATCHET  
AND SLAUGHTER US ALL!

**CHORUS:**

(*Spoken with revulsion.*) EWWW! OW! I NEVER KNEW!

(*Sung.*) IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE, BUT IT'S GOT TO BE TRUE!

**CARMEN:**

I KNOW I HEARD SOMEWHERE,  
OR MAYBE I READ,  
THAT POTCHER IS ONE OF  
THE WALKING UNDEAD!  
HE CASTS NO REFLECTION,  
HE SLEEPS IN A COFFIN,  
AND HAS TO DRINK BLOOD  
ONCE A WEEK OR MORE OFTEN!

**ANDI:**

IT'S TOTALLY TRUE.  
GO TO GOOGLE AND CHECK.  
BUT NEVER LET POTCHER  
GET CLOSE TO YOUR NECK!

**CHORUS:**

*(Spoken with revulsion.)* EWWW! OW! I NEVER KNEW!  
*(Sung.)* IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE, BUT IT'S GOT TO BE TRUE!  
RUMORS THIS VICIOUS  
ARE SO DELICIOUS!

**JAKE:**

AT HIS LAST SCHOOL, A BOY  
WHO LOOKED INTO HIS EYES  
FELL UNDER HIS POWER TO...  
HYPNOTIZE!  
I KNOW FOR A FACT  
'CAUSE I READ IN A BLOG,  
THIS KID THOUGHT THAT HE HAD  
TURNED INTO A HOG!  
AND POTCHER DENIED IT.  
HE SAID HE WAS FAKIN'.  
BUT SECRETLY USED HIM  
FOR HAM AND FOR BACON!

**CHORUS:**

*(Spoken with revulsion.)* EWWW! OW! I NEVER KNEW!  
*(Sung.)* IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE, BUT IT'S GOT TO BE TRUE!

*ALL STUDENTS whisper into each other's ears. Each pops up from the mass whispering to say his or her line.*

**WILL:** *(Spoken in rhythm.)*

I HEARD HE KICKS PUPPIES.

**SHALENA:** *(Spoken in rhythm.)*

HE'S NASTY TO CATS.

**MERYL:** *(Spoken in rhythm.)*

HE LIVES AMONG SPIDERS  
AND LIZARDS AND RATS.

**JAKE:** *(Spoken in rhythm.)*

HE SWINDLES OLD LADIES.

**LORNE:** *(Spoken in rhythm.)*

AND DISABLED VETS.

**DARCY:** *(Spoken in rhythm.)*

RUNS A SWEATSHOP FOR ORPHANS  
WHO CAN'T PAY THEIR DEBTS.

**CARMEN:** *(Spoken in rhythm.)*

HE CHEATS AT CANASTA.

**ANDI:** *(Spoken in rhythm.)*

HE ALWAYS TELLS LIES.

**ZIMMER:** *(Spoken in rhythm.)*

FOR LUNCH, HE HAS ROAD KILL  
WITH COLESLAW AND FRIES.

**CHLOE:** *(Spoken in rhythm.)*

HE BOILS LITTLE BABIES  
TILL THEY TURN TO GLUE!

**CHORUS:** *(Spoken.)* Ewwwwww!

**SOUND CUE 8:** I HEARD FROM A GUY, Part 2

**EVERYONE:** *(Spoken in rhythm.)*

AND I SWEAR THAT EACH WORD  
OF THIS STORY IS TRUE!

**MISS TEAFORD:** *(Enters. Visibly shaken.)* Kids. Kids.

*STUDENTS give MISS TEAFORD their attention.*

**MISS TEAFORD:** I'm so sorry, but the holiday show is canceled.

**THEATER ARTS STUDENTS:** WHAT??

*ALL STUDENTS and COACH pay attention to MISS TEAFORD.*

**MISS TEAFORD:** There won't be any more shows for a while. Mr. Potcher is canceling all non-academic classes and extracurricular activities.

**HARRY:** But why?

**MISS TEAFORD:** He wants us to concentrate on improving grades.

*ALL STUDENTS ad lib.: "Grades?," "What's wrong with our grades?," (Etc.)*

**MISS TEAFORD:** I don't know. But there won't be any extracurricular activities for a while.

**COACH:** What about sports? He's not canceling sports, is he? I mean, we've got the big Thanksgiving game coming up!

**MISS TEAFORD:** I think he is.

**CARMEN and ANDI:** What??

**MISS TEAFORD:** He said art classes, music classes, and all extracurricular activities.

**COACH:** Well, we'll see about this! I'm not taking this lying down! (*To STUDENTS.*) All practice continues as scheduled until you hear different from ME! (*Storms off stage.*)

**DARCY:** (*To MISS TEAFORD.*) He can't do this! Can he?

**MISS TEAFORD:** I'm afraid he can. I'm sorry. (*Exits.*)

**CARMEN:** We've got to do something!

**WILL:** Someone's got to change his mind!

**JAKE:** You mean talk to him? Like in person? (*Skeptically.*) Yeah, right.

**HARRY:** What else can we do? Somebody's got to step up!

**SHALENA:** What about Chloe?

*CHLOE'S eyes widen in horror, but she quickly changes to a fake-confident expression when SHALENA turns to face her.*

**SHALENA:** (*To CHLOE.*) After all, you're the student body president!

**ALL STUDENTS:** (*Ad lib.*) Yeah, Chloe! (*Then, chanting.*) Chlo-ee! Chlo-ee! Chlo-ee! Chlo-ee!

**SONG #4: TOO BUSY: STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT**

*CHLOE, STUDENT ENSEMBLE*

**SOUND CUE 9**

**CHLOE:** I accept your nomination. I accept your sacred trust. And I vow to do my duty as a noble statesman must. I'll negotiate and reason till he yields to our demands. Rest easy 'cause your future's in the very best of hands.

*(Sings.)* BUT WAIT! OH NO!

I'M SORRY TO SAY THAT I CAN'T GO.

*STUDENTS ad lib.:* "What?", "She can't go?", "Why not?", "What's wrong?", *etc.*

**CHLOE:** *(Singing.)*

I KNOW THAT YOU'LL FORGIVE ME  
IF YOU COME AND TAKE A LOOK  
AT ALL THE OBLIGATIONS HERE  
IN MY APPOINTMENT BOOK.

*CHLOE holds the appointment book open, inviting the STUDENTS to see it, but snaps it shut when they try. CHLOE refers to the appointment book during the rest of the song, but holds it so that only she can read it.*

**STUDENTS:**

SO MANY OBLIGATIONS ARE  
IN HER APPOINTMENT BOOK.

**CHLOE:**

THE ORTHODONTIST NEEDS SOME TIME  
TO TIGHTEN UP MY BRACES.  
MY SOFTBALL COACH SAYS I NEED PRACTICE  
RUNNING 'ROUND THE BASES.  
I'VE GOT A TEST TOMORROW  
AND I'VE REALLY GOT TO CRAM.  
AND I SAID I'D SHOW MY UNCLE  
HOW TO FILTER OUT HIS SPAM.

**STUDENTS:**

SHE SAID SHE'D SHOW HER UNCLE  
HOW TO FILTER OUT HIS SPAM.



**CHLOE:**

OUR GARDEN NEEDS SOME WATERING  
AND I'M THE ONE TO DO IT.  
MY HAIR IS REALLY DIRTY AND  
I SIMPLY MUST SHAMPOO IT.

YOU KNOW MY DEVOTION  
IS ALL THAT IT SHOULD BE.  
BUT YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO FIND  
SOMEBODY ELSE INSTEAD OF ME.

**STUDENTS:**

YES, WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO FIND  
SOMEBODY ELSE INSTEAD OF SHE.

*STUDENTS turn away from CHLOE, who breathes a big sigh of relief.*

**CARMEN:** Lorne could do it!

*LORNE is horror-stricken. He motions no, no, no.*

**ANDI:** Great idea!

*CARMEN and ANDI turn toward LORNE, waving their pom-poms and cheering. His "no, no, no" hand motions change to fist pumps.*

**STUDENTS:** (*Ad lib.*) Yeah, Lorne can do it, great idea! (*Then, chanting.*) Lorne! Lorne! Lorne! Lorne! Lorne! Lorne! Lorne! Lorne!

**SONG #5: TOO BUSY: FOOTBALL CAPTAIN**

*LORNE, STUDENT ENSEMBLE*

**SOUND CUE 10**

*LORNE puts on a big fake grin and sings with false bravado.*

**LORNE:**

(*Spoken in rhythm.*) GIMME THE BALL, GIMME THE BALL!

I'LL TAKE IT ALL THE WAY!

(*Sing.*) I'LL GIVE A HUNDRED AND TEN PERCENT!

I'LL REALLY COME TO PLAY!

I'LL RUN ACROSS HIS GOAL LINE.

**LORNE:** *(Continued.)*

I'LL NEVER EVER FUMBLE.  
I'M STRONG AND FAST,  
AND BEST FOR LAST,  
INCREDI-BALLY HUMBLE!

BUT TIME OUT, STOP THE CLOCK.  
YOU'RE TALKING TO ONE BUSY JOCK.  
I'D LOVE TO SCORE A TOUCHDOWN  
ON BEHALF OF MY WHOLE CLASS,  
BUT MY SCHEDULE IS FILLED UP  
AND SO I'M GONNA HAVE TO PASS.

**STUDENTS:**

OH NO, HIS SCHEDULE'S ALL FILLED UP.  
HE'S GONNA HAVE TO PASS.

**LORNE:**

I GOTTA GO TO PRACTICE  
OR THE COACH IS GONNA KILL ME!  
AND THEN I GOTTA BABYSIT,  
WHICH REALLY DOESN'T THRILL ME.  
I GOTTA WEATHER-STRIP THE DOORS.  
THE WINDOWS ALL NEED CAULKING.  
AND MY GIRLFRIEND SAYS WE NEED TO DO  
SOME HEAVY-DUTY TALKING.

**STUDENTS:**

BE CAREFUL WHEN YOUR GIRLFRIEND SAYS  
YOU NEED TO DO SOME TALKING!

**LORNE:**

MY MOM'S BEEN ON ME FOR A MONTH  
TO STRAIGHTEN UP MY ROOM.  
AND I JUST CAN'T MISS THIS SPECIAL:

*LORNE holds up a newspaper ad for a seafood restaurant.*

ALL THE SHRIMP I CAN CONSUME!  
I'D LOVE TO TACKLE MISTER P.  
I'D KNOCK HIM ON HIS HEAD!  
BUT SOMEONE ELSE WILL HAVE TO TALK  
TO MISTER P. INSTEAD.

**STUDENTS:**

YES, SOMEONE ELSE WILL HAVE TO TALK  
TO MR. P. INSTEAD.

As the STUDENTS turn away from him, LORNE'S cheeks puff out and he wipes the sweat of fear from his brow.

**HARRY:** Well, who else can we get?

**ZIMMER:** Wait, I got it! It's perfect! Meryl – captain of the debate team!  
She can talk anybody into anything!

**STUDENTS:** (*Chanting.*) Mer-yl! Mer-yl! Mer-yl! Mer-yl!

**SONG #6: TOO BUSY: DEBATE CAPTAIN**

MERYL, ZIMMER, CHLOE, LORNE, STUDENT ENSEMBLE

**SOUND CUE 11**

MERYL looks daggers at ZIMMER, but when the STUDENTS turn to her, she follows the pattern that CHLOE and LORNE have established.

**MERYL:**

YOU'VE FIN'LY CHOSEN WISELY.  
I'M A CHAMPION LOGICIAN.  
AND WHEN WE SPAR, I KNOW I'LL ARGUE  
HIM INTO SUBMISSION.  
HIS CASTLE, I'M ABOUT TO STORM!  
HIS SHIP, I'M GONNA SCUTTLE!  
WHEN I PRESENT A CASE THERE IS  
NO QUESTION OF REBUTTAL!  
BUT OH WAIT!

**ZIMMER:** (*Spoken in rhythm.*)

HERE WE GO!

**MERYL:**

I'M BUSIER THAN YOU COULD EVER KNOW.  
MY DATEBOOK HAS ACTIVITY  
ON EV'RY SINGLE LINE.  
AND THEREFORE, SAD TO SAY,  
I MUST REGRETFULLY DECLINE.

**STUDENTS:**

YOU KNOW, WE HAD A FEELING  
SHE'D REGRETFULLY DECLINE.

**MERYL:**

I'VE GOT TO WRITE A PAPER  
ON THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS.  
AND THEN I HAVE A TOURNAMENT  
IN THREE-DIMENSIONAL CHESS.  
I HAVE A MUSIC LESSON,  
I PLAY ADVANCED PERCUSSION.  
AND THEN I TUTOR SOMEONE  
IN CONVERSATIONAL RUSSIAN.

**STUDENTS:**

AND THEN SHE TUTORS SOME POOR KID  
IN CONVERSATIONAL RUSSIAN.

**MERYL:**

MY SISTER'S GETTING MARRIED  
AND I'M GONNA BAKE THE CAKE.  
AND THEN A TUTU FITTING,  
'CAUSE I'M DANCING IN SWAN LAKE.

*As music from Swan Lake plays, she dances on point, flapping her arms like wings, and exits as if it's a natural part of the dance. The STUDENTS look at one another, confused. One of the STUDENTS walks offstage and retrieves MERYL in time for her to continue singing.*

**MERYL:**

I'M JUST THE ONE TO MAKE OUR CASE,  
A VERBAL ACROBAT!  
BUT I CAN'T SPARE THE TIME  
AND THERE IS NO DEBATING THAT!

**STUDENTS:**

NO, SHE CAN'T SPARE THE TIME  
AND THERE IS NO DEBATING THAT!

**CHLOE, LORNE, and MERYL:**

WE'RE VERY, VERY SORRY  
BUT YOU CAN PLAINLY SEE  
THAT NO ONE IS AS BUSY  
AS BUSY AS WE THREE.

**STUDENTS:**

WE DON'T KNOW HOW THEY FOUND THE TIME  
FOR THAT APOLOGY.  
YES, NO ONE IS AS BUSY...

**ZIMMER:** *(Spoken in rhythm.)*  
THEIR SCHEDULES MAKE US DIZZY!

**CHLOE, LORNE, MERYL, and STUDENTS:**  
YES, NO ONE IS AS BUSY, BUSY, BUSY,  
BUSY AS WE (THESE) THREE.  
*(Shouted.)* BUSY!

**WILL:** Well, this is great! Now what are we going to do?

**HARRY:** Any volunteers?

*STUDENTS look down sheepishly and try to become invisible.*

**ANDI:** Hey! I think I know who we can get.

*STUDENTS look at ANDI, then follow her gaze to DARCY, who is at one end of the crowd. DARCY turns her head too, to see who they're looking at, smiling in anticipation of spotting the person who will take on this onerous task. But there is no one beyond her, so she looks back at the other kids, who are all looking right at her. DARCY'S smile fades as realization hits her.*

**DARCY:** Ohhh, no no no no!

**CARMEN:** You're the perfect person for the job!

*DARCY launches into an improvised song and dance, trying the same tactic as CHLOE, LORNE, and MERYL.*

**SONG #7: TOO BUSY: DARCY!**

DARCY

**DARCY:** *(Sung a cappella.)*  
OHhh... I'M SO BUSY.  
YES, I'M SO BUSY.  
I'D LOVE TO DO IT  
BUT I AM WAY TOO BUSY.

*DARCY tries to get the STUDENTS to sing the chorus part.*

**DARCY:** *(Continued. Sung a cappella.)*

YES, SHE'S BUSY

OH, SO BUSY

HEY, SHE'S BUSY, BUSY, BUSY, BUSY,—

*(Spoken.)* You're not singing—

HEY, I'M BUSY

YEAH, SO BUSY

I'M REALLY BUSY, BUSY, BUSY, BUSY, BUSY.

WOW, SO BUSY...

*DARCY starts dancing away from the STUDENTS, but ANDI blocks her path.*

**ANDI:** Darcy, we need you.

**DARCY:** *(Frenetic.)* Not me – I'm no student leader! I'm cleaning out cages and fixing pom-poms and the cleanup committee. Yeah, the cleanup committee! *(Looking around.)* Would you look at the mess we've left here. Tsk, tsk, tsk. I'd better get started straightening up.

*DARCY takes a step or two, trying to exit, but HARRY blocks her path.*

**HARRY:** There's nothing to be afraid of, Darcy. *(To CHLOE, LORNE, and MERYL.)* Is there?

**CHLOE, LORNE, and MERYL:** *(Strategically blocking DARCY. In unison, way too enthusiastically.)* Noooooo!

**DARCY:** *(Feigning calm reasonableness.)* Tell you what. I know what let's do. I'll find someone to talk to Mr. Potcher. Huh? OK? I'll search the whole school! I'll look in every nook and cranny, under the desks, behind the lockers – everywhere! In fact, I'd better get started!

*DARCY takes a step or two away from the crowd. This time, CARMEN blocks her path.*

**CARMEN:** Darcy – Mr. Potcher is just a guy.

**DARCY:** (*Flustered.*) Just a guy? Didn't you hear that song? He's got a hatchet and coleslaw! He boils little puppies. He hypnotizes bacon! Never let him get close to your neck, you said. Well, he's not getting anywhere near this neck!!

**HARRY:** Oh, that's just silly rumors. (*To the other kids.*) Right?

**STUDENTS:** (*Ominously.*) RIIIIIIIGHT!

**SHALENA:** (*Sincerely.*) You know, Darcy, I think you can do it!

*SHALENA'S vote of confidence calms DARCY a bit and she becomes more receptive to what the student say.*

**HARRY:** You'd have us all behind you!

**ZIMMER:** Way, way, way behind you!

**CARMEN:** You'd be a hero!

**ANDI:** For sure!

**SHALENA:** You could be elected student body president!

*STUDENTS voice their enthusiastic agreement -- all except CHLOE, who looks alarmed!*

**ALL STUDENTS:** (*Slowly and building.*) Dar-cy! Dar-cy! Dar-cy! Dar-cy! Dar-cy! Dar-cy! Dar-cy! Dar-cy!

**HARRY:** What do you say, Darcy? Will you do it? Will you be our hero?

**DARCY:** (*Looks into the STUDENTS' faces, musters her courage and grins weakly.*) No problem!

*ALL STUDENTS cheer.*

**SONG #8: HAIL TO DARCY**

**STUDENTS**

**SOUND CUE 12: HAIL TO DARCY, Part 1**

**STUDENTS:** (*Singing.*)

HAIL TO DARCY,

STAND UP AND CHEER! (YAY!)

HAIL TO DARCY,

SHE HAS NO FEAR.

**STUDENTS:** *(Continued.)*

MARCHING ON,  
INVINCIBLE IS SHE!  
ON TO VICTORY!

HAIL TO DARCY,  
STAND UP AND CHEER! (YAY!)  
HAIL TO DARCY,  
SHE HAS NO FEAR.  
MARCHING ON,  
INVINCIBLE IS SHE...

*The song pauses abruptly as COACH enters, thoroughly defeated. His hair and clothes are disheveled. His arm is in a sling. ALL STUDENTS look at him with great expectation.*

**COACH:** Practice and all games are canceled until further notice.  
*(Sotto voce.)* That guy just can't be reasoned with!

*COACH exits. STUDENTS look at each other for a moment with deep concern in their eyes.*

**DARCY:** Gee guys, you know, on second thought—

**SOUND CUE 13:** HAIL TO DARCY, Part 2

**STUDENTS:** *(Double-time, before DARCY can change her mind.)*

HAIL TO DARCY,  
STAND UP AND CHEER! (YAY!)  
HAIL TO DARCY,  
SHE HAS NO FEAR.  
MARCHING ON,  
INVINCIBLE IS SHE!  
ON TO VICTOR,  
ON TO VICTOR,  
ON TO VICTORY! (YEAH!)

*DARCY looks extremely apprehensive. SOUND CUE 14: Transition to Act One, Scene 3.*



**ACT ONE, SCENE 3**

**AT START:** *Mr. Potcher's Office – next day. It is dark and foreboding, with ominous shadows. MR. POTCHER sits at his desk, doing some paperwork. There's a tentative knock at the door. MR. POTCHER looks up quizzically, not sure whether he heard something. He returns to his paperwork. Another tentative knock. He looks around for the source of the sound. Another knock and he traces it to the door.*

**MR. POTCHER:** *(Irritably.)* Is someone knocking on the door?

**DARCY:** *(Offstage. Timidly.)* No.

*MR. POTCHER stands, crosses to the door, and opens it, revealing a cowering DARCY.*

**MR. POTCHER:** Yes, what is it?

**DARCY:** Um, Mr. Potcher? Can I talk to you for a minute?

**MR. POTCHER:** You want to speak with me? *(Bemused chuckle at the audacity.)* All right, come in.

*DARCY enters the office.*

**MR. POTCHER:** Who are you?

**DARCY:** I'm Darcy. I'm in the Theater Arts Club? And the Dance Committee? And the Pep Squad?

**MR. POTCHER:** Waste of time, waste of time!!

**DARCY:** Well, that's what I'm here to talk to you about, Mr. Potcher.

**MR. POTCHER:** Well?

**DARCY:** It's about canceling the show? And sports? And dances? And art and music classes? And all the other stuff?

**MR. POTCHER:** What about it?

*DARCY draws herself up as if preparing to give a speech.*

**DARCY:** Please don't. *(Job done, she heads for the door.)*

**MR. POTCHER:** And why shouldn't I?

*DARCY stops, turns, and resumes the conversation.*

**DARCY:** Because it'll take all the fun out of school.

**MR. POTCHER:** Fun? Do you think you're here for fun?

**DARCY:** Well—

**MR. POTCHER:** You're here to learn, not to have fun!

**DARCY:** But we are learning.

**MR. POTCHER:** Not enough! This school's grades are just like all the other schools in this system... (*Disparagingly, making quote marks with his fingers.*) ..."meeting the standards."

**DARCY:** But doesn't that mean we're keeping up?

**MR. POTCHER:** It means you're average! And average isn't good enough, not for a school under MY control!

**DARCY:** Why not?

**MR. POTCHER:** Darcy, have you ever heard of Consult-a-palooza?

**DARCY:** No.

**MR. POTCHER:** It's the biggest annual conference for consultants. And each year, they give an award to the consultant who achieved the most academic improvement in his school. I've never won that award, but I'm going to! This is my year, because I've finally figured out the secret. It's work! Work, work, work, and no distractions! No art. No music. No theater. No sports. Just the three "R's"!

**DARCY:** (*Puzzled.*) Reduce, re-use, recycle?

**MR. POTCHER:** No. Reading, writing, 'rithmetic!

**DARCY:** But you can't do this now, not with the holidays coming up! What about the big Thanksgiving game? And the Christmas show?

**MR. POTCHER:** Oh, the holidays! Don't talk to me about the holidays! They're the biggest time-wasters of all! Thanksgiving pageants, Valentine's Day dances. Not to mention winter vacation, which "just happens" to coincide with Christmas and New Year's! And then spring break, which oh-so-conveniently falls on Easter! Weeks and weeks of utter sloth!

**DARCY:** Well, I think of the holidays more as inspirational. Miss Teaford uses them as themes for...

**MR. POTCHER:** (*Lost in thought.*) And even if I forbade everyone to observe the holidays in school, they would still be distracted by them after school and on weekends, wouldn't they.

**DARCY:** Well, I mean – you can't just erase the holidays from the calendar, can you? You've got to accept them. Maybe even enjoy them.

**MR. POTCHER:** That's it! Darcy, I'm indebted to you!

**DARCY:** Oh. Well, good. So you're going to start enjoying the holidays?

**MR. POTCHER:** No, no. "Erase them from the calendar," you said. That's what I've got to do. It's the next logical step. Completely do away with all the holidays. It would be the greatest contribution to work productivity in history!

**DARCY:** But that's impossible.

**MR. POTCHER:** Is it? Is it? I wonder. I wonder. (*Sinks deep into his thoughts, a crazed look in his eyes.*)

**DARCY:** Mr. Potcher? Could we talk some more about putting back the art and music classes, and the extracurricular activities? Mr. Potcher? Mr. Potcher? (*Seeing that MR. POTCHER is now oblivious, she backs away to the door and exits.*)

**MR. POTCHER:** (*To himself.*) What if I could? Actually eliminate the holidays! It would be the single greatest achievement in the history of productivity enhancement. The Consult-a-palooza prize would be mine! No, no, the academy's highest honor – the lifetime achievement award! (*In a euphoric trance, he walks to an imaginary microphone downstage. A curtain closes behind him.*) I can see it now! The most glittering glitterati of the consulting profession filling an immense hall. An orchestra led by a distinguished conductor.

*CONDUCTOR enters, nods to MR. POTCHER and faces the imaginary orchestra. [NOTE: If the performance includes a real conductor who is visible to the audience, the scene is played with him or her instead of a "fantasy" conductor.] MR. POTCHER begins his speech.*

**MR. POTCHER:** I'd like to thank this wonderful organization – Consultants for Research, Understanding, and Development – for this richly deserved honor.

After he says "Consultants for Research, Understanding and Development," a SIGN or BANNER appears behind him [lowered from the flies if possible] with "CRUD" written in large capital letters and "Consultants for Research, Understanding, and Development" written in smaller letters underneath the acronym.

**MR. POTCHER:** And I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to acknowledge those who came before me, those whose profound influence on my life has led me to this magnificent moment.

Three framed portraits similarly appear behind him, covered so the audience cannot see who they are.

### **SONG #9: POTCHER'S HEROES**

MR. POTCHER

**SOUND CUE 15:** POTCHER'S HEROES, Part 1

**MR. POTCHER:**

(Spoken.) WHEN I THINK OF THE LEGENDS OF HIST'RY  
WHOSE EXAMPLE MIGHT PROFIT A MAN,  
WHO GETS MY ADULATION? WHO'S MY INSPIRATION?  
THERE'S NO ONE WHO'S WORTHIER THAN...

Big musical introduction, and the three portraits are unveiled: Captain Hook, Ebenezer Scrooge, and a third that is either blank except for the words "Image Not Available" or has a generic outline of a figure with those words inside the outline.

(Speak-singing.) CAPTAIN HOOK, NOW THERE'S A GREAT LEADER!  
UNAFRAID OF WHAT PEOPLE MAY THINK.  
EV'RY SEA-GOIN' HAND IN HIS PIRACY BAND  
WOULD OBEY TO STAY OUT OF THE DRINK!

AND WHEN HE CALLED OUT, "WEIGH ANCHOR!"  
EV'RY SWABBIE LAID HANDS ON THE WINCH.  
BORN COMMANDERS, THESE THREE, OH TAKE IT FROM ME,  
WERE CAPTAIN HOOK, SCROOGE, AND THE GR—

*A burst of music drowns out the final word, throwing MR. POTCHER off-balance. MR. POTCHER regains his footing and glares at the conductor, but resumes singing.*

**MR. POTCHER:** *(Continued. Speak-singing.)*

NOW SCROOGE, YOU SEE, WAS ALL BUSINESS.  
AND NO HOLIDAYS GOT IN HIS WAY.  
KEPT HIS HEART IN THE FREEZER, DID OLD EBENEZER  
'CAUSE GIVING TIME OFF DOESN'T PAY.

NOW WE COME TO THE LAST OF THE TRIO.  
OF COMPASSION, HE HAS NOT A PINCH.  
HE'S BIG AND HE'S GREEN AND HE'S EVER SO MEAN.  
HE'S THAT GANGRENOUS GARGOYLE, THE GR—

*Another burst of music drowns out the final word. MR. POTCHER glares at CONDUCTOR with more annoyance than last time, but again resumes.*

*(SPOKEN.)* AND SO NOW YOU KNOW WHOM I ADMIRE,  
WHOM I CLUTCH TO MY HEART IN A CLINCH.  
ARE THEY WRONG? ARE THEY BAD?  
*(Speak-singing.)* WELL, MAYBE A TAD.  
BUT THEY'RE CAPTAIN HOOK, SCROOGE, AND THE—

*MR. POTCHER abruptly stops singing and whips around to hold up a warning finger to the CONDUCTOR, but the music is silent. CONDUCTOR smiles at MR. POTCHER, then gently conducts the introduction to the next section of the song as MR. POTCHER slowly tears his distrustful gaze from the CONDUCTOR and resumes singing.*

*(Speak-singing.)* AND SOMEDAY IF I'M TRUE TO MY STANDARDS  
AND I NEVER YIELD EVEN AN INCH  
WELL THEN MAYBE MY NAME  
WILL ACHIEVE LASTING FAME  
JUST LIKE CAPTAIN HOOK, SCROOGE—  
NOW IT'S NOT THE THREE STOOGES—  
IT'S CAPTAIN HOOK, SCROOGE,  
*(Rushing.)* AND THE GRINCH! HA HA!

The final "ha ha" is directed at the CONDUCTOR. Then MR. POTCHER turns his attention to the audience in a confidential manner to sing a coda. **SOUND CUE 16:** POTCHER'S HEROES, Part 2

**MR. POTCHER:** *(Continued. Speak-singing.)*

NOW PERHAPS YOU HAVE STARTED TO WONDER  
WHY WE'VE SHOWN ONLY TWO OF THE THREE.  
IT'S THE LAWYERS, I FEAR, WHO HAVE MADE IT QUITE CLEAR

*Indicating the third picture.*

*(Speak-singing.)* THAT THIS ONE'S NOT COPYRIGHT-FREE.  
SO MY FRIENDS, TO AVOID LEGAL TROUBLE,  
THE LESSON TO LEARN IS QUITE PLAIN.  
YES, IF YOU ARE THE SORT WHO WOULD STAY OUT OF COURT,  
CHOOSE YOUR HEROES FROM PUBLIC DOMAIN.

COME TO THINK OF IT, THOUGH, TO DETERMINE  
THE MOST FEARSOME OF ALL IS A CINCH!  
SO I'LL MODEL MY LIFE ON THOSE MASTERS OF STRIFE,  
THE LAWYERS WHO HANDLE THE GR—

A final blast of music drowns out the last word. **SOUND CUE 17:**  
*Transition to Act One, Scene 4*

## ACT ONE, SCENE 4

**AT START:** *Classroom – day. CHLOE, WILL, and JAKE meet in an otherwise unoccupied classroom.*

**JAKE:** I tell ya, I don't like it!

**CHLOE:** Simmer down, Jake.

**WILL:** This could cost us the election, you know!

**CHLOE:** What are you talking about? They love me!

**JAKE:** They do, huh? *(Reads from his laptop or tablet.)* Statement:

Chloe Davenport should be re-elected student body president in the mid-term election. Strongly agree, two percent. Two percent!!

**CHLOE:** *(Taken aback.)* Really?

**WILL:** *(Reading from his laptop or tablet.)* Somewhat agree, 38 percent. Somewhat disagree, 47 percent!

**JAKE:** We're losing them!

**CHLOE:** But I don't understand. What happened?

**WILL:** Darcy happened, that's what happened!

**JAKE:** She's getting big points just for talking to Mr. Potcher.

**WILL:** If she pulls off changing his mind, she could be elected the next president!

**CHLOE:** But she's not even running.

**JAKE:** Ever hear of a write-in vote?

**WILL:** She could be drafted!

*LORNE opens the classroom door.*

**JAKE:** Hey! This is a private meeting!

**LORNE:** But I forgot my lunch in here.

*WILL crosses to the door and shoves LORNE out.*

**WILL:** Buy it! It's pizza day!

*WILL slams the door and returns to where he was.*

**CHLOE:** Are you saying I should've talked to Mr. Potcher?

**JAKE:** No, no, that would've been too risky if you failed.

**WILL:** Political suicide!

**JAKE:** But it leaves you vulnerable if Darcy succeeds!

**CHLOE:** But it wasn't just me. Lorne and Meryl said they were too busy, too.

**WILL:** It's different for them.

**JAKE:** They need Potcher to reinstate extracurricular activities.

**WILL:** So he can play football.

**JAKE:** And she can debate.

**WILL:** They need Darcy to succeed.

**JAKE:** Then all they have to do is win a couple of games.

**WILL:** A couple of tournaments.

**JAKE:** And no one will remember that they wimped out of talking to Potcher.

**WILL:** But for you, it's a question of leadership.

**JAKE:** Leadership!

**WILL:** You can't afford to lose that aura right before the mid-year election.

**JAKE:** Especially with a fresh, new face in the race.

**CHLOE:** What can I do?

**JAKE and WILL:** You've got to confront Darcy!

**WILL:** She's been playing it cagey.

**JAKE:** Playing it cutesy.

**WILL:** No one really knows how her meeting with Potcher went.

**JAKE:** You've got to change that.

**WILL:** Find out how she's doing with Potcher.

**JAKE:** Pin her down!

**WILL:** Did she change his mind or didn't she?

**JAKE:** No more waffling!

**WILL:** And in front of the other kids. As many as possible.

**JAKE:** The longer she drags this thing out, the worse it is for you!

**SOUND CUE 18:** *Transition to Act One, Scene 5.*

## ACT ONE, SCENE 5

**AT START:** *School Cafeteria – next day. Lunch period. DARCY eats with her friends, SHALENA and ZIMMER. Other STUDENTS sit at or bring trays of food to the other tables.*

**SHALENA:** So let me get this straight. Mr. Potcher canceled art and music and theater and sports and all that. Then you went to talk to him. And now all that stuff is still canceled and he's talking about canceling the holidays, too?

**DARCY:** Yeah.

**ZIMMER:** So your meeting with Mr. Potcher wasn't a complete success.

**DARCY:** No.

**SHALENA:** What does he mean, "cancel the holidays"?

**DARCY:** I don't know. Maybe he's just crazy.

**ZIMMER:** What are you going to do?

**DARCY:** I don't know.



*CHLOE enters, closely followed by WILL, JAKE, and an entourage of STUDENTS.*

**CHLOE:** So, Darcy, how did it go with Mr. Potcher?

**DARCY:** Oh, pretty well, pretty well.

**CHLOE:** Really? That's great! So he's reinstating all the programs he canceled?

**DARCY:** Well, not quite yet. But soon.

**CHLOE:** I don't understand. Did you convince him or didn't you?

**DARCY:** Well, I gave him a lot to think about. And he's... you know... mulling it over.

**CHLOE:** But nothing's actually changed.

**DARCY:** It just takes a little time for my arguments to... to sink in.

**CHLOE:** So when do you expect a final answer? I mean, we can't wait much longer to prepare for all the holiday activities.

**DARCY:** Right, the holidays. Well, soon, I'm sure.

**CHLOE:** You know, Darcy, it isn't right to keep everyone's hopes up if you really haven't changed his mind. So be honest. What did Mr. Potcher say when you talked to him?

**DARCY:** Well...

**STUDENT:** (*Enters.*) Hey, Darcy! Mr. Potcher wants to see you in his office.

**SHALENA:** There, you see? I'll bet Mr. Potcher is ready to give in!

**ZIMMER:** Go get 'em, Darcy!

*STUDENTS pat DARCY on the back and cheer her. CHLOE looks worried. DARCY looks panicky as she exits to meet her fate. SOUND CUE 19: Transition to Act One, Scene 6.*

**ACT ONE, SCENE 6**

**AT START:** *Mr. Potcher's Office – minutes later. DARCY knocks and MR. POTCHER opens the door.*

**MR. POTCHER:** Ah, Darcy! Come in! (*Crosses to his desk.*) You're a very lucky young lady. This is the greatest moment of my life, and I'm going to share it with you because you gave me the inspiration. (*Reveals a mysterious-looking object.*) Do you know what this is?

**DARCY:** No.

**MR. POTCHER:** It's a magic calendar.

**DARCY:** Magic calendar?

**MR. POTCHER:** Created by a sorceress thousands of years ago, and passed down through the ages.

**DARCY:** (*Awed.*) Did you steal it from a secret hidden chamber buried inside a pyramid?

**MR. POTCHER:** No, I got it on eBay.

**DARCY:** What are you going to do with it?

**MR. POTCHER:** I'm going to erase all the holidays! When they're erased from this calendar, they'll cease to exist!

**DARCY:** (*Aghast.*) No!

**SOUND CUE 20:** *Calendar Music 1. <sup>1</sup>MR. POTCHER opens the calendar and sings merrily as he erases.*

**MR. POTCHER:** (*Singing – at first to the tune of "Auld Lang Syne" and then to the obvious tunes.*)

NOW NEW YEAR'S DAY WILL BE FORGOT...

**SOUND CUE 21:** *Calendar Music 2. (Layer over Sound Cue 20.)*

THERE GOES PETER COTTONTAIL...

**SOUND CUE 22:** *Calendar Music 3. (Layer over Sound Cue 20.)*

OVER THE RIVER AND THROUGH THE WOOD

THANKSGIVING, THANKSGIVING IS GONE FOR GOOD...

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<sup>1</sup> An alternative Calendar Music Sound Cue is available at the end of the Production CD. This alternative Sound Cue combines Sound Cues 20-24.

**SOUND CUE 23:** *Calendar Music 4. (Layer over Sound Cue 20.)*

**MR. POTCHER:** *(Continued.)*

DECK THE HALLS WITH BOUGHS OF HOLLY  
FA LA LA LA LA, LA LA LA LA.  
I'M ERASING ALL THAT FOLLY  
FOLLY FOLLY FA LA LA LA LA.

**SOUND CUE 24:** *Calendar Music 5. (Layer over Sound Cue 20.)*

*Fade out SOUND CUE 20.*

**MR. POTCHER:** *(Speaking.)*

No more will all the holidays  
Create such massive waste.  
From Christmas down to Groundhog Day  
They're all of 'em erased!

**DARCY:** NO!

**MR. POTCHER:** Yes, all of 'em erased! Ha!

**SOUND CUE 25:** *Transition to Act One, Scene 7.*

## ACT ONE, SCENE 7

**AT START:** *Island of Lost Holidays – day. SOUND CUE 26: Island Sounds. After a few beats, SANTA CLAUS enters, looking befuddled at his uncharacteristic surroundings. He is followed in short order by CUPID, LEPRECHAUN, EASTER BUNNY, JACK-O'-LANTERN, and TURKEY, all of whom look equally bewildered.*

**SANTA:** Any idea where we are?

**LEPRECHAUN:** We're not over the rainbow, I can tell you that!

**CHILDREN'S DAY GUY:** *(Offstage.)* Hey! Company!

*CHILDREN'S DAY GUY enters rapidly and enthusiastically shakes SANTA'S hand. His hairstyle and clothes are those of a kid who might have sung doo-wop on a street corner in the 1950s.*

**CHILDREN'S DAY GUY:** Aloha, man! Great to see you! Welcome to my humble home.

**EASTER BUNNY:** Where are we, exactly?

**CHILDREN'S DAY GUY:** This is the Island of Lost Holidays. Somebody must be messing with that calendar again.

**CUPID:** The Island of Lost Holidays? What the heck is that?

**CHILDREN'S DAY GUY:** It's where a holiday goes when it's been erased from the magic calendar. So far, it's just been me, but man, it's good to have company!

**LEPRECHAUN:** And who might you be?

**CHILDREN'S DAY GUY:** I'm Children's Day.

**CUPID:** Never heard of it.

**CHILDREN'S DAY GUY:** I know. But didn't you ever wonder why there's a Mother's Day and a Father's Day but no Children's Day?

**SANTA:** (*Very jolly.*) Because every day is children's day!

*SANTA looks to the other HOLIDAY CHARACTERS for agreement, but they stare blankly at him.*

**CHILDREN'S DAY GUY:** No, it's because Children's Day was erased in the magic calendar about 2000 years ago. That's how long I've been here. (*Proudly.*) But as you can see, I've kept up to date.

**CUPID:** Actually, you seem more like a kid from the fifties.

**CHILDREN'S DAY GUY:** Well, it's hard to stay in touch way out here.

**JACK-O'-LANTERN:** Why was Children's Day erased?

**CHILDREN'S DAY GUY:** Children's Day was in August, which was named after Augustus Caesar, the emperor of Rome. Well, he got a sorceress mad at him and she decided that his month, August, shouldn't have anything to celebrate. So she erased Children's Day in her magic calendar and I've been here ever since.

**CUPID:** You're kidding!

**CHILDREN'S DAY GUY:** Didn't you ever wonder why August is the only month with no holidays?

**EASTER BUNNY:** Is it?

**CHILDREN'S DAY GUY:** Think about it.

**SONG #10: AUGUST HAS NO HOLIDAYS**

*CHILDREN'S DAY GUY, HOLIDAY CHARACTERS ENSEMBLE*  
**SOUND CUE 27**

**CHILDREN'S DAY GUY:**

JANUARY STARTS WITH NEW YEAR'S.

*(Touching CUPID'S shoulder.)* IN FEBRUARY, YOU'RE MY VALENTINE.

**CUPID:** *(Shrugging him off. Spoken.)* Watch it!

**CHILDREN'S DAY GUY:** *(Marching over to the LEPRECHAUN.)*

THEN WE MARCH 'ROUND THE TOWN FOR ST. PADDY.

*(Gesturing to EASTER BUNNY.)* APRIL'S FOR THE EASTER EGGS WE FIND.

**CUPID and LEPRECHAUN:**

MAY HAS A DAY JUST FOR MOTHER.

**SANTA and JACK-O'-LANTERN:**

JUNE HAS THE SAME FOR DEAR OLD DAD.

**CHILDREN'S DAY GUY:**

BUT IN ONE MONTH, THE CALENDAR'S EMPTY.

ONE MONTH'S A BAGFUL OF SAD.

*ALL HOLIDAY CHARACTERS sing a doo-wop backup complete with classic choreography as CHILDREN'S DAY GUY continues. TURKEY doesn't sing, but does the same choreography as the others.*

**CHILDREN'S DAY GUY:**

AUGUST HAS NO HOLIDAYS.

NONE, ZIP, NADA, NOTHING AT ALL.

NO TRADITIONAL FOODS AND NO PRESENTS.

NO CHEESY DECORATIONS AT THE MALL.

*(Spoken.)* OOO!

AUGUST HAS NO HOLIDAYS.

HOW MUCH MORE MUST IT WAIT

TILL IT DRIES ALL ITS TEARS

AND GLIDES THROUGH THE YEARS

WITH ITS VERY OWN SPECIAL DATE?

JULY HAS AMERICA'S BIRTHDAY.

LABOR DAY COMES IN SEPTEMBER.

OCTOBER HAS HALLOWEEN PARTIES.

THANKSGIVING IS FOUND IN NOVEMBER.

**CHILDREN'S DAY GUY:** *(Continued.)*

DECEMBER'S A COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS,  
 WITH A SMILE FOR EACH AND EV'RY LITTLE TOT.  
 OH, BUT ONE MONTH IS THE MAYOR OF LONELYVILLE.  
 IT'S THE MONTH THAT HALLMARK FORGOT!

AUGUST HAS NO HOLIDAYS  
 AND IT MAKES ME OH SO VERY BLUE.  
 'CAUSE IF AUGUST HAD SOME HOLIDAYS  
 I'D SPEND THEM ALL WITH YOU.

*Musical interlude*

**LEPRECHAUN:** So tell me, lad. How do you celebrate Children's Day?

**CHILDREN'S DAY GUY:** Kids wear golden crowns all day long. And grown-ups have to do whatever they say. They get to stay up as late as they want. And at midnight, everyone goes outside and plays in the snow.

**LEPRECHAUN:** It snows in August?

**CHILDREN'S DAY GUY:** It does on Children's Day!

**ALL HOLIDAY CHARACTERS:**

AND NOW WE ARE STRANDED TOGETHER.  
 NO MORE WILL ANY HOLIDAYS APPEAR.  
 THE CALENDAR'S RUNNING ON EMPTY.  
 IT MIGHT AS WELL BE AUGUST ALL YEAR.

**CHILDREN'S DAY GUY:**

NO MORE, NO MORE HOLIDAYS.  
 AND IT MAKES US OH SO VERY BLUE.  
 'CAUSE IF THEY'D JUST BRING BACK THE HOLIDAYS,  
 ALL THE HOLIDAYS,  
 WE'D SPEND THEM ALL WITH

**CHILDREN'S DAY GUY and TENOR VOICE:**

YOU.

**BARITONE VOICE:**

YOU.

**BASS VOICE:**

YOU.

**TURKEY:** *(As if harmonizing.)*

[TURKEY GOBBLE].

**ACT ONE, SCENE 8**

**AT START:** *Classroom – day. MISS TEAFORD is teaching an English class, which includes DARCY.*

**MISS TEAFORD:** All right, after reading your last batch of essays, I think we'd better review some basic grammar.

*STUDENTS groan. MR. POTCHER enters through the classroom door, holding a bunch of tickets.*

**MR. POTCHER:** Excuse me. I won't be a minute. I just need to hand these out. *(Begins to distribute the tickets.)*

**MISS TEAFORD:** What are those?

**MR. POTCHER:** Guest passes! To my professional society's big award dinner. I'm expecting a major, major award and I know you'll all want to attend and cheer me.

**MISS TEAFORD:** Oh, well congratulations! What did you do?

**MR. POTCHER:** *(Proudly.)* I eliminated the holidays!

*DARCY tries to disappear into her chair.*

**MISS TEAFORD:** What do you mean?

**MR. POTCHER:** The holidays – you know, Christmas, New Years, Arbor Day – all gone. Vanished. Finito.

**STUDENTS:** What?!!

**MISS TEAFORD:** But why? How??

**MR. POTCHER:** *(Matter-of-factly.)* Magic calendar. Oh, I know it may take a little getting used to. But trust me, you'll get a lot more work done without all that distraction. *(Spots DARCY.)* Oh, Darcy – if you have any more brainstorms like getting rid of the holidays, be sure to let me know.

**MISS TEAFORD:** Darcy? What's she got to do with this?

**MR. POTCHER:** She suggested the idea. But of course I carried it through to completion, and that's what gets the awards. OK, now -- back to work!!

*MR. POTCHER exits, slamming the door closed. ALL STUDENTS glare at DARCY. Fade to black. A title is projected onto the curtain or REAR wall: "one week later". Lights fade up on Classroom – day. STUDENTS sit at their desks as before, but DARCY is not among them. They are completing a test.*

**SONG #11: FILLING IN THE BUBBLES**

*HARRY, ZIMMER, CARMEN, ANDI, MISS SNOOD, JAKE, WILL, CHLOE, STUDENTS*

**SOUND CUE 28**

**MISS TEAFORD:** Pencils down. Everyone please pass your papers to the aisle.

*STUDENTS do so, as the song begins.*

**STUDENTS:**

PENCILS UP, PENCILS DOWN.  
PENCILS UP, PENCILS DOWN.

**JAKE:**

I USED TO PLAY TRUMPET IN THE MARCHING BAND.

**STUDENTS:**

PENCILS UP, PENCILS DOWN.

**JAKE:**

NOW MY TRUMPET'S IN THE ATTIC AND MY LIFE IS BLAND.

**STUDENTS:**

PENCILS UP, PENCILS DOWN.

**JAKE:**

AND I SPEND ALL DAY WITHOUT ANY REST  
FILLING IN THE BUBBLES ON A STANDARDIZED TEST.

*STUDENTS cross to the cafeteria (or the set they're in transforms to the cafeteria) as they continue singing. There, they each pick up a tray, line up along the rail to get their food, and then sit at the tables. MISS SNOOD cheerfully spoons food onto their plates.*



**STUDENTS:**

OH HEY, WE'RE FEELING SO DEPRESSED  
FILLING IN THE BUBBLES ON A STANDARDIZED TEST.

**ZIMMER:**

I CAN KICK A BALL, I CAN SWING A BAT.

**STUDENTS:**

PENCILS UP, PENCILS DOWN.

**ZIMMER:**

I CAN SINK A BASKET IN NOTHING FLAT.

**STUDENTS:**

PENCILS UP, PENCILS DOWN.

**ZIMMER:**

BUT THE ONLY THING SINKING IS THE HEART IN MY CHEST  
FILLING IN THE BUBBLES ON A STANDARDIZED TEST.

**STUDENTS:**

FILLING IN THE BUBBLES ON A STANDARDIZED TEST.

**CARMEN:**

ONCE THE WIND DID BLOW AND THE SUN DID SHINE.

**STUDENTS:**

PENCILS UP, PENCILS DOWN.

**CARMEN:**

NOW I FEEL LIKE I'M WORKING IN A DEEP, DARK MINE.

**STUDENTS:**

PENCILS UP, PENCILS DOWN.

**ANDI:**

NO DAWN IN THE EAST, NO SUNSET IN THE WEST.  
ONLY FILLING IN THE BUBBLES ON A STANDARDIZED TEST.

**STUDENTS:**

FILLING IN THE BUBBLES ON A STANDARDIZED TEST.

**MISS SNOOD:** What'll it be, hon? I've got broccoli, carrots, and peas.

**HARRY:** A and B but not C.

**MISS SNOOD:** Okey dokes!

**WILL:**

LORD HAVE MERCY ON MY STANDARDIZED SOUL.

**STUDENTS:**

PENCILS UP, PENCILS DOWN.

**WILL:**

I'M STRONG ON ACADEMICS BUT I DON'T FEEL WHOLE.

**STUDENTS:**

PENCILS UP, PENCILS DOWN.

**WILL:**

OH SOMEBODY TELL ME WHY THEY'RE SO OBSESSED  
WITH FILLING IN THE BUBBLES ON A STANDARDIZED TEST.

**STUDENTS:**

OH HEY, WE'RE FEELING SO DEPRESSED  
FILLING IN THE BUBBLES ON A STANDARDIZED TEST.

*DARCY enters with a tray of food. She tries to sit at one of the tables, but each time she sees an open spot and tries to sit, the STUDENTS squeeze together so she can't.*

**CHLOE:**

NOW THERE AREN'T EVEN HOLIDAYS TO LOOK FORWARD TO.

**STUDENTS:**

PENCILS UP, PENCILS DOWN.

**CHLOE:**

AND IT'S ALL THE FAULT OF YOU-KNOW-WHO!

*ALL STUDENTS glare at DARCY.*

**STUDENTS:**

PENCILS UP, PENCILS DOWN.

**CHLOE:**

INSTEAD OF HAVING HOLIDAYS,  
THAT'S RIGHT, YOU GUESSED.  
WE'RE FILLING IN THE BUBBLES ON A STANDARDIZED TEST.

**STUDENTS:**

OH HEY, WE'RE FEELING SO DEPRESSED  
FILLING IN THE BUBBLES ON A STANDARDIZED TEST.  
FILLING IN THE BUBBLES...

**WILL:**

NO ONE KNOWS OUR TROUBLES.

**STUDENTS:**

FILLING IN THE BUBBLES ON A STANDARDIZED TEST.

*DARCY gives up trying to sit at the first table and tries to sit at another table. To her happy surprise, those STUDENTS don't prevent her from sitting. But as soon as she sits down, they ALL rise and exit. The STUDENTS at the first table join them until everyone but DARCY is gone. MISS SNOOD exits inconspicuously. CHLOE, CARMEN, ANDI, LORNE, MERYL, HARRY, and WILL re-enter, carrying boxes which they deposit at DARCY'S feet.*

**CARMEN:** Here!

**DARCY:** What's this?

**CARMEN:** A little thank-you present for getting rid of the holidays. These are the Christmas ornaments we don't need anymore. Now that there's no Christmas, my mom doesn't want them cluttering up the garage.

**LORNE:** Same goes for our Fourth of July stuff.

**MERYL:** Here's our Valentine's Day decorations. My parents met on Valentine's Day, so it was kind of special in our family. Now it's just another day.

**HARRY:** It was bad enough not having sports and arts and stuff. But why did you have to tell Mr. Potcher to get rid of the holidays, too?

**DARCY:** Look, this wasn't my fault!

**CHLOE:** Did you give Mr. Potcher the idea to eliminate the holidays, or didn't you?

**DARCY:** Well, kind of. But I didn't mean to.

**CHLOE:** Yeah. We'll keep that in mind.

**WILL:** Thanksgiving was the only time the whole year when our family got together.

**DARCY:** They can still get together.

**WILL:** Nah. What's the point anymore?

**ANDI:** Thanks again, Darcy. Thanks so much!

*ALL (except DARCY) exit.*

**DARCY:** (*Calling after them.*) But I didn't mean to. It was an accident.  
I'm sorry.

**SONG #12: ANYONE BUT ME**

*DARCY*

**SOUND CUE 29**

**DARCY:** (*All alone.*)

I THOUGHT I'D BE A HERO.  
I THOUGHT I'D SAVE THE DAY.  
AT LAST I'D BE SOMEONE WHO THEY ADMIRE.  
IT'S MY HEART'S DESIRE.  
AND NOW I WISH THAT I COULD BE  
ANYONE BUT, ANYONE BUT ME.

I TELL THEM THAT I'M SORRY  
BUT THEY JUST TURN AWAY  
AND LEAVE ME ALL ALONE IN MY DESPAIR.  
IT JUST ISN'T FAIR.  
OH HOW I WISH THAT I COULD BE  
ANYONE BUT, ANYONE BUT ME.

MY PARENTS SAY JUST GIVE IT TIME,  
A YEAR OR TWO OR TEN.  
THEY'RE SURE THAT THIS WILL FADE AWAY  
AND I WILL SMILE AGAIN.  
THEY SAY THAT THEY WERE CHILDREN ONCE  
AND SO THEY KNOW FIRST-HAND.  
BUT EV'RYTHING WAS DIFF'RENT THEN.  
HOW COULD THEY UNDERSTAND?

I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO MOVE NOW  
TO SOMEWHERE FAR AWAY,  
WHERE NO ONE KNOWS MY SORROW AND MY SHAME.  
BETTER CHANGE MY NAME.  
'CAUSE NOW IT'S VERY CLEAR TO SEE  
THAT IT'S BETTER, BETTER FAR TO BE  
ANYONE BUT, ANYONE BUT ME.

*INTERMISSION*

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**MR. POTCHER'S HOLIDAY**

**By Bob Silberg & Barbara Klaskin Silberg**

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