



## 4. Guru's First Student

*(The construction is finished. A painted “Garden School” sign hangs near the entrance door. This scene takes place both inside and outside the new schoolhouse. Toolee enters schoolyard, pulling his tool wagon with a boy riding on top. Baba is working in the schoolyard and greets Toolee as he approaches.)*

BABA

Good morning, Toolee! Who’s your little friend?

TOOLEE

This young fellow wants to go to school.

BABA

*(excitedly)*

A student?! Oh Toolee! You don’t know how important this is! Poor Guru’s been making posters and knocking on doors every day for months looking for students. He’s desperate for this good news!

TOOLEE

Desperate? *(turns to Ace)* Then I guess we better go in and cheer him up a little!

*(Toolee pulls the wagon over to the schoolhouse door, motions to Ace to stay put, then knocks and opens the door.)*

Anybody home?

GURU

Uncle Toolee! What brings you to Garden School?

TOOLEE

Young Guru! Just bringing the mail from the Commissioner's office. By the way, I found one addressed to you. It's from Canada! *(Toolee hands Guru the envelope)*

GURU

*(puzzled)*

Canada? Must be from that ad I put in Canadian Pen-Pal Magazine.

*(now with comical bravura)*

But it's probably just another fan from some far corner of the world. I just can't keep 'em away, Uncle Toolee! I just can't keep 'em away!

TOOLEE

*(chuckles a little)*

Well, I best be moving on – don't want yesterday to pass me by. Enjoy your fan mail, young Guru. Oh, by the way, I meant to ask how the new school's coming along.

GURU

Couldn't be better, Uncle Toolee! No students yet, but I kind of like it that way. It saves on supplies.

TOOLEE

*(chuckles)*

Yes, I guess it would. Oh, by the way, I have a young fellow out in the wagon who wants to be your student. But I guess you wouldn't be much interested.

GURU

*(suddenly serious)*

A student?

TOOLEE

I'll leave him here just in case you change your mind. And if things go okay, the Commissioner says he has several more for you. They all failed their Middle School Entrance Exams. He wants you to keep them occupied and out of trouble.

*(Toolee motions for the boy to come inside; the cheerful boy hops down from the wagon and skips into the schoolhouse. Toolee closes the door behind him and exits.)*



GURU

Hi! I'm your teacher! My name's Guru – what's yours?

ACE

*(fascinated with Guru's wheelchair)*

I'm Ace. Can I ride on this?

GURU

*(with a chuckle)*

Maybe later, Ace. I kind of need it now.

ACE

Why do you need it?

GURU

Well, I need it to get around. I have a problem walking.

ACE

Why do you have a problem walking?

GURU

Because when I was in First Grade I had an accident.

ACE

How'd you have an accident?

GURU

Oh, it's a long story, Ace. I'll tell you about it someday when we have more time. Do you live here in Ko-Lat Village?

ACE

No, I live on the other side of Jeeno – in the refugee camp.

GURU

Oh my, that's a long way to come every day!

ACE

But I'm fast. Watch.

*(Ace runs back and forth down the center aisle)*

See? I'm very fast. Someday I'm going to run in the Olympics.

GURU

*(laughing)*

Wow! You *are* very fast, Ace! Do your parents teach you to run so fast?

ACE

No. They disappeared. People think maybe the GGG took them away.

GURU

Oh, I'm so sorry, Ace. *(pause)* Well, one thing I do know – they'd sure be proud of you! Let's work really hard and take that test again so you can get into the big school!

ACE

I can't.

GURU

Sure you can! They give the test twice a year!

ACE

No, I mean I can't pass it. I've tried two times. I think I have some kind of problem.

GURU

Problem? Oh I love problems! In fact I collect 'em! That's why I've got so many!

ACE

*(laughs)*

GURU

*(singing)*

THOSE OF US WITH PROBLEMS,  
IN ORDER TO SUCCEED  
HAVE GOT TO DO SOME CERTAIN THINGS  
THAT OTHERS MAY NOT NEED.

SO LET'S GET UP AND DO THEM  
AND FACE REALITY  
SO WE CAN GET WHERE WE CAN GET  
AND BE WHO WE CAN BE. WE'VE GOT TO:

WORK HOW WE WORK, JUST A LITTLE BIT HARDER  
PLAN HOW WE PLAN, JUST A LITTLE BIT SMARTER  
COUNT EV'RY NUMBER AND WRITE EV'RY LETTER  
DO WHAT WE DO JUST A LITTLE BIT BETTER.

GOTTA LIVE LIKE WE LIVE WITH A LITTLE MORE VIGOR  
SMILE LIKE WE SMILE BUT A LITTLE BIT BIGGER  
WHATEVER THE HOUR OR WHATEVER THE WEATHER  
GOTTA DO WHAT WE DO, JUST A LITTLE BIT BETTER.

ONE. TWO. WHAT WE GOTTA DO?  
THREE. FOUR. EV'RY LITTLE CHORE.  
GOTTA DO WHAT WE DO WHAT WE DO WHAT WE DO WHAT WE  
DO WHAT WE DO PLUS A LITTLE BIT MORE.

GURU and ACE

*(both singing together)*

GOTTA WORK HOW WE WORK, JUST A LITTLE BIT HARDER  
PLAN HOW WE PLAN, JUST A LITTLE BIT SMARTER  
COUNT EV'RY NUMBER AND WRITE EV'RY LETTER  
DO WHAT WE DO, JUST A LITTLE BIT BETTER.

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