



16. Disgunsemble

(inside Garden School classroom; music class; TWIMFINA has guitar and is leading her students in a slow, peaceful song)

CHILDREN

(singing)

NONVIOLENCE TAKES A LONG, LONG TIME

NONVIOLENCE TAKES A LONG, LONG TIME

IT TAKES A LONG, LONG, LONG, LONG, LONG, LONG TIME

IT TAKES A LONG, LONG, LONG, LONG, LONG, LONG TIME

SCOUT

Twimfina, Walter has something he needs to tell you.

WALTER

I do not.

SCOUT

(emphatically)

Yes. You. Do.

TWIMFINA

Hey! What's gotten into you two? Up to now you've been working so nicely together.

SCOUT

This has nothing to do with that. Walter has something he needs to tell you.

TWIMFINA

If Walter has something he wants to tell me, he will. If he doesn't, he won't. I don't need to know his secrets. I respect his privacy.

SCOUT

Walter has a gun.

TWIMFINA

(concerned)

Walter, do you have a gun?

SCOUT

I'm sorry, Walter.

TWIMFINA

(with firmer voice)

Walter, do you have a gun?

WALTER

(resignedly)

Yes.

TWIMFINA

Where is the gun?

WALTER

(holds up bag)

TWIMFINA

(takes bag, opens it)

Where did you get this, Walter?

WALTER

I found it in the schoolyard, down by the road.

TWIMFINA

(removing old revolver from bag)

Uh! Those imbeciles from the GGG must have dropped it.

WALTER

But I never pointed it at anybody!

TWIMFINA

(removing bullets from cylinder)

Yes, Walter, I know that you would never do that.

POCA

Are you going to give it back to the GGG?

TWIMFINA

Zero possibility, Poca. They scare people with their guns. Nobody wants to live in fear. I hope they lose ALL their guns!

AKEELAH

We could sell it and make some money!

TWIMFINA

And cause *other* people to get hurt or frightened? Them instead of us? We may be poor, Akeelah, but we'll never be THAT poor.

EDDIE

We could hide it where nobody will ever find it.

TWIMFINA

There *is* no such place, Eddie. Even the dinosaurs that got hidden 66 million years ago are being found all the time. No, we've got to do what any educated, responsible person would do with a gun. We've got to destroy it.

POCA

Destroy it? How?

TWIMFINA

(opens her backpack and takes out a little screwdriver)

With one of these, Poca. With a little screwdriver a person can completely take apart a gun – or, to use the technical term, 'disgunsemble' it. Can you all say 'disgunsemble'?

CHILDREN

Disgunsemble.

TWIMFINA

That's right. Let's all disgunsemble this ugly thing before Guru comes back for Math class. I'll take out the screws, and then you take all the little pieces outdoors. Scatter them as far as you can so that nobody will ever be able to put this thing back together. Okay?

CHILDREN

(happily agree)

TWIMFINA

And let's give our heroes, Walter and Scout, the first pieces to scatter. They deserve it because they're the ones who saved us from all the bad things that might have happened from this gun.

CHILDREN
(*happily agree*)

TWIMFINA
(*while taking apart the gun*)

It's kind of fun to take guns apart. There's even a song for it. Would you like to learn it? After all, this IS supposed to be our music class.

CHILDREN
Sure!

TWIMFINA
(*singing*)

ONE BY ONE DESTROY EACH GUN AND SET US FREE
ONE BY ONE DESTROY EACH GUN SO WE CAN BE
FREE TO WALK DOWN ANY STREET, FREE TO SMILE AT THOSE WE MEET
FREE TO LET OUR CHILDREN PLAY, FEAR HAS TAKEN THIS AWAY
BRING BACK HOW IT USED TO BE, BRING BACK OUR COMMUNITY
BIT BY BIT WE'LL GET THIS DONE, ONE BY ONE DESTROY EACH GUN

TWIMFINA
Can you join me?

(*The children sing "One by One" with Twimfina. As they sing it a second time, Twimfina sings the earlier song "Nonviolence Takes a Long, Long Time" as a countermelody*)

CHILDREN AND TWIMFINA
(*singing both songs simultaneously*)

ONE BY ONE DESTROY EACH GUN AND SET US FREE
(Nonviolence, takes a long, long time)
ONE BY ONE DESTROY EACH GUN SO WE CAN BE
(Nonviolence, takes a long, long time)
FREE TO WALK DOWN ANY STREET
(It takes a long, long)
FREE TO SMILE AT THOSE WE MEET
(Long, long)
FREE TO LET OUR CHILDREN PLAY
(Long, long)
FEAR HAS TAKEN THIS AWAY
(Time)
BRING BACK HOW IT USED TO BE
(It takes a long, long)

BRING BACK OUR COMMUNITY
(Long, long)
BIT BY BIT WE'LL GET THIS DONE
(Long, long)
ONE BY ONE DESTROY EACH GUN
(Time)

END OF SEGMENT 16