

19. Ace Makes Changes

(Early morning; Guru is already up and working at his desk in the schoolroom; Ace enters in his pajamas)

GURU

(singing)

Good morning, Ace! You got up very early!

ACE

(spoken)

I like to get up early!

GURU

(singing exaggeratedly operatic)

I like to get up early!

ACE

(whining)

Oh, do I have to?

GURU

(singing comically nasal)

Oh, do I have to?

GURU (CONT'D)

(singing normally - see recitative score)

When we look into the sky, we see many stars

We are in Twimfina's story, just like she's in ours

ACE

I don't want to criticize or be derogatory

But there are times when I'm not thrilled to be inside her story

GURU

And there are times, like when she's in there washing out your drawers

That maybe, maybe, maybe she's not thrilled to be in yours

(Ace laughs)

But she enriches both our lives, and so it's no big thing

That when we have some words to say, we try our best to sing

ACE

Then let me try my best to sing of problems with YOUR *(points)* story

GURU

But you just said you didn't want to be derogatory

ACE

A month ago, dear Father, that is how I might have opted
But now I'm free to speak my mind – now that I'm adopted.

GURU

(laughing)

You hid it very well from us – your free and open spirit!
But I am stronger than I look, and so, my Son, let's hear it

ACE

#1

I didn't like the scene where the Commissioner appeared
You made him seem so crabby and a person to be feared.
You need to do that part again, with singing and guitar
So we and the Commissioner can be the way we are

#2

And then you gave the GGG a silly song and dance
If that was meant a Yum-Yum Yuk, you really blew your chance
You didn't have the Yum-Yums, you didn't have a Yuk
You didn't have observers, the whole thing kind of sucked

You need to write that part again, and make the GGG
As ignorant and shallow and repulsive as can be
And fill the stage with Yum-Yums – as many as you can
And if you choose to use a Yuk, let Toolee be your man.

#3

Then you should write an ending – an ending that is fun
An ending that we all can sing – each and ev'ry one
An ending that convinces us that peace is in our reach
If peace is something we can learn, it's something we must teach.

GURU

I cannot guarantee that I can make my story “fun”
But all the other things you ask, I'll try to get them done.

ACE

And I will help you all the way with anything you need
For if we work together, then together we'll succeed

GURU and ACE

So let's get up and do it, and face reality
So we can get where we can get and be who we can be
We've got to:

GURU and ACE

(both singing together in harmony)

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.

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.

GOTTA LIVE LIKE WE LIVE WITH A LITTLE MORE VIGOR
SMILE LIKE WE SMILE BUT A LITTLE BIT BIGGER
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END OF SEGMENT 19