

DEWEY SIDE 1:

ROSALIE
~~HERE AT HORACE GREEN,
WE STICK TO CUSTOM,
KEEP ON SCHEDULE,
DO WHAT MUST BE DONE.
DON'T AND IT WILL MEAN
WE BOTH DIE HUNGRY—
RIGHT, THEN, THAT'S ALL.
GOOD LUCK.
HAVE FUN.~~

~~She goes. The children stare at
Dewey. Dewey stares at them.~~

START-----

DEWEY
Who's got some food?

SUMMER
We're discouraged from bringing
unauthorized food into the building.

DEWEY
No, I'm not going to tell on you.
Nobody's going to get in any trouble.
I'm hungry. You. Glasses. I know
you've got food.

LAWRENCE
I have a Granola bar.

DEWEY
Give it here.
(as he opens the
wrapper:)
Oh yes! Thank you! Thank you...

He takes a bite and clearly
doesn't like it.

DEWEY (CONT'D)
What is this? Don't you have any real
food?

LAWRENCE
Real food?

DEWEY
A burger! A pizza! What's the matter
with you?

LAWRENCE

I'm gluten intolerant.

DEWEY

Oh. God! You!

He throws the Granola bar in the trash can and points at Freddy.

DEWEY (CONT'D)

What's your name?

FREDDY

Freddy Ham-

DEWEY

Freddy Mercury. Get up here. You got any money?

FREDDY

I have ten dollars.

DEWEY

Great. Here's what you are gonna do. I want you to go out and get me a meatball sub, extra marinara, extra cheese and a large soda. Diet soda. I'm watching the fig.

SUMMER

Mr Schneebly, we can't leave the school.

DEWEY

Ever?

SUMMER

Not until the final bell.

DEWEY

Ugh. Sit! Here's the deal. I've got a hang-over. Who knows what that is?

LAWRENCE

Does it mean you're drunk?

DEWEY

No. It means I was drunk yesterday.

ZACK

It means you're an alcoholic.

All the children laugh.

DEWEY
(sarcastically)
Alcoholic.

The children laugh harder.

DEWEY (CONT'D)
What's your name?

ZACK
Zack Mooneyham.

DEWEY
Well, shut up, Zack Mooneyham. The point is, today you can just chill out. We'll start on the teaching crapola tomorrow. Take recess. Have fun. Leave me alone.

Summer raises her hand.

DEWEY (CONT'D)
Fine. You. Lucy Liu.

SUMMER
Summer Hathaway. Do you have any questions about our schedule? Mrs Dunham starts with vocabulary followed by a word quiz, then she divides us into reading groups -

DEWEY
Don't you see that Mrs Dum-Bum is not your teacher today? I am. And I say it's time for recess.

SUMMER
My parents don't spend fifty thousand dollars a year for recess.

DEWEY
Fifty thousand dollars?

SUMMER
Mr Schneebly. Come with me. this poster tracks our achievements. We get gold stars for how we do in class.

Dewey strolls over to the chart,
weirdly fascinated.

DEWEY

What kind of sick school is this? This is a tool of the man.

ZACK

The who?

DEWEY

Not The Who, The Man! Don't you know who the Man is? The Man is everywhere. In the White House or down the hall. Ms Mullins is the Man. At Horace Green, she's the Man. He's to blame for Global Warming, tuxedos and parking tickets. He is responsible for Jar Jar Binks, taxes and acid rain! He burned the Amazon! For Chrissakes, he kidnapped Shamu and put her in a chlorine tank!

ZACK

So what are we supposed to do about it?

DEWEY

You're supposed to fight him! With Rock'n'Roll and spirit and everything you've got to give!

SUMMER

That's all very well, but how can we be graded or get any gold stars, if we just have recess?

Dewey yanks the poster down and tears it to shreds.

DEWEY

Now, listen! As long as I'm here, there'll be no grades and no gold stars and absolutely no achievements! We're gonna have recess all the freakin' time. Geddit? I said *recess!* Go!

SUMMER

We'll see what Ms Mullins has to say about this.

DEWEY

(mocking her)

May-Meh May-Meh May! No, we won't. Now go!

-----**END**

DEWEY SIDE 2:

~~AND I PROMISE ONE DAY I'LL SHAKE YOU,
SO DAMN HARD THAT AT LAST I'LL WAKE YOU
YEAH, I PROMISE ONE DAY I'LL MAKE YOU HEAR!~~

~~When the number ends, we are taken
back to a classroom, at Horace
Green...~~

10 SCENE TEN - THE CLASSROOM

10

...with the kids lined up and
Dewey pacing in front of them like
General Patton surveying his
troops.

START-----

DEWEY

All right, look alive, listen up!
First thing you do when you start a
band, the very first thing you do, is
talk about your influences. So who do
you like? You, Little Debbie?

DEWEY (CONT'D)

Taylor Swift.

DEWEY (CONT'D)

Wrong! In the corner. You, Buddy
Holly?

MASON

Kanye.

DEWEY

Wrong. To the corner! Billy?

BILLY

Barbara Streisand?

DEWEY

What? No!! Guys! Get in here right
now. Right now! Please! This project
is called Rock Band! I'm talking about
bands that rock! Led Zeppelin!

SUMMER

Who?

DEWEY

Don't tell me you guys have never gotten the Led out! What about Sabbath? AC/DC? Motorhead? Augghh, what do they teach in this place? Summer! New schedule! 8:45 - 10:45, Rock History. 11:00-12, Rock Appreciation and Theory. Then band practice to the end of the day.

LAWRENCE

What about math?

DEWEY

No, not important. Ozzy Osbourne doesn't do math!

SHONELLE

Social Studies?

DEWEY

Definitely not important! Mick Jagger doesn't -- look, guys! We've gotta focus here. You gotta have a purpose! Don't you want to win this contest? It's prestigious!

FREDDY

So what are we gonna play?

DEWEY

Oh, you don't have to worry about that. We have awesome material. Which I wrote.

ZACK

Let's hear it.

DEWEY

What?

ZACK

Let's hear your song.

DEWEY

You want to hear my song? OK I'll play you my song if you want to hear it. Thing is... keep in mind that I wrote it in like fifteen minutes... And, uh... it's not done yet. And you might not -

FREDDY

Just play the song, Schneebly!

12. THE LEGEND OF THE RENT (PART 1)

DEWEY

OK, I will sing it... but let me just,
uh... get in the zone...
Brrrrrrrr....brrrrr....
I'm riffing here, I'm gonna need some
of you to write this down.

Some of the children run to their
desks and pull out notepads,
computers etc.

DEWEY (CONT'D)

Tip of the tongue on the teeth and the
lips. OK... It begins on a dark stage.
And then a beam of light and you can
just see me and my guitar...

DOO NOW DOO NOW
IN THE END OF TIME
THERE WAS A MAN WHO KNEW THE ROAD
AND THE WRITING WAS WRITTEN ON THE STONE.

Now a thin layer of fog comes in
around my ankles. Roadies, that means
dry ice, we'll talk about this later.
IN THE ANCIENT TIME,
AN ARTIST LED THE WAY
BUT NO ONE SEEMED TO UNDERSTAND.

Chimes, Freddy.

IN HIS HEART HE KNEW,
THE ARTIST MUST BE TRUE
BUT THE LEGEND OF THE RENT WAS WAY PAST DUE.

And then Katie, you come in with the
bass!

WELL YOU THINK YOU'LL BE JUST FINE
WITHOUT ME, BUT YOU'RE MINE!
YOU THINK YOU CAN KICK ME OUT OF THE BAND?

Zack! It's you now! You come in with a
face-melter!

WELL THERE'S JUST ONE PROBLEM THERE:
THE BAND IS MIIIIINE!
HOW CAN YOU KICK ME OUT OF WHAT IS MINE?

Freddy, here I want one of those
Hawaii-5-0 drum solos.

YOU'RE NOT HARDCORE
UNLESS YOU LIVE HARDCORE...

That's where I want the backup
singers, like -

WELL YOU'RE NOT HARDCORE
(falsetto)
NO YOU'RE NOT HARDCARE--
(back to normal
voice)

UNLESS YOU LIVE HARDCORE--
(falsetto)

UNELSS YOU LIVE HARDCORE--
(now comes the big
finish)

BUT THE LEGEND OF THE RENT WAS WAY HARDCORE!

Boom! A big explosion! Confetti coming
down... Anyway, that's all I have
right now, it's a work in progress.

SUMMER

I liked it, Mr. Schneebly. I thought
it was catchy.

DEWEY

Thank you, Summer Hathaway - still not
giving you a gold star. All right
everybody, stand up! Time for Rock
History!

-----END

~~The kids break out of their line
as the set reveals the Faculty
Room, where the teaching staff
relax.~~

~~SCENE ELEVEN THE FACULTY LOUNGE~~

~~The teachers sing a bitter version
of HERE AT HORACE GREEN.~~

~~13. HERE AT HORACE GREEN (FACULTY REPRISE)~~

~~MR. SANDERS~~

~~HERE AT HORACE GREEN,
OUR PRINCIPAL IS KEEN ON PROTOCOL,
FOR ONE AND ALL.~~

DEWEY SIDE 3 (CB):

~~She stands by the door.~~

~~ROSALIE~~

~~May I introduce you to the parents of your class?~~

~~She steps back to admit the parents.~~

~~Now they let him have it. Their complaints overlap.~~

~~Mr MOONEYHAM~~

~~What is with this music? Zack is not a clever boy. He doesn't have time to waste on music, music, music. He needs all the studying he can get! Now he says when he grows up he wants to be a musician!~~

~~DEWEY~~

~~I don't think that would be so~~

~~But they are talking together and over each other, now.~~

~~Mr WILLIAMS~~

~~Tomika's the same! I don't get it! Singing and listening and singing some more? But what's she learning?~~

~~Mrs TURNER~~

~~Lawrence's head is stuffed with keyboards! He won't talk or think about anything else!~~

~~Mrs Hathaway~~

~~Summer tells me they don't work! They never work! They just sit around and play music!~~

START-----

MARCY

Mr. Schneebly, don't you think you should just tell them about the Battle of the Bands.

MR SPENCER

What Battle of the Bands?

DEWEY

OK OK. Everybody sit down, I will explain everything. Sit down in the chairs provided! Welcome to Parent's Night! Hello, I am Ned Schneebly, Mrs Dunham's substitute.

Before it hits the fan, there's something Dewey needs to say.

DEWEY (CONT'D)

Look. Over the last few weeks I've gotten to know your kids. Your *kids*.

(to Mooneyham)

You. You say that he isn't smart? Are you crazy? He's an incredible guitarist and mind. You should hear him play. He's the next Hendrix. Freddy and Katie can jam with the best of them. But more importantly, since they picked up these instruments, they have grown so much. I've seen it! They're great, great kids.

(to Mrs Turner)

You! You say Lawrence plays keyboards all day. Well why shouldn't he?! He's insane! He's going to go down in the rock record books. He is a sex god. Look at him!

Marcy and Shonelle have the voices of angels. I worship every note that comes out of their mouths. And Tomika? Tomika is a star. And don't even get me started on Summer. Summer could run for President of the United States. If she did, I'd vote for her. The truth is, they are all really cool kids. If they were mine, I'd be so proud. I *am* proud.

Patty bursts into the room with Ned.

-----**END**

~~PATTY~~

~~He's an imposter!~~

~~DEWEY~~

~~Ned? You told Patty?~~

~~NED~~

~~She got it out of me. Sorry.~~