Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber
Lyrics by Glenn Slater
Script by Julian Fellowes
Act I

SCENE ONE

Olympic Powerhouse

1. I’M TOO HOT FOR YOU

JEFF
... And now, ladies and gentlemen, please welcome to the stage: No Vacancy!

THEA
Hey! We’ve been together
Such a long long time
It’s been a great three days you know it’s true
But now I can’t help thinkin’
Something isn’t right
And honestly it isn’t me it’s you...
I’m too hot for you
Babe you just can’t deny

I’m too hot for you
The mirror doesn’t lie
Thought you’d past the test
But you’re a six at best
I’m too hot for you
So let’s just say goodbye.

DEWEY
Let’s pick it up now guys!

THEA
Baby don’t feel sorry
I know how hard you tried
I guess some things they just
Ain’t meant to be

DEWEY
YEAH!
THEA
You wanna know what happened
Just look me in the eye
Face it babe the answer’s
Plain to see

DEWEY
Plain to see! Yeah!

THEA
I’m too hot for you

DEWEY
Me too!

THEA
I know, it’s so unfair

DEWEY
SO unfair! Baby!

THEA
I’m too hot for you
And you’re just kinda there!
I’m too hot for you

Dewey begins to play a wild guitar solo. His bandmates watch in horror.

THEA
Dewey cut it out! Dewey! Dewey!

BOB
Dewey! What are you doing?!

DEWEY
Thank you New York! Goodnight!

THEA
That’s it, I’m done with that guy.
He’s out,

DOUG
Alright, man!
SCENE TWO

Dewey’s Bedroom

NED
Do we have to do this now?

PATTY
Yes, he’s trashed the house again, I’m sick of it!

NED
He’s lived here a long time.

PATTY
What does that mean? He’s been here longer than me so I matter less?

NED
No, Patty-cake, of course not, it’s just – we went to High School together, we were in a band together. He’s my best friend.

PATTY
He’s not your friend. He’s a freeloader, Ned, and he never pays rent. He takes advantage of you. He’s rude to me, and it’s time he paid some rent!

NED
Waking him up in the morning is a bad idea. It’s like using a beehive as a piñata – it’s dangerous!

PATTY
You can’t live your life letting people push you around. Go! Do it!

DEWEY
(Talking in his sleep)
Yes, I understand guacamole is two dollars extra...

NED
Dewey. Dewey? Dewey!

PATTY
Wake up, Dewey! Time to get up!

She rips the covers off Dewey. He stumbles out of bed with a start.
DEWEY
Patty! What do you want?

PATTY
The rent.

DEWEY
You woke me up for that?

PATTY
Yes, we woke you up for that!!

DEWEY
I am so sick and tired of being the guy everyone comes to for the money I owe them.

PATTY
Well, sorry to disturb your beauty sleep, but we’re going to work now, Dewey. You see we work. I serve the Mayor of this city – the whole city – and Ned... Ned has the most important job there is!

DEWEY
Temping?

PATTY
Teaching! A substitute teacher is not a temp!

DEWEY
He’s a babysitter.

NED
I’d like to see you try it!

DEWEY
Sweet comeback, bro.

PATTY
I don’t care what you think of us, Dewey. Pay some rent!

DEWEY
Tell her, Ned! The Battle of the Bands is in three weeks! I need every penny I make!

PATTY
So do we! And you know what? It belongs to us! Why don’t you sell that stupid guitar?
DEWEY
(Lunging for guitar)
Noooo! Would you ask Picasso to sell his guitar?

PATTY
Oh my God, you’re an idiot.

DEWEY
Ned? Help me here. You can’t have forgotten what I’m playing for. What’s happened to you? You used to be a blood sucking, cross-dressing incubus from Maggot Death!

NED
That’s not who I am anymore

PATTY
He’s moved on, Dewey. It’s called “growing up”! You should try it.

Patty exits.

DEWEY
I don’t want to try! Ned?! I’ve been mooching off you for years and it’s never been a problem before.

NED
Come on. If you don’t pay rent, Patty might leave me.

DEWEY
So I shouldn’t pay the rent then?

NED
Dewey. I may never get another girlfriend

3. WHEN I CLIMB TO THE TOP OF MOUNT ROCK

DEWEY
Ned. When I win the Battle of the Bands I will be rolling in the Benjamin’s and then I’ll pay your stupid rent. And that’s just the beginning.

I’ll be strumming my axe in a basement dive
With my totally kick-ass band
When an army of A and R men will arrive
With pen and contracts in hand
And they’ll whisk me away in a big black car
And the record execs and the girls from P.R.
They’ll know from the start what a major league star I will be...
Just wait and see...!

NED
Please Dewey, just pay it!

DEWEY
When I climb to the top of Mount Rock
And I’m there staring down from the heights
In my black leather boots my seven-inch heels
And my lizard skin spandex tights
I’ll dive off the edge straight into a crowd
That’s screaming my name out loud
And the gates will unlock
At the top of Mt. Rock!

Dewey arrives at a REHEARSAL SPACE. His band, “No Vacancy”, is there waiting

DEWEY
Hey, guys! I’ve got some killer new material for the Battle of the Bands.

THEA
Dewey, you’re out. We’re taking the Battle of the Bands seriously this year. Meet Snake

SNAKE
Sup.

DEWEY
What?! No! You can’t kick me out. I created No Vacancy!

THEA
You brought the band together and now the band wants you out.

DOUG
Don’t feel bad, Dewey. You don’t fit in. We’re all really good looking.

DEWEY
Thanks for that, Doug! But you’ve forgotten about one little thing: The Music! You know what? I don’t need you. I don’t need any of you!
I’ll be blowing out amps playing stadium shows
On my sold-out galactic tour
And I’ll blister the ears of the first thousand rows
And I’ll leave while they beg for more

Then I’ll pop the champagne and the party will rage
No brown M&Ms in my greenroom backstage
Bigger than Hendrix and Clapton and Page
And the rest...

GIRL 1
Dewey Finn?

DEWEY
The all-time best!

GIRL 2
What a loser.

DEWEY
When I climb to the top of Mt. Rock
And I’m perched at the uppermost peak
With a legion of groupies all duking it out
For my chiseled Rock-God physique
I’ll scatter hit singles all over the land
With my twelve Grammys in hand
And the fan-boys will flock
‘Round the top of Mt. Rock!

He ends up at the record store
where he works

STANLEY
You’re late again, Dewey. I have to let you go.

DEWEY
But Stanley, I need this job. I’ve got to pay rent.

STANLEY
That was your last chance.

DEWEY
Please!
The doubters and the haters and the hipsters
Let ‘em laugh
Soon they’ll all be beggin’ for my roadie’s autograph
I know my time is coming
Well, hopefully it’s coming
I’m pretty sure it’s coming, any day
Once I find a way...

When the dreams that I’ve had since the day I turned ten
Will be finally coming true
And no one will call me a loser again
Or tell me what I can’t do.

So I’ll hold my head high, and keep strumming those strings
And I’ll grab any chance that my destiny brings
I’ll rise and I’ll rise and I’ll rise on the wings of my song
Up where I belong...

And I’ll climb to the top of Mount Rock
And be part of that heavenly scene
With Odin and Zeus on the bass and the drums
And Thor playing tambourine.
And Elvin and Janis and Kurt will appear
And Jesus will toss me a beer
And we’ll jam ‘round the clock
At the top of Mount Rock
At the top of Mount Rock
At the top of Mount Rock!

Phone rings

DEWEY
What do you want?

ROSALIE
Hello? This is Rosalie Mullins, Principal of Horace Green Prep School.
Am I speaking with Mr. Ned Schneebly?

DEWEY
No. He’s not here.

ROSALIE
Will you give him a message?

DEWEY
Whatever.
ROSALIE
We have had an emergency and we need an immediate substitute to start tomorrow morning at 8:45. I am not sure for how long, but the position will pay nine hundred and fifty dollars a week.

DEWEY
Nine fifty a week?

ROSALIE
Yes. Nine hundred and fifty dollars a week.

Without a word, Dewey goes to the door, opens and closes it

DEWEY
Hold on a second, I think he just came in the door. Hello-o! Anybody home-e? Oh, hey Dewey! Ned, the principal from Horace Green is on the phone...

Hello this is Ned Schneebly. To whom am I speaking, please?

SCENE THREE

HORACE GREEN

4. HORACE GREEN ALMA MATER

ROSALIE
No running!

MR MOONEYHAM
Zack. Zack! Don’t make me call you twice! And walk like you’re going somewhere! Look at you! Tuck in your shirt!

ROSALIE
Good morning, Mr Mooneyham. Good morning, Zack.

ZACK
Good morning Ms Mullins!

ROSALIE
Good morning, Mrs Hathaway. Good morning, Summer.

SUMMER
Good morning, Ms Mullins!
MRS HATHAWAY
Ms. Mullins, I wonder if I could –

SUMMER
Mum, your car is in a no parking zone.

MRS HATHAWAY
I know, honey, but I just wanted to ask Ms. Mullins if –

SUMMER
I’ll do the asking. Go move the car.

MRS HATHAWAY
All right, honey if you’re –

Summer has already gone.

MRS HATHAWAY
She’s so definite

ROSA LI E
Isn’t she just?

MR WILLIAMS
You’re sure you’ve got everything?

MR SPENCER
Your homework? Your books?

ROSA LI E
Good morning, Mr. and Mr. Spencer-Williams. Hello, Tomika.

MR WILLIAMS
Hello Ms. Mullins. How is she settling in?

ROSA LI E
It’s hard to join a new school at her age, but she’ll be fine.

MR WILLIAMS
And your cold is completely gone?

MR SPENCER
It wasn’t a cold, it was an allergy

MR WILLIAMS
I’m holding her lunch. Kevin, I’m holding her lunch! Tomika!
School bell rings

PUPILS
Here at Horace Green
We face the future
Always striving
Eager to succeed
Here at Horace Green
The old traditions
Shape who we are
In words and deed.

Solemn and serene
We shoulder duty
Seek perfection
Toil and never rest
Thanks to Horace Green
Our Alma Mater
We’ll take our place
Amongst the best

Here at Horace Green
We march in lock-step
Ever upward
Destined to achieve

Here at Horace Green
We go forth proudly
Marked for success
The day we leave

ROSALIE
Children? One word before you go.

Pupils freeze

ROSALIE
Due to Mrs. Dunham’s injury, a substitute will be arriving this morning.
His name is Mr. Schneebly and I want to see him treated with the
courtesy that has made Horace Green famous. You are dismissed.

Pupils leave.
4A. HORACE GREEN ALMA MATER (UNDERSCORE)

MS SHEINKOPF
Ms. Mullins, when will he be here?

ROSAELIE
I told him we begin at eight forty-five.

MS SHEINKOPF
But it’s nine forty-five.

ROSAELIE
Let’s hope he arrives before ten.

MS SHEINKOPF
And will he fit in?

ROSAELIE
His resume is very impressive.
Can you take care of his class until he arrives?

MS SHEINKOPF (To class)
Get back! All of you! Now!

Madison runs onto stage

ROSAELIE
No running!

Madison begins to cry

ROSAELIE
Don’t cry. Do you want a hug?

MADISON
Ahhh!

ROSAELIE
But I –

Madison runs off stage
Dewey enters

ROSAELIE
Deliveries are out back.
DEWEY
No, Hi. I'm Ned Schneebly. The substitute?

ROSALIE
You're very late Mr. Schneebly... Never mind, you're here now. Principal Rosalie Mullins, we spoke on the phone.

DEWEY
Sure. First things first: is there any chance of being paid up front?

ROSALIE
What?

DEWEY
It'd be really great if I could be paid now. In cash.

ROSALIE
We don't do that.

DEWEY
If you say so, but no checks made out to Ned Schneebly, OK? Everything made out to cash. Tax purposes.

ROSALIE
You can discuss that with Candace in administration at the end of the day.

Dewey raises his hand

ROSALIE
Mr. Schneebly

DEWEY
When is the end of the day?

ROSALIE
The school hours are from eight forty-five to three.

DEWEY
Can I duck out a little early? I had a few last night and my head is like pounding. That's if you don't mind.

ROSALIE
I mind.
DEWEY
Cool.

ROSALIE
Mr Schneebly, perhaps you’re not familiar with this kind of institution.
Let me explain something to you.

5. HERE AT HORACE GREEN

ROSALIE
Here at Horace Green
Our name has come to mean
Pure excellence
In every sense
Which we commandeer
For quite a lofty yearly fee.

When they write those checks
Each parent here expects
Their child to earn
A high return
And because they do
The pressure’s on for you and me.

Here at Horace Green
We rule the rankings
Lead in funding
Test right off the chart
Greatness is routine
The board demands it
Or we will both
Be ripped apart

DEWEY
No worries with me. If a kid gets out of line, I smack ‘em. Real hard.

ROSALIE
There is no corporal punishment at Horace Green

DEWEY
But you do spank ‘em, right?

ROSALIE
No.
At our hallowed school
The children, as a rule
Learn discipline
We drill it in
With, as you might guess
The fear of doing less than well.
While they’re in our care
We tenderly prepare
Them to compete

MR NOBLE
Morning, Ms. Mullins!

ROSALIE
With the elite.

MR GREEN
Good morning, Ms Mullins!

ROSALIE
Till they are dispersed
To Harvard or, at worst, Cornell.

Here at Horace Green
We take top honours
Crush our rivals
Wear the Prep-school crown.
There’s no in between
We get results here
Or the Alums
Will hunt us down.

Ah, here we are! This is your classroom. Good morning, children!

PUPILS
Good morning, Ms. Mullins.

ROSALIE.
Thank you, Ms. Sheinkopf.

MS SHEINKOPF
You’re welcome.

ROSALIE
Children, this is Mrs. Dunham’s substitute, Mr. Schneebly.
PUPILS
Good morning, Mr. Schneebly.

ROSALIE
Why don’t you write your name on the board?

DEWEY
Good thinking.

He picks up a chalk and writes Mr. F –

ROSALIE
That’s a funny S.

DEWEY
I’m just trying to get control of this darned chalk.
Don’t give me such a hard time! That’s better.

He writes Mr. Schneebly but
struggles to remember how to spell it

ROSALIE
Well then. Any further questions?

Dewey raises his hand

ROSALIE
Mr. Schneebly.

DEWEY
When’s lunch?

ROSALIE
Lunch is at lunchtime. Oh, Mr. Schneebly, one last thing...

5A. HERE AT HORACE GREEN (PART 2)

Here at Horace Green
We stick to custom
Keep on schedule
Do what must be done.
Don’t and it will mean
I go ballistic –
Right, then, that’s all.
Good luck.
Have fun.
She leaves.
The children stare at Dewey.
Dewey stares at them.

DEWEY
Who’s got some food?

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

DEWEY
Nobody’s going to get in any trouble. I’m hungry. You. I know you’ve got food.

LAWRENCE
I have a cereal bar.

DEWEY
Give it here.

Takes a bite, clearly doesn’t like it.

DEWEY
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! What’s your name?

FREDDY
Freddy Ham –

DEWEY
Get up here, Freddy Mercury. You got any money?
FREDDY
I have ten dollars.

DEWEY
Great. Now I want you to go out and get me a meatball sub with extra cheese and a large Diet Coke.

SUMMER
Mr. Schneebly, we can't leave the school.

DEWEY
Ever?

SUMMER
Not until the final bell.

DEWEY
OK. 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 children laugh.

DEWEY
(Sarcastic laugh)
Alcoholic.

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 rubbish tomorrow. Take recess. Have fun. Leave me alone.

Summer raises her hand
DEWEY
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
What kind of sick school is this? This is a tool of The Man.

ZACK
The who?

DEWEY
Not The Who, The Man! The man is everywhere! Don’t you know who The Man is? Ms. Mullins is the Man. The man is responsible for global warming, tuxedos, Jar Jar Binks and the Kardashians.

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 today, if we just have recess.
Dewey rips poster down and tears to shreds.

DEWEY
Now, listen! As long as I’m here, there will be no grades and no gold stars and absolutely no achievements! We’re gonna have recess all the freakin’ time. Geddit? Not re-cess! Go!

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

DEWEY
(Mocking Summer)
Mey-Meh May-Meh May! No we won’t. Now go!

Children run off stage.

5B. HORACE GREEN U/S

SCENE FOUR

THE APARTMENT

Patty enters, dressed for a run.  She begins to stretch.  Ned enters, carrying a bag.

NED
Patty, I’m home...  
Oh, hello! Are you going out?

PATTY
I’m going for a run. Come with!

NED
Ohhh. You know, I’d love to, but I can’t. I have so many papers to grade and I don’t want to betray 35 children.

Ned gets out computer

PATTY
Oh that’s my little Neddy... such a hard worker. Do you know how I admire you?

NED
Really?
PATTY
Really. Bye Mr Wonderful.

Ned waits for Patty for go. He rushes over to the couch and whips out a Guitar Hero guitar.

NED
Patty?

He switches on the TV, selects a song and begins to play.

GUITAR HERO V/O
Guitar Hero!

After a minute, Dewey enters. He stares.

DEWEY
JUDAS!

NED
Oh my God! Dewey! Don’t sneak up on me like that! I thought you were Patty.

DEWEY
Never mind her. You are playing without me! Could my week get any worse?

NED
I just started, but we’ve only got a few minutes before Patty gets home.

DEWEY
Yes!

Dewey pulls out a Guitar Hero guitar

GUITAR HERO V/O
Player 2 has entered the game.

They begin to play.
DEWEY
How was your day?

NED
So-so.

DEWEY
That’s what you get when you’re a teacher, Ned. It is life-sucking, trust me, I know.

NED
How?

DEWEY
Just do.

NED
Sorry you got kicked out of your band.

DEWEY
Don’t worry about that, I have a plan.

Dewey watches Ned play.

DEWEY
Switch!

They switch sides.

NED
Switch!

They continue to play until the song ends.

NED
So what’s your plan?

6. CHILDREN OF ROCK

DEWEY
Can you imagine six strings ablaze

NED
Whaddya mean?
DEWEY
Back up on stage, man,
Just like the good old days.

NED
Oh no...

DEWEY
Decked out in leather

NED
Leather?

DEWEY
Axes in hand!

NED
I do like leather.

DEWEY
Rising to conquer the Battle of the Bands

NED
Don’t do this to me, Dewey...

DEWEY
Crowd packed and steaming
   Everybody screaming
Dude? We’ll be monsters of Rock!

NED
I can’t...

DEWEY
Framed in the spotlight
   Baskin’ in that hot light –
   Ass-kickin’ giants of rock

NED
But, Patty...

DEWEY
Teenagers ravin’
   Lighters up and wavin’
They’ll know we’re Titans of rock!
NED
Oh God...

DEWEY
Bro, let’s get to it –
You know you wanna do it
Let’s go be children of Rock.

NED
(Giving up)
I’ll do it!

Dewey appears with an amp and guitars

DEWEY
Picture the mayhem

NED
I see it all!

DEWEY & NED
Maggot-Death mania
Fans going off the wall!

DEWEY
Amps overloading
Energy exploding
Us being monsters of rock!

NED
Place getting hectic
Atmosphere electric –
Dude, we’ll be giants of rock!

DEWEY
Raging and reeling
Nothing like the feeling
When you’re a Titan of rock

DEWEY & NED
Full throttle jamming
Hardcore body-slamming
Death metal children of rock

DEWEY
And when it’s over
NED
One mighty roar

DEWEY & NED
Ten thousand voices
Begging for just one more!

They play wild solos.
Suddenly, Patty appears.
Ned & Dewey can’t hear her over the music.

PATTY
NED!!! NED!!!

Patty switches off their amp.
Ned immediately puts the guitar down.

7. MT ROCK REPRISE

PATTY
You’ve been playing for free in the lamest dives
With a talentless, tenth-rate band
And the moment a decent replacement arrives
They tell you to go pound sand.

Now you’re stuck at the foot of Mt Rock
And you’re not even close to the trail
You’re a joke and a fool
And your so-called career
Is an epic, spectacular fail
Well we’re done putting up with your freeloding ways –
Cough the rent up in thirty days
Or we dump all your schlock

DEWEY
Ned?

PATTY
Off the side of Mt Rock
Then we’ll change every lock.

DEWEY
This is my last chance.
PATTY
And we’re done with Mt Rock.

NED
I’m sorry Dewey, I can’t.

PATTY
Ned!

Patty exits, triumphantly, Ned follows.

7A. MT ROCK REPRISE PLAYOUT

Dewey is alone.
As Dewey exits, we are back at the school.

SCENE FIVE

HORACE GREEN MUSIC ROOM

8. QUEEN OF THE NIGHT

Dewey enters, outside the Music Room.
Gabe, another teacher, appears.

DEWEY
Hey, Joe. What’s going on?

GABE
Gabe. It’s ten o’clock! I stood in for you first period, but -

DEWEY
Sssh! What’s that noise?

GABE
Your class. They have music studies now, with Ms. Mullins.

DEWEY
My kids? The spoiled brats with the gold stars? They’re the ones making that sound?

GABE
Yes.
Dewey enters the music room. The students are playing. Ms. Mullins begins to sing. Dewey is astonished.

Freddy plays the cymbals with perhaps too much enthusiasm.

**ROSALIE**
Freddy. I'm warning you.
Ahhhhh.

(To Freddy)
That's it. You're done. Get out.

Ahhhh
Sobist du meine tochter nimer mehr.

The students finish the song.
A bell rings.

**ROSALIE**
Class dismissed.

The class leaves.
Summer remains.

**SUMMER**
Ms. Mullins, may I speak to you a moment?

**ROSALIE**
Yes, Summer.

**SUMMER**
I have some concerns about Mr. Schneebly. Are you sure he's qualified to teach us?

**ROSALIE**
I'm sure he is more qualified to teach than you are to question my decisions.

**SUMMER**
But he tore -

**ROSALIE**
It's time for class, Summer.
SUMMER
But he –

ROSALIE
It’s time for class.

Summer goes to exit, then turns back for one last attempt...

ROSALIE
Class.

Summer goes.
Rosalie hums to herself.

ROSALIE
Ahhh.

8A. QUEEN OF THE NIGHT – PLAYOUT

SCENE SIX

HORACE GREEN – THE CLASSROOM

Dewey runs back into the classroom with various instruments, including electric guitars, keyboards, amps, basses, etc.
The children arrive.

DEWEY
Hey! Come in! Come in! Sit!

SUMMER
What’s going on, Mr Schneebly?

DEWEY
Always the little question mark.

SUMMER
I like to know what’s going on.
DEWEY
Do you? Well, I like to know what’s going on too, Summer, and there’s something I want to know right now: WHY DID NO ONE TELL ME YOU COULD PLAY MUSIC? I had the instruments! They were in my van the whole time! I just didn’t know I had the players!

LAWRENCE
What difference does it make?

DEWEY
What difference? I thought you were just a bunch of little losers. Now I know you’re soul brothers and soul sisters! What difference?! I’m not alone! Oh, God! I am not alone!

SUMMER
Does that mean no more recess?

DEWEY
I’ll tell you what it means. It means we can compete in The Battle of the Bands.

MARCY
What’s The Battle of the Bands?

DEWEY
Excuse me? You do know about earth and water? Or air and fire? Then how come you don’t know about The Battle of the Bands?!

SUMMER
If this is some kind of dream of yours –

DEWEY
Yes, it’s a dream of mine, little Miss Sunshine! And you know what? It’s going to be a dream of yours too.

SUMMER
I doubt it.

DEWEY
But you have a feeling for music! Real music! I’ve heard you!

LAWRENCE
But classical music, Mr. Schneebly. Not your kind of music.

DEWEY
Nonsense! Music speaks to you! That’s what matters! You! Zack!
9. YOU’RE IN THE BAND

DEWEY
Ever play an electric guitar?

ZACK
My dad says it’s a waste of time.

DEWEY
Well, Zack, let’s waste that time together. Here, take this.

He hands Zack an electric guitar.

DEWEY
Now pay attention.

Grab a hold of your axe and try to pluck out this riff.

Dewey plays riff.
Zack copies.

DEWEY
Good!

Now let your shoulders relax
You don’t wanna be so stiff.

Zack plays again, with more confidence.

DEWEY
That’s it!

Zack plays it again, with feeling.

DEWEY
Excellent!

Keep on going, don’t stop
Take it over the top
Make each note really pop
Squeeze out every last drop
Give it one final whop!
And yes! You’re in the band.

You! What’s your name?
KATIE
Katie.

DEWEY
And what is that big, lumpy thing you were playing?

KATIE
The cello?

DEWEY

Dewey picks up a bass guitar.

DEWEY
Turn a cello this way and it’s practically like a bass.

Dewey plays “Smoke on the Water” riff.

DEWEY
Pop the strings when you play and watch how you shred my face.

Katie plays riff.

DEWEY
Whoa, yes! Katie’s shredding my face off! Oh, no, it’s still there.

Keep on rocking each note
Grab it right by the throat
Keep the rhythm afloat
Don’t forget to emote
And that’s all that she wrote
Baby, you’re in the band!

Piano man!

LAWRENCE
Lawrence.

DEWEY
Whatever, dude, come here!

If you play the piano
You can play the keys.
LAWRENCE
I only play classical –

DEWEY
So just loosen it up and strut your expertise.

LAWRENCE
I don’t think I can.

DEWEY
Take a look at this music
And let your mind expand...

Lawrence plays a keyboard riff.

DEWEY
... You’re in the band!

Now who’s gonna be my drummer?

FREDDY
I play percussion

SUMMER
You play the cymbals.

FREDDY
Shut up!

DEWEY
Shut up!

Sit your butt at the skins
And try to whack out a beat.

Freddy plays a simple rhythm.

DEWEY
Not bad. For my Grandma. Who’s dead.

Feel the groove in your pins
Then slowly turn up the heat.

Freddy starts getting fancy
DEWEY
Yeah, now he’s playing like my Grandmother who’s alive!

And now, rat-a-tat-tat
Hit the bass and high hat!
Make it juicy and fat!
Yeah, exactly like that!
And now shut it down flat –

Freddy plays a monster fill.

DEWEY
You’re in the band!

SUMMER
I still don’t see how this is going to work. What’ll I do?

DEWEY
You just sit back and enjoy the magic of rock.

JAMES
You mean we’re not in the band?

DEWEY
Now hold on. Just ‘cos you’re not in the band, it doesn’t mean you’re not in the band. I’m gonna need some backup singers. Anyone?

(Points to Marcy)
Sing!

MARCY
The sun’ll come out tomorrow
Betcher bottom dollar –

DEWEY
(Points to Shonelle)
Sing!

SHONELLE
Oh say can you see
By the dawn’s early –

DEWEY
(Points to Summer)
Sing!
SUMMER
Memory
All alone in the moonlight –

This sounds terrible

DEWEY
No, no, no.

(To Marcy)
Backup singer.

(To Shonelle)
Backup singer.

(To Summer)
Groupie.

BILLY
What about the rest of us?

DEWEY
Let’s see...
I need a couple of Roadies.

SOPHIE & MADISON
We can do that!

DEWEY
I need someone on tech.

MASON
I’ll be tech.

DEWEY
Who wants to be security?

JAMES
I will.

BILLY
Can I be the stylist?

DEWEY
CHECK!
SUMMER
Mr. Schneebly, I don’t want to be a groupie.

DEWEY
Groupies are great! They’re like cheerleaders, only better.

SUMMER
No.

DEWEY
Well, how about being manager?

SUMMER
Manager?

DEWEY
Is that something you could swing?

SUMMER
What does it mean?

DEWEY
It means I’m putting you in charge of the whole darn thing!

SUMMER
Yes!

DEWEY
We’ve got our band!

Now Freddy, keep that beat going. Katie, come in on G. Just give me that G, lay it down there. Zack, hit me with some bit fat chords. Awesome! Lawrence, take me to the moon! Where are my backup singers? Like this:

Doot, de doot, de doot,
Doot de doo
Doot, de doot, de doot,
Doot de do...

MARCY & SHONELLE
Doot, de doot, de doot,
Doot de doo
Doot, de doot, de doot,
Doot de do...

36
DEWEY
Now repeat after me
“I pledge allegiance to the band”

PUPILS
“I pledge allegiance to the band”

DEWEY
And I promise to give
Mr. Schneebley full command

PUPILS
I promise to give
Mr. Schneebley full command

DEWEY
And with me in control of the band as a whole
We will rock and we’ll roll with our heart and our soul
If you’re in raise your hand

KATIE
I’m in the band

BILLY
I’m in the band

SUMMER
I’m in the band

FREDDY
I’m in the band

MARCY & SHONELLE
I’m in the band

ZACK
I’m in the band

DEWEY
Yes!
You’re in the band!

PUPILS
We’re in the band
DEWEY
You’re in the band!

PUPILS
We’re in the band

DEWEY
You’re in the band!

Dewey looks through his bag and hands out CDs to them. Lawrence is hanging back.

Here! The history of Jimi Hendrix by tomorrow. You! Les Claypool, listen to track three it’s incredible.

ZACK
Are we going to compete against other schools?

DEWEY
There’s no question that a win will go on your permanent record. Hello, Harvard. Hello, Yale. Yo. But I can’t put in a good word for you unless you clean this place up! I mean, what am I not paying you guys for? Roadies? All of you! Clean up!

(Seeing Tomika all alone)

What’s wrong?

Tomika shakes her head.

DEWEY
Tomika? Something is wrong. Tell your old pal, Mr. Schneebly. Come on, you can talk to me.

MARCY
You haven’t given her a job.

DEWEY
Sure. OK. Can you sing? Do you want to be a backup singer with Marcy and Shonelle?

Tomika shakes her head.

DEWEY
Then what do you want to do if you don’t want to sing?
Tomika just can’t say

LAWRENCE
Mr. Schneebly, can I speak with you a moment?

DEWEY
(To Tomika)
Think about what you want to do, and we’ll talk about this later.

(To Lawrence)
What up homey?

LAWRENCE
I don’t think I should be in the band.

DEWEY
Why not?

LAWRENCE
I’m not cool. People in bands are cool. I’m not cool.

DEWEY
Dude, you’re cool. The way you play? Why do you say you’re not cool?

LAWRENCE
Nobody talks to me. I have no friends. Except Tomika, and she doesn’t speak.

DEWEY
Those days are over. Trust me.

LAWRENCE
You don’t understand what it’s like. You’re too cool.

Lawrence walks away.

DEWEY
Hey! Come back here! Pop a squat next to papa. You think I don’t understand what it’s like? To be lonely and have no friends, to be left out of everything? Believe me, kid, I understand better than you know. By the time I’m done with you, you’ll be so cool you’ll be a walking popsicle. You’ll be King Cool of all you survey.

LAWRENCE
Honest?
DEWEY
Honest.

LAWRENCE
OK. I’ll do it.

MASON
Are we really going to compete in The Battle of the Bands?

DEWEY
Are you kidding?

10A. YOU’RE IN THE BAND REPRISE

DEWEY
With the talent you’ve got we’ll do more than just compete. Yeah!
We’ll be so freakin’ hot
This here’s the band to beat.

Who’s with me?

PUPILS
Yeah!!!

DEWEY
If you’re ready to win
Then it’s time to begin
With a remedial spin
Through my old CD bin
Get in line if you’re in

PUPILS
Yes! We’re in the band!

DEWEY
(To Zack)
Clapton. Memorise it.

PUPILS
We’re in the band!

DEWEY
(To Lawrence)
Emerson Lake and Palmer. Karn Evil Nine!
PUPILS
We’re in the band!

DEWEY
(To Freddy)
Rush. Feel it and dream.
PUPILS
We’re in the band.

DEWEY
(To Billy)
PUPILS
We’re in the band.

DEWEY
(To Marcy)
The Supremes. So tasty!
PUPILS
We’re in the band.

DEWEY
(To Shonelle)
Aretha. Soul sister number one!
PUPILS & DEWEY
We’re (you’re) in the band.

DEWEY
Go! Listen! Study! Learn!

He hands out the rest of his CDs.

SCENE SEVEN

STUDENT’S HOMES

Freddy enters the garage and tries to avoid his father on his way into the house.

MR HAMILTON
Where’s your homework?
Freddy hands his father a CD.

MR HAMILTON
I don't believe it. More music? Should I tell you what my homework was? Or how I had to chop wood and bring it in when I finished? Jeez. Freddy, if I had your life...

FREDDY
OK, Dad. I get the message.

MR HAMILTON
No, you don't. Do you even know why I'm paying for this school? Or why I'll pay for an Ivy League College? So you can have any career you choose.

FREDDY
I choose or you choose?

MR HAMILTON
Pick up that hammer and get to some real work.

Billy is reading a copy of Sports Illustrated

MRS SANFORD
What are you reading?

BILLY
Sports Illustrated.

Mrs. Sandford grabs the magazine finding a copy of Vogue hidden underneath

BILLY
Vogue. I'm going to go to my room.

MRS SANFORD
No you're not! You're going come here and watch the game!

BILLY
Do I have to?

MRS SANFORD
Yes! You're my son! You're a Sandford! Your granddad played football, your Dad played football and you're gonna play football, too. It's a legacy, Billy. Now sit down and watch the game.
The light fades up on Tomika with her fathers.

TOMIKA
I don’t fit in.

MR SPENCER
But we love your new school.

MR WILLIAMS
Your old school was falling apart. Do you know how long we were on the waiting list for Horace Green?

TOMIKA
I miss my friends.

MR SPENCER
Don’t be silly! You can make friends anywhere you go!

MR WILLIAMS
BBFs! Besties!

TOMIKA
They’re much smarter than me!

MR SPENCER
No one is smarter than you, Tomika. No one is better than you.

TOMIKA
But I don’t know how to talk to anyone.

MR SPENCER
Tomika. We know what’s best for you.

Zack has arrived home.
His father talks into his phone.

MR MOONEYHAM
Look, I’m not asking anymore, just get it done.

ZACK
Hey, Dad. You won’t believe the day we had –

MR MOONEYHAM
What did I say when Daddy’s on the phone?
ZACK
You’re working.

MR MOONEYHAM

11. IF ONLY YOU WOULD LISTEN

ZACK
You always talk, talk, talk all the time.

MR MOONEYHAM
Bob?

ZACK
You never let me get in a word.

MR MOONEYHAM
Are you at the meeting tomorrow?

Mr. Mooneyham exits.

ZACK
I wish I had, I had a dime
For every thought I’ve swallowed unheard
No matter what it is that I do
It’s like I just can’t seem to get through.

TOMIKA
I’ve got so much to say
If only you would listen
I’ve tried every which way
And still you never listen
Can’t you see I’m hurting?
I couldn’t be more clear
But I promise one day I’ll make you hear.

FREDDY
You know I try, try, try to explain
I’m not the kid you want me to be
And yet it’s all, it’s all in vain –
You just don’t wanna see the real me
You think you know what I’m all about
FREDDY, LAWRENCE, TOMIKA & ZACK
And yet you just keep shutting me out.
   I’ve got so much to share
   If only you would listen
You could prove that you care
   If only you would listen
   I’m not gonna beg you –
   You’ll never see a tear
But I promise one day, I’ll make you hear.

LAWRENCE
Yeah, you’ll see one day,
I’m gonna make you hear me.

MADISON
Gotta find a way
But you are gonna hear me

SHONELLE & MARCY
Got so much to say
And I’m gonna make you hear me

Mr. Sandford exits.

PUPILS
Maybe then you’ll listen
   You gotta listen
   You need to listen.

   You better listen.

All parents exit.

   I’ve got so much inside
   If only you would listen!
Joy and anger and pride
   If only you would listen!

   It’s not much I’m asking
   I only want your ear
But I promise one day I’ll make you hear
   It’s not much I’m asking
   I only want your ear
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!
SCENE EIGHT

HORACE GREEN – THE CLASSROOM

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

MARCY
Taylor Swift.

DEWEY
Who? No! Go to the corner. You?

MASON
Kanye?

DEWEY
Wrong. To the corner! Billy?

BILLY
Adele?

DEWEY
What? Guy! 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? Auggghhh, 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
Not important. Ozzy Osbourne doesn’t do math!

SHONELLE
Science?
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. IN THE END OF TIME

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

Some pupils run to their desk and pull out notepads, computers, etc.

DEWEY
Tip of the tongue on the teeth and the lips.
OK... It starts off on a dark stage. There’s a beam of light and you can 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 we’re not hardcore
(High) Not you’re not hardcore
Unless you live hardcore
(High) Unless you live hardcore
But the legend of the rent was way hardcore!

Boom! A big explosion! Confetti! 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. Lesson one: The fifties!

12A. IN THE END OF TIME (TRANSITION TO FACULTY LOUNGE)

SCENE NINE

HORACE GREEN – STAFF ROOM

13. FACULTY QUADRILLE

Here at Horace Green
Our purpose is to glean good test results
From pre-adults
Making sure each child is drilled
And ranked and filed by score.

Hence one would expect
Our garishly bedecked new substitute
To follow suit
Schneebly, though, comes in
And discipline goes out the door.

Here at Horace Green
There’s stolen glances
Playful whispers
Giggling in the gym
What it all can mean
Is quite confusing
Still one thing’s clear
It comes from him.
Don’t forget his cocky
  Over confident air
  Grease in his hair
  Stains everywhere
  And that awful lingo
  Far too crude to discuss
Plus, the endless music coming right through his door
  Hard to ignore
  And furthermore
  Worst of all
The children all like him more than us!

Here at Horace Green
  We have a system
  Which we keep to
  As we’re told we should
  Think what it would mean
  To do things his way!
  Maybe we too
  Would do some good
Maybe we too, would do some good.

Dewey enters as they finish, ready
  for a high five.

DEWEY
  (To Mr. Green)
What-up! My brother from another motha.

Mr. Green reluctantly slaps Dewey’s hands.

DEWEY
Yeah!... Coffee!

As Dewey pours coffee, the teachers signal to
  Gabe to talk to him.

GABE BROWN
Mr Schneebly! So what do you think of our school, Mr Schneebly? Am I
  saying it right, Schneeeeeebly?

DEWEY
Actually, it’s Schnay-blay.

GABE BROWN
How’s it going? Are you settling in all right?
DEWEY
You know what they say. In marriage or teaching, the first month is the hardest.

The teachers laugh.

GABE BROWN
We were discussing testing. Which test do you prefer? The Tass or the Wilson-Bennet?

DEWEY
I say no testing.

GABE BROWN
No testing?

DEWEY
None at all, and I’ll tell you why, Joe.

GABE BROWN
Gabe.

DEWEY
Gabe. I believe the children are our future. Teach them well but let them lead the way.

MS. SHEINKOPF
By that’s a song.

DEWEY
I don’t believe so.

MS. SHEINKOPF
Didn’t Whitney Houston sing it?

DEWEY
Who?

GABE BROWN
I wish I knew what you’re getting at.

DEWEY
I’m getting to the heart of it, Joe.
DEWEY
Gabe. We are a team. We participate. And there is no “I” in participation.

Rosalie enters.
Dewey waves her over.

DEWEY
Rosalie! I’ve been looking for you.

ROSALIE
It might be more appropriate to call me Ms. Mullins.

DEWEY
It might be. It might be. It might not be.

ROSALIE
It would be.

DEWEY
Anyway, I’m thinking about taking the kids away. A field trip. What do you say?

ROSALIE
I say substitutes don’t organise field trips.

DEWEY
Please. Aren’t I a little more than a substitute by now, Ms. Mullins.

ROSALIE
No.

DEWEY
Don’t you think kids can sometimes learn more outside the classroom?

ROSALIE
Mr. Schneebly. I can check, but there are safety issues parents have to be notified. It’s not usual school policy.

Rosalie begins to exit.
DEWEY
You know what? Forget I said anything. We’ll talk about this later.

He leaves the staff room.

14. IN THE END OF TIME (BAND PRACTICE)

SCENE TEN

HORACE GREEN – THE CLASSROOM

Dewey slides in on his knees as the class plays *In the End of Time*. He picks up the vocal as he comes to a stop.

DEWEY
‘Cos you’re not hard-core

SHONELLE & MARCY
No you’re not hardcore

DEWEY
Unless you live hardcore –

SHONELLE & MARCY
Unless you live hardcore

DEWEY
But the legend of the rent
Was way hard-core!

The band stops.

FREDDY
Are we really going to goof off like this for the rest of the semester?

DEWEY
We are not goofing off, Freddy. We are creating musical fusion, we are forging rock and roll! Now listen, everyone – today is the last day to qualify for the Battle of the Bands. We only get one shot at it, so we have to blow them out of the water. Freddy that was awesome, you’re rocking. But it was a little sloppy-joe. Tighten up the screws, OK?

FREDDY
Sure.
DEWEY
Katie. That was awesome! Zack. Dude. What’s up with the stiffness, man? You’re looking a little ro-bo-tro-nic. Let’s grease up the hinges, and loosey-goosey, baby, loosey-goosey.

ZACK
I’m just playing it the way you told me.

DEWEY
And you know what? It’s perfect. But the thing is, Zack, rock is not about being perfect! It isn’t about the rules. It isn’t about getting A’s, Summer. Who can tell me what rock is about?

MASON
Scoring chicks?

DEWEY
No. Marcy?

MARCY
Getting drunk?

DEWEY
Nooooo! Haven’t I taught you anything? Rock and roll is all about sticking it to the Man!

SUMMER
Why can’t it be a woman?

DEWEY
OK, Summer, I grant you: The Man can be a woman. The point I’m trying to make is that the world is full of things that make you angry. Billy! What really makes you angry?

BILLY
When my Mum gets too much Botox, I can’t tell if she’s happy.

15. STICK IT TO THE MAN

DEWEY
OK, not really my point, but what I’m saying is, the Man makes the rules. He’s the one that keeps you down. How does that make you feel?

ZACK
Angry.
DEWEY
Right!

When the world has screwed you
And crushed you in its fist
When the way you’re feeling
Has got you good and miffed
There’s been one solution
Since the world began –
Don’t just sit and take it
Stick it to the man!

Rant and rave
And scream and shout
Get all of your aggression out
They try to stop you
Let ‘em know
Exactly where they all can go –
And do it just as loudly as you can –
Stick it to the man!

If you wanna rock, you’ve gotta get mad at the Man! Right now, I’m your teacher so I’m the Man. So go ahead, stick it to me.

ZACK
Shut up, Schneebly.

DEWEY
It’s a start. Anyone else?

FREDDY
Sit down, Dumb ass!

DEWEY
Getting better. Who’s next?

SUMMER
You’re the worst teacher I ever had.

DEWEY
Very good, Summer.

SUMMER
The only difference is, I mean it.
DEWEY
Ouch! Next!

LAWRENCE
You are dull and stupid and boring and –

DEWEY
All right! That’s it! Before we go somewhere we regret! So are you all feeling ticked off?

PUPILS
Yeah!

DEWEY
Then what makes you more angry than anything else in the world? Katie?

KATIE
Being... over-scheduled?

PUPILS
Yeah!

DEWEY
Parents overwork ya?
Stick it to the man!

What else? You, Freddy?

FREDDY
All the pressure.

DEWEY
Good one.

Hate the way they jerk ya?

FREDDY
Stick it to the man!

DEWEY
Yes! You’re getting it! What ticks you off, Zack?

ZACK
When my Dad doesn’t pay attention to me.
DEWEY
Mad that they ignore ya.

ZACK
Stick it to the man!

DEWEY
Here’s the answer for ya.

ZACK, FREDDY & KATIE
Stick it to the man!

DEWEY
Stand up to the system

PUPILS
Stick it to the man!

DEWEY
Rise up and resist ‘em

PUPILS
Stick it to the man!

FREDDY
Break the rules
Ignore the signs!

MARCY
And colour way outside the lines!

LAWRENCE
Go off the script
Do whatcha like!

SUMMER
They take it, they can take a hike

DEWEY
Why live your life to someone else’s plan

PUPILS & DEWEY
Stick it to the man!

DEWEY
If you’re feeling angry, then put some of it into your music!
Zack plays a fiery guitar solo.

DEWEY
Lawrence! Hit me with some rebellion!

Lawrence plays a keyboard-pounding solo.

DEWEY
Go ahead, all of you, get it off your chests.

JAMES
Family shopping sessions

PUPILS
Stick it to the man!

DEWEY
Yes!

SHONELLE
Parents all up in your Facebook!

PUPILS
Stick it to the man!

DEWEY
Boo-ya!

BILLY
Gluten-free snack foods!

PUPILS
Stick it to the man!

DEWEY
Right on!

SUMMER
Unrealistic and idealised images of female beauty in our corrupt modern media!

DEWEY
Why not?
PUPILS  
Stick it to the man!

DEWEY  
Boom!

PUPILS  
Rock the house and make a scene  
And crank the amps to seventeen  
And scream until their ears are shot -  
They all can kiss your you-know what!

DEWEY  
Do everything they’ve ever tried to ban!

PUPILS  
Stick it to the man!

BILLY  
Mr Schneebly, you’re an ugly fat loser and you have body odour.

DEWEY  
We’ve done that bit, Billy. It’s finished. We’ve moved on.

BILLY  
You’re tacky and I hate you.

DEWEY  
Billy, take a lap. Okay guys, we need a name for our band! Katie!

KATIE  
How about the Koala Bears?

DEWEY  
Noooooo! Mason?

MASON  
The Animals?

DEWEY  
It’s been done. Billy?

BILLY  
Pig’s Rectum?
DEWEY
Billy. We’ve got to talk.

Marcy and Shonelle have been whispering together.

SHONELLE
We think we have it, Mr. Schneebly.

DEWEY
Hit me.

MARCY & SHONELLE
The School of Rock

Music stops.

DEWEY
The School of Rock. And we shall teach rock to the world...!

There’s no way you can stop
The School of Rock!

PUPILS
Yeah!

PUPILS & DEWEY
When the world has screwed you
And crushed you in its fist
When the way you’re feeling
Has got you good and miffed
There’s been one solution
Since the world began -
Don’t just sit and take it
Stick it to the man!

Rant and rave
And scream and shout
Get all of your aggression out
They try to stop you
Let ‘em know
Exactly where they all can go -
And do it just as loudly as you can -
JAMES
Mullins is on the move!

DEWEY
Alright! Everyone get into positions!

Quickly, they hide the instruments.
Ms. Mullins appears.

DEWEY
And lo. That wooden toothed salty haired George Jefferson Washington crossed the Delaware and gave us forever the festival of Thanksgiving.
Oh Ms. Mullins!

ROSALIE
Good Afternoon, class.

PUPILS
Good Afternoon, Ms. Mullins.

ROSALIE
Mr. Schneebly, may I have a word? You were asking about a possible field trip for your class.

DEWEY
They have to qualify first, but that'll be figured out this afternoon.

ROSALIE
Qualify?

Even the pupils know Dewey has made a mistake.
He thinks hard.

DEWEY
For the field trip.

ROSALIE
I was not aware that students have to qualify for a field trip.

DEWEY
This one is kind of unusual.
ROSALIE
In what way?

DEWEY
Because of the unusual... fields.

ROSALIE
Well, anyway, I've checked and I was right. There's an insurance problem. As I said, you're only a substitute and substitutes don't take field trips. And, before you ask, there are no exceptions.

She leaves the room.

SUMMER
Well, that's that.

DEWEY
That's what?

He looks around the class.

DEWEY
Right. We gotta hustle. Is everyone ready?

ZACK
Ready for what?

DEWEY
Ready to qualify.

MARCY
But how are we going to qualify if we can't leave the school?

DEWEY
What do you mean we can't leave?

SHONELLE
Didn't Ms. Mullins just say no?

DEWEY
Oh, that! Don't listen to her! Gather around. When the bell rings for gym, which is pointless, we'll get the instruments into the van and go, on my signal. We'll be back before anyone notices.
FREDDY
But then what?

ZACK
What happens if we qualify?

DEWEY
If we qualify? IF? As a wise prophet once told me: we are the champions, my friends. Now let’s pack it up! We don’t have a lot of time!

15A. THERE’S NO WAY YOU CAN STOP (TRANSITION)

SCENE ELEVEN

HORACE GREEN

Dewey enters and sneaks across the floor as Sheinkopf’s appears. Once the coast is clear, he tries to whistle but fails.

DEWEY
(Calling like a bird)
Ay-yah!! Ay-yaahh!

Zack pokes his head out from the door?

ZACK
Is that the signal?

DEWEY
Yes! Come on!

15B. MT ROCK – THE ESCAPE

Dewey and the pupils sneak through the halls of Horace Green, dodging teachers along the way. The pupils carry their instruments. They escape without being seen.
SCENE TWELVE

THE PALACE THEATRE – BACKSTAGE

MASON
We’re late. You should have driven faster.

DEWEY
Not with all of you in the van.

SUMMER
Careful, Mr. Schneebly. You’re starting to sound responsible.

DEWEY
Remind me why you’re here?

SUMMER
I’m the manager. We’re booking our first show. Where else would I be?

DEWEY
That’s fair.

ZACK
I thought we were playing against other schools.

DEWEY
Later. First, we go up against the big boys.

MARCY
They’re gonna laugh at us.

DEWEY
I don’t understand. Why would they?

ZACK
Because we don’t know what we’re doing?

LAWRENCE
Because we don’t look like rock stars. We look like geeks.

DEWEY
Now, listen! What you’ve got is what everyone wants, and that’s talent! And as for looking like a rock star, did Mama Cass look like a rock star? She weighed three hundred pounds but when she was on stage, people worshipped her! She was a goddess!
SUMMER
What happened to her?

DEWEY
She choked to death on a ham sandwich. But that’s not the point.

LAWRENCE
What is the point, Mr. Schneebly?

DEWEY
Let me put it like this: If we don’t make the cut, we don’t play in The Battle. If we miss The Battle, our project is shot. You won’t get into Harvard and we’ll all be failures. But no pressure.

SUMMER
You heard him. Let’s get set up.

An official is standing on stage, looking at his watch.

DEWEY
I’m trying to find Jeff Sanderson.

JEFF
I am he.

DEWEY
They said you’re in charge here?

JEFF
I was in charge.

DEWEY
What do you mean?

JEFF
The auditions have finished. We only had a couple to see this morning. That one was the last and now the bill is filled.

He catches sight of the children.

JEFF
Who are they?

DEWEY
My band.
JEFF
Kids? Is this some kind of gimmick?

DEWEY
No, it’s not a gimmick. I know they’re kids but they’re awesome. Just listen.

JEFF
I’m sorry. I don’t have time. I have to go. Better luck next year.

SUMMER
There won’t be a next year.

JEFF
What?

SUMMER
There won’t be a next year for us, any of us, will there, Mr. Schneebly?

She looks sternly at Dewey and whispers.

DEWEY
She’s right, Jeff. I can call you Jeff, right? Of course I understand you need to have rules, and if it wasn’t for the fact that the Battle of the Bands has been keeping these kids alive, I –

JEFF
What do you mean?

DEWEY
You see, the kids have a condition –

JEFF
What condition?

DEWEY
Er...

SUMMER
A rare blood disorder. Stikkitu Demanus.

JEFF
That’s terrible.

DEWEY
You know the Yoda Hospice for Children Out of Luck?
JEFF
I don’t think so.

DEWEY
It’s a good place, Jeff, and the people there are good people. But they can’t work miracles, Jeff. I only wish they could.

Summer gestures at the kids are now drooping over their instruments.

DEWEY
Still, what the hell. The dream of this contest has given them a few extra, stolen weeks, which can’t be bad. Thank you for that, at least, Jeff. Thank you. All right, let’s go get you guys back.

He starts to walk off stage, then he stops and turns.

DEWEY
Unless you’d just listen to them? So they haven’t made the journey for nothing?

JEFF
I don’t know...

SUMMER
Hit it, kids!

16. IN THE END OF TIME (THE AUDITION)

DEWEY
One. Two. Three.

‘Cos you’re not hardcore

MARCY & SHONELL
No you’re not hardcore

DEWEY
Unless you live hardcore

MARCY & SHONELLE
Unless you live hardcore
DEWEY
C’mon Jeff, help these kids
And be hardcore
Jeff! Jeff! Jeff!

JEFF
All right. I surrender. You’re in.

17. STICK IT TO THE MAN (REPRISE)

DEWEY
Oh my you guys we’re in the Battle of the Bands!
There’s no way you can stop
The School of Rock

PUPILS
Yeah!

PUPILS & DEWEY
When the world has screwed you
And crushed you in its fist
When the way you’re treated
Has got you good and miffed

Rant and rave
And scream and shout
Get all of your aggression out
They try to stop you
Let ‘em know
Exactly where they all can go

DEWEY
And do it just as loudly as you can –

PUPILS & DEWEY
Stick it to the man!
Stick it to the man!
Stick it to the man!
Stick it to the man!

Blackout.

END OF ACT ONE.
ACT TWO

SCENE ONE

HORACE GREEN – THE CLASSROOM

18. TIME TO PLAY

Pupils begin piling into the classroom. Summer is standing on a box and writing “36 hours” on the board. When finished, she leaps to the ground.

SUMMER
All right! Everybody hurry up and take your seats. Until Mr. Schneebly gets back from the staff meeting, I am in charge!

FREDDY
Says who?

SUMMER
Says me! The Band Manager! Get it?

Hey!
Ain’t got all day!
Get moving!

Summer points to the board.

SUMMER
Only 36 hours till the battle!

She points at James.

SUMMER
You!
No one comes through That door!

JAMES
On it. Security! Roll out!
SUMMER
No distractions, no delays –
This is for our resumes!
  So –
  It’s time to go
  Hardcore.

No talk, no gum smacking
  Cell phones away
Go punk or start packing
  Get to work
  It’s time to play!

Wake up, stop day-dreaming
  Do as I say
Get those guitars screaming
  Clear the room
  It’s time to play!

Summer turns to Mason.

SUMMER
  You!
  Go on and cue
  The light board.

MASON
  Fade down to three, then back up to seven.

We see the lighting effects.
  Summer turns to Marcy and Shonelle.

SUMMER
  You –
  Show them the new
  Hot move

MARCY & SHONELLE
  Right! A-five, six, seven, eight –

SUMMER
  Look rebellious
  Act more crude
  Bring your best bad attitude.
Band
Get ready and –
Let's groove!

MARCY & SHONELLE
Hips out and heads bangin’ –

SUMMER
Work that sashay!

Now bring the whole gang in –
Hustle up
It's time to play!

PUPILS
Hands high and fights pumping –
Skills on display.
Let's get this joint jumpin’!
Bring it on
It's time to play!

Summer now strides through the room, clipboard in hand.

SUMMER
(To Madison)
Has the microphone been tested?

MADISON
Check.

SUMMER
What about the stand?

MADISON
Check.

SUMMER
Place it as requested
And await my next command.

(To Mason)
Are the pyrotechnics ready?

MASON
Check.
SUMMER
(To Marcy)
And synced to the routine?

MARCY
Check.

SUMMER
I’m counting on you, Sophie –
Don’t mess up the fog machine.

SOPHIE
Duh.

SUMMER
Who’s got the speaker cable?
Come on, this isn’t hard.

SOPHIE
I’m ordering it!

SUMMER
Get extra if you’re able –
Put it on your mother’s card.

SOPHIE
Right.

SUMMER
(To Katie)
What about the song list?
Printed like I said?

KATIE
Uhhh...

SUMMER
If you’ve bought the wrong list
I swear to God, you’re dead.

(To Zack)
Got the flanger?

ZACK
Yup.
SUMMER
The phaser?

ZACK
Yup.

SUMMER
The pedals and effects?

ZACK
Yep.

SUMMER
(To Katie)
Make sure he remembers
Or I’m breaking both your necks.

KATIE
Sure.

SUMMER
(To Marcy & Shonelle)
Keep your voices rested
Warm up before you sing.

MARCY & SHONELLE
Right!

SUMMER
I’m of course prepared
And so there’s one more thing...

(To Billy)
You!
Can we review
The costumes?

BILLY
I’m still working out some looks...

SUMMER
Jeez!
Don’t be a tease!
Let’s go!
BILLY
I’m thinking a grunge-punk-glam kind of thing...

SUMMER
Look we don’t have time to waste
While you try to find some taste.

BILLY
Fine!
Here’s the design.

Lawrence pops out dressed like a glam rock star.

SUMMER
Urgh, no!

BILLY
I’ll ditch the sequins!

He storms off in a huff.

PUPILS
Amps cranked and drums beating
  Don’t stop halfway
Let’s leave some ears bleeding
  Turn it up –
  It’s time to play!
Don’t slack, there’s no cruising
  No way, Jose!

SUMMER
This band is not losing!

PUPILS
Bring the noise –
  It’s time to play!
Rock the mics!
It’s time to play!
World watch out!

SUMMER
It’s time to play!

PUPILS
World watch out:
  It’s time to play!
18A. TIME TO PLAY PLAYOUT

SCENE TWO

HORACE GREEN – THE STAFF ROOM

DEWEY
Does anyone know what this meeting is about?

GABE BROWN
No idea.

DEWEY
It’s not like I have anywhere else to be.

ROSALIE
Good afternoon, everyone.

TEACHERS
Good afternoon, Ms. Mullins.

ROSALIE
I’m not going to keep you. I just wanted to be sure you had your presentations ready for tomorrow.

DEWEY
What’s tomorrow?

He sips some water.

ROSALIE
The Parents’ Meeting.

Dewey spits out the water.

ROSALIE
Is there a problem, Mr. Schneebly?

DEWEY
No.
ROSALIE
Good. The parents will need to see how their children are progressing, so you'll need to prepare a few subject breakdowns, some paperwork that your pupils have completed in class –

DEWEY
I love to meet the parents! I'm so interested in their opinions of my work! Just one thing. How long will it take?

ROSALIE
They come when school finishes and they leave around seven. Why?

DEWEY
No reason, no reason. I have something planned for later on, but I'm sure we'll be done in time.

ROSALIE
Mr. Schneebly, Parents' night is very important to me. They must walk away with a smile on their faces. They are my employers and they are your employers. We have to please them.

Rosalie talks to the rest of the room.

I'm not going to hold you up any more. You have a busy afternoon ahead.

Rosalie exits.

DEWEY
Wow. She needs a good defrosting.

GABE BROWN
Ahhh --- She's not always the way she is at Horace Green.

MS. SHEINKOPF
I'll say! Remember at the teachers’ convention when she was singing Dreams at the top of her lungs?

DEWEY
Fleetwood Mac, huh.

GABE BROWN
She's a big fan of Stevie Nicks.

DEWEY
Wow. Rosalie the Rock Chick is into Stevie Nicks... good to know.
18B. YOU’RE IN THE BAND (SCENE CHANGE)

SCENE THREE

HORACE GREEN – THE CLASSROOM

SUMMER
What was the meeting about?

DEWEY
I don’t know. Parents’ Night.

SUMMER
Parents’ Night??

DEWEY
They want to see your written work and the projects you’ve completed.

ZACK
What written work?

KATIE
What completed projects?

Dewey shrugs.

SUMMER
What are you going to do?

DEWEY
I don’t know. What would you do, Summer? You’re the one with the brains around here.

SUMMER
I don’t know. You’re the teacher!

ZACK
If our parents are coming tomorrow we won’t be able to get away for the Battle of the Bands.

DEWEY
Don’t worry. I’m working on it.

SUMMER
But how? It’s just not possible.
MARCY
Well, it’s got to be.

DEWEY
Yes! It’s gotta be and it will be. We just need to come up with a plan. Any ideas?

Pupils bombard Dewey with ideas.
Tomika raises her hand.

DEWEY
Whoa! Hold on. Tomika has something to say. Front and centre. What’s up?

TOMIKA
I just wish...

DEWEY
Tomika, I know you’re shy, but I’m not a mind-reader.

TOMIKA
I wish I was in the band.

DEWEY
I wish you were too, but... do you play an instrument?

TOMIKA
No.

MARCY
You didn’t want to sing.

TOMIKA
I do. You asked me to be a back-up but I’m a singer, not a back-up.

DEWEY
It’s just a little too late for that, Tomika.

Dewey sighs.

DEWEY
OK. If you sing something maybe I can make you a singer. But I can’t make you a singer unless you can sing.

He waits for her to sing.
DEWEY
That’s OK, don’t worry about it.
Alright, who’s got an idea?

19. AMAZING GRACE

TOMIKA
Amazing Grace
How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I’m found!
Was blind, but now I see.

They are all in shock!
She is a genius.
The pupils cheer! Dewey nods.

DEWEY
I always knew there was something inside you, now we know what it is.
Pure magic. You’re in the band! Let’s hear it for Tomika!

PUPILS
(Cheers)
TOMIKA! TOMIKA! TOMIKA!

JAMES
Red alert! It’s Mullins.

Every pupil runs to their seat.
Dewey pulls out a sign with E=MC2 on it.

DEWEY
Therefore, E equals MC squared.

PUPILS
Ahhhh.

DEWEY
Oh. Ms. Mullins. Come in, come in!

ROSALIE
I’m sorry to interrupt, only Ms. Sheinkopf thought she heard music
coming from this classroom again.

DEWEY
I haven’t heard any music.
ROSALIE
What’s this?

Points to a guitar.

DEWEY
I’ve got it! Sheinkopf must have heard us learning in sing-song!

ROSALIE
One of your methods?

DEWEY
I find it very useful for teaching really boring subjects.

ROSALIE
We don’t acknowledge there are any boring subjects at Horace Green.

DEWEY
Slightly boring?

ROSALIE
You don’t mind if I sit in on your class this afternoon, do you?

DEWEY
Sure. Come on back this afternoon.

ROSALIE
It is the afternoon, Mr. Schneebly. I meant now. Please continue with your method.

She sits. Dewey sings...

20. MATH IS A WONDERFUL THING

DEWEY
Math is a wonderful thing
Math is a really cool thing
So get off your ath and let’s do math
Math, math, math, math, math.

Forty-two divided by six is –

Katie and others raise their hands.

Katie!
KATIE
Seven.

DEWEY
And fifty-five divided by five is –

Madison?

MADISON
Eleven.

DEWEY
Very good.
And seventy-four is sixty-five more than –
What is that number, Summer?

SUMMER
Nine.

DEWEY
No, it’s eight.

SUMMER
No its nine.

DEWEY
Oh, yes, I know.
I was just testing you.
It’s nine.
And that’s a magic number!

The bell rings.

DEWEY
Don’t forget your homework! Remember! Tomorrow we begin on the rhythm of Logarithms! But first we sing the key points in the life of President Grant! Go, go, go!

The pupils leave.

ROSALIE
Your methods are certainly very unusual, Mr. Schneebly.
DEWEY
Funny. They don’t seem unusual to me, but then I did study under Errol von Strossen Bergen Baker.

ROSALIE
Well, Mr. Schneebly, let me be clear: We are not interested in experimental philosophy here at Horace Green. Music is for music class; math is for math class. Got it?

DEWEY
Got it. Do you want to grab a drink?

ROSALIE
Excuse me?

DEWEY
Like a coffee?

ROSALIE
You’re asking me to go for a coffee with you?

DEWEY
I guess I am. The bell rang. School’s out for the day. What do you say?

ROSALIE
I have things to do.

DEWEY
What kind of things?

ROSALIE
Principal kind of things.

DEWEY
Okay, after that meet me at The Roadhouse.

ROSALIE
The Roadhouse? The dive bar?

DEWEY
So you know it!

ROSALIE
Yes.
DEWEY
The Roadhouse then!

ROSALIE
The Roadhouse?

DEWEY
At seven.

ROSALIE
At seven?

DEWEY
Great! It’s a date! Dismissed!

20A. TIME TO PLAY UNDERSCORE (THE ROADHOUSE)

Rosalie goes, confused and nodding.

SCENE FOUR

THE ROADHOUSE

Dewey brings Rosalie a beer.

ROSALIE
Are you sure they don’t have any coffee?

DEWEY
Hm?

ROSALIE
No coffee?

DEWEY
Strange, isn’t it?

ROSALIE
Mr. Schneebly, I’ve been thinking –

DEWEY
I wish you’d call me Dewey.

ROSALIE
Why would I call you Dewey?
DEWEY

Dewey goes to the jukebox. 
*Edge of Seventeen* begins playing.

ROSALIE
You know this is the first time a teacher has ever asked me to do something outside of school.

DEWEY
Really?

ROSALIE
It’s true. Not in six years.

DEWEY
I bet they’re just intimidated.

ROSALIE
It’s not that. They hate me.

DEWEY
They do not.

Rosalie, enraptured by the song, finds moments to sing along through the following:

ROSALIE
Yes, they do OOH OOH. You know, I was fun once. Funny even. But you can’t be funny and a Principal because when it comes to their kids, people have noo sense of humour.

DEWEY
You’d think that’s when it matters the most.

ROSALIE
I know, but NOTHING ELSE MATTERS!

But I’ve got to be perfect. And – I’m not kidding – that pressure has turned me into... Well, you know what it’s turned me into.

I love this song!
DEWEY
Wait. You love Stevie Nicks?

ROSALIE
I love Stevie Nicks!

(sings)
Eyes on him...
SEVENTEEN!

DEWEY
It’s like a religion for me.

21. WHERE DID THE ROCK GO INTRO

ROSALIE & DEWEY
Just like the white winged dove
Sings a song sounds like she’s singin’

Ooh

ROSALIE
Baby

ROSALIE & DEWEY
Ooh

ROSALIE
Say

ROSALIE & DEWEY
Ooh

DEWEY
Have you seen her live?

ROSALIE
Yes!! She sang here in town once. I will never forget it.

DEWEY
This is such a coincidence! We’re like one person, Rosalie Mullins. I love
Stevie Nicks – You love Stevie Nicks.

ROSALIE
Yes!!
DEWEY
I love freedom – You love freedom!

ROSALIE
I do! I do love freedom!

DEWEY
I knew it! I knew it the first time I saw you.

ROSALIE
You did?

DEWEY
Immediately.

I could tell deep inside you are just like me
There is music inside you, most definitely –
And you keep it locked up when it really should be in flight
Just like tonight...
Well am I right?

ROSALIE
Yeah, you’re right.

22. WHERE DID THE ROCK GO?

ROSALIE
Back when I was younger
Wild and bold and free
I can still remember
How the music used to be.

Chords like rolling thunder –
Loud beyond control –
Ev’ry note and lyric
Branded right across my soul –

Where did the rock go?
Where’s the rush of those electric guitars?
Where are all those voices raised to heaven
Blazing down like shooting stars?
Tell me
Where is the passion?
Where’s the rattle and the roar and the buzz?
Where do last year’s one-hit-wonders go to?
And what happened to the girl I was?
Somehow I got older
Year by busy year
Guess the songs kept playing
But I didn’t stop to hear
All that youthful swagger
Turned to grown-up doubt
And the world spun like a record
But the music faded out...

Where did the rock go?
Where’s the pounding of the drums in my veins?
When did all the static fill the airwaves?
When it’s gone, then what remains?
Tell me
Where did the time go?
Where’s the joy I used to know way back when?
Where’s the power and the beauty
And the frenzy and the rapture?
Where’s the magic of the moments
Only rock could ever capture?
Now the only thing I’m hearing
Are the echoes disappearing –

Sorry for the outburst
Please, I’ll be OK.
Let’s keep this our secret –
Who’d believe it, anyway?

We’ll pretend it never happened
File it, and forget
Still – Thanks for the reminder
That there’s music in me yet –

I have to go.

DEWEY
Rosalie. You’re sure about this field trip? I mean it would be so great for these kids.

ROSALIE
What is it?

DEWEY
A concert. Tomorrow night. It would be like you seeing Stevie for the first time. I think that would be such an awesome experience for them.
ROSALIE
It would be awesome. But, would it be educational?

DEWEY
It would be an education they would never forget.

ROSALIE
OK. Help me send those parents home happy tomorrow night and I’ll see if the school can make an exception. Deal?

DEWEY
Deal. Goodnight Ms. Mullins.

ROSALIE
Goodnight, Mr. Schneebly.

Where did the rock go?
All of those feelings that I’ve learned to ignore?
If you flip the record and start over
Does it sound the way it did before...?
Where did the rock go?

22A. WHERE DID THE ROCK GO PLAYOUT

SCENE FIVE

THE APARTMENT

NED
Any plans today?

DEWEY
Huge plans, Ned. Huge plans. Also, listen, I’m gonna be home really late tonight, so don’t wait up for me.

NED
Oh, I won’t. I’m taking Patty to Applebee’s.

Patty enters carrying the mail.

PATTY
Neddy Neddy Ned! You got a letter from Horace Green?

NED
Really?
PATTY
You never told me you sent in your resume.

NED
They never answered.

PATTY
Well, they’ve answered now! You deserve this, Ned. You deserve the best!

Dewey freezes.

NED
Whoa. Why would Horace Green pay me two thousand six hundred dollars?

PATTY

DEWEY
Sure he did! He just forgot!

NED
I think I would remember if I’d worked at Horace Green.

Dewey laughs nervously.

PATTY
They’ve mixed up two letters. But they must want you for an interview. Call them! I have to go to work. I’m so proud of my Neddy bear! Call them.

As she exits.

PATTY
Now!

NED
Oh, you mean now.

Ned searches for his phone is his pocket. Dewey reaches for the check.

NED
Have you seen my phone?
DEWEY
Yes. In your room.

Ned exits.
Dewey reaches over the couch for the check.
Ned re-enters.

NED
What are you doing?

DEWEY
Nothing.

NED
You’ve got my letter.

DEWEY
Yep.

NED
Give it back to me, I need to call them.

DEWEY
Why? Can’t you use the money?

NED
It’s not mine, Dewey. I didn’t earn it.

DEWEY
So it’s like a bonus. Spend it!

NED
And wind up in court for stealing? I don’t think so!

Ned snatches the letter and heads for the door.

DEWEY
I said to make it out to cash!

Ned starts to panic.
Unsure of what to do, he begins
to breathe into a rubber glove.

DEWEY
Ned! Wait, sit! Breathe. Would you believe me if I told you I’d done a bad thing?
NED
Oh, so easily. So very easily.

DEWEY
You know I’m not the sort of guy who’d take advantage of his friends.

NED
Only because you haven’t got any friends.

DEWEY
I promise you’d have done the same if you were me. If I tell you something, will you promise not to tell Patty?

22B. MT ROCK UNDERSCORE

NED
Sure.

DEWEY
Don’t be like “sure” like that. It’s not sure. It’s not even likely. She’s stronger than either of us. She’s stronger than Washington. She’s stronger than the sea.

NED
I said I won’t tell. So I won’t tell her.

SCENE SIX

HORACE GREEN

ROSALIE
Do we have enough refreshments?

MS SHEINKOPF
Tea and coffee, ready to go.

DEWEY
Rosalie, I had a great time last night.

ROSALIE
Ms. Mullins! Mr Schneebly, I think I should be ‘Ms. Mullins’ when we’re here at Horace Green and you should be ‘Mr. Schneebly’ here at Horace Green...

Sheinkopf exits.
ROSALIE
But thank you for last night.

DEWEY
And I’m still taking the kids to the concert tonight?

ROSALIE
Yes, the school will make an exception if the parents go home happy. I cannot stress enough how important Parents’ Night is, Mr. Schneebly.

DEWEY
Got it.

ROSALIE
I’d better get ready. They’ll be here any minute.

Rosalie goes to leave...

DEWEY
Hey. You’re going to be awesome.

SCENE SEVEN

HORACE GREEN – THE CLASSROOM

Pupils are hanging signs up for parents’ night and examples of their “work”. Zack sits on a desk with his guitar, writing on a sheet of paper.

DEWEY
I’ve ordered the school bus for tonight.

SUMMER
And we really have permission?

DEWEY
I told you. We have permission to go to our concert. Excuse me?

Billy enters with a garish sequined costume. Dewey stops dead.

BILLY
What do you think?
DEWEY
What? Did I lose a competition?

BILLY
It’s glitter rock. It’s glam, it’s fabulous. Have you no vision?

DEWEY
I have twenty/twenty vision. I have seen salads dressed better than this. *This* is not my style.

BILLY
You talk to me about style? You can’t even dress yourself. You wear the same ugly clothes every day. Fine. I give up. They can just wear their uniforms.

23. SCHOOL OF ROCK (PART 1 – ZACK)

Zack begins playing what he has been writing down.

DEWEY
That’s not a bad idea.

BILLY
Not a bad idea? I was kidding.

DEWEY
Hey, what is that? No, don’t stop.

ZACK
It’s nothing. It’s just an idea I was fooling around with.

DEWEY
You wrote it? You wrote a song? Play it. I want to hear it.

ZACK
I’m not much of a singer.

DEWEY
Play it.

ZACK
Baby we were makin’ straight As
But we were stuck in a dumb daze
Don’t take much to memorise your lies
I feel like I’ve been hypnotised.
DEWEY
It’s great, Zack.

ZACK
You really like it?

DEWEY
I really like it because it’s really good. Lawrence! Freddy! Katie! Rock positions, let’s go.

They run to their instruments.

ZACK
Wait, what are you doing?

DEWEY
We’re going to learn your song.

ZACK
Why?

DEWEY
That’s what bands do. You got lyrics?

Zack hands him a piece of paper.

DEWEY
Uh-huh. What are the chords?

23A. TEACHER’S PET (PART 2 - WITH THE BAND)

ZACK
(Demonstrating)
D...C...G...C...

Baby we were makin’ straight As
But we were stuck in a dumb daze.

DEWEY
I love this!
ZACK
Don’t take much to memorise your lies
I feel like I’ve been hypnotised.

And if you wanna be the teacher’s pet
Baby, you just better forget it
Rock is the reason
Rock is the rhyme...

Dewey breaks off.

DEWEY
If it’s cool with the writer, can we try something? Rock got no reason, rock got no rhyme. Is that cool? Great! Katie give me the face. Backup singers! We need some “ooh la la’s”, so like

Ohh! La la la
Ooh! La la la

And make up some funky dance moves.

(To Freddy)
Let’s take it from the chorus.
Count me in!

FREDDY (Drummer)
1.. 2..3!

ZACK & DEWEY
And if you wanna be the teacher’s pet
Baby, you just better forget it
Rock got no reason
Rock got no rhyme
You better get me to school on time.

Backup singers (“Ooh! La la la!”, etc.)

And if you wanna be the teacher’s pet
Baby, you just better forget it
Rock got no reason
Rock got no rhyme
You better get me to school on time.

Dewey starts a solo.
The noise builds...
ROSALIE
Mr. Schneebly? Mr. Schneebly! MR SCHNEEBLY!

May I introduce you to the parents of your class?

MR MOONEYHAM
What is it with this music? Zack is not a smart kid. 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 –

MR WILLIAMS
Tomika’s the same! 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!

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. Welcome to Parents’ Night! Hello, I am Ned Schneebly, Mrs. Dunham’s substitute.

Look. Over the last few weeks I’ve gotten to know your kids. Your kids. Zack. 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. 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 will be the first woman President of the United States.

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.

PATTY
He’s an imposter!

DEWEY
Ned? You told Patty?

NED
She got it out of me. Sorry.

PATTY
Don’t apologise.

NED
Sorry.

MRS TRAVIS
Who is this?

MR MOONEYHAM
What on Earth is going on?

PATTY
I’ll tell you what is going on. This is the real Ned Schneebly. And this loser is Dewey Finn! He is not even a teacher! He can barely read!

DEWEY
OK. Let me speak, let me speak, let me speak!

24. DEWEY’S CONFESSION
DEWEY
All right, yes I confess
That my actual name is Dewey Finn.

MRS HATHAWAY
No!

DEWEY
Yes indeed!
And although you should know
I’m not licensed to teach
I promise you I can read!

PARENTS
You!
She had no clue!
Where is he?

How -
Could you allow –
Him past?

Pupils quickly & quietly leave the room.

PARENTS
Fifty thousand bucks a year!
How could he have happened here?
Now
You’ll tell us how –
And fast!

ROSALIE
People, please!

Just calm down now, I implore you
There’s no need to be alarmed
And I hasten to assure you
That no children here were harmed.

While this criminal intrusion’s
Unacceptable at best
Let’s not jump to quick conclusions
Till the damage is assessed.

If there’s anyone to blame here
The fault’s completely mine
I am why he came here
If I must, then I’ll resign.

Now that I’ve got your attention
I think we can move on –

LISTEN!

I’m sorry to inform you that all of your children are missing!

Parents go wild and run off to look for their children.  
Ms. Mullins is left alone.  
Ms. Sheinkopf appears, calling.

MS SHEINKOPF
Ms. Mullins! Ms. Mullins, do you know why the bus is in the parking lot?

Rosalie sinks against the wall.

ROSALIE
I have no idea. Where are the parents?

MS SHEINKOPF
Still panicking and screaming that their children were in danger.

ROSALIE
You think I’ve been a fool.

MS SHEINKOPF
If you’re asking, I think you need to pull yourself together and take charge. You can do it. You’re a strong woman and a good Principal, and I don’t want to hear any more self-doubt today.

Rosalie looks at her, surprised.

MS SHEINKOPF
Now, I’ll see what I can do with the parents.

Rosalie nods and Sheinkopf leaves.  
A child runs in.

MS SHEINKOPF
No running!

The child stops.  
It is Mason.
He stares at Rosalie.

ROSALIE
Mason, where are the other children?

MASON
I can’t stay! They’re waiting! I forgot my computer and I’m running the lights from it!

ROSALIE
Wait. You are not going anywhere, Mason. What lighting? What computer? Keeping who waiting?

MASON
We’ve got the instruments but we have to pick up Mr. Schneebly and then we’ll compete in the Battle of the Bands!

ROSALIE
Mason, you do know he isn’t really Mr. Schneebly? He’s Mr. Finn.

MASON
What’s the difference?

Rosalie is stumped.
What is the difference?

MASON
We’re a good band, Ms. Mullins. We’ve worked so hard for this show.

ROSALIE
But he’s not who he says he is!

MASON
Who cares?! He taught us that rock can set us free. We can’t fail him now!

24A. ROS & MASON U/S

MS SHEINKOPF (V.O.)
Ms. Mullins, the parents are back and they’re demanding a meeting right now!

ROSALIE
Go! I’ll handle this.
MAISON
You’re the best, Ms. Mullins!

SCENE EIGHT

THE APARTMENT

Dewey sits with his head in his hands.
Patty comes in with Ned.

PATTY
What are you doing here?

DEWEY
I don’t have any other place to go.

PATTY
Yeah, well find a place.

DEWEY
Look, all I was –

Patty holds up her hand to silence him.

PATTY
I don’t want to hear anything you have to say. I have never liked you and now you bring this mess on to our doorstep. Do you realise how serious it is? We’re talking about children, Dewey! Young, vulnerable children!

DEWEY
But they were all –

PATTY
Don’t you understand, you idiot? This is fraud! You can go to prison! What were you thinking?

DEWEY
I was just trying to pay the rent.

PATTY
Don’t you dare blame us! You’re delusional! I don’t even feel safe with you around. You’re sick! You should get help!

NED
Patty. That’s enough.
PATTY
(To Ned)
I’m going. And when I get back I want him out of here!

She leaves and they are alone.

NED
She’s right, Dewey.

DEWEY
She’s a pain.

NED
She may be a pain, but she’s right. You’ve done some really messed up stuff, but this is unforgivable. Did you ever think about me?

DEWEY
You’re not involved.

NED
Oh, no? I could lose my teaching license, Dewey. My license, the apartment. This could screw up my entire life.

DEWEY
Ned, I’m so sorry.

NED
It’s too late for that. I want you to move out. Go. It’s over. I loved playing music with you. It was the best time of my life, but maybe some people aren’t born to be rock stars. Did you ever think of that?

25. WHERE DID THE ROCK GO REPRISE

He leaves.
Summer, Zack, Lawrence,
Katie, Tomika and Freddy run in.

DEWEY
What are you doing here?

FREDDY
We’ve come to get you! The bus is outside!

DEWEY
Listen. I’m a loser. Go back to school.
ZACK
Yeah, yeah. Didn’t you hear us? The bus is outside! We’ve gotta go!

DEWEY
But –

SUMMER
Mr. Schneebly, you can’t give up now.

DEWEY
Mr. Schneebly?! I’ve lied to you! I used you! And worst of all, I’ve wasted your time! Just go back to your lives. Just go.

They begin to protest but are interrupted by Tomika.

26. IF ONLY YOU WOULD LISTEN (REPRISE)

TOMIKA
I was lost
Lost and in pain
So much hurt bottled inside
All the things I should have said
I just kept trying to hide
And I thought nobody could
But you... you understood.

I needed to share
And only you would listen
Hoped someone would care
And only you would listen
You raised my voice up
Taught me not to fear
I’ve learned who I am
Because you’re here.

Look around –
See what you’ve done?
Can’t you tell how you came through
And now you, you need someone
So let us be there for you
Don’t you know, we’ll understand
Because you’re, you’re in the band.
We want you to stay
If only you would listen
We need you to play
If only you would listen
Now that we’ve found you
You can’t just disappear
School won’t be the same without you here.

LAWRENCE/KATIE/TOMIKA/FREDDY/ZACK/SUMMER
I needed respect
And only you would listen
I needed a chance
Only you would listen

ZACK
I couldn’t connect
And only you would listen
LAWRENCE & KATIE
Just wanted one glance
Only you.

TOMIKA
You gave us voices
Helped us make them clear.

TOMIKA
You gave us voices
PUPILS
You gave us voices

PUPILS
Helped us make them clear

TOMIKA
You’ve taught us so much
Since you’ve been here

PUPILS
You’ve taught us so much
Since you’ve been here

DEWEY
I can’t.

OTHER PUPILS (OFFSTAGE)
When the world has screwed you
And crushed you in its fist.

DEWEY
What’s that?
OTHER PUPILS (OFFSTAGE)
When the way you’re treated
Has got you good and miffed.

SUMMER
Your students.

OTHER PUPILS (OFFSTAGE)
There’s been one solution
Since the world began –
Don’t just sit and take it.

ALL PUPILS
Mr. Schneebly! Come on!

Dewey pauses.

DEWEY
Stick it to the man!

TOMIKA
Rant and rave

SUMMER
And scream and shout

FREDDY
Get all of your aggression out

KATIE & ZACK
They try to stop you
Let ‘em know

LAWRENCE
Exactly where they all can go

ALL PUPILS
Do everything they ever tried to ban
And tell them where to stick their boring plan
And do it just as loudly as you can!
DEWEY
Yes! And we shall teach rock to the world!

There’s no way you can stop
The school of rock!

Now get to the bus.

The pupils cheer and exit.
Suddenly, Patty hurries in.

PATTY
There is a bus full of singing kids blocking the driveway! What is going on?

Ned arrives.

DEWEY
I’ll tell you what is going on! I’m going to the Battle of the Bands and you can’t stop me!

He rushes out past Patty.

PATTY
Aren’t you going to do something? You never stand up to him.

NED
SHUT UP! I’m going to the show!

SCENE NINE

THE PALACE THEATRE – ONSTAGE

27. I’M TOO HOT FOR YOU

JEFF SANDERSON
And now the Battle of the Bands welcomes to the stage... “No Vacancy!”
THEA
Baby don’t feel sorry
I know how hard you tried
I guess some things they just
Ain’t meant to be.

You wanna know what happened
Just look me in the eye:
Face it babe the answer’s plain to see.

I’m too hot for you
I know it’s so unfair
I’m too hot for you
And you’re just kinda there.

Thought you’d pass the test
But you’re a six at best
I’m too hot for you
So we ain’t got a prayer.

NO VACANCY continues to perform
as the class enters with instruments.
We transition backstage.

THE PALACE THEATRE – BACKSTAGE

JEFF
You’re late.

DEWEY
We’re late but we’re here and this show isn’t over.

JEFF
You’re on next. Be ready.

Jeff walks off.
Summer reads from her clipboard.

SUMMER
Lights?

MASON
All set when I connect to the main board.

SUMMER
Go. Hair, make up, costumes.
BILLY
Nearly there. Just some touch ups.

DEWEY
OK, now listen up. We only have one song to show them who we are, and
I think it should be Zack’s.

ZACK
What about your song?

DEWEY
You don’t get it. You’re better than me, Zack. You’re ten years old and
you’re better than me.

FREDDY
But we don’t know it. Not like we know your song.

LAWRENCE
If we play it, we may not win.

DEWEY
We’re not here to win. We’re here to rock! Right. Tomika, you’re singing
the solo. Now. Are you with me?

PUPILS
Yeah!

He sticks his hand out and they put in theirs.

DEWEY
Now let’s rock!

PUPILS
WOOO!

BILLY
Mr. Schneebly!

DEWEY
Dude, it’s Dewey.

BILLY
Whatever. I almost forgot. This is your costume.
DEWEY
I don’t understand.

BILLY
Just put it on!

Dewey takes it and leaves as a group of parents arrive, trying to push onto the stage but blocked by security guards.

MR MOONEYHAM
Zack! Get over here!

SECURITY 1
Stand back!

MR MOONEYHAM
That’s my son! What are you doing with that man?

ZACK
That man? You mean the man who made me feel I could achieve something?

MR WILLIAMS
(To Tomika)
Why here? Why now?

TOMIKA
I’m part of the class for the first time!

LAWRENCE
Mum, I’ve never felt so cool before! But I’m in a real band! I’m one of the cool kids!

MRS HATHAWAY
Summer! Make them let us in!

SECURITY 2
You have to get a ticket.

MRS HATHAWAY
Let’s try around the front!

All parents leave, apart from Mr. Mooneyham.
MR MOONEYHAM
Zack, I’m warning you –

ZACK
You don’t get it, Dad. For once in your life, open your ears and listen!
This is for us! For the kids! And you’re not taking it away!

SECURITY 1 & 2
MOVE!

JEFF SANDERSON
And now, ladies and gentlemen...

THE PALACE THEATRE – ONSTAGE

JEFF SANDERSON
THE SCHOOL OF ROCK!

Some of the parents appear in the aisle.

28. SCHOOL OF ROCK (THE COMPETITION)

DEWEY
We are the School of Rock, and this song was written by our lead
guitarist, Zack Mooneyham!

MR MOONEYHAM
Zack?!

DEWEY
Baby we were makin’ straight As
But we were stuck in a dumb daze
Don’t take much to memorise your lies –
I feel like I’ve been hypnoticised.

And then that magic man, he came to town –
Woo-eee! He done spun my head around
He said recess is in session
Two and two make five
And now, baby, oh, I’m alive...
Oh yeah, I am alive!
And if you wanna be the teacher’s pet  
Baby, you just better forget it  
Rock got no reason  
Rock got no rhyme  
You better get me to school on time.

Backup singers (“Ooh! La la la!”, etc.)

TOMIKA
Oh, you know that I was on an honor roll –  
Got good grades, but got no soul  
Raise my hand before I could speak my mind  
I been biting my tongue too many times.

DEWEY
And then that magic man said to obey –

TOMIKA
Uh-huh!

DEWEY
Do what magic men do  
Not what magic men say.

TOMIKA
Say what?

DEWEY
Now can I please have the attention of the class?

Today’s assignment...

PUPILS
Kick some ass!

And if you wanna be the teacher’s pet  
Baby, you just better forget it  
Rock got no reason  
Rock got no rhyme  
You better get me to school on time.

Backup singers (“Ooh! La la la!”, etc.)
DEWEY
Ladies and Gentlemen! Lawrence on keys!

Lawrence plays a keyboard solo.

DEWEY
This is my final exam
Now you all know who I am
I might not be that perfect son
But ya’ll be rockin’ when I’m done...

Zack Moneyham everyone!

Zack plays a guitar solo.

DEWEY
We are the School of Rock! And School... is... OUT!

JEFF SANDERSON
Give it up for the School of Rock! That concludes this year’s Battle of the Bands! We will give you the jury’s verdict in just a moment!

THE PALACE THEATRE – BACKSTAGE

MR WILLIAMS
Tomika. That was amazing.

MR SPENCER
I told you you’d make new friends.

MR MOONEYHAM

ZACK
Are you mad at me?

MR MOONEYHAM
Mad? I love you, son. And I have never been more proud.

Ned enters, dressed ready to rock!

NED
Dewey!

DEWEY
Ned?!
NED
Dewey! That was awesome.

DEWEY
You look incredible!

NED
Dewey. You did it!

DEWEY
It was all them.

The two men celebrate as Rosalie joins them.

DEWEY
Hold on. I have to deal with something real quick.

(To Rosalie)
Hi. They came to my house...

Patty runs in with a Policeman.

PATTY
There he is! That’s the man! Take him!

MR MOONEYHAM
Is there a problem, officer?

POLICEMAN
Sir, I’m going to need you to come with me.

MRS HATHAWAY
What do you mean? This man has been the best teacher our kids have ever known.

POLICEMAN
Ma’am? It has been reported that this teacher –

PATTY
Teacher? He’s not a teacher at all!

ROSALIE
No, he’s not a teacher.

Rosalie pauses to think.
ROSALIE
Mr. Finn is our music coach and he's fully qualified for that.

POLICEMAN
It seems there's been a mistake, Ma'am.

PATTY
Now wait a minute -

POLICEMAN
Think twice before you waste police time.

He exits.

NED
Give it up, Patty. It's over.

PATTY
Ned!

She notices Ned's Rock-God clothes and melts.

PATTY
Ohh... Ned!

DEWEY
You didn't really mean that? About the music coach.

ROSALIE
I don't know. Let's try it. Coaching after class. Because I'll tell you this, Dewey Finn: I have never felt so cool in my life.

JEFF SANDERSON
And tonight's winner of the twenty thousand dollar first prize is... No Vacancy!

MRS TRAVIS
What?!

MR WILLIAMS
That's disgraceful!

MR MOONEYHAM
I demand a recount!
PARENTS
SCHOOL OF ROCK! SCHOOL OF ROCK!

DEWEY
(To the pupils)
Hey guys. Get over here. Listen up. No. Listen. They’re calling our name. That’s what we came here for. That’s rock and roll. And remember, no real rock star ever won anything! I’m proud of you guys, we did it.

JEFF SANDERSON
OK OK By popular demand, please welcome back to the stage, The School of Rock!

THE PALACE THEATRE – ONSTAGE

29. STICK IT TO THE MAN (COMPETITION ENCORE)

ALL
When the world has screwed you
And crushed you in its fist
When the way you’re feeling
Has got you good and miffed
There’s been one solution
Since the world began –
Don’t just sit and take it
Stick it to the man!

Rant and rave
And scream and shout
Get all of your aggression out
They try to stop you
Let ‘em know
Exactly where they all can go –
And do it just as loudly as you can –
Stick it to the man!

DEWEY
One more time, it’s Mr. Zack Mooneyham!

Zack guitar solo.

DEWEY
And on keys, it’s Lawrence Turner!

Lawrence keyboard solo.
DEWEY
And the duchess of destruction – Katie Travis on the bass!

Katie bass solo

DEWEY
And on drums, it’s Freddy Hamilton!

Drum fill.

ALL
When the world has screwed you
   And crushed you in its fist
When the way you’re feeling
   Has got you good and miffed.

   Rant and rave
   And scream and shout
Get all of your aggression out
   They try to stop you
   Let ‘em know

DEWEY
Do everything they ever tried to ban.

PUPILS
  Yeah!

DEWEY
And tell them where to stick their boring plan!

PUPILS
  Yeah!

DEWEY
And do it just as loudly as you can!

ALL
  Stick it to the man!
  Stick it to the man!
  Stick it to the man!
  Stick it to the man!

116
DEWEY
(To audience)
Alright, are you having a good time?

(Audience cheer)

DEWEY
Now, are you having a great time?

(Audience cheer)

30. YOU’RE IN THE BAND (CURTAIN CALL)

DEWEY
Well good then. Let’s close this sucker out. I want to introduce some very special people. Ladies and Gentlemen please put your hands together for No Vacancy and Jeff Sanderson!

‘No vacancy’ bow.

Now give it up for the parents and teachers of Horace Green Prep.

Teachers & Parents bow.

DEWEY
And we mustn’t forget the children, the demon rascals of Horace Green Prep.

Pupil chorus bow.

DEWEY
And now my stylist, our band manager and miss sing herself! Billy, Summer and Tomika!

Billy, Summer and Tomika bow.

DEWEY
And now I want to introduce you to my band: Katie on bass, Lawrence on keys, on drums it’s Freddy and on lead guitar it’s Zack Mooneyham!

Katie, Lawrence, Freddy and Zack bow.
DEWEY
And now, the peanut butter to my jelly, my best friend Ned Schneebly and his fabulous girlfriend, Patty!

Ned and Patty bow.

DEWEY
And now, the Queen of the Night herself. Principal of Horace Green. It’s Rosalie Mullins!

Rosalie bows.

31. QUEEN OF THE NIGHT (ROCK VERSION)

ROSALIE
Ahhhh

DEWEY
Ba da bup bup bup bup bup bup bup bup BAAHHH!

ROSALIE
Ahhhh
Meine tochter nimmer mehr.

DEWEY
Ba da bup bup bup bup bup bup bup bup BAAHHH!

ALL
Ahhhh

ROSALIE
And now, the rock god of my heart and yours, Dewey Finn!

Dewey bows.

CURTAIN.

FULL BOWS.

THE END.

31. PLAYOUT