

# GWEN AND MARY AT GLENN ROSS

---

A two-act comedy by  
Robin Pond

This script is for evaluation only. It may not be printed, photocopied or distributed digitally under any circumstances. Possession of this file does not grant the right to perform this play or any portion of it, or to use it for classroom study.

[www.youthplays.com](http://www.youthplays.com)  
[info@youthplays.com](mailto:info@youthplays.com)  
424-703-5315

*Gwen and Mary at Glenn Ross* © 2014 Robin Pond  
All rights reserved. ISBN 978-1-62088-252-8.

**Caution:** This play is fully protected under the copyright laws of the United States of America, Canada, the British Commonwealth and all other countries of the copyright union and is subject to royalty for all performances including but not limited to professional, amateur, charity and classroom whether admission is charged or presented free of charge.

**Reservation of Rights:** This play is the property of the author and all rights for its use are strictly reserved and must be licensed by his representative, YouthPLAYS. This prohibition of unauthorized professional and amateur stage presentations extends also to motion pictures, recitation, lecturing, public reading, radio broadcasting, television, video and the rights of adaptation or translation into non-English languages.

**Performance Licensing and Royalty Payments:** Amateur and stock performance rights are administered exclusively by YouthPLAYS. No amateur, stock or educational theatre groups or individuals may perform this play without securing authorization and royalty arrangements in advance from YouthPLAYS. Required royalty fees for performing this play are available online at [www.YouthPLAYS.com](http://www.YouthPLAYS.com). Royalty fees are subject to change without notice. Required royalties must be paid each time this play is performed and may not be transferred to any other performance entity. All licensing requests and inquiries should be addressed to YouthPLAYS.

**Author Credit:** All groups or individuals receiving permission to produce this play must give the author(s) credit in any and all advertisement and publicity relating to the production of this play. The author's billing must appear directly below the title on a separate line with no other accompanying written matter. The name of the author(s) must be at least 50% as large as the title of the play. No person or entity may receive larger or more prominent credit than that which is given to the author(s) and the name of the author(s) may not be abbreviated or otherwise altered from the form in which it appears in this Play.

**Publisher Attribution:** All programs, advertisements, flyers or other printed material must include the following notice:

*Produced by special arrangement with YouthPLAYS ([www.youthplays.com](http://www.youthplays.com)).*

**Prohibition of Unauthorized Copying:** Any unauthorized copying of this book or excerpts from this book, whether by photocopying, scanning, video recording or any other means, is strictly prohibited by law. This book may only be copied by licensed productions with the purchase of a photocopy license, or with explicit permission from YouthPLAYS.

**Trade Marks, Public Figures & Musical Works:** This play may contain references to brand names or public figures. All references are intended only as parody or other legal means of expression. This play may also contain suggestions for the performance of a musical work (either in part or in whole). YouthPLAYS has not obtained performing rights of these works unless explicitly noted. The direction of such works is only a playwright's suggestion, and the play producer should obtain such permissions on their own. The website for the U.S. copyright office is <http://www.copyright.gov>.

## COPYRIGHT RULES TO REMEMBER

1. To produce this play, you must receive prior written permission from YouthPLAYS and pay the required royalty.
2. You must pay a royalty each time the play is performed in the presence of audience members outside of the cast and crew. Royalties are due whether or not admission is charged, whether or not the play is presented for profit, for charity or for educational purposes, or whether or not anyone associated with the production is being paid.
3. No changes, including cuts or additions, are permitted to the script without written prior permission from YouthPLAYS.
4. Do not copy this book or any part of it without written permission from YouthPLAYS.
5. Credit to the author and YouthPLAYS are required on all programs and other promotional items associated with this play's performance.

When you pay royalties, you are recognizing the hard work that went into creating the play and making a statement that a play is something of value. We think this is important, and we hope that everyone will do the right thing, thus allowing playwrights to generate income and continue to create wonderful new works for the stage.

Plays are owned by the playwrights who wrote them. Violating a playwright's copyright is a very serious matter and violates both United States and international copyright law. Infringement is punishable by actual damages and attorneys' fees, statutory damages of up to \$150,000 per incident, and even possible criminal sanctions. **Infringement is theft. Don't do it.**

Have a question about copyright? Please contact us by email at [info@youthplays.com](mailto:info@youthplays.com) or by phone at 424-703-5315. When in doubt, please ask.

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

GWEN, student, pre-teen.

MARY, student, pre-teen.

GEORGIE, student, pre-teen.

BECKY, student, pre-teen.

JIMMY, student, pre-teen.

MR. JACK JOHNSTON, teacher.

MRS. SHIRLEY BRAYDEN, the vice-principal.

Note: Casting is flexible. At the 2013 Minnesota Fringe Festival, this play was performed with an all-female cast.

## SETTING

Act I: The school-yard of Glenn Ross Academy.

Act II: A classroom.

Warning: This play may contain nonsensical language. Parental guidance is highly discouraged.

---

ACT I

*(A bell rings. Students file out of the school. Some move directly across the stage. Others stop and stand conversing in small groups. MR. JOHNSTON enters. GWEN enters quickly, a few paces behind Mr. Johnston.)*

**GWEN:** Mister... Mister... Mister... Mister Johnston... Mister Johnston...wait...wait...wait. Mister... Mister... Mister Johnston... Mister Johnston...

**JOHNSTON:** *(Turning:)* What? What is it, Gwen?

**GWEN:** *(Catching up:)* I just...I just needed to ask...about the extra work. You're...you're giving it to Becky...to Becky. And she's okay... a sharp girl... She's okay. I get it.

*(Mr. Johnston starts to turn away. Gwen grabs at his arm.)*

No... no... wait... I need... we need to talk...

**JOHNSTON:** It's lunch... It's lunchtime, Gwen. Please let go of my arm.

**GWEN:** *(Letting go:)* No...yes...of course, of course I know it's lunch. I'm gonna go eat. We're all gonna eat. But first we gotta talk...you know...we gotta...about the extra work. Like...okay...I understand Becky. She's a regular on the honours board...a regular. But my name's always up there too. Right up near the top...right at the top...my name's always on the board.

**JOHNSTON:** Not at the moment, Gwen...not this month...it's not there now.

**GWEN:** But it was...it always was. And it can be again... It will be...I'm sure of it.. It will be... One good test...just one...that's all it takes. I'm still the best...the tops...when it comes to math...any type of math. You know I am.

**JOHNSTON:** If you were, your name would still be on the board... This is algebra, Gwen, algebra. It's not just calculating...it's different...takes a different mind-set. And the others have been doing better.

**GWEN:** Others...what others? There's just Becky.

**JOHNSTON:** Yeah, Becky...for one... She's been acing the tests. And there's Mary. She's been doing much better lately...really improved...surprisingly better.

**GWEN:** Mary...really? Mary? Just a flash in the pan...one or two lucky tests. It goes that way...sometimes...you get a run. That's all it is...she's been on a hot streak. You don't wanna waste the extra work on Mary...not on Mary. She's not gonna know what to do with it.

**JOHNSTON:** She does it with Georgie...a study group...her and Georgie... They've been doing the work together.

**GWEN:** Georgie? You're giving it to Georgie...Mary and Georgie? Really? You'll give it to them...to Becky...to Mary and Georgie...a bunch of kids who've never been nearly as good at math...who wouldn't even know what to do with extra work...who'll just squander the opportunity...just not benefit from it.

**JOHNSTON:** The extra work's there as enrichment, for those who've shown...

**GWEN:** But I've shown...I've always shown...I've been tops... Last semester...semester before that...always... Just ask Mr. Murray, he'll tell you... Ask him... Always the top marks in math... I single-handedly brought up the class average...on last year's standardized test. It was me...me alone...putting our class above all the others in the state... That was me...

**JOHNSTON:** I don't know about last year, Gwen, but...

---

**GWEN:** No, you don't know about last year...of course you don't... You weren't the teacher last year, were you? Mr. Murray was... But I'm telling you...I'm telling you about last year...how I was the best...how I carried the whole class.

**JOHNSTON:** But the pop quiz last Tuesday was a different story.

**GWEN:** Garbage! The test...what test?

**JOHNSTON:** The one last week...that test.

**GWEN:** That test was craptacular garbage! Craptacular!... No one could do anything with those questions... We hadn't even covered half of that stuff.

**JOHNSTON:** (*Starting to turn away:*) Several of the others got perfect.

**GWEN:** No wait...wait. It wasn't fair...that test... I'm telling you... It wasn't a fair test. And I still got one question right. And the second one...I really got the second one right too... It was just ambiguous. That's all... Not properly worded... No one could fault me for not understanding what they wanted... Nobody... It wasn't my fault...not at all...just a bad question.

**JOHNSTON:** There was nothing wrong with the wording...the questions...they were worded just fine.

**GWEN:** Nothing wrong? Nothing? Do you wanna get out the test? Do you wanna read it...what it was asking?

**JOHNSTON:** I don't need to get it out...the test...I don't need to reread it.

**GWEN:** No?

**JOHNSTON:** No, I don't...I don't need to read it...I know it. Question two was asking you to find the intercepts.

**GWEN:** The intercepts...right...the intercept...and I found it...I solved for it...I gave you the intercept.

**JOHNSTON:** You gave one, Gwen... One intercept... There was another.

**GWEN:** But it didn't say, "Find all the intercepts," did it? It just said intercepts...in general...not how many... And I found one... So I solved the question... I gave you an intercept.

**JOHNSTON:** And what about the other two?

**GWEN:** What? Two more intercepts?

**JOHNSTON:** No. Questions, Gwen... The other two questions. There were four on the quiz, Gwen... Four... You only got one...and maybe part of another.

**GWEN:** Maybe?... Maybe?... Do you want to reread the question?

**JOHNSTON:** Others got all four.

**GWEN:** I know...I've just...the answers just aren't coming...It's been a tough month. It happens sometimes...just a cold spell...and I can do better...you know I can...everybody knows. I'm the best...the best in math...just ask anyone around. My father's counting on me. He's told me he expects better. So if I could just get the extra work...the enrichment questions...I know I can do better.

**JOHNSTON:** But I've got to follow the rules. They're very strict here. We've all got to follow rules. The enrichment questions only go to the top ones on the honour board. The feeling is that the top students might need to be challenged...might be able to do more...but not the ones already struggling with the basic curriculum...not getting all the answers right.



---

**GWEN:** Rules my foot. My foot...Mister...my fungus-filled foot. They're just guidelines...just guidelines...nothing you need to worry about... You don't really need to follow the rules. Do you? Do you really?

**JOHNSTON:** Yes, Gwen...like it or not... Yes I do. The enrichment program's run by the Board. It's a matter of resources...limited resources...only so much to go around. I've got to restrict the enrichment questions...ration them. I've been told...I can't just give them out to everyone.

**GWEN:** Ration them?

**JOHNSTON:** That's right... Ration them.

**GWEN:** So you're caring more about your career...about how you look to the big guys...the big chucky cheeses...then about teaching us math.

**JOHNSTON:** I'm sorry, Gwen. Those are the rules. They won't let me...

**GWEN:** Yeah...well...if you really care about your career...you wanna get ahead...then maybe I can help you.

**JOHNSTON:** (*Laughing:*) How can you help me, Gwen?

**GWEN:** My dad...he's a high-fallutin' big wheel with the home and school...a fallutin' big wheel...and he could put in a good word for you...be real supportive...come to your defense when other parents complain... He could do that for you.

**JOHNSTON:** Thanks, but I think I can get by without his help.

**GWEN:** Don't be so freakin' sure...you never know...things change. He's a freakin' big deal...a big deal who could help you...or who could hurt you. Bring you down.

**JOHNSTON:** I'll take my chances.

**GWEN:** Then how about coffee...free coffee...you'd like that, wouldn't you?

**JOHNSTON:** What?

**GWEN:** Coffee...I've seen how you slurp up that stuff... Slurp it up... Like it's some great medicine...freakin' medicine...that your life depends upon. I can get you one...every day...every day I can bring you one. There's a Starbucks between my house and the school... I pass it every day... I can bring you a coffee...a large...a grande...every day...a grande every day.

**JOHNSTON:** A vente.

**GWEN:** Huh?

**JOHNSTON:** I usually get a vente. With you lot I need all the help I can get.

**GWEN:** Okay. I'll bring you a vente...a vente every day...black with extra sugar...extra sweet...just the way you like it... I've seen you... I've seen you drink it. Every day...I'll bring you one. You just need to give me those enrichment questions... Put me in the program.

**JOHNSTON:** Okay.

**GWEN:** Okay?

**JOHNSTON:** Okay... If you're that desperate, I'll see what I can do.

**GWEN:** So...can you get them now? The questions...can you give them to me now? Just so I don't get left behind...so I'm caught up...as caught up with the others as I can be.

**JOHNSTON:** (*Laughing:*) Are you going to go get me my coffee now?

**GWEN:** I...I can't...not right now. I brought a lunch...so I don't have that much money with me. But I will...later...I will later.

**JOHNSTON:** (*Laughing:*) Sure you will.

*(Mr. Johnston starts to walk away.)*

**GWEN:** So what about the enrichment questions?

**JOHNSTON:** (*Over his shoulder as he leaves:*) Later, Gwen... Later... I'll see what I can do. Go have your lunch.

*(On the other side of the schoolyard, MARY and GEORGIE come forward.)*

**MARY:** Nerds...nerds and mark-scroungers.

**GEORGIE:** Mark-scroungers.

**MARY:** All so nerdy...sucking up to the teacher...always on the prowl for bonus marks.

**GEORGIE:** But it works...doesn't it? The nerds...their strategy...it works.

**MARY:** Yeah.

**GEORGIE:** I missed a question on the last quiz...missed one...one's all it takes...should have had it...but I screwed up.

**MARY:** It's just a quiz, Georgie... No biggie...just a quiz...you're still on the Honours Board.

**GEORGIE:** Just barely...just barely hanging on to last spot on the board...and this next test...it's standardized...it's worth way more. This one'll make all the difference.

**MARY:** Standardized... You know what that means?

**GEORGIE:** Could be tougher...could even be asking stuff we haven't even covered.

**MARY:** Multiple choice...it means multiple choice.

**GEORGIE:** Yeah...I guess.

**MARY:** Multiple choice...A, B, C, D, E.

**GEORGIE:** And sometimes there can be combinations...like A and B but not C...or all of the above...or none of the above... permutations and and combinations and commutations... anything to mess with your mind.

**MARY:** It's hard dressed up like easy. That's what makes them the worst...multiple choice...like the answer's given to you...and all you have to do is point it out.

**GEORGIE:** We just gotta try to select the winner.

**MARY:** But it's not easy...not at all...not any easier than if you had to just work it out and write down the right answer. You've still gotta work it out...still gotta do the work...to have the right answer...to know which one it is. And guessing's no good... 'cause they adjust for that...they adjust...subtract wrong from right...punish you for taking the guess...assuming the risk.

**GEORGIE:** Yeah, I get what you're saying. It's just as tough...either way...just as hard to get it right.

**MARY:** But no...you don't get it...not completely. I'm saying they're worse...the multiple choice tests...much worse. They're not just hard, they're sneaky hard...hard while appearing to be less hard...hard dressed up like easy...making them way way worse.

**GEORGIE:** So I s'pose we'll really have to study hard...for this one...put in a lot of extra time.

**MARY:** But I can't.

**GEORGIE:** We've got to...no choice.

**MARY:** I can't...not without seeming really nerdy...I really can't. It's Jennie's sleepover tonight...I've gotta go...no choice...not without looking like a complete nerd. Everyone'll

---

be there...all the ones who count. If I don't go...they'll know I'm staying home to study.

**GEORGIE:** But our studying together really helps... You know it does... You know it's helped bring up both our marks.

**MARY:** (*Signaling for him to keep his voice down:*) And you agreed...right from the start...you agreed that this was our thing...a secret thing. Nobody needs to know about all the studying we're doing...it's just between you and me.

**GEORGIE:** Yeah...I know...that's cool...I'm cool with that. It's just our thing...just us.

**MARY:** But I can't tonight.

**GEORGIE:** It's gonna be tough...the test...gonna be too tough to tackle without a lot of cramming.

**MARY:** Might be too tough even with cramming...multiple choice...lots of time pressure...not enough to just know the math...you gotta know it fast...no hesitation...know which one to pick right away.

**GEORGIE:** But what can we do? We gotta study...gotta find the time...to get it down...know it cold...so we can do it fast.

**MARY:** It'll take less time...if we know what we need to study...less time...if we know what questions they're gonna ask.

**GEORGIE:** Yeah, of course, but...

**MARY:** You gotta get us a look at those questions.

**GEORGIE:** You...you wanna cheat?

**MARY:** I wanna focus our studying. It's not cheating...not like we're gonna be stealing the answer guide...just the questions...just to know what we've gotta know.

**GEORGIE:** But it's...I dunno...how could we?

**MARY:** Tonight...the school's open...it's the home-and-school meeting...they always leave the doors unlocked. All you've gotta do...

**GEORGIE:** Me? Why me?

**MARY:** It's gotta be you...they'll never suspect...you're not the type. Besides, I told you, I'll be at the sleepover.

**GEORGIE:** I...I dunno... It's kinda dangerous. I'm not sure I want to...I mean...why me? Why does it have to be me?

**MARY:** They'd suspect me...it's gotta be you... Johnston already thinks I must be doing something...to get the higher marks I'm getting...something different.

**GEORGIE:** You are, Mary. You're studying...studying a lot more...with me...we've been doing all the extra work...meeting every other night...going over all the math.

**MARY:** We're a team...right? A team.

**GEORGIE:** Yeah.

**MARY:** And I need your help... This is where you...where you pick up your teammate... Where you help the team.

**GEORGIE:** But they'll know... They're bound to figure it out.

**MARY:** Know? Who'll know? What'll they know?

**GEORGIE:** Johnston...and Brayden...everyone... They'll all figure it out.

**MARY:** You're the last kid they'd suspect. And I'll be at the sleepover.

**GEORGIE:** But when we get the answers right...the two of us...and have basically the same answers...the right answers to all those questions.

**MARY:** But they already know we're studying together... Johnston knows that...so us having a lot of the same answers...right answers...won't seem off at all.

**GEORGIE:** But still it's cheating.

**MARY:** But that's not what's bothering you...the cheating...you're fine with that.

**GEORGIE:** Who says? Who says I am?

**MARY:** You're just afraid of getting caught.

**GEORGIE:** But if they do...if they catch us...we'd be really screwed... They'd come down really heavy.

**MARY:** But you like us being a team, don't you? Coming to my house...spending time in my room...studying...two, three times a week...going over all that math...spending all that time together.

**GEORGIE:** Sure...sure I do.

**MARY:** Well this is a part of it, Georgie...a part of being the team.

**GEORGIE:** Why? Why is it? Who says it is?

**MARY:** I do... I say it is. If you want us to continue to be a team...best study-buddies...if you want things to continue the way they are...I need you to do this for me...I need you to get me the questions. So...are you gonna do it, Georgie, are you gonna get them?

**GEORGIE:** And if I don't...if I decide I don't want to sneak into the school...break into Johnston's drawer and steal the questions...

**MARY:** He never locks the drawer.

**GEORGIE:** If I decide I don't want to do it, then it's over? We're done? We're not gonna study together anymore?

**MARY:** No... We're not... I guess we're not. That'll end it.

**GEORGIE:** But why? When we've been doing so well? When we work so well together? Why?

**MARY:** 'Cause that's the way it is, Georgie...that's just the way it is.

*(Mary walks off, with Georgie following. BECKY stalks across the stage, surveying her surroundings. She notices JIMMY, who enters hesitantly from the other side, and heads over to her.)*

**BECKY:** Jimmy, old buddie, how ya doin'?

**JIMMY:** Oh...hi...uh...Becky... Fine.

**BECKY:** Great...great...that's great.

**JIMMY:** I...I guess...I guess I'm doin' fine.

**BECKY:** Yeah...so...how's it going?

**JIMMY:** Okay...I guess...it's just...well...this is kind of strange.

**BECKY:** Strange? Why strange?

**JIMMY:** It's just...well...we never really talk...not 'til now...so it just seems...I dunno.

**BECKY:** Yeah, I know. I know. I was thinking the same thing...we don't talk...don't hang out...which is strange...when you think about it...really strange...being in the same class and all. We should...should talk...hang out together...don't you think? So... You finished your lunch already?

**JIMMY:** Yeah...just a sandwich. I wasn't very hungry.

**BECKY:** Sandwich from home, eh?

**JIMMY:** Yeah.



---

**BECKY:** Wise...that's wise...that's the way to do it. I bought my lunch. You'd think I'd learn. The rubber chicken and steamed-out veggies and smushed potatoes... After a while it all tastes vaguely the same...like the cellophane...tastes like the packaging it comes in.

**JIMMY:** Yeah. My mom always makes my lunch...packs a sandwich and stuff...sometimes a fruitcup...packs it up for me in a lunch bag each day. She says she wants to make sure I eat right...get the right nutrition...that sort of thing... You know how it is.

**BECKY:** Yeah...sure...sure. Your mom's one wise woman. She is. She knows what she's doing.

**JIMMY:** Yeah...well...she's just looking out for me...I guess.

**BECKY:** Of course she is...of course she is. And your folks give you lots of help...lots of support...with homework...school projects...those sorts of things...don't they? Lots of help.

**JIMMY:** Well...yeah...I guess.

**BECKY:** Like the science project...that's really neat...yours I mean...neat idea. Stone tools...what it tells us about human evolution and all that... Clever idea...really clever.

**JIMMY:** Well...yeah...my dad's an archaeologist...works at the museum...so he knows all about that sort of stuff.

**BECKY:** So I gathered...neat...really neat...having people actually make the stone tools...showing the method...videotaping it all...having the block of special stone and the tools that can be made from it...the before and after...before and after, and the process in between...nice structure...nice.

**JIMMY:** Yeah, my dad's helping me...like it's not just about the tools, it's about developmental cognition.

**BECKY:** Human developmental cog...?

**JIMMY:** Niton... Cognition... Like... He says...it can show how people thought...I dunno... How the thoughts developed.

**BECKY:** Neat science...really neat... No denying that...solid stuff...very solid. Grade A. All the science is there. It's got great potential...really...all the potential in the world. Now you just need to realize it.

**JIMMY:** What d'you mean? Realize it? We've... My dad's got it... It's all laid out.

**BECKY:** Presentation...Jimmy...it's all about presentation. You got all the pieces...just need to pull them together...together in a way that tells the best story...draw out the narrative...really bring it home to your audience.

**JIMMY:** Yeah?

**BECKY:** For sure. Absolutely...for sure. Take the one I did... Me and Gwen...the one we did last year.

**JIMMY:** It wasn't one of the finalists...didn't win anything, did it?

**BECKY:** No...didn't win. Not a strong concept, really. Volcanoes. It's been done...done to death...the simulation, with the baking powder and vinegar and fake paper mache mountain and all. The science was kinda commonplace...nothing special. But Mr. Murray took us aside...when the winners were being announced...took us aside and told us he'd never seen the concept presented so well...the smoke...red dye and paste to make it look just like lava...gripping presentation...that's what he said...flair for the dramatic...a real flair. That's what he told us.

**JIMMY:** But still didn't win.

**BECKY:** Naw...the other kids...he said...the others with volcano projects wouldn't understand...wouldn't get it...if we

---

were winning and they weren't...weren't even getting very high grades and all. It was the science...just the underlying science...that held the project back...kept us from winning.

**JIMMY:** But my idea's more original.

**BECKY:** Absolutely...for sure...for sure. Solid...good concept...they should like it...probably eat it up.

**JIMMY:** And it's pretty much already done.

**BECKY:** The science, Jimmy, the science...the science part is done.

**JIMMY:** But I thought...with the science part there...I thought just showing it...the tape of making the tools...the materials beforehand and the tools that were made...it kinda shows itself.

**BECKY:** Yeah...I get it, and to me it sounds really interesting...really great. But to win...

**JIMMY:** To win, showing's not enough?

**BECKY:** There's showing...and then there's presenting. Strong material still needs strong delivery. Science projects just don't sell themselves.

**JIMMY:** And you could do that? You could sell the science?

**BECKY:** Me?

**JIMMY:** Yeah, you...you could do it... Isn't that what you're saying? You could give the strong delivery?

**BECKY:** Yeah, I guess... Yeah...I mean...I'm sure I could...I've got the flair all right...I'm sure I could really sell it...if that's what you want. I mean, I hadn't really thought...

**JIMMY:** I dunno.

**BECKY:** Yeah, I get it...I do. There's something to be said for just doing it yourself...you and your parents. Simpler...cleaner. And after all, marks aren't everything. They shouldn't be the only—

**JIMMY:** I really need the marks though...need to score big...on this science thing. I'm getting killed in the math. I figure the science can make up for that. My mom...she's looking for an A...nothing less... She's made that clear. But she—

**BECKY:** (*Putting her arm around Jimmy:*) Well, sure then. I'd be happy to help you out. Your science, my panache, we're an unstoppable team.

**JIMMY:** Yeah...wow...I guess so... You think?

**BECKY:** Positive, Jimmy, gotta be positive. You gotta know it...know it...like for sure. (*Pause.*) Let me tell you...lay it out for you...show you the ideas. (*Pause.*) I'm thinking graphics...lots of graphics...and interactive stuff. And the whole thing set to music...the video...the displays...something upbeat...up-tempo. And maybe strobe-lighting... You know? Strobe-lighting to focus attention on different parts of the display...the before, the after, the explanation, the conclusions. This'll knock their socks off...raise the bar...set a new height...be the best flippin' science project display ever seen at Glenn Ross Academy...ever seen anywhere. Let me lay it all out...show you the grand design. Show you how we're gonna get you that A-plus, Jimmy. Flippin' A-plus, Jimmy...nothing less. Booyah...bring it on home.

*(Fade to black. Exeunt.)*

---

ACT II

*(Lights up on a classroom, several desks and chairs. On the wall there is an Honours Board prominently displayed with the names – Becky, Georgie, Mary – of the top-performing students prominently displayed. The students are milling around the classroom. Johnston enters, carrying a large cup of coffee.)*

**MARY:** Oh...oh... Mr. Johnston...sir... Mr. Johnston, sir... Will it be covering infinity?

**JOHNSTON:** *(Putting the coffee down on his desk:)* What?

*(The students crowd around Johnston.)*

**MARY:** Will infinity be on the test?

**JOHNSTON:** What? I...no...I wouldn't worry about it.

**MARY:** I don't get it...infinity...I don't get how it works. I know we covered it...but it's just...well... How can it be? When you've got something...a certain amount of something...and then you add more to it... How can it be that you end up with just the same thing as you started with...when you've added more?

**GWEN:** Infinity is...it's infinity. You take infinity and add one to it, you're still going to get infinity. By definition. There can't be more... That's just the way it is...right? Isn't that right, sir?

**MARY:** Yeah...sure...I get it...sort of... I just wanted to know if it was going to be on the test... That's all... I wanted to know how important it is.

**JOHNSTON:** It's important...as a concept, it's very important. As for the test, that's an entirely different matter.

**GWEN:** So you're saying it's not gonna be on the test? We don't need to know it?

**JOHNSTON:** Everything's worth knowing. It's an important concept...infinity... It's something you should all get your heads around.

**GEORGIE:** So it is on the test?

**JOHNSTON:** No...don't worry about it...not for the test...not for today...for today just focus on what we've covered...in class...infinity wasn't covered.

**GEORGIE:** It's not? For sure? For sure it's not?

**JOHNSTON:** For sure.

**MARY:** I get it...sort of... I kinda get it...but maybe not enough...if it's gonna be on the test. I dunno... I dunno if I get it enough for a test.

*(BRAYDEN strides quickly into the room.)*

**BRAYDEN:** Hi Jack. We ready to go?

**JOHNSTON:** *(In a louder voice:)* Okay...everyone...everyone? Quickly...quietly... Take your seats.

*(Pause. There is some commotion as the students get seated.)*

Okay...people...okay, settle down. The math test will commence in just a minute, but first Shirley...the vice-principal...Mrs. Brayden here...the vice-principal would like to address the class...say a few words.

**BRAYDEN:** Thanks Jack. I'm actually here for two reasons today. The first...the official reason...is to open the envelope. To break the official seal...put on by the school board...to ensure that there can be no cheating...no access to the questions ahead of time...to give an unfair advantage to any student. I'm here to make sure of that. It's very important. As you know, this is a standardized test...given to all students, in all the schools...and the fairness of the testing process...a level

---

playing field...is paramount...essential. Our reputation as the best private academy depends on this...on being able to show that the game was fair, and we excelled where others struggled...struggled and often failed...them...not us. And that's the second reason I'm here today...the second reason why I'm here...the most important reason...is to exhort you all...remind you all...how important the standards of your school...Glenn Ross Academy...how important our reputation as a premier academic institution is to us. Our reputation is at stake. Your futures are at stake. You've got to excel in this test, to show the world the superiority that exists here at Glenn Ross. We expect excellence. Achieve the top marks...that is what is expected of you...that and nothing less. You either excel, or you're losers....no middle ground...no second chance, because only losers need a second chance.

**JOHNSTON:** Just do your best, kids. I know you're all smart hard-working kids, so just relax. You'll do fine.

**BRAYDEN:** There are no guarantees, though, are there? So focus...perform. Go big or go—

**JOHNSTON:** Great. Thanks, Mrs. Brayden. I think we can take it from here.

**BRAYDEN:** But I have to assist in the test distribution... The rules—

**JOHNSTON:** No... Really not necessary. I'm sure I can—

**BRAYDEN:** Where is it? Here...in your desk?

*(Brayden slides open the drawer and takes out the envelope.)*

You really should lock it...lock the drawers...it's... Oh off-coloured canaries! Freakin' frat! It's been opened.

**JOHNSTON:** Yes...I don't have a key...to the desk, I mean. It was probably lost years ago...the key to the lock on the drawer. I've been meaning to ask —

**BRAYDEN:** No...not the drawer...the envelope. The envelope's been opened.

**JOHNSTON:** Naw... Glue on the seal probably just dried out. That's all. It still looks kinda closed to me.

**BRAYDEN:** No...no way. The Board wouldn't send it...not like that. They took great care to ensure that every envelope...every one containing the tests...was properly sealed. Sealed in a fresh envelope...not wrinkled like this.

**JOHNSTON:** The Board envelopes...some of the stock they're using...it's really old. Probably just dried out...just wouldn't hold.

**BRAYDEN:** (*Examining the envelope:*) No...it's been steamed... definitely steamed.

**JOHNSTON:** Steamed?

**BRAYDEN:** Steamed open. Believe me...I can tell. Look...the way it's curled up at the edges...the way it's wrinkled up...this envelope's been steamed open, and then resealed.

**JOHNSTON:** Can you really be that sure?

**BRAYDEN:** Positive. I've steamed a few envelopes in my day. This test has been compromised.

**JOHNSTON:** That's kinda jumping to... I'm not so sure —

**BRAYDEN:** I am. These questions are worthless now.

**JOHNSTON:** Worthless? Isn't that a bit of an overreaction? I mean, we can still —



---

**BRAYDEN:** No! The test...the process...it's been compromised. We can't go forward with it...not like this...no way.

**JOHNSTON:** So what're we...what're you proposing we do?

**BRAYDEN:** *(Turning towards the students:)* Investigate. I'm gonna want to talk to each and every one of those students. We'll get to the bottom of this. Expose the rotten apple...the fetid putrid apple...root out the rot.

**BECKY:** Does this mean we're not gonna have the test?

**GWEN:** Can't we have it anyways...take the test? We've already studied.

**MARY:** Is there gonna be a make-up?

**JIMMY:** Is this a free period?

**BRAYDEN:** *(To Georgie:)* You there, I want to see you first. In my office.

**GEORGIE:** What...me?

**BRAYDEN:** Right this minute. And the rest of you...don't go far. I'll want to see each and every one of you.

**BECKY:** *(To Johnston:)* Can we go to the library?

**JOHNSTON:** Why do you want to do that...go to the library?

**BECKY:** I've gotta do a bit more research...for our science project...plan out the presentation.

**JOHNSTON:** Your science project?

**BRAYDEN:** Criminy...Let's focus on the issue at hand.

*(Brayden grabs Johnston and pulls him aside. The students get up and start to mill around.)*

**JIMMY:** *(To Becky:)* Yeah, about that, Becky...about that. We're gonna have to talk.

**BECKY:** For sure... For sure we'll talk, Jimmy. I've got lots of ideas...it's all coming together...lots of ideas to share with you. This is gonna be great.

**JIMMY:** I can't...we can't... What I mean is, my mom, she says we don't need your help...for you to be a part of it.

**BECKY:** It's gonna be great, Jimmy...I'm telling you...absolutely spectacular. I've got a vision...a complete vision...I can see it all...like we've already laid it all out...the materials...the tools...the videotapes of everything being made...the before and after...I can see the whole thing spread out on the table.

**JIMMY:** My mom...she thinks I oughta...that we've already got it...kinda...already laid out. She says we've worked hard...already...that I oughta get the credit.

**BECKY:** Yeah, yeah, I can appreciate that. Moms...you know? She's only looking out for you... Wants what's best for you. Mothers do...they're like that. I get it...I do...but when she sees it laid out...our vision...when she sees the way we—

**JIMMY:** No. You're not hearing me. She won't...I can't...you're not gonna be a part of it. I've gotta do the project on my own.

**BECKY:** No, no, Jimmy. That's not what you wanna do. That's not the direction—

**JIMMY:** Sorry, Becky. I'm sorry. I really am. But my mom, she says—

**BECKY:** But you can't—

**JIMMY:** I gotta. I don't have a choice.

**BECKY:** I already gave Mr. Johnston my name...our names...on the project.

**JIMMY:** So?

**BECKY:** So he's submitted them to the office... It's all set... The names are already in.

**JIMMY:** So we'll just have to get him to change it.

**BECKY:** Change it? Change it? Really?

**JIMMY:** Yeah, that's right.

**BECKY:** You can't... You can't just go changing it.

**JIMMY:** Why not? Why can't I?

**BECKY:** (*Calling:*) Gwen...Gwen...c'mon over here a second.

*(Gwen approaches Becky and Jimmy. On the other side of the classroom, Mary comes forward with Georgie in tow.)*

**MARY:** (*In a hushed voice:*) What're you gonna say?

**GEORGIE:** Say? Say about what?

**MARY:** About stealing the test questions.

**GEORGIE:** I'll just—what? You think I...that I came in here...you think I'm the one...that I stole the questions?

**MARY:** So you're gonna...like...deny the whole thing? Good for you. They can't prove a thing...even if they suspect...they won't be able to prove it. I won't say a thing.

**GEORGIE:** No, you can't...I didn't. Really. I really didn't.

**MARY:** I'd've thought you'd've shared them with me, though...shared some of the questions...the answers. I mean...we're a team...I thought...that you'd do it as much for me as for yourself.

**GEORGIE:** But I didn't do it.

**MARY:** Sure...of course...You've got nothing to worry about from me. I've got your back. I won't say a thing. But next

time...I mean...I'd've thought you'd show a little loyalty...like what I'm showing.

**GEORGIE:** You know if I was gonna do it, I'd be doing it for you...for you more than for me. It was your idea in the first place... You know that.

**MARY:** (*Stepping back:*) Woah! Woah, baby! Hold it right there. You're not gonna pin anything on me. I mean, I didn't even get to see the answers...not even the questions...not a flippin' single question...not a freakin' topic area...like nothing. I didn't get anything at all out of this...nada.

**GEORGIE:** (*Pursuing her:*) But you would've...you wanted to...and you would've...sure as snot runs on a cold day. You would've...and I'd've shared them, if only I actually did go through with it. Like you wanted. But I couldn't...I thought about it...but I couldn't...I didn't.

**MARY:** Denial's good...that's fine...but leave me out of it...if it turns...if the denial doesn't work. You don't wanna imply nothing...not a full fandango thing...you don't wanna implicate me...if they do catch you...name me in any of this.

**GEORGIE:** 'Course not...sure...not if we're really still a team...still study buddies. But I wanna know. Are you still with me? Still together? A ready ruddy steady study team...just us two? Is that the way it is? Sometimes I'm not so sure.

**MARY:** (*Moving forward and putting her hand gently on his arm:*) Absolutely...always...nothing's changed...nothing will. That's what I'm saying...what I'm trying to tell you. I like studying with you, Georgie, and we can still do it...do even more...spend more time together...all you want. But you gotta keep quiet about this...about everything. You gotta keep me out of it. Otherwise my parents are gonna start thinking you're

---

a bad influence, and...well...they'll just close the door on our get-togethers... Know what I mean?... Just shut you right out.

*(Mrs. Brayden and Mr. Johnston break off their conference.)*

**BRAYDEN:** Georgie! Georgie Anderson!

**JOHNSTON:** Georgie, Mrs. Brayden would like to have a word with you now.

**MARY:** Remember, Georgie... Remember.

**GEORGIE:** Me? Why me?

**BRAYDEN:** *(Approaching Georgie:)* I'll be speaking with everyone. You're just the first.

**GEORGIE:** But why? I mean, why start with me? What's special about me?

**BRAYDEN:** You're not special. You're just first.

**GEORGIE:** But why? Why should I be first?

**BRAYDEN:** Alphabetically...Anderson...you're just the first.

**GEORGIE:** Oh.

**BRAYDEN:** Come with me.

*(Georgie follows Mrs. Brayden.)*

**GWEN:** *(To Becky and Jimmy:)* Yeah? So what's the problem?

**BECKY:** Just to be clear...Gwen, tell Jimmy here...to be clear...tell him what happens if you change the names...change things once the project team's been submitted to the office.

**GWEN:** Simple... You get penalized.

**JIMMY:** Penalized?

**GWEN:** Yeah, they don't like it... Don't like it at all, you messing with the set up once they've got it written down...recorded...all official.

**JIMMY:** Freckled fish bait, what am I gonna do?

**GWEN:** You're filched, Jimmy, totally filched...filched and filleted... There's nothing you can do.

**JIMMY:** But my mom...my mom...freckled fandango...she's gonna have a conniption...a coronary-causing conniption.

**BECKY:** (*Putting her arm around Jimmy:*) Not to worry, Jimmy, not to worry. When she sees the design...the vision...when she sees it all laid out, she'll forget all about this. She'll be pleased at what you...what we've all accomplished. The end justifying my means... Trust me. She'll eat it right up.

*(Mr. Johnston joins them.)*

**JOHNSTON:** Guys...can't you find something to do...quietly...work at your desks...until Mrs. Brayden has a chance to talk with you?

**BECKY:** Can I go to the library?

**JOHNSTON:** Why can't you?...no...at your desks...work here. Mrs. Brayden wants to see everyone. You need to be available.

**BECKY:** But we still need to do some research, for our science project...lay it out...develop the vision. It's going to blow the others away...away...just totally –

**JIMMY:** About that...are the names fixed?

**GWEN:** I'll be happy to go get them...when you need them...when Mrs. Brayden wants to talk. I'll be here...I can fetch them...when they're needed.

---

**JIMMY:** Are the names fixed? Can the groups be changed? I mean, if we need to...if my mom wants... I kinda shouldn't've agreed –

**BECKY:** It's all set, Jimmy. We're all set. And it's going to be great...great, I tell ya...you'll see. Best ever.

**JOHNSTON:** Is what set?

**JIMMY:** The names...for the science project...the groups...has it all been sent to the office? Is it too late to change?

**JOHNSTON:** No, I haven't handed them into the office, yet. I wanted to be sure...to check that everyone's on the list...that it's complete. Then –

**BECKY:** But there's no problem... No problem at all. We're all set.

**JIMMY:** I want to change. I want to do it myself...all alone...just me on the stone tools project.

**GWEN:** This is just science group former's remorse.

**JOHNSTON:** All by yourself?

**JIMMY:** That's right.

**JOHNSTON:** No help from your parents, then?

**JIMMY:** Well, no...I mean, yeah...of course they'll help out...just not Becky.

**BECKY:** What d'you got against me?

**JIMMY:** Nothing...really nothing...sorry...it's just my mom –

**JOHNSTON:** She doesn't want any other kid getting credit for all her hard work?

**JIMMY:** No...it's just...well it's already kinda done.

**BECKY:** Not the presentation, Jimmy. You haven't got the pizzazz, the sizzle.

**JOHNSTON:** Okay, Jimmy, I'll make sure it's just your name on the stone tools project.

**BECKY:** What?

**GWEN:** That's harsh.

*(Georgie returns and joins Mary at the back of the class. Mrs. Brayden joins Mr. Johnston, Gwen, Becky and Jimmy.)*

**BRAYDEN:** Next! Gwen?

**JOHNSTON:** Okay...Gwen, you're up. Becky, you can go to the library... You're a little behind... You need a topic...for the science project...you need to find something you can do on your own... Gwen'll come fetch you when it's your turn.

**BECKY:** Right...I guess. What choice've I got? I'll be there if anybody wants me...I'll be right there...in the frickin' library...finding a topic.

*(Becky exits.)*

**JIMMY:** Where should I go, Mr. Johnston?

**JOHNSTON:** Just sit down, Jimmy. Just work at your desk.

**JIMMY:** Can I phone my mom...tell her it's just me doing the project...like she wants?

**JOHNSTON:** No, Jimmy. Just sit down.

**BRAYDEN:** Gwen, come with me.

*(Brayden leads Gwen across the front of the classroom. Johnston follows after them.)*

Gwen, before we begin...before I have to demean myself...belittle Glenn Ross Academy...continue a process that



by its very nature harms this institution... Before I go any further down this road, is there anything you'd like to say?

**GWEN:** Not really.

**BRAYDEN:** I've already spoken to your classmates...to Georgie, and to Mary.

**GWEN:** Did they confess?

**BRAYDEN:** Confess? Why do you say that? Do you know anything...anything that would support this sort of accusation?

Want to read the entire script? Order a perusal copy today!