

WHAT WOULD THOMAS DO?

written by

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WHAT WOULD THOMAS DO?

ACT I

SCENE 1

(The Journalism Workroom of John Phillip Sousa High School on the first day of school this year. ERIN, a Senior, walks over to a desk and pulls out a pencil and starts writing. FRANK, also a Senior, enters from right.)

FRANK

Imagine this. Erin's already hard at work on the latest version of the paper.

ERIN

Why Frank you sound so shocked?

FRANK

Shocked? I knew exactly where to find you.

ERIN

Good. Then you must be ready to get to work.

FRANK

Oh, come on. The bell hasn't even rung and you are ordering me around.

ERIN

(Smiling widely)
Just like old times.

(FRANK sits down at a computer and starts to type. At that moment, MISS POTTER, the new English and Journalism teacher walks into the Workroom.)

MISS POTTER

Oh, sorry. I didn't expect anyone to be in here.

ERIN

Sorry about that. I guess the other teachers forgot to warn you about me.

MISS POTTER

Why is that?

FRANK

Erin could be called obsessed with the paper. The first Freshman to land on the staff of the *Tattler* and she's pretty much run it ever since. Even if her title on the staff wasn't Editor.

MISS POTTER

Ah...Wait, what did you call the paper?

ERIN

The *Tattler*. It's the nickname for the paper, *The Tuba Tattler*. Named after the school's mascot.

MISS POTTER

And the mascot is?

FRANK

The proud mascot of John Phillip Sousa High School is the Fighting Sousaphone, a.k.a. the tuba.

ERIN

Nothing beats our marching band full of drums and tubas.

FRANK

Or, how about the tuba quartet that goes to all of the local nursing homes at Christmas and Oktoberfest.

ERIN

Ommm Papa for sure. Remember that great all tuba arrangement of Brigadoon for last year's play.

FRANK

Never will we see the Scottish move like that again. What do you expect when the High School Play Sponsor writes the production.

ERIN

We'll have to make sure that our new teacher's around for the all tuba playing of Danny Boy. Boy the pipes, the pipes are calling.

FRANK

More like crying. By the way, I don't think I caught your name, Miss?

MISS POTTER

(extending her hand)

Miss Potter. Miss Harriet Potter.

ERIN

(Shaking MISS POTTERS's hand)

Kinda like the boy wizard from all those books.

MISS POTTER

Yes. If there ever was a reason for me to get married, it was those seven books and all the jokes that comes with them.

FRANK
(Also shaking MISS POTTER's
hand)

It is a pleasure to meet you Miss Potter. I'm Frank. You have *
already been introduced to Erin.

MISS POTTER
So, since you two already seem to be working, what do you have in
mind for this year's edition of the *Tattler*.

ERIN
I was thinking we need to do something new to shake things up a
little.

MISS POTTER
Such as?

ERIN
What about an advice column? We can play it a little tongue-in-
cheek while answering the questions of our readers.

MISS POTTER
I like that idea.

FRANK
I like it too. What should it be called.

ERIN
Good question. How about Tattler Tips?

MISS POTTER
No disrespect, but I think this school has enough hard T's as it
is.

ERIN
(Emphasize t's.)
Totally true.

MISS POTTER
Frank, any ideas?

FRANK
Hmmm...how about What Would Thomas Do?

ERIN
I like the sound of that. Though who is Thomas?

FRANK
Thomas is no one. An alias for the person who writes the column.

ERIN
Oh, stupid me. Okay, then who should write it?

MISS POTTER
Since you came up with the name, Frank, do you want to write it?

FRANK

Sure, it would be my honor. Should I come up with some sample letters for the first run. Just to let the readers know what we are looking for. *

MISS POTTER

Good idea...I guess you both have your duties. Time to get cracking.

(The class period bell RINGS.)

ERIN

(Grabbing her bag.)

We sure will, but now we need to get to class. See ya later Miss Potter.

FRANK

Yes, see you third hour Miss Potter.

(Everyone exits to the right.

MARVIN and DARRYL enter from the left carrying brooms.)

MARVIN

Hey Darryl.

DARRYL

Hey Marvin, what?

MARVIN

Did you ever hear the one about the boy's locker room that kept itself clean?

DARRYL

No, I didn't.

MARVIN

Good, because I haven't either.

DARRYL

Speaking of keeping things clean, we better watch out, here comes a herd of kids into the Commons Area.

ACT I

SCENE 2

(Later that day in the Commons Area, a group of students gather. LEWIS, a Junior, walks into the room with ROGER, also a Junior. From the opposite side walks in STACIE, a Junior too.)

LEWIS

So Roger, you went all summer long with out competing in any way against Stacie?

ROGER

Yes. Sure, we both would race out to get the papers in the morning. I beat her most of the time. We just didn't have any consequences on it.

LEWIS

How could you not put something down on that. What would have made you strive to win that much more?

ROGER

Lewis, it's the simple satisfaction of beating her.

LEWIS

Oh, sure, like that is all you need.

STACIE

(In a mocking tone.)

Yeah, Roger, it takes a lot more than the simple satisfaction of beating me to get you to actually win.

ROGER

But...But, I beat you all those times Stacie.

STACIE

Haven't you learned after all these years of being my next door neighbor that it takes me a good three hours to wake up during the summer.

ROGER

Oh, no wonder I always moved faster than you. Okay, what's your reason for the days you beat me?

STACIE

Those days were the ones where I remembered my sleep shorts had some revealing holes in the back. I really need to get some new ones.

Well are you awake now?
ROGER

Yes. I. Am!
STACIE

Good.
ROGER

Hey everyone, we have our first competition of the year.
LEWIS

(The students all gather
around.)

What's the game?
STACIE

An oldie but a goodie.
ROGER

Oh yeah?
STACIE

Yeah. Step on a crack, you break your mother's back.
ROGER

Excellent choice. This will be a great challenge.
LEWIS

Okay, we'll start over there. First one to touch a crack loses.
STACIE

Agreed. Winner picks the prize.
ROGER

(ROGER and STACIE shake
hands. They walk over to
the right side and line
up.)

Ladies first.
ROGER

That's why I'm waiting for you to make the first move.
STACIE

(ROGER grumbles to himself
and takes the first step.
He avoids the crack. Stacie
make the next move,
successful too. Roger and
Stacie trade the next two
steps.)

STACIE

(As ROGER is taking a step.)
Don't screw up there.

(ROGER loses his balance
and dangles until his foot
falls on the crack. Both
a CHEER and a GROAN go up
from the crowd as ROGER
stumbles to the ground.)

LEWIS

(Pulling ROGER up.)
Tough luck Buddy, but that was a great showdown. Good job there
Stacie.

STACIE

Thanks Lewis, I knew I was gonna win all the time. You ready to
pay up Roger.

ROGER

I guess. What do you have in mind?

(STACIE leans in and whispers
into ROGER's ear.)

ROGER

Already this year you want that? Dang, I was hoping to have a
few more days of football practice to fit into that. Don't worry,
I'll pay up. It just might take a couple of days.

STACIE

I'll give you a few days. It will be worth it...See you boys
later, especially you, Roger.

(STACIE exits the stage.)

LEWIS

So she already wants to see the new one?

ROGER

Yep.

(ROGER's cell phone all of
a sudden rings as the new
Principal, MISTER
LONGERFLUMM enters. ROGER
reaches for the phone.)

MISTER LONGERFLUMM

Who's phone is that? Don't you know that cell phones are not to
be brought inside this school.

ROGER

It's mine. Sorry Sir, I forgot about that rule.

MISTER LONGERFLUMM

If you all of a sudden remember, why are you answering the call?

ROGER

It's my mom...What's that mom? You're going to the hospital. You need to be in traction again...It just snapped loudly...Oh no, I had nothing to do with that...Sure, I'll be by after school if you are still there...Bye, Mom.

MISTER LONGERFLUMM

What's wrong with your mother?

ROGER

Oh, she just hurt her back again.

(LEWIS and MISTER LONGERFLUMM
stands there with a look
of shock on their faces.)

MISTER LONGERFLUMM

I'll let you by on the phone, this time. Just remember for tomorrow.

ROGER

Yes, Sir.

END OF ACT I

ACT II

SCENE 1

(A few days later, HALLEY and BOBBI stand among a group of students in the Commons Area. TARA walks by holding new copies of *The Tattler*.)

HALLEY

Look, it's the new edition of the paper.

BOBBI

Great, I need something besides the Pythagorean Theory to read about.

(They walk over to TARA.)

TARA

Get your Tattlers while they are still hot off the copier.

(HALLEY and BOBBI grab a copy each. They walk forward as they pour over the new edition of the *Tattler*.)

HALLEY

Ooh, look at this, something new in the *Tattler*.

BOBBI

What's that?

HALLEY

It looks like an advice column called "What Would Thomas Do?"

BOBBI

Really? Well what does it say?

HALLEY

(reading directly from the paper)

Dear Thomas,...I have a tough choice to make. This summer, while working on my grandparent's Rutebega farm. Trust me you have lived without "enjoying" a Rutebega ice cream parfait...I became rather acquainted with a local girl. Now this would not be a problem, except I have a girlfriend back here...How should I handle the issue of multiple girlfriends? Sure they have a few hundred miles separating each other. I would like to stay friends with the gal from the Great and Glorious Rutebega Valley. Yes, that is the name for the area where my grandparents live.

(MORE)

HALLEY (CONT'D)

That explains so much about our family gatherings...But, I don't want to lose my girlfriend...What would you do Thomas?...Sincerely, Rutebega-ed Out...Dear Rute,...Oh what a fine mess you have gotten into. I'm not even touching the change in your skin pigment from your Rutebega based diet all summer long...I could get into the many dangers of maintaining a relationship with two significant others at the same time, but that is another letter...You have two choices, admit your failing to your current girlfriend and hope for forgiveness. Or, look into the witness protection program...The first is your best choice. Hopefully she will understand the appeal of someone who is not many decades your senior and not obsessed with a plant. This is assuming that you and your Rutebega Valley friend were just that...If you two were more than friends, might I suggest looking into life in Costa Rica...Rutebega-ly Yours,...Thomas

BOBBI

Wow, I sure hope that guy is not my boyfriend. Because if it's * him, Costa Rica wouldn't be a safe place for him. *

TARA

It can't be your boyfriend. Remember, he is allergic to Rutebega.

BOBBI

Oh, that's right. Silly me.

(The girls walk off to the left.)

ACT II

SCENE 2

(MISTER LONGERFLUMM walks from the right into his office. He picks up a copy of the paper and starts reading. He enjoys the first parts, when he gets to What Would Thomas Do?, his mood changes. He reaches for the phone.)

MISTER LONGERFLUMM

Bernice, please get me Miss Potter...Miss Potter, could you please have Frank and Erin come into my office. Thank you.

(ERIN and FRANK walk into the office.)

MISTER LONGERFLUMM

Thank you for stopping by...So you two are the duo behind the school newspaper?

ERIN

Yes Mister Longerflumm, but there are more students who contribute to the paper than just Frank and myself.

MISTER LONGERFLUMM

That might be, but you two are the ones who have the final say in what goes into the latest edition or not, correct?

FRANK

Well, Erin has the final say as the Editor in Chief.

MISTER LONGERFLUMM

Editor in Chief?

ERIN

(Smiling.)

Just being the Editor wasn't good enough for me.

MISTER LONGERFLUMM

Ah, I see...You must be wondering why I called you two here?

FRANK

Yeah.

MISTER LONGERFLUMM

I wanted to talk to you about this first edition of the paper. I must say that the quality of the paper is exceptional. I cannot remember the last time I saw a high school newspaper with a design and flow as professional as this.

ERIN

But...

MISTER LONGERFLUMM

Yes, there is a but...I have two issues with the paper. The first is the title of it. What kind of name is *The Tuba Tattler*?

ERIN

That's been the name of the paper since the school was started twenty-six years ago. The students got to pick the name and *The Tuba Tattler* was the one they chose.

MISTER LONGERFLUMM

That may be, but I still think the name should be changed. It's just not a proper name for a publication from a school named after John Phillip Sousa.

FRANK

We will take that under consideration.

(ERIN shoots FRANK a death glare. MISTER LONGERFLUMM notices the look.)

MISTER LONGERFLUMM

As much as I would like to see the name of the paper changed, my greater concern lies with this advice column, What Would Thomas Do?

ERIN

What concerns do you have with it?

MISTER LONGERFLUMM

To be absolutely honest, I feel it is totally inappropriate for a high school paper. Let's look at one of the letters in here. One of your readers wrote in asking if it is bad to sluff off on* their homework this year. I'm not sure if I believe your answer* that they should always do their homework, when it is sprinkled with different ways to procrastinate. Is it good to tell a student to go for a walk, exercise, run through a sprinkler, or take a trip down a Slip-and-Slide to get them in the frame of mind for homework?

ERIN

Many studies have shown that physical activities can help to wake a person up and stimulate their brain.

MISTER LONGERFLUMM

Well I'm not buying it. What's next? Telling kids to take a nap in class?

FRANK

Mister Longerflumm, I want you to know, we didn't intend for the letters or their answers to undermine the school.

(MORE)

FRANK (CONT'D)

We would never tell a student to sleep in a class, no matter how boring the lecture is.

MISTER LONGERFLUMM

So you think this school is boring?

FRANK

Sir, no Sir, I do not.

*

MISTER LONGERFLUMM

(Standing up from his desk.)

Well, as much as I do not like the column, I'm going to hope you both will take this discussion to heart and act accordingly. I don't want to be stifling the creativity that is so apparent in each of your young minds...Unless I have to.

ERIN

Yeah, sure...

FRANK

(Talking over ERIN.)

Yes, we definitely will keep this conversation in mind as we prepare the next edition of *The Tattler*.

MISTER LONGERFLUMM

Good.

(MISTER LONGERFLUMM leads the students to the door to his office. As they step out into the commons area, LEWIS leads ROGER into the room. ROGER wears a dress.)

ROGER

Lewis, are you sure this is where Stacie is? I really don't want to have to wear this for long. I know if any of the guys see me like this, football practice is gonna be H E double, double hockey sticks.

LEWIS

You're such a worrier. Of course this is the way to where Stacie is.

ROGER

Wait a minute, you told me she was in the Commons Area.

LEWIS

Did I?

ROGER

Yes.

LEWIS

I thought I said she was beyond the Commons Area? Oh well, must have been a slip of the tongue.

(MISTER LONGERFLUMM sees
ROGER in the dress.)

MISTER LONGERFLUMM

What in the name of Alfalfa are you wearing?

ROGER

Oh, hello Mister Longerflumm. Umm, this? It's nothing, just a nice little summer dress I made over vacation.

MISTER LONGERFLUMM

(Standing with a look of
total shock.)

You...uh...what...oh my.

(MISTER LONGERFLUMM finally
just stands there with his
mouth open.)

LEWIS

Did you just hear the bell Roger, we should be getting to class.

ROGER

Yes, we should.

(The boys start to walk
away as MISTER LONGERFLUMM
turns and walks back into
his office in a state of
disbelief.)

MISTER LONGERFLUMM

(Shaking his head and turning
to the audience.)

What in the world did I get myself into by accepting this job?
My life was so much easier as a drill sergeant in the Marines.

ROGER

(Placing his hand on Lewis's
shoulder.)

Lewis did you think about going out for Cross Country this year?

LEWIS

Umm, no I didn't Roger. Why do you ask?

ROGER

Because you are about to get a lot of practice.

(LEWIS realizes the danger
he is in and takes off
running, ROGER is hot on
his heels.)

(MARVIN and DARRYL enter
from the opposite side.)

MARVIN

Do you think we should have warned them about that new coat of
wax in the hallway?

DARRYL

Nah, we should only do that after warning them about the detour
through the weight room full of football players.

(The Janitors walk off stage.)

ACT II

SCENE 3

(FRANK, ERIN, and MISS POTTER
all walk on stage and over
to the Work Room.)

MISS POTTER

So what exactly happened?

ERIN

The new Principal basically told us the paper is crap.

FRANK

He didn't say that. He liked the look of the paper.

ERIN

Yeah, but he never once praised the writing. If someone only enjoys the looks of a publication and not the articles, then residing under their bed must be a large stack of...

MISS POTTER

Hey now, let's not go there. That is the last image I want in my mind right now.

FRANK

Too late, it's already there.

MISS POTTER

Fortunately, no. Unfortunately, I'm still reliving last night's horrible blind date. Needless to say, that man is not name change worthy, damnit.

ERIN

I see things are going good for you too.

MISS POTTER

Maybe...Okay, time to focus. What did he specifically say?

FRANK

He doesn't like What Would Thomas Do. I gather he feels it is subversive and could undermine his control of the school.

ERIN

Now I'm regretting giving you that word a day calendar for Christmas.

MISS POTTER

Frank, What Would Thomas Do is your baby. What do you want to do? Do you want to scale it back, quit it, or keep going as normal?

ERIN

Remember about Freedom of Speech and Journalistic Integrity.

FRANK

(Thinking for a beat or
two.)

I guess for now, business as usual. Let's see what happens.

ERIN

(Beaming.)

Ah, good choice there. Let's get to work on the next edition of*
The Tattler.

FRANK

Okay, sure. Oh, hey I need to go and grab something from my locker
first.

ERIN

Okay, see you in a few minutes.

(FRANK walks out of the
Work Room into the Commons
Area as MISTER LONGERFLUMM
enters also.)

ACT II

SCENE 4

MISTER LONGERFLUMM

Franklin, could I have a moment to speak with you?

FRANK

Uh, sure, Mister Longerflumm.

MISTER LONGERFLUMM

You know, I'm not really that good in groups. I have always found that I lead the best when I can work one-on-one.

FRANK

Okay, Sir.

MISTER LONGERFLUMM

Watching you today, Franklin, I could see that you are not the firebrand that your friend is.

FRANK

Well, I do tend to think things through before I act.

MISTER LONGERFLUMM

That's great. See that thinking things through is a sign of your intelligence and just how brilliant your mind is. Thinking like that will get you very far in the world. Diving head first like Erin does will only hold you back, and I can tell you want to go forward, right?

(MISTER LONGERFLUMM winks
obviously once.)

FRANK

Yes, I mean, right, Sir.

MISTER LONGERFLUMM

Good, good. Now Franklin, I want to appeal to that brilliant mind of yours. It knows what I know. It believes in that old cliché that the pen is mightier than the sword. In the eyes and* minds of your readers, you hold a very mighty pen. I hope you respect that might and use it only for good. Do you understand what I'm saying?

(MISTER LONGERFLUMM winks
obviously once again.)

FRANK

Uh, yes, I think I do.

MISTER LONGERFLUMM

Good, now I know what you are doing. You are going to continue with that column. I know, I know, it's part of being a teenager. I just hope you realize you can use something like that for good and not for bad. You don't like bad, do you?

FRANK

Umm, no, no, I don't.

MISTER LONGERFLUMM

Good, then I know you will use those column inches of the paper for good only, right?

(MISTER LONGERFLUMM winks obviously twice.)

FRANK

Yes, I will, Sir. Is there something wrong with your eye Mister Longerflumm?

MISTER LONGERFLUMM

No, no there isn't.

FRANK

Are you sure? They have drugs for restless eye now, even though the side effects aren't all that good.

MISTER LONGERFLUMM

What are the side effects?

FRANK

Well if I remember right: itching and burning of the eye, sinus infections, nose bleeds, upset stomach, and severe anal leakage.

MISTER LONGERFLUMM

Severe anal leakage?

FRANK

Oh, that's a polite way of saying you will have the runs worse * than a new born calf with scours.

MISTER LONGERFLUMM

Talk about a pleasing mental image...Fortunately, nothing is wrong with my eye...I should let you get back to class. I'm counting on you Franklin. I hope you remember that.

FRANK

Umm, I will.

(FRANK turns back to the Work Room and walks slowly.)

ACT III

SCENE 1

(STACIE sits on a bench in the Commons Area. LEWIS walks in and goes directly to the bench.)

LEWIS

There you are.

STACIE

Umm, I've been here for a while.

LEWIS

Really, good I'll remember that the next time I'm looking for you...You know, we need to talk.

STACIE

About what?

LEWIS

Roger.

STACIE

What about him?

LEWIS

I don't know if you have noticed, but he's been down lately.

STACIE

Really? Why is he down?

LEWIS

Well, Roger is one of those people who thrives on competition. He needs a challenge and someone to push him. He requires a goal and a reward for that goal. He thirsts for... *

STACIE

I get the point. Roger needs to compete against me again.

LEWIS

Yes he does.

STACIE

I would love to, but I keep winning. You know, this is starting to get boring. Not to mention, school has me really busy with all this homework and activities.

LEWIS

I understand. I know your time is limited and valuable. I can also see why you shy away from competing against Roger if it isn't a challenge.

STACIE

Good, then leave me alone so I can finish this three page Algebra problem.

LEWIS

Stacie, I have something to tell you.

(Looking around nervously.)

Something, I really shouldn't tell you, but I must.

STACIE

(Suspicious.)

And just what is that.

LEWIS

A secret that could shake this world to its very core.

STACIE

Oh really?

LEWIS

Yes. A secret Man has kept since the days when he abandoned the hunter gatherer lifestyle, became civilized and settled down in cities.

STACIE

(In a mocking tone.)

Just what is this shocking secret?

LEWIS

That females are the superior sex.

STACIE

What?!

LEWIS

Yes, I know. I was just as shocked as you when I found out. Please understand, we hold this secret very dear to our hearts. For if the females were to learn of it, well we would be doomed.

STACIE

Then why are you telling me this?

LEWIS

Because, from seeing you perform, I realize that us men cannot live in a dream world anymore. You, my friend, are the prototype of the woman that will bring an end to the global male hegemony.

STACIE

I don't know what that last word meant, in fact I think you are feeding me one large, stinking line of bull.

LEWIS

No bull. This is the God's Honest truth. Just think about how athletic Roger is.

STACIE

Yeah.

LEWIS

And think about how you keep kicking his butt like it was a tin can in a wind storm.

STACIE

True, he might win once in a while, but I usually come out ahead.

LEWIS

Now, you can stop competing against our friend, but in doing so, a chance to change the world slips through your fingers.

STACIE

How so?

LEWIS

You might not realize it, but the Freshman girls all look up to you. They see you as a strong and confident woman who can handle anyone...Yes, I said woman. By showing your superiority with these competitions, you have elevated yourself from a young girl to a woman. Do you want to walk away from your responsibilities and let those Freshmen girls fall prey to the old thinking and be held under the thumb of the Senior guys?

STACIE

Well, no.

LEWIS

See, that is why you need to compete with Roger. For the advancement of your sex.

STACIE

Okay, okay, okay, I'll do it. I'll go back to competing with Roger. Happy now?

LEWIS

(Hugging STACIE hard.)

Yes, yes, I am. I gotta go find Roger now.

(LEWIS bounds away. STACIE turns to the audience.)

STACIE

Boy if I had let him speak any more, I was going to need my hip waders.

(MARVIN and DARRYL stop LEWIS before he leaves the stage.)

DARRYL

Hey Lewis.

Yes Gentlemen?
LEWIS

So, are we back on?
MARVIN

Yes, we are.
LEWIS

What's the action?
DARRYL

Don't know yet, but when I hear back, I'll let you know.
LEWIS

Good. We'll be waiting.
MARVIN

(LEWIS walks off stage.)

How do you know he's not going to stiff us?
DARRYL

Because if he does, no one will be around to save him from a posse of Freshmen out to give him an Atomic Swirly.
MARVIN

Nice plan there buddy.
DARRYL

I know, I know.
MARVIN

(The Janitors exit the stage.)

ACT III

SCENE 2

(HALLEY, BOBBI, and TARA walk in from the right and go to the Commons Area. They each pick up a new copy of *The Tattler* off of the bench.)

HALLEY

I wonder what's in the new paper.

BOBBI

Who knows. I just hope there's some good news with the lunch calendar...Oh no!

TARA

What?

BOBBI

Hot dogs twice next week! What's this world coming too?

HALLEY

Only the finest collection of animal byproducts.

TARA

Let's hope there is something better in *What Would Thomas Do?*

HALLEY

Oh yes, I love that. What's the latest letter?

BOBBI

Dear Thomas,...There is a cute guy in my third hour science class. Fortunately he sits in front of me or else I might get called out for not paying attention to the teacher. He has these adorable freckles on the back of his neck that I just get lost in...The problem is, I want him to ask me out, but I don't even know if he knows I exist...So, what would Thomas do to get the love of your life to notice you?...Sincerely,...Freckles Lover in Science Class.

TARA

Awww, how cute, someone has a puppy love crush with a classmate.

HALLEY

I know, this so sounds like it could be a great movie, or even a play.

BOBBI

Just like *The Notebook*.

(The girls all swoon.)

HALLEY

Oh my, you are so right. Please let's stop talking about that book, I'm gonna start crying again.

TARA

Me too.

BOBBI

(Holding back tears.)

Too late, I'm already crying.

HALLEY

Damn you Bobbi, you got me tearing up.

(TARA grabs the copy of the paper.)

TARA

I better start reading before you two flood the hall way...Dear Freckles...Ah, nothing like the joys of young love. Filled with crushes, friends asking friends, and notes sent via the Under Desk Railroad...What would I do?...Quite simply, I would ask that person out...Period...Your's,...Thomas.

(The girls all look at each other.)

BOBBI

Is it me, or does it seem like Thomas really isn't trying anymore?

TARA

Yeah. It's like his heart is gone from helping people.

HALLEY

Maybe he is going through a rough patch?

(TARA and BOBBI both nod in agreement. All three exit to the left. MARVIN and DARRYL enter from the right.)

DARRYL

Hey Marvin, have you heard about that new teacher?

MARVIN

Which new teacher?

DARRYL

Miss Harriet Potter. Don't you just love that name?

MARVIN

Sounds like some cheap attempt at cashing in on a series of books.

DARRYL

Nah, it's a great name. Though I do have to say she is like that boy wizard in one respect.

MARVIN

What's that?

DARRYL

She's casting a spell on me.

MARVIN

Well then you better step up loverboy, here she comes.

DARRYL

Not now, I'm not wearing my good uniform.

(The Janitors scurry of the stage.)

ACT III

SCENE 3

(MISS POTTER enters from the right. She walks directly to MISTER LONGERFLUMM's office and goes inside.)

MISS POTTER
Mister Longerflumm, I was hoping I could have a moment of your time.

MISTER LONGERFLUMM
Why certainly. I'm always glad to talk to one of my teachers...How are you liking it at John Phillip Sousa High School?

MISS POTTER
Oh, I'm liking it a lot. It is a great place for a teacher to start our her career.

MISTER LONGERFLUMM
Yes it is. That is why I feel such a strong bond with you.

(MISS POTTER looks confused.)

MISTER LONGERFLUMM
We both have chosen JPSHS as the place to start new careers. You as a teacher, me as an administrator. Don't you feel that bond?

MISS POTTER
Umm, I guess so.

MISTER LONGERFLUMM
Good, good. Anyway, what can I help you with?

MISS POTTER
Well...I wanted to talk to you about the newspaper.

MISTER LONGERFLUMM
What about it?

MISS POTTER
I think you are being too hard on the students who write it.

MISTER LONGERFLUMM
You think that? And, just why do you think that.

MISS POTTER
Umm, because, uh, they are doing all they can to make it the best possible, but you still do not show your appreciation.

MISTER LONGERFLUMM
That's because they are not doing their best yet.

MISS POTTER

Mister Longerflumm, in all do respect, they are.

MISTER LONGERFLUMM

Ah, Miss Potter, you have much to learn about students. Those students are sandbagging you.

MISS POTTER

I'm sorry Sir, but I have spent far more time with them then you have and I know they are giving it their all.

MISTER LONGERFLUMM

They are not.

MISS POTTER

Okay. If you are so certain, then what do they need to do to work harder?

MISTER LONGERFLUMM

They need to listen to their elders.

MISS POTTER

What?

MISTER LONGERFLUMM

I have spoken to them about how much I do not like that stupid What Would column. It has absolutely no place in a high school newspaper.

MISS POTTER

But...

MISTER LONGERFLUMM

Nothing, and I mean nothing, can sway me Miss Potter. Until that wretched piece of writing is gone, I will despise the paper.

MISS POTTER

I'm sorry to hear that. Especially since What Would Thomas Do has increased the readership of the paper many times over. Even more importantly, it gives the students a place to ask the questions they might not feel comfortable asking...This so called wretched piece of writing is doing good. Because of that, I will fight to keep it in the paper.

MISTER LONGERFLUMM

I admire your passion and dedication to the students, Miss Potter. But, if you pursue this course, I will be forced to take an extreme measure.

MISS POTTER

What would that be?

MISTER LONGERFLUMM

As Principal of John Phillip Sousa High School, I have the power to shut down the paper.

MISS POTTER

You would not dare.

*

MISTER LONGERFLUMM

I absolutely would. As it stands right now, they are but a whisker's hair away from me coming down on them as hard as I can. Remember, the U.S. Supreme Court has given school administrators full power over what is printed in a school newspaper.

MISS POTTER

If you did this, what would it teach the students?

MISTER LONGERFLUMM

Obedience, Miss Potter, obedience to those in power.

MISS POTTER

Even if that power is abusive?

MISTER LONGERFLUMM

(Chuckling.)

Miss Potter I know you don't mean that, right?

MISS POTTER

Maybe I do.

MISTER LONGERFLUMM

I know you are young and you still can sympathize with the students, but there will be a day when the realization will come to you that I am right.

MISS POTTER

Given the way you are acting, I hope that day never comes.

(MISS POTTER stands up and walks right out of the office. She walks straight to the Workroom. ERIN is sitting at one of the computers.)

ACT III

SCENE 4

(ERIN looks startled as
MISS POTTER storms into
the room.)

ERIN

Is there something wrong?

MISS POTTER

(Visibly angry.)

Yes, yes there is.

(FRANK walks in.)

MISS POTTER

Your Principal does not think you guys are doing a good job with
the paper.

ERIN

He what! I always knew I had a reason to hate him.

FRANK

Now, now Erin, count to ten. Remember, hate is not a good emotion
to have.

ERIN

Shut up Frank. Hate is a perfectly fine emotion to have right
now, or did you not realize that he slammed you too?

FRANK

No, wait...He did.

ERIN

See, what do you think about that?

FRANK

One, two, three...

MISS POTTER

You want to know why he thinks this? It's because of What Would
Thomas Do.

FRANK

What?

ERIN

How could that be?

MISS POTTER

He feels that the content of the column is beneath a high school
newspaper.

ERIN

Oh, and it is perfectly fine for newspapers that you pay for? Like the *New York Times* will stop running advice columns just because they win a few Pulitizers.

MISS POTTER

I agree totally with you Erin, but you are using logic. Something that seems to be escaping him. I still can't believe he threatened to shut down the paper.

FRANK

He did what?

ERIN

One, two, three, four...

FRANK

Why would he shut down *The Tattler*?

MISS POTTER

Because he can. He has the power to and is not afraid to use it.

ERIN

What would be the trigger for him to shut down the paper?

MISS POTTER

If you keep running What Would Thomas Do.

ERIN

That's all?

FRANK

Now that you mention it, he did talk to me about the column. I guess he was trying to influence what I wrote.

ERIN

Is that why you started to go soft in the replies?

FRANK

A gentleman never writes and tells.

ERIN

You better be glad I like you, otherwise you would be flying towards the moon right now.

MISS POTTER

Now you both know the situation. I'm leaving it up to you on what to do. This is more your paper than mine...Just remember to do what you think is right, okay?

(MISS POTTER starts to walk out of the Workroom.)

FRANK

What should we do?

ERIN

I have a few ideas for some letters for Thomas to answer. Do you think he is up to it?

FRANK

Yes, why yes he is.

END OF ACT III

ACT IV

SCENE 1

(FRANK and ERIN exit the stage as ROGER and STACIE enter from opposite ends. They meet up in the middle and begin to circle each other.)

ROGER
So it's you.

STACIE
So, it's you too.

ROGER
So, it's you.

STACIE
No, it's you.

ROGER
Umm, yes, it's me?

STACIE
(Shaking her head.)
That sure didn't take long. Too bad I didn't have something riding on it.

ROGER
Yeah, why didn't we?

STACIE
I don't know. Lewis is usually the one who takes care of that.

ROGER
Speaking of him, where is he? He always seems to be around us.

STACIE
Yeah...Think about it for a moment. Don't we usually do these things when he is around?

ROGER
Huh?

STACIE
Who got us to run down the sidewalk when we were four?

ROGER
Lewis.

STACIE
Who got us to climb the monkey bars in Kindergarten?

Lewis.

ROGER

STACIE
Who got us to see which one could drink the most chocolate milk
in Third Grade?

Lewis.

ROGER

STACIE
Who got us for doing fifty-five in a thirty?

Lewis.

ROGER

STACIE
No, that was Officer Darby. *

ROGER
Oh, yeah right. Sorry, I was on roll there.

STACIE
The one constant throughout most of our competitions was Lewis.
He was always there to egg us on. Almost like he was enjoying
it.

ROGER
Yeah a little too much.

STACIE
It's not my fault you can't handle your worms.

ROGER
I know. He told me it would be just like eating spaghetti. The
only difference is spaghetti doesn't keep squirming in your mouth
and down your gullet.

STACIE
See that is exactly the reason why we need to stop this. If we
are but the pawns of his sick mind, then we need to rise up against
his proletariat dictatorship and gain our freedom.

ROGER
Say what?

STACIE
We gotta put a stop to this.

ROGER
Oh, sure...Why didn't you say that in the first place?

(STACIE shakes her head as
she leads ROGER off stage.)

(MARVIN and DARRYL walk on
from the opposite side.)

DARRYL

Do you think we should warn Lewis?

MARVIN

Nah, the fireworks of this will be too good to pass up. Make
sure we pop some popcorn from the concession stand beforehand.

DARRYL

Good idea.

(DARRYL reaches for his
walkie-talkie.)

DARRYL

Uh oh buddy. Looks like we got a clean up in the Sophomore
hallway. Someone forgot to tell us it was Tuba Surprise day in
the cafeteria.

MARVIN

Tuba Surprise, more like the sausage of death. I'll get the bucket
of sawdust, you get the mop.

(The Janitors hurry off
stage.)

ACT IV

SCENE 2

(All of the students are milling about in the Commons Area as FRANK and ERIN walk in carrying papers.)

FRANK

Special edition. Everyone get your special edition of *The Tattler*.

ERIN

Extra, extra. Hot off the presses. Get your *Tattler's* before they get cold.

(The students walk up and get copies of the paper from FRANK and ERIN. MISTER LONGERFLUMM walks into his office and picks up a paper from the top of his desk. BOBBI, HALLEY, and TARA step forward.)

BOBBI

Look at this. The paper is just What Would Thomas Do?

TARA

Really? Great, I love this column.

HALLEY

I hope they answered my letter.

(BOBBI and TARA look at Halley.)

HALLEY

I mean, I hope they answer the letter a friend of mine sent in.

BOBBI

Oh yeah, I hope your *friend's* letter is answered.

HALLEY

Look at this. Dear Thomas,...I just started a new job at a place I enjoy being at. The people I work with are great. Well that is except for my boss. He is new at the job too, but he seems to think he knows everything. He won't listen to anything I say. He still thinks he is in the military and can run the job like it's a boot camp or something. What Would Thomas Do if you were in my place?...Sincerely,...Crying in the Fry Vat...Dear Crying,...My answer to you is quite simple, stick to your guns...This co-worker needs to know he won't bully you around.

(MORE)

HALLEY (CONT'D)

Unless the business is running far better than it was before he started, over time, the owner's will want to know why it's not doing so good. They will see it is your co-worker that is the reason, not the workers. Which I'm sure he is blaming...Keep hanging in there,...Thomas.

(MISTER LONGERFLUMM reads along with the girls. As things go on, his mood sours.)

TARA

Wow, that's some deep advice there.

(BOBBI and HALLEY look at TARA.)

TARA

What?

BOBBI

This one looks interesting...Dear Thomas,...I was wanting your advice on a matter of a horticultural nature. There is a message I want to send someone special. The thing is I want to send it in a way that will last for a while and can be seen by many as they cruise by on the street...What Would Thomas Do to send such a message?...Horticulturally Yours,...Thumbs of Green.

TARA

What does Horticultural mean?

HALLEY

It deals with plants.

TARA

Ah.

HALLEY

Dear Thumbs of Green,...I see you have a lofty goal in mind for this message. Now you could go out and plant several flowers, like daisies, marigolds, or tulips. The problem with them is that they take time to appear and may require watering. I doubt you will be allowed to do all the work needed for planting flowers. You could spread out grass seed in the pattern you want, but mowers will definitely get in the way as it tries to grow. No, you need something that works fast and lasts for a long time. The best thing for this is, Roundup. Yes, it is not cheap, but such messages should not be done cheaply. So go out and make your mark on this world Thumbs of Green...Sincerely, Thomas.

(MISTER LONGERFLUMM bolts out of his chair.)

MISTER LONGERFLUMM

That does it!

(He walks out into the
Commons Area with the
bullhorn.)

Everyone, from this point on *The Tuba Tattler* is no more. I am shutting down the paper immediately. Anyone caught with a paper will get four days of in school suspension followed by five days of out of school suspension. So drop those papers now!

(MISTER LONGERFLUMM looks
right over at FRANK and
Erin.)

MISTER LONGERFLUMM

Let's see who has the last say now.

MARVIN

Did the Principal just tell the students to litter?

DARRYL

Yep.

MARVIN

Let's go see how much Roundup we have in the shed.

DARRYL

Right behind you buddy.

END OF ACT IV

ACT V

SCENE 1

(ERIN, FRANK, and MISS POTTER
sit dejected in the
Workroom.)

FRANK

I guess we played with the fire and got burned.

ERIN

No, worse, we got Longerflummed, big time.

FRANK

That we did.

MISS POTTER

I really hope this doesn't cause you guys any problems in
graduating.

ERIN

It shouldn't, I hope.

FRANK

Me too.

ERIN

I just wish he wouldn't have been so pig headed. What really was
that wrong with the column?

MISS POTTER

Excluding the letter about using Roundup to write something in a
lawn?

ERIN

Okay, that might have just barely crossed a line.

FRANK

Oh yeah, just barely.

ERIN

Really, we gave our peers a place to get the advice they wouldn't
have otherwise asked for. I had several students coming up to me
thanking me for the column.

FRANK

Me too. Me too.

ERIN

I know we helped people. I know we did.

MISS POTTER

Well, I'm proud of you two.

(MORE)

MISS POTTER (CONT'D)

You stood up for your values and freedoms. I know that Mister Longerflumm is very much a by the book person. Plus, education today is so rigid with No Child Left Behind tests and meeting performance goals. We teachers can't seem to remember how important the Class of Life is...Both of you walked in to John Phillip Sousa High School as wide-eyed Freshmen not knowing where to go in here let alone life. Despite all the work thrown at you, you both took the chance to find your passions and have stuck to them. While you must learn about math, writing, reading, and science, Frank and Erin, you took time to learn how to handle life. I'm proud of you for that...But, now you must realize that today you fought all you could.

FRANK

No we didn't.

ERIN

Uh, Frank we did.

FRANK

No, we didn't.

MISS POTTER

I'm sorry Frank, Erin is right. You did all you could.

FRANK

No, we still have more ways to fight. That is unless you want to give up right now?

ERIN

I don't want to give up. I never back down from a fight.

MISS POTTER

Well I'm limited in what I can do, but whatever you have in mind, I won't let it spill out.

FRANK

Good. Erin, come with me. I have a plan.

ACT V

SCENE 2

(LEWIS stands in the Commons Area as ROGER and STACIE enter from separate sides. LEWIS looks like a cat who just swallowed a bird.)

LEWIS

(To the audience.)

Oh goody goody, this should be fun.

(To ROGER and STACIE.)

LEWIS

Funny how you two just seem to meet up at the same place.

STACIE

Yeah, funny isn't it.

ROGER

Just hilarious.

LEWIS

For something being so funny, you two sure don't have a smile on your faces.

STACIE

Why, should we?

ROGER

Yeah, should we?

LEWIS

Of course, you two competing is always fun.

STACIE

Who said anything about competing?

ROGER

Yeah, who said anything about that?

LEWIS

Is he just going to mimic you?

STACIE

I don't know, are you?

ROGER

I don't know, am I? I mean really, am I going to keep mimicking you?

STACIE

Ugh, just stick to the script, ok?

ROGER

Yes, yes.

STACIE

You know what Lewis, the game is up.

ROGER

Yeah, it's up.

LEWIS

What do you mean?

STACIE

We've figured it out.

LEWIS

What in the sweet wide, wide world of sports are you talking about?

ROGER

The competitions.

STACIE

Yes, the competitions. It seems that whenever there is a competition between Roger and myself, you are involved. Either * you spur us on or you just set the whole thing up. And you know what? We're getting a little tired of it.

ROGER

Yes we are. Well, me especially.

LEWIS

Hey, I can't help the fact that she keeps beating you.

ROGER

True, but you could lay off the whole ladies dresses thing. I've worn more dresses than my mother has in the last six years. I'm almost certain I can walk better in heels than my sister.

LEWIS

I've seen your sister in heels, and you are right, you do a better job in them. Plus you just have the right build for wearing an off the shoulder baby doll dress.

STACIE

Despite the immense pleasure I get from seeing Roger lose, I would like to be able to enjoy the friendship I used to have with my next door neighbor. I don't want to see him and wonder what are we going to try and do now.

ROGER

And I would like see Stacie and not have to worry about how she is going to embarrass me this time.

LEWIS

What? You want to stop this? Come on you two, don't you see just how much fun this is.

ROGER

This is far from fun.

LEWIS

Okay, maybe for you it isn't, but for me it is. Especially when I collect.

STACIE

You collect what?

LEWIS

Oh, umm, nothing. I mean I collect by seeing how Roger is humiliated.

ROGER

Now I might be a dense idiot, but I know something more is going on.

STACIE

Yeah, out with it.

LEWIS

Alright, alright. I have been running some bets on the side over your competitions.

STACIE

Wait, people have been wagering on us?

LEWIS

Yes, fellow students, a few staff members, and the Sports Book at Uncle Vito's Poker Room and Shrimp Emporium in Henderson, Nevada. I get the most action from the Nevada boys.

ROGER

What exactly have they been betting on.

LEWIS

Mainly on how bad you will be humiliated. Every now and then someone will make the sucker bet for you to win, and when you do, they win big.

STACIE

What's Roger's odds on winning?

LEWIS

The standard is 30 to 1.

ROGER

Damn, I wish I knew about it. I could really have cleaned up.

LEWIS

Not really, you couldn't wager any money on yourself. But, Uncle Vito says that if you ever stop by there, you can have as much jumbo shrimp as you want.

ROGER

What about cocktail sauce?

LEWIS

Gallons upon gallons of cocktail sauce awaits.

ROGER

Sweet. Did you hear how much shrimp I'm going to get Stacie.

STACIE

Yeah, I did, and it makes me sick...Lewis how can you live with yourself. You took two friends and pitted them against each other. For all you know, you could have ruined a great friendship all for your own personal pleasure and gain. I hope you realize just how evil you are. Don't you agree Roger.

ROGER

(Still giddy.)

Jumbo shrimp and gallons and gallons of cocktail sauce, I'm the luckiest boy that ever lived.

(STACIE slugs ROGER in the shoulder.)

ROGER

Oh, I mean, you nasty, bad, naughty boy.

STACIE

I would add more, but right now I'm seething with so much rage, that I, that I...

(STACIE slaps LEWIS hard across the cheek.)

LEWIS

Damn, I wasn't expecting that.

(STACIE looks over at ROGER and nods with her head towards LEWIS. ROGER takes a moment and then mouths an "oh". ROGER then slaps LEWIS, but not as hard as STACIE did.)

LEWIS

I should have seen that one coming.

STACIE

Maybe now you will think twice about your actions, Lewis!

LEWIS

Oh, I definitely will...Not to seem critical here, but you know what Roger? You have quite the girlish slap there.

ROGER

Really? Oh, great, that's all I needed to hear.

STACIE

I told you that your slap was girlish. You're gonna have to pay up sucker.

LEWIS

Wait a minute, you just spent all this time chastising me about making you two compete and here you two had your own competition? Boy my Dad was right about women having double standards.

(MARVIN and DARRYL come out
from hiding.)

DARRYL

So was the resolution as good as you thought it would be?

MARVIN

Yeah, it was. I'm glad we popped the popcorn. This took longer than I thought it would.

DARRYL

(Listening to his walkie-
talkie.)

Oh hey buddy, the Co-op is here with your truckload of Roundup.

MARVIN

Excellent.

(The Janitors exit the stage.)

ACT V

SCENE 3

(All the students stream into the Commons Area. The students are milling about when they start to hear someone shouting off-stage.)

ERIN

The rumors were not true.

FRANK

Yes, Ladies and Gentlemen, *The Tuba Tattler* lives.

(FRANK and ERIN walk onto the stage carrying pink copies of the paper in their hands. They begin to distribute the papers to the students.)

BOBBI

Great, I was really starting to miss the paper.

TARA

Umm, Frank, why is the paper pink?

FRANK

Well one, I wanted to make the paper really stand out...

HALLEY

That it does.

FRANK

And, two, I got a really good deal on the printing of it from the local office supply store's print shop.

BOBBI

Because you had it printed on pink 11x17 paper?

FRANK

Yeah.

(MISTER LONGERFLUMM walks into the Commons Area.)

MISTER LONGERFLUMM

What in the name of what is right with all that is left in America is going on here? Are those newspapers I see?

LEWIS

Uh, yes Sir, they are.

Are they old newspapers?
MISTER LONGERFLUMM

Uh, no Sir, they are not.
TARA

How can this be? I thought I banned the paper. Erin, Frank, did I not tell you the paper was shut down?
MISTER LONGERFLUMM

Yes you did Sir.
BOTH FRANK AND ERIN

Then explain to me why I see new newspapers in my hallways?
MISTER LONGERFLUMM

We, Erin and I, decided to take a stand for our freedoms and for our readers. We went to her house and wrote up the paper and paid to have it printed ourselves.
FRANK

Well that was nice of you, but you disobeyed me, both of you. I don't care where you did it, you still went against my orders.
MISTER LONGERFLUMM

And just what are you going to do about it?
ERIN

As of right now you both are suspended, indefinitely!
MISTER LONGERFLUMM

What?! You can't do that.
ERIN

Yes I can. I'm the Principal.
MISTER LONGERFLUMM

(MISS POTTER walks into the commons area.)

Ah, Miss Potter, you are just in time. I see your students have taken matters into their own hands. Silly me, you probably know about this, you even gave them the idea for this.
MISTER LONGERFLUMM

I have not the slightest clue what you are talking about.
MISS POTTER

Oh sure you do.
MISTER LONGERFLUMM

Frank, Erin, what's going on here.
MISS POTTER

ERIN

Mister Longerflumm just suspended us because Frank and I went and wrote and printed *The Tattler* off campus.

MISS POTTER

So that was your plan there Frank? I should have known when you popped up like that this is what you had in mind.

FRANK

Yeah, well except for the whole suspension bit.

MISS POTTER

You all know this is so unfortunate. All of this wasted hot air over an advice column.

STACIE

What Miss Potter?

MISS POTTER

Mister Longerflumm canceled the paper because he did not like What Would Thomas Do.

LEWIS

That's stupid.

TARA

Yeah, Thomas helped us out. Though I'm still waiting for the answer to the question in my Algebra homework from three weeks ago. Come on Thomas, what would you do when $x=32$ and I have to solve for y .

ROGER

I'm gonna be swimming in shrimp and cocktail sauce.

(STACIE smacks ROGER across
the back of his head.)

HALLEY

What if they were to stop the column?

(All of the students shoot
HALLEY a dirty look.)

HALLEY

Sorry, just throwing out an option.

MISTER LONGERFLUMM

Well, I guess, I would have to rescind my order shutting down the paper.

ERIN

Hmmm, this is the Internet Age...Mister Longerflumm, may I propose a compromise.

MISTER LONGERFLUMM

What is your compromise?

ERIN

We remove What Would Thomas Do from *The Tuba Tattler*.

MISTER LONGERFLUMM

Good.

ERIN

But, we are allowed to keep it going on the Internet. We will not use any school resources, well except maybe the wireless network, to run it.

MISTER LONGERFLUMM

(Pondering for a long moment.)

As much as I don't like the idea of that column still existing...You have a deal. *The Tuba Tattler*, oh do I hate that name, is open for business once again.

(A shout of joy comes up
from the students.)

FRANK

Maybe we can entertain some new names from our readers for the paper, Mister Longerflumm.

MISTER LONGERFLUMM

Good, right now all I want is to not see those pink papers any more. Go write up a proper edition why don't you.

ERIN

We will Sir.

MISS POTTER

I'm so proud of you two. You have learned a very valuable lesson in the Class of Life.

FRANK

Not to mention saved ourselves from enduring the joys of summer school.

ERIN

Hey now, stop yapping, we gotta get typing.

(ERIN and FRANK lead the
rest of the cast off the
stage. The curtain closes.)

ACT V

SCENE 4

(After a few moments, voices
are heard from behind the
curtain.)

ROGER

Do I really have to do this. I mean, come on.

STACIE

Yes, you gotta hold up your end of the bet there.

LEWIS

Yeah, I always said that was your color.

(The curtain opens, ROGER
is in the center of the
stage in a pink dress or
tutu.)

ROGER

I am so going to get you guys for this.

STACIE

Shut up and shake it Shrimp Boy.

ROGER

I'm a little teapot, short and stout
Here is my handle

(One hand on his hip.)

Here is my spout

(Other arm out straight.)

When I get all steamed up, hear me shout
Just tip me over and pour me out!

(He leans over and tip arm
out like a spout)

I'm a clever teapot, yes it's true

Here's an example of what I can do I can change my handle to my
spout

(Switch arm positions and
repeat tipping motion.)

Just tip me over and pour me out

(ROGER stands up and turns
to the assembled cast.)

ROGER

Are you happy now?

STACIE

For now, but you still owe me for all those shrimp comments.

The End.