

*GREG arrives at Rowley's door and rings the doorbell.*

GREG

*(to audience)*

Rowley's an only child, so he gets to have a TV in his room and everything. Sometimes I envy him.

*ROWLEY answers the door reading book of jokes.*

ROWLEY

*(reading)*

Knock knock!

GREG

Huh?

ROWLEY

Thermos!

GREG

What are you talking about?

ROWLEY

Thermos be SOME way to tickle your funny bone! Ha ha!

GREG

*(to audience)*

Other times, not so much.

ROWLEY

Right this way, muchacho!

GREG

*(to audience)*

Especially when he gets back from one of his family vacations. One year he called the bathroom a “loo” for six whole months.

*ROWLEY leads GREG inside and they settle down in Rowley’s room. Filled with stuffed animals and bright colors, the room looks decorated for a much younger child. On the wall is a poster of a little German teen dressed in fashionable 80’s clothing, giving a thumbs up. Above him it says “JOSHIE!” Below him it says “Wild Animal Heart.”*

ROWLEY

Surprise! My new Joshie poster came!

GREG

*(to audience, re: the poster)*

And then there’s Joshie. As near as I can tell, this Joshie kid is some kind of pop singer who’s like a huge star in Europe or something. Now he’s Rowley’s hero.

ROWLEY

Isn’t it awesome?!

GREG

Rowley, Joshie is obviously supposed to be for 6-year-old girls.

ROWLEY

*(that’s ridiculous)*

Oh, you’re just peanut butter and jealous ‘cause you didn’t discover him!

*While ROWLEY happily bounces around his room, GREG sits down and plays a video game.*

GREG

There's got to be some way we can boost our popularity level at school. Something that makes us seem a little cooler.

ROWLEY

Hey! You wanna make a fort outta my bedsheets?

GREG

We don't have money, clothes, or cute butts. All we've got is three long years of misery if we don't figure something out.

ROWLEY

Well, Joshie says, "there's no sense in worrying, baby. Just wash your hands after you tinkle!"

GREG

Will you shut up about Joshie? I'm trying to save our lives, here.

ROWLEY

*(scoffing)*

I'm pretty sure a famous musician knows more about saving lives than you do, Greg.

GREG

You don't even know Joshie.

ROWLEY

So. I know other famous musicians.

GREG

Like who?

ROWLEY

I don't know. Bill Walter.

GREG

Bill Walter is not a famous musician.

ROWLEY

Yeah-huh. He's in your brother's band. Everybody thinks he's a rock star.

GREG

*(dismissive)*

They only think that because it said so in his yearbook.

*Then -- LIGHTBULB! GREG drops his game controller, thunderstruck with an incredible idea.*

GREG (CONT'D)

*(dawning on him)*

They only think that because it said so in his yearbook...

ROWLEY

*(pointing at the video game screen)*

Aww. You just died.

GREG

*(turns to Rowley, excitedly.)*

Rowley...that's it.

ROWLEY

Huhh? *(cheerful)* What are you talking about?

GREG

In the yearbook they always pick Class Favorites, like "Best Dressed" or "Most Likely to be a Rockstar."

ROWLEY

Yeah, and "Most School Spirit!" Woo!

GREG

Those people become famous at school!

ROWLEY

Yeah!

GREG

And *they* don't have money or cute butts.

ROWLEY

No!

GREG

But somehow they get known for one stupid thing!

ROWLEY

Yeah!

GREG

That's my ticket to popularity, Rowley! One stupid thing. All I need to succeed is ONE STUPID THING!

ROWLEY

*(ecstatically happy)*

Is this a great country, or what?!