

BUPHEAD, BYRON,
KENNY

MAMA

You're the oldest Byron. You need to set a better example.
Mr. Watson is not going to be happy.

BYRON

Where is it written you have to tell him?

MAMA

(Hands them the lunch boxes)

Ya'll get outta here 'fore the devil has his way with me this morning...

Kenny kisses Mama goodbye. They exit OUTSIDE where BUPHEAD, 11, waits. Buphead and Byron do their special cool handshake greeting. Kenny pathetically tries to imitate Buphead and Byron's cool movements.

START

BUPHEAD

What's good, man?

BYRON

Nothing, ready to split this place.

JOEY

(Running off)

THE BUS IS COMING.

Byron shoves his thermos and lunch box at Kenny's chest.

BYRON

Here take these.

KENNY

Why?

BYRON

Cause I ain't going to school. Me and Buphead having recess all day.

BUPHEAD

Yeah, all day long...

KENNY

But you're already in trouble...

BYRON

Don't you remember I belong to the mysterious Trouble Tribe.

BUPHEAD

Yeah, trouble tribe. We both do, right By?

BYRON

We're like robots, superior than any machine...

BUPHEAD

Superior!

BYRON

IQ in the brilliant range.

BUPHEAD

Brill-yant!

BYRON

We're so elevated, we can't be taught in some mere elementary school.

Buphead postures like he's just attended the church of Byron.

BUPHEAD

Yeah, we're in our own strat-os-phere! So hard to be this cool, so cool!

JOEY

(Reappears)

COME ON, THE BUS IS GOING TO LEAVE US!

KENNY

Well, Dad says we're all in the same tribe so if you're not going to school, then I'm not either.

BYRON

(grabs Kenny furiously)

I better never hear you say that again. At least one Watson oughtta grow up and...

(At a loss for a the right word)

And...

KENNY

Grow up and what?

BYRON

Just get on the bus.

Byron starts to walk away.

KENNY

But Byron I can't get on the bus with two lunch boxes.

Kenny tries to grab Byron.

BYRON

Let go of me, idiot stick!

KENNY

But I'm trying to save you.

BUPHEAD

I see what you mean, smartest kid in the school and he still acts like a nutcase.

KENNY

But Mama and Daddy said if you got into any more trouble...

BYRON

You must need a knuckle sandwich or sumptin...

Kenny runs off awkwardly in the opposite direction with the two lunch pails, two thermoses. Buphead exits behind Byron, both doing the cool walk.

END

DAD AT WATSON HOME

And we see Dad click on the TV news of civil unrest in the South. Perhaps our projection screen includes footage of violent protests. Dad shakes his head in distress.

TV COMMENTATOR

Another day of unrest as Negroes tried to register to vote...

Dad mumbles, shakes his head in distress watching the projected news footage. After a beat, Mama enters with groceries in hand. Dad immediately gets up to help her.