

THIS IS ONLY A TEST!

An Accompany Publishing Musical Play

CHARACTERS

The STUDENTS:

Anna Gram
Billy Bragg
Cici Orr
Dee Orr
Nan Of-The-Above
Even Steven
Odd Todd

Rita Book, their teacher

Principal Paul, a nervous wreck

The TESTERS:

The Federal Proctor-ologist
Test Attendant #1
Test Attendant #2
Test Attendant #3

Phil, The Vending Machine
Guy

The LIBERIAN LIBRARIANS:

Librarian #1
Librarian #2
Librarian #3

The STRAY MARKS:

Stray Mark #1
Stray Mark #2
Stray Mark #3 — Wayne

The NO. 2 PENCILS:

First No. 2 Pencil
Second No. 2 Pencil
Third No. 2 Pencil

Scratch Paper

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SCENES

Scene One: Empty Stage

Scene Two: The Hallway at School

Songs: *"The Answer To It All"*

Scene Three: The Classroom

Songs: *"I Didn't Follow Directions"*

Scene Four: The Gymnasium, a dream

Songs: *"Let's Multiply"*

Scene Five: The Classroom

Songs: *"WAFLBERCHUGD"*
"Breathing In Deep"

Scene Six: The Hallway

SCENE ONE

The stage is empty.

RITA BOOK, a teacher, walks to the front of the stage and addresses the audience. RITA BOOK carries a large, imposing ruler.

RITA BOOK

Good morning everyone! Get ready for the 19th standardized test you will take this week. If you need to freak out, please panic quietly to yourself.

[The CAST screams loudly from backstage.]

CAST

AAAAAHHHHHHH!

RITA BOOK

[Towards backstage] I said quietly, now.

CAST

[Soft] aaaahhhh.

[Lights out. End of Scene.]

SCENE TWO

Lights up on The Hallway at School.

The STUDENTS gather downstage. The only STUDENT missing is ODD TODD.

The STRAY MARKS enter behind The STUDENTS and hang in the background, upstage. The STRAY MARKS are a swaggering, shades-wearing bunch of young toughs.

ANNA GRAM

I had this weird dream last night.

CICI ORR

Me, too.

DEE ORR

Me, too.

CICI ORR

Just because we're twins, do you have to do everything the same as me?

BILLY BRAGG

I bet my dream was worse than yours.

ANNA GRAM

Oh, Billy Bragg.

NAN OF-THE-ABOVE

I guess we're stressed out about coming back to school.

EVEN STEVEN

Two months of consecutive snow days! I don't think that's ever happened before.

CICI ORR

There was so much snow, we couldn't sled.

DEE ORR

We couldn't even sled!

CICI ORR

We've been stuck together in the same house for two months. Get me away from her.

NAN OF-THE-ABOVE

We are so behind!

BILLY BRAGG

[Proudly] I am the most behind. I'm more behind than anyone!

ANNA GRAM

Did you brag this much before it started to snow?

BILLY BRAGG

Actually, I'm a little out of practice.

NAN OF-THE-ABOVE

I guess the good thing is we didn't have to take the standardized test.

EVEN STEVEN

Maybe we won't now.

CICI ORR

Maybe it's too late.

DEE ORR

Yeah, maybe it's too late!

[PHIL, The Vending Machine Guy, pushes on a dolly stacked with boxes of candy and sodas. PHIL crosses the stage while speaking lines.]

PHIL

Hi, kids!

ALL THE STUDENTS

Hi, Phil!

BILLY BRAGG

Wow! Look at all that Guzz soda!

DEE ORR

And all those Sugar High candy bars!

PHIL

It's going to be a big day for sales!

ANNA GRAM

It is?

[PHIL exits by pushing the dolly off the other side of the stage.]

EVEN STEVEN

Oh no! Quick, hide me!

[EVEN STEVEN hides behind one of the other STUDENTS.]

CICI ORR

Even Steven, what's wrong?

EVEN STEVEN

I have three overdue liberry books.

ANNA GRAM

You mean library books?

[The LIBERIAN LIBRARIANS enter. They carry small green plants, enough for all the students.]

LIBRARIAN #1

Green plants! Growing plants!

LIBRARIAN #2

Everybody take one!

CICI ORR

[Taking one of the plants] Plants?

DEE ORR

Plants? What are these for?

LIBRARIAN #3

In our country, we know that oxygen is good for the brain.

LIBRARIAN #1

Especially when you are stressed out!

ANNA GRAM

[Confused] Why would we be stressed out?

[PRINCIPAL PAUL enters in a hurry. He looks worried.]

ALL STUDENTS

Good morning, Principal Paul.

PRINCIPAL PAUL

[Frantic] Are you ready? Warmed up? Did you eat a good breakfast?

BILLY BRAGG

I ate a better breakfast than anyone else!

ANNA GRAM

Don't mind him.

NAN OF-THE-ABOVE

Did you say, "ready?"

CICI ORR

Ready for what?

DEE ORR

Ready for what?

CICI ORR

Dee, stop copying me.

PRINCIPAL PAUL

Didn't your teacher, Rita Book, warn — I mean tell you?

EVEN STEVEN

Warn us?

NAN OF-THE-ABOVE

We haven't seen her yet.

BILLY BRAGG

[Using hands] I heard Rita Book was stuck in a snowdrift eleven feet — no, twenty feet high!

PRINCIPAL PAUL

Oh no!

ALL THE STUDENTS

Oh no?

PRINCIPAL PAUL

But you're taking the standardized test today.

ALL THE STUDENTS

The TEST!?!?

PRINCIPAL PAUL

The Proctor-ologist is on his way!

BILLY BRAGG

Proctor-ologist?

PRINCIPAL PAUL

[Out of control] The person who administers the test. He's mean! And ugly! Got fangs! And...and...

[Everybody stares at PRINCIPAL PAUL.]

PRINCIPAL PAUL

I had bad dreams last night.

ANNA GRAM

It's ok, Principal Paul. We did, too.

PRINCIPAL PAUL

The Proctor-ologist does have all kinds of scary rules and regulations.

EVEN STEVEN

Is he mean? He sounds mean.

PRINCIPAL PAUL

All I know is that he lost a son several years ago.

BILLY BRAGG

He lost his son?

PRINCIPAL PAUL

Yes. And he's been mean since.

CICI ORR

That's so sad.

DEE ORR

That's so sad.

CICI ORR

The Proctor-ologist could have my sister.

DEE ORR

Hey!

PRINCIPAL PAUL

The test has to be done perfectly, or else I'll lose my job!

NAN OF-THE-ABOVE

What happens if we don't do well on the test?

PRINCIPAL PAUL

I'll lose my job!

NAN OF-THE-ABOVE

No. I mean to us.

PRINCIPAL PAUL

Oh, it's just too terrible to say out loud.

CICI ORR

What are we going to do?

BILLY BRAGG

Well, I have a secret method for getting all the answers right!

ANNA GRAM

Right, Billy, whatever.

BILLY BRAGG

I do.

[PHIL comes back on, pushing an empty dolly, crosses the stage.]

PHIL

Going back out for a second load! *[Exits]*

EVEN STEVEN

Anybody have a dollar I could borrow? I think I already need one of those Guzz sodas.

NAN OF-THE-ABOVE

I think we should just calm down.

CICI ORR

Calm down? Calm down?!?! Today's the big test!

DEE ORR

Today's the big test!

ANNA GRAM

What would Rita Book say if she were here?

LIBRARIAN #1

She would tell us to take a deep breath.

LIBRARIAN #2

Inhale some lovely plant oxygen.

[They all take a deep breath. They feel a little better and nod approvingly.]

BILLY BRAGG


See? I was right!

PRINCIPAL PAUL

If Rita Book ever digs out of that snow bank, I'm going to give her a huge raise.

NAN OF-THE-ABOVE

She would say we already have the answers. We just have to use them correctly.

 [Sound effect: the school bell rings.]

 **SONG: "THE ANSWER TO IT ALL"**

Here in the classroom
Begins the test
The world is watching
For our success
And we can show it
Because we're smart
Holding the answers
Here in our hearts

The answer to it all
The answer to it all
The answer to it all, the answer to it all

[HORN BREAK]

Filling in circles
To make us square
In math and reading
The pressure's there
We rock those test scores
We're placing high
Our teachers love us
We're standardized

The answer to it all
The answer to it all
The answer to it all, the answer to it all



[Sound Effect: the classroom door slowly opens. Sinister sounds are heard.]

ANNA GRAM

Come on, you guys. Let's go in and face this test together. No child should be left behind.

[The STUDENTS take hands. They head into their classroom as the lights fade.]

[End of Scene.]