

Zack receives his CDs.

ZACK

Are we going to compete against other schools?

DEWEY

There's no question that a win will go on your permanent record. Hello, Harvard. Hello, Yale. Yo. But I can't put in a good word for you unless you clean this place up! I mean, what am I not paying you guys for? Roadies? All of you! Clean up!
(seeing Tomika all alone)
What's wrong?

Tomika just shakes her head.

DEWEY (CONT'D)

Tomika? Something is wrong. Tell your old pal, Mr Schneebly. Come on, you can talk to me.

MARCY

You haven't given her a job.

DEWEY

Sure. OK. Can you sing? Do you want to be a backup singer with Marcy and Shonelle?

Again, the girl shakes her head.

DEWEY (CONT'D)

Then what do you want to do if you don't want to sing?

But she just can't say.

START

LAWRENCE

Mr Schneebly, can I speak with you a moment?

DEWEY

(to Tomika)

Think about what you want to do, and we'll talk about this later.

(to Lawrence)

What up homey?

LAWRENCE

I don't think I should be in the band.

DEWEY

Why not?

LAWRENCE

I'm not cool. People in bands are cool. I'm not cool.

DEWEY

Dude, you're cool. The way you play? Why do you say you're not cool?

LAWRENCE

Nobody ever talks to me. I have no friends. Except Tomika, and she doesn't speak.

DEWEY

Those days are over. Trust me.

LAWRENCE

You don't understand what it's like. You're too cool.

Lawrence walks away.

DEWEY

Hey! Come back here! Pop a squat next to papa. You think I don't understand what it's like? To be fat and lonely, to have no friends, to be left out of everything? Believe me, kid, I understand better than you know.

LAWRENCE

I never said I was fat.

DEWEY

Fat or thin, by the time I'm done with you, you'll be so cool you'll be a walking popsicle. You'll be King Cool of all you survey.

LAWRENCE

Honest?

DEWEY

Honest.

LAWRENCE

OK. I'll do it.

END