

Cast list

Narrators (4 people)

Time keepers (4 people)

Wrapping/dancing Lizards (10 people)

Stanley

Zero

X-Ray

Armpit

Zigzag

Magnet

Squid

Tough Kid

Tough Kid 1

Tough Kid 2

Mr Sir

Mr Pendanski

The Warden

Stanley's Dad

Stanley's Mum

The Judge

Police officer 1

Police officer 2

Police officer 3

Ms Morengo

Attorney General

Zero's Mum

Driving officer

Clyde Livingston

Elya

Sarah

Mela

Myra Menka

Myra's father

Madame Zeroni

Igor Barkov

Kate Barlow

Stanley 1st

Driver

Outlaw 1

Outlaw 2

Outlaw 3

PASSENGER

Passer-by 1

Passer-by 2

Passer-by 3

Scene 1 – Elya and the Fortune Teller

Stanley [1], Narrator (1-4) [4], Madam Zeroni [17], Elya [18], Timekeeper 1 [5]

From either side of the stage, Stanley enters with a binder in his hands and rucksack on his back, looking upset because he has had a bad day at school.

STANLEY: Hi everybody my name is Stanley Yelnats and I'm here to tell you about the strange story of my life. But, to explain that, we need to go way, wayyyyy, back to when my great-great-grandfather was still living in Latvia...

Stanley takes a seat at the side of the stage, as narrator 1-4 get up and sit either side of the stage. Narrator 1 & 2 stands up to tell the beginning part of the story.

Time keeper enters either side of the stage.

TIME KEEPER: 150 years ago...

NARRATOR 1: Stanley's great-great-grandfather was named Elya Yelnats and he was born in Latvia.

Elya enters stage on one side, while MZ enters on the other side and sits in front of her house.

NARRATOR 2: Of course he didn't know he was Stanley's great-great-grandfather. He was a sixteen year-old kid with only one thing on his mind.

MADAME ZERONI: Elya. Is something wrong?

ELYA: (feeling flat) Hey Madame Zeroni, Just my life. You want to know my future? You don't need to look at my palm or read my tea leaves. I'll tell you my future: loneliness. I'll die a lonely old man.

MADAME ZERONI: Who is it this time?

ELYA: Myra Menke.

MADAME ZERONI: Myra Menke! Ha! (scoffs, slaps thigh, wipes tear of amusement from eye)

ELYA: She's different. It's true love this time. I asked for her hand in marriage.

MADAME ZERONI: And she turned you down? Thank God!

ELYA: Not exactly. I didn't ask her. I spoke to her father. But Igor Barkov wants to marry Myra, too.

MADAME ZERONI: That fat old pig farmer?

ELYA: He offered his fattest pig in exchange for her. So her father asked me what I can offer. I told him: a heart full of love, a lifetime of devotion... He said he'd rather have a fat pig.

MADAME ZERONI: Oh, Elya. You're too young to get married. Myra Menke? Her head is as empty as a flower pot.

ELYA: She's so beautiful.

MADAME ZERONI: So is a flower pot. Can she push a plough? Can she milk a goat? No, she is too delicate. Can you talk to her? No, she is silly and foolish. You should go to America... Like my son. That is where the future lies - not with Myra Menke.

ELYA: We're in love...

Madame Zeroni shakes her head in disgust and sighs.

MADAME ZERONI: As it happens, my sow gave birth to a litter of piglets. There's one little runt of a piglet whom she won't suckle.

She picks up a cardboard box next to her chair and lifts out the little pig.

MADAME ZERONI: You may have that one.

ELYA: Thanks, but that doesn't exactly solve my problem. It's no bigger than a rat.

MADAME ZERONI: She'll grow... Do you see the mountain on the edge of the forest? (points) On the top of the mountain there's a stream where the water runs uphill. Every day you must carry the pig to the top of the mountain and let her drink from the stream. As she drinks you sing this song (Sings):

(Lullaby song) Madame Zeroni

"If only, if only, the woodpecker sighs,

The bark on the trees, was as soft as the skies.

While the wolf waits, below, hungry and lonely,

Crying, crying to the moo-oo-oon, If only, if only, if only."

MADAME ZERONI: In two months, your pig will be as fat as Igor Barkov's.

ELYA (Finds this unbelievable): In TWO months? Seriously? But if she's so fat how will I be able to carry her up the mountain?

MADAME ZERONI: Is she too fat for you now?

ELYA: No.

MADAME ZERONI: Will she be too heavy for you tomorrow?

ELYA: No.

MADAME ZERONI: Every day the pig will grow a little bigger, and you will grow a little stronger. Myra's father will like that too...

ELYA: Sure... (more convinced) OK, if you say it will work, I'll do it!

MADAME ZERONI: One last thing. After you give the pig to Myra's father, you must come back here and carry me up the mountain. Let me drink the mountain water while you sing the song to me.

MADAME ZERONI: You must not forget. Or else you and your descendants will be cursed for all eternity...

ELYA: Well I better start now, come on piggy!

Elya walks off stage and around the front, whilst MZ also leaves her side of the stage in a slow manner.

NARRATOR 3: Elya was good to his word and every day he took the pig to the mountain to drink from the stream that ran up hill.

(Lullaby song) EVERYONE

"If only, if only, the woodpecker sighs,

The bark on the trees, was as soft as the skies.

Elya walks around the stage and is handed a slightly larger pig before re-entering the stage. Time Keeper enters moments before.

TIME KEEPER: One week later....

ELYA: This seems to be working piggy, not just a little rat anymore.

Elya walks around the stage once more and is handed a slightly larger pig before re-entering the stage. Time Keeper enters moments before.

(Lullaby song) EVERYONE

While the wolf waits, below, hungry and lonely,

Crying, crying to the moo-oo-oon, If only, if only, if only."

TIME KEEPER: One month later....

ELYA: You are definitely getting bigger piggy, my arms are tired. Still, I guess that means I'm also getting stronger.

Elya walks around the stage for the final time and is handed a slightly larger pig before re-entering the stage. Time Keeper enters moments before.

(Lullaby song) EVERYONE

While the wolf waits, below, hungry and lonely,

Crying, crying to the moo-oo-oon, If only, if only, if only."

TIME KEEPER: Two months later...

ELYA: Well piggy, you're massive...and while we are talking about massive (kiss guns) check these bad boys out. Which way is the beach (signals with guns flexing muscles)

Elya exits the stage.

NARRATOR 4: Now, with his newly fattened pig, Elya was ready to meet Myra's father once more, to work out who would become Myra's husband.

Scene 2 – At Myra’s House

(9) Igor Barkov [4], Myra’s Father [9], Myra Menke [6], Mela [4], Elya [4], Madame Zeroni [1],
Narrators (1-4) [4]

Igor Barkov and Myra's Father, two dirty and disgusting men, enter laughing. Myra sits at the side of the stage reading (not very well) with her friend Mela, who is sewing.

Elya joins behind them and enters with pig 2 (now fully grown).

MYRA'S FATHER: Well, let's weigh the pigs. (Walks around, as if examining two pigs) Well, what do you know, they weigh exactly the same. These are two of the finest pigs I've ever seen. And you! (He puts his hands around Elya's muscular arm) I used to think you were a no-good book reader. Now I see you'd make an excellent mud wrestler! (He looks back at the pigs) Two fine pigs. How am I to decide?

ELYA: Why not let Myra decide.

IGOR: That's preposterous! You can't let HER decide who she will marry!

MYRA'S FATHER: Myra is just an empty-headed girl. What does she know about pigs?

ELYA: I don't know what she knows about pigs but she knows how she feels in her heart....

MYRA'S FATHER (Slaps Elya on the back and laughs): Why not! It doesn't matter to me.

(calls) Myra!

(to Elya) You know, a pig's a pig.

(calls) Myra!

Myra enters with her friend Mela.

MYRA: Yes, Papa.

MELA: Morning Mr Menke...wow those pigs are so big and strong! Elya also doesn't look too bad himself...

Mela gives Elya a little wink and a wave. He shudders, giving an uncomfortable and confused stare.

MYRA'S FATHER: Shhh you dim-witted girl! I am talking to my daughter. Myra, Elya and Igor have each offered a pig for your hand in marriage. It doesn't matter to me. A pig's a pig. So I will let you make the choice.

MYRA: You want me to decide?

MYRA'S FATHER: That's right, my blossom.

IGOR: Pick me already (he says under his breath)

MELA: (whispers) choose Elya...he likes you and has a big pig to offer.

Myra looks at her two suitors.

MYRA: Which pig weighs more?

MYRA'S FATHER: They both weigh the same.

(Myra looks confused, looks to Igor, Elya, Mela, the two pigs and back again, scratches her head, puffs out her cheeks etc)

MYRA: Golly. Okay, ooh, this is tough... I choose...Elya! No! - Igor! No! – Elya! No! Argh! How am I to decide?

MELA: If you don't want Elya, I'll take him. (Flashes another awkward smile and waves)

MYRA: Ooh, I know! Okay, I'm thinking of a number between one and ten. The person who gets closest to it...

IGOR: Ten!

MYRA: Elya? What's your number?

ELYA: (Heartbroken) Marry Igor. You can keep my pig as a wedding present.

IGOR: Yes, victory is mine!

MYRA'S FATHER: Two pigs for one daughter!

Myra's Father, Myra and Igor exit while celebrating. Mela looks back at Elya in a loving way.

MELA: Write to me! (winks and then follows Myra and her family).

ELYA: Can you believe that? Myra couldn't decide between a fat old pig farmer and me... What am I going to do?

Elya begins to walk off and around the stage as the narrators begin speaking.

NARRATOR 1: Elya wandered aimlessly through the town, until he found himself down by the docks.

NARRATOR 2: There he was approached by a ship's captain, who was looking for deck hands for his voyage to America.

NARRATOR 3: Elya had never worked on a ship before, but after carrying the pig up the mountain every day, he had grown quite strong.

Madame Zeroni enters and stands off by herself, waiting.

NARRATOR 4: It wasn't until after he was already out to sea, that he remembered his promise to Madame Zeroni...

ZERONI: He never came back...He is cursed! CURSED! That no-good-dirty-rotten-pig-stealing-boy!!

Madame Zeroni waits a moment, then sadly exits.

Scene 3 – Police capture Stanley

(3) Stanley [6], Police Officer 1 [3], Police Officer 2 [3]

Stanley stands back up on main stage, head down, still carrying a binder. A pair of shoes are now placed on the side of the stage.

STANLEY: So..that was my no-good-dirty-rotten-pig-stealing-great-great-grandfather. Of course, I don't really believe in the curse, but our family really does seem to have a lot of bad luck...and it's nice to have someone to blame. I mean, one person can't have bad luck forever....

Stanley suddenly trips over a pair of shoes.

STANLEY: Ow! What the--? Well, at least my Dad can maybe use these... He's trying to work out how to re-cycle old trainers.

He picks up the trainers and looks around, confused. Suddenly two uniformed Police Officers appear. They violently take the trainers from him, and handcuff his arms behind his back.

POLICE OFFICER 1: Well, well what do we have here then?

POLICE OFFICER 2: It looks like those shoes... Where did you get those from then?

STANLEY: What? I just found them here.

POLICE OFFICER 1: A likely story! Ha! You're under arrest.

STANLEY: What?! I didn't--they're just a couple of old-- they were just laying there...

POLICE OFFICER 2: What's your name?

STANLEY: My name? Stanley, Stanley Yelnats the Fourth

POLICE OFFICER 1: Well Stanley Yelnats, I am arresting you for theft, you do not have to say anything but anything you do say...

STANLEY: The. Shoes. Were. Just. Lying. There. On. The. Ground!

POLICE OFFICER 2: (Writing) Oh dear, oh dear... You must think we look like absolute idiots! (Stanley nods to the audience) Come on you, to the police station!

Scene 4 - Judgement day

(6) Stanley [10], Judge [4], Father [2], Mother [3], Driving Officer [6], Police Officer 3 [4]

Police officer 3/Driver brings Stanley in and stands beside the judge on one side. His parents stand the other side. Judge bangs their gavel.

JUDGE: ... And you say that you didn't steal the shoes, they "Were just lying there"?

Stanley's parents' approach and stand at Stanley's side.

STANLEY: It was a bad day. I missed the bus because this kid, Derrick, stole my book and threw it in the toilet--he's always picking on me--so then I had to walk home and.. I was just in the wrong place at the wrong time.

FATHER: It wasn't his fault, Your Honor, My family's been cursed for-

The Judge glares at Stanley's Father as Mother puts her hand on Father's arm.

MOTHER: SSH! Be quiet dear! The nice man doesn't want to hear about your great, great, great grandfather...

JUDGE: The trainers were valued at over five thousand dollars. It was money that would have provided food and shelter for the homeless. And *you* stole from them, just so you could have a souvenir. You are *despicable*. You have a choice... You may go to jail. Or, you may go to Camp Green Lake.

MOTHER: Camp Green Lake? Oooh! That sounds nice! A bit like Butlins...

JUDGE: They help troubled youth build character.

MOTHER: Not like Butlins then?

STANLEY: (With a shrug) I've never been to camp before. We've never had the money...

JUDGE: Then I sentence you to 18 months at Camp Green Lake. (With a nasty smile) *Have a lovely time now, won't you?*

Father gets up and puts his hands-on Stanley's shoulders frantically.

FATHER: Stanley! Look after yourself Stanley! Wash every day, wear clean underpants at least every week and remember to say please and thank you... Oh! And, please write to us to let us know how you are getting on!

Police Officer 3 leads Stanley to the backseat of a car. Stanley's handcuffs are adjusted so that he is now shackled to the seat of the car. One Police Officer drives and the another sits in the front passenger seat.

STANLEY: I'm always in the wrong place at the wrong time. It's because of my no-good-dirty-rotten-pig-stealin' great-great-grandfather.

DRIVING OFFICER: Oh yeah?

STANLEY: My whole family is cursed. Supposedly I had this great-great-grandfather who stole a pig from a fortune telling Gypsy.

POLICE OFFICER 3: And you believe that?

STANLEY: No. Not really. But it's like we're always in the wrong place at the wrong time. My dad's an inventor. But even if you're really smart and everything, you still need a little luck... even Thomas Edison needed a little luck. Something my family never had.

DRIVING OFFICER: You make your own luck, son. The sooner you learn that, the better.

STANLEY: I guess.

DRIVING OFFICER: Nothing good ever happened to anyone in your family?

STANLEY: My great-grandfather, Stanley Yelnars the 1st, made a lot of money in the stock market.

POLICE OFFICER 3: Sounds like he had some luck.

STANLEY: Yeah, to begin with but then he lost it all when his stage coach was robbed by Kate Barlow on his way out west.

DRIVING OFFICER: Your great-grandfather was robbed by Kissin' Kate Barlow? The famous outlaw?

POLICE OFFICER 3: Who?

DRIVING OFFICER: Oh come on! You must have heard the stories? She used to rob stage coaches and wagons of the rich as they headed out West across Texas, she used to hold them up at gun point, take everything they owned, kiss 'em and shoot 'em!

STANLEY: Yeah, That's her... That's who robbed my great great Grandfather.

POLICE OFFICER 3: Cool. Did she kiss him?

STANLEY: No, she only kissed the men she killed. Instead she just left him stranded in the middle of the desert, without food or water...

DRIVING OFFICER: A likely story.

(The Police Officers look at each other and at Stanley, unsure whether to believe anything he has told them.)

Scene 5- flashback Kissin Kate Barlow

Timekeeper [1], Narrator 1-4 [5], Kate [14], Stanley Yelnats 1st [13], Driver [6], Passenger [9], Outlaw 1 [4], Outlaw 2 [4], Outlaw 3 [3]

Stanley 1st, Passenger and driver are on side stage and freeze frame in the carriage. Narrators enter on opposite side of the stage, whilst Stanley 1st, Passenger and Driver enter, with chairs, for the carriage.

TIME KEEPER: 100 years agooo.....

NARRATOR 1: That Kissin Kate Barlow really was a dangerous character!

KATE BARLOW: STOP THE COACH! OR I'LL SHOOT EVERY LAST ONE OF YOU!

(The outlaws run ahead of Kate as she waits on the side of the stage.)

STANLEY 1st: Driver! What is it? Why have we stopped?

PASSENGER: What on earth is going on?! I have an important meeting to attend!

DRIVER: Take cover folks, bad people out here! They look like outlaws to me!

OUTLAW 1: Who are you calling bad? I'm lovely... I just like robbing people, that's all.

DRIVER: How can you be lovely if you rob people? That's not lovely, that's darn unfriendly.

OUTLAW 1: I'm... I'm a complex person. (Looking confused) Look, just be quiet, my boss is coming!

PASSENGER: This is ridiculous, my father will hear about this! He owns all of the land from North to...er...to...whatever is below.

STANLEY 1st: South?

PASSENGER: No, no, no that doesn't sound right!

OUTLAW 1: enough with the geography lesson, the boss is here!

KATE BARLOW: Come out, give me your valuables and live... Or I shoot, you die, and then I'll take the loot anyway.

PASSENGER: MUMMY! (Hides behind the chair in fear)

STANLEY 1st: Please! Don't shoot! I don't want trouble, I'm unarmed...

KATE BARLOW: Unarmed? What the heck are you playing at? This is Texas, in the 1800s... EVERYBODY has a gun. Why, even the HORSES have guns. Some of the cacti too...

STANLEY 1ST: I don't like loud noises...

KATE BARLOW: You don't like loud noises? Right. Look, I don't have time for this, just give me your money and jewellery – I am a busy woman...

STANLEY 1st: But this watch was given to me by my father...

KATE BARLOW: Tough. (Snatches it)

STANLEY 1st: This wallet was made by my mother...

KATE BARLOW: Tough. (snatches it)

STANLEY 1st: These silk underpants... (starts to pull underwear from front of his trousers)

KATE BARLOW: Whoa! Hold ya horses there bud! I don't care how valuable they are, you can keep them...

STANLEY 1st: Are you sure?

KATE BARLOW: Yup.

STANLEY 1st: Sure you're sure?

KATE BARLOW: Sssh! Or I'll shoot ya. Right, c'mon you two, let's get out of here...

OUTLAW 2: Hang on Kate, you want to take a look at this fancy dancey metal box? What's in here driver?

DRIVER: That's luggage, nothing to do with me...

OUTLAW 2: Whose is it then?

OUTLAW 3: Yeah, whose is it?

PASSENGER: Not me I swear!

STANLEY 1st: That's mine – but please don't take it, it's all I have in the world.

OUTLAW 3: Sounds valuable to me then.

KATE BARLOW: Do you know who I am?

STANLEY 1st: No Ma'am, I don't.

KATE BARLOW: My name is Kate, Kate Barlow...

DRIVER: (recoils in horror, gasps, points) Kissin' Kate?

KATE BARLOW: (Smug) The very same...

DRIVER: Please don't kill us, please! I'm begging you, I have a family... This guy's only young, he's scared of loud noises, he doesn't deserve to die! (explains to STANLEY) This is "Kissin' Kate Barlow" she's famous, or should I say infamous? She robs people, kisses them, then kills 'em.

STANLEY 1st: Just when I thought my family's luck had changed...

(Passenger gets on hands and knees in front of KB.)

PASSENGER: Please Mam, spare me...I can't die this young and handsome!

(Outlaw 2 pushes him out of the way)

OUTLAW 2: Don't talk to her! Unless you're looking for a bullet to the head!

PASSENGER: Not the face! Anything but the face!

KATE BARLOW: I tell you what I am going to do... I will spare you all this time, but I'm taking your horses... Good luck – you are 100 miles from the nearest water here.

DRIVER: You can't leave us here! We'll die! My wife... My family....!

PASSENGER: My 10 horses...my 3 mansions with a lake view...!

KATE BARLOW: WANNA KISS AND A BULLET???

DRIVER: Er, no! No thanks... Err, yuck! It's a nice day for a walk...

PASSENGER: But I hate walking...

(Stanley 1st and driver give a stern look to passenger to stop him talking and then nudge him to start walking)

OUTLAW 2: C'mon Kate! It's time to go!

OUTLAW 1: Let's go and bury the money outback and spend it later. See ya, losers!

OUTLAW 3: C'ya, wouldn't wanna be ya!

(KATE FIRES GUN, OUTLAWS LEAVE)

STANLEY 1st: Oh, c'mon... let's start walking.

(STANLEY AND DRIVER LEAVE)

NARRATOR 1: Stanley and the driver were found two weeks later in the desert, barely alive, all they could tell their rescuers was that they had 'found salvation on God's thumb' but they could never really explain what that meant.

NARRATOR 2: The rescuers noted that each man was carrying a bunch of fresh onions and stank like they had been eating them for some time...

NARRATOR 3: Stanley made his way, eventually, to San Francisco, where he worked hard, met his wife, and had a baby boy that they called Stanley... Stanley Yelnats the second.

NARRATOR 4: They liked the way his name spelt 'Yelnats' backwards... but that was a long while ago, it looks like our Stanley, Stanley the fourth has almost arrived at Camp Green Lake.

Scene 6: ARRIVAL AT CAMP

(4) Police Officer 3 [4]. Driving Officer [2]. Stanley [13]. Mr Sir [15]

POLICE OFFICER 3: Look, when you get to Camp Green Lake, I wouldn't go on about curses, or pig stealin' Gypsies, or Kissin' Kate Barlow. No one wants to hear your stories. You know what I'm saying?

DRIVING OFFICER: And don't go telling everyone that you are innocent. EVERYBODY says that, NOBODY believes it. You just dig your holes and don't give anybody any reason to think you're being a wise guy...

STANLEY: Holes?

DRIVING OFFICER: Well, here we are.

STANLEY: Where's the lake?

POLICE OFFICER 3: See, now that's what I'm talking about...

The Police Officer unlocks Stanley's handcuffs. He holds a clipboard. Stanley, backpack in hand, follows him across the stage.

Mr. Sir enters. He is a mean and tough-looking prison guard wearing a cowboy hat and sunglasses. A gun is in his holster. He eats sunflower seeds and spits out the shells.

MR. SIR (Sarcastically): Have a nice drive?

POLICE OFFICER 3: Eight hours.

MR. SIR: (He takes the clipboard) Stanley Yelnats, *the 4th*?

STANLEY: Yeah, see everyone in my family keeps naming their sons Stanley, because Stanley is Yelnats spelled backwards. You know? Y-E-L-N-A-T-S--S-T-A...

Mr. Sir glares. A nudge from the Police Officer tells Stanley to stop talking. Mr. Sir signs the sheet and then tears the top sheet of paper off the clipboard, then hands it back to the Police Officer, who smiles and starts to leave...

POLICE OFFICER 3: Thanks, now you take care Stanley.

(The Police Officers exit)

MR. SIR: My name is Mr. Sir. Whenever you speak to me you must call me by name, is that clear?

STANLEY: Uh, yes... (Doubtful that's really his name) Mr. "Sir".

MR. SIR: Take a look around you, Stanley. What do you see?

STANLEY: Not much. (A beat, then hastily) Mr. Sir.

MR. SIR (A short laugh): You see any guard towers?

STANLEY: No, Mr. Sir.

MR. SIR: How about an electric fence?

STANLEY: No, Mr. Sir.

MR. SIR: You want to run away? (Stanley is dumbfounded) Do you? You want to run away? Just start running...

STANLEY: I'm not going to run away.

MR. SIR: Good thinking. Nobody runs away from here. We don't need a fence. Know why? Because we got the only water for one hundred miles. You want to run away? You'll be buzzard food in three days. You thirsty, Stanley?

STANLEY (Gratefully): Yes, Mr. Sir.

MR. SIR: Well you better get used to it. You're going to be thirsty for the next eighteen months. (holds out his hand for the backpack) Gimme.

Stanley hands over his backpack. Mr. Sir gives him his uniform (an orange jumpsuit with a special cap for neck protection) and canteen. As Mr. Sir speaks, Stanley changes clothes and Mr. Sir dumps out the backpack: toothbrush, toothpaste, books, pens and paper.

MR. SIR: There once was a very large lake here, the largest lake in Texas. There used to be a town of Green Lake too. That was over a hundred years ago.

Stanley tries to drink from his canteen, but it is empty.

MR. SIR: You will dig one hole each day, five feet deep and five feet in diameter. Your shovel is your measuring stick. Breakfast is served at 4:30.

STANLEY: Four thir-?! Yes, Mr. Sir.

MR. SIR: We start early to avoid the hottest part of the day. The longer it takes you to dig, the longer you will be out in the hot sun. And you'll need to keep alert for rattlesnakes and those lizards.

STANLEY: lizards?

MR. SIR: Oh, you don't want to get bit by a yellow-spotted lizard. That is the worst thing that can happen to you. You will die a slow and painful death...Always.

(STAY ON STAGE)

SCENE 6a Settling In To Camp Green Lake

(8) Stanley [3], Mr Pendanski [13], X-Ray [5], Squid, Armpit [1], Magnet, Zigzag [1], Zero

(Mr. Pendanski enters)

MR. PENDANSKI: You must be Stanley Yelnats. I'm Mr. Pendanski, your counsellor.

(He extends his arm, Stanley shakes his hand.)

MR. PENDANSKI: I respect you, Stanley. I understand you made some bad mistakes in your life. But everyone makes mistakes. You may have done some bad things, but that doesn't mean you're a bad kid.

(Mr. Sir has heard enough of this, looks disgusted, shakes head. He exits.)

MR. PENDANSKI: Rule Number One: don't upset the warden.

STANLEY: He did seem kind of scary.

MR. PENDANSKI: Mr. Sir? He's not the warden. You see that cabin over there? Stay away from it. (He points to other buildings) That's the Wreck Room. The Mess Hall. The Showers. You'll be here, in D Tent. (Shouts) Rex! Jose! Come meet the newest member of our team.

Five other youths enter: X-Ray, Armpit, Squid, Magnet, Zigzag and Zero. They wear the same uniform as Stanley.

MR. PENDANSKI: Everyone, this is Stanley Yelnats the 4th.

Icy silence, then as Mr. Pendanski introduces the kids, X-Ray overlaps him by saying their nicknames:

MR. PENDANSKI: Stanley, I'd like you to meet Rex-

X-RAY: X-Ray.

MR. PENDANSKI: Jose--

X-RAY: Magnet.

MR. PENDANSKI: Alan--

X-RAY: Squid.

MR. PENDANSKI: Theodore--

X-RAY: Armpit.

MR. PENDANSKI: Ricky--

X-RAY: Zigzag.

MR. PENDANSKI and X-RAY (Almost but not quite simultaneously): And... Zero.

MR. PENDANSKI: They all have nicknames, however I prefer to use the names their parents gave them; the names that Society will recognise them by.

ZIGZAG (Indicating Mr. Pendanski): And he's Mom.

Mr. Pendanski smiles. All the kids except Zero laugh. He looks defiantly at Mr. Pendanski, who stops smiling and stares back at him.

Mr. Pendanski starts to go, but stops as he passes Zero.

MR. PENDANSKI: Any words of advice for Stanley, Zero? (No reply) You know why his name is Zero? Because there's nothing inside his head... and nothing to say.

Mr. Pendanski pats Zero on the shoulder as if it's all a big joke. Zero is defiantly silent, Mr. Pendanski exits. The other kids start to walk off.

STANLEY: Hey, uh, Theodore? Is there someplace I can fill my canteen?

Armpit grabs Stanley by his collar and throws him to the ground.

ARMPIT: My name's not Thee-o-dore. It's Armpit. (short pause) There's a water tap next to the shower wall.

Armpit and the other kids exit, leaving Stanley alone, on the ground.

STANLEY: Thanks...Armpit.

Scene 7- Digging the first hole

Mr. Sir [4], Stanley [5], Timekeeper [1], Magnet [5], LIZARDS

Stanley holds a shovel as Mr. Sir indicates where he should dig. The other kids in D Tent are digging nearby.

MR. SIR: ...As deep and as wide as your shovel. If you dig up anything interesting, you should report it to me or Mr. Pendanski when we come by with the water.

STANLEY: What am I supposed to be looking for?

MR. SIR: You're not looking for anything. Digging builds character. But if you happen to find something, you let one of us know. If the warden likes what you found, you'll get the rest of the day off.

Stanley starts to dig. The ground is hard. He has to stamp on the back of the shovel blade to get started.

TIME KEEPER: 3 hours later.....

MR SIR: Ok then you lot, it's time for a water break...

The children line up in a very specific order, X-Ray, Armpit, Zigzag, Magnet, then Zero. Mr. Sir fills their canteens. Worn and weary, Stanley is the last to get in line. Mr. Sir fills Stanley's canteen and hands it to him.

MR. SIR: This isn't the Cub Scouts is it?

MAGNET: How's it goin'?

STANLEY: Oh, man. I can barely hold the shovel. My blisters have blisters. And every time I dig out a shovelful of dirt, half of it rolls back into the hole.

MAGNET: That's 'cause your piles are too close to your hole. You need to move 'em further away.

STANLEY: Oh great.

MAGNET: The first hole's the hardest.

Stanley begins moving the dirt away from his hole.

STANLEY: Say, uh, Magnet? Where are we supposed to go to the bathroom?

MAGNET: Pick a hole, any hole. But make sure nothin's livin' in it first. You don't want to be disturbing a family of yellow-spotted lizards.

STANLEY: A family of what? I thought that was a joke!

MAGNET: Nope, those yellow spotted freaks are real and they really are dangerous... DEADLY in fact.

YELLOW SPOTTED LIZARD RAP & DANCE

YSL: In the amber golden shimmer of the desert dusty heat,

Grillin' me! Cookin' me! - like I'm a piece of meat!

Feels like endless days of ever blazing rays,

I'm chilli! I'm hot! – but not in my retreat!

When I slide deep down to my subterranean lair

I wait for something bigga! Go figure! Don't despair!

Show me respect or I'm coming up for you,

Don't call ahead, I already know you're there.

CHOIR: Yellow spotted lizard!

YSL: my bright yellow eyes might take you by surprise!

CHOIR: Yellow spotted lizard!

YSL: my teeth ain't white but black and dark as night!

CHOIR: Yellow spotted lizard!

YSL: Eleven yellow spots on my beautiful hide!

CHOIR: Yellow spotted lizard!

YSL: If you're close enough to count, I'm close enough to bite!

YSL: When I came to Green Lake I was first dismayed

All the other spotted lizards throwing me shade

I dug with all my heart but I couldn't decide

I slipped from hole to hole, from side to side.

Suddenly the area was filled with boys,

Drilling down and diggin with their bright shiny toys,

Seeing all the holes they dug made my heart sing,

I'm top of the hole, an underworld king!

CHOIR: Yellow spotted lizard!

YSL: my bright yellow eyes might take you by surprise!

CHOIR: Yellow spotted lizard!

YSL: my teeth ain't white but black and dark as night!

CHOIR: Yellow spotted lizard!

YSL: Eleven yellow spots on my beautiful hide!

CHOIR: Yellow spotted lizard!

YSL: If you're close enough to count, I'm close enough to bite!

CHOIR: Yellow spotted lizard!

YSL: my bright yellow eyes might take you by surprise!

CHOIR: Yellow spotted lizard!

YSL: my teeth ain't white but black and dark as night!

CHOIR: Yellow spotted lizard!

YSL: Eleven yellow spots on my beautiful hide!

CHOIR: Yellow spotted lizard!

YSL: If you're close enough to count, I'm close enough to bite!

SCENE 8 – Still Digging first hole...

(7) Stanley [5], X-Ray [3], Magnet [1], Squid [1], Zig-Zag [1], Armpit [2], Zero, Narrator 1 [1],
Timekeeper [1]

STANLEY: Oh man, I feel like I'm digging my own grave.

X-RAY: So what'd you do?

STANLEY: (Not understanding) What do you mean?

X-RAY: They sent you here for a reason.

STANLEY: Oh... right. I stole a pair of trainers.

ZIGZAG (Laughs): No way! You got 18 months at Camp Green Lake for that?

MAGNET: (Laughs) Yeah, Zigzag. He killed the guy first! – He just forgot to mention that part.

STANLEY: Actually, they were Clyde Livingston's.

All the kids, including Zero, stop and stare.

ARMPIT: No way!

X-RAY: Sweet Feet? The famous baseball player? You took Sweet Feet's shoes?

SQUID: Man, he led the league in stolen bases for three years. And you *stole* his shoes!

STANLEY: They were going to be auctioned off to raise money for the homeless.

(Zero stares hard at Stanley, then starts to leave)

ARMPIT: Anyway, it's getting hot and you have a lot to do. I would get on with it if I were you.

(Stanley continues digging his hole, looking hot and tired)

NARRATOR 1: As Stanley worked tirelessly to dig his first hole, his mind began to wander and he thought once again about his no-good-dirty-rotten-pig-stealing-great-great-grandfather and his life in America...

TIME KEEPER: 95 years earlier...

SCENE 9 – Elya and Sarah

(5) Narrator 2-4 [3], Sarah [4], Elya [4], Passer-By 1 [1], Passer-By 2 [1], Passer-By 3 [1]

Sarah and Elya enter with a baby.

NARRATOR 2: After arriving in America in the late 1800s, Elya married Sarah Miller, a strong and intelligent woman who loved him very much.

NARRATOR 3: But bad luck seemed to follow them wherever they went. They had a son. Sarah named him 'Stanley' because she noticed it was 'Yelnats' spelled backwards.

SARAH: Hey there Stanley! Who's the cutest little boy ever? Elya, don't you just think he's adorable?

ELYA: (sighs) Yeah, I do but I don't want Stanley to grow up cursed like us. Madame Zeroni said she had a son who moved to America... Maybe I can find him?

SARAH: And do what? Carry him up a mountain while you sing the pig lullaby?

ELYA: I don't know. I just know I have to find him... Maybe I can sort this out. (Stops a passer by) Hey! Is your name Zeroni by any chance?

PASSER – BY 1: No, Sorry, that's not me...

ELYA: Do you know anyone called Zeroni?

PASSER – BY 2: No, I 'm sorry... (walks on)

ELYA: Hey, the name Zeroni, ring any bells?

PASSER-BY 3: No, sorry...hope you find them.

SARAH: Will you quit doing that? It. Is. SO EMBARRASSING!

ELYA: I'm just trying to find him...

(leave stage, still talking about whether it is OK to stop strangers to ask them their name)

NARRATOR 4: Elya never did find Madame Zeroni's long-lost son. Still, he and Sarah got by, despite the so-called curse. Every night when Stanley went to bed she sang him Madame Zeroni's song...

WOODPECKER LULLABY

SARAH: "If only, if only," the woodpecker sighs,

"The bark on the tree was a little bit softer." While the wolf waits, below, hungry and lonely

ALL (FROM WINGS): He cries to the moo-oo-oon, "If only, if only."

SCENE 10 THE WRECK ROOM

(10) Stanley [11], Tough Kid [5], TK1 [3], TK2 [3], X-Ray [2], Magnet [1], Zig-Zag [2], Armpit [3], Zero [3]

X-Ray and Armpit are watching a broken TV. Magnet, Zigzag and Zero also watch nearby, slumped on the floor. Sitting apart from them are Tough Kid and two of his cohorts TK2 and TK3. Stanley enters, carrying his box of stationery. He looks around for a place to sit. As he makes his way to a table, he bumps into the Tough Kid.

TOUGH KID: Hey, watch it!

STANLEY (Too tired to care): You watch it.

(TK1 and TK2 stand and look menacing)

TOUGH KID: What'd you say?

STANLEY: Nothin'.

TOUGH KID: You said something. I want to know what you said.

TK1 & TK2: Yeah, what did you say?

TOUGH KID: Do you even know who you're speakin to?

TK1: Guessin he doesn't know what you did on the outside...

TK2: Oooh...let me tell the story!

TOUGH KID: Nahh...it would probably give him nightmares (laughs mockingly)

STANLEY: I'm sorry...okay?

TK2: I don't think it's okay.. do you?

TK1: Nah...I don't think so.

TOUGH KID: Maybe we should teach you some manners newbie...

Everyone gathers around, in anticipation of a fight. X-Ray eases through the crowd and puts his hand on Stanley's shoulder. Armpit follows.

X-RAY: Be cool. You don't want to mess with the Caveman.

STANLEY: I'm not looking for trouble.

X-Ray and Armpit usher Stanley away from TOUGH KIDS. They sit together.

X-RAY: You see Caveman back there?

MAGNET: The Caveman is one tough dude...

ZIGZAG: So how'd you like your first hole?

Stanley groans. (holds up his sore hands) The others laugh.

STANLEY: Well, the first hole's the hardest. Right?

X-RAY: No way. The second hole's a lot harder. You're hurtin' before you even get started. You think you're sore now, just way till tomorrow morning. Am I right?

ARMPIT: That's right.

(INSERT SONG: IT'S A HARD ENOUGH LIFE)

ZIGZAG: What's in the box?

STANLEY: Oh, I was going to write a letter to my mother.

ARMPIT: Your mother! Aw, isn't that sweet.

Stanley begins to write. The other kids return to watching the TV. Zero comes up behind Stanley and looks over his shoulder.

STANLEY (Notices Zero): I don't want her to worry.

ZERO: Did they have red "X"s on the back?

STANLEY: What?

ZERO: The shoes.

STANLEY (Confused): Oh, you mean Clyde Living-Sweet Feet? Um, yeah, they did. What, did he do a commercial?

ZERO: I don't know...

Zero stares. A bell rings and the kids all start to leave.

MAGNET: Hey, Caveman. C'mon. Dinner.

ARMPIT: You coming, Caveman?

STANLEY: Me?

The kids file out, with Stanley and Zero in the rear.

STANLEY (To Zero): I'm "Caveman"? I thought... **(TO AUDIENCE)** Well.. (shrug)... I thought that was that tough kid... Still, I'd rather be 'Caveman' than 'Armpit'.

Scene 11: Stanley finds the fossil

(8) Stanley [6], Mr. Sir [4], X-Ray [5], Magnet [2], Squid [1], Zig-Zag, Armpit [2], Zero.

The kids are digging holes. MR SIR is watching closely from the slide lines.

(Stanley takes a deep breath, then notices something on the ground. He picks up a flat rock and studies it)

MAGNET: What's that?

(Stanley quickly sticks the rock in his pocket. He doesn't want anyone else to know about it)

STANLEY: Nothin'.

MR. SIR: Water break!

All the boys line up in order. X-RAY at the front and STANLEY at the back. Once STANLEY gets to the front he reveals to Mr Sir what he has found.

STANLEY: I found something. It's a fossil. See? It was a little fish. You can even see all the tiny bones.

MR. SIR: Interesting. (Gives the rock back to Stanley) Now give me your canteen.

Other kids watch with interest.

STANLEY: So, do I get the rest of the day off?

MR. SIR: What?

STANLEY: You said if I found something interesting, the warden would give me the rest of the day off.

MR. SIR (Laughs): The warden doesn't care about fossils.

Mr. Sir takes Stanley's canteen and begins to fill it.

MAGNET (Taking the rock from Stanley): Let me see that. Hey Squid, check out this rock.

SQUID: Cool.

ARMPIT: Lemme see.

X-RAY: I don't see nothin'.

(X-Ray removes his dirty glasses, wipes them on his dirty uniform and puts them back on)

ARMPIT: See, look at the little fishy.

The other kids return to their holes, except for X-Ray who comes over to Stanley. X-Ray speaks kindly and reasonably to Stanley, but there should be no doubt of the threat behind his words.

X-RAY: Say, Caveman. Let me talk to you a second, okay? If you ever find anything else, you give it to me, okay?

Stanley is unsure how to respond.

X-RAY: You're new here, right. Well, I've been here for almost a year. I'm more deservin...you understand?

STANLEY: Yeah, well...

X-RAY: You hear what I'm saying? Why should you get a day off, when you've only been here a couple a days? If anybody gets a day off, it should be me, right?

STANLEY: I guess.

X-RAY: All right. You're a smart guy, Caveman. I knew you'd understand.

SCENE 12 – STANLEY’S MOTHER RECEIVES THE LETTER FROM STANLEY AND WRITES A REPLY

(3) Mother [1], Stanley [7], Zero [5]

(Mother – centre stage on chair, Stanley and Zero sit to one side, STANLEY is sitting on a chair, ZERO a little distance away)

MOTHER: (Reading Stanley’s letter) *Dear Mum, Today was my first day at camp, and I’ve already made some friends. We’ve been out on the lake all day, so I’m pretty tired – oh that sounds wonderful! – Once I pass the swimming test I’ll get to learn how to water – ski, please don’t worry about me, the councillors are all really nice and cheery and are helping me fit in. Lots of love, your son, Stanley Kiss Kiss Kiss. Oh that is just wonderful news. I am going to write him a reply straight away. (takes paper and writes... the letter is then passed to STANLEY over her shoulder)*

STANLEY: (Reading) *Dear Stanley, it was wonderful to hear from you. Your letter made me feel like one of the other moms, who can afford to send their kids to summer camp. I know it's not the same, but I am very proud of you for trying to make the best of a bad situation. Your father thinks he's real close to a breakthrough. I hope so. The landlord is threatening to evict us because of the odor. I feel sorry for the little old lady who lived in a shoe. It must have smelled awful!*

Stanley chuckles at the last line.

ZERO: What's so funny?

STANLEY: Oh, you scared me. I didn't know you were there. Just something my mom wrote.

ZERO: What?

STANLEY: It's hard to--well, see, my dad's kind of an inventor...right now he's working on a way to recycle trainers. So anyway, our apartment stinks 'cause he's always cooking these old trainers, trying to make something new out of them. (Zero smiles) So my mom said that she felt sorry for the old lady who lived in a shoe.

STANLEY: You know the nursery rhyme?

ZERO: Can you teach me?

STANLEY: The nursery rhyme?

ZERO: No, to read and write.

STANLEY: You don't know how to read?

Zero shrugs and looks embarrassed.

STANLEY: Err....Sorry. I don't know how to teach people to read. And after digging all day, I don't want to have to think.

ZERO: It's okay.... got no one to write to anyway.

(Stanley exits. Zero remains alone. Disappointed.)

SCENE 13 – THE INTERESTING THING

(7) Stanley [4], X-Ray [2], Magnet [2], Squid [], Zig-Zag [2], Armpit [3], Zero.

(The kids are digging)

(Stanley notices something on the tip of his shovel and quickly turns his back on the kids and examines it. He keeps glancing back at X-Ray. He sighs and goes to him.)

STANLEY: Hey, uh, X-Ray. I think I might have found something.

ARMPIT: Another fishy?

STANLEY: I'm not sure what it is.

As he hands it to X-Ray the other kids gather around.

MAGNET: It looks like an old shotgun shell.

STANLEY: It's got some letters engraved on the bottom: K.B.

X-Ray removes his glasses, tries in vain to clean them, then looks at the tube's bottom again.

ARMPIT: K.B?

ZIGZAG: Keith Beckinger!

ARMPIT: Who's that?

ZIGZAG: He was in my math class. The guy was really smart.

MAGNET: Good thinkin', Zigzag. It must belong to him.

X-RAY: Well I'll show it to Mr. Sir. Who knows? I might get the rest of the day off.

STANLEY: But your hole's almost dug..(looks worried as X-RAY gives him an angry look) so why not wait till tomorrow and get the entire day off?

X-RAY: (consider his proposition) Good idea Caveman!

(LIGHTS DIM, EVERYONE STAYS ON STAGE, LIGHTS UP)

Scene 14: X-RAY gets the day off

(11) Timekeeper [2], Mr. Sir [4], Warden [12], Stanley [3], Mr Pendanski [1], X-Ray [3], Magnet, Squid, Zig-Zag [1], Armpit [1], Zero.

TIME KEEPER: One day later...

X-Ray sticks his shovel into the dirt, then looks around to make sure Mr. Sir isn't watching. He places the gold tube on his shovel.

X-RAY: Mr. Sir! Hey, Mr. Sir! I think I might have found something.

Everyone gathers around as X-Ray takes the tube to Mr. Sir and shows him it.

X-RAY: I saw something sparkle just as I was about to dump it on my dirt pile. See, look, there's an engraving at the bottom: K.B.

ARMPIT: So, does X-Ray get the rest of the day off?

MR. SIR: Just keep digging until you're told otherwise. (Smiles at X-Ray,) But if I were you X-Ray, I wouldn't work too hard.

He unhooks a walkie-talkie from his belt and speaks into it.

The kids look nervously at each other. They slowly dig, but keep looking off into the distance. Then, all at once, they stop and stare. The Warden enters, followed by Mr. Pendanski. All is silent as the Warden walks across stage. A straw hat shields her head from the sun. She goes to X-Ray. She remains soft spoken and in control throughout.

THE WARDEN: Is this where you found it?

X-RAY: Errr, yes....er, ma'am.

THE WARDEN: Your good work will be rewarded. (looks to Mr Pendanski) Drive X-Ray back to camp. Let him take a double shower.

MR PENDANSKI: Will do boss! Come now X-Ray, let's get a move on.

MR Pendanski and X-Ray leave the stag to head back to camp.

THE WARDEN: (points to MR SIR) Now, I want you to fill everyone's canteen.

MR. SIR: I just filled them.

THE WARDEN: Excuse me?

MR. SIR: I had just filled them when—

THE WARDEN: Excuse me, did I ask you when you last filled them?

MR. SIR: No, but there's no reason to fill—

THE WARDEN: Excuse me?

Mr. Sir stops talking.

THE WARDEN: It's hot and it's only going to get hotter. These fine kids have been working hard. Don't you think it might be possible that they have taken a drink since you last filled their canteens?

Mr. Sir knows better than to say anything further.

THE WARDEN: Caveman, may I have your canteen please.

(Stanley complies. The Warden swishes it in Mr. Sir's face.)

THE WARDEN: Do you hear the empty spaces?

MR. SIR: Yes.

THE WARDEN: Then fill it. And the next time I tell you to do something, I expect you to do it without questioning my judgement.

(As the Warden continues to speak, Mr. Sir gathers the canteens and fills them)

THE WARDEN: Now boys, we're going to dig the dirt twice. If we have to, we'll keep at it, until we've turned this entire area into one giant hole. There's no hurry. I've waited this long, I can wait a few more days. The main thing is not to miss anything. If you find anything you *will* be rewarded.

TIME KEEPER: 5 hours later...

THE WARDEN: (Paces around excitedly as the kids dig) You are doin fine boys...just fine.

STANLEY:(leans closer to the boys and whispers) I wonder how she knew our names.

ZIGZAG: She watches us all the time. She's got hidden cameras all over the place. In the tents, the Wreck Room, the shower.

STANLEY: The shower?

The kids laugh.

STANLEY: (to audience)I didn't even know the warden was a woman. But I know one thing. We're not digging just to '*build character*'. She's looking for something. And she's looking in the wrong place!

Scene 15- the big hole

(13) Timekeeper [1], Narrator 1-2 [2], Mr.Sir [1], Warden [4], Mr Pendanski [1], Stanley [11], X-Ray [2], Magnet, Squid [1], Zig-Zag [2], Armpit [3], Zero [12], Madame Zeroni (appears only).

TIME KEEPER: Four days later...

NARRATOR 1: The children are still digging in one big hole. Swinging shovels just barely miss each other.

NARRATOR 2: The Warden, Mr. Sir and Mr. Pendanski watch anxiously. The Warden is frustrated and out of control!

THE WARDEN (To Mr. Sir): Four days! Four days, and this is all you have to show for it! If you can't get them to dig any harder, you can climb down there and join 'em.

SQUID: What does she want, a swimming pool?

MR. SIR (Shouts into the hole): Quit your slackin' off, Squid, or you'll be digging all night!

MR. PENDANSKI: Are we sure they're digging in the right place?

Stanley accidentally starts putting his dirt pile close to Zigzags pile, which falls into his hole.

ZIGZAG: That's your dirt. I'm not digging up your dirt. You dig up your own dirt.

STANLEY: Sorry.

They continue to dig. Armpit enters.

THE WARDEN: And where have you been?

ARMPIT: I had to, you know...go.

The Warden jabs Armpit with her finger.

THE WARDEN (to ARMPIT): If you were working harder you wouldn't need to 'go'...

(ARMPIT steps backwards looking concerned)

THE WARDEN (To Mr. Sir): You're giving the kids too much water.

The Warden exits, followed by Mr. Pendanski. The children move apart to separate areas of the stage

(All eyes turn to Zero, who is busily digging.)

ARMPIT: He likes to dig holes.

ZIGZAG: He's a mole. I think he eats dirt.

X-RAY: Moles don't eat dirt. Worms eat dirt.

ARMPIT: Hey Zero, are you a mole or a worm?

Zero continues to dig, ignoring their taunts. Stanley looks over sympathetically, shrugs and goes to him.

STANLEY: Hey Zero, I'm finding it easier to dig these holes every day, do you still want to learn to read?

Zero stops digging and turns to look at Stanley.

ZERO: You sure?

STANLEY: Yeah, I mean, I don't think I'll be much of a teacher... I'm just a no-good-rotten-shoe-stealer. (Gives Zero a little wink/nudge).

ZERO: You didn't steal those shoes.

Stanley stares, unsure what to make of that.

ZERO: I can help dig your hole for an hour each day....no offence, but you're kind of a slow digger. This way we'll both be done about the same time.

STANLEY (Can't help but smile): Well, I guess I would be a better teacher if I wasn't too worn out.

X-Ray overhears the conversation and looks annoyed.

X-RAY: Must be nice to have your own personal slave.

The other kids laugh as they continue to dig their own holes.

ZERO: I'll take over for a while.

Stanley climbs up out of his hole. Zero takes over. The other kids turn and stare. Stanley takes out a pen and paper from his pocket.

ZERO: Give me some words.

STANLEY: T-I-P.

ZERO: Ter-Ighh-Per. TIP!

STANLEY: Great! How about L-I-P.

ZERO: Ler-Ighh-Per. LIP!

STANLEY (A sudden realization): It was a lipstick tube!

ZERO: What?

STANLEY: The gold tube I found. It was the top half of a thing of lipstick. K.B. K.B? (Another realization) Kate Barlow. Kissin' Kate Barlow! (To Zero) She was a famous outlaw in the old west.

ZERO: Why would that be out here? Oh well, makes no difference to me...Next word!

STANLEY: Z-E-R-O.

ZERO: Zer-Eh-Ru-Oh. ZERO. Hey, that's me.

STANLEY: That's good. You use a capital "Z" because it's the first letter of your name. You only use capitals if it's the beginning of a sentence or if it's a proper noun, like a name of a person or a country or something. Sorry, I know I'm not making a lot of sense.

ZERO: I'm not stupid. I know everybody thinks I am. I just don't like answering their questions.... Zero's not really my name.

STANLEY: Oh. I wasn't sure. I mean, even Mr. Pendanski calls you Zero.

ZERO: Zero is just short for my surname... My name's Hector. Hector Zeroni. (MZ appears)

SCENE 15a THE FIGHT

(11) Mr.Sir [3]. Warden [11]. Mr Pendanski [3]. Stanley [10]. X-Ray [4]. Magnet [1]. Squid. Zig-Zag [6]. Armpit [2]. Zero [5]. Madame Zeroni (appears only).

FROM LAST SCENE (Madame Zeroni appears in the corner of the stage, looking lovingly at her descendant, then shrinks away)

ZIGZAG: Hey, Caveman, you working hard over there?

STANLEY: We have a deal, that's all. We're both working hard.

ZIGZAG: A good deal for you.

STANLEY: It was Zero's idea, not mine.

The water truck arrives. The kids walk away laughing and line up with Stanley at the end of the line.

ZIGZAG: Here, Caveman, get in front of me since you're so much more deserving than I am.

Stanley doesn't move.

X-RAY: Now you insulted him, Zigzag. Caveman deserves to be at the front of the line, since he's so much better than the rest of us. Aren't you, Caveman?

STANLEY: No.

X-RAY: Sure you are. Now come on up to the front.

STANLEY: Leave me alone.

X-Ray laughs maliciously and pushes Stanley into Zig-Zag.

ZIGZAG: Don't push me!

STANLEY: Sorry, I didn't-

Zigzag pushes him back.

ZIGZAG: I said, don't push me!

ARMPIT: Just lay off.

X-RAY: Why should he? Caveman can take care of himself.

Zero comes over and steps in between them and pushes Zig-Zag to the ground. Mr. Sir come over.

MR. SIR: All right, that's enough!

The Warden enters. During the following conversation Mr. Pendanski enters.

MR. SIR: There was a fight. Zero attacked Zig-Zag.

The Warden looks from Zero to Zigzag to Stanley.

WARDEN (To Stanley): What happened?

STANLEY: Nothing. It wasn't really a fight. Zero didn't do anything.

ARMPIT: Zigzag was pushin' Caveman. Then Zero got in the middle and pushed Zig-Zag.

X-RAY: Things just got a little hot is all. You know how it is? In the hot sun all day. People get hot, right? The blood starts to boil. But everything's cool now.

WARDEN: What do you have to say, Zigzag?

ZIGZAG: Yeah, like X-Ray said: workin' all day in the sun, while Caveman sits around doin' nothin.' My blood boiled.

WARDEN: Excuse me?

MAGNET: Zero's been helping Caveman dig his holes.

STANLEY: I'm teaching him to read and write. It's a trade. The hole gets dug so what does it matter? Isn't it more important for him to learn to read? Doesn't that build character more than digging holes?

MR. SIR: That's his character. What about yours?

WARDEN: All right, Zero, tell us what you learned.

(Zero doesn't answer)

WARDEN: Have you just been digging Caveman's holes for nothing?

(Zero doesn't answer)

WARDEN (To Stanley): What have you taught him?

(PAUSE)

STANLEY (Not wanting to betray Zero): The "ip" sound.

WARDEN: The "ip" sound?

Mr. Pendanski smirks.

WARDEN: What does P-I-P spell?

All eyes on Zero who remains silent. Stanley nods to him.

ZERO: Puh-lgh--Puh. PIP

MR. PENDANSKI (Mocking applause): Bravo! Bravo! The boy's a genius!

WARDEN: H-A-T?

ZERO: Aich. Ch-at--Chat!

Mr. Sir and Mr. Pendanski laugh.

STANLEY: I haven't taught him "H" yet.

WARDEN: Okay, from now on, I don't like anyone digging anyone else's hole. And no more reading lessons.

ZERO: I'm not digging another hole.

WARDEN: Good.

STANLEY: Why can't I dig my hole, but still teach Zero to read?

MR. PENDANSKI: It causes him too much stress. I know you mean well, Stanley, but Zero is too stupid to learn to read. (picks up the shovel on the ground and starts to walk over to give it to Zero)

ZERO: I'm not digging another hole.

MR. PENDANSKI: It's all you'll ever be good for (pushes it in Zero's hand).

Zero suddenly throws his shovel down on the floor.

ZERO: I TOLD YOU I'M NOT DIGGIN' ANYMORE HOLES!

(Zero runs off away from camp. Mr Sir draws his gun)

WARDEN: Don't shoot him. He can't go anywhere. The last thing we need is an investigation. He'll have to come back for water. I want 'round-the-clock guards on all water taps. (Examining her fingernails) When Zero returns, bring him straight to me. I still expect six holes.

(The Warden exits. Mr. Sir and Mr. Pendanski exit after. The boys are left still digging their holes.)

Scene 16- Days after Zero runs away

(13) Timekeeper [1], Narrator 3 [1], Mr.Sir [1], Warden [4], Mr Pendanski [3], Stanley [4], Magnet [1], Squid [1], Zig-Zag [1].

TIME KEEPER: Two days later...

NARRATOR 3: Days have now passed and there is still no sign of Zero. Stanley is very worried, yet nobody else seems to care. The boys are still having to dig Zero's hole for him.

MAGNET: You think he's still alive?

STANLEY: I don't know. I don't see how. Maybe.

Mr. Pendanski, Mr. Sir and the Warden enter.

WARDEN: Caveman, we need to talk.

(WARDEN stares at others who look awkward and then leave).

WARDEN: Have you seen him?

STANLEY: No.

MR. PENDANSKI: Do you have any idea where he went?

STANLEY: No.

Warden and Mr Pendanski move to the side of the stage to discuss further. Boys continue digging.

WARDEN: Is there someone who might ask questions?

MR. PENDANSKI: He had nobody. He was nobody.

STANLEY ('whispers' to himself, audience can hear): He *does* have somebody.

Stanley quietly puts down his shovel, dusts his hands off and makes his way off stage. Warden and Pendanski don't notice.

WARDEN: Okay, I want you to destroy all of his records. He was never here.

MR. PENDANSKI: I can do that...don't worry though, no one will ever look for him. Believe me, nobody cares about Hector Zeroni.

Mr Sir arrives with water. The kids line up. Mr. Sir starts to fill the canteens.

MR SIR: Hey, where's Caveman?

Everyone on stage looks around and seems suddenly surprised.

SQUID: I bet he's gone after Zero.

ZIGZAG: He's doomed.

Scene 17- Stanley looks for Zero

(7) Timekeeper [2], Narrator (1-4) [4], Stanley [7], Zero [6]

TIME KEEPER: 4 hours later...

NARRATOR 1: Stanley wanders across the vast dried up lake bed, looking for Zero.

NARRATOR 2: It is the hottest part of the day....and he forgot to fill up his container before he left.

NARRATOR 3: Who knows how long he will last out in the desert...he decides to head toward the mountains in the distance, when suddenly he notices something.

He forms his hand into a fist with the thumb raised, looks at his thumb, then looks at the mountain.

STANLEY: The mountain looks remarkably like my fist and thumb...Wait! I remember that part of the story...my great-great-grandfather said he found refuge on God's thumb! Well, I guess that's my best hope of finding Zero...can't turn back now.

TIME KEEPER: 1 hour later...

NARRATOR 4: Stanley continues to head north towards the mountains. Hoping to find another sign that Zero may be safe after all! As he gets closer, he notices someone curled up near the one lonely bush in the entire desert...

STANLEY: Oh man! It can't be! ZERO?! ZERO!

ZERO: Hey, Stanley. Any chance that's water in your container?

STANLEY: Where? Oh, sorry, it's empty. Some rescuer, huh? I can't believe I found you--I gotta get you back to camp.

ZERO: I'm not going back.

STANLEY: Look, I got an idea, so we won't get in trouble. Remember when X-Ray said he found the gold tube? Well, if I tell the warden where I really found it, I think she'll be so glad, she won't punish us.

ZERO: I'm not going back.

STANLEY (Gets a new idea): C'mon. I want to show you something.

Stanley points to the mountain and Zero looks up.

STANLEY: Look at that mountain way out there--does that look like anything to you?

As Zero gazes off in the distance, his hand forms a thumbs-up sign.

ZERO: a thumb?

STANLEY: Who knows? My great-great grandfather once was saved by God's Thump...I wonder if that's what he meant?

ZERO: Okay. Well...If you spend your life living in a hole, I guess the only way to go is up.

Zero gives Stanley the thumbs-up sign. Stanley ponders a moment, then returns the gesture.

ZERO: I'll get the shovel. We might need it.

Scene 18- Zero's confession

(3)Timekeeper [1], Stanley [18], Zero [17]

TIME KEEPER: 3 hours later...

Stanley and Zero walk back onto the stage now time has passed. Zero points at the mountain.

ZERO: What do you think we'll find up there?

STANLEY: Oh, I don't know, maybe we'll find a delicious hot fudge sundae.

ZERO: My mom used to take me for ice cream. Whenever she had extra money...which wasn't often.

STANLEY: You've never said anything about your Mum before...what was your life like before Camp Green Lake?

ZERO: I remember I once had a yellow room. I was really young. I think we lived a lot of different places after that, and then, we didn't live anywhere.

STANLEY: That musta been hard.

ZERO: One day, Mum asked me to wait for her at Laney Park...that she'd be back in no time...that was the last time I saw her.

STANLEY: Laney Park? I've been there.

ZERO: You know the playground? I slept in the tunnel by the swinging bridge.

Stanley nods in recognition.

STANLEY: So what happened to her?

ZERO: I don't know. That's the hardest part. There's no way to find out. If I had a million dollars, I'd hire a team of private investigators to find her, or at least tell me what happened to her.

Stanley nods.

ZERO (Grabs his stomach in pain): Oh!

STANLEY: You alright?

ZERO: Just give me a second. (The anguish passes. He takes a long deep breath)

Stanley swats a bug on his head and has a realisation.

STANLEY: Bugs! There weren't any bugs back at the camp. That must mean there's water here someplace, right? Lets keep going.

ZERO (stops walking and looks worried): I gotta tell you something.

(Stanley looks confused and worried)

ZERO: It's my fault. It's my fault we are here.

STANLEY: It's not your fault.

ZERO: I took the shoes.

STANLEY: What shoes? Clyde Livingston's shoes?

Zero falls to the ground from exhaustion.

STANLEY: C'mon Hector, you can't quit on me now. Please, don't just lay down in the mud! Wait...Mud! That means there's got to be water, right?

He crawls and finds a puddle. He scoops out some water with his bands and brings it to his face. He brings some water to Zero and drops it on his mouth. Zero moans, then his tongue licks his lips.

STANLEY: Water, Hector. There's water here. I just got to make the hole deeper. (He digs with his hands and pulls out a round object) An onion? (He bites into it, and reacts to the strong taste. He takes another bite, then brings it to Zero) Here it is!

ZERO (Weakly): What is it?

STANLEY: A hot fudge sundae.

Zero bites into the onion as the lights dim. Then we hear Stanley start to sing the lullaby. Rest of the cast joins in. Zero is asleep but by the end of the song he is awake.

LULLABY

STANLEY: "If only, if only," the woodpecker sighs,

"The bark on the tree was a little bit softer."

EVERYONE: While the wolf waits, below, hungry and lonely

He cries to the moo-oo-oon, "If only, if only." (Notices Zero is awake)

STANLEY: How you doin'?

ZERO (Clearly an understatement): Not great.

STANLEY: Here, have an onion. They're everywhere. It's a whole field of wild onions.

ZERO: I gotta tell you something... about the shoes. Since Mum and I didn't have a place to call home, we stayed in the local shelter, where those old' dusty shoes were just lying there in a box.

STANLEY: Clyde Livingston's shoes?

ZERO: I didn't know they were his. But then the next thing I know, the whole place is going crazy. As soon as I got outside, I ran around the block, took off the shoes and left them on the pavement.

STANLEY: I must have walked past soon after and found them there. I picked them up and then next thing I know, the police are arresting me for stealing.

ZERO: If I had just kept Clyde Livingston's old smelly shoes, neither of us would be here right now.

STANLEY: (after a long pause) Do you believe in destiny?

STANLEY: When I tripped over the shoes, I thought that it was just more bad luck for me and my family. But now sitting up here, with you, I don't know...hey Hector, you want to dig one more hole?

Scene 19- Stanley and Zero head back to camp

(17) Timekeeper [1], Narrator 4 [1], Stanley [7], Zero [4], Warden [5], Mr Pendanski [3], Mr Sir [2],
Lizards.

Stanley and Zero enter quietly. Zero holds the shovel and the canteen. Stanley's pockets are filled with onions.

TIMEKEEPER: In the very early hours of the next day...

NARRATOR 4: Restored by the water and raw onions that they found on 'God's thumb', Stanley and Zero have returned to Camp to dig 'one more hole'...

STANLEY (Whispering): This is it. This is where I found the lipstick tube.

He climbs down into the hole. Zero hands him the shovel. He starts to dig.

ZERO: Try making the hole wider instead of deeper. I bet Kissin' Kate Barlow and her gang wouldn't have buried it so deep.

STANLEY: What time you think it is?

ZERO: I don't know. I don't want to be here when Mr. Sir wakes up...I bet it's almost 4:30am

STANLEY: Yeah, we need to get out of here.

He digs his shovel back into the dirt, possibly for the last time. We hear a loud clank as the shovel bounces off something hard.

ZERO: What was that?

STANLEY: I don't know.

He disappears completely into the hole, as he works at it with his shovel.

STANLEY (Out of view): It's some kind of... (Groans as he strains to pull it out) It won't budge. It's under where you're standing. It's like a metal box. I can just see a small piece of it. (Reappears) We'll have to dig down to it.

ZERO: Can you...?

STANLEY (Straining): It's starting to move. I...got it!

He hands the metal suitcase up to Zero. Suddenly a flashlight beam shines in Stanley's face--the Warden holds the flashlight; Mr. Sir, a gun. They are in their bedclothes.

WARDEN: Thank you, you kids have been a big help. (She reaches for the suitcase) I'll take that.

Suddenly the Warden gasps, screams then jumps back.

STANLEY: Zero, don't move!

(Hiss! We now see a yellow-spotted lizard perched on top of the suitcase. Another is on Zero's fingers)

The hole is full of lizards. Stanley turns his head. We see a lizard on the side of his face. The Warden and Mr. Sir back even farther away. Mr. Pendanski enters.

MR. PENDANSKI: What the...

He stops suddenly when he sees the lizards.

MR. SIR: Now what?

WARDEN: We wait. After all, if the famous Kate Barlow didn't survive after being bitten by one of these fine creatures, then these boys don't stand a chance.

Stanley and Zero look at each other after hearing what really happened to Kate Barlow.

MR. PENDANSKI: It won't be a long wait.

WARDEN (To Stanley and Zero): You kids arrived just in the nick of time, you know that?

MR. SIR: Hey, Caveman, guess what? You're innocent after all. Your lawyer was here yesterday. How about that? I just thought you'd like to know.

WARDEN: The kids will be getting up soon. Go back to the tents. Tell them there may be people coming around today asking a lot of questions. As long as they keep their mouths shut, they won't have to dig any more holes. But if they talk, they will be severely punished.

MR. PENDANSKI: What should I say you'll do to them?

WARDEN: Let them use their imaginations.

Mr. Pendanski smiles, then exits.

Scene 19a- Stanley and Zero head back to camp

(17). Stanley [3]. Zero [7]. Warden [8]. Mr Pendanski [1]. Mr Sir [5]. Lizards. Ms Morengo [6]. Attorney General [5]

ZERO (Holding suitcase tightly, studying it): Ser-Ter-Ah-Ner-Ler-Eh-Yeh...erm...sandwich?

WARDEN: Why aren't you dead yet? (To Mr. Sir) Bring me the suitcase. The lizards don't seem to be biting.

MR. SIR: Then, you get it.

The Warden stays put.

ZERO (whispers to STANLEY): Why are we still alive?

STANLEY: No clue. Maybe my luck is changing!

Stanley then looks down at his pockets and has a realisation.

STANLEY (whispers to Zero): The onions! It's the onions...the lizards hate the smell of onions.

ZERO (Still studying suitcase): Sandwich...Yeh-Err-Ler-Ne-Ah-Ter-Ser...Yelnats! Stanley, is this your lunch?...Wait...Is your last name your first name backwards?

WARDEN: Do you know how long--my grandfather drove himself crazy digging holes every day for forty years. When I was little, I watched my father and mother dig, too. We'd come out here every weekend. When I got big enough to hold a shovel, I was out there, too. Even at Christmas! All of us, searching for that suitcase.

MR. SIR: Merry Christmas.

Stanley slowly turns his head to look at Zero. Sound of an approaching car. The opening and closing of car doors.

WARDEN: You think that's them?

MR. SIR: It ain't the Cub Scouts coming to sell us cookies.

We hear Ms. Morengo, Stanley's lawyer, from offstage:

MS. MORENGO: Stanley Yelnats!

Ms. Morengo enters. Mr. Sir blocks her path.

MR. SIR: I suggest you don't go any further.

MS. MORENGO (Pushing him aside): You can't stop me today! I've got the attorney gen-- (A hiss! suddenly stops her in her tracks) Are those?--Stanley, don't move!

Attorney General enters, out of breath from trying to keep up with Ms. Morengo. Mr. Pendanski enters with him.

ATTORNEY GENERAL: What in the name of--

MS. MORENGO: Don't just stand there--do something!

MR. SIR: Just what do you suggest, counsellor?

ATTORNEY GENERAL: How long have they been in there?

WARDEN: All night. They snuck into my cabin while I was sleeping and stole my suitcase. I ran after them and he fell into this...lizard nest.

STANLEY: That's not true!

MS. MORENGO: Stanley, as your attorney, I advise you not to say anything until we've had a chance to talk.

ATTORNEY GENERAL: Don't move kids. We'll get you out of there. It's a miracle they're still alive.

WARDEN (We hear her disappointment): Yes, it is.

Stanley moves. Everyone stops talking and stares at him. He slowly starts to pull himself up out of the hole.

MS. MORENGO: Be very careful.

Stanley climbs up out of the hole. The lizards that were on Zero and Stanley return to the hole. Stanley and Zero stagger toward the others.

WARDEN: Thank goodness for that, you're safe... and so is my suitcase!

The Warden hugs Zero, and at the same time tries to take the suitcase from him. He jerks it free.

ZERO: It's Stanley's.

WARDEN: Now, don't cause any more trouble, Hector. You stole it from my cabin and were caught red-handed. We have lots of witnesses. If I press charges, Stanley will be sent right back to prison. But, if you just give me my suitcase, I may, in view of all the circumstances--

ZERO: It's got his name on it!

MS. MORENGO: What?

ZERO: See.

STANLEY YELNATS is printed in large black letters on the suitcase.

ZERO: Stan-ley Yel-nats. It's the same front-wards and backwards!

ATTORNEY GENERAL: You say he stole it from your cabin?

WARDEN: That's im--it's imposs--it's imposs...

MR. PENDANSKI: He can't even read.

ATTORNEY GENERAL: Stanley, on behalf of the people of Texas, I apologise for all you've been through, and I can confirm that as from now...

Scene 19b- FREEDOM!

(12) Stanley [5]. Zero. Warden [6]. Mr Pendanski [1]. Mr Sir. Ms Morengo [12]. Attorney General [4]. X-Ray. Zig Zag [1]. Squid [1]. Armpit [3]. Magnet [1].

Armpit, Zigzag, Magnet and X-Ray enter. X-Ray hangs back. The others go to Stanley and Zero.

ARMPIT: Caveman, you're alive!

MAGNET: And Zero, too.

SQUID: I can't believe it!

ZIGZAG: Man, we thought you were buzzard food.

MS. MORENGO: Stanley is being released.

Armpit hugs Stanley.

WARDEN: Wait! I didn't mean he stole the suitcase! Obviously, it is his suitcase, but he filled it with things he stole from my cabin.

MS. MORENGO: That isn't what you said earlier.

WARDEN: Open the suitcase, Stanley. First, tell us what's inside it, then open it.

MS. MORENGO: Stanley, as your attorney, I advise you not to open it.

WARDEN: He has to open it! I have the right to check the personal property of all my campers. How do I know he isn't carrying anything illegal?

MS. MORENGO: You have no authority over Stanley Yelnats anymore. Let's go, Stanley.

They start to go. Stanley turns and looks at Zero, who gives him a thumbs-up. Stanley stops.

STANLEY: I can't leave without Hector.

MS. MORENGO: You're released because of a court order. There's nothing I can do for your friend.

The Warden puts her hand on Zero's shoulder

WARDEN: Don't worry, Stanley. We'll take good care of Hector.

STANLEY: I can't leave him.

MS. MORENGO: We need to go, now. Your parents are very eager to see you.

Stanley doesn't move. Ms. Morengo sighs.

MS. MORENGO: May I see Hector's file?

WARDEN (To Mr. Pendanski): Bring me the file of Hector Zeroni. (Mr. Pendanski stares at her) Get it!

MR. PENDANSKI: I believe that file has been misplaced.

ATTORNEY GENERAL: What?

WARDEN: What?

ATTORNEY GENERAL: What kind of camp are you running here? I'll get to the bottom of this. They take out a cell phone and step away to make a call.

STANLEY: I don't mean to be rude, I mean I'm really grateful for all you've done and everything but, who are you?

MS. MORENGO (Smiles): My name is Ms. Morengo. I'm a lawyer. I've been helping your father copyright his new invention.

STANLEY: He found a way to recycle trainers?

MS. MORENGO: Well, no. He's still working on that, but he has developed a cure for foot odour.

STANLEY: All right, Dad!

MS. MORENGO: He happened to mention your situation, so I did a little investigating. The trainers were stolen sometime before 3:15. I found a young man who stated that at 3:20 you were still in the bathroom fishing your book out of the toilet. He regretted putting it there...

ARMPIT: Hey, Caveman, will you do me a favour? Lady, you got a pen and paper?

Ms. Morengo gives it to him. Armpit writes on it and gives it to Stanley.

ARMPIT: Call my mother. Tell her I said I was sorry. Tell her Thee-o-dore said he was sorry.

The Attorney General finishes his phone conversation.

ATTORNEY GENERAL: My office can't seem to find *anything* on Hector Zeroni.

MS. MORENGO: So you have no legal basis for keeping him imprisoned? You don't know how long he's been here, you don't know when he's supposed to be released.

ATTORNEY GENERAL: We'll find that information. Believe me, there's going to be a complete investigation into everything that's been going on here.

The kids take pleasure as the Warden, Mr. Sir and Mr. Pendanski face the wrath of the Attorney General.

MS. MORENGO: When you find out, let me know. In the meantime, Hector, you're coming with us.

She takes Hector's hand. She, Hector and Stanley exit.

Scene 20- Reunited with family

(12) Madame Zeroni [1], Timekeeper [1], Narrator (1-4) [4], Stanley's Father [1], Stanley's Mother [1], Zero's Mother [1], Clyde Livingston [1], Stanley [2], Zero [3]

Madame Zeroni enters the stage on the side. The narrators sit either side.

MADAME ZERONI (To audience): So, you still got questions? Was Stanley really cursed? Is he still cursed? All I can tell you is this: Stanley's father discovered his cure for foot odour the day after he carried my great great grandson up the mountain. What about the suitcase? What did they find inside? Gold? Diamonds? Rubies? Yeah, yeah, there was some of that, but even more valuable was some papers that had belonged to Elya's son. Some kind of stock certificates. It took Ms. Morengo's law firm months to sort it all out, but when they did, after the legal fees and taxes Stanley Yelnats the Fourth and Hector Zeroni received less than a million dollars each, but not much less...

TIMEKEEPER: ONE YEAR LATER...

NARRATOR 1: In the past year a lot of changes have taken place.

NARRATOR 2: It would take too long to explain how Camp Green Lake was closed and became a Girl Scouts Camp.

NARRATOR 3: How Hector Zeroni and Stanley were both released, and how Hector was able to find his mother...

NARRATOR 4: You will have to forgive us, it seems fitting that this story has holes (PAUSE FOR LAUGHTER) You may be able to see here how things worked out...

STANLEY'S FATHER: You know Clyde, I can't thank you enough for agreeing to help us market my invention. I don't think it would be nearly as popular if we couldn't say that Clyde 'Sweet Feet' Livingston uses 'Sploosh!' to keep his feet Sweet!

CLYDE LIVINGSTON: Think nothing of it, apart from anything else, my wife is delighted! She couldn't bear to even be in the same room as my awful, stinking socks. Now, thanks to your product, I really do have sweet feet!

ZERO'S MOTHER: I am so proud that my son came up with the name 'Sploosh!' - and even prouder that he learnt to read and write so well.

ZERO: That's just 'cos Stanley is such a good teacher.

STANLEY: That's not as important as being a good pupil...

STANLEY'S MOTHER: Who wants onions on their hot dogs?

STANLEY AND ZERO: Yes Please!

ZERO: You never know when you might need to stink of onions!

(Final song)