

(GRACE blows pitch pipe again but is interrupted)

RALPH

Hey Mrs. Bradley. If this is a play, why aren't we playing?

LEROY

(shoves CHARLIE)

Tag! You're it.

GRACE

Leroy, don't push.

GLADYS

(running around the kids, hitting and kicking them)

No! Duck, Duck, Goose. Duck! Duck! Duck! Duck!

IMOGENE

No! Red Light. Green Light.

GRACE

We're singing the Bell song.

OLLIE

The dumbbell song!

CLAUDE

That's Ralph's song.

RALPH

Who you calling a dumbbell?

GRACE

(blows whistle)

That's enough. Over here. NOW!

(stunned, the KIDS quickly comply while ALICE, BETH, and IVY huddle off to the side, talking while GRACE either takes them offstage or arranges them in a chorus upstage)

ALICE

It's clear your mom can't control the Herdmans. That's what my mom said.

BETH

What does your mom know? She's not even here.

ALICE

I tell my mom everything. I write it down.

For perusal purposes only.

BETH

That's pretty sneaky.

ALICE

I'm not the sneak. Gladys is. At auditions she took three sips of communion wine.

BETH

That's just grape juice. Everybody knows that.

IVY

But it belongs to the church.

TRACK 25

#8 MY MOTHER SAID

ALICE

What about the kindergarten Happy Birthday bank?

BETH

What about it?

ALICE

I shook it and it doesn't make a sound.

BETH

So?

ALICE

Last week it made a sound.

BETH

What kind of person shakes the Happy Birthday bank?

ALICE

A person who cares.

TRACK 26

KID VOICES

(continue under)

DING-DONG DING-DONG

IVY

MY MOTHER SAID HER MOTHER SAID
YOUR MOTHER'S IN OVER HER HEAD

For perusal purposes only.