

OFF TO SCHOOL
based on the book by Gwendolyn Battle-Lavert

Adapted by Class 2-403
Mrs. Francesca Checchi, Teacher
Final Draft

THEME: *You Must Follow Your Heart to Your Deepest Dream*

SCENE ONE:

CHARACTERS:

WEZIELEE - Katherine
FATHER - Hector
WIND - Amy
GRASS – Eric, Kimberly
FENCE - Julian
SISTER JENNIFER
SISTER NICOLE
SISTER SABRINA
BROTHER WILLIAM
BROTHER KANOKPON

SETTING: The yard of WEZIELEE'S house.

TIME: 9am

AT RISE: WEZIELEE is standing near the GRASS, looking over the FENCE as the WIND blows around her.

(SOUND OF THE WIND is heard.)

FATHER (shouting from offstage)
Wezielee! You better come here!

WEZIELEE
I wish I could go to school.

WIND
I will help you by blowing open the Fence so you can go to school.

FENCE
Are you sure you want to go to school? There might be bullies there and you might get hurt.

GRASS

Wezielee, go to school and we will grow bigger to hide you.

(WEZIELEE'S BROTHERS and SISTERS enter, on their way to school.)

WEZIELEE

May I join your class?

SISTER JENNIFER

Wezielee, you can't go to school.

WEZIELEE

I want to learn about the solar system.

BROTHER KANOKPON

Yes, you should learn all about the solar system.

SISTER NICOLE

You're not ready to learn about the solar system.

SISTER SABRINA

Go to the fence and pick flowers from the grass. You don't need to go to school.

(WEZIELEE'S BROTHER and SISTERS exit past the FENCE, on their way to school.)

(WEZIELEE steps over the GRASS in her backyard and looks over the FENCE. The WIND blows around her as she looks at the SCHOOL in the distance.)

GRASS

Wezielee, go to school. I'll make the grass bumpier and deeper.

WIND

I could take you to your school.

FENCE

You must follow your heart to your deepest dream

(WEZIELEE starts to sneak under the FENCE. FATHER enters and sees WEZIELEE sneaking away.)

FATHER

Come back here Wezielee or you will get grounded for five weeks!

WEZIELEE'S SISTERS AND BROTHER KANOKPON

We don't want Wezielee to go to school.

FATHER

Time for dinner!

(WEZIELEE returns to the house with BROTHER KANOKPON and her SISTERS. BROTHER KANOKPON stays behind talking to himself. FATHER overhears him.)

BROTHER KANOKPON

I will be the hero to take Wezielee to school.

FATHER

You can't take her without my permission. Time for dinner!

(FATHER exits into the house)

FENCE

You could pick Chili Peppers from the grass.

WIND

And put them in the Fruit Punch.

GRASS

Here they are!

BROTHER KANOKPON

Thank you!

(BROTHER KANOKPON and WEZIELEE exit into the house. The WIND, FENCE and GRASS look at each other excitedly and freeze.)

END OF SCENE ONE

SCENE TWO

CHARACTERS:

WEZIELEE - Sadiqa
DAD - Juan
MOM - Ahnaf
BROTHER AND
SISTERS - Bianca, Emily, Jannat, Alexis, Kendrick
CHILI PEPPER – Michael
GLASS OF WATER – Sri Charan

SETTING: The Kitchen Table at Wezielee's house
TIME: Afternoon
AT RISE: Everyone is eating. Suddenly...

CHILI PEPPER

(To the audience.) If he eats me, I'll burn his mouth.

FATHER

Ahh ahhhh my mouth is burning. Get me some water Wezielee and hurry! It's spicy!

(Dad feels sick. He drinks water and runs around. Wezielee runs for the glasses and brings him water.)

WEZIELEE

Here, Dad. Take some water.

GLASS OF WATER

Don't worry, Wezielee. I'll make his mouth cool.

MOM

What were you thinking, Wezielee? Honey, don't worry, you'll feel better.

WEZIELEE

Sorry, Dad. I must have been paying attention to school and not the cooking. I'll be better next time. I promise I will never do that again.

BROTHER KENDRICK

Are you sure, Wezielee, that you're ready for school?

BROTHER ALEXIS

If you can't remember how much hot pepper to put in the soup, how will you remember how much to measure inches and centimeters in math?

SISTER BIANCA

Brother's right. If you can't pay attention to simple cooking, school's much harder.

SISTER EMILY

Don't give up, Wezielee. Listen to your heart. I know you can do a good job because you believe in yourself.

WEZIELEE

Thank you for believing in me. I will follow my heart. Dad, I'm going to ask you again. Please, can I go to school.

WEZIELEE'S FATHER

Finally, Wezielee, my ears are going to explode because you already asked me so many times.

WEZIELEE

Yes, I can go to school!

WEZIELEE'S MOTHER

I'm so proud of you.

SISTER EMILY

Wezielee, you finally get to go to school!

SISTER JANNAT

Good luck at school! I hope you learn a lot.

(EVERYONE cheers WEZIELEE. As WEZIELEE'S FATHER reaches out to her, EVERYONE freezes.)

THE END