

**EVERYBODY'S WATCHING**  
*The Making of the Constitution*

Book & Lyrics

Granville Wyche Burgess

Music

Stephen Lawrence

ACT 1SCENE 1

THE LIVING ROOM/DEN OF A HOUSE, DAY, NOW. THE KIDS ARE GATHERED TO COMPLETE THE LATEST ASSIGNMENT FROM THEIR TEACHER. IN THE DARK, WE HEAR CARLOS SINGING. THE LIGHTS COME UP TO REVEAL SARAH AND COLLIE WORKING OVER SOME PAPERS, ALEX AND CHARLIE JOINING IN WHEN APPROPRIATE.

CARLOS

I'M BAD, YOU BAD, WE ALL BE BAD, HEY!  
TEACHERS STRAIGHT BE MESSIN' WITH MY MIND  
ALL THE TIME.  
YOU'RE THE TEACHER-MAN, I'M THE PREACHER-  
MAN  
LISTEN TO MY LYRICAL GOSPEL OF TODAY, SAY  
SCHOOL'S OUT!

GIRLS

Guys!

BOYS

SCHOOL'S OUT!

CARLOS

LET'S SHOUT!

BOYS

LET'S SHOUT!

CARLOS

'CAUSE SUMMER IS HERE!  
'CAUSE I AIN'T GOT TIME CRACKIN' OPEN NO BOOK,  
'CAUSE I AIN'T GOT TIME CRACKIN' OPEN NO BOOK  
'CAUSE I AIN'T GOT TIME CRACKIN' OPEN NO BOOK  
BECAUSE SCHOOL'S UP OUTTA HERE!

SARAH/COLLIE

Hey, you guys!

CARLOS

Look out, the new Fifty-Cent is workin'!

ALEX

And the ol' fifty-Cent must be quakin' in his boots.

CARLOS  
Doin' just like this:

(HE "quakes.")

CHARLIE  
All right, a new dance: do The Quake!

(THEY all quake.)

SARAH  
Will you guys quit quaking and get over here and help?

ALEX  
I can't believe we have to do this dumb assignment about "make up a country and then write rules for living in it."

SARAH  
Write a constitution.

CHARLIE  
Where do teachers get these ideas? Is there some book, "Ten Stupidest Assignments You Can Give To Your Class?"

COLLIE  
What's stupid is yakking about it when we could be getting it done.

ALEX  
Collie is right, let's get this over with. I'm sick of being inside on a beautiful Saturday like this.

CARLOS  
What have we got so far?

SARAH  
(Looking at her sheet)  
The name of the country: "Rapola."

CHARLIE  
Cool!

COLLIE  
That is so stupid! "Rapola." Sounds like a soft drink.

CHARLIE

Teacher said we to have fun with it, we could make up anything we wanted as long as we were agreed.

ALEX

Let's not get bogged down. Next category!

SARAH

We need a symbol for our country.

CHARLIE

Sneakers!

COLLIE

You can't have sneakers as the symbol for a country!

CHARLIE

Why not?

COLLIE

It's gotta be an animal, like the eagle for the United States.

CARLOS

Why can't the symbol be about the major export of our country.

COLLIE

Huh?

CARLOS

Athletics!

SARAH

Carlos, what are you talking about!

CARLOS

"Exports" is a category, right? Well, let's export athletics. The guys and I'll go play basketball all over the world.

(The BOYS love this idea, slapping high-fives.)

SARAH

Girls play athletics, too, you know.

ALEX

Sure, but somebody's gotta stay in the country.

SARAH

And do what?

ALEX

I don't know.... Make the shoes!

SARAH

What?!

CHARLIE

Great idea, let's put it to a vote. All in favor of athletics being our major export say "aye!"

BOYS

Aye!

CHARLIE

Opposed?

GIRLS

Nay!

CHARLIE

Guys win!

(More hand slapping  
congratulations)

COLLIE

Well, maybe we don't wanna make shoes. Maybe we want to... be in an orchestra! Yeah, we'll export music and call our country "Classique!"

CHARLIE

You can't name a country "Classique!"

COLLIE

It's better than "Rapola."

SARAH

Yeah. And we want our government to give lots of money to the arts. Let's write that right here in the constitution.

ALEX

Who says you get to control tax dollars?

CARLOS

I like that idea. What this country needs is more trumpet players like me. I say we name the country Classique and export music.

CHARLIE

Carlos, what are you doing changing sides, man?!

ALEX

Guys, let's just work together here, who cares what the name of the stupid country is, let's just fill in the categories and get outside to play!

CARLOS

This is gonna take forever. I hate history!

ALEX

Me, too!

SARAH

Me, three! Hey, all together now...

ALL

I HATE HISTORY! I HATE HISTORY! I HATE HISTORY!

(Strange music as the lights begin dancing crazily and MR. HISTORY whirls onstage as the others whirl about, confused. When things settle down, MR. HISTORY is posed on his trunk.)

CHARLIE

Who are you?

MR. HISTORY

Your guide to the past.

(HE pulls a card from behind CHARLIE's ear and hands it to him.)

CHARLIE

"Have Imagination, Will Travel." Signed, "Mr. History.

"TIME TRAVELLIN' "

MR. HISTORY

TIME TRAVELLIN'—THROUGH THICK AND THIN,  
 TIME TRAVELLIN—JUST WHERE DID WE BEGIN.  
 TIME TRAVELLIN'—IMAGINATION LEADS THE  
 WAY  
 TAKE A TRIP BACK TO THE PAST, LOOK IN  
 THE MIRROR FOR TODAY.

(Music under)

CARLOS

The past is boring.

ALEX

Yeah, I hate—

MR. HISTORY

Stop! Every time you say that my ears go "Boom!"  
 That's what brought me here, when you yelled out  
 "I hate--..." that phrase. You've got a big voice.

CHARLIE

That was all of us.

MR. HISTORY

All of you? All of you hate history?  
 (THEY nod.)  
 This might be tougher than I thought.

COLLIE

What might be?

MR. HISTORY

Convincing you that history is fun.  
 (Gets a tricorne hat from the trunk.)  
 Put this on.

ALEX

Man, I ain't wearing that, make me look like a  
 sissy!

MR. HISTORY

It belonged to Roger Sherman, author of the Connecticut Compromise. Without this compromise, the Constitution probably would never have been written.

COLLIE

I'll wear it.

ALEX

Collie, are you crazy? We don't even know who this dude is! He comes whirling in here, dressed way weird, got a trunk full of junk, and talking 'bout "Have Imagination, Will Travel."

COLLIE

We need to compromise or we'll never get our own constitution written.

(To MR. HISTORY)

If I put that on, I can become Roger Sherman?

MR. HISTORY

Just use your imagination.  
YOU CAN BE ANYTHING YOU WANT  
YOU CAN GO ANYWHERE YOU DARE,  
EXPLORE AND DISCOVER WHO, WHAT, WHY,  
WHEN,  
AND WHERE!

(HE puts the hat on COLLIE  
and she immediately begins  
speaking as COLLIE-AS-  
SHERMAN).

COLLIE-AS-SHERMAN

Resolved: that the representatives of the lower house of Congress be elected based on the population of each state, three slaves to be counted for every five white males.

(MR. HISTORY yanks off the hat.)

COLLIE

Huh?

CHARLIE

(Amazed, as are the others)  
How'd you do that?!

MR. HISTORY  
 TIME TRAVELLIN'--A MERCHANT'S HAT,  
 TIME TRAVELLIN'--A BASEBALL BAT,  
 TIME TRAVELLIN'--THAT'S ALL YOU DO  
 TAKE A PART OF SOMEONE'S LIFE AND YOU  
 BECOME THAT SOMEONE, TOO.

SARAH  
 Collie, how did you feel when you were this Roger  
 Sherman dude?

COLLIE  
 (Delighted)  
 I felt like Roger Sherman!

SARAH  
 Gimme a costume!

CARLOS  
 Sarah, you've been watching too many sci-fi  
 movies.

SARAH  
 Maybe he's for real.

ALEX  
 And maybe he's Bozo The Clown!

CHARLIE  
 Guys, if we could experience what it was like to  
 write the rules for living in the United States,  
 it might help us write the rules for living in  
 Rapola.

GIRLS  
 Classique!

GUYS  
 Rapola!

GIRLS  
 Classique!

GUYS  
 Rapola!

CARLOS

Stop it! Mr. History, we can't even agree on the name for our country, how did the people who wrote the Constitution ever agree on a whole document?

MR. HISTORY

Back scratching.

CHARLIE

Back scratching?! Mr. H, you are one weird dude! What's back scratching got to do with writing a constitution?

MR. HISTORY

Wanna find out?

SARAH

Yeah, come on, guys. It beats staying inside and arguing. Who can I be?

MR. HISTORY

(Pulls out a vest)

How about William Paterson, of New Jersey.

(Pulls out a quill pen.)

Now, this is for James Madison.

CHARLIE

The Father of the Constitution.

MR. HISTORY

Right.

(Gives the quill to CHARLIE, and a scroll of papers to CARLOS.)

Here are the Virginia Resolves, introduced by Edmund Randolph. And this beautiful cravat is for John Rutledge, who almost shut down the whole convention.

ALL EXCEPT ALEX

How?

MR. HISTORY

(Tempting ALEX)

Wanna find out?

ALEX

You guys are nuts! We aren't time travellin'  
anywhere!

(HE takes the cravat.)

SARAH

Now what do we do?

MR. HISTORY

Count down!

(HE starts, joined by ALL)

ALL

10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1.. Blast off!

(THEY swirl back in time as  
the lights change to..)

SCENE 2

PHILADELPHIA, MAY, 1787. THE NIGHTWATCHMAN GOES THROUGH HIS ROUNDS, RINGING A LOUD BELL.

COLLIE-AS-NIGHTWATCHMAN

Six o'clock in the mornin'! Wake up, wake up, you sleepy dogs! You there, shouldn't you be off to school, 'stead of starin' at me?! And you! What do you expect the weather'll be in Philadelphia today?

(Beat)

Hot is right! As usual!

CHARLIE-AS-MADISON

(Entering)

You, sir!

COLLIE-AS-NIGHTWATCHMAN

Good morning, yer honor. You're up with the robins.

CHARLIE-AS-MADISON

I was up with the night owls. Have you seen—

COLLIE-AS-NIGHTWATCHMAN

You should be gettin' yer beauty sleep, yer honor.

CHARLIE-AS-MADISON

It's hard to sleep with you boomin' out the time and weather every hour. But have you seen--

COLLIE-AS-NIGHTWATCHMAN

That's me job.

CHARLIE-AS-MADISON

You do it very well. I'm expecting Mr. Edmund Rand--

COLLIE-AS-NIGHTWATCHMAN

Me mother always said I should find a job that involved talkin'. I've got a gift for the gab, don't you know?

CHARLIE-AS-MADISON

You certainly do. I was wondering--

COLLIE-AS-NIGHTWATCHMAN

But I'm sure it'll be nothin' compared with all the jabberin' that'll be goin' on inside Independence Hall this summer. I pity them gentlemen as is tryin' to write us a new constitution.

CHARLIE-AS-MADISON

Oh, why is that?

COLLIE-AS-NIGHTWATCHMAN

Fer two reasons. First of all, the whole world'll be watching, so they'd better do a good job, or else.

CHARLIE-AS-MADISON

Or else what?

COLLIE-AS-NIGHTWATCHMAN

Let's just say there's nothin' the folks in Philadelphia like more than pitchin' tomatoes at them as displeases us.

CHARLIE-AS-MADISON

I see. And what's the second reason you pity the delegates?

COLLIE-AS-NIGHTWATCHMAN

Well, yer honor, they'll be spendin' all day inside there, dressed all fancy like yerself, wigs an' all, and me nose tells me one thing.

CHARLIE-AS-MADISON

What's that?

COLLIE-AS-NIGHTWATCHMAN

It's goin' to be hot as blazes all summer long. Them poor gents'll be

sweatin' worse than a play horse!  
Well, top of the mornin', yer honor.

COLLIE-AS-NIGHTWATCHMAN

(Exiting)

Six-fifteen! Rouse yerselves, you  
sleepy dogs!

CHARLIE-AS-MADISON

"So they'd better do a good job, or  
else!..."

"EVERYBODY'S WATCHING"

EVERYBODY'S WATCHING, WATCHING, WATCHING  
EVERYBODY'S WAITING--"WILL THEY FAIL?"  
NOBODY BELIEVES A FAIRY-TALE ENDING  
EVER COULD RESULT FROM SUCH A TALE,  
WILL OUR SHIP OF FREEDOM, LIBERTY, JUSTICE  
NEVER EVEN GET TO HOIST ITS SAIL?  
EVERYBODY'S WATCHING....  
EVERYBODY'S WATCHING.

(Music under. CARLOS-AS-

RANDOLPH enters with papers.)

Did you bring them?

CARLOS-AS-RANDOLPH

The Virginia Resolves: one national  
government, one national executive, one  
national court.

CHARLIE-AS-MADISON

Excellent!

CARLOS-AS-RANDOLPH

And one major surprise for those who  
thought we are authorized only to  
revise our old constitution, not write  
a new one.

CHARLIE-AS-MADISON

The Articles of Confederation don't  
work. You can't repair a ship that was  
built to sail in thirteen different  
directions at the same time! We need a  
new ship-- The United States of  
America.

CARLOS-AS-RANDOLPH  
But will it stay afloat?

CHARLIE-AS-MADISON  
That's the question, isn't it, Edmund?

EVERYBODY'S WON'DRING, WON'DRING,  
ONCE OUR MAIDEN VOYAGE HAS BEGUN,  
HOW WILL WE BE STEADY IN THE WATERS?  
THIRTEEN OARS TO LEARN TO ROW AS ONE?  
WILL WE ALL REMAIN IN SEPARATE ORBITS,  
OR, UNITED, CIRCLE 'ROUND ONE SUN?  
EVERYBODY'S WON'DRING...  
EVERYBODY'S WON'DRING.

(ALEX-AS-RUTLEDGE enters, with  
SARAH-AS-SLAVE carrying his  
luggage.)

ALEX-AS-RUTLEDGE  
Wondering what, Mr. Madison?

CHARLIE-AS-MADISON  
Wondering what took the delegation from  
South Carolina so long to arrive?

ALEX-AS-RUTLEDGE  
We are not as close to Philadelphia as  
Virginia, sir--in case you have  
forgotten your geography.

(To the slave)  
Unload the carriage and carry my things  
to the inn. Tell them to prepare my  
room, I shall refresh myself first at  
the City Tavern.

SARAH-AS-SLAVE  
Yes, massuh.  
(SHE exits.)

ALEX-AS-RUTLEDGE  
Refreshments, gentlemen?

CARLOS-AS-RANDOLPH  
I would love some--

CHARLIE-AS-MADISON

No, thank you.

ALEX-AS-RUTLEDGE

Suit yourself.

(HE exits.)

CHARLIE-AS-MADISON

I'm sorry, Edmund, but we need to go over these resolves. Now, let's see...

(COLLIE-AS-SHERMAN and SARAH-AS-PATERSON enter.)

COLLIE-AS-SHERMAN

Working as usual, I see, Mr. Madison.

CHARLIE-AS-MADISON

Welcome to Philadelphia, Mr. Sherman.

COLLIE-AS-SHERMAN

If it keeps up as hot as this, I may go back to Connecticut.

CHARLIE-AS-MADISON

Please don't. It took us long enough to get the states to agree to send delegates here in the first place. I am glad New Jersey had the wisdom to send you, Mr. Paterson.

(MR. HISTORY-AS-FRANKLIN enters.)

MR. HISTORY-AS-FRANKLIN

As am I.

SARAH-AS-PATERSON

Hello, Benjamin.

MR. HISTORY-AS-FRANKLIN

I look forward to your sampling some of my wine, sir.

CHARLIE-AS-MADISON

This is not a drinking party, Dr. Franklin.

MR. HISTORY-AS-FRANKLIN

Now, Jemmy, surely you don't expect us to work day and night?

CHARLIE-AS-MADISON

Not you, sir. We are grateful for your participation at all.

MR. HISTORY-AS-FRANKLIN

Oh, I shall participate, Jemmy. And I shall also make sure the delegates participate, too.

CHARLIE-AS-MADISON

Good!

MR. HISTORY-AS-FRANKLIN

In the pleasures of Philadelphia, the fairest city in all the world!

"THE SONG OF PHILADELPHIA"

THE SCENT OF PHILADELPHIA--DELIGHTFUL TO INHALE.

NEWLY-WASHED STREETS, BUTCHERS' MEATS,  
CHURNED BUTTER IN A PAIL,  
A FORGER'S FIRE, A HORSE FOR HIRE,  
THE PERFUME OF POWDERED HAIR--  
O! THE SCENT OF PHILADELPHIA--  
BEYOND COMPARE!

COLLIE-AS-SHERMAN

You forgot to mention the slops of garbage people pitch from their windows into the streets.

CARLOS-AS-RANDOLPH

Look out below!  
(THEY all duck.)

SARAH-AS-PATERSON

Now there's a scent for you!

MR. HISTORY-AS-FRANKLIN

Then turn yourself to things for the eyes.

MR. HISTORY-AS-FRANKLIN

THE SIGHT OF PHILADELPHIA--A VIEW OF  
PARADISE.  
TOWERING SHIPS, PAINTED LIPS, A RIVER  
SMOOTH AS ICE.  
A QUAKER'S FROCK, A GLEAMING CLOCK,  
A LADY'S GOLDEN GOWN--  
O! THE SIGHT OF PHILADELPHIA--  
A ROYAL CROWN!

CARLOS-AS-RANDOLPH

How about the hawkers calling all day  
long:

(Excessively loud)

"Cabbage! Get your fresh cabbage!"

COLLIE-AS-SHERMAN

Or that infernal nightwatchman:

(Loudly)

"Six o'clock! Wake up, ye sleepy dogs!  
Ring, ring, ring!"

MR. HISTORY-AS-FRANKLIN

Isn't it beautiful?!

THE SOUND OF PHILADELPHIA--SWEET MUSIC  
TO THE EAR.

PAPERBOYS' YELLS, WATCHMAN'S BELLS,  
THE CROWD ALONG THE PIER,

SARAH-AS-PATERSON

THE AXE'S CHOP!

CARLOS-AS-RANDOLPH

THE HORSE'S CLIP-CLOP!

(THEY all look to CHARLIE-AS-  
MADISON to add his sound.)

CHARLIE-AS-MADISON

THE... THE...

(The peal of a church bell  
gives him his cue.)

THE CHURCH BELL'S RESOUNDING GONG!

ALL FOUR  
O! THE SOUNDS OF PHILADELPHIA--TEN  
THOUSAND STRONG.  
THE SCENT, THE SIGHT, THE SOUND OF  
PHILADELPHIA!  
OUR WON'DROUS SONG!  
(The lights change to...)

## SCENE 3

CHARLIE-AS-MADISON WRITES AT HIS DESK AS THE OTHER DELEGATES TAKE THEIR SEATS.

CHARLIE-AS-MADISON  
Independence Hall, May 25, 1787. We have spent three days while every single delegate presented his credentials... And another two days agreeing on the rules, especially the secrecy rule...

COLLIE-AS-SHERMAN  
But why must there be secrecy?

CARLOS-AS-RANDOLPH  
So all will feel free to speak their minds.

MR. HISTORY-AS-FRANKLIN  
Or to change them if we must.

CARLOS-AS-RANDOLPH  
Mr. Speaker.

CHARLIE-AS-MADISON  
But at last Mr. Randolph rose to present his Virginia Resolves.

CARLOS-AS-RANDOLPH  
... And so I move that a national government ought to be established consisting of a supreme Legislature, Executive, and Judiciary.  
(HE sits.)

SARAH-AS-PATERSON  
May I remind the delegates that we were authorized only to revise the Articles of Confederation--not to create an entirely new government.

ALEX-AS-RUTLEDGE  
Do you propose to overthrow the state governments?

CARLOS-AS-RANDOLPH

Our treasury is empty, because no state feels compelled to pay its taxes. And if New Jersey needs money to pay its taxes, it simply prints it--

SARAH-AS-PATERSON

All the other states print money, why shouldn't we?

CARLOS-AS-RANDOLPH

Precisely my point. How can we run a country with thirteen different currencies?!

SARAH-AS-PATERSON

I say, let us not discard the Articles of Confederation after a mere eleven years. Rather, let us do what our individual states elected us to do: revise, correct, and enlarge them in ways necessary to preserve our union.

CHARLIE-AS-MADISON

And so the great debate began between the Virginia Plan, which some said represented the interests of the large states with the most population, and the New Jersey plan, which tried to keep our central government weak so the small states would still retain some power.

CARLOS-AS-RANDOLPH

Resolved: The national legislature should have two branches.

SARAH-AS-PATERSON/COLLIE-AS-SHERMAN

One!

CARLOS-AS-RANDOLPH/ALEX-AS-RUTLEDGE

Two!

SARAH-AS-PATERSON/COLLIE-AS-SHERMAN

One!

CARLOS-AS-RANDOLPH/ALEX-AS-RUTLEDGE

Two!

SARAH-AS-PATERSON/COLLIE-AS-SHERMAN

One!

CARLOS-AS-RANDOLPH/ALEX-AS-RUTLEDGE

Two!

MR. HISTORY-AS-FRANKLIN

Call the question.

(CARLOS-AS-RANDOLPH/ALEX-AS-RUTLEDGE encourage the audience to vote "aye" with them, ad-libbing arguments.)

STAGE-MANAGER-AS-WASHINGTON

All in favor of two houses for the legislature say "aye!"

CARLOS-AS-RANDOLPH/ALEX-AS-RUTLEDGE-PLUS AUDIENCE

Aye!

(SARAH-AS-PATERSON/COLLIE-AS-SHERMAN encourage the audience to vote "nay!" with them, ad-libbing arguments.)

STAGE-MANAGER-AS-WASHINGTON

All opposed say "nay!"

SARAH-AS-PATERSON/COLLIE-AS-SHERMAN PLUS AUDIENCE

Nay!

STAGE-MANAGER-AS-WASHINGTON

Motion passes.

(The delegates congratulate themselves or voice disappointment as CHARLIE-AS-MADISON speaks.)

CHARLIE-AS-MADISON

(Writing)

So the legislature shall have two houses, a lower house and an upper house.

CARLOS-AS-RANDOLPH

Resolved: The national executive, or president, shall consist of one person.

SARAH-AS-PATERSON

You mean, one king! Did we not just fight a revolution to keep one person from having too much power over us?

ALEX-AS-RUTLEDGE

The legislature will check his power. Besides, we need a powerful executive to act!

COLLIE-AS-SHERMAN

The job is too big for one man: I say let us have three presidents!

ALEX-AS-RUTLEDGE

Three?!

CARLOS-AS-RANDOLPH

An excellent idea, I agree.

CHARLIE-AS-MADISON

Edmund, you're with us!

CARLOS-AS-RANDOLPH

Not on this one, Jemmy.

MR. HISTORY-AS-FRANKLIN

Me, neither!

CHARLIE-AS-MADISON

Dr. Franklin!

CARLOS-AS-RANDOLPH/COLLIE-AS-SHERMAN/SARAH-AS-PATERSON/MR. HISTORY-AS-FRANKLIN

Three!

CHARLIE-AS-MADISON/ALEX-AS-  
RUTLEDGE

One!

CARLOS-AS-RANDOLPH/COLLIE-AS-  
SHERMAN/SARAH-AS-PATERSON/MR.  
HISTORY-AS-FRANKLIN

Three!

CHARLIE-AS-MADISON/ALEX-AS-  
RUTLEDGE

One!

CARLOS-AS-RANDOLPH/COLLIE-AS-  
SHERMAN/SARAH-AS-PATERSON/MR.  
HISTORY-AS-FRANKLIN

Three!

CHARLIE-AS-MADISON/ALEX-AS-  
RUTLEDGE

One!

MR. HISTORY-AS-FRANKLIN

Call the question!

(Again the various sides try  
to persuade the audience,  
those wishing one president  
going first. Finally:)

STAGE MANAGER-AS-WASHINGTON

All those in favor of a single  
executive say "aye!"

CHARLIE-AS-MADISON/ALEX-AS-  
RUTLEDGE

(With the audience)

Aye!

STAGE MANAGER-AS-WASHINGTON

All those opposed say "nay!"

CARLOS-AS-RANDOLPH/COLLIE-AS-  
SHERMAN/SARAH-AS-PATERSON/MR.  
HISTORY-AS-FRANKLIN

Nay!

STAGE MANAGER-AS-WASHINGTON  
 Motion passes. There will be a single  
 president.

CHARLIE-AS-MADISON  
 (Writing)  
 Delegates are on one side on one issue,  
 and on the opposite side for another.  
 And then the resolution that almost  
 ended us before we'd begun...

CARLOS-AS-RANDOLPH  
 Resolved: The members of the national  
 legislature ought to be elected by the  
people of the several states.

ALEX-AS-RUTLEDGE  
 The people are not fit judges to elect  
 our representatives.

CARLOS-AS-RANDOLPH  
 But the people are the legitimate  
 source of all authority. That's what  
 makes a democracy.

SARAH-AS-PATERSON  
 Democracy?! All the evils we experience  
 flow from an excess of democracy.

CHARLIE-AS-MADISON  
 The people must elect at least one  
 branch. This is a clear principle of  
 free government!

ALEX-AS-RUTLEDGE  
 And if we decide the lower branch  
 should be elected on the basis of  
 population, then I want our slaves  
 counted as population.

COLLIE-AS-SHERMAN  
 Your slaves are property, sir! Shall  
 we then tax you based on your slaves as  
 well.

ALEX-AS-RUTLEDGE

The slaves should not count when it comes to taxation.

SARAH-AS-PATERSON

Outrageous! This is yet another attempt by the large states to control the destiny of the small states. If based on population, we will be outvoted every time. I say every state should have the exact same number of representatives in both branches of the national legislature!

CHARLIE-AS-MADISON

Then why don' we just spread out a map of the United States, erase all existing boundaries, and divide it into thirteen equal parts?!

SARAH-AS-PATERSON

Excellent idea! New Jersey would love a slice of Virginia.

CARLOS-AS-RANDOLPH

Over my dead body!

SARAH-AS-PATERSON

Then perhaps we will find some foreign ally of more honor and good faith to take us by the hand and protect us.

CARLOS-AS-RANDOLPH

Rash language! Would you invite a foreign country into our union?

SARAH-AS-PATERSON

I will not make a union with people I do not trust!

(The delegates take their seats, shaken.)

CHARLIE-AS-MADISON

(Writing)

We had now come to July 2nd. On the eve of celebrating our eleventh Independence Day, were we to throw away that independence forever. It was then that Dr. Franklin proved deserving of his reputation for great wisdom.

MR. HISTORY-AS-FRANKLIN

Mr. Chairman, I propose a recess to celebrate July 4th. I fear if I open my mouth too far, I shall swallow one of these curses bluebottle flies, my clothes are soaked to the skin, and, quite frankly, I could use a nice glass of-

(The delegates clear their collective throat to prevent his saying "beer.")

milk!

STAGE MANAGER-AS-WASHINGTON

All in favor of a recess?

ALL

Aye!

STAGE MANAGER-AS-WASHINGTON

Unanimous!

(THEY disperse.)

CHARLIE-AS-MADISON

And so we adjourned, but Dr. Franklin had more up his sleeve than drink...

MR. HISTORY-AS-FRANKLIN

Come to my house tomorrow, Jemmy. I have an itch I need you to scratch.

(The lights change to...)

SCENE 4

DR. FRANKLIN'S YARD. CHARLIE-AS-MADISON, ALEX-AS-RUTLEDGE, COLLIE-AS-SHERMAN, SARAH-AS-PATERSON, ARE GATHERED UNDER HIS FAMOUS MULBERRY TREE.

MR. HISTORY-AS-FRANKLIN  
Gentlemen, I have invited you here because I know we all have an itch, a powerful itch to get this country started. But the itch on Mr. Rutledge's back is just beyond his reach: if only he could find a way to count slaves as population but not property. And Mr. Paterson's itch: if only he could find a way for the smaller states to have voting equality with the large. And Mr. Madison's itch: the people must elect both houses of our government! So, I propose a scratching party!

"SCATCH MY BACK"  
YOU SCRATCH MY BACK AND I'LL SCRATCH YOURS  
YOU TAKE THE TILLER, AND I'LL MAN THE OARS.  
YOU SAY YELLOW, I SAY BLUE,  
MIXING THEM TOGETHER SHOWS GREEN WILL DO.

(Music under. To ALEX-AS-RUTLEDGE)  
Mr. Rutledge, what if we were to agree that for every five free white men in your state, we would count three male slaves as population?

ALEX-AS-RUTLEDGE  
Three for five, eh?

MR. HISTORY-AS-FRANKLIN  
Have I reached your itch?

ALEX-AS-RUTLEDGE  
I do believe you have.

MR. HISTORY-AS-FRANKLIN  
 IT'S ALWAYS WISE TO COMPROMISE,  
 NO NEED FOR CASTING INSULTS AND NO NEED  
 TO LAY THE BLAME  
 'CAUSE YOU SCRATCH MY BACK, AND I'LL DO  
 THE SAME.

(Music under, as HE and ALEX-  
 AS-RUTLEDGE scratch each  
 other's back.)

CHARLIE-AS-MADISON  
 Is that to be our legacy to the world?  
 Endorsing slavery?!

(THEY ignore him.)

COLLIE-AS-SHERMAN  
 I think I see what you mean, Dr.  
 Franklin.

(To SARAH-AS-PATERSON)  
 YOU DO THE WASHING, AND I'LL BAKE  
 BREAD.  
 YOU LIGHT THE FIRE, AND I'LL MAKE THE  
 BED.  
 BEE NEEDS FLOWER, FLOWER NEEDS BEE  
 WHEN YOU LOCK YOUR HOUSE REMEMBER:  
 LOCK NEEDS KEY.

(Music under. To SARAH-AS-  
 PATERSON)

The legislature will have two houses.  
 What if we elected representatives to  
 the lower house based on population,  
 but in the other, every state, no  
 matter what size, had the same number  
 of senators?

SARAH-AS-PATERSON  
 Each state to have two senators!

COLLIE-AS-SHERMAN  
 Two sounds like a good number to me.  
 (THEY shake.)

BOTH  
 IT ALWAYS WISE TO COMPROMISE  
 WHY CHOOSE TO MAKE A FIST WHEN SHAKING  
 HANDS IS MORE GENTEEL?

SARAH-AS-PATERSON  
SO I'LL WASH YOUR SHIRT,

COLLIE-AS-SHERMAN  
AND I'LL MAKE YOUR MEAL.  
(Music under)

MR. HISTORY-AS-FRANKLIN  
Excellent, gentlemen!

CHARLIE-AS-MADISON  
The people of Virginia will never  
agree!

MR. HISTORY-AS-FRANKLIN  
They will if you know where to scratch.  
(To ALEX-AS-RUTLEDGE)

YOU PUT THE SEEDS IN,

ALEX-AS-RUTLEDGE  
AND YOU GROW THE WHEAT.

COLLIE-AS-SHERMAN  
WORKING TOGETHER,

SARAH-AS-PATERSON  
THERE'S PLENTY TO EAT.

ALL FOUR  
IS THIS FOOLISH, BE THE JUDGE:  
HOW CAN MAN MAKE PROGRESS IF HE WON'T  
BUDGE?

MR. HISTORY-AS-FRANKLIN  
(To CHARLIE-AS-MADISON while  
the others line up behind  
him.)  
Will you please move, sir?

CHARLIE-AS-MADISON  
Not an inch!

MR. HISTORY-AS-FRANKLIN  
(MR. HISTORY-AS-FRANKLIN looks  
at the others, THEY shrug,  
then he simply walkS around  
CHARLIE-AS-MADISON)  
Then you'll be left behind!  
(CHARLIE-AS-MADISON departs  
in a huff.)

ALL FOUR  
IT'S ALWAYS WISE TO COMPROMISE  
SO IF YOU'VE GOT AN ITCH THERE'S JUST  
ONE THING TO DO:  
YOU SCRATCH MY BACK...  
(Music under as THEY all  
scratch in one direction)  
AND I'LL SCRATCH YOURS TOO!!!!  
(Music under as THEY all  
scratch the other direction,  
enjoying it immensely, as the  
lights change to...)

SCENE 5

CHARLIE-AS-MADISON WRITES AT HIS DESK AS HE ADDRESSES THE AUDIENCE.

CHARLIE-AS-MADISON

On July 6, Mr. Sherman presented what came to be called the Connecticut Compromise.

(Reading)

"Resolved: that the representatives of the lower house of congress be elected based on the population of each state, three slaves to be counted for every five white males..." So the large states would have more votes in one house; But...

(Reading)

"Be it further resolved that the representatives in the Senate be two men from each state, regardless of size." So the small states had a check on the power of the large: equal representation in the Senate. And so the Connecticut Compromise was passed. After two months of debate, the outline of our constitution had been agreed upon. Then Dr. Franklin proposed a ten-day vacation while a Committee of Detail fleshed out our resolutions into proper language.

Some, I am told, enjoyed the many wonders a city such as Philadelphia can provide. George Washington and Edmund Randolph even went fishing. But I had all these notes to copy over...

(Beat; wanting a vacation himself)

I love to fish!

(HE starts to exit, then stops, seeing his notes.)

Work, Mr. Madison, work! Those in future generations deserve to know all that we accomplished here...

(HE continues writing as the lights change to...)

## SCENE 6

THE BANK OF A RIVER. MR. HISTORY-AS-WASHINGTON AND CARLOS-AS-RANDOLPH ENTER WITH FISHING POLES AND A BASKET.

CARLOS-AS-RANDOLPH

I tell you, General Washington, the Committee of Detail is having a devil of a time finding the right words for the preamble of our constitution.

MR. HISTORY-AS-WASHINGTON

And I'm having a devil of a time trying to get you to stop talking politics!

CARLOS-AS-RANDOLPH

But if we can get the preamble to summarize what we believe, say in a few choice words all we want our constitution to mean...*Finis origine pendet*, General, you know that: "the end hangs on the beginning."

MR. HISTORY-AS-WASHINGTON

Then put your "end" here and let us "begin" to fish!

(His glare silences CARLOS-AS-RANDOLPH. THEY cast their lines and lean back, sighing simultaneously.)

No more sounds of Philadelphia!

(Three young people—COLLIE-AS-MARGARET, SARAH-AS-LUCY, ALEX-AS-SWOOPING SPARROW--run in noisily.)

COLLIE-AS-MARGARET

Whooooo! Last one in's a rotten egg--  
Oh!

(THEY stop, seeing strangers.)

Forgive us, we didn't know anyone was here!

CARLOS-AS-SWOOPING SPARROW

This our swimming hole.

MR. HISTORY-AS-WASHINGTON

Then it is we who should be asking your  
pardon.

COLLIE-AS-MARGARET

Oh, no, sir, it's a free country, as  
they say.

SARAH-AS-LUCY

Not much longer.

(Jumping in the "water.")

Ooo, the water's cold!

COLLIE-AS-MARGARET

Our freedom's not disappearing, Lucy.  
It's just broke. That's what they're  
doing in Philadelphia--fixing it.

CARLOS-AS-SWOOPING SPARROW

My father says they elect new king.

COLLIE-AS-MARGARET

Who, George Washington?!

SARAH-AS-LUCY

That fat old man!

CARLOS-AS-RANDOLPH

Now see here!--

SARAH-AS-LUCY

My father says he's a pompous ass!  
Whatever that means.

CARLOS-AS-RANDOLPH

I'll have you know--

MR. HISTORY-AS-WASHINGTON

(Cutting him off.)

It means he is a wonderful gentlemen.

(Beat)

So, you think our freedom is "broke,"  
is it?

COLLIE-AS-MARGARET

Yes, sir. And our leaders are gathered  
in Philadelphia to write a constitution  
to fix it.

SARAH-AS-LUCY

My father thinks they're just a bunch  
of white men in fancy wigs sitting  
around talking, talking, talking.

MR. HISTORY-AS-WASHINGTON

Your father is a wise man!

ALEX-AS-SWOOPING SPARROW

White man love to talk.

SARAH-AS-LUCY

(Pretending to be one of the  
pompous delegates)

"Whereas, blue is pink and pink is  
green and green is black and--"

COLLIE-AS-MARGARET

(Joining in)

"I object! Green is most definitely  
white!"

ALEX-AS-SWOOPING SPARROW

"All in favor that green is white?"

ALL

"Aye!"

(THEY laugh.)

MR. HISTORY-AS-WASHINGTON

You don't think the delegates are  
accomplishing much, do you?

COLLIE-AS-MARGARET

How could they be, when they haven't  
even heard from us.

CARLOS-AS-RANDOLPH

And who are you?

SARAH-AS-LUCY

We're the people! Ain't they writing  
this constitution for us?

CARLOS-AS-RANDOLPH

Yes, of course, but... Well, the delegates would never get anything done if they had to hear from every Tom, Dick, and Harry.

SARAH-AS-LUCY

We're not Tom, Dick, and Harry, we're Lucy!

COLLIE-AS-MARGARET

Margaret!

ALEX-AS-SWOOPING SPARROW

Swooping Sparrow.

MR. HISTORY-AS-WASHINGTON

Then let us hear from you!

SARAH-AS-LUCY

Huh?

MR. HISTORY-AS-WASHINGTON

What would you tell those fat, pompous white men in Philadelphia to do?

("Gavelling")

"Hear ye, hear ye! We will now hear from... The People!

(The KIDS are silent.)

CARLOS-AS-RANDOLPH

It seems "the people" are mute, which is why it is best to leave government in the hands of those who know best how to govern.

COLLIE-AS-MARGARET

(Suddenly)

"E Pluribus Unum!"

CARLOS-AS-RANDOLPH

I beg your pardon!

COLLIE-AS-MARGARET

"E Pluribus Unum." It's Latin, and it means "out of many, one." Didn't you go to school?

(MR. HISTORY-AS-WASHINGTON laughs.)

MR. HISTORY-AS-WASHINGTON

How do you know "E Pluribus Unum?"

COLLIE-AS-MARGARET

It's the motto on the Great Seal of our country: an eagle with a banner in its mouth saying "E Pluribus Unum." Begging your pardon, sir, but you should learn more about our country.

(CARLOS-AS-RANDOLPH laughs.)

MR. HISTORY-AS-WASHINGTON

I shall try to do better. But why would you tell the delegates "out of many, one?"

COLLIE-AS-MARGARET

To make sure they put it into the constitution.

CARLOS-AS-RANDOLPH

An eagle?

COLLIE-AS-MARGARET

No! I'm not sure exactly what I mean, but...

(Beat)

Yes! I mean, put us in the constitution, Lucy, Swooping Sparrow, and me. We're three different people, from three different places. I'm from Ireland.

SARAH-AS-LUCY

I'm from Africa!

CARLOS-AS-SWOOPING SPARROW

I am Lenape Indian.

COLLIE-AS-MARGARET

But we all met here, in America, and  
now we live side by side and we're best  
friends. They need to write a  
constitution where we can all be best  
friends.

"E PLURIBUS UNUM"

YOU TAKE A LONELY IMMIGRANT FROM WAY  
ACROSS THE SEA,

(Joining up with SARAH-AS-  
LUCY)

WHO MEETS A GIRL WHOSE FATHER WAS A  
SLAVE, BUT NOW HE'S FREE

(Joining up with ALEX-AS-  
SWOOPING SPARROW)

THEY LEARN THE EARTH IS MEANT FOR ALL  
AND NEVER JUST FOR "ME"....

AND TOGETHER, TOGETHER THEY SWIM  
RIVERS,

TOGETHER, TOGETHER, THEY PLANT CORN  
WE'RE ALL OF US BIRDS OF A DIFF'RENT  
FEATHER YET TOGETHER...

A NEW BIRD IS BORN.

E PLURIBUS UNUM, THAT'S WHAT MAKES US  
STRONG.

E PLURIBUS UNUM, THAT'S HOW WE GET  
ALONG.

SARAH-AS-LUCY

I understand. There are many of us,  
but, together, we're one. Like my choir  
at church:

YOU TAKE A HIGH SOPRANO WITH A TONE SO  
SWEET AND NICE--

(SHE conducts COLLIE-AS-  
MARGARET to sing a note. SHE  
obliges with a loud and  
grating sound. SARAH-AS-LUCY  
cuts her off and goes to  
ALEX-AS-SWOOPING SPARROW.)

MIX IN A DIFFERENT-SOUNDING NOTE TO ADD  
A BIT OF SPICE--

(SHE gestures and HE produces another discordant note, which SHE cuts off and goes to MR. HISTORY-AS-WASHINGTON.)

FOR BASS WE'LL NEED A DEEPER VOICE SO FIERY IT MELTS ICE--

(HE makes a beautiful note.)

AND TOGETHER...

(SHE conducts: THEY make a horrible noise.)

TOGETHER!...

(SHE conducts: THEY sing beautifully.)

ALL EXCEPT RANDOLPH  
TOGETHER...

ALL EXCEPT RANDOLPH  
WE MAKE MUSIC.  
TOGETHER, A NEW SONG IS SUNG.  
WE'RE ALL OF US BELLS OF A DIFFERENT  
SOUNDING, BUT RESOUNDING....

(THEY make bell tones)

A NEW BELL IS RUNG.  
E PLURIBUS UNUM, THAT'S WHAT MAKES US  
STRONG.

E PLURIBUS UNUM, THAT WILL BE OUR  
COUNTRY'S SONG.

(Music under)

MR. HISTORY-AS-WASHINGTON  
Splendid! And what about you, Swooping Sparrow, what would you tell the delegates?

ALEX-AS-SWOOPING SPARROW  
Mine are people of few words. But I could show them.

(HE takes their basket and slowly "descends into the river" to catch a fish. The MUSIC freezes in a soft tremelo. With a swoop, he "catches" a fish in the basket.)

CARLOS-AS-RANDOLPH

He caught a fish! A good-sized one,  
too.

(ALEX-AS-SWOOPING SPARROW  
throws the fish back.)

What the?--! Why in blazes did you  
throw back the fish?

ALEX-AS-SWOOPING SPARROW

"E Pluribus Unum."

CARLOS-AS-RANDOLPH

What's that got to do with fish?

ALEX-AS-SWOOPING SPARROW

We are all one.

(Gestures to everything around  
them.)

COLLIE-AS-MARGARET

Of course! The fish, the river, the  
trees, us!

ALEX-AS-SWOOPING SPARROW

All one.

MR. HISTORY-AS-WASHINGTON

(Pleased with what HE's  
learned.)

All one.

(ALL join hands.)

ALL

E PLURIBUS UNUM

THAT'S WHAT MAKES US STRONG.

E PLURIBUS UNUM--

THAT WILL BE OUR COUNTRY'S SONG!

(The lights change as we go  
to...)

## SCENE 7

INDEPENDENCE HALL. CHARLIE-AS-MADISON WRITES AS THE DELEGATES FILE IN.

## CHARLIE-AS-MADISON

The Committee of Detail had done its work well, turning our resolutions into beautiful language-- none more beautiful than the Preamble to our new Constitution.

(Reading)

"We the people of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

All through another long, hot day, we listened. But for once no one cared about the bluebottle flies buzzing around our heads, or the perspiration pouring out from under our wigs. Four long months of work! But look what we had to show for it! When the reading was finished, a pleasurable silence filled the room. It was not to be pleasurable long...

## ALEX-AS-RUTLEDGE

Mr. Chairman and distinguished delegates, before we proceed to a vote, I have one final resolution to propose: "Resolved: that the Congress be expressly forbidden to ban the importation of slaves into our country."

## SARAH-AS-PATERSON

You cannot do that, sir. We have given to the central government the power to regulate commerce.

ALEX-AS-RUTLEDGE

We have proposed it be given this power. South Carolina has signed its name to nothing as yet.

(As others consult, CHARLIE-AS-MADISON turns to CARLOS-AS-RANDOLPH)

CHARLIE-AS-MADISON

Edmund, do something.

CARLOS-AS-RANDOLPH

I'm not so sure I wish to sign this constitution myself.

CHARLIE-AS-MADISON

But your Virginia Resolves?!

CARLOS-AS-RANDOLPH

My resolutions have been picked over like a rotting carcass so that I no longer recognize them as mine.

CHARLIE-AS-MADISON

We had to make some compromises, true--

CARLOS-AS-RANDOLPH

And you shall have to make this last one, Jemmy--if you can.

COLLIE-AS-SHERMAN

Mr. Rutledge, writing protection of the slave trade into the Constitution would be inconsistent with the principles of the Revolution and dishonorable to the American character.

ALEX-AS-RUTLEDGE

I will not debate morality with you, sir. This is a matter of self-interest.

COLLIE-AS-SHERMAN

What could possibly be the self-interest in maintaining slavery for the north?

ALEX-AS-RUTLEDGE

The ships you build to carry our cotton  
and rice-- and our slaves.

(HE sits, as CHARLIE-AS-  
MADISON speaks to COLLIE-AS-  
SHERMAN.)

CHARLIE-AS-MADISON

Stand firm, Roger. As this nation  
grows and prospers, the ships of  
Connecticut and Massachusetts will have  
plenty of other cargo to carry.

COLLIE-AS-SHERMAN

No one hates slavery more than I. But  
is it not better to let the southern  
states import slaves than to part with  
these states?

CHARLIE-AS-MADISON

We must think of a compromise, to keep  
them in the union.

COLLIE-AS-SHERMAN

I have had my compromise, Jemmy.  
Perhaps it is your turn now.

SARAH-AS-PATERSON

Gentlemen, I lament that some of our  
northern brethren have, from a lust of  
gain, embarked on this nefarious  
traffic. But let us ban the slave  
trade and force them to repent!

ALEX-AS-RUTLEDGE

It is you who shall repent, sir! Does  
any man in this distinguished company  
truly believe that I can persuade the  
people of South Carolina to ratify a  
constitution that expressly forbids  
putting food on the table?

SARAH-AS-PATERSON

And what table do your slaves eat from,  
sir?

ALEX-AS-RUTLEDGE  
Enough of your fierce accusations!

CHARLIE-AS-MADISON  
(To FRANKLIN)  
Franklin!

ALEX-AS-RUTLEDGE  
(To COLLIE-AS-SHERMAN)  
Enough of your high-and-mighty phrases!

CHARLIE-AS-MADISON  
Do something!

ALEX-AS-RUTLEDGE  
And enough of this talk of union! For I assure you, I and my southern brethren will never agree to a constitution in which the word "slavery" is even mentioned!

(HE sits as CARLOS-AS-RANDOLPH silently reasons with him and SARAH-AS-PATERSON and COLLIE-AS-SHERMAN silently consult, then eventually sit.)

CHARLIE-AS-MADISON  
Dr. Franklin, the south may walk out!

MR. HISTORY-AS-FRANKLIN  
Then you must stop them, Mr. Madison.

CHARLIE-AS-MADISON  
How?

MR. HISTORY-AS-FRANKLIN  
Find their itch and scratch it.

CHARLIE-AS-MADISON  
Are all our words of freedom, liberty, justice to be no more than pen and ink?

MR. HISTORY-AS-FRANKLIN  
Don't forget, we have "inked" in a way to amend the Constitution, so future generations can continue to improve it.

CHARLIE-AS-MADISON

Yes, future generations. If we compromise on this, what will they think?

MR. HISTORY-AS-FRANKLIN

Let them think, Jemmy, that we did the best we could.

(HE gestures for CHARLIE-AS-MADISON to make his deal with ALEX-AS-RUTLEDGE. CHARLIE-AS-MADISON looks around at all the delegates starting at him.)

CHARLIE-AS-MADISON

Everybody's watching...

(HE goes to ALEX-AS-RUTLEDGE)

Mr. Rutledge, would you agree to an import tax on slaves?

ALEX-AS-RUTLEDGE

Are you proposing the slave trade continue?

CHARLIE-AS-MADISON

I am. But if we were to tax your slaves, at least monies would be pouring into the central government, and I believe our northern brethren would like that.

ALEX-AS-RUTLEDGE

Congress will not abolish the slave trade, then?

CHARLIE-AS-MADISON

Not precisely. I propose that it be abolished in twenty years time.

ALEX-AS-RUTLEDGE

Twenty years. By that time, slavery will have spread to our western territories, and Congress will never have the votes to abolish it.

COLLIE-AS-SHERMAN

Don't be so sure, Mr. Rutledge.

ALEX-AS-RUTLEDGE  
 Congratulations, Mr. Madison.

CHARLIE-AS-MADISON  
 Whatever for?

ALEX-AS-RUTLEDGE  
 On becoming an excellent back-scratcher.

MR. HISTORY-AS-FRANKLIN  
 No, congratulations to us all!  
 Gentlemen, I have often looked at the back of General Washington's chair as he presided over us. Note the rising sun painted there. And I have wondered, is it a rising or a setting sun? Now, on this glorious day, I am convinced it is a rising sun, spreading its rays of liberty, justice, and freedom over all the world. May it never set!

CHARLIE-AS-MADISON  
 Three cheers for the United States of America!  
 (Urging the audience to cheer)

ALL  
 Hip, hip, hooray! Hip, hip, hooray!  
 Hip, hip, hooray!  
 (THEY begin whirling back through time as the lights change to...)

SCENE 9

THE HOUSE, AS ONE-BY-ONE THE KIDS SPIN BACK INTO PLACE.

CHARLIE

I'm back! But where's everybody else?  
Guys? Hey, guys! Where are you?  
(ALEX spins on.)

ALEX

I'm here!

CHARLIE

Alex?

ALEX

It's me, man.

CHARLIE

Were you really John Rutledge?

ALEX

I felt like him!

CHARLIE

And I felt like James Madison! I had  
the quill pen, and I was writing, and  
wearing that cool coat!

ALEX

Then we really must have time  
travelled!  
(The OTHERS spin on,  
exchanging greetings, etc.)  
Welcome back, guys!

COLLIE

Wow, that was fun!

SARAH

Fun? That was hard work?

CHARLIE

I never knew so much sweat went into  
writing the Constitution.

CARLOS  
"Sweat" is right. Philadelphia was hot!

ALEX  
Just like today.

CHARLIE  
Hold it, Sarah.

SARAH  
What?  
(HE slaps her playfully.)

CHARLIE  
Bluebottle fly!  
(SHE reacts playfully back.)

COLLIE  
But where's Mr. History?

ALEX  
Yeah, I want to thank him.

SARAH  
Don't worry, I know how to get him  
back. All together now: I hate  
history!

ALL  
I hate history! I hate history!  
(MR. HISTORY whirls onstage  
as the lights spin and the  
KIDS whirl around.)

MR. HISTORY  
Did I hear somebody say my least  
favorite words?

COLLIE  
We were just kidding.

SARAH  
Yeah, after using my imagination, I  
love history!

ALEX

Come on, guys, if those delegates can give up a summer full of Saturdays, we can give up one.

COLLIE-AS-MARGARET

Where're you going?

ALEX

The National Constitution Center. See what else we find to put in the constitution of Rapola.

GIRLS AND CARLOS

Classique!

SARAH

I got it! Let's name our country  
"Classique-ola!"  
(ALL laugh.)

CHARLIE

You know, it's amazing what they wrote over two hundred years ago has lasted so long.

CARLOS

(To MR. HISTORY)  
Yeah, how'd they do that?

MR. HISTORY

Like this.  
(HE breathes onto a copy of  
the Constitution.)

COLLIE

I get it, they breathed life into the Constitution!

CARLOS

Their own life!

ALEX

And ours! That's what all those amendments are about.

CARLOS

Yeah, we make the Constitution grow  
every day by our words and deeds.

COLLIE

So this is not just a piece of paper  
with a bunch of compromises.

SARAH

It's a living, breathing document that  
grows and changes along with our  
country!

COLLIE

So no matter how many people we add,

CARLOS

From anywhere and everywhere,

SARAH

Different colors, customs, and creeds,

ALEX

It's still "E Pluribus Unum."

CHARLIE

Out of many,

ALL

One!

"E PLURIBUS UNUM"-- REPRISE  
E PLURIBUS UNUM, THAT'S WHAT MAKES US  
STRONG.  
E PLURIBUS UNUM, OUR COUNTRY, RIGHT OR  
WRONG.

E PLURIBUS UNUM, HERE WE ALL BELONG  
E PLURIBUS UNUM, THAT WILL BE OUR  
GRATEFUL SONG!

THE END