

DRINK THE WILD AIR
by
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ECA COMMISSION PLAY
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WITH EDITS AND CUTS

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DRINK THE WILD AIR

TIME: July 1969

CAST of 17: 11 W, 6 M. The majority of campers are middle school and aged between 11 and 14 years old.

The counselors are high school age, only slightly older.

THE GIRLS OF CAMP NIZHONI:

OLIVIA
JULIET
RACHEL
JENNY
GABRIELLA
DARLEEN
LORI
TRUDI (and Lilac, her monkey puppet)
LEAH

THE CAMP COUNSELORS:

ALYSSA HAYES, Camp Counselor
SIVAN PHILLIPS, Counselor in Training
RAYMOND BARNES, Camp Counselor for the Boy's camp

THE BOYS FROM CAMP WACCAMA

JIMMY
DIEGO
RICKIE
DAVID
BRIAN

ADDITIONAL ROLES (TO BE DOUBLED FROM CAST)

MR SUNDEAN, ENGLISH LITERATURE TEACHER
STUDENTS IN ENGLISH LIT CLASS (WHOLE CAST)
SHY GIRL (non speaking role)

THE BEAR

DIGHBY CAMP SKIT:

FARMER
NELLIE
VILLIAN
CONSTABLE

SPIRIT OF THE LAKE

Also, the camp songs in the script are suggestion only. Tunes and movements can be found on YOUTUBE.

SCENE ONE DEAR DAD, LIFE SUCKS

OLIVIA, 13, fiddles with her necklace as she writes/dictates a letter. To the audience.

OLIVIA

March 14, 1969. Dear Dad...

(Pauses, collecting herself)

This is the third time I've written you since you moved away and I haven't heard anything back. Have you gotten any of my letters? You said just because you were divorcing Mom didn't mean you were divorcing me so I shouldn't feel...you know... even though you were moving to California and getting remarried....to Sylvia. Oh, never mind. Mr Sundean, our English teacher, says letters should be written in a spirit of cheerfulness. Seriously? What if you don't have anything to be cheerful about? What if Grandpa's right and the world is going to hell in a hand basket? What if school sucks? Huh? What about that?

SOUND OF SCHOOL BELL.

Lights up on Mr. Sundean's English Literature class. Students sit in chairs and exhibit different states of interest/disinterest. Olivia, Rachel, and Jimmy all sit in the front row.

MR. SUNDEAN

Correspondence, then, is what Emerson sought in his poetry. He believed that language should serve as an intermediary between people and nature, and nature was often his muse.

OLIVIA

I hate nature.

GIRL

Me too.

MR. SUNDEAN

Would you two like to share your conversation with the rest of the class?

GIRL

No, Mr. Sundean.

MR. SUNDEAN

Olivia?

OLIVIA

Uh...I didn't say anything.

RACHEL
 (cheerfully volunteering)
 Olivia said she hate's nature.

OLIVIA
 You liar! I did not!

RACHEL
 I'm not the liar!

MR. SUNDEAN
 Girls! That's enough.

OLIVIA
 (to RACHEL)
 What's your problem?

RACHEL
 Don't act so innocent. You're always lying. Isn't that right,
 Jimmy?

JIMMY
 Why are you bringing me into this?

RACHEL
 You know damned well why!

CLASSMATE
 Oh, this is getting good!

OTHER CLASSMATE
 Love triangle! Love triangle!

MR. SUNDEAN
 What's going on here?

OLIVIA
 Nothing!

MR. SUNDEAN
 (warning)
 Miss Parker -

OLIVIA
 Except nature. Nature sucks. And Emerson. Why does he go on
 and on about it?

CLASSMATE 1
 Who's Emerson?

CLASSMATE 2
 Ralph Waldo, you doofus. The guy we've been studying?

OLIVIA

Nature is horrible. There are bugs and spiders and poison ivy. It's filled with things that want to bite you or tear you from limb to limb. It's either too hot or too cold, all dust and dirt and survival of the fittest but who wants to survive when -

MR. SUNDEAN

(cutting her off)

Olivia, what in the world are you -

OLIVIA

(cutting him off)

Everything sucks, Mr. Sundeane! Life, school -

(glaring at RACHEL)

And especially people!

MR. SUNDEAN

Wow. Okay. That's enough. Class, listen up. Here's the assignment. Each of you are to write an essay on nature and the meaning of Emerson's poem "Merlin's Song." I would also like you to address - and refute - Olivia's proposition that "everything sucks."

Entire class groans.

MR. SUNDEAN (cont'd)

You're welcome.

One student timidly raises their hand.

MR. SUNDEAN (cont'd)

Yes, Casey?

CASEY

When is this due?

MR. SUNDEAN

First thing Monday morning. That gives you the whole weekend to work on it. Olivia, see me in my office after class.

School bell rings. Many of the class shoot Olivia an angry look as they exit.

CLASSMATE 3

(to OLIVIA)

Thanks a lot, weirdo.

CLASSMATE 4

Wait, what was the assignment?

CLASSMATE 5

Were you sleeping through the whole class?

CLASSMATE 6
I love poetry.

CLASSMATE 7
You would.

CLASSMATE 8
I thought this class was supposed to be an easy "A".

CLASSMATE 9
Yeah, me too.

CLASSMATE 10
That sucks.

CLASSMATE 11
You know what sucks Olivia? You do.

CLASSMATE 12
Yeah. Big time.

All exit except one shy student who comes and stands beside Olivia and looks at her beseechingly.

OLIVIA
Hey. I know. This is all my fault and you hate writing essays. I'm really sorry. Really. Listen, why don't we meet this weekend and I'll help you, okay? We'll work on them together.

The shy student nods, gives Olivia a grateful hug and runs off.

OLIVIA (cont'd)
(to herself)
Nice going Olivia. Doofus.

Olivia walks in the opposite direction and Jimmy comes racing after her.

JIMMY
Hey, Olivia, wait up! Wait up!

OLIVIA
What?

JIMMY
Boy, you gave Sundeane a scare. I thought the top of his head was gonna explode!
(Olivia stares at him silently)
Aren't you going to talk to me?

OLIVIA
Why should I?

JIMMY
Because...we're dating?

OLIVIA
I don't think so. The only reason you invited me to that dance was to make Rachel jealous.

JIMMY
Who told you that?

OLIVIA
Rachel.

JIMMY
We'd broken up.

OLIVIA
Not according to her. Then you spent the entire dance over in the corner arguing with Craig Metcalf.

JIMMY
He wants to lie about his age and enlist in the army. I was trying to talk some sense into him.

OLIVIA
Who cares?

JIMMY
I do! There's a war going on, in case you haven't heard. Geez, Olivia, why are you acting like this?

OLIVIA
Like what?

JIMMY
Like - this! All angry and shit. Like nothing matters. Like you don't give a damn.

OLIVIA
I don't. I'm fine.

JIMMY
Why are you pushing me away when I'm being nice?

OLIVIA
"Nice?"

JIMMY
Acting all tough doesn't mean you are tough.

OLIVIA
 (mockingly)
 Well, acting like a jerk means that's exactly what you are.

JIMMY
 What's the matter with you? I thought we liked each other.

RACHEL and JULIET, in mid-conversation,
 cross carrying school books.

JULIET
 Emerson called his wife Queenie. Isn't that cool? If I ever
 get married -

RACHEL
 You told me you were never getting married.

JULIET
 I said "if"! Big IF!

Rachel sees Jimmy and Olivia, nudges
 Juliet.

JULIET (cont'd)
 What? Oh. Didn't you break up a couple weeks ago?

RACHEL
 Who told you that?

JULIET
 You did!

RACHEL
 I wouldn't have broken up with him if I knew he was going to
 ask Olivia out.

JULIET
 Didn't he break up with you?

RACHEL
 Don't be stupid. Nobody breaks up with me.

She crosses over to Jimmy and Olivia.

RACHEL (cont'd)
 Jimmy, can I talk to you for a second?

JIMMY
 I'm kind of in the middle of something -

RACHEL
 Oh, Olivia, Mr. Sundean sent me to find you. You were
 supposed to see him in his office? Something about being
 expelled?

Olivia gives a look of terror and exits to her solo spot to finish the letter to her father.

OLIVIA

And Dad, if that wasn't bad enough...Mr. Sundean talked to Mom and now, because of my whole anti-Emerson thing, she and Grandpa have decided to send me to some crappy camp way out in the woods this summer. Unless I can come spend the summer with you? Please? Please?! This is a matter of life and death! If I don't hear back from you -

(correcting/scribbling out)

Looking forward to hearing back from you at your earliest convenience. Sincerely -

(reconsidering/correcting)

- Cheerfully yours, your daughter...

The light go down on OLIVIA who is anything but cheerful.

LIGHT/MUSIC TRANSITION

SCENE TWO: FIRST DAY OF CAMP

July at Camp Nizhoni, a rustic summer Camp for Girls on a lake in New Hampshire

Nizhoni is pronounced NEE-ZHOH-NEE and is Navajo for "beautiful."

A sign has arrows that point in different directions: Cabins, Lake, Infirmary, Boat House, Showers, Bear Cave, etc.

There are woods in the background. A portion of the exterior of one cabin can be seen stage left, with steps.

As three campers sing the "call and response song" the other campers come on stage with all the hustle bustle excitement of the first day.

Girls are chasing each other, lugging suitcases, greeting each other - most have not seen each other for a year. Some may join in the song.

All campers wear a similar "uniform" of dark shorts and similar colored tops.

JENNY, GABRIELLA, DARLEEN

From coast to coast, (Repeat)
 Camp Nizhohni is the most. (Repeat)
 From Coast to coast (Repeat)
 Camp Nizhohni is the most. (Repeat)
 Na na na na na (Repeat)
 Na na na na na na (Repeat)
 Na na na na na na na (Repeat)
 Na na na na na (Repeat)
 From East to West, Camp Nizhohni is the best
 From State to state, Camp Nizhohni is really great
 From City to City, Camp Nizhohni is really pretty
 From Town to town, Camp Nizhohni is getting down.

One girl crosses the area on short stilts. Another girl (TRUDI) stands crying, already homesick. Lori plays a kazoo in support of the camp song.

Camp Counselor Alyssa Hayes carries a clipboard. Her Counselor in training (CIT) Sivan Phillips and is an over-eager take charge side-kick. Both Sivan and Alyssa wear a "woodsy" style name tag and shirts that say "Staff" on the back.

Juliet and Rachel enter together. Juliet has cut holes into her tee shirt in some artistic way to make it more "fashionable."

ALYSSA

All right, hello everyone! Gather round - could you all gather round?

Olivia enters from another direction carrying her suitcase and looking lost.

ALYSSA (cont'd)

Jenny, Gabriella, Darleen -

JENNY, GABRIELLA, DARLEEN
 (in unison)

Yes?

ALYSSA

There will be plenty of other opportunities for camp songs!
 (The girls sigh, and cease)
 Everyone! I want to see your eyes up here!

Rachel sees Olivia and glares at her.

ALYSSA (cont'd)
Everybody who can see me, hold up your arms! Come on now,
come on, everybody!

Sivan gives a loud blast from her
whistle and looks to Alyssa for
approval.

All the girl settle down, raise their
arms and focus.

ALYSSA (cont'd)
Thank you! You can put your arms down. Wow! Some of you have
grown so much since last year I hardly recognize you.

LORI
(earnestly)
I've been looking forward to this ever since last summer!

DARLEEN
This is my favorite place to be!

ALYSSA
Me too.
(seeing TRUDI crying)
Are you okay Trudi?

TRUDI
I want to go home! I've lost my luggage and Lilac is in it.

ALYSSA
Lilac?

TRUDI
My puppet.

ALYSSA
Oh dear. Don't worry. We'll find your luggage. And you will
go home. In one week.

TRUDI lets out a wail. One of the girls
nearest her gives her some comfort.

ALYSSA (cont'd)
I see lots of familiar faces -

Lori starts to play "Be kind to your
web footed friends" on her kazoo."

LORI
Remember when everyone got kazoos last year?

ALYSSA

I certainly do, Lori.

(aside to SIVAN)

Big mistake. I was hoping they would have lost them by now.

Lori starts to blow on it again.

ALYSSA (cont'd)

Lori! I'm glad you're so musical - but *later*, okay? Thank you. I also see a few new faces. Who's here for the very first time?

Leah, Trudi, and Olivia raise their hands.

ALYSSA (cont'd)

And what do we say to newcomers, my beautiful campers?

ALL GIRLS

(except Leah, Trudi and Olivia)

We welcome you to our fun camp
We're really glad you're here
We'll send the air reverberating
With a mighty cheer

We'll sing you in
We'll sing you out
And we will raise a mighty shout
YEA! Welcome to Camp Nizhoni!

LEAH has joined in the last line.

LEAH

(Enthusiastically)

I'm Leah Watson and I know all the songs because my sister Shelly, she's four years older, went here and told me what a great place this is even if there are bears.

SIVAN

Well, we are in the woods and that's where bears live -

ALYSSA

(correcting course, reassuring)

- but the bears are more afraid of you than you are of them.

TRUDI

(looking about)

That would pretty much be impossible.

There is a rustling sound of footsteps from off.

LEAH

What's that noise? Are we under attack?!

TRUDI

It's the bears!

Several girls excitedly run to investigate.

DARLEEN

(excitedly)

No, no, it's not bears -

GABRIELLA AND RACHEL

It's just the BOYS -

JENNY

Heading to their camp on the other side of the lake!

A stamping and a shuffling as the boys make a big entrance. They have backpacks, suitcases, and one or two are carrying canoe oars.

They are also dressed in a camp uniform of shorts and colored tops. One boy, Raymond, has a tee shirt with the words "Staff" on the back.

ALL BOYS

For Waccamaw we stand,
The best camp in the land.
Loyal and true,
We are men through and through
And when the game is at its height,
You'll see us fight with all our might.
Three cheers for Waccamaw
Rah!, Rah!, Rah!
For Waccamaw we stand,
The best camp in the land.
Loyal and true,
We are men through and through
And when the sun is sinking low,
Then you'll see the campfires glow.
Three cheers for Camp Waccamaw
Rah! Rah! Rah!

Raymond crosses to Alyssa as the rest of the boys exit. It is clear there is some tension between them.

RAYMOND

How are you this year, Alyssa?

ALYSSA

(frostily)

Fine, Raymond. You?

RAYMOND

Great. Got a good group this year.

ALYSSA

That's what you say every year.

RAYMOND

Yes, but this year I mean it.

ALYSSA

Let's see if you can keep control of them. Unlike the chaos of last summer.

RAYMOND

Hey, you gotta admit, we got some good stories!

ALYSSA

(hissing)

I got called into the office and had to talk with Mr. Leffredo and you know how mean HE is! I nearly lost my job because of your shenanigans!

Raymond smiles broadly at her, then turns to the assembled girls.

RAYMOND

See all of you ladies later this week for the Big Camp Dance!

Several of the girls squeal with excitement.

OLIVIA

There's a dance?

TRUDI

(very depressed)

This just gets worse and worse.

David, one of the boys, has come back to fetch Raymond. He waits impatiently, trying to get his attention.

ALYSSA

(to Raymond)

Why didn't you go the back route instead of tromping across right as I am about to go over the week's schedule?

RAYMOND

Roads closed. My men are going to start getting in shape by rowing across the lake.

JULIET

(to Rachel)

Did you see Jimmy?

RACHEL

Of course. And he saw me. It's going to be a good summer.

RAYMOND

All right, ladies, stay safe, don't let the Spirit of the Lake carry you away, and we'll see you in a few days.

David pulls out his kazoo and starts playing "Be Kind to your web footed friends." Lori perks up like she's heard a whistle and answers on her kazoo.

ALYSSA

(barking)
Lori, what did I say about that kazoo?

RAYMOND (cont'd)

(barking)
David, what did I say about that kazoo?

RAYMOND(cont'd)

(to Alyssa)
Wasn't that your big idea to hand those out last year?
(to David)
David, what is it?

DAVID

Mr. Raymond, sir, I just wanted to tell you that Diego's already fallen out of the boat.

RAYMOND

(starting to run)
What? Nobody was supposed to get in the boat until I -

Raymond and David are off.

ALYSSA

Okay, now. Where were we?

JULIET AND RACHEL

Boys?

ALL GIRLS

(each responding with their own opinion)

BOYS!

LEAH

The dance?

ALL GIRLS

(each responding with their own opinion)

The DANCE!

GABRIELLA

BEARS?

The girls all look at one another.

TRUDI
(nervous)

Can we stop talking about bears?!

ALYSSA

Yes. All right. I've got a lot of material to cover.

OLIVIA

What was that about a Spirit of the Lake?

DARLEEN

The lake is haunted.

GABRIELLA

It's a legend about an Indian brave who lost his family and -

LEAH

It's really spooky. If you dip your foot in the lake under a full moon he tries to catch you.

ALYSSA

Girls. We'll get around to camp legends and traditions a bit later. Right now let me introduce Sivan.

SIVAN

Hi!

ALYSSA

Sivan is a Counselor in Training so I expect all of you to respect her authority. Sivan, do you want to say a few words?

SIVAN
(eager to be in control)

Yes! Here is the order of the day. At 7:00 AM you will hear a wake up bell.

JENNY
(jumping in)

7:30 - breakfast. Pancakes. My favorite time of day.

SIVAN

8:45 to 12:45 there will be -

GABRIELLA

Softball -

JULIET

Drama -

DARLEEN

Archery -

SIVAN

(attempting to regain control)

- canoeing, nature, a zip line -

RACHEL

You left out swimming.

SIVAN

Plus we have our own specially designed climbing wall.

OLIVIA

(to a girl standing next to
her.)

What's a climbing wall?

TRUDI

Do we ever get a chance to eat?

JENNY

Snacks are at 10:45, lunch is at 1:00. Supper is at 6:30.

ALYSSA

Girls! *Some* of you know all of this but some of you don't.
Please let Sivan finish. Go ahead.

SIVAN

In the evening we will have games and entertainment, with our
final "big show" and closing camp ritual before we all head
back home. Oh! We will also have one overnight canoe trip
where we'll sleep in tents.

OLIVIA

Outdoors?

TRUDI

On the ground?

SIVAN

Taps is at 10. Lights out means lights out. Any questions?

Olivia raises her hand.

OLIVIA

What's the refund policy?

ALYSSA

It is a little overwhelming when you first arrive - but once
we get into the swing of things you'll understand why Camp
Nizhoni has been helping young ladies gain confidence and
reach their potential -

JENNY AND GABRIELLA

-in a positive, fun filled environment since 1920.

DARLEEN

(whispers to Olivia)

That's from the brochure!

ALYSSA

One of the first things we need to do is find out how well you swim. Ladies, please finish putting your suitcases away, put your swim suits on and meet me down at the dock. We need to figure out who are the minnows, the fish, and the sharks.

SIVAN

(blowing a whistle)

Five minutes!!!!

The girls scatter. Rachel and Juliet approach Olivia.

RACHEL

Fancy seeing you here.

OLIVIA

Hi Rachel. Hi Juliet.

RACHEL

Have you ever been to a camp before?

Olivia shakes her head "no."

RACHEL (cont'd)

I didn't think so, especially after all that talk about how much you "love nature" in Mr. Sundean's class.

JULIET

(proudly)

It's my third year.

OLIVIA

(to JULIET)

What happened to your tee shirt?

JULIET

It's a fashion statement. It's important to have style no matter where you are. Even at camp. I want to be like Mary Quant, the designer that invented the mini-skirt.

OLIVIA

My Mom won't let me wear one.

JULIET

Fashion. It's what separates us from animals.
 (to Olivia)
 Speaking of, nice necklace.

OLIVIA

My Dad gave it to me.

JULIET slaps her leg.

JULIET

Skeeter.

RACHEL

With those extra holes in your clothes you're giving them more places to bite.

JULIET

Some of us understand it's necessary to suffer for style.

JULIET slaps her arm

JULIET (cont'd)

Man. I'm sweeter than I thought. I better find the bug spray.

Juliet exits.

RACHEL

Sooooo...do you know anything about the woods or surviving in the wild or the water? Like, are you a minnow, a fish, or a -

OLIVIA

Oh. Uh. I don't. I mean, I'm not really sure.

RACHEL

Do you know how to swim?

OLIVIA

Kind of?

RACHEL

Did Jimmy tell you he and I are back together?

OLIVIA

No.

RACHEL pushes OLIVIA.

RACHEL

Oh, I'm sorry. Did my hand run into you?

OLIVIA

Hey!

Pushing her again.

RACHEL
Oh, did I do it again? Sorry.

The sound of Sivan's whistle comes from
off stage.

SIVAN
(from off)
Everyone down to the lake!

Rachel gives Olivia a final shove.

RACHEL
(as she exits)
Well, Olivia, in case you were wondering...I'm a shark.

OLIVIA
Crap.

MUSIC AND LIGHT TRANSITION.

SCENE THREE: CAMP WACCAMA

By the side of the lake. Lights up as
the boys camp is struggling to put up a
tent. They are getting increasingly
frustrated. Raymond is sitting near the
pile of back packs, looking on with
some amusement. Brian juggles through
most of the scene.

JIMMY
Here, hold this.

RICKIE
I AM holding it.

DIEGO
Did anyone bring some bug spray?

RAYMOND
Guys. This shouldn't be that hard.

BRIAN
I don't think all the parts are here.

DAVID
There aren't that many parts to a tent, my friend.

BRIAN
Well, how am I supposed to know that?

DIEGO

Didn't your Dad ever take you camping?

BRIAN

My Dad said that he'd never sleep in another tent after serving in the Korean War.

RICKIE

My brother is over in Nam right now -

JIMMY

He is?

RICKIE

Yeah. And he said the tents feel like ovens.

JIMMY

I have a friend that wants to enlist.

RICKIE

I'd enlist right now if I was old enough.

BRIAN

Go overseas and get shot at? Not me!

JIMMY

What about protecting your country?

BRIAN

It's not my country, it's their country.

JIMMY

But -

RAYMOND

How's that tent coming, guys?

They attempt one more time, without success.

RICKIE

(giving the tent a throw)

Arrrrrrrrgh!!!

RAYMOND

Okay, we're all getting a little tired and frustrated. Let's take a break. Remember our camp motto: "Picture a camp where you swim and play all day."

JIMMY

"A camp where you have no worries" -

BRIAN

"No cares" -

DIEGO AND BRIAN

"No responsibilities."

RICKIE

"A camp where you have nothing to do but enjoy" -

DAVID AND BRIAN

"Have fun" -

RICKIE AND DAVID

"And relax."

EVERYONE

"*This is not that camp!*"

All enjoy their little grim joke.

RAYMOND

Okay, guys, gather round. Let's regroup.

DAVID

Can we have our snacks now?

Diego is swatting at his leg and itching.

Raymond gets some bug spray from his pack. Diego sprays and nearly asphyxiates the entire group.

RICKIE

Argh!

DAVID

Go up wind!

JIMMY

Are you trying to kill us?

DIEGO

Sorry.

RAYMOND

Diego just created an entire bug free zone all by himself.

DIEGO

You're all gonna thank me.

RAYMOND

Let's take some refreshment and then get back to work.

All the campers except Jimmy pull out a sandwich or a piece of fruit and start to eat.

RICKIE

Boy, this tastes good.

RAYMOND

Nothing like being outdoors, hiking a few miles and setting up a tent to work up an appetite.

BRIAN

Is there any more food?

RAYMOND

Jimmy, what's the matter? You're not eating.

JIMMY

Not that hungry, I guess.

BRIAN

He's got girl troubles.

DIEGO AND DAVID

Ohhhhh, girl troubles!

JIMMY

(protesting)

Come on guys -

RAYMOND

We haven't even had our first social event yet.

JIMMY

It's a long story.

RAYMOND

I'm listening.

OTHER BOYS

So are we!

JIMMY

Another time, man.

RICKIE

What's the point of doing those trust exercises if you don't trust us?

Jimmy thinks for a minute.

JIMMY

I don't know how to start...except why can't people just be straight with each other, you know? If you like someone, why can't they just like you back, instead of it all becoming one big game?

(MORE)

JIMMY (cont'd)

He said, she said, then someone else says, then rumors start and everything gets all screwed up and people start acting crazy until you don't know what the hell is going on and you wonder why you even went to the dance in the first place when there's a war going on.

DAVID

My mom says that girls are not really that different than boys.

DIEGO

She's lying.

RAYMOND

Sounds like someone hurt you.

JIMMY

Yeah. Maybe.

RAYMOND

Maybe? Hmm. You could try letting them know.

(off Jimmy's look)

Or not. But in my experience if you're straight with other people, they will often rise to the occasion. If you reach out to other people, they'll reach back. Just a thought. Consider it a challenge, a test of your courage and bravery.

A pause as all of the boys consider if they could be that brave.

Then David pulls out his kazoo and starts playing the William Tell Overture. Rickie and Diego pull out kazoo's and join him as the group laughs and gets into the spirit.

RAYMOND (cont'd)

All right, men, grab your packs and that tent and lets make our camp a little closer to the water's edge where we can throw those kazoo's into the lake!

They all march off.

LIGHT TRANSITION TO

SCENE FOUR: NIZHONI LAKESIDE

Camp Nizhoni, lake front.

NOTE: The water can be suggested with lights , cloth, trampoline or any other imaginative illusion.

All the girls are in their swimsuits (or oversize tee shirts), carrying or wearing towels. Alyssa, clipboard in hand, is almost done with her testing.

Sivan blows the whistle to signal Trudi passed her test.

TRUDI

I did it! I can't believe I did it!

SIVAN

(bestowing a pin)

Trudi, congratulations! You just became a fish.

Trudi bounces around, very proud of herself.

ALYSSA

Okay, just two girls left - Rachel and Olivia. Come on, step right up. Oliva, where are you?

RACHEL

(pushing her out front)

She's right here.

ALYSSA

Rachel, I *know* you can swim. Olivia?

OLIVIA

(bluffing)

Yes. Of course. All the time.

RACHEL

You liar.

ALYSSA

(warningly)

Rachel...

RACHEL

She lies about a lot of stuff.

OLIVIA

(to Rachel)

When are you going to stop being such a bitch?

RACHEL

You want to talk about being a bitch, I'll -

ALYSSA

Girls! Language! Olivia, now you're *sure* you're comfortable getting into the water?

OLIVIA

It's just water. I drink it all the time.

ALYSSA

Do the best that you can. We need to know your level for safety and for measuring improvement. Ready?

RACHEL

Ready!

OLIVIA

Uh...ready...

ALYSSA

Okay, on your mark - get set - go!

Sivan blows the whistle to start the test. The other girls yell encouragement. Sivan starts looking through a bag at her feet for the rest of the swimming medals.

SIVAN

Alyssa, there are no more swimming medals in the bag. Do you have any more medals somewhere?

ALYSSA

(heading over)

Are you sure? I had a whole box of them.

Both Sivan and Alyssa are momentarily distracted, looking away from the lake.

RACHEL

Hey Olivia!

OLIVIA

Yeah?

RACHEL

Did my hand just run into you?

Rachel gives Olivia a push, and then jumps into the water and swims away. Juliet has witnessed what happened.

Olivia loses her footing, stumbles and falls into the lake. She goes down like a rock. Leah sees this. The other girls do not see the push.

OLIVIA

Ahhh! Wait - I - whoa -

JULIET

Hey Rachel! That's not right!

DARLEEN

Wow, Rachel really does swim like a shark, doesn't she?

JENNY

Rachel taught me to swim last summer!

LEAH

OLIVIA!

ALL GIRLS

Go! Go! You can do it! Way to swim! Go!Go, go go, go
gooooooooooooo!!!!!!

OLIVIA

Help!

ALYSSA

(Looking around)

Whose calling for help?!

Olivia's hand comes up above the water,
then goes back down.

GABRIELLA

Swim, Olivia, swim!

LEAH

Olivia's in trouble!

Olivia's head comes above water.

OLIVIA

Help!

ALYSSA

Oh my gosh!

LEAH

Olivia's drowning!

OLIVIA

Help!

ALYSSA

OLIVIA!

LEAH

She's gonna die!

ALYSSA

Hang on!

Alyssa jumps into the water and starts pulling Olivia to safety as Sivan repeatedly blows the whistle.

ALYSSA (cont'd)

Keep your head up!

SIVAN

Keep breathing! Girls, clear a space, make room.

The girls all crowd around. Alyssa pulls Olivia to safety. Darleen assists as Olivia lays on the ground.

SIVAN (cont'd)

Back up, back up, give them room!

ALYSSA

Why did you tell me you could swim?!

OLIVIA

(sputtering)

I was hoping I would float!

ALYSSA

You put us all in danger when you're not honest!

OLIVIA

But something grabbed me!

GABRIELLA

What?

OLIVIA

Something grabbed me! Something tried to pull me under the water!

JENNY

(convinced)

The Spirit of the Lake.

DARLEEN

Yeah!

LORI

Stop kidding around.

GABRIELLA, JENNY AND DARLEEN

We're not kidding!

LEAH

The Spirit only shows up on a full moon.

ALYSSA

Rachel! Come back! Get out of the water now!

RACHEL gets out of the water.

RACHEL

(innocently)

Why? What's going on? What happened?

LORI

I swim in this lake every year. There's nothing there.

OLIVIA

Seriously, something tugged on my leg and I couldn't breath -

(her hand goes to her neck)

My necklace! My necklace is gone!

SIVAN

Leah and Lori - help take her to the infirmary.

OLIVIA

But it's the necklace my Dad gave me!

ALYSSA

Are you sure you had it on when you went in?

OLIVIA

I always have it on! I never take it off! I have to find it!

ALYSSA

We'll look for it later. Right now we need to make sure you're okay. Can you stand?

OLIVIA

(melting down)

I think so but I need my necklace! I have to have my necklace! I can't leave without my necklace!

ALYSSA

We'll look later. The nurse needs to check you out and make sure you're not seriously hurt. You're going to the infirmary.

TRUDI

(to OLIVIA)

Are you okay?

DARLEEN

You said you could swim.

LEAH

You sank like a rock!

LORI

We thought you were just joking around out there.

LEAH

(to Gabriella)

You really think it was the Spirit?

GABRIELLA

What else could it be?

TRUDI

All I can say is I'm glad it didn't get me.

ALYSSA

Come on, gather everything up. Oh my gosh, if anything would have happened - I've never - I mean, the whole time I've been here - this has never - EVER -

OLIVIA

Can't someone get my necklace before -

ALYSSA

To the infirmary - NOW! Darleen, run ahead and let the nurse know we're coming. Hurry!

OLIVIA

I'm okay, really, I'm okay now - I don't need any help - I'm FINE -

Leah runs off. The group gathers around Olivia, taking her off to the infirmary over her protests.

JULIET

(to RACHEL)

Gosh Rachel, why'd you do that? That was mean.

Rachel shrugs, smiles, and follows the rest of the group to the infirmary.

LIGHT/MUSIC TRANSITION

SCENE FIVE: LETTER'S HOME

BRIAN

July, 1969. Dear Mom and Dad, I don't like fig newtons. Please send M&M's, Bit O'Honey's, Peanut Chews and Mar's bars. No cake cause we don't have a fridge. Send candy and I will write again. Brian.

LEAH

Dear Mom, I saved a life yesterday. Everyone was taking the swimming test and I became a fish when this girl fell in the lake and drowned. Almost. It was really cool. She's okay now. Could you please send Mallomars? Love, Leah.

RICKIE

Dear Mom and Dad, you told me to write to you and now I have. Rickie.

LIGHT TRANSITION TO

SCENE SIX: CAMP NIZHONI

Sivan is enthusiastically ringing "the morning bell" - a very large cow bell.

SIVAN

Breakfast! Up and at 'um!

Juliet, Rachel, Jenny, Gabriella, Darleen, and Lori all tumble out of the cabin in various forms of disarray, heading off towards the main lodge, talking over each other.

JENNY

I'm starving! I hope they have pancakes this morning.

RACHEL

It's too early for breakfast.

DARLEEN

With blueberries.

GABRIELLA

And bananas.

JULIET

Did anyone else hear that mosquito buzzing all night?

RACHEL

Would you guys shut up?

GABRIELLA

Somebody got up on the wrong side of the bunk bed.

RACHEL

All you guys did was snore and fart the whole night so could you shut up now?

Sivan enthusiastically launches into song as they exit.

(To the tune of "Drunken Sailor") A few girls join in as Rachel glares.

SIVAN

What do you do with a sleepy camper?
 What do you do with a sleepy camper?
 What do you do with a sleepy camper
 Early in the morning?
 (Chorus) Way hey late, ye risers. Way hey late, ye risers.
 Way hey late, ye risers. Early in the morning.

They are off. The door to the cabin opens. Lilac the Monkey Puppet peers out.

LILAC/TRUDI

The coast is clear.

Trudi steps out holding Lilac, followed by Olivia. They sit on the porch step.

TRUDI

Last night was the worst, wasn't it Lilac?

LILAC/TRUDI

All those smells and sounds and other people sleeping in the same room? It's creepy.

TRUDI

Plus the bugs.

LILAC

Those don't bother me. I eat them.

OLIVIA

Why were you crying the first day?

LILAC

She didn't think anyone would talk to her. We've never been away from home before, or to a camp. And then she lost me! You lost me!

TRUDI

I didn't mean to!

(To Olivia)

All the kids at school think I'm weird.

OLIVIA

Really?

TRUDI

(heavy sigh)

Once in sixth grade when I came out of the bathroom I had toilet paper stuck to my shoe. Everyone started calling me TP Girl. It doesn't seem fair that something stupid happens to you once and no one ever lets you forget it.

OLIVIA

I wonder if the stupid stuff we do follows us our whole life.

TRUDI

I'm so tired! Have you ever had a worse night than last night?

OLIVIA

Yea. The night my parents told me they were getting divorced. I knew something was going on. My Mom had moved into my room and told me that we were going to be roommates.

TRUDI

With your Mom?

OLIVIA

Yeah. She tried to act like it was going to be fun, but...then she never moved out. Some days she wouldn't even get out of bed.

TRUDI

Do you have any brothers or sisters?

OLIVIA

Nope, just me. One night I got home early from school and the two of them were screaming at each other. Then they turned around and saw me standing there. Of course, they told me it wasn't that they didn't love me...yeah. Why does anyone ever get married?

TRUDI

Because they love each other?

(pause)

I feel guilty.

OLIVIA

Why?

TRUDI

Cause I have really nice parents and a really nice brother. And Lilac is really nice.

LILAC

Ah, thanks.

OLIVIA

You're lucky.

TRUDI

Where'd your Dad go?

OLIVIA

He remarried and moved across the country. I wanted to go stay with him this summer but...

TRUDI

Does he write to you?

OLIVIA shakes her head no. Pause.

TRUDI (cont'd)

Lilac would like to give you a hug. Is that okay?

Olivia nods "yes" and Lilac hugs her.

OLIVIA

Thanks, Lilac.

LILAC

You're welcome.

TRUDI

And if you don't get any letters I'll share my brother's with you. My brother wants to be a comedy writer when he comes home. Lilac has all his jokes memorized.

LILAC

What is the difference between a snow man and a snow woman? Snowballs!

They both laugh.

OLIVIA

Good one. So where does your brother live?

TRUDI

He's a pilot in Vietnam. Dad says he should be home by the end of the year.

ALYSSA

(entering)

Where have you two been? You have five minutes to grab some breakfast before we hit the wall.

OLIVIA AND TRUDI

Wall?!

ALYSSA

Our climbing wall. Trudi, I thought we agreed that Lilac has to stay in the cabin during the day.

LILAC

Wait, what?!

ALYSSA

Come on, come on, shake a leg. The early bird gets the worm.

ALYSSA exits.

TRUDI

You want my worm?

OLIVIA

I was going to offer you mine.

LILAC

Yum! I love worms!

A whistle from off stage.

SIVAN

(from off)

Olivia! Trudi! Now means now!

LIGHT/MUSIC TRANSITION TO:

SCENE SEVEN: THE WALL AT CAMP NIZHONI AND WACCAMA

One half of the stage is Camp Nizhoni, the other half is Camp Waccama.

Two "walls" are being set up on the girls side and one "wall" on the boys side.

The climbing walls can be represented in a number of ways. One suggestion is simple tall ladders that cast members hold in place and that can be climbed up on one side and down the other. Blocks might also be used. The most important element is that it this be a very physical (and safe) activity that looks daring.

Some campers are excited, some are intimidated. All work to prepare the area and themselves (by stretching warming up, etc.) as they sing their dueling camps songs.

Sung to the tune of "She'll Be Coming Round the Mountain."

ALL GIRLS

Can a woman fly a jet? Yes she can, yes she can!
 Can a woman Can a woman fight a fire, n be a vet? Yes she can,
 yes she can!
 Can a woman change a tire?
 Or build a business empire? Yes she can.

The boys song is sung to the tune of
 the Battle Hymn of the Republic, sort
 of. ("My eyes have seen the glory ...")

Alternate verses between girls and boys
 camp. Shorten as needed but end with
 girls verse.

ALL BOYS

I like bananas, coconuts, and grapes!
 I like bananas, coconuts, and grapes!
 I like bananas, coconuts and grapes!
 That's why they call me (yelling) Tarzan of the Apes!

ALL GIRLS

Can a woman be a plumber? Yes she can, yes she can!
 Can a woman be a drummer? Yes she can, yes she can!
 Can she be an architect
 Or a president elect
 Can our country she protect? Yes she can, yes she can!

ALL BOYS

I like bananas, coconuts, and grapes!
 I like bananas, coconuts, and grapes!
 I like bananas, coconuts and grapes!
 That's why they call me (yelling) Tarzan of the Apes!

ALL GIRLS

Can a woman race a car? Yes she can, yes she can!
 Can a woman be a star? Yes she can, yes she can!
 Can a woman write a book?
 As a lawyer catch a crook?
 Can she stop you with a look? Yes she can, yes she can!

ALL BOYS

I like bananas, coconuts, and grapes!
 I like bananas, coconuts, and grapes!
 I like bananas, coconuts and grapes!
 That's why they call me (yelling) Tarzan of the Apes!

ALL GIRLS

Just you wait until we're older, then you'll see
 We'll be women in tomorrow's history!
 As we grow up through the years
 We'll sing out loud and clear
 Can we start the process here?
 Yes we can, yes we can!!

Alyssa and Raymond step forward to
 instruct their campers in their
 separate "camps."

ALYSSA

Gather round - could you all
 gather round?

RAYMOND

Gather round - could you all
 gather round?

ALYSSA

So - welcome to our very own Climbing Wall.

RAYMOND

Pretty cool, huh?

ALYSSA

A few words before we start.

RAYMOND

It looks scary but you are all natural climbers.

ALYSSA

As kids, you climbed up from the floor onto the furniture.

ALYSSA (cont'd)

You've all climbed trees.

RAYMOND

You've all climbed trees.

LEAH

Not me.

DIEGO

(to Jimmy)

Actually climb?

OLIVIA

When I was six years old!

JIMMY

We got this, Diego.

ALYSSA

Climbing gives us opportunities to practice important life
 virtues like -

ALYSSA (cont'd)
-perseverance, persistence
and patience.

RAYMOND
Perserverance, persistence
and patience.

RAYMOND (cont'd)
Lessons you learn when you test your mental and physical
abilities.

SIVAN
(blowing whistle)
Listen up!

ALYSSA
We've split you up into two teams.

RAYMOND
Men, we are on the same team. As a team you must climb up and
over the wall.

ALYSSA
As a team member you are responsible for helping each other,
encouraging each other, assisting each other.

ALYSSA (cont'd)
Your contributions are
essential for the whole group
to succeed.

RAYMOND
Your contributions are
essential for the whole group
to succeed.

SIVAN
Okay! The Green Team is Leah, Trudi, Gabriella, Jenny and
Lori.

LEAH
Are the boys having to do this?

LORI
I doubt it.

BRIAN
I bet the girls couldn't do this.

RAYMOND
How much you want to bet?

GABRIELLA
I don't know how to climb!

JENNY
Green Team Rocks!!!

SIVAN
Darleen, Rachel, Juliet and Olivia, you are the Red Team.

JENNY

Oh, I love the color red!

DARLEEN

Me too!

RACHEL

(referring to Olivia)

Why is SHE on MY team? Huh? Why?

JULIET

(to Olivia)

Just try to ignore her. That's what I do.

OLIVIA

Ignore someone that wants to kill you?

ALYSSA

Now get in your groups, figure out who will go first, how you're going to accomplish this.

The girls look around. No one moves.

SIVAN

(blowing the whistle)

Okay, girls! Let's get up and over that wall!

RAYMOND

Let's get up and over that wall!

The Green Team is clearly the more focused and enthusiastic group on the Nizhoni side.

JENNY

Okay, guys, I'll go first. You can spot me and then I can help you over and be ready to catch.

GABRIELLA

You're so brave!

JENNY

That's because in fifth grade our gym coach told us the reason there were no girls sports teams was because running hard would make our uterus fall out. Then my parents moved me to a school district with a better coach. Now I hear Coach Moore's voice saying, "You're a woman. No excuses. Get your ass out on the field and play like hell."

LEAH

The Green Team is the Dream Team!

LORI

Jenny, let me go first! I'm afraid if I have too much time to think about it I won't go at all.

JENNY

All right - let's do this!

As the Red Team is gathering, the Waccama Team has gathered to discuss the challenge.

RICKIE

In basic training my brother said they did a lot of stuff like this. He said the worst part was right before you started.

DAVID

And the "best" part?

RICKIE

Right after you finish.

JIMMY

Okay. I volunteer to go first.

Both Jimmy and Lori start climbing as the Red Team quarrels.

RACHEL

(to Olivia)

You go first.

OLIVIA

You go!

RACHEL

You!

OLIVIA

No, you! Besides, who made you the team leader?

RACHEL

Some people are born to lead.

OLIVIA

(mimicking her)

"Some people are born to lead" - my ass.

RACHEL

(to Juliet)

Then you go.

JULIET

But heights make me dizzy.

ALYSSA approaches the Red Team.

ALYSSA

What's going on?

RACHEL

Olivia is refusing to be a part of the team and go first.

ALYSSA

Olivia, is that right?

OLIVIA

(sputtering at the unfairness)

But Alyssa, I - I -

ALYSSA

If so, I'm very disappointed in you.

OLIVIA

- I....oh, never mind.

(glaring at RACHEL)

I'll go.

Now all three teams are at the ladders. As Olivia, Lori and Jimmy start up the wall their respective teams cheer them on.

LEAH

Haul ass! Go like hell!

BRIAN

Faster - you can do it!

DAVID

Go! Go! Go!

JULIET

DON'T FALL!!!

When the three are at the highest point there is a music/light shift. The encouraging calls fade away, the other campers freeze as Olivia, Lori and Jimmy are in the spotlight at the top of their individual "walls."

JIMMY

Raymond keeps giving us all these lectures on courage, and overcoming obstacles, and facing our demons. You know what takes courage? Going to high school. Always feeling that someone's behind you. Whispers in your ears, all the rumors. The feeling that you're not normal, that you're weird but still trying to fit in. High school is where the demons live.

(MORE)

JIMMY (cont'd)

I want to pack up my bags and move somewhere no one knows me. My old man keeps asking what I'm going to do with my life. How the hell should I know?

OLIVIA

I have a nightmare where I'm in the middle of the ocean and I keep slipping further and further away. So far I can't even see the shore. Sometimes it feels like my whole body is going to explode. Or dissolve. I'm an Alka Selter tablet. Plop plop, fizz fizz. And I want it all to stop, you know? Just. Stop. I think about it, sometimes. I do. Just...disappearing under a wave. my Mom and Dad would be so sorry, right? Maybe they'd even get back together. But I can't figure out a way to do it without hurting, or without a lot of blood. Still. In my dream I'm slipping away. The water is salty and taste like tears. Then I wake up.

LORI

(cheerfully singing)

Now the bug juice that they give you they say is mighty fine. It's good for cuts and bruises and tastes like iodine.

(CHORUS) Gee, ma, I wanna go, but they won't let me go, Gee, ma, I wanna go hoooooome!

Now the first aid that they give you they say is mighty fine. For if you cut your finger, you're only left with nine.

Now the lake at Camp Nizhoni they say's the best around. But if you are not careful, you know you're sure to drown.

LORI AND OLIVIA

(CHORUS)Gee, ma, I wanna go, but they won't let me go, Gee, ma, I wanna go hoooooome!

Lori blows a final flourish on her kazoo.

Lori and Jimmy climb back down to be greeted by high fives and cheers leaving Oliva alone at the top of the wall.

LIGHT/MUSIC TRANSITION

SCENE EIGHT: ARE YOU MY TRIBE?

Later. The moon is out. Sound of water lapping the shore. Olivia is by the lake searching for her necklace. Gabriella enters.

GABRIELLA

There you are! Alyssa sent me to find you and I've been searching everywhere! What are you doing?

OLIVIA

Looking for the necklace I lost.

GABRIELLA

Oh. I'll help. What's it look like?

As they look on the shore.

OLIVIA

It's a gold chain with a locket in the shape of a heart. My Dad gave this to me before he left. It's the only thing I have that...

GABRIELLA

My dad died before I ever knew him and my Mom - well, she's pretty messed up. I live with my grandmother. She's cool for an old lady. Still. Adults. How do you grow up without becoming one? That's what I want to know. Maybe we should come back and look during the day?

OLIVIA

I already did. Crap. Why do you come back to this camp?

GABRIELLA

This isn't such a bad place. I mean, it's kind of adolescent sometimes, but...everyone here is kind of weird. That's why I like it. And the overnight camping trip is the best! Maybe you just need to improve your attitude.

OLIVIA

Gabby, you sound like my mom. Maybe my attitude can't be improved.

GABRIELLA

Every attitude can be improved. Sometimes attitudes just need a little help.

Gabriella pulls a joint out of her pocket.

OLIVIA

Is that a -

GABRIELLA

Yes.

OLIVIA

How did you -(get it?)

GABRIELLA

My boyfriend.

OLIVIA

Isn't that illegal?

GABRIELLA

Yes.

OLIVIA

Won't we get in big trouble?

GABRIELLA

Ah, everything's copacetic. You want some?

OLIVIA

(pause)

I don't know how.

GABRIELLA

I should have figured. A virgin.

Pulls out a match, lights it, offers it.

GABRIELLA (cont'd)

The brochure says Camp Nizhoni will help you gain confidence and reach your potential. Consider this part of the Nizhoni experience.

GABRIELLA takes a toke and extends it to OLIVIA.

OLIVIA

Will we get in trouble?

GABRIELLA

Come on Olivia, don't be so uptight. Here. Go like this.

Gabby demonstrates again, passes it to Olivia who takes a timid toke.

GABRIELLA (cont'd)

No, no - you gotta hold it in.

OLIVIA

No thanks. I mean, you go ahead. I'm afraid I'll hallucinate or something.

GABRIELLA

That's a myth. You'll just relax and slow down. You might get the munchies. That's all.

Gabby teasingly exhales in Olivia's direction. Olivia fans the smoke away.

GABRIELLA (cont'd)

So, you know what I think? I think the Spirit of the Lake took your necklace.

OLIVIA

Ha! Talk about stupid myths.

GABRIELLA

Do you even know the story?

OLIVIA shakes her head no. Soft sound of beating tom tom drum in distance.

GABRIELLA (cont'd)

Many moons ago an Indian Brave left his village to go hunting. When he returned his village had vanished. He could find no trace of his family, his beloved wife, son and daughter. After searching the four corners of the earth, he returned to this very lake. One night, when the moon was full he thought he saw his family reflected in the water and he threw himself in the lake and drowned.

OLIVIA

What?

GABRIELLA

Legend has it that when the moon is full the Spirit of the Lake is still searching, pulling on strangers and asking, are you my beloved? Are you my tribe?

Drum ends.

OLIVIA

Oh my god! That is so sad! Were the Nizhoni his tribe?

GABRIELLA

Nizhoni isn't a tribe, goofball. Nizhoni is Navajo for "beautiful. This Indian belonged to the Tribe...of... the Broken hearted.

OLIVIA

The Tribe of the Broken hearted?

GABRIELLA

Yeah. And look. He should be out tonight cause the moon is almost full.

(pause)

There's gonna be a man walking up there on Sunday. It's gonna be on TV but we won't get a chance to see it cause we'll be here. But think about that. Walking on the moon!

GABRIELLA mimics walking on the moon.

OLIVIA

(watching her for a moment.)

How can you tell if you're stoned?

GABRIELLA

Next year they'll probably build apartment buildings. A space colony. Come on, let's drive there!

OLIVIA

But I haven't taken driver's ed yet.

GABRIELLA

Driver's ed on the moon. That's funny! And parking. Parking. Have you?

OLIVIA

What?

GABRIELLA

Parked.

OLIVIA

A car?

GABRIELLA

What are you talking about a car for?

OLIVIA

I wasn't. You were.

GABRIELLA

I was? Oh. Have you done "it?"

OLIVIA

It?

GABRIELLA

(smiling)

You know. Gone all the way? S-E-X?

OLIVIA

Uh - well -

GABRIELLA

Oh! Got it. Virgin. Anything you want to know, just ask me. I can't wait until camp is over, man. Me and my boyfriend are gonna start a band. He plays guitar like Jimi Hendrix. Really far out. I'm hungry, you hungry? Wait right here and I'll bring us back some snacks. Leah told me her folks sent her some Mallomars. She shares. Don't go away.

Gabriella exits. Olivia crosses to the lake front.

OLIVIA

Hello? Spirit? Spirit, are you there?

There are some wood sounds - an owl hoots. It hoots again. Something rustles in the woods.

OLIVIA (cont'd)
Oh my gosh. Gabby? GABRIELLA?!!

GABRIELLA
(re-entering)
What was I going to get again?

OLIVIA
Mallomars?
(laughing)
I thought that rustling was either a bear or the Spirit of the -

Alyssa enters.

ALYSSA
What the hell are you two doing down here?! Are you smoking dope?! Don't tell me you're not, because I know what dope smells like! Let me remind you - you are in a camp with rules.

GABRIELLA
Yes M'am.

ALYSSA
And there are rules for a reason.

OLIVIA
Yes M'am.

ALYSSA
You could get me fired. Is that what you want?

GABRIELLA
Yes M'am. I mean, no M'am.

ALYSSA
Olivia? Do you have anything to say for yourself?

OLIVIA
Sorry?

ALYSSA
You've both put me in a real bind. I don't know what would be a greater punishment - to call your parents, to make you go see Mr. Loffredo -

OLIVIA	GABRIELLA
Please don't tell my mother!	Please don't tell Mr. Lofreddo!

ALYSSA

- but Mr.Loffredo would probably fire me after something like this because after last year - Arrgh. This is really serious. Okay. Here's the deal. You BOTH have to stay behind AND scrub and clean every corner of this camp until it sparkles while the rest of us go on the canoe trip.

GABRIELLA

What?! You can't make us do that.

ALYSSA

No, I can't - because I will be with the other campers on the trip. However, Sivan can stay behind supervise.

GABRIELLA

But Alyssa! The overnight trip is the main reason I come back every year!

ALYSSA

You should have thought about that before you decided to send up some smoke signals tonight. And you, Olivia, you promised me you wouldn't be anywhere near this lake until you can convince me you won't drown.

OLIVIA

But I was looking for my -

ALYSSA

I don't want to hear it. Let's get back up to camp. And if either of you have any more stash, you better hand it over right now.

Gabriella reluctantly reaches in her pocket and hands her small stash to Alyssa. The two girls head off.

ALYSSA (cont'd)

Oh my god. I'm getting too old for this shit.

MUSIC/LIGHT TRANSITION

SCENE NINE: OVER NIGHT CAMP TRIP

Juliet, Rachel, Jenny, Darleen, Lori, Trudi and Leah enter. One or two of them are holding canoe paddles, the rest have life jackets on. They are heading off for the overnight trip.

Sivan, Olivia and Gabriella watch.

ALL GIRLS

A boy and a girl in a little canoe
With the moon shining all around.

(MORE)

ALL GIRLS (cont'd)

And as they paddled their paddles
 They couldn't even hear a sound.
 So they talked and they talked
 'till the moon grew dim.
 Then he said you better kiss me or get out and swim

Alyssa enters and crosses to Sivan.

ALYSSA

Sorry, Sivan. It didn't seem fair to punish the whole group
 because of the antics of these two.

SIVAN

I understand. Gabriella! Oliva! You are going to sweep,
 scour, spit and polish till we can eat off the floor.

OLIVIA

But it's a dirt floor.

Sivan blows her whistle. Oliva,
 Gabriella and Sivan grimly head off in
 one direction as Alyssa and the rest of
 the girls head off in the other.

ALL GIRLS

A boy and a girl in a little canoe
 with the moon shining all-a
 boy swimming all-a
 girl paddling all-a round

LIGHT TRANSITION TO

SCENE TEN: BOYS LETTERS HOME

DIEGO

Dear Mom and Dad, we are learning to survive in the woods.
 Last night I ate something that made me puke. Please send me
 a knife. Diego

DAVID

Hey, having a great time. Today I learned that if I lean too
 far to one side the canoe will tip over. Cool! Signed David

BRIAN

Dad, I am learning so much. Did you know that you can
 actually set a fart on fire? I'll show you when I come home.
 Love Brian.

LIGHT/MUSIC TRANSITION

SCENE ELEVEN: CINDERELLA'S STEPMOTHER

Afternoon of the next day. Gabriella and Olivia have just finished cleaning the bathrooms and are holding toilet brushes. The both look utterly exhausted and miserable. Sivan enters with a clipboard.

SIVAN

(looking over her list)

Let's see - all cabins, kitchen, main lodge, craft lodge, fire pit, infirmary swept and dusted. You finished cleaning the lake equipment with bleach?

GABRIELLA AND OLIVIA

Yes.

SIVAN

You cleaned the archery equipment?

GABRIELLA AND OLIVIA

Yes.

SIVAN

And you finished the bathrooms?

Both girls hold up their toilet brushes. Sivan walks over and runs a finger on a step of the cabin, looks at it disapprovingly.

SIVAN (cont'd)

You call this clean?

GABRIELLA

But Sivan! We've been sweeping and washing for the past 24 hours! You are meaner than Cinderella's step mother!

SIVAN

You aint' seen nothing yet! I want you to start dusting the -

The happy sound of girls offstage then entering in a pack, with Alyssa bringing up the rear.

OLIVIA

Thank heavens they're back!

LORI

The best camping trip ever!

DARLEEN

The best!

TRUDI

The best!

LORI

I have to go figure out what I'll wear for the dance.

LEAH

Me too!

GABRIELLA

Dance?

LORI

How could you forget?

JULIET

Camp Waccama is coming over because the dance is tonight!

GABRIELLA

Oh my gosh! Tonight?

RACHEL

Tonight!

GABRIELLA

Oh my gosh! I'm a mess!!!

Most of the girls run off to the
cabins. Alyssa crosses to Sivan.

ALYSSA

Like herding cats. I've got such a headache. How'd it go
here?

SIVAN

Excellent! I was going to have them dust the trees next!

Alyssa and Sivan exit as Rachel crosses
over to Olivia who is still holding the
toilet brush.

RACHEL

Looks like someone has been dousing themselves in "Eau De
Toilette."

OLIVIA

Ha. Ha. Ha.

RACHEL

Just so there's no misunderstanding...at the dance tonight?
Stay away from Jimmy. Got that, loser?

RACHEL exits.

OLIVIA
 (mimicking RACHEL)
 "Got that, loser?" Yeah. Yeah. I got it.

LIGHT/MUSIC TRANSITION

SCENE TWELVE: I GET LOOSE, I GET FUNKY

A string of lights casts a festive glow. A small table with refreshments is nearby. Alyssa and Raymond lead the "call and repeat" of "I Get Loose, I Get Funky" in which they say the line that is then repeated by all the campers as they do a group dance. They are halfway through the dance.

ALYSSA & RAYMOND

I get loose!

I get funky!

Get your body movin'!

It started with your feet!

Ooh your feet!

Your legs!

Your hips!

Your arms!

I get loose!

I get funky!

Get your body movin'!

It started with your feet!

Ooh your feet!

Your legs!

Your hips!

Your arms!

Your head!

I get loose!

(MORE)

ALYSSA & RAYMOND (cont'd)

I get funky!

Get your body movin'!

It started with your feet!

Ooh your feet!

Your legs!

Your hips!

Your arms!

Your head!

Your whole body!

I get loose!!

The campers all congratulate themselves, then quickly segregate into the girls side and the boys side.

ALYSSA

Welcome, welcome, welcome!

RAYMOND

This is the special night when the young women and men who share the shores of Silver Lake get a chance to spend some special time together.

ALYSSA

We ask that you make an effort to meet new people. Mix it up a little. Dance with someone you don't already know.

RAYMOND

Most importantly, let's all have fun!

Music underneath as the boys and the girls now size each other up.

RAYMOND (cont'd)

(to ALYSSA)

So, are you having fun?

ALYSSA

Not yet. Maybe when camp is over.

They laugh knowingly and cross to the refreshments.

DAVID

You go.

RICK
Uh uh. I'm not going first.

Rick pushes Diego.

RICK (cont'd)
You go.

DIEGO
Why me? You go!

BRIAN
Guys! Be cool.

DAVID
Do you want to dance?

LORI
YES!

They do. Rick gathers his courage and crosses to Juliet. Before he even gets a chance to say anything Darleen grabs his hand and drags him to the dance floor.

DARLEEN
HI! Let's dance. What's your name?

RICK
Rick.

DARLEEN
Like Rickie Nelson? Cool! I'm Darleen. Just think "darling" and you'll remember my name. Darling. Isn't that easy?

Diego crosses over to Rachel.

DIEGO
Hi! I'm Diego. Do you want to dance?

RACHEL
(looking over at Jimmy)
No. I said no. N-O. Go stand somewhere else. Go! Get away from me. Scat!

DIEGO
Oh. Uhhh. Okay.

He slinks back to the boys side. Leah follows him.

LEAH
Hi Diego. I'm Leah. Will you dance with me?

DIEGO
(brightening)

Sure!

They dance. Brian and Jimmy stand near each other.

BRIAN
I don't like to dance. Do you?

JIMMY
Depends on who I'm dancing with.

BRIAN
I'm gonna dance myself over to the refreshment table.

As Brian dances away Jimmy makes up his mind and crosses halfway to the girls side. Rachel preens. He continues his cross to stand before Olivia.

JIMMY
Listen, I've been thinking and I really need to talk to you.

OLIVIA
(uncertain)
Uhhhh.

JIMMY
Honestly, I'm on your side. Will you meet me at the lake?

OLIVIA
When?

JIMMY
Tomorrow night. Ten o'clock, down by the rocks. Right now, come dance with me, okay?

He holds out his hand. She takes it and they start to dance. All of the rest of the girls but Rachel have paired off and are dancing. Rachel fumes on the sidelines as Olivia nervously glances at her from time to time. Diego and Leah sneak off stage. The song comes to an end.

Rachel marches over, pushes Olivia aside and grabs Jimmy's hand.

RACHEL
You're just doing this to punish me!

JIMMY

Rache, come on, we've already been over this. Can't we be friends?

RACHEL

Are you kidding me? Friends?

OLIVIA starts to exit.

JIMMY

Olivia, wait-

RACHEL

Jimmy.

OLIVIA

Jimmy, it's all right.

JIMMY

No it isn't. You can't tell me who I can talk to, Rachel. In fact, you can't really tell me anything after how you acted toward me.

RACHEL

I hate you!

SIVAN hurries over.

SIVAN

Everything all right here?

RACHEL

(big smile)

Everything's just fine, Sivan. I love your outfit, by the way.

SIVAN is confused since she is wearing her regular clothes.

RACHEL (cont'd)

And this is a wonderful dance.

SIVAN

Good. But people should be dancing at dances.

JIMMY

I agree.

He reaches for Olivia's hand. Rachel, exploding in frustration, hits him.

RACHEL

(To Jimmy)

You are ruining my life!

(MORE)

RACHEL (cont'd)

(To Olivia)

Why did you have to come to this camp, anyway? I should have drowned you the first day when I had the chance!

She attacks Olivia, who defends herself. A scuffle.

ALYSSA

Whoa, hold on!

OLIVIA

Ow! Stop!

RAYMOND

Hey, hey, everyone, chill out!

JIMMY

What the hell are you doing?

Sivan and Alyssa join in the fray and all the other campers circle round chanting "fight, fight, fight" Rachel is pulled off.

ALYSSA

All right, all right, that's it!

RAYMOND

Everybody take a deep breath!

ALYSSA

Raymond, I think it's time for the Waccama boys to head back to the other side of the lake.

RAYMOND

Wouldn't it be better if we all gathered in a circle and discussed -

ALYSSA

Not tonight! I don't think I can process or discuss one more thing tonight!

(to Rachel)

I expected better from you. You're coming with me.

RACHEL

You don't understand - it isn't fair! Do you know who my parents are? Stuff like this isn't supposed to happen to me!

Alyssa starts to march Rachel off, but as they pass the refreshment table Rachel grabs a cup of red Kool Aid, quickly turning to throw it on Olivia - SPLAT.

Rachel turns on her heels and exits.

Olivia stands startled and dripping for a moment, then runs off in the opposite direction.

Diego and Leah re-enter holding hands, look around.

DIEGO

Hey, what's going on?

LEAH

What'd we miss?

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

ACT TWO, SCENE ONE: ALL THROUGH THE NIGHT

The following night. Evening forest sounds - crickets, etc.

A bear walks across the back of the stage, unseen by Jenny and Trudi, who are sitting on the step of the cabin.

JENNY AND TRUDI

(singing)

While the moon her watch is keeping
All through the night
While the weary world is sleeping
All through the night
O'er their spirit gently stealing
Visions of delight revealing
Breathes a pure and holy feeling all through the night.

Darleen sneaks out of the cabin.

TRUDI

Darleen, where you going?

DARLEEN

I'm starving. I figured out where they keep the snacks and I'm going to get one before lights out.

JENNY

Watch out for bears!

DARLEEN

I can't believe they tell us that same old story every year just to try and scare us. So stupid!

As Darleen exits, Olivia also slips out of the cabin, unseen, and heads towards the lake.

In the boys camp, Diego and David are singing the same tune in Spanish.

DIEGO AND DAVID

Amor, a ti mis pensamientos están cambiando
Durante toda la noche
Todo por ti, mi corazón anhela
Durante toda la noche.
Aunque triste destino nuestras vidas pueden cortar
La despedida no durará para siempre,
Hay una esperanza que nunca me deja,
Durante toda la noche.

Jimmy slips past them, unseen.

LIGHT/MUSIC TRANSITION

ACT TWO, SCENE TWO: SHOOTING STARS

Jimmy is waiting by the lake. Sound of lapping water, the moon overhead. He skips a rock, waits some more. Sees something shiny near the water's edge, picks it up, puts it in his pocket. Finally Olivia enters.

JIMMY

Wasn't sure you were going to come.

OLIVIA

Wasn't sure I could get away.

Awkward pause.

OLIVIA (cont'd)

Or if I should.

JIMMY

I don't know how to begin.

OLIVIA

Try opening your mouth and letting some words come out.

JIMMY

I wanted to tell you that...you know I've always liked you. I don't understand how we got to this weird place, but I remember the first time I saw you in choir - and the talks we had about music -

OLIVIA

Admit it. The Monkees are good!

JIMMY

Not as good as the Beatles.

OLIVIA

You're just being a snob.

JIMMY

The Beatles wrote songs inspired by Beethoven and Vivaldi and Bach. The Monkees wrote songs inspired by the Beatles. That makes the Beatles better.

OLIVIA

You wanted to get together so you could insult my taste in music?

JIMMY

You wouldn't be insulted if you realized you are wrong.

Olivia gives him a playful push and he holds onto her hand.

JIMMY (cont'd)

And I wanted to tell you...I think you're smart, and you're pretty, and you're brave.

Pulling her hand away.

OLIVIA

Brave? Ha!

JIMMY

Listen, speaking from experience, anyone who tangles with Rachel is brave! Plus last spring I didn't ask you to that dance just to make Rachel jealous. We'd broken up.

JIMMY (cont'd)

You really hurt me when you didn't believe me and stopped talking to me in school.

OLIVIA

I believe you. I believe you.

JIMMY

Wait, what?

OLIVIA

I said I believe you. I didn't at first, but after spending time here at camp with Rachel, well, she obviously has her own definition of reality.

JIMMY

She's all about the drama. Did they call her parents to come take her home?

OLIVIA

No. Alyssa made us both go to see Mr. Loffredo.

JIMMY

I thought he was just another legend, like the Bear or the Spirit of the Lake.

OLIVIA

Apparently he's owned these camps for a million years.

JIMMY

Is he scary?

OLIVIA

No! Just old. But really nice. He told us this summer has nearly driven Alyssa to the edge of a nervous breakdown.

(MORE)

OLIVIA (cont'd)

Then Alyssa started crying. Rachel and I felt kind of sorry for her.

JIMMY

Bummer.

OLIVIA

Then he said it's up to him to figure out some kind of punishment since this is unacceptable behavior and "not worthy of the Nizhoni name."

JIMMY

I don't know why you are being punished. Rachel is the one that threw the drink.

OLIVIA

Right? But Alyssa told him that both of us played a part in creating this soap opera, so...

(startled)

Wait! What was that?

JIMMY

What?

OLIVIA

I thought I saw a light over there.

JIMMY

I don't see anything. Maybe it was a shooting star?

They both look up at the sky.

OLIVIA

I don't think so.

JIMMY

Do you know that every atom in your body came from a star that exploded?

OLIVIA

No way.

JIMMY

Yeah. Carbon, nitrogen, oxygen, and iron were created when stars exploded and that's what we are made of. Stardust. Crazy, huh? Some exploding star gave it's life for you.

OLIVIA

Wow.

JIMMY

Emerson called stars "preachers of beauty."

OLIVIA

Emerson!

JIMMY

Hey, I didn't know anything about him until you went all psycho in Mr. Sundean's class and we had to write those essays. But Emerson was pretty far out. And Sundean wanted us to tell you why nature doesn't suck, remember?

OLIVIA

Oh boy, here we go.

JIMMY

I like being outdoors because you don't have to think. Or maybe it's that it causes you to think in a different way. It's like walking through a magic palace and most people never even notice. Like this lake in front of us contains fishes, frogs and all kinds of life we can't see.

OLIVIA

And a Spirit?

JIMMY

I don't know. I do believe there's a spirit in everything that's around us, and when you breath *that* idea in...

(quoting Emerson)

"Live in the sunshine, swim the sea, drink the wild air's salubrity."

OLIVIA

Salubrity?

JIMMY

(nodding yes)

Cool word, huh? Means healthy, or something like that. So Emerson was basically saying be positive in life, and "drink" what makes you better and happy. Because there's star dust in you.

Jimmy leans in to kiss Olivia.

OLIVIA slaps him.

JIMMY (cont'd)

OW! What you do that for?

OLIVIA

Because - because - don't make me fall for you! What's the point?

JIMMY

What do you mean, what's the point?!

OLIVIA

Yeah, what's the point in caring for anyone when all they are going to do is leave, just like my Dad. And all that bull shit about love - if you love someone, you don't just never call and never write and go off and have another family. You don't move three thousand miles away!

JIMMY

You're not the only one who has ever had their heart broken. When someone reaches out to you, why not take their hand? Consider it a challenge, a test of your courage and bravery.

Jimmy sees something out of the corner of his eye.

JIMMY (cont'd)

Wait. What was that?

OLIVIA

What?

JIMMY

I just saw some kind of light -

OLIVIA

A shooting star?

From off, the light from a flashlight swirls, then another flashlight, then a third. A rustling in the woods as the boys enter. Rick is carrying toilet paper.

DIEGO

Shhhh.

DAVID

Stop pushing me.

RICK

You're pushing me.

DIEGO

Then move.

DAVID

I'm moving! It's dark. OUCH!

DIEGO

That was me, you big doofus.

RICK

Shhhh! They're gonna hear us!

The boys see Jimmy and Olivia.

DIEGO
Hey, Jimmy, we've been looking for you.
(to Olivia)

Hi.

OLIVIA
Hi.

JIMMY
What's going on?

BRIAN
Did you forget? Tonight's the night.

JIMMY
Raymond said there would be big trouble if -

DIEGO
Which is the reason we waited until he was asleep.

RICK
Come on, we're gonna lose the element of surprise.

DAVID
We've been planning this since the first day of camp. Ready?

RICK
I'm ready.

DAVID
You ready?

JIMMY
Guys, seriously -

RICK
Ready!

DIEGO
On the count of one - two - three

DIEGO, DAVID, RICK AND BRIAN
PANTY RAID!!!!!!

The flashlights swirl madly as the boys
rush off stage to attack the girls
cabin.

OLIVIA
Nizhoni women! Sound the alarm! We are under attack!

Jimmy looks at Olivia, and then follows his comrades. Olivia rushes off. We hear the squeal of the girls from offstage, then the counter offensive begins as the girls try to defend their cabin and their panties.

Lori plays the Bugle Call to Arms on her kazoo.

LORI

Man the battle stations!

RICK

We've got to take that cabin!

GABRIELLA

Women unite!

DIEGO, DAVID AND RICK

Hey! Stop! STOP!

DAVID

Launch the TP!

RICK

Launching!

DIEGO

Toilet paper in the air!

LEAH

Toilet paper incoming! Help!

DAVID

OWWWWWW!!!

DARLEEN

Oh no you don't!

TRUDI

(from off)

Get away from me with that toilet paper!

Trudi enters, along with Lilac. She is covered in toilet paper and rushes the boys in a fury.

TRUDI (cont'd)

No more toilet paper!

LILAC

I chew bugs, I chew worms, and I'll chew you!

RACHEL
Defend our cabin!

JENNY
Get them, get them!

ALL GIRLS
ARRRRRRRRR!!!!

ALL BOYS
AHHHHHHHHH!!!!

Pandemonium. The girls have pillows and sticks and out maneuver the boys, who retreat back across the stage.

RICK
Come on! We gotta get outta here.

JIMMY
Fall back! Fall back!

DAVID
Those girls are meaner than hornets!

RICK
That was completely gnarly, man!

DIEGO
Time to boogie!

RICK
Right behind you!

ALL GIRLS
Let's get 'em!

ALL BOYS
Let's go!

EVERYONE
AHHHHHHHHH!

LIGHT/MUSIC TRANSITION

ACT TWO, SCENE THREE: COUNSELOR CONFERENCE

The next day. Raymond and Alysa are a short ways away from the camps.

RAYMOND
I didn't know anything was going on until I heard all the yelling.

ALYSSA

I was just getting everyone settled down when -

RAYMOND

Honestly!

ALYSSA

Then we spent most of the morning cleaning up toilet paper. The girls were crazy with talk of taking revenge and I think Mr. Loffredo is going to fire me.

RAYMOND

He wouldn't do that. Not part way through camp.

ALYSSA

At the very least, he's not going to ask me back.

RAYMOND

Do you want to come back?

ALYSSA

I've always loved it, being here, away from the rest of the world. This summer, though, I can't seem to forget about the protests, the war. One of my campers has a brother over there.

RAYMOND

Me too. And one of my campers is talking about signing up.

ALYSSA

The world just seems so messed up. Such a messed up place for these kids to grow up in.

RAYMOND

Good thing we're putting a man on the moon.

ALYSSA

We may all need to go live there soon.

RAYMOND

And really, Alyssa, I'm sorry. After what went down last summer I wasn't trying to make things worse for you in any way. We just need to take a deep breath and figure out a way to let things roll off our back. Thank god we only have one more day.

ALYSSA

It's Wednesday.

RAYMOND

Are you kidding me? We have four more days?! Oh man.

Alyssa reaches in her pocket and pulls out a joint from Gabriella's stash.

RAYMOND (cont'd)
Where'd you get that?

ALYSSA
One of my campers.

Pause.

They check to make sure no one is nearby.

ALYSSA (cont'd)
You wanna?

RAYMOND
Four more days equals 96 more hours. Yeah. I think I've got a match here somewhere.

Alyssa holds the joint and Raymond lights it for her. They look into each other's eyes and smile.

LIGHT/MUSIC TRANSITION

ACT TWO, SCENE FOUR: MONKEY, STARFISH, SOLDIER

Later the next day at the lake. Sivan is standing with Rachel and Olivia, who are in their swimsuits.

RACHEL
That is the stupidest idea ever! You can't be serious!

OLIVIA
Where's Alyssa?

SIVAN
She has a migraine. In her five years as a counselor she's never had a summer like this...and Mr. Loffredo says it's either you two do this or -

OLIVIA
Couldn't I just scrub the camp again?

SIVAN
No.

RACHEL
What's the "or?"

SIVAN
Let me put it this way. Your parents phone numbers are on the top of his desk. So Rachel, your punishment is teaching Olivia to swim and the two of you learning to work together.

RACHEL

Let me talk to Mr. Loffredo again.

Sivan shakes her head "no."

RACHEL (cont'd)

(sighing)

This. Is. The. Worst.

OLIVIA

For me, you mean.

The two girls size each other up.

SIVAN

We can stay here all day, miss the "big talent show" and final ceremony, or we can get started. Like, now.

RACHEL

Are you afraid of water?

OLIVIA

I'm not afraid. I've swum before.

RACHEL

I don't believe you.

OLIVIA

In a pool. In the shallow end. With my feet touching bottom. And my hand on the ledge.

Rachel sighs. Makes a decision.

RACHEL

We will start with something easy - floating. Here, give me your hand. Come on, give it to me.

OLIVIA

Why should I trust you when you've been so -

Rachel assumes the manner of a brusque sergeant.

RACHEL

(cutting her off)

Take my hand! Take it! I'm going to hold you and you're going to float cause your lungs are like built-in buoyancy tanks.

OLIVIA

(still unconvinced)

Uh huh.

Rachel is behind Olivia, holding her by her upper body and acting as a cushion. The water starts to rise as they float.

OLIVIA (cont'd)

Oh my god! This is making me very nervous!

RACHEL

I got you. And I'm going to keep talking, okay? Cause talking is a good way to distract you and let your body do what your head thinks it can't. So listen to me. Are you listening?

OLIVIA

I'm listening.

RACHEL

Just because you couldn't swim before doesn't mean you should give up forever. Think about keeping your hips to the sky Hips up, hips up!

SIVAN

You're doing good Olivia. Keep breathing.

OLIVIA

I'm trying.

RACHEL

My swimming coach used to say to think of swimming like being an astronaut in outer space going toward the stars. And that it's all about letting go. Let go.

OLIVIA

I'm trying!

RACHEL

Let go, let go! Okay, better. Monkey, Starfish, Soldier.

OLIVIA

What?

RACHEL

It's how I teach little kids to swim. Think about those three positions: a monkey scratching under it's arms - do it -

Olivia does this position.

RACHEL (cont'd)

-a starfish with arms and legs splayed out - do it -

Olivia does this position.

RACHEL (cont'd)

-and a soldier ramrod straight. Got that?

OLIVIA

Monkey, starfish, soldier.

RACHEL

Good. Okay. My father was in the Olympics and when I was learning to swim he just threw me in the pool. I think it was cause my Dad was jealous of me, cause everything was behind him and it is all before me.

OLIVIA

That sounds pretty mean.

RACHEL

But I knew from the age of three that I have to be first, you know? And if I'm not first, if I don't get all A's, if don't do a perfect arabesque in ballet, if I'm not the captain of the soccer team, if all the boys don't like me better than anyone else, if -

OLIVIA

Wait, you're jealous of me?

RACHEL

I'm talking hypothetically. That's all. Never mind. When I say "inhale up" I want you to think of filling an oxygen tank, and when I say "exhale out" think of blowing out a fire.

OLIVIA

What happened to monkey, starfish, soldier?

RACHEL

Are you ready for that?

OLIVIA

How should I know?

SIVAN

I think she's ready.

RACHEL

Let's turn over on our fronts then. Let go. Let go of me. Let your face go in the water. Monkey, starfish, soldier.

OLIVIA

Wait - whoa - whoa -

SIVAN

Olivia, everything you think you can't do, you can do.

RACHEL

Remember, your lungs give you built-in buoyancy.

OLIVIA

Okay, okay -

And with that Olivia is held aloft,
floating then swimming.

OLIVIA (cont'd)

Oh my god. This is incredible!

SIVAN
(to Rachel)

She's doing it!

RACHEL

She's doing it!

OLIVIA

I'm doing it! Oh my god! Look at me! I'm swimming!

SIVAN
(to Rachel)

Some mean people, if given the opportunity, are actually
pretty great.

RACHEL

Don't tell anyone.

SIVAN

Hypothetically, that is.

RACHEL
(to Olivia)

Inhale up! Exhale out! Put your hands together like a prayer!
Pull and pray. Pull and pray!

OLIVIA

Pull, pray, pull pray, pull, pray. I can't believe it. It
feels like I'm being held up by the Spirit of the Lake! Look
out stars, here I come!

Olivia swims off stage. Sivan and
Rachel look at each other in amazement
and run after her.

LIGHT/MUSIC TRANSITION

ACT TWO, SCENE FIVE: BIG BEAR THERE

Evening, sound of crickets.

ALYSSA
(off stage)

Lights out means lights OUT!

Darleen and Trudi sneak out of the cabin in search of a snack.

DARLEEN

They forget to lock the snack door sometimes.

TRUDI

I ate my last Bit O Honey this afternoon. I'm starving.

The bear strolls onto the stage.

Darleen see the bear.

DARLEEN

(gasping with shock)

Big! Bear!

TRUDI

Where?

DARLEEN

There!

They run off screaming, girls in one direction, bear in the other.

ACT TWO, SCENE SIX: THE REALLY BIG CAMP SHOW

ACT TWO, SCENE SIX: THE REALLY BIG CAMP SHOW

The talent show. A handmade sign on a board reads "Nizhoni & Waccama Talent Show!" Sivan, Raymond and Allsya are doing the traditional high paced "closing camp counselor" song and dance number.

SIVAN, RAYMOND AND ALYSSA

Stay on the Sunny Side

Stay on the sunny side,

Stay on the sunny side of life.

You'll feel no pain, as we drive you all insane,

If you stay on the sunny side of life. Da da da da da dah!

SIVAN

Knock! Knock!

ALYSSA

Who's there?

Amos. SIVAN

Amos who? RAYMOND

A mosquito bit me! SIVAN

Stay on the Sunny Side
Stay on the sunny side,
Stay on the sunny side of life.
You'll feel no pain, as we drive you all insane,
If you stay on the sunny side of life. Da da da da da dah!

Knock Knock! RAYMOND

Who's there? ALYSSA

Orange. RAYMOND

Orange Who? ALYSSA

Orange you glad camp's almost over? RAYMOND

Stay on the Sunny Side
Stay on the sunny side,
Stay on the sunny side of life.
You'll feel no pain, as we drive you all insane,
If you stay on the sunny side of life. Da da da da da dah!

Knock! Knock! ALYSSA

Who's there? SIVAN

Dishes. ALYSSA

SIVAN
Dishes who?

ALL THREE COUNSELORS
Dishes the end!!!

A bow as everyone applauds
Everyone applauds

ALYSSA
Sivan, Raymond and I would also like to thank all of you for being so well behaved. Camp shows aren't usually coed but due to extenuating circumstances -

RICKIE
Our camp got -

ALL BOYS
Skunked!

RAYMOND
Guys, how many times did I tell you not to leave food out?

DAVID
And it was gross.

JENNY
I think I can still smell it on you.

David sniffs himself, uncertain.

ALYSSA
Okay, if no one else has anything then that wraps it up for this evening -

Brian is waving his hand madly.

RAYMOND
Yes, Brian?

BRIAN
(demonstrating)
Can I show everyone how, if you take a match you can light your farts on fire, and it -

RAYMOND
No Brian. It's enough that some of our clothing still smells of skunk.

Leah, Lori, and Diego are waving their hands.

ALYSSA

Yes, Leah? What is it?

LEAH

We have one more performance ready to go.

JENNY

We've been practicing.

DIEGO

It's a surprise for the counselors!

ALYSSA

Really? In between all our activities when did you find the time?

RAYMOND

That's what the camp experience is about - self motivation!

ALYSSA

I'm sure it will be very uplifting and educational.

LEAH

(clapping her hands)

Places, people, places!

All of the campers quickly assume their places. This is an ensemble skit - lines should be split up so that everyone but Alyssa, Sivan and Raymond play a role.

The skit should be choreographed with the appropriate melodramatic gestures and over the top style. Suggest that Olivia plays Nellie and Jimmy play the Farmer.

FARMER

Twas a dark and stormy night when my Nellie went away
I never shall forget it to my dying day.
She was just 16, the village queen,
Prettiest little gal you ever have seen.

CHORUS

Now she went away with an actor guy,
With a black mustache and a red necktie.

FARMER

Farm ain't the same since my Nellie went away

CHORUS

The old cow died and the hens won't lay.

FARMER

But in my window I keep a light

CHORUS

40 below zero - gosh what a night.

[Knocking at door]

FARMER

Who's that knocking at my door?

NELLIE

It's your little Nellie, don't you know me anymore?

FARMER

Where's that actor feller that called you Honey?

CHORUS

Did he send you home 'cause you asked for money?

NELLIE

He's a great big bum! He lies with ease.

CHORUS

He's got more women than a dog has fleas!

NELLIE

He left me the night I was most forlorn,

CHORUS

The very same night little Digby was born.

FARMER

Is that there Digby?

NELLIE

Tain't no other!

FARMER

He's the spitting image of your dear dead mother.
But you can't stay here with that there child,

NELLIE

Father, dear Father you're driving me wild.

[enter villain]

VILLIAN

Hoity toity me proud beauty!
Give me Digby or I'll do my duty!
Give me the child or I'll cause you harm,
Cause I've got the mortgage on your gall durn farm.

NELLIE

He's got us where he wants us pa, that dirty piggie.

VILLIAN

Give me back my little Digby.

NELLIE

Your Digby?

VILLIAN

My Digby!

NELLIE

Your Digby?

VILLIAN

My Digby!

[knocking at door]

FARMER

Who's that knocking? Sounds like a mule!

CONSTABLE

I ain't no mule you dadburned fool!
Can't you see by my badge I'm the Constabule?

CHORUS

Well what's all the ruckus and what's all the stew
And what's all the harm he's brung to you?

FARMER

He ain't done right by my little Nell!

VILLIAN

Oh yes I have!

FARMER

Oh no you ain't!

VILLIAN

Oh yes I have!

FARMER

Oh no you ain't!

CONSTABLE

You stole his farm and harmed his daughter!
That oughta cost you about a dollar and a quarter!

ALL BOYS

Which goes to show the price of sin
Come back tomorrow night and we'll play it again!

ALL GIRLS

Rooty Toot Toot, Rooty Toot Tay
 We are the girls from Nizhoni
 We don't smoke,
 We don't chew,
 We don't go with the guys who do!

There is a moment of stunned silence
 from the counselors. Raymond is trying
 to keep from laughing.

ALYSSA

Wow. Okay then.

Raymond is unable to contain himself.

RAYMOND

That was far out!

ALYSSA

I think it's time to call it a night.

RAYMOND

He's got more women than a dog has fleas!

ALYSSA

We need all Nizhoni to get your cabins in order and started
 on packing. Tomorrow night is our closing ceremony and then
 everyone will be on their way home the next morning.

The campers gather their props and head
 off.

JENNY

(as she exits)

Was I loud enough?

BRIAN

You were great!

LORI

Weren't we great?

GABRIELLA

Super great!

They're off. Sivan and Raymond
 starting laughing a bit more
 hysterically.

ALYSSA

Guys, guys. It's not that funny.

SIVAN
Yes it was.

RAYMOND
Rooty toot toot!

ALYSSA
Seriously.

RAYMOND
Alyssa, what happened to your sense of humor?

ALYSSA
I lost it the first day of this camp.

RAYMOND
Awww.

(quoting)
"Which goes to show the price of sin -"

RAYMOND (cont'd)	SIVAN
"Come back tomorrow and we'll play it again!"	"Come back tomorrow and we'll play it again!"

They exit laughing, followed by Alyssa who is shaking her head.

ACT TWO, SCENE SEVEN: SORRY

Immediately following the camp show that same night.

JIMMY
Hey, Olivia, wait up! Wait up!

Olivia stops to wait for him.

JIMMY (cont'd)
Boy, you were awesome tonight. I had a hard time keeping a straight face.

(Olivia stares at him silently)
Aren't you going to talk to me?

OLIVIA
I don't know how to begin.

JIMMY
Try opening your mouth and letting some words come out.

OLIVIA
I've been thinking about what you said - what a lot of people have been telling me all week - and...I've been acting like a jerk. I'm sorry.

JIMMY

I'm sorry too.

OLIVIA

What are you sorry for?

JIMMY

The Rachel mess. For lying to you. For the whole situation with your Dad.

OLIVIA

Emerson said "For every minute you are angry you lose sixty seconds of happiness."

JIMMY

He's right.

OLIVIA

I had a long talk with Sivan and Rachel - and, oh my god, did I tell you I learned to swim?

JIMMY

What?

OLIVIA

(dam bursting open)

Yeah! And Rachel is not really such a horrible person, and Sivan asked me what kind of person did I want to be because she thinks - after seeing me learn to swim, which she said took courage, and I guess it did - that I can do anything. I've just been scared...

JIMMY

Hey, hey, are you crying?

OLIVIA

(searching for the word)

Only because I feel...I just feel like maybe everything isn't horrible in the world, like I'm not going to sink beneath the waves, like...I don't know....I feel...

JIMMY

Hopeful?

OLIVIA

(wiping tears from her face)

Yeah. Like my heart's been stretched.

Jimmy reaches into his pocket, pulls out a napkin and something falls to the ground. She stares at it in amazement.

OLIVIA (cont'd)

Where did you get that?

JIMMY

When we were down at the lake I saw something sparkling in the water and put it in my pocket. Do you know who it belongs to?

OLIVIA

Me.

JIMMY

What?

OLIVIA

It belongs to me. My Dad gave it to me and I lost it that first day when I almost drowned and I thought it was gone forever. Oh my god, Jimmy. Thank you! Thank you!

She throws herself into his arms and he holds her. She pulls away and looks at him.

OLIVIA (cont'd)

Wait. Did you say you lied about something?

They look at each other.

LIGHT/MUSIC TRANSITION

ACT TWO, SCENE EIGHT: SOCIETY OF THE GOLDEN FEATHER

The slow rhythmic beating of a tom tom.

The Campers enter in a procession.

Four colored flags - white, red, yellow and black - are carried by the girls.

They walk in a circle until Alyssa signals several of the campers to plant the white flag. Alyssa is carrying a quiver of feathers.

DARLEEN

Oh Great Spirit of the North, Spirit of the Air, Spirit of the Wind.

TRUDI

May you grant us the power to listen, to dance our joys and sorrows.

JENNY

To release old patterns.

ALL GIRLS

Help us honor the earth and all living beings upon it.

The tom tom drum beats again as several girls take the red flag and place it in the east.

LORI

Oh Great Spirit of the East, Spirit of the Fire -

GABRIELLA

May your vital power fill us with the power to tell the truth-

ALL GIRLS

So that we work for the good of this planet and all living beings who walk upon it.

The tom tom beats again as several girls place the yellow flag in the direction of the south.

JENNY

Oh Great Spirit of the South, Earth, Mother of all that is green and growing

LEAH

May you embrace us so that we pay attention and feel your love and use our power

ALL GIRLS

For the good of this planet and all living beings who walk upon it.

The tom tom beats again as several girls place the black flag in the west.

JULIET

Oh Great Spirit of the West and Water.

OLIVIA

May you grant us the power to be open to what life brings us to wash away old grudges -

RACHEL

And fill our hearts with gratitude. Let us drink your healing waters of love.

ALL GIRLS

For the good of this planet and all living beings who walk upon it.

A final beating of the tom tom as everyone sits in a circle. A pause.

Sivan has a basket from which she has given each of the girls a feather.

ALYSSA

Ah, my beautiful campers. Nizhoni women. This session has been challenging for - for *all* of us in different ways. Let me say how proud I am that each of you has found ways to rise to the challenges of this week of camp. I have been honored to be your counselor. Sivan?

SIVAN

This feather symbolizes your flight towards courage. Look around this circle and exchange your feather with a person you want to thank for helping you take flight.

The campers exchange feathers (order of exchange to be worked out, but Rachel and Olivia exchange.)

ALYSSA

May you learn to walk the earth with comfort even as you fly towards your dreams. Welcome to the Society of the Golden Feather.

SIVAN

All right, Nizhoni, let's head back to the cabin. Tomorrow is the last day and we'll have to get an early start.

ALYSSA

Olivia, Rachel, could you hold up for a minute?

Olivia, Rachel and Alyssa are to the side as everyone gathers to exit.

One of the girls starts to sing the Girl Scout Song "Linger." (Public domain) and the other's join in. They are off by the end of the song.

ALL GIRLS

Mmm, I want to linger
 Mmm, a little longer
 Mmm, a little longer here with you
 Mmm, its such a perfect night
 Mmm, it doesn't seem quite right
 Mmm, that this should be my last with you
 Mmm, and as the years go by
 Mmm, I'll think of you and sigh
 Mmm, This is good night and not good bye
 Mmm, I want to linger
 Mmm, a little longer
 Mmm, a little longer here with you
 Mmm, and come September
 Mmm, I will remember
 Mmm, our camping days and friendships true
 Mmm, I want to linger

(MORE)

ALL GIRLS (cont'd)

Mmm, a little longer
Mmm, a little longer here with you

ALYSSA

Rachel, Olivia -

RACHEL

Are we in trouble?

ALYSSA

No, not at all. In fact, I want to ask you both to consider returning to camp next year as Counselor's in Training.

OLIVIA

What?

ALYSSA

When Sivan told me about the swimming lesson, and how both of you were able to put aside your grievances and - well. That was a big deal.

RACHEL

I thought Sivan was the counselor in training?

ALYSSA

She'll be the head counselor next year. Mr. Loffredo thought it would be a good idea to have additional help.

OLIVIA

What about you? Won't you be here?

ALYSSA

I've come to a decision. I'm going to be eighteen next year and instead of just complaining about the state of the world, I'm going to volunteer for the Peace Corps.

RACHEL

Oh no! Camp won't be the same without you.

ALYSSA

Maybe not, but it might be even better if the two of you say "yes" to coming back as counselor's in training. You don't have to answer right this minute, but give it some thought, okay?

RACHEL

Okay.

OLIVIA

All right.

ALYSSA

Let's get back to the cabin.

OLIVIA

I'll be right there, I promise. There's just one more thing I have to do tonight.

ALYSSA

Promise me you won't be long.

OLIVIA

I promise.

As Alyssa and Rachel head off to the cabin, Olivia heads to the lake.

ACT TWO, SCENE NINE: SPIRIT OF THE LAKE

The same evening at the lake. OLIVIA stands looking out over the water.

OLIVIA

Hello? Are you here?

She holds her feather, looks around.

OLIVIA (cont'd)

Hello? I think we're part of the same tribe. But you know what? It's okay. Because I think everyone here is part of it too. We broken hearted people need to stick together, right? It makes it better somehow. You're not alone. I came to say goodbye but I hate good byes. I like hello's better.

Looking up at the moon.

OLIVIA (cont'd)

Hello moon! Hello to all the people walking on the moon! Hello Spirit of the Lake. Believing that you were holding me up helped me swim. So I want you to have this.

She extends her feather towards the lake.

OLIVIA (cont'd)

It's a Golden Feather. It's very rare and magical. Next to my necklace it's the most incredible thing anyone has ever given me.

Olivia lays the feather on the lake.

There is the sound of a Native American Flute playing "The Eagles Song."

The Spirit of the Lake, an Indian Brave, walks across the water and takes the feather from Olivia.

LIGHT/MUSIC TRANSITION

ACT TWO, SCENE TEN: LAST DAY OF CAMP

A car horn honks. Campers are carrying suitcases and heading off to meet their parents. Some are saying good-byes and promising to stay in touch. One girl crosses the area on stilts. Trudi is crying.

LORI

(earnestly)

I can't believe it's time to go already. This is my favorite place to be!

SIVAN

Mine too. Trudi, are you okay?

LILAC/TRUDI

We don't want to go home!

SIVAN

You can come back next year. It's only 50 more weeks.

Trudi lets out a wail. One of the girls nearest her gives her some comfort.

LEAH

My sister isn't going to believe it when I tell her the bugs weren't so bad this year.

JULIET

(slapping a bug)

Are you insane? They were horrible!

LEAH

And I never did see a bear.

DARLEEN

You were lucky! They're huge!

JENNY

(demonstrating a karate move)

Man! I would have shown that bear a thing or two.

JULIET

(to Alyssa)

Why do you counselors try to scare us with all those stupid stories of bears and spirits in the lake?!

ALYSSA

It's not just a story. You just have to be there when -

OLIVIA AND ALYSSA

-The moon is full.

Olivia and Alyssa look at each other with a surprised glance, knowing they have both seen the Spirit of the Lake. Raymond enters, Alyssa waves him over to her.

ALYSSA

Raymond! We made it through another week.

RAYMOND

Another 168 hours of our life we'll never get back. Really gonna miss you next year.

ALYSSA

Maybe we can stay in touch?

RAYMOND

Yeah? I'd like that.

ALYSSA

Where are your campers?

RAYMOND

They were supposed to be right behind me!

Sound of rustling, then the boys make their entrance singing, carrying suitcases and equipment.

ALL BOYS

Great green gobs of greasy grimy gopher guts
Mutilated monkey meat
Hairy pickled piggy feet
French fried eyeballs floating in some kerosene
And me without a spoon.

Great green gobs of greasy grimy gopher guts
Scab sandwich, puss on top
Vulture vomit, camel snot
Deep dish boogers soaking in a bowl of fat
And me without a spoon.

RACHEL

(disgusted)

You guys, that's gross!

BRIAN

(delighted)

Yeah! Sooooo gross! Don't you love it?!

The boys and the girls mingle, saying
goodbye, giving hugs. Rachel crosses
over to Olivia.

RACHEL

See you here next year?

OLIVIA

See you here. Oh, and see you in school, right?

RACHEL

Right.

Jimmy and Olivia seek each other out.

JIMMY

So. End of camp.

OLIVIA

Are you going to come back next year?

JIMMY

I may be in a different kind of camp by then.

OLIVIA

What are you talking about?

JIMMY

Remember how upset you got with me for spending all that time
arguing with Craig at that dance? The truth is he was trying
to talk me out of going to Viet Nam.

OLIVIA

(sputtering)

But that's - you're too young, they wouldn't take you!

JIMMY

If my Dad doesn't vouch for me I know where I can get some
papers that say I'm old enough.

OLIVIA

Jimmy - why?

JIMMY

I don't know if I can explain it to you, Liv. It - I - I just
feel like it would make my Dad proud of me, that it's the
right thing to do and then I'll have the money to go to
college after and -

OLIVIA

But -

JIMMY

Look, I don't want to argue with you. If I've acted weird it's because this has been on my mind for awhile. And I wanted to ask you something. If I go, will you write me?

Olivia looks at Jimmy, then throws herself into his arms.

The sound of another car honking.

JULIET

That's my folks. Goodbye, goodbye, goodbye!

JULIET exits with a huge suitcase.
SIVAN enters from the cabin carrying a sock and a bra.

SIVAN

Who left these bra and panties under a bunk?

DARLEEN

Wait! Those are mine!

LORI goes over and hugs ALYSSA and SIVAN.

LORI

(to SIVAN)

You're gonna have your own cabin next year?

SIVAN

Yep. And after seeing some of the things that went on here this week? I already know a few things I'm going to do VERY differently.

LORI

Here. You should use this instead of a whistle.

LORI hands SIVAN the kazoo. Sivan blows the kazoo which turns is joined by a cacophony of car honks as all the campers make their way off stage, with Jimmy leaving last.

ACT TWO, SCENE ELEVEN: CHRISTMAS LETTERS HOME

Olivia crosses to her "letter writing spot." We hear a small snippet of Christmas music underneath.

OLIVIA

December 22, 1969. Dear Mom, It's weird to be celebrating Christmas in Los Angles. Santa Claus on a palm tree is just plain wrong.

(MORE)

OLIVIA (cont'd)

But Dad wanted me to say he really appreciates you letting me come to visit him, especially as he's been so sick this past year. We're talking about a lot of stuff. Dad says talking is about the most important thing two people can do and he wished he coulda learned that at my age. Anyway. Please pat Grandpa for me and give the puppy a kiss. Wait, reverse that! Or not. Cheerfully yours -

She begins another letter.

Jimmy steps out into a light, holding a letter. He is wearing army fatigues.

JIMMY

"Dearest Jimmy, this is my wish for you:

Other cast members enter and say the following lines from the shadows.

ACTOR 1

Comfort-

ACTOR

on difficult days-

ACTOR 2

Smiles -

ACTOR

when sadness intrudes -

ACTOR 3

Rainbows -

ACTOR

to follow the clouds -

ACTOR 4

Laughter -

ALL GIRLS

to kiss your lips -

ACTOR

Sunsets -

ACTOR (cont'd)

to warm your heart -

ACTOR 6

Hugs -

ACTOR

when spirits sag -

Beauty- ACTOR 7
 for your eyes to see - ACTOR
 Friendships - ACTOR 8
 to brighten your being - ALL BOYS
 Faith - ACTOR 9
 so that you can believe - ACTOR 1
 Confidence - ACTOR 10
 for when you doubt - ACTOR
 Courage to know yourself - RAYMOND
 Patience to accept the truth - SIVAN
 Love to complete your life." ALYSSA
 Confession. I copied that from our pal Emerson - OLIVIA
 - but I mean every word. There's a full moon tomorrow night.
 So if you are looking at it and hear a voice - JIMMY
 It's me saying love, OLIVIA
 and thanks, JIMMY
 and I'm worrying about you OLIVIA
 And missing you JIMMY AND OLIVIA TOGETHER
 and hello, OLIVIA

Hello and goodbye.

JIMMY

I say hello.

OLIVIA

Beatles song "Hello/Goodbye" fades in.

END OF PLAY