

## THE INTERVIEW SONG

### MR. WHITE

Basketball's a fine game. I ran track. Did the quarter mile in a minute five. Also, a member of the varsity swim team.

*MS. BEASLEY feels MR. WHITE'S muscles.*

### MS. BEASLEY

Yes. That's why he's in such good shape for a man his age.

### MR. WHITE

That'll do, Ms. Beasley. Yes, sir, went in the Marines, got out, taught sports in the district for twenty-five years. Then they made me a principal. Imagine me! A school principal. Never heard of such a thing. But I guess they figured an ex-military man and sports teacher make for a good leader and who was I to argue? I was happy to get the job. Now I've been with the district for over forty years, seen its ups and downs, highs and lows, hills and dales, all that, you know, but I'll tell you, what we're facing now is unlike anything I've ever seen in all my years. The money's just not there anymore. Some insiders say it all dried up during the "Reagan Revolution" when all the homeowners' taxes were cut while some of the kids today are saying it's all because of the "top 1 percent." I don't know about that. That's above my pay grade and besides, I've got a school to run. Now you're here to interview for a teaching position, so what say we get down to brass tacks?

### MR. JOHNSON

Yes, sir, Mr. White.

*(up music: The Interview Song)*

### MR. WHITE

WELL, MR. JOHNSON  
HOW DO YOU DO?  
HOW DO YOU PLAN TO IMPRESS US  
AT THIS INTERVIEW?  
SPEAK, MR. JOHNSON  
HOW DO YOU FEEL?  
GIVE US YOUR ALL RIGHT NOW  
*(blunt)*

Well, Mr. Johnson?

Mr. White.

**MR. JOHNSON**

(meekly)

I AM SO EXCITED LATELY  
I WOULD LIKE THIS JOB SO GREATLY

*MS. BEASLEY exposes a bare leg  
to MR. WHITE.*

**MS. BEASLEY**

DO YOU THINK MY LEGS ARE SHAPELY?

*MR. WHITE buries his head in his  
hands.*

**MR. WHITE**

NOO NOO NOO  
MS. BEASLEY THAT WILL DO!

*MS. BEASLEY retreats.*

**MR. WHITE (Continued)**

SO, MR. JOHNSON  
WHERE DO YOU HAIL FROM?  
ARE YOU A HEARTY LAD  
OR ARE YOU A GLUM?  
WELL, MR. JOHNSON  
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE  
AND WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

**MR. WHITE (Continued)**

(blunt)

Well, Mr. Johnson?

**MR. JOHNSON**

(meekly)

I COME FROM MANHATTAN ISLAND  
WHERE THE DAYS ARE NEVER BORING

*MS. BEASLEY comes out of hiding.*

**MS. BEASLEY**

WOULD WE EVER FIND YOU SNORING  
IN THE BRONX ZOO?

**MR. WHITE**

NOO NOO NOO  
WHOOP TI DO

*(tossing a pencil in  
the air)*

*(bellowing)*

Ms. Beasley, get a clue!

*MS. BEASLEY retreats once again. MR. JOHNSON attempts to calm his would-be employer by offering him his most heartfelt feelings as to why HE wants to become an ESL teacher. A skeptical MR. WHITE listens.*

**MR. JOHNSON**

IT IS MY HOPE TO TEACH A CLASS IN ESL

**MR. WHITE**

Oh, is it?

**MR. JOHNSON**

IT IS MY HOPE TO DO IT VERY WELL

**MR. WHITE**

I would expect so.

**MR. JOHNSON**

SO MANY YEARS  
I'VE STUDIED HARD TO BE  
AT A PLACE LIKE HERE  
SO MANY YEARS  
AND NOW I'M HERE

**MR. WHITE**

Hmm.

WELL, MR. JOHNSON  
IT SEEMS YOU WENT TO SCHOOL  
AND LOOKING AT THIS RESUME  
I SEE YOU ARE NO FOOL

*MR. WHITE plops MR. JOHNSON  
onto a chair.*

**MR. WHITE (Continued)**

SO, SIT RIGHT DOWN AND LISTEN  
TO THE NECESSARY RULES  
YOU'LL NEED IN ORDER TO SUCCEED  
NOW MOST IMPORTANT IS PUNCTUALITY  
FOR WITHOUT PUNCTUALITY  
CLASSES SIMPLY CANNOT START ON TIME  
AND SECONDLY IS CLASS RATIONALITY  
FOR WITHOUT RATIONALITY  
THERE IS NO SENSE OF REASON NOR RHYME

*MS. BEASLEY steps forward.*

**MS. BEASLEY**

AND THIRDLY IS ACCURACY  
AND ACCURACY MUST BE COMPULSORY  
FOR WITHOUT ABSOLUTE ACCURACY  
CLASS IS SO LESS SUBLIME  
AND THAT IS A WASTE OF TIME

TO TALLY STUDENTS' ABSENCES  
THEIR PRESENCES, PERFORMANCES  
TO DEAL WITH THOSE DISTURBANCES  
THAT RISE FROM TIME TO TIME

**MR. WHITE & MS. BEASLEY**

MAKES CLASS FAR MORE SUBLIME

**MR. WHITE**

WELL, MR. JOHNSON  
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THAT?  
ARE YOU ABLE TO MEET THE GRADE  
OR MERELY PASS THE HAT?  
ARE YOU AWARE OF ALL THERE IS  
IN GOVERNING A SCHOOL  
OR MR. JOHNSON ARE YOU A FOOL?

**MR. JOHNSON**

Oh no, Mr. White.

**MR. JOHNSON (Continued)**

(OH), I AM SURE THAT I CAN RISE  
AND EVEN YOU I WILL SURPRISE  
PLEASE DO NOT LOOK WITH NARROW EYES  
I'M SURE YOU WILL AGREE  
THAT YOU WERE ONCE LIKE ME

IT'S NOT EASY TO START AT THE TOP  
WHEN YOU'RE DOWN AT THE BOTTOM  
AND I KNOW YOU COULD GIVE ME THE CHOP  
WHEN YOU'VE THE CARDS  
AND I KNOW YOU'VE GOT 'EM

BUT PLEASE MR. WHITE  
BE NICE AND REMEMBER  
WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG  
AND LIFE WAS SEPTEMBER  
AND PLEASE MR. WHITE  
PLEASE GRANT ME IF YOU WOULD  
THIS ONE FIRST CHANCE TO DO GOOD

**MR. WHITE**

*(to MS. BEASLEY)*

Hmm. Well, Ms. Beasley, what do you think about this boy?

*MS. BEASLEY reappraises MR. JOHNSON.*

**MS. BEASLEY**

Well...

HE'S BRIGHT AND MATURE  
AND HE'LL GO FAR  
AND IF I SMOKED  
I'D OFFER HIM A CIGAR  
HE'S CLEAN AS A WHISTLE

**MS. BEASLEY (Continued)**

AND NOT PART OF A MOB  
AND SINCE WE'RE DESPERATE I'D SAY

**MR. WHITE AND MS. BEASLEY**

MR. JOHNSON YOU'VE GOT THE JOB TODAY!

*(end song)*