

Tick Tock Tick Tock

MR. JOHNSON

You will have exactly one hour to complete the test. We will begin when the clock strikes nine.

All eyes turn to the clock which reads 8:59. As the clock strikes 9:00, MR. JOHNSON instructs his STUDENTS to begin.

MR. JOHNSON (Continued)

Alright class. It's nine o'clock. Turn your tests over. You may begin. Good luck.

MR. JOHNSON proctors the test with an exacting eye as the STUDENTS turn their tests over and begin to write. As the ticking clock becomes louder, the hands on it move noticeably, illustrating the passage of time. While working, the STUDENTS sing.

(up music: Tick Tock Tick Tock)

STUDENTS

TICK TOCK TICK TOCK
LISTEN TO THE TICKING CLOCK
TICK TOCK TICK TOCK
LISTEN TO THE TICK TOCK TICK TOCK
TICK TOCK TICK TOCK

The STUDENTS return to their tests. All but JOSEF who shrugs his shoulders and muses about what the test means to him.

JOSEF

OH BACK IN MOSCOW
A TEST MEANT EVERYTHING
IT WAS YOUR TICKET UP AND DOWN
IT WAS YOUR BRASS RING

JOSEF (Continued)

BUT HERE IT'S DIFFERENT
THERE IS NO THREAT OF STORM OR STRIFE
AND THOUGH IT DOESN'T MATTER
STILL I'D LIKE TO DO WELL FOR MY WIFE

*The STUDENTS raise their heads
to sing in determined chorus.*

STUDENTS

GODDA MOVE UP
GODDA MOVE UP
GODDA MAKE IT
CAN'T GET ENOUGH 'NUFF 'NUFF
MY SPIRITS ARE SO HIGH
WANNA TOUCH THE SKY
GODDA MOVE UP
GODDA MOVE UP
UP UP UP

*The STUDENTS return to their
tests, all but JOSE who stares
straight ahead and sings of
life's ambitions.*

JOSE

I'M NOT GONNA BE NO LOUSY GRAPE PICKER
OR A SHOE SHINE BOY OR A CANDLE STICK MAKER
I'M NOT GONNA WORK IN NO FAST FOOD JOINT
OR A CHEAP GARAGE
AND LET SOMEONE POINT AND SAY "SEE"
AND THINK THEY'RE BETTER THAN ME
I'M GONNA MAKE IT
I'M GONNA SUCCEED

*The hands on the clock move
forward.*

STUDENTS

TICK TOCK TICK TOCK
LISTEN TO THE BEATING CLOCK
TICK TOCK TICK TOCK
LISTEN TO THE TICK TOCK TICK TOCK
TICK TOCK TICK TOCK

*The STUDENTS return to their
tests. All but NGUYEN TRAN who
seems unusually reflective.*

NGUYEN TRAN

THE TIME OF HUSTLE IN SAIGON
THE LESSONS OF KENTUCKY
AND NOW THIS LIFE IN SAN FRANCISCO
SOME FOLKS WOULD SAY I'M LUCKY
THOUGH I'VE BEEN BAD
MY GI DAD
SOMETIMES I WAS SO HATEFUL
BUT NOW I'VE PEACE
A BRAND-NEW LEASE
TO ALL I AM SO GRATEFUL

STUDENTS

GODDA MOVE UP
GODDA MOVE UP
GODDA MAKE IT
CAN'T GET ENOUGH 'NUFF 'NUFF
MY SPIRITS ARE SO HIGH
WANNA TOUCH THE SKY
GODDA MOVE UP
GODDA MOVE UP
UP UP UP

*The STUDENTS return to their
tests. ENRIQUE philosophizes.*

ENRIQUE

THROUGH TRIALS AND TRAILS I'VE FOUND THIS LAND
WOULD SOME THINK ME NOW ONLY HALF A MAN?
MY FATHER'S WORDS I HEAR AGAIN
WITHOUT AN EDUCATION
YOU'RE DOOMED TO LIFE'S FRUSTRATIONS
YOU'LL NEVER BE
THOUGH YOU'LL LONG TO BE
MORE THAN JUST A PAIR OF HANDS

*The hands on the clock move
forward. The STUDENTS sing.*

STUDENTS

TICK TOCK TICK TOCK
LISTEN TO THE BEATING CLOCK

STUDENTS

TICK TOCK TICK TOCK
LISTEN TO THE TICK TOCK TICK TOCK
TICK TOCK TICK TOCK

*The STUDENTS return to their
tests, all but MEI LI who
continues to focus on MR.
JOHNSON.*

MEI LI

WOULD HE NOW NOTICE ME
AFTER EVERYTHING WE'VE BEEN THROUGH?
IT'S SO HARD TO SIT HERE AND FACE HIM AGAIN
I'M SO SORRY, I'M SO BLUE

STILL WHAT WOULD I GIVE FOR JUST ONE LOOK
TO BE SWEEPED AWAY IN HIS ARMS?
HOW SAFE I WOULD FEEL IN HIS WARM EMBRACE
OH, I'D GIVE HIM ALL MY CHARMS
OH, I'D GIVE HIM ALL MY CHARMS

*The STUDENTS join together for
one final determined chorus.*

STUDENTS

GODDA MOVE UP
GODDA MOVE UP
GODDA MAKE IT
CAN'T GET ENOUGH 'NUFF 'NUFF

MY SPIRITS ARE SO HIGH
WANNA TOUCH THE SKY
GODDA MOVE UP
GODDA MOVE UP
UP UP UP

The clock ticks away.

STUDENTS (Continued)

TICK TOCK TICK TOCK
LISTEN TO THE TICKING CLOCK
TICK TOCK TICK TOCK
LISTEN TO THE TICK TOCK TICK TOCK
TICK TOCK TICK TOCK

(end song)