

HARRIET the SPY the MUSICAL (excerpt)
Book & Lyrics: Leslie Wisdom
Music: Nathan Young

[CLASSROOM]

It's the first day of sixth grade!

NARRATOR. Miss Elson welcomed the class in a cheerful pink sweater and bright smile, but Harriet knew better. She'd spied on her at the grocery store, and Miss Elson only bought a can of tuna and a diet soda. Not *one* tomato. She obviously had a terrible life. She called roll as if they'd won the lottery. Classic overcompensation. Janie Gibbs!!!

JANIE. Here – unfortunately.

NARRATOR. Beth Ellen Hansen!!!

HARRIET. If she explodes, pink confetti will come out.

BETH ELLEN. Yes? I mean, yes. I'm here!

NARRATOR. Marion Hawthorne!!!

MARION. Present, Miss Elson.

NARRATOR. Rachel Hennessey!!!

RACHEL. Present, Miss Elson.

NARRATOR. Peter Matthews?

HARRIET. Aka the Boy with the Purple Socks.

PETER. Both purple socks and I are present.

BETH ELLEN. Yeah. (*SMITTEN*)

NARRATOR. Simon Roque?

MARION. Miss Elson, Simon prefers to be called Sport.

NARRATOR. It was as if Sport was a bird that hit the window and Miss Elson was checking to see if he was still alive. Is that so, Mr. Roque?

SPORT.I guess.

NARRATOR. Harriet Welsch!!!

HARRIET. Presently here.

NARRATOR. Pinky Whitehead!!! *(BEAT)* Pinky...?

PINKY. Um. Here.

HARRIET. Barely.

NARRATOR. When Miss Elson announced it was time to elect the Sixth Grade Officer--

MARION. Who serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the class, presiding over meetings, overseeing activities, and writing the Sixth Grade Page newsletter.

NARRATOR. Everyone knew the drill, because Marion had served as their class officer--

MARION. Every year since first grade.

HARRIET. Can you smell Marion's election day rat stew?

SPORT. Her newsletters are always just a bunch of boring rules like "pick up gum wrappers."

NARRATOR. But no one--

MARION. NO ONE.

NARRATOR. Dared to challenge Marion Hawthorne.

JANIE. Yet.

(MARION DISTRIBUTES NOTES TO RACHEL & PINKY)

MARION. **RACHEL, NOMINATE ME.**

RACHEL. I nominate Marion Hawthorne.

MARION. **PINKY, SECOND THE NOMINATION.**

PINKY. I second the nomination.

JANIE. I nominate Harriet Welsch!
(COLLECTIVE GASP!!!)

JANIE. Sport.

SPORT. I... second it.

(BIGGER COLLECTIVE GASP!!!)

HARRIET. Holy cow.

(MARION SENDS NOTES & LASER BEAM EYES AROUND THE ROOM)

MARION: **BETH ELLEN:VOTE FOR ME. PETER:VOTE FOR ME. PINKY:VOTE FOR ME.**

NARRATOR. When Miss Elson asked the class to raise their hands and cast a vote for either Marion or Harriet--

JANIE. Miss Elson? Page 18 of the Gregory School Guidelines requires a vote by written ballot so that our choices remain private.

NARRATOR. A ray of light washed over the banana republic.

PINKY. You mean, we get to vote for who we want, and --no one will know?

(MOVEMENT PIECE AS CLASSMATES VOTE. ENRAPTURED PINKY TAKES CENTER STAGE)

SONG: WE'LL VOTE

PINKY

*NOW WE'RE FREE, AS FREE AS WE CAN BE
YES WE'LL VOTE, IT'S CALLED DEMOCRACY. AND WE'LL VOTE, OH YES WE'LL VOTE...*

BETH ELLEN

WE'LL VOTE

MARION

YOU'LL VOTE

YOU'LL VOTE

YOU'LL VOTE

RACHEL

I'LL VOTE

I'LL VOTE

I'LL VOTE

PINKY

I'LL VOTE

I'LL VOTE

I'LL VOTE

CLASSMATES

WE'LL VOTE

WE'LL VOTE

WE'LL VOTE

CLASSMATES

DOO...WOP

PINKY

*WE'VE STEPED OUT OF HER SHADOW; WE'RE FINALLY FREE!
AND WE'LL VOTE...*

CLASSMATES

WE'LL VOTE! WE'LL VOTE! WE'LL VOTE!

MARION

YOU'LL VOTE

(BETH ELLEN CELEBRATES TO THE BEAT OF HER OWN DRUM)

BETH ELLEN

*WE'LL VOTE, WE'LL VOTE, WE'LL VOTE, WE'LL VOTE
WE'LL VOTE, WE'LL VOTE, WE'LL VOTE, WE'LL VOTE*

NARRATOR: The winner was announced: Harriet Welsch.

HARRIET: Heaven and earth.

CLASSMATES

WE'RE FREE, WE'RE FREE, WE'RE FREE

FREE!

WE'RE FREE, FREE!

WE'RE FREE, FREE!

PINKY

FREE! YEAH!!!

CLASSMATES

FREE!

(UNDERSCORE CONTINUES; CLASS CONGRATULATE HARRIET)

NARRATOR. Harriet wondered if this is what it was like to have brothers and sisters.

SPORT. Wanna come over? We've got ice cream.

HARRIET. I can't, sorry Sport.

NARRATOR. Harriet M. Welsh was an official writer. She couldn't wait to tell Golly.

(HARRIET EXITS AT FULL SPEED)

MARION. You just elected a *spy* to write our class newsletter.

(UNDERSCORE ENDS)

JANIE. So what?

MARION. She could write anything in the newsletter. ANYTHING. And everyone will read it!

SONG: THAT NOTEBOOK

MARION

*THAT NOTEBOOK IS EVERYWHERE SHE GOES.
WHAT DOES SHE WRITE IN IT?
NOBODY KNOWS...*

*WHAT'S SHE WRITING IN THAT NOTEBOOK?
I DON'T THINK IT'S FAIR.
ALL HER CLASSMATES ARE TOGETHER
BUT SHE'S ALWAYS OVER THERE... RACHEL!?*

RACHEL

*WHAT'S SHE WRITING IN THAT NOTEBOOK?
WHEN SHE SPIES WHERE DOES SHE GO?
I BET SHE'S A REAL GOOD WRITER--*

MARION

RACHEL!

RACHEL

BUT I GUESS WE'LL NEVER KNOW.

PINKY

*DO YOU THINK SHE WRITES ABOUT US?
IF SHE DOES WHAT DOES SHE SAY?*

PETER

*IT'S KIND OF WEIRD TO HAVE A SPY ROUTE
INSTEAD OF GOING OUT TO PLAY.*

CLASSMATES

*WHAT'S SHE WRITING? WHAT'S SHE WRITING?
WHAT'S SHE WRITING? WHAT'S SHE WRITING?*

*WHAT'S SHE WRITING? WHAT'S SHE WRITING?
WHAT'S SHE WRITING? WHAT'S SHE WRITING?*

JANIE

*YES SHE HAS A SPY ROUTE, AND YES SHE'S SMART.
SHE'S AN ARTIST, AND THAT NOTEBOOK IS HER ART.
IT'S WHAT SHE DOES, SHE WAS MADE THAT WAY IN EVERY PART OF HER EVERY DAY*

MARION

JANIE, DOES SHE WRITE ABOUT YOU?

JANIE

*I DON'T KNOW, PROBABLY.
IT'S NONE OF OUR BUSINESS, HONESTLY.
LEAVE HER ALONE, WHO ARE YOU TO SAY
WHAT SHE DOES WITH HER EVERY DAY?*

MARION

WHAT ABOUT YOU, SPORT? WHAT DO YOU THINK?

SPORT

UM, I'M THIRSTY. I NEED A DRINK.

ALL CLASSMATES

*WHAT'S SHE WRITING? WHAT'S SHE WRITING?
WHAT'S SHE WRITING? WHAT'S SHE WRITING?*

*WHAT'S SHE WRITING? WHAT'S SHE WRITING?
WHAT'S SHE WRITING? WHAT'S SHE WRITING?*

MARION

*THAT NOTEBOOK'S FULL OF SECRETS AND THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO.
SHE SNEAKS AROUND, SHE'S WAY TOO CURIOUS.
IF SHE WRITES ABOUT ME, I'LL BE FURIOUS!
PINKY, PETER, BETH ELLEN, WON'T YOU?*

BETH ELLEN

MAYBE... I DON'T KNOW...

PINKY

I CAN'T REALLY SAY...

PETER

WRITING IN A NOTEBOOK MAY BE HARRIET'S WAY TO PLAY...

JANIE

I TRUST HER, SO WHAT IF SHE'S A SPY? HARRIET IS MY FRIEND; SHE WOULDN'T HURT A FLY.

MARION

*OK, FINE... YOU'LL SEE!
THE PERSON THAT'S WRONG HERE SURE ISN'T ME.
SOMEDAY WE'LL FIND OUT, AND WE'LL ALL KNOW WHY
WE NEVER SHOULD'VE TRUSTED HARRIET THE SPY!*

CLASSMATES

*WHAT'S SHE WRITING? WHAT'S SHE WRITING?
WHAT'S SHE WRITING? WHAT'S SHE WRITING?*

*WHAT'S SHE WRITING? WHAT'S SHE WRITING?
WHAT'S SHE WRITING? WHAT'S SHE WRITING?*

JANIE. You don't know Harriet like I do.

MARION. We'll see.