

FINAL DRAFT
September 6, 1979

THE FACTS OF LIFE

"I.Q."

Produced by
Jerry Mayer

Directed by
Jim Drake

Written by
Jane Gould
&
Shelly Landau

A
T.A.T. COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY
PRODUCTIONS

SHOW: #0104
TAPE: 9/7/79
AIR: 9/14/79

THE FACTS OF LIFE

"I.Q."

#0104

CAST

MRS. EDNA GARRETT. CHARLOTTE RAE
STEPHEN BRADLEY. JOHN LAWLOR
EMILY MAHONEY. JENNY O'HARA
BLAIR. LISA WHELCHER
NANCY. FELICE SCHACHTER
MOLLY. MOLLY RINGWALD
SUE ANN. JULIE PIEKARSKI
TOOTIE KIM FIELDS
NATALIE. MINDY COHN
CINDY. JULIE ANNE HADDOCK

SETS

INT. COMMON ROOM - DAY
INT. GIRLS ROOM - DAY
INT. GARRETT'S ROOM - NIGHT
INT. GIRLS ROOM - NIGHT
INT. COMMON ROOM - DAY
INT. MAHONEY'S CLASSROOM - DAY

"THE FACTS OF LIFE"

TENTATIVE REHEARSAL & TAPE SCHEDULE

#0104

THURSDAY - SEPTEMBER 6, 1979

STAGE #1

| | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| E.S.U. | 9:00AM - 10:00AM |
| FAX | 10:00AM - 1:00PM |
| LUNCH | 1:00PM - 2:00PM |
| FAX | 2:00PM - 4:30PM |
| RUN THRU W/WARDROBE | 4:30PM - 5:00PM |
| NOTES W/CAST | 5:00PM |

FRIDAY - SEPTEMBER 7, 1979

STAGE #1

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| DIRECTOR'S NOTES | 8:00AM - 9:00AM |
| E.S.U. | 8:00AM - 9:00AM |
| FAX | 9:00AM - 10:15AM |
| RUN THRU | 10:15AM - 11:00AM |
| CAST NOTES, MAKEUP, WARDROBE | 11:00AM - 12:00NN |
| VTR/FAX (DRESS W/AUDIENCE) | 12:00NN - 1:00PM |
| MEAL BREAK AND NOTES | 1:00PM - 2:30PM |
| VT CHECK IN | 2:00PM - 2:30PM |
| VTR/FAX (AIR W/AUDIENCE) | 2:30PM - 3:30PM |
| PICKUPS | 3:30PM - |

| | DRESS | AIR |
|---|-------|-----|
| <u>ACT I - SCENE I</u> <u>INT. COMMON ROOM - DAY (p. 1)</u> (GARRETT, NANCY, BLAIR, CINDY, MOLLY, TOOTIE, SUE ANN, BRADLEY, MAHONEY, NATALIE) | | |
| <u>ACT I - SCENE II</u> <u>INT. GIRLS ROOM - SHORTLY AFTER (p. 9)</u> (NANCY, BLAIR, SUE ANN, CINDY, MOLLY, NATALIE, TOOTIE) | | |
| <u>ACT I - SCENE III</u> <u>INT. GARRETT'S ROOM - THAT EVENING (p. 17)</u> (GARRETT, SUE ANN) | | |

| | DRESS | AIR |
|--|-------|-----|
| <u>ACT I - SCENE IV</u> <u>INT. GIRLS ROOM - NIGHT (p. 21)</u> (BLAIR, NANCY) | | |
| <u>ACT I - SCENE V</u> <u>INT. COMMON ROOM - DAY (p. 23)</u> (SUE ANN, NANCY, BLAIR, GARRETT, MAHONEY) | | |
| <u>ACT II - SCENE I</u> <u>INT. MAHONEY'S CLASSROOM</u> <u>SHORTLY LATER (p. 29)</u> (BRADLEY, TOOTIE, GARRETT, SUE ANN, NANCY, MAHONEY) | | |

ACT ONE

SCENE ONE

FADE IN:

INT. COMMON ROOM - DAY

(THE HOUSE IS QUIET. NANCY,
BLAIR, CINDY AND MOLLY ARE
IN VARIED POSTURES, READING
AND STUDYING. MRS. GARRETT
ENTERS FRONT DOOR IN JACKET,
CARRYING A BOOK)

GARRETT

Boy, I've never seen it so quiet in this...

ALL GIRLS

Shhh!

GARRETT

(MOUTHS SILENTLY)

That's right. I forgot it's mid-term time.

(SITS)

(BLAIR ENTERS FROM KITCHEN
CARRYING A PLATE OF SNACKS)

BLAIR

Now I can study for mid-terms. I've got
my energy food.

(THE GIRLS DESCEND ON BLAIR
AD LIBBING: "HEY I WANT SOME
TOO, I'M STARVED, GIVE ME ONE
OF THOSE DING-DONGS. HEY

COME BACK HERE." SUE ANN
GETS AN APPLE OFF THE TRAY AND
WALKS TO THE COUCH. BLAIR
GRABS A PLATE OF DIP AND SOME
CRACKERS. THE REST OF THE
GIRLS RUN UPSTAIRS WITH FOOD.)

GARRETT

(CALLING AFTER GIRLS)

That's it, girls, get upstairs and start
cramming. And when you're finished cramming,
put the food away and start studying.

(BLAIR SPREADS SOMETHING ON
CRACKERS AS SHE STUDIES)

BLAIR

Mrs. Garrett, you want some avocado spread?

GARRETT

No, thanks, Blair. I have my own avocado
spread.

(SHE PATS HER HIPS. SHE IS
WEARING A GREEN SKIRT. NANCY
COMES BACK DOWNSTAIRS)

NANCY

Sue Ann, aren't you coming up? I need your
help for this history test.

BLAIR

Nancy, you've got to learn to handle things by yourself. What are you going to do when you get married? Call Sue Ann for all the answers?

NANCY

I can't help it, when it comes to school work, she's my security blanket.

SUE ANN

Okay, Nancy. Let's go. What subject should we start with this time?

*

BRADLEY

(ENTERS)

Good morning, everybody. Where is everybody?

*

GARRETT

Upstairs studying.

BRADLEY

(NOTICES HER BOOK)

What are you reading, Mrs. Garrett?

GARRETT

"How to Fly an Airplane"

BRADLEY

(SITS ON COFFEE TABLE)

You? Why are you learning to fly?

*

GARRETT

Because I'm scared of flying? I'm so ashamed of myself. I was totally fearless as a kid. Back on our farm I used to go galloping bareback on our plowhorse. When I was nine years old I won a bet jumping off the top of the barn into a pile of hay.

BLAIR

You must have been a fun date.

(EXITS)

GARRETT

I was. So I took the money I was saving for my Hong Kong trip and signed up for flying lessons and I'm having one heck of a time.

*

(RISES)

I've already logged twenty hours in the air. And tomorrow I solo.

*

(MAHONEY COMES IN CARRYING A STACK OF PAPERS)

MAHONEY

Good morning, Mr. Bradley, here's a copy of my mid-term History exam for tomorrow.

*

(MAHONEY HANDS A PAPER TO BRADLEY)

Oh, I think this is yours. It was delivered to me by mistake.

(SHE HANDS HIM A LARGE ENVELOPE WHICH HE OPENS AND READS THE CONTENTS)

BRADLEY

Thank you. It's the records of the girls' I.Q. scores from their previous schools. I am really proud. Our girls have the highest I.Q. average of any prep school in the state.

MAHONEY

I've never doubted it. That's why I made my History test a killer.

*

GARRETT

Mr. Bradley, how can you give so much importance to those intelligence tests... especially since they were given in grade school?

BRADLEY

(CHUCKLING)

Mrs. Garrett, if you were in the biz, you'd understand. You see, by the fifth grade, every child has his or her permanent level of their I.Q. I'm not going too fast for you, am I?

*

(SHE NODS)

BRADLEY (CONT'D)

In other words, the girls' test scores give us a fixed idea of what their potential will be.

GARRETT

I don't think it's fair... labeling a
child for life on the basis of a single
test taken at the age of nine or ten.
That's practically like branding cattle.
What if the child is coming down with a
cold, or gets panicky at the sight of a
test.

*

*

MAHONEY

It's not that cold blooded, Mrs. Garrett.
It's just a guideline, and the kids never
see their I.Q. scores.

(AT THIS POINT, TOOTIE COMES
SKATING IN, FAST AND SOMEWHAT
OFF BALANCE)

TOOTIE

Mr. Bradley... Whoops!
(TOOTIE TAKES A TUMBLE. BRADLEY
DROPS ALL HIS PAPERS AND HELPS
TOOTIE UP)

BRADLEY

Are you okay?

TOOTIE

(ON FLOOR)

Yeah, I landed on the soft part. Miss Tracey
is giving a geometry exam and she sent me to
find you.

*

MAHONEY

What's the problem?

TOOTIE

She has to go to the bathroom.

GARRETT

I didn't know we were on the buddy system.

MAHONEY

I'd like to help but I'm on my way to the
Biology Lab. I've got eight rabbits in
trouble.

(MAHONEY EXITS)

GARRETT

Would you like me to go, Mr. Bradley?

BRADLEY

Thanks, but you're too soft-hearted to be
a watchdog. I'll go. Could you watch the
phones in my office, Mrs. Garrett.

GARRETT

Be glad to.

(THEY EXIT, GARRETT SINGING

"OFF WE GO INTO THE WILD BLUE
YONDER")

(TOOTIE SPOTS COPY OF I.Q.
TESTS)

TOOTIE

Hmmm?

(READS ALOUD)

Stanford-Binet I.Q. scores

(TOOTIESK)

... for everybody in school. Sure didn't
know she was the smartest...

(REALLY SURPRISED)

... or she was the dumbest.

(SHE SCRIBBLES THE FIGURES
ON A PIECE OF PAPER)

CUT TO:

ACT ONE

SCENE TWO

INT. GIRLS' ROOM

(ALL THE GIRLS EXCEPT TOOTIE ARE
IN THE ROOM, MOLLY TAKES BIT OF
CELERY, EVERYONE REACTS)

NANCY

Sue Ann, can you fill me in on the
Louisiana Purchase?

SUE ANN

Sure. The Louisiana territory was
purchased April 30, 1803. It cost us
almost sixteen million dollars.

CINDY

Wow, that's a lot of money! *

BLAIR

They probably charged it. *

(TOOTIE ROLLER SKATES IN)

TOOTIE

I know a secret that none of us is
supposed to know.

CINDY

(UNENTHUSESED)

What is it this time, Tootie? *

TOOTIE

Promise not to tell? I know who the
smartest girl in the school is.

*

(ALL THE GIRLS SHOUT "YES" AND
CROWD AROUND TOOTIE)

NANCY

That's no secret. Everybody knows it's
Sue Ann.

SUE ANN

(MODESTLY)

No, not necessarily, Nancy.

TOOTIE

Sue Ann's right. It's not her.

SUE ANN

(HIDING DISAPPOINTMENT)

See, didn't I tell you --

(RISES)

Who is the smartest?

BLAIR

(RISES)

It couldn't be me. I've got too many
other things going for me.

TOOTIE

Right. It's not you, either.

BLAIR

(DEFLATED)

Oh.

(SITS)

TOOTIE

It's Nancy.

(THE GIRLS STOP TALKING AND
STARE AT NANCY. SHE BECOMES
UNCOMFORTABLE)

NANCY

No... I'm not the smartest.

TOOTIE

Don't be so stupid, I just told you.

MOLLY

How do you know all this?

TOOTIE

("TOOTIE TYPE SECRECY")

I found a list with all our I.Q.'s on it.
I wrote 'em all down.

(SHE PRODUCES THE LIST. GIRLS
AD LIB THEIR DESIRE TO SEE IT)

Not so fast. Gees!! I'll show you your
scores one at a time.

MOLLY

That's not fair. Why should you know all
our scores and not us?

TOOTIE

'Cause I can keep a secret.

(TOOTIE FOLDS THE LIST SO EACH
GIRL CAN SEE ONLY HER SCORE.
NATALIE IS ANXIOUS)

TOOTIE (CONT'D)

Cindy.

(NATALIE STEPS UP TO HER. SHE
SHOWS CINDY)

TOOTIE (CONT'D)

Molly.

(NATALIE IS THERE AGAIN. SHE
SHOW MOLLY)

TOOTIE (CONT'D)

And Nancy.

(TOOTIE SHOWS NANCY. HER EYES
WIDEN. TOOTIE MOVES TO NATALIE,
SHOWS HER)

TOOTIE (CONT'D)

Here's yours, Natalie. You and me have
the same I.Q.

NATALIE

I knew we were soul sisters.

(AT THIS POINT, THEY EXCHANGE A
SOUL SLAP. ALL THE GIRLS EXCEPT
NANCY AND SUE ANN GATHER AND PEEK)

*

CINDY

(SHOWS BLAIR THE PAPER)

Here, you want to see your I.Q., Blair?

BLAIR

Great. My I.Q. is higher than my weight.

MOLLY

I don't believe it. Sue Ann has the lowest I.Q. on the list.

SUE ANN

(SHE REACTS UNBELIEVING, GRABS LIST)

May I see it?

(CROSSES)

Congratulations Nancy, on being so smart.

NANCY

Sue Ann, it's not that big a deal.

SUE ANN

That's easy for you to say.

MOLLY

Sue Ann, don't be upset because you're the dumbest girl on the list. I have a friend who's brother has an even lower I.Q. than you, and he got all the way through Junior College and now he's the most successful Encyclopedia salesman in Paramus, New Jersey.

SUE ANN

Thanks. Maybe I can work my way up to being a sponge squeezer at a car wash.

*

NANCY

*

Sue Ann, you're being ridiculous. You've always gotten good grades and this isn't gonna change anything.

NATALIE

If you need help, Tootie and I will be glad to tutor you.

TOOTIE

It'll cost you.

(MRS. GARRETT ENTERS, CARRYING
A FLIGHT BOOK)

GARRETT

Hi girls. Sue Ann, you're so good at math. You can probably help me with this problem on my flying test.

*

SUE ANN

Boy, did you come to the wrong person for help.

GARRETT

Sue Ann?

SUE ANN

That's really funny, isn't it, girls?

(SUE ANN MAKES A QUICK,
DESPONDENT EXIT)

GARRETT

Sue Ann?

(TO THE OTHERS)

What's going on here?

(ALL THE GIRLS CLAM UP. GARRETT
SEES TOOTIE TRYING TO HIDE THE
LIST.)

GARRETT (CONT'D)

What is this, Tootie?

TOOTIE

It feels like a piece of paper, Mrs. Garrett.

GARRETT

Tootie, this couldn't possibly be a list
of I.Q. scores, could it?

TOOTIE

No, Mrs. Garrett, not possibly... definitely.

GARRETT

Tootie, isn't there something you think
you should do about this?

TOOTIE

Yeah, make a break for it.

(A BEAT)

Okay, let's go to Mr. Bradley's office.

GARRETT

Come on, Tootie, I'll roll you down that
last mile.

(THEY START TO EXIT)

MOLLY

Tootie, let me know if Mr. Bradley pounds
on you. There's a state law.

(GARRETT GIVES MOLLY A LOOK AS WE:)

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT ONE

SCENE THREE

INT. GARRETT'S ROOM - THAT EVENING

(ON THE WA_L WE SEE CHARTS OF PLANES
IN FLIGHT, ENLARGED COCKPIT DIAGRAMS,
ETC. SHE IS PRETENDING FLIGHT, STALLS)

GARRETT

Throttle control...Trim tabs.

(SHE STICKS HER ARMS OUT AND RESUMES
FLYING, "FLIES" MAKING ENGINE NOISES,
ACROSS THE ROOM SUE ANN ENTERS,
ALMOST GETTING KNOCKED OVER BY
THE FLYING MRS. GARRETT)

SUE ANN

I'm sorry I interrupted your homework. *

GARRETT

That's okay, it was time for a little *
maintenance anyway...

(LOOKS)

...for both of us. Sit down, Sue Ann. *

SUE ANN

(SITS)

Mrs. Garrett, I'm sorry about the way I
acted before. I was kinda rude.

GARRETT

No you weren't.

SUE ANN

I heard Tootie got punished for peeking
at the I.Q. scores.

GARRETT

She sure did. She'll have to write
"I will not be nosy" five hundred times
on the blackboard. That oughta keep her
busy until she graduates.

(GARRETT LAUGHS, SUE ANN DOES
NOT)

What's the matter, Sue Ann?

*

(PUTS ARMS AROUND SUE ANN)

You're not worried about that silly I.Q.
thing, are you?

SUE ANN

It's not silly, Mrs. Garrett. I was the
dumbest on the list, and everybody knows
it.

GARRETT

Sue Ann, why are you worried? Just look
at your grades. You're a top student.

SUE ANN

I was a top student. I think I just
went into a tailspin.

*

(GARRETT PUTS AN ARM AROUND HER. SHE RISES)

I know you're trying to cheer me up,
but I'm gonna have to re-think my goals.

(STARTS TO EXIT)

GARRETT

(STOPS HER, LEADS HER TO SIT AGAIN)

Now hold on young lady. Sit down
and listen.

(SUE ANN SITS. AFTER A BEAT)

Tomorrow when I'm up there flying all
by myself, if all of a sudden Tootie
handed me a low IQ score, what do you
think I'd say?

SUE ANN

You'd say Tootie, what the heck are
you doing up here?

GARRETT

For sure, but I wouldn't say, "Goodness,
I'm not smart enough to fly", and go
into a tailspin. I'd keep on flying
because I know I know how. Just like
you know what you're capable of doing
and you just do it. Right?

SUE ANN

(NOT TOTALLY CONVINCED)

I don't think I can "just do it" anymore,
Mrs. Garrett. Those mid-terms are too
tough.

*

(SHE SHAKES HER HEAD)

GARRETT

(SITS)

Oh, I don't believe it. Sue Ann, nothing
has changed, you're still an excellent
student who has always done beautifully
on exams. This I.Q. thing has nothing
to do with it.

SUE ANN

If doesn't if you're at the top of the
list, like Nancy. I don't hear her
complaining.

(AS SUE ANN SITS THERE UNHAPPY, GARRETT
LOOKS CONCERNED, AND WE:)

CUT TO:

ACT ONE

SCENE FOUR

INT. GIRLS' ROOM - NIGHT

(NANCY AND BLAIR IN PAJAMAS ARE
STUDYING. NANCY HAS A TROUBLED
LOOK ON HER FACE)

BLAIR

Come on, Nancy. Don't be selfish.
Share your brain.

NANCY

Blair, you're the fifth one that's come
to me, I can't help you. I'll be lucky
if I pass this test myself. Check with
Sue Ann. She knows everything.

BLAIR

When I want help, I go to the best. And
that's you.

NANCY

I don't care what my I.Q. is. I don't
wanna be the smartest girl in school

BLAIR

You should be proud to be number one.

*

NANCY

I liked it better before when Sue Ann was number one and everybody was asking her for help. Now everyone's coming to me and I can't take the pressure.

(RISES)

*

Now Blair, will you please leave, so I can study?

BLAIR

(INSULTED, RISES, STARTS OUT)

Well! You don't see me getting all upset when people tell me how gorgeous I am.

(SHE EXITS, NANCY LOOKS AT BOOK, SLAMS IT SHUT IN DISGUST, AS WE:)

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT ONE

SCENE FIVE

INT. COMMON ROOM - DAY

(IT'S THE NEXT DAY. NANCY IS LEAFING THROUGH A MAGAZINE, THEN SHE TOSSES IT AWAY. SUE ANN ENTERS. LOOKS TO EMPTY BULLETIN BOARD, LISTLESSLY)

SUE ANN

Oh, didn't Mahoney post the history exam scores yet?

*

NANCY

(IRRITABLY)

What are you asking me for? You've got eyes.

SUE ANN

Can't you answer a simple question? You're the smartest girl in school.

NANCY

Get off my case, will you?

(SUE ANN SITS ON SOFA NEXT TO NANCY)

SUE ANN

What are you so uptight about? A girl with you I.Q. shouldn't have had any trouble with that simple test.

NANCY

Are you kidding? I panicked. I hadda guess at half the answers. I hope I guessed right.

*

SUE ANN

(IRRITATED)

Hey come off it, will you Nancy. We know you're a brain. I hate people who pretend a test is hard for them, just so other people won't feel so dumb.

*

NANCY

(ALSO IRRITATED)

If you don't like it, tough. Okay Sue Ann? And I'm sick and tired of hearing what a high I.Q. I have, so just cut it out!

(NANCY THROWS HER BOOK ACROSS

THE ROOM. THIS SOBERS SUE ANN)

SUE ANN

I'd give anything to have your problem. You're on top. How would you like to know you're gonna be stuck in the basement for the rest of you life? I'd trade with you in a minute.

NANCY

Show me how to do it and you've got a deal -- Sue Ann, I like the way it used to be.

SUE ANN

So do I.

NANCY

It was like we were climbing a mountain together. You were above me cause you were smartest. And we both made it to the top because you helped pull me up. I can't handle being up there all by myself.

*

SUE ANN

It's pretty miserable being down here too.

(SUE ANN PATS NANCY'S SHOULDER)

SUE ANN

Darnit. I wish they'd never invented I.Q.'s.

(THEY BOTH SIT THERE GLUMLY, AS
BLAIR ENTERS)

BLAIR

What are you two looking so intense for?
Exams come and go but worry lines stay
with you forever.

(BLAIR SMILES AT HERSELF IN
THE MIRROR)

I wasn't talking about you.

(BLAIR EXITS INTO KITCHEN)

(GARRETT ENTERS FROM HER BEDROOM,
DRESSED IN JACKET, ON WAY TO
AIRFIELD)

GARRETT

Hi, girls, Well, wish me luck. I'm off
to the airfield for my first solo. And
I've got a beautiful day for it too.

(SHE BLITHELY EXITS. THEN POPS
RIGHT BACK IN)

What's the matter with you two?

SUE ANN

We took mid-terms this morning.

GARRETT

You two have always done great on tests.
I'm sure you both did well.

(MISS MAHONEY ENTERS, CARRYING
A SHEET OF PAPER. ALL THE GIRLS
EXCEPT TOOTIE FOLLOW)
(AD LIBBING THEIR EAGERNESS
TO LEARN THEIR GRADES)

MAHONEY

(PINNING GRADE PAPER UP)

Well, mid-terms are over. You can all
relax. You've got nothing to do for the
next three months but study for finals.

(THE GIRLS GATHER AROUND THE PAPER)

GARRETT

Will you tell these girls they did okay
on the test, so they can relax.

MAHONEY

(SOBERLY)

I wish I could. I even double checked
their scores.

NANCY

We didn't do so hot, huh?

MAHONEY

You flunked.

(A BEAT)

I'm really sorry girls. Nancy, you didn't
even give half the answers.

*

NANCY

That's because all I could think about is
what people expected of me. I can't
handle the pressure.

*

MAHONEY

And I don't know where your mind was, Sue Ann.
Your answers didn't even correspond to
the questions. It's a shame.

*

(MAHONEY EXITS WITH MORE PAPERS
FOR MORE DORMS)

GARRETT

(SITS)

With all this fuss about I.Q.'s no wonder
you girls did poorly on the test. Don't
worry, you'll do much much better next time.

*

SUE ANN

(RISING DECISIVELY)

There won't be a next time, Mrs. Garrett,
because I won't be at Eastland.

*

GARRETT

What?

SUE ANN

Who am I kidding? It's just gonna get
harder and I'm not up to it.

GARRETT

Sue Ann, are you still buying that
I.Q. bunk?

SUE ANN

It's not bunk.

GARRETT

Nancy, will you help me talk some sense
into her.

NANCY

I don't think I'd be very convincing,
Mrs. Garrett. I'm gonna leave Eastland, too.

(MRS. GARRETT IS DEVASTATED,

AS WE:)

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SCENE ONE

FADE IN:

INT. MISS MAHONEY'S CLASSROOM - SHORTLY LATER

(CLOSE ON BRADLEY, AS HE ENTERS,

LOOKS AT BLACKBOARD, WHICH WE

DON'T SEE) *not not not Goodbye*

BRADLEY

(SHAKES HEAD "NO") *tootie*

Sorry, Tootie, that will not be satisfactory.

(A FULL SHOT, TO INCLUDE TOOTIE

AT THE BLACKBOARD. SHE HAS

WRITTEN ONE "I SHALL NOT BE

NOSY," AND MANY "DITTOS" IN A

ROW UNDER IT)

TOOTIE

"Dittos" don't slice it, huh?

BRADLEY

Start over.

TOOTIE

(ERASING THE "DITTOS")

I may be years ahead of my time.

(AT THIS POINT, GARRETT, ENTERS

WITH SUE ANN DRESSED AS IN LAST

SCENE)

GARRETT

Mr. Bradley, I've been looking for you.

BRADLEY

Well, you've found me. What is it?

GARRETT

I've got two girls here, who are so upset by your I.Q. foolishness that they're packing to leave school.

BRADLEY

Sue Ann... Nancy... what's wrong?

SUE ANN

I'm not smart enough for this place.

NANCY

And I can't handle the pressure. *

GARRETT

They just flunked their mid-terms, thanks to you.

BRADLEY

What are you talking about?

GARRETT

Just yesterday, we had two very intelligent girls here. Now look what you've done. *
I want you to tell them to forget they ever had I.Q.'s and I.Q.'s don't mean a thing.

BRADLEY

Mrs. Garrett, I'm sorry the girls did poorly on their test, but let's not go overboard and blame their I.Q.'s. It would be dishonest to say their I.Q.'s mean nothing. And I don't see any great harm in the girls knowing their scores.

TOOTIE

(SKATES UP TO BRADLEY)

Does that mean I'm free to go?

BRADLEY

Tootie.

(SHE SKATES BACK)

BRADLEY (CONT'D)

Obviously everyone's I.Q. isn't gonna be the same. If a person knows she has a lower I.Q., it just means that she has to push a little harder to get the same results. Simple?

(TO SUE ANN)

I'm not going too fast for you, am I, Sue Ann?

SUE ANN

See? You're just like the rest of 'em Mr. Bradley. I'm ashamed of my I.Q. and I hate that everybody in school knows what it is. That's why I'm leaving.

NANCY

Me too. All of a sudden, everyone expects
too much of me.

(MAHONEY ENTERS)

MAHONEY

Hello. What's going on here?

GARRETT

We're having a little discussion about
I.Q.'s.

BRADLEY

Yes, the girls are kind of upset. And
I guess it all started when everyone found
out their I.Q.'s. I've been comforting
them.

MAHONEY

(LOOKING AT SULLEN GIRLS)

You're making great progress.

GARRETT

Y'know what I think would really be comforting
to the girls. If you'd share your I.Q. score
with them.

BRADLEY

Gladly. I'll send away to my old grade
school this morning.

GARRETT

Really? Since I.Q.'s are so important...
you don't know yours?

BRADLEY

Not off hand.

GARRETT

Really? That makes us even.

BRADLEY

I doubt that. I mean, one of us is bound
to be higher than the other.

GARRETT

Or lower.

BRADLEY

Anything's possible.

GARRETT

Would it bother you, if my I.Q. were
higher than yours?

BRADLEY

(LAUGHS)

Of course not.

GARRETT

(LAUGHS)

Good. Why don't we both take an I.Q. test
right now?

BRADLEY

I'd love to... if it were only possible.
Unfortunately, we don't have any I.Q.
tests at the school.

MAHONEY

Yes we do, Mr. Bradley. They included a
sample I.Q. test with those scores you
sent away for.

(SHE PRODUCES TEST FROM HER
DESK)

BRADLEY

(NOT MEANING IT)

Thank you, Miss Mahoney.

GARRETT

(CROSSES TO DESK)

Let's get started.

MAHONEY

(HANDS THEM EXAMS)

Usually this is a written exam. It will
be harder taking it orally.

GARRETT

It's alright with me, Mr. Bradley.

BRADLEY

Child's play.

MAHONEY

Very well. I'll administer the exam.

(SHE HANDS EACH OF THEM PENCIL
AND PAPER. THEY SIT NEXT TO
EACH OTHER)

MAHONEY (CONT'D)

No, Mr. Bradley. There, please.

(SHE POINTS TO ANOTHER SEAT)

An open seat prevents temptation.

(BRADLEY GLARES AT HER, MOVES)

MAHONEY (CONT'D)

Now write your name in the upper left hand
corner. Last name first, first name last.

BRADLEY

Miss Mahoney. Get on with it.

MAHONEY

Alright, I'm going to read a set of five
words. I want you to write down the two
that are most similar to each other.

Ready?

(BRADLEY AND GARRETT, PENCILS
POISED, EYE EACH OTHER COMPE-
TIVELY)

GARRETT/BRADLEY

Ready.

MAHONEY

Pen... chicken... gold... rifle... paper...

(BRADLEY SMILES, WRITES)

BRADLEY

Mmm hmm.

GARRETT

(TOPPING BRADLEY'S MMM-HMM)

Mmm-hmm.

MAHONEY

Next set. Remember the two that are
most similar. Tearing... melting...
running... burning... canoeing.

(GARRETT QUICKLY SMILES)

GARRETT

Of course.

(BRADLEY SHOOTS GARRETT A
GLANCE, THEN AFTER A MOMENT
OF INDECISION, WRITES HIS
ANSWER)

MAHONEY

Ready?

GARRETT

Ready.

(BRADLEY WRITES FAST)

MAHONEY

Pick the pair. Singing... coughing...
marching... eating... sleeping.

(GARRETT QUICKLY WRITES)

GARRETT

They get easier, don't they?

BRADLEY

(IRRITATED)

Do you mind?

(RAISES HIS HAND)

MAHONEY

Yes, Mr. Bradley?

BRADLEY

What was that? Singing? Coughing?
Melting? Canoeing?

MAHONEY

No, Mr. Bradley. Melting and canoeing
were from the ~~last~~ set. Would you like
me to repeat it?

GARRETT

It's okay. I'll wait.

BRADLEY

No. It's alright, I've got it.

(HE WRITES SOMETHING DOWN,
NERVOUSLY, THEN GLANCES TOWARD
GARRETT'S DESK)

MAHONEY

Do we have wandering eyes, Mr. Bradley?

(HE JERKS EYES TO THE FRONT)

MAHONEY (CONT'D)

Now we'll begin the vocabulary section.

Write down the meaning of the following words.

(GARRETT AND BRADLEY WRITE)

MAHONEY (CONT'D)

Sudorific.

GARRETT

Well, I never thought that word would come in handy.

BRADLEY

Mrs. Garrett! I object to your little murmurings. I'm trying to take a test, here.

GARRETT

I understand, Mr. Bradley. I don't want to build up any undue pressure for you. I wouldn't want you to "choke" as they say in the big leagues.

BRADLEY

You make me choke? Are you crazy?

(RAISES HIS HAND)

MAHONEY

Yes, Mr. Bradley.

BRADLEY

Now what was that last word?

GARRETT

Sudorific. It means "causing sweat." *

(HE WRITES IT DOWN)

(TO MAHONEY)

GARRETT (CONT'D)

I learned it on the farm. ~~The vet used~~ *
~~to use it~~ when the hogs got all in a lather.

(BRADLEY IS WIPING HIS BROW)

BRADLEY

How fascinating.

MAHONEY

The next word is "octillion."

BRADLEY

Octillion, now that's a word. Easy.

(HE WRITES SOMETHING DOWN)

GARRETT

(NORMAL VOICE)

I hope you didn't put down "a kind of
dance," 'cause that's a cotillion.

*

(BRADLEY STARTS TO ERASE HIS
ANSWER. THE PAPER RIPS. BRADLEY
IS AT THE END OF THIS TETHER)

BRADLEY

That's it! That's all! This test is over.
It's totally ridiculous. It doesn't mean
a thing!

(CRUMPLES UP HIS PAPER AND HERS)

GARRETT

(RISES)

That's an interesting theory. I think
I've heard it before. Maybe it was this
morning, when I said it.

BRADLEY

Come on, I was under pressure. These aren't
normal conditions. Alright, so I choked.

*

(THEY STARE AT HIM)

BRADLEY (CONT'D)

Okay, maybe you're right. I can see where
anyone can do poorly on I.Q. test. Even
those of us who are exceptionally gifted.

*

GARRETT

(CROSSES TO SUE ANN AND NANCY)

See, girls, I hope you were listening.

You can't live life by the numbers. And

*

that's all an I.Q. really is.

MAHONEY

Mrs. Garrett, I have to admit you may be right. Especially after this. For as long as they've been giving I.Q. tests, no one's been able to prove they really measure a person's intelligence.

*

GARRETT

There you go, what's important is how well you use your natural abilities, and how hard you try. Isn't that right, Mr. Bradley?... Or am I going too fast for you?

*

*Didn't go fast
to you did she*

BRADLEY

(MIND ELSEWHERE)

What? -- Of course not.

SUE ANN

Okay, Mrs. Garrett, you're finally getting through... even to me.

NANCY

Me too. Maybe I could take the I.Q. test over and do as badly as Mr. Bradley.

MAHONEY

(LOOKING AT BRADLEY'S CRUMPLED TEST)

Don't expect to equal this, unless
you're willing to go without sleep for
weeks.

BRADLEY

I did do pretty pitifully, didn't I?

(MAHONEY NODS)

Mrs. Garrett, if it would make anyone
feel better, you can post my I.Q. paper
on your bulletin board.

(GARRETT REACTS)

*

I think I'd like to take that test again
sometime, under normal conditions.

GARRETT

Good idea. And I assume you won't mind
the girls taking their mid-terms again,
under normal conditions.

SUE ANN

Yeah, could we?

NANCY

Really?

BRADLEY

Wonderful. I'm glad we thought of it.
Miss Mahoney, you'll do the honors?

(INTO NEXT PAGE)

MAHONEY

Girls, it would be my pleasure. See me
at three o'clock.

*

BRADLEY

Well, I've gotta fly.

(EXITS)

GARRETT

He's gotta fly? I forgot about my solo.
It's time to take off.

*

SUE ANN

That's right Nancy, if Mrs. Garrett has the courage
to fly a plane, we ought to be able to
re-take the history test with no problem.

*

NANCY

Yeah, we'll ace it.

GARRETT

Thanks girls. You've inspired me. Watch
out, Red Baron, here I come.

(SHE TURNS, PRETENDS TO BE A
PLANE, "FLYING OUT", RUNS INTO
BENTWOOD COATRACK FULL OF CAOTS)

Pardon me.

*

(EXITS)

NANCY

I'll bet I'll get a ninety five this time.

SUE ANN

And I'll bet I'll get a ninety six.

NANCY

Great, things are back to normal.

Will you help me study.

(AS THEY EXIT)

SUE ANN

Sure, come on.

(THEY ARE GONE. WE SEE THAT TOOTIE IS
STILL WRITING ON BLACKBOARD)

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT TWO