



Illustration by Jennifer Stolzer

Segment 15: Disgunsemble

(inside Garden School classroom; music class; TWIMFINA has guitar and is leading children in a slow, peaceful song)

CHILDREN

(singing)

NONVIOLENCE TAKES A LONG, LONG TIME
 NONVIOLENCE TAKES A LONG, LONG TIME
 IT TAKES A LONG, LONG, LONG, LONG, LONG, LONG TIME
 IT TAKES A LONG, LONG, LONG, LONG, LONG, LONG TIME



Score on page 176

SCOUT

Twimfina, Walter has something he needs to tell you.

WALTER

I do not.

SCOUT

(emphatically)

Yes. You. Do.

TWIMFINA

Hey! What's going on with you two? Up to now, you've been working together so nicely!

SCOUT

This has nothing to do with that. Walter has something he needs to tell you.

TWIMFINA

But he obviously doesn't want to. And if Walter has something that he doesn't want to tell me, then Walter has something that he doesn't want to tell me. I don't need to know his secrets. I respect his privacy.

SCOUT

Walter has a gun.

TWIMFINA

(concerned)

Walter, do you have a gun?

SCOUT

I'm sorry, Walter.

TWIMFINA

(with firmer voice)

Walter, do you have a gun?

WALTER

(resignedly)

Yes.

TWIMFINA

Where is the gun?

WALTER

(holds up bag)

TWIMFINA

(takes bag, opens it)

Where did you get this, Walter?

WALTER

I found it in the schoolyard, down by the road.

TWIMFINA

(removing old revolver from bag)

Uh! Those imbeciles from the G.G.G. must have dropped it.

WALTER

I never pointed it at anybody!

TWIMFINA

(removing bullets from cylinder)

Yes, Walter, I know that you would never do that.

POCA

Are you going to give it back to the G.G.G?

TWIMFINA

Zero possibility, Poca. They purposely scare people with their guns. Nobody should ever have to live in that kind of fear. I hope they lose ALL their guns!

AKEELAH

Why don't we sell it? We can probably make some money from it.

TWIMFINA

And cause *other* people to get hurt or frightened? Them instead of us? No. We may be poor, Akeelah, but we'll never bet THAT poor.

EDDIE

We could hide it where nobody will ever find it.

TWIMFINA

There IS no such place, Eddie. Even the dinosaurs that got hidden 66 million years ago are being found all the time. No, we've got to do what any educated, socially responsible person would do with a gun. We've got to destroy it.

POCA

Destroy it? How?

TWIMFINA

(opens her backpack and takes out a little screwdriver)

With one of these, Poca. With a little screwdriver a person can completely take apart a gun – or, to use the technical term, 'disgunsemble' it. Can you all say 'disgunsemble'?

CHILDREN

Disgunsemble.

TWIMFINA

That's right. Let's all disgunsemble this ugly thing before Guru comes back for Math class. I'll take out the screws, and then you take all the little pieces outdoors. Scatter them as far as you can so that nobody will ever be able to put this thing back together. Okay?

CHILDREN

(happily agree)

TWIMFINA

And let's give Walter and Scout the first pieces to scatter. They're our heroes. They're the ones who saved us from all the bad things that might have happened from this gun. Thank you Walter. Thank you Scout.

CHILDREN

(echo their thanks to Walter and Scout)

TWIMFINA

(while taking apart the gun)

It's kind of fun to take guns apart. There's even a song for it. Would you like to learn it? After all, this IS supposed to be our music class.

CHILDREN

Sure!

TWIMFINA*(singing)*

ONE BY ONE DESTROY EACH GUN AND SET US FREE

(Students repeat)*Score on page 176*

ONE BY ONE DESTROY EACH GUN SO WE CAN BE

(Students repeat)

FREE TO WALK DOWN ANY STREET, FREE TO SMILE AT THOSE WE MEET

(Students repeat)

FREE TO LET OUR CHILDREN PLAY, FEAR HAS TAKEN THIS AWAY

(Students repeat)

BRING BACK HOW IT USED TO BE, BRING BACK OUR COMMUNITY

(Students repeat)

BIT BY BIT WE'LL GET THIS DONE, ONE BY ONE DESTROY EACH GUN

*(Students repeat)***TWIMFINA**

Now you sing it a couple more times and I'll join you with its piggyback.

*(While the children sing "One by One" a second time, Twimfina sings the earlier song "Nonviolence Takes a Long, Long Time" as a countermelody)***CHILDREN AND TWIMFINA***(singing both songs simultaneously)*

ONE BY ONE DESTROY EACH GUN AND SET US FREE

(Nonviolence, takes a long, long time)

ONE BY ONE DESTROY EACH GUN SO WE CAN BE

(Nonviolence, takes a long, long time)

FREE TO WALK DOWN ANY STREET

(It takes a long, long)

FREE TO SMILE AT THOSE WE MEET

(Long, long)

FREE TO LET OUR CHILDREN PLAY

(Long, long)

FEAR HAS TAKEN THIS AWAY

(Time)

BRING BACK HOW IT USED TO BE

(It takes a long, long)

BRING BACK OUR COMMUNITY

(Long, long)

BIT BY BIT WE'LL GET THIS DONE

(Long, long)

ONE BY ONE DESTROY EACH GUN

(Time)