

The TRUNCHBULL begins to drag her off.

Suddenly NIGEL stands.

Start

NIGEL

Cat; C-A... F! Cat.

The TRUNCHBULL turns, glares at him.

I... I got it wrong, Miss. You have to put me in chokey too.

TRUNCHBULL

Whaaaat...?

ERIC

(standing)

Dog; D-Y-P. Dog. And me.

AMANDA

(standing)

Table; X, A, B, F, Y. And me.

TRUNCHBULL

What are you doing? What's going on? Stop this!

HORTENSIA

(standing)

You can't put us all in Chokey, Banana; G-T-A-A-B-L!

TRUNCHBULL

No, no, what are you doing, stop, this, do you hear?

TOMMY

(standing)

Maggots; T-S-P-A-D-Y-F

LAVENDER

(standing)

Snotnose U-T-O-O-O-O-O

TRUNCHBULL

Stop stop, this is -

ALICE

(standing)
Naughty P-U-F-T-Y-X-N

MATILDA

(standing)
Big fat bully, P-Y-T-L-F-D-R-V-S-W

ALL

(standing)
Revolting! P-X-Q-Q-Q-AST-1-2-3-4-89-X! REVOLTING!

Huge cacophony of bad spelling all shouted at THE TRUNCHBULL. For a moment SHE looks defeated, everywhere she turns, a rebellious squit. Then suddenly she pulls on a lever. Massive clunking sound all around. THEY freeze, begin to climb down off their desks, scared, an enormous mechanical change taking place around them. It stops.

TRUNCHBULL

(mimicking)
'You have to put me in chokey too.' 'You can't put us all in chokey, Miss'.
Come now maggots. Did you think I hadn't thought of that?

SHE pulls out a remote control, flips a door. There is a button. She presses the button, to reveal a whole array of chokeys. THEY are stunned. THE TRUNCHBULL turns to the audience.

I've been busy...

(back to the kids)

A whole array of chokeys! One for each and every one of you! And now that our little spelling test is over I can tell you that each and every one of you has failed! You see children in this world there are two types of human beings,

#20c - Chalk Writing

winners and losers and I am a...

NIGEL

The chalk! Look, the chalk!

THEY all stop and follow his gaze. At the other end of the room the chalk is floating in the air by the blackboard.

TRUNCHBULL

What...?

It's moving!
The chalk writes

NIGEL

It's moving! Look, it's writing something.

ERIC

What the devil is this? Who, who...?

TRUNCHBULL

No-one! No-one's doing anything!

NIGEL

(reading)

'Agatha'

ERIC

(reading)

'Agatha, this is... Magnus!'

AMANDA

No! It... it can't be! It can't be!

TRUNCHBULL

(reading)

'Give my Jenny back her house...'

ALL KIDS

Stop this! Stop this, do you hear?

TRUNCHBULL

(reading)

'...Then LEAVE!'

ALL KIDS

It can't be... It can't be Magnus!

TRUNCHBULL

EVERYONE turns to the TRUNCHBULL, who is now gasping for air.

ALL KIDS

(reading)

Or I will get you...

TRUNCHBULL

No, no...

MATILDA

ALL KIDS

(reading)

... like YOU GOT ME!

NO!

End

TRUNCHBULL

ALL KIDS

(reading)

Run... Run...

ALL KIDS & MISS HONEY

RUN, RUN, RUN, RUN, RUN!!!

The TRUNCHBULL runs screaming from the class. Huge cheer, out of which suddenly BRUCE (who has been quiet for the entire scene) leaps up onto his desk.