

ACT ONE SCENE ONE — ZOOM IN

(The Zoo Animals are our chorus. They roam the stage and introduce themselves to the audience. Why not give each animal an emotion to play, as well as a way that they move?)

ALL

We're the animals of Marley Street Zoo.

GIRAFFE

We're looked at all day, but we also see you!

PENGUIN

We hear all the stories from the people we meet

ELEPHANT

And chat from our beds when the city's asleep.

CHEETAH

Tomorrow we know there'll be a school trip

LION

So it's not just the kids that should get some kip!

OTTER

But I can hear the Baneezers!

ALL

Of course, the Baneezers!

WOLF

(they whisper)

The Baneezers try sleeping but have restless nights.

OWL

(louder again)

They're remembering something that doesn't feel right.

BEAR

There's Lennie who's lovely.

PENGUIN

Smart and proud.

ELEPHANT

But Lennie gets angry.

CHEETAH

When their thoughts get too loud.

LION

They struggle with their spelling.

OTTER

And won't admit it hurts.

ALL

**But when their dreams catch up with them
That feeling just gets worse.**

ACT ONE SCENE TWO: FIRST DREAM

*(Lennie is trying to sleep when The Spellers enter their room.
The Spellers are school kids from Lennie's English class).*

LENNIE

What are you all doing here?

ALL

You dreamt of us, so we appeared.

NEAT SPELLER

In other things you might be the best.

SLEEPY SPELLER

But the thing you hate is

ALL

SPELLING TESTS.

(The English teacher MR HARSH pops up. Maybe they have been hidden.)

MR HARSH

Lennie, your word is SANDWICHES.

*(The Spellers all look at Lennie like they're under a spotlight. Maybe they tick like
clocks until LENNIE gives their answer.)*

LENNIE

Sandwiches. S A N D W I C H!... S Sandwichs!

HAPPY SPELLER

Not quite, Len.

EXCITED SPELLER

Sorry though. Nearly.

LENNIE

An e in Sandwiches? Really?

SMART SPELLER

Lennie, you seem surprised.

COOL SPELLER

It's okay to need a second try.

LENNIE

(to Mr Harsh)

If I got it wrong, then I blame you!

MR HARSH

Now Lennie, please do not be rude.

LENNIE

Well, stop telling me what to do!

MR HARSH

That's it! No sandwich break for you!

KIND SPELLER

They struggle with their spelling

HELPFUL SPELLER

And won't admit it hurts.

ALL

**But when their dreams catch up with them
That feeling just gets worse.**