Lyle the Crocodile

Based on Lyle, Lyle Crocodile and The House on East 88th Street
by Bernard Waber

Adapted for the Stage by
Kevin Kling

Music by
Richard Gray

Lyle the Crocodile was first presented by The Children’s Theatre Company for the 1990-1991 season.
2010 revision and music composition commissioned by Seattle Children’s Theatre

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CHARACTERS:

LYLE
MR. GRUMPS
HECTOR P. VALENTI
MR. PRIMM
JOSHUA
MRS. NITPICKER
TWO MOVING MEN
TWO FIREMEN
TWO GUARDS
TWO CROCODILES
88th STREET KIDS
88th STREET NEIGHBORS
LORETTA THE CAT
SCENE ONE
EXTERIOR EAST 88TH STREET

HECTOR
(Takes three deep breaths with his nose on each exhale) (Deep breath) Ahhhhhhh. (Deep breath) Ahhhhhhh. (Third one) New York. Ahhhhhhh. New York, I am in love with you. Hallo. My name is Hector P. Valenti, star of stage and screen. But, then it seems everyone in New York is a star of stage and screen. I speaka five language. English abest. And I love New York. Listen. (Cop car or honking horn) We call that the New York mating call. The sounds of love. (CAR CRASH) Hear that? Two people have just met and will no doubt fall in love. New York. Sooooo much to love.

SOMETHING IS ALWAYS HAPPENING

HECTOR
SOMETHING IS ALWAYS HAPPENING IN THE
GREATEST OF ALL CITIES
SOMETHING IS ALWAYS GOING ON IN THE
TOWN THAT NEVER SLEEPS
YOU CAN GET A / SLICE-A PIZZA
A-NICE-A PIZZA
AND EAT IT WALKING DOWN THE STREET
YOU CAN WEAR YOUR / PURPLE SPATS
AND NO ONE BATS YOU AN EYE
YOU CAN TRY TO CATCH A / YELLOW CAB, BEFORE A
FELLOW GRAB IT AWAY FROM YOU (HE SAYS, “___”)
THEN YOU SAY “THE SAME TO YOU!”
AND YOU FEEL LIKE YOU BELONG
THEN YOU BURST INTO SONG

ALL
SOMETHING IS ALWAYS HAPPENING IN THE
GREATEST OF ALL CITIES
TAKE A BITE OF THIS BIG, BIG APPLE
YOU’LL FIND IT IS SWEET

HECTOR
OH, I LOVE THE HAPPY FACES

ALL
ALL THE NOISE AND TINY SPACES
THAT YOU FIND IN THIS OASIS
OF CONCRETE
HECTOR
The smells. Woooo, the smells. If I close my eyes in New York City. I can tell you exactly where we are. Sausage Pizza? Little Italy - bon journo. Dim sum. Chinatown - ni hao? And oh, there is nothing like a garbage day bouquet. Mmmm, be still my heart. But, it’s the people make us great. Nobody, no how, no way is nothing like a New Yorker.

DON’T BELIEVE ME JUST ASK A NEW YORKER
AND HE’LL SAY-

SOLOIST
IT’S THE BEST OF ALL THE CITIES
WE ARE BLESSED IN EVERY WAY

HECTOR (and TWO WOMEN)
FROM THE SUBWAY BELOW (FROM THE SUBWAY BELOW)
TO THE SCRAPING SKY ABOVE

HECTOR
FOR BEST OF ALL TO ME IT’S A CITY OF LOVE

MOVING MAN 1
(OFFSTAGE) Hey, ya jerk, watch where ya standing.

HECTOR
A common New York greeting. Hallo to you too, my friend.

MOVING MAN 1
(OFFSTAGE) Look out, you wanna get killed?

HECTOR
No, but thank you for asking.

ALL
YOU CAN TRY TO CATCH A / BROADWAY SHOW
OR PLAY IN THE SNOW
SIMPLY TAKE YOUR PICK

HECTOR
OR LIKE THE ROCKETTE’S LINE UP AND KICK!
AND YOU’LL FEEL LIKE YOU BELONG
ALL

AS YOU BURST INTO SONG

(Big finish!)

SOMETHING IS ALWAYS HAPPENING IN THE
GREATEST OF ALL CITIES
TAKE A BITE OF THIS BIG, BIG APPLE
YOU’LL FIND IT IS SWEET

HECTOR

ALL THE THRILLS OF LIFE YOU’RE AFTER

ALL

ALL THE NOISE AND SMELLS AND LAUGHTER

HECTOR

THERE’S A STORY, SONG AND DANCE ON EVERY STREET

ALL

EVERY STREET
OH, I LOVE THE HAPPY FACES
ALL THE CROWDS IN TINY SPACES
THAT YOU FIND IN THIS OASIS
OF CONCRETE

(Moving truck backs in)

HECTOR

Ah, here we are. In all of New York, this street is my favorite. And this is the house on 88th street and this is the story about a very good friend of mine named Lyle. Lyle the crocodile. Aha, a moving van. It seems the house on 88th Street will not be empty for long.

(SONG ENDS)

(THE NOISE IS HEARD)

Wait there is a noise coming from the house. A very strange noise.
SCENE 2
PRIMMS HOUSE INTERIOR

MOVING MAN 1
Well lady, the perfectly preserved potted pistachio plant is the last thing in the truck.

JOSHUA

Mom.

MR. PRIMM
Honey bunch, I can’t seem to find my pipe.

MRS. PRIMM
Look in the box marked “kitchen.”

MOVING MAN 1
Where do you want the couch, lady?

MRS. PRIMM
Right over there, please.

Mom.

JOSHUA

Just a minute Joshua.

MRS. PRIMM
Do you mean an adult minute or a real minute?

JOSHUA

No. That’s all wrong. Try how about over there.

MR. PRIMM
Hon, it’s not there.

MRS. PRIMM
Try “spices and automotive.”

MR. PRIMM
Spices and automotive?

JOSHUA

Mom.
MRS. PRIMM
That’s not right either. How about over there?

MOVING MAN 1
That’s where we started.

MR. PRIMM
I can’t find it anywhere. I’m simply helpless without my pipe. Oh, this is the worst move ever.

MRS. PRIMM
No. No. NO. This is all wrong.

MOVING MAN 1
Lady.

MR. PRIMM
Sweetheart

JOSHUA
Mom.

MRS. PRIMM
What!

(The noise happens again.)

MOVING MAN 1
Did you hear that?

MOVING MAN 2
Yeah. (Noise. Noise) It stopped.

MOVING MAN 1
Silence.

MOVING MAN 2
Yeah. It’s eerie.

(The couch drops on MOVING MAN 1’s foot).

MOVING MAN 1
Owwww. You dropped the couch on my foot. You jerk.
You’re the jerk. You broke the eerie silence.

MOVING MAN 1
Like I’m gonna be silent with a 5000 pound couch perched on my toe. You’re the ...

MOVING MAN 2
I’m the…No uh uh. You. You.

MOVING MAN 1
Uh uh, no, no, you. You’re the ….

(The noise)

MOVING MAN 2
There it is again.

MRS. PRIMM
It’s only a little thunder.

MOVING MAN 1
Yeah right thunder.. blue sky. Oooo, look at the time. Uh, we have to go now lady.

MOVING MAN 2
We have to go. Uh … run for our lives.

MOVING MAN 1
Yeah, that’s it, we have to go run for our lives. So, if you’ll excuse us…

(They exit. Tires squeal. Truck roars off; Lyle Enters)

MRS. PRIMM
Josh, honey, time for lunch. Time to wash those grimy hands

(Mrs. Primm goes to the bathroom door.)

(MUSIC sting. She reaches the top of the stairs and looks in the bathroom. The lights come up on Lyle in the tub. Mrs. Primm closes the door and steps out into the hall. She screams, but nothing comes out.)
What is it Apple cheeks?

(She whispers in his ear).

A Crocodile.

(Mrs. Primm shoves Mr. Primm into the bathroom. Lyle is caught in a compromising position, and immediately and tastefully covers up with a towel.)

Oh, uh, hullabaloo, pardon me my good…uh….man.

(He calmly goes back into the hallway.)

I’ve got to hand it to you angel blossom, you were right. That is most definitely ...

A Crocodile?!!! Aghhhhh!!!!

(They run out of the bathroom in a panic. MRS. PRIMM goes to the window. MR. PRIMM goes to the phone still in one of the boxes. The phone isn’t hooked up. The cord drags behind him as he circles the couch.)

HELP!

OPERATOR?
UH-OPERATOR, PLEASE…
HELP!

HELP!

Great Zeus, there’s no answer!

The windows won’t open. They must be painted…shut.
MR. PRIMM
OPERATOR?
PLEASE! UH-OPERATOR, PLEASE…
HELP!

MR. & MRS. PRIMM
HELP!

MRS. PRIMM
It’s no use. We’re goners.

MR. PRIMM
WILL HE TEAR US APART?

MRS. PRIMM
WILL HE SWALLOW US WHOLE?

MR. & MRS. PRIMM
WILL HE SCRATCH US?
PERHAPS, LEAVE A SCAR?

WE ARE GONERS FOR SURE
HELP!
NO LONGER SAFE AND SECURE
HELP!
ALL RIGHT, A TAD IMMATURE…
HELP!

MRS. PRIMM
I love you Joseph.

MR. PRIMM
I love you, lotus lips. Operator.

MR. & MRS. PRIMM
Goners.

(There’s a knock at the door. Joshua opens it and there stands Hector P. Valenti. He hands Joshua a letter.)

HECTOR
Hallo. I hope the moving day it goes smooth as baby bottoms for you. (Hands Joshua a letter). Oh. And this will explain everything about the crocodile.
(He tips his hat and closes the door.)
JOSHUA
Here Dad, this will explain everything about the crocodile.

MR. PRIMM
Thank you my son.

THE LETTER
(MR. PRIMM opens letter and reads along with HECTOR’s singing. HECTOR sings with mucho passion while MR. PRIMM reads without emotion.)

HECTOR (w/ MR. PRIMM)
PLEASE-A BE KIND TO MY CROCODILE
PLEASE-A? FOR ME
HE’S THE GENTLEST OF CREATURES
AND WOULD NOT HURT A FLEA
HE’S A SENSITIVE ARTIST
TAKES A BATH AT 2 OR 3
HE CAN PERFORM SOME TRICKS I’M SURE YOU’VE NEVER SEEN
I SHALL RETURN.

CORDIALLY,
HECTOR P. VALENTI

HECTOR
(Knocks) STAR OF…

MR. PRIMM
Oh…

MR. PRIMM & HECTOR
STAR OF STAGE AND SCREEN
(MUSIC ends.)

MRS. PRIMM
We can’t have a crocodile. I don’t even know what they eat.

MR. PRIMM
P. S.

MR. PRIMM and HECTOR
He will only eat Turkish caviar.
(MUSIC ends again.)
MRS. PRIMM
Turkish caviar? What crocodile eats Turkish caviar?

MR. PRIMM
P.P. S.

MR. PRIMM and HECTOR
His name is Lyle.

(MUSIC ends again.)

MRS. PRIMM
Lyle? Caviar? Honestly, call the realtor, Joseph. I will not have a crocodile in my bathroom. There was no crocodile in the bathroom during the open house…

JOSHUA
Don’t worry Mom, he’s not in there anymore.

MR. PRIMM
Good.

JOSHUA
He’s on the stairs.

(Lyle comes out of the bathroom and down the stairs. The Primms huddle together for safety. Lyle does various tricks. First spinning a ball on his nose; going in a door one place, coming out another, walking on his hands, etc... After each trick the Primms clap at first very tentatively, then more vehemently. His final trick is met with “bravos,” but then Lyle goes into the Primms’ boxes.)

MRS. PRIMM
He’s in our stuff, Joseph. Do something…

MR. PRIMM
(Looks at her a while). Shoo. Stay out of there…Look here, my good crocodile…those are private things. Private. P.R.I…

(Lyle comes toward the Primms. They recoil in horror.)

JOSHUA
Now you did it Dad.

(Lyle holds something out.)

MR. PRIMM
It’s my pipe. Look hon. Perhaps we judged the old boy all wrong.

**JOSHUA**

Yeah, can he stay, Dad huh? Can he, huh? Can he, huh? Huh, can he?

**MR. PRIMM**

It’s really up to your Mother, Joshua. What do you say Mrs. Primm, can he stay? Can he, huh? Can he, huh? Huh, can he?

**MRS. PRIMM**

Well, he’ll have to help around the house and we’ll have to do something about breaking that Turkish caviar habit and it’s a trial basis only, if he doesn’t work out or one of use gets eaten then it’s off and…

**JOSHUA**

Hooray! Hooray for Lyle!

**MR. PRIMM**

Hooray! Hooray for Mrs. Primm!

**MRS. PRIMM**

Why Joseph, did you call me by my name?

**MR. PRIMM**

Why, yes, I suppose I did.

**MRS. PRIMM**

Oh, Joseph.

**MR. PRIMM**

Oh, Mrs. Primm.

**JOSHUA**

Oh brother.
SCENE THREE
88th STREET

HECTOR

(MUSIC under) And that is how Lyle the Crocodile came to live with the Primm family. As you now know, it was I, Hector P. Valenti, who left Lyle for the Primms. Before this, Lyle and I had traveled the world. We performed the palaces of kings and the haylofts of farmers. Wonderful times. Alas, good times do not last forever and people stopped coming to see us. I couldn’t afford this Turkish caviar, so I decided to leave Lyle in New York, the city of love, on the best street with the very best family. I think Lyle will do fine with the Primms don’t you? Yes. But I must admit, I will miss him very much. Farewell Lyle.

SCENE FOUR
JOSH’S ROOM

MRS. PRIMM

Josh. Josh, honey, sweetheart, can I come in?

JOSHUA

Sure. Look my new room.

MRS. PRIMM

It’s very nice, Josh, you know we love you.

JOSHUA

Yeah. I love you too.

MRS. PRIMM

And we’ve always tried to be fair.

JOSHUA

Uh oh, this isn’t starting well. What is it, mom?

MRS. PRIMM

Well, now remember you wanted Lyle to stay.

JOSHUA

Yeah. Of course.

MRS. PRIMM

And there are boxes everywhere and he has come as such a surprise and this is really the only room and…

JOSHUA
Wait, woah, stop. I see where this is going.

MRS. PRIMM
Lyle will simply have to stay here with you. There I said it.

JOSHUA
Share? My room. Share?

MRS. PRIMM
Yes share.

JOSHUA
But it’s my room.

MRS. PRIMM
I know.

JOSHUA
Mine. Not for sharing. It’s not like a stick of gum or a pizza. It’s where I live.

MRS. PRIMM
Honey we can’t just kick him out on the dark street.

JOSHUA
I can.

To Lyle, fluffing a pillow
Put that down.

MRS. PRIMM
Look at him.

JOSHUA
I still can.

MRS. PRIMM
No you can’t, now you two are just going to have to make it work.

JOSHUA
No Mom. (Lyle picks up baseball mit) Put that down.

MRS. PRIMM
Please Josh. For me. Ok?

JOSHUA
Mom, not fair.

MRS. PRIMM
Goodnight Josh, I love you. Goodnight Lyle.

JOSHUA
I’ll share my room with you, Lyle, but I don’t have to like it.
I never wanted to move to new york, I loved our old house I had great friends a big yard the one and only thing I had to look forward to was this room and now that’s gone. Ahhhhh. The injustice.
Put that down.
Lyle, The first thing you have to do is leave my things alone.
here’s a quick clue on the things I care about.

PAJAMAS

IF I LIKE SOMETHING, I’LL HAVE A PICTURE OF IT ON MY PAJAMAS
MY PAJAMAS TELL YOU ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW
I’VE GOT RACING CARS, MOVIE STARS,
TYRANNOSAURUS REX’S,
AND COWBOYS FROM TEXAS

IF I LIKE IT, YOU’LL SEE IT ON MY PAJAMAS
MY PAJAMAS ARE THE WINDOW TO MY SOUL
ALL SORTS OF FAVORITE SPORTS
BASEBALL TEAMS? I GOT EMS
MICKEY MANTLE, TOPS AND BOTTOMS.

IF I ENJOY IT, THEN, BOY, IT’LL BE ON MY PAJAMAS
MY PAJAMAS SHOW YOU ALL THAT I ADORE
I’VE GOT BEARS AND FROGS, SNAKES AND DOGS
KOALAS AND KANGAROOS
TOUCANS AND COCKATOOS
ON THE CLOTHES IN WHICH I SNOOZE
A PASSEL OF PAJAMAS, I GOT PILES AND PILES!
BUT ARE THERE ANY PJ’S HERE WITH CROCODILES?

“No I don’t think so, nope. What’s that telling you?”

I USED TO HAVE OTHERS MAYBE WHEN I WAS YOUNGER
BUT I OUTGREW THOSE PJ’S RATHER FAST
THE THINGS WE LIKE AS BABIES
THEY ALL TURN INTO MAYBES
AND THAT PHASE? WELL, IT DIDN’T SEEM TO LAST

SO STICK TO THESE RULES, MR. CROCODILE,
AND WE’LL HAVE
PEACE UNTIL YOU’RE DONE PASSING THROUGH
AND MAYBE SOMEDAY IF YOU’RE LUCKY
THERE WILL BE A PICTURE OF YOU.

Good night.
(with a sneer)
Roommate.

(MUSIC ENDS. Lights out.)

HECTOR
It seems not everyone on 88th street is ready for my friend Lyle to stay. I am sure the rest of the neighborhood will love Lyle. At lest I hope they will. Hmmmmm maybe it’s best I stick around a while, help my friend. With Hector P. Valenti on his side what could possibly go wrong?
SCENE FIVE
PRIMMS HOUSE, INTERIOR

(Josh sits at table. Lyle points at his paper)

JOSHUA

I know.

(Lyle points again)

I know. Um.

(Lyle points.)

What?

(Lyle points again)

Oh yeah I see. I did it.

(Lyle shakes his head)

I’m done mom, can I go out and play?

MRS. PRIMM

Are you finished with your homework?

JOSHUA

Yes.

MRS. PRIMM

We want you to be ready when you start your new school.

JOSHUA

Yes. It was easy. (To Lyle) Shhhhh.

(MS. NITPICKER RINGS DOORBELL).( IT PLAYS “NEW YORK, NEW YORK”)

MRS. PRIMM

Lyle, will you please answer the door?

(LYLE: ME? Alright. He smoothes his apron, puts down his feather duster, adjusts his look, and opens the door.)
MS. NITPICKER
Greetings! You must be Mrs. Primm. My name is Nancy Nitpicker, and I’m here on behalf of the East 88th Street neighborhood Welcoming committee to welcome you to our neighborhood. Welcome.

MRS. PRIMM
Well Ms. Nitpicker what a pleasure and honor…

MS. NITPICKER
(AS SHE BARGES IN SNIFFING ABOUT). Yes…mmmm. Yes, I’m sure it is. Mmm. Here, this is my tuna and tater tot surprise.

MRS. PRIMM
Thank you. (She opens the casserole and all jump). What a lovely…dish.

MS. NITPICKER
It’s called tupperware. It’s the future.

MRS. PRIMM;
I see. Oh, this is my son Joshua. And this is Lyle. Josh, Lyle, this is Ms. Nitpicker. Please excuse me. (exits).

MISS NITPICKER
Hello Joshua

JOSHUA
Nice to meet you.

MS. NITPICKER
Oh, charmed. (As Lyle kisses her hand). There’s something not quite right here, but I can’t seem to put my finger on it. My nitpicking senses are tingling.

MRS. PRIMM
(Returning). Hors d’Oeuvres?

MS. NITPICKER
No, that’s not it.

MRS. PRIMM
Hors d’Oeuvres, Ms. Nitpicker?

MS. NITPICKER
Oh to eat thank you. Thank you.

MRS. PRIMM
Lyle made them.
Really, mmmmmm. Yummy.

MRS. PRIMM
He loves helping out with the chores. You know, I only had to show him once how to make up the bed. He folds towels, feeds the bird, and when he sets the table there’s always a surprise.

JOSHUA
Oh no, he’s perfect. I’ll never have my room back.

Something smells fishy.

MS. NITPICKER

(Josh points at Lyle)

MRS. PRIMM
Well, it can’t be Lyle, for thankfully, he has learned to eat something besides Turkish caviar. There was a while there I thought we would never get him off the stuff. Oh, sometimes as a treat we still give him a bite and a warm bath, and he is happy as a bird.

MS. NITPICKER
Mmmmmm. Tell me more about this Lyle.

He is wonderful company.

Yes.

We take him everywhere.

Interesting.

He is a good sport. Everyone loves him.

I see.

Why, people everywhere stop and talk to him.

MS. NITPICKER
Uh huh.

MRS. PRIMM
They say he is the nicest crocodile they ever met.

MS. NITPICKER
Crocodile. That is it. He’s a crocodile. Nitpicker you’ve done it again.

MRS. PRIMM
He is such a delight. Don’t you agree?

MS. NITPICKER
No, Mrs. Primm, I’m afraid that a crocodile in the neighborhood will simply never do. Not on 88th street anyway.

JOSHUA
Wait a minute! He’s not that bad.

MS. NITPICKER
(Lyle pours her some tea). Thank you…I’m afraid it…

MRS. PRIMM
Lyle.

MS. NITPICKER
Lyle, will simply have to go back to New Jersey or wherever it is crocodiles come from. Well, my work is done here…

MRS. PRIMM
Josh.

JOSHUA
Very nice to meet you Ms. Nitpicker.
(Lyle kisses her hand)
Why, Ms. Nitpicker, he likes you.

(MUSIC starts)

MS. NITPICKER
What? Me? He likes me?

JOSHUA
Yes.

MS. NITPICKER
Why. Why does he like me…
MRS. PRIMM
He quite simply likes you for what you are.

MS. NITPICKER
You’re kidding. Well, isn’t that something. Likes me for what I am. No on has ever…

LIKEABILITY
LIKEABILITY?
I’VE GOT LIKEABILITY?
YOU MEAN, INVITE-ON-A-HIKE-ABLE,
SHARE-A-BIKE-ABLE
LIKEABILITY?
I’M PAL-AROUNDABLE?
IT’S ASTOUNDABLE
A WOMAN LIKE ME
BRINGS FEELINGS OF GLEE –
THE THOUGHT IS PROFOUNCEABLE!
THERE’S A SMILE DIRECTED IN MY DIRECTION
CROCODILE, YOU’VE BROUGHT OUT MY SCHOOL GIRL COMPLEXION
LIKEABILITY…
I’VE GOT LIKEABILITY!
THIS NEW TRAIT I HAVE I HIGHLY RECOMMEND
‘CAUSE I’M LIKEABLE AND I’VE MADE A NEW FRIEND

I don’t know what to say, you big green thing you…Well, look, I’m all aglow.

CAMARADERIE?
WE’VE GOT CAMARADERIE?
YOU MEAN, DOING-POTTERY,
WINNING-THE-LOTTERY
CAMARADERIE?
AND I’M BEFRIENDABLE?
PARTIES-ATTEND-ABLE?
I’M FEELING A DART
MY COLD, LITTLE HEART
TURNS OUT TO BE MENDABLE
THIS NEW CONFIDENCE IS SOMETHING I MIGHT HAVE TO TRY ON
YOU SEE, THERE’S A GENTLEMAN THIS LITTLE
GAL’S HAD HER EYE ON
AND LIKEABILITY…
I’VE GOT LIKEABILITY!
I’M NO LONGER A JUDGEMENTAL FUDDY-DUDDY
‘CAUSE I’M LIKEABLE AND I’VE FOUND A NEW BUDDY!

(LYLE and MS. NITPICKER dance around the room - ala Fred and Ginger.)

MRS. PRIMM
What were you saying about Lyle?

MS. NITPICKER
Well, only that we should have a tea so everyone can meet Lyle and see how sensitive and intelligent he is…and that he likes me!

MS. NITPICKER
THERE’S A SMILE DIRECTED IN MY DIRECTION
LYLE…I’VE GOT NOT ONE SINGLE OBJECTION
LIKEABILITY!
WE’VE GOT LIKEABILITY!
HOW LIFE-CHANGING, HOW BOLD
JUST TO BE TOLD
YOU’VE GOT… LIKEABILITY!
SCENE SIX
88th STREET, EXTERIOR

(The scene shifts to exterior 88th Street. When the scene shifts, different groups of people pop up to watch the parade.)

HECTOR
Hot a dogs. Get 'em while they’re hot a dogs. Hot a dogs. Hallo. It is me again. Hector P. Valenti, star of stage and screen. I used my extensive acting training to land this job as a wienie salesman. Now I can keep a sharp eye on Lyle. …smart huh? Hot a dogs…get your hot a dogs

(MRS PRIMM, JOSH, LYLE AND MS NITPICKER COME OUT OF THE HOUSE)

JOSHUA
Who are all these people?

MR. PRIMM
It looks like a parade.

HECTOR
I love it, another parade in NEW YORK for no good reason…Hot dogs…Hello, peace to you too my friends I am solid with your cause. Up with people Down with a the man.

MRS. PRIMM
Wave everyone.

JOSHUA
Hi.

(In the middle of the parade MR. GRUMPS steps into the picture, holding LORETTA. Thunder and lightning. The parade screeches to a halt, on thunder.)

MR. GRUMPS
Well, well, well…what do we have here? Look Loretta, a parade. I hate parades.

MS. NITPICKER
Mr. Grumps, hhellooooo!

MR. GRUMPS
Hello Ms Nitpicker. You’re looking unnaturally cheerful.

MS. NITPICKER
Yes, yes I suppose I am.

HECTOR
That is Mr. Grumps…where he goes there is a bad day following like a puppy on a leash. Notice. Mr. Grumps always has a face that makes him look like he just stepped in something, which in New York, is very possible, but a person doesn’t have to look that way.

**MR. GRUMPS**

What is this?

**JOSHUA**

His name is Lyle, Sir. He is a crocodile.

**MR. GRUMPS**

Oh drivel and spew. I have no use for a crocodile, unless maybe as a pair of SHOES, or as a SUITCASE, or an AFTERSHAVE KIT. (*He laughs a haunting, scary laugh.*). It feels so good to laugh, and it aids digestion. Come my precious. Tropical riff raff.

(*THEY EXIT*)

**MS. NITPICKER**

Good bye, Mr Grumps. Good bye, Lyle.

**MRS. PRIMM**

Oh Lyle, we all love you.

**MR. PRIMM**

You’re still aces in my book.

**MRS. PRIMM**

Come on I’ll make you a cup of Ovaltine.

**JOSHUA**

Mom can I stay out and play.

**MRS. PRIMM**

Are you finished with your homework?

Yes

**MRS. PRIMM**

You start your new school tomorrow.

I know.

**MRS. PRIMM**

I suppose but be careful, it is the fifties, Its almost getting to where you don’t want to leave a child out at night all alone. Alright, watch him Lyle.

**JOSHUA**
Mom. I’m not a little kid any more. I don’t need anyone to ‘watch me’.

MRS. PRIMM

This is not up for debate. Lyle?

JOSHUA

School tomorrow. Only thing worse than school is a new school.

(Lyle nods)

I know. I like school, my old school. I bet this one is boring. Can you stay back? Further, further, further. Okay, that’s as close as you can be.

The kids won’t even know who I am. For all they know I could be Raised by giants, captured by pirates, heir to the throne, I can be anyone I wanna be.

Kids!
Uh oh. They look mean. Lyle?

(They start to go into the house. Lyle goes in. Josh is stopped by Kids)

KID 1
Hey

JOSHUA
Hey

KID 1
Who are you?

JOSHUA
Josh.

KID 2
Hey Josh. That’s bubble, I’m double bubble.

KID 4
Hiya.

(She blows a bubble)

KID 3
What’s buzzin cousin?

KID 1
That’s Filbert.

Hey Filbert

Hey man, like those threads are the bees knees.

I only speak English.

I’m hep I’m hep...

Alright.

So Josh, do you jump?

What?

Jump.

I don’t know.

You don’t know?

No.

That’s fractured


BEST PET AROUND
I GOT A PUPPY DOG

KID 1

SHE’S GOT A PUPPY DOG

OTHER KIDS

I GOT A PUPPY DOG

KID 1

HE’S MY BUDDY

OTHER KIDS

WHAT’S HIS NAME?

KID 1

BUDDY BOY’S HIS NAME

MY PUPPY DOG’S THE BEST PET AROUND

KID 2

I GOT A TWEETY BIRD

KID 2

SHE’S GOT A TWEETY BIRD

OTHER KIDS

I GOT A TWEETY BIRD

KID 2

SHE’S MY SWEETIE

OTHER KIDS

WHAT’S HER NAME?

KID 2

SWEETIE PIE’S HER NAME

MY TWEETY BIRD’S THE BEST PET AROUND

(A third kid takes a turn.)

KID 3

I GOT A GUINEA PIG

KID 3

OTHER KIDS

SHE’S GOT A GUINEA PIG

OTHER KIDS

I GOT A GUINEA PIG
SHE’S MY DEARIE

WHAT’S HER NAME?

DEARIE DELL’S HER NAME
MY GUINEA PIG’S THE BEST PET AROUND

Come on Josh.

I don’t know.

Give it a try.

(JOSHUA joins in.)

UM….I GOT A CROCODILE

HE’S GOT A CROCO…WHAT?!!!!

(The MUSIC abruptly stops. Scene continues…)

His name is Lyle.

Yeah, right.

Really, come out Lyle

Whoa.

Subterranean, whoa, he’s like a crazy lizard, right?

JOSHUA
A crocodile.

(Lyle blows a bubble)

KID 2

I like him.

KID 4

I like him too.

KID 1

Hey what’s he doing?

(Lyle picks up the rope)

JOSHUA

Are you sure?

(Lyle nods)

JOSHUA

He wants to jump.

KID 3

Rightio daddio.

KID 4

Go Lyle go Lyle
Coffee and tea
Come on Lyle jump with me

ALL KIDS

Lyle Lyle crocodile
How many teeth in that smile
One two three four five six seven….

KID 1

Whoa Lyle you’re the most

JOSHUA

What about me?
Josh….

You got a crocodile!

Yeah, I sure do.

(Kids cheer)

(MEOW, MEOW… MEOW)

Look everyone a kitty cat.

Don’t make any sudden moves.

Its Mr. Grumps’ cat… Loretta.

(MUSIC starts.)

Like Beware.

Why? It’s just a kitty cat.

That’s what you think

She’s purring.

(JOSHUA moves in to pet the cat.)

Don’t!!!

Step away from the cat.
YOU THINK, SHE’S SO PRETTY
WHAT A PRETTY KITTY

AND SO IT BEGINS…