

ANITA

WHEN YOU WILL SHUT UP AND GET GONE!

ROSALIA

EVERYONE THERE WILL GIVE BIG CHEER!

ANITA

EVERYONE THERE WILL HAVE MOVED HERE!

*(More whistling and dancing)*

# 7A — *America to Drugstore*

*(Orchestra)*

## END OF SCENE FIVE

## SCENE SIX

*(A Drugstore.*

*A suggestion of a rundown, musty, general store which, in cities, is a "drugstore." A door leading to the street outside; another leading to the cellar below.*

*BABY JOHN is reading a comic book; A-RAB is playing solitaire; ANYBODYS is huddled by the juke-box; ACTION is watching the street door. The atmosphere is tense, jumpy. ACTION slams the door and strides to the dart board)*

ACTION

Where the devil are they? Are we having a War Council tonight or ain't we?

*(Throws a dart savagely)*

BABY JOHN

He don't use knives. He don't even use a atomic ray gun.

A-RAB

Who don't?

BABY JOHN

Superman. Gee, I love him.

**SNOWBOY**

So marry him.

**ANYBODYS**

I ain't never gonna get married: too noisy.

**A-RAB**

You ain't never gonna get married: too ugly.

**ANYBODYS**

*("Shooting" him)*

Pow pow!

**A-RAB**

Cracko, jacko!

*(Clutching his belly, spins to the floor)*

Down goes a teenage hoodlum.

**BABY JOHN**

Could a zip gun make you do like that?

*(A second of silence. Then BIG DEAL slams in the doorway and THEY all jump)*

**ACTION**

What the hell's a matter with you?

**BIG DEAL**

I got caught sneakin' outa the movies.

**A-RAB**

Sneakin' out? Waddya do that for?

**BIG DEAL**

I sneaked in.

**SNOWBOY**

A War Council coming up and he goes to the movies.

**ANYBODYS**

An' you let him be a Jet!

**BABY JOHN**

Ah, go walk the streets like ya sister.

**ANYBODYS**

*(Jumping him)*

Lissen, Jail Bait, I licked you twice and I can do it again.

*(From the doorway behind the counter a little middle-aged man ENTERS: DOC)*

**DOC**

Curfew, gentlemen. And lady. Baby John, you should be home in bed.

**BABY JOHN**

We're gonna have a War Council here, Doc.

**DOC**

A who?

**BIG DEAL**

To decide on weapons for a big-time rumble!

**SNOWBOY**

We're gonna mix with the PRs.

**DOC**

Weapons. You couldn't play basketball?

**ANYBODYS**

Get with it, buddy boy.

**DOC**

War Councils —

**ACTION**

Don't start, Doc.

**DOC**

Rumbles...

**ACTION**

Doc —

DOC

Why, when I was your age —

ACTION

When you was my age; when my old man was my age; when my brother was my age! You was never my age, none a you! The sooner you creeps get hip to that, the sooner you'll dig us.

DOC

I'll dig your early graves, that's what I'll dig.

A-RAB

Dig, dig, dig —

DOC

What're you gonna be when you grow up?

ANYBODYS

A telephone call girl!

*(The store doorbell tinkles as RIFF ENTERS with VELMA)*

SNOWBOY

Riff, hey!

ACTION

Are they comin'?

RIFF

Unwind, Action. Hey, Doc, Tony here?

DOC

No, Riff, it's closing time.

ACTION

*(To RIFF)*

What d'ya think they're gonna ask for?

A-RAB

Just rubber hoses, maybe, huh?

## RIFF

Cool, little men.

## GRAZIELLA

You tell 'em, Daddy-o.

## ACTION

Chung chung!

## A-RAB

Cracko, jacko!

## BIG DEAL

Whamo bamo!

## RIFF

*(Sharply)*

Cool!

## ANYBODYS

Riff, — in a tight spot you need every man you can —

## RIFF

No.

## GRAZIELLA

*(Indicating ANYBODYS to VELMA)*

An American tragedy.

## ANYBODYS

Pow Pow.

## GRAZIELLA

Poo Poo.

## RIFF

Now when the victims come in, you chicks cut out.

## GRAZIELLA

We might, and then again we might not. I and Velma ain't kid stuff, neither.  
Are we, Vel?

VELMA

No, thank you-oo, ooble-oo.

GRAZIELLA

And you can punctuate it?

VELMA

Ooo! — (THEY giggle)

ACTION

*(To RIFF)*

What're we pooping around with dumb broads?

GRAZIELLA

*(Enraged)*

I and Velma ain't dumb!

ACTION

We got important business comin'.

DOC

Making trouble for the Puerto Ricans?

SNOWBOY

They make trouble for us.

DOC

Look! He almost laughs when he says it. For you trouble is a relief.

RIFF

We've got to stand up to the PRs, Doc. It's important.

DOC

Fighting over a little piece of the street is so important?

ACTION

To us, it is.

DOC

To hoodlums, it is.

*(Goes in cellar doorway as ACTION lunges for him)*

**ACTION**

Don't you call me hoodlum!

**RIFF**

*(Holding him)*

Easy, Action! Save your steam for the rumble.

**A-RAB**

*(Indicating DOC)*

He don't want what we want, so we're hoodlums!

**BABY JOHN**

I wear a jacket like my buddies, so my teacher calls me hoodlum!

**ACTION**

I swear the next creep who calls me hoodlum —

**RIFF**

You'll laugh! Yeah. Now you all better dig this and dig it the most. No matter who or what is eating at you, you show it, buddy boys, and you are dead. You are cutting a hole in yourselves for them to stick in a red hot umbrella and open it. Wide.

# 8 — *Cool*

*(Riff, Jets)*

You wanna live? You play it cool.

**ACTION**

I wanna get even!

**RIFF**

Get cool.

**A-RAB**

I wanna bust!

**RIFF**

Bust cool.

## BABY JOHN

I wanna go!

RIFF

Go cool!

(SINGING)

BOY, BOY, CRAZY BOY –  
 GET COOL, BOY!  
 GOTTA ROCKET IN YOUR POCKET –  
 KEEP COOLLY COOL, BOY!  
 DON'T GET HOT,  
 'CAUSE MAN, YOU GOT  
 SOME HIGH TIMES AHEAD.  
 TAKE IT SLOW AND DADDY-O,  
 YOU CAN LIVE IT UP AND DIE IN BED.  
 BOY, BOY, CRAZY BOY –  
 STAY LOOSE, BOY!  
 BREEZE IT, BUZZ IT, EASY DOES IT –  
 TURN OFF THE JUICE, BOY!  
 GO MAN, GO,  
 BUT NOT LIKE A YO-  
 YO SCHOOL BOY –  
 JUST PLAY IT COOL, BOY,  
 REAL COOL!

Easy Action. Easy.

*(This leads into a frenetic dance in which the boys and girls release their emotions and get "cool." It finishes, starts again when a JET bounces in with the gang whistle. Everyone but RIFF and VELMA stops dancing. A moment, then BERNARDO, CHINO, PEPE and INDIO ENTER. Tension, but RIFF dances a moment longer. Then he pats VELMA on her behind. Followed by GRAZIELLA, she runs out, slithering past the SHARKS. ANYBODY'S is back, huddled by the juke-box but RIFF spots her. SHE gives him a pleading let-me-stay look, but he gestures for her to go. Unlike the other girls, ANYBODY'S shoves the SHARKS like a big tough man as she EXITS)*

# 8A – Cool Chase

(Orchestra)

RIFF

Set 'em up, Doc. Cokes all around.



**BERNARDO**

Let's get down to business.

**RIFF**

Bernardo hasn't learned the procedures of gracious living.

**BERNARDO**

I don't like you, either, So cut it.

**RIFF**

Kick it, Doc.

**DOC**

Boys, couldn't you maybe all talk it —

**RIFF**

Kick it!

*(DOC goes out. The two GANGS take places behind their leaders)*

We challenge you to a rumble. All out, once and for all. Accept?

**BERNARDO**

On what terms?

**RIFF**

Whatever terms you're callin', buddy boy. You crossed the line once too often.

**BERNARDO**

You started it.

**RIFF**

Who jumped A-rab this afternoon?

**BERNARDO**

Who jumped me the first day I moved here?

**ACTION**

Who asked you to move here?

**PEPE**

Who asked you?

**SNOWBOY**

Move where you're wanted!

**A-RAB**

Back where ya came from!

**ACTION**

Spics!

**PEPE**

Micks!

**INDIO**

Wop!

**BERNARDO**

We accept!

**RIFF**

Time:

**BERNARDO**

Tomorrow?

**RIFF**

After dark.

*(They shake)*

Place:

**BERNARDO**

The park.

**RIFF**

The river.

**BERNARDO**

Under the highway.

*(They shake)*

**RIFF**

Weapon:

*(The doorbell tinkles as TONY bursts in yelling:)*

**TONY**

Hey, Doc!

*(HE stops as he sees them. Silence. Then he comes forward as:)*

**RIFF**

Weapons!

*(DOC ENTERS)*

**BERNARDO**

Weapons...

**RIFF**

You call.

**BERNARDO**

Your challenge.

**RIFF**

Afraid to call?

**BERNARDO**

... Sticks.

**RIFF**

... Rocks.

**BERNARDO**

... Poles.

**RIFF**

... Cans.

**BERNARDO**

... Bricks.

**RIFF**

... Bats.

**BERNARDO**

... Clubs.

**RIFF**

... Chains.

**TONY**

... Bottles, knives, guns!

*(THEY stare)*

What a coop full of chickens!

**ACTION**

Who you callin' chicken?

**BERNARDO**

Every dog knows his own.

**TONY**

I'm calling all of you chicken. The big tough buddy boys have to throw bricks!  
Afraid to get close in? Afraid to slug it out? Afraid to use plain skin?

**BABY JOHN**

Not even garbage?

**ACTION**

That ain't a rumble.

**RIFF**

Who says?

**BERNARDO**

You said call weapons.

**TONY**

A rumble can be clinched by a fair fight. If you have the guts to risk that. Best man from each gang to slug it out.

**BERNARDO**

*(Looking at TONY)*

I'd enjoy to risk that. O.K.! Fair fight!

**PEPE**

What?

**ACTION**

*(Simultaneously)*

No!

**RIFF**

The Commanders say Yes or No.

*(To BERNARDO)*

Fair fight.

*(THEY shake)*

**BERNARDO**

*(To TONY)*

In two minutes you will be like a fish after skinning.

**RIFF**

Your best man fights our best man — and we pick him.

**BERNARDO**

But I thought I would be —

**RIFF**

We shook on it, Bernardo.

**BERNARDO**

Yes. I shook on it.

**ACTION**

*(Quickly)*

Look, Bernardo, if you wanna change your mind, maybe we could all —

*(One of the JETS near the door suddenly whistles. Instantly, they shift positions so they are mixed up: no segregation. Silence; then in comes SCHRANK. DOC comes in, brought by the tinkle of the little shop doorbell. During the following, the GANGS are absolutely silent and motionless, unless otherwise indicated)*

# 2. Jet Song

## Riff and Jets

Cue: ACTION: Who needs Tony?

**Allegro moderato (deliberately)** ♩. = 116-128

RIFF

Against the Sharks we

Hns., Tbn. I, El. Gtr.  
Vlns. (pizz.)

Piano *mf marc.*  
Traps

Bsn., Tbn. II  
Pno., Vcs.  
Cb. (pizz.)

+Cls.  
-Br. *p*

need every man we got. ACTION Tony don't belong any more.

RIFF

Cut it, Action boy.  
I and Tony started the Jets.

5

Strs. (arco)

Alto Sax, Vibr.  
El. Gtr. 9

*p*  
with a jazz feel

ACTION Well, he acts like he don't wanna belong.

BABY JOHN Who wouldn't wanna

10

Hns., Tbn. I  
Vlns. (pizz.) *marc.*

Vcs., Cb. (pizz.)

belong to the Jets! ACTION Tony ain't been with us for over a month.

14

Strs. (arco)

Fl. 17

*mp* *p*

SNOWBOY

What about the day we clobbered the Emeralds?

A-RAB

Which we couldn't have done without Tony.

18

Vins. (con sord.)

Vcs. (pizz.)

Pno.

Cb. (pizz.)

BABY JOHN

He saved my ever-lovin' neck!

24

RIFF

Right! He's always come through for us and he will now.

23

Cls., Bs. Cl.

El. Gtr., Traps, Pno., Strs.

*mf*

*dim.*

28

27

RIFF

When you're a Jet, You're a Jet all the way From your

-Pno., Vins.

*p*

(Bsn. with voice)

32

Riff

first cig - a - rette To your last dy - in' day.

Br. (mutes)

*mf*

36

Riff

When you're a Jet, If the spit hits the fan, You got

*p cresc. poco a poco*

40

Riff

broth - ers a - round, You're a fam - i - ly man! You're

-Bsn. Br.

*f*

44

Riff

nev - er a - lone, — You're nev - er dis - con - nect - ed! — You're

Cls., Tpts., El. Gr. +Tbns., Pno.

*mp sub.* Hns. *f sub.*

Bs. Cl., Bsn.  
Vcs., Cb. (pizz.)

49

Riff

home with your own: — When com - pa - ny's ex - pect - ed, You're well pro - tect -

Tpts., Tbn. I

-Tbns., Pno. *mp sub.* Hns. *cresc.* *f*

Cls., Bsn.



55

54

Riff

ed! — Then you are set With a cap - i - tal

Cls., Bs. Cl., El. Gtr.

*p sub.*

(Bsn. with voice)  
Vcs., Cb. (pizz.)

58

Riff

J, Which you'll nev - er for - get Till they cart you a -

*cresc.*

*cresc.*

63

62

Riff

way. When \_ you're a Jet, You stay a

Br. Br.

Cl., Alto Sax,  
El. Gtr., Vlns.  
(senza sord.)

*mf cresc.*

*f*

67

Riff

Jet!

Hns. (sust.)

Br., Pno.

*mf dim.*

Bs. Cl., Bsn.,  
Tbn. II, Vcs., Cb.