

Act I, Scene 6

The Schoolyard. GEORG, HANSCHEN, ERNST and OTTO wait expectantly.

OTTO

(Pointing)

Look — there he is!

(MORITZ bounds on)

HANSCHEN

So, did you get caught?

MORITZ

No — no — Thank God —

ERNST

But, you're trembling.

MORITZ

For joy. For pure and certain joy!

GEORG

(Sarcastic)

Cross your heart?

MORITZ

Twice over!

(MELCHIOR enters)

ERNST

Melchior!

MELCHIOR

Moritz, I've been looking for you.

GEORG

He snuck into the headmaster's office.

MELCHIOR

Moritz, what were you thinking?

MORITZ

I had to, Melchi. I just had to.

The good news is: I *passed!*

HANSCHEN

The middle-terms, that is.

MORITZ

Yes. Everything will now be determined by the final exams. Still, I know I passed.
Truly, Heaven must feel like this.

(MELCHIOR embraces MORITZ. The lights shift.)

HEADMASTER KNOCHENBRUCH is revealed, as if in his office. He turns to FRAULEIN KNUPPELDICK)

HERR KNOCHENBRUCH

Well, well. Fraulein Knuppeldick.

FRAULEIN KNUPPELDICK

Herr Knochenbruch?

HERR KNOCHENBRUCH

Now that...that skittish, near-aphasic moron...

FRAULEIN KNUPPELDICK

Moritz Stiefel.

HERR KNOCHENBRUCH

("Indeed")

Has somehow passed our middle-term exams, it would appear we face a certain dilemma.

FRAULEIN KNUPPELDICK

Ah.

HERR KNOCHENBRUCH

The upper grade, as we know, will hold only sixty. I hardly think we can promote sixty-one.

FRAULEIN KNUPPELDICK

Hardly, Herr Knochenbruch. But, let us look to the finals ahead.

HERR KNOCHENBRUCH

Yes?...

FRAULEIN KNUPPELDICK

Remember, it is I who shall be marking *them*.

HERR KNOCHENBRUCH

Then I am assured the good name of our school is secure.

(HERR KNOCHENBRUCH and FRAULEIN KNUPPELDICK exchange a look.)
End of Act I, Scene 6)