

Scene 8

(The mother and daughter are again on stage.)

Mother: This is it, Pooh Bear, the final scene.....er, chapter.

Daughter: Pooh Bear? Really?

Mother: Honey, I still buy you pajamas with the feetsies in them. I'm having a hard time with you growing up.

Daughter: Don't you worry, Mom, I'm not too old to let you read to me. You could lose the Pooh Bear stuff though.

Mother: It's a promise. I will change my ways, Cinnamon Bun. Hah, only kidding. But do you remember how I used to sing The Lullaby Song before bed when you were a wee little girl?

Daughter: Mom, you sang it to me 3 times just last week.

Mother: Then it can't hurt to sing it one more time, right?

Daughter: Okay, go ahead Mom.

This Lullaby's for You

Mom sings:

The sandman's on your shoulder

Today is almost through

Sleep is getting closer

This lullaby's for you

Tomorrow is a waiting

May all your dreams come true

You're tired and you're fading

This lullaby's for you

Your head is on the pillow

There's nothing left to do

But wonder where'd the day go

This lullaby's for you.

So sleep

My sweet

And swing from the stars

It's time

Little girl

To say good night to the world.

(Mother has been yawning and fading herself. As the band plays the song as an instrumental she falls asleep and the daughter begins to sing.)

Daughter:

The sandman's on your shoulder

Today is almost through

Sleep is getting closer

This lullaby's for you

Tomorrow is a waiting

May all your dreams come true

You're tired and you're fading

This lullaby's for you

Your head is on the pillow

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And swing from the stars

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Little girl

To say good night to the world.

(The mother is snoring now. The daughter shakes her head, puts a blanket on her and picks up Bookmarks and reads aloud.)

Daughter: The final chapter: Chapter 8: It Takes a Village. It was Thursday night, the fifth and final business day and decision day for the library. Ms. Potter got to the board meeting in the library early and had a hard time not doing a jig, she was so devilishly delighted.

(The bed is wheeled off stage and the curtain opens on the library. Ms. Potter is dancing around with a huge grin on her face. She is alone in the library. She speaks to herself out loud.)

Potter: Ooooooh aaaaaahhhhhh ahhhhh! Yikes, I hope no one heard that. That sounded sinister, even for me. One more hour, one more hour and this library will be all mine. Mine! Ooooooh aaaaaahhhhhh ahhhhh! Oh, there it is again. Let me see. *(She looks around.)* Gambling games will go on that wall. Interactive war games over here. Sugary snacks and soft drinks will be sold in this section. *(She pulls out a small pad.)* Inspiration! Open up a dentist office in town. Perhaps I should call it: Potter Smiles. *(She smiles sickly.)*

Mr. Lancaster: I suppose I understand your grin, Potter, if that's what it was. After all, it looks like you've won.

Potter: Are you surprised? I always win, Lancaster. Why don't we begin the paperwork and make my most recent victory official. *(Potter hands the documents to Lancaster.)*

(The members of the board all file in.)

Mrs. Robinson: Let's take our seats and get on with this sad business.

Potter: Yes. The Sunnydale Library's final chapter.

Mr. Lancaster: Once again, Potter seems to have the last word.

Potter: Perhaps that's because the people once again refused to speak up.

(The board members take their seats. They become aware of a growing noise off stage. There is some chanting that can't quite be understood.)

Mrs. Cooper: Wait, what's all that noise?

(Miss Read enters and is excited.)

Miss Read: Something amazing is happening!

Potter: Yes, it certainly is. The old Sunnydale Library is about to become the new Potter Arcade. *(The noise is growing but Potter ignores it.)* And in the spirit of fair play, I may even offer you a job, Miss Read. Can you deal with change? *(once again she laughs)* You know, make change for the arcade games.

Mrs. Pynchon: Miss Read, you were saying that something amazing is happening.

Potter: *(Now irritated)* What is that infernal racket?

(Rebecca enters and runs to Miss Read. They hug.)

Rebecca: Oh, Miss Read, we're not too late, are we?

Miss Read: No, you are right on time, Becky.

Potter: What is this? Trying to use some poor child to pull at the heart strings of the board? The only one in the community who cares even a little about this library?

Rebecca: I am NOT the ONLY one.

Miss Read: Rebecca is not the only one, Ms. Potter. Say hello to the Sunnydale community.

(The crowd enters. Many are carrying signs and they are chanting.....Save Our Library; Say No to Potter Games; Keep Reading. They fill the stage. The music starts.)

It Takes a Village

Miss Read:

You can stand alone against the wild winds

Rebecca:

Holding on to pieces of your dreams

Miss Read:

But if you really truly want to win

Both:

You'll need to stand together as a team

It takes a village

Crowd:

To change a wrong to right

Rebecca and Miss Read:

It takes a village

Crowd:

To bring love to life

Rebecca and Miss Read:

It takes a village

Crowd:

To lift spirits and to share the load

It takes a village

To fight injustice

And to change the world

Rebecca and Miss Read:

It takes a village.

Miss Read and Rebecca sing with the crowd who are now joined by some board members. Eventually the entire board joins in:

Hear our message Ms. Potter

We sing it loud and clear

Money may make the world go round

But things are changing around here

We stand together as community

The many here as team

Please keep open our library

We hold on to our dream

It takes a village

To change wrong to right

It takes a village

To bring love to life

It takes a village to lift spirits and to share the load

It takes a village to fight injustice and to change the world

It takes a village

You can stand alone against the wild winds

Holding on to pieces of your dream

But if you really truly want to win

You'll need to stand together as a team

It takes a village

(Mrs. Cooper looks at other board members as she holds up the documents. They all nod their approval and she tears them in half.)

Mrs. Pynchon: It looks as if you've lost the game, Potter.

Mrs. Cooper: Sunnydale has spoken loud and clear! The library stays open!

(The crowd cheers in celebration as Potter storms off.)

All sing:

It takes a village

To change wrong to right

It takes a village

To bring love to life

It takes a village to lift spirits and to share the load

It takes a village to fight injustice

And to change the world

It takes a village.

(The curtain closes and the crowd leaves the stage while the band plays an instrumental version of the last song. When the stage is set for the epilogue, the bed is once again wheeled on to the stage.)

Epilogue

Daughter: That's a great ending, Mom. And look how late I got to stay up until; almost 9 o'clock. But I do wonder what happens to the library; you know, do kids start reading books? Or do they just run back to Potter Games? Too bad there's not a sequel.

Mother: Well, sweetie, there is an epilogue. Do you know what that word epilogue is? Ep – i – logue. It's a big girl word.

Daughter: You mean: a piece of writing at the end of literature or drama usually used to bring closure to the work? And sometimes referred to as an afterword when it is an opportunity for the writer to speak directly to the reader?

Mother: Whoa, they really do teach you kids something in those Belchertown schools! Here is that epilogue. *(She reads.)* After that wonderful day the village saved the library, there were not any more quiet afternoons or evenings in the Sunnysdale library.

(The curtain opens to a crowded library. Every table is packed with kids reading the classic books featured in scene one. Rebecca is, of course, reading The Adventures of Tom Sawyer. While they read, the book characters silently act out a segment of the book they represent. The readers show delight, concern, surprise, etc... on their faces as they read.)

Mother: *(continues reading)* Children and adults too flocked to the library to be a part of the amazing adventure that is reading. Miss Read didn't even need to shush very much but she dealt with that minor disappointment. Ms. Potter had a major disappointment however, as the Potter Arcade lost business and after many quiet afternoons and evenings in the arcade, the entire Potter Games company had to close. Ever the practical businesswoman, Potter opened up a book publishing company called Potter Reads and hired back all the workers in Sunnysdale who had lost their jobs. Potter even donated thousands of books to Miss Read and the library. *(Ms. Potter enters with a bag of books and a smile on her face.)*

(Everyone comes on stage and sing:)

I Can Be Anyone at All

In a book

I can fly

With Peter Pan

Way up high

I can sail

The seven seas

As a pirate

If I please

I can find a special world

Over the rainbow

I can dance with a prince at the ball

I can ride a dragon

Chase a whale

Fight for freedom

Win or fail

I can be anyone at all

Oh anyone

I can be anyone at all

I can be anyone at all

At all

At all.....