

LIFE GAP

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Characters:

Rudy: seven or eight.

Randall: twelve.

Jeannie: their mother, early 30s.

Olma: her mother, late 50s.

Wilna: mid 30s.

Setting: Combination living room kitchen of Jeannie's tenement apartment. The boys and Olma also live here.

Scene 1

TV noise from another room. Rudy,8, is engaged in a serious search. He finds a piece of paper and begins to write. Randall,12, enters.

Randall: What's that?

Rudy: Letter.

Randall: Who you writing to?

Rudy: Santa Claus.

Randall: What for?

Rudy: Socks.

Randall: Don't ask for socks.

Rudy: Why not?

Randall: You won't get them.

Rudy: How do you know?

Randall: I just know. Ask for something bigger.

Rudy: Why?

Randall: If you're not going to get it it oughta be bigger.

Rudy: I want socks.

Randall: You won't get them.

Rudy: Why not?

Randall: You got a stamp?

Rudy: What stamp?

Randall: You gotta have a stamp. You gotta buy a stamp.

Rudy: Where can I?

Randall: That's right. Where?

Rudy: I'll get a stamp.

(Olma enters)

Olma: Out of my way, out of my way. I gotta go. Out of my way.

Rudy: Olma, you got a stamp?

Olma: A stamp. Get out of my way, child.

Randall: It's stopped up.

Olma: No!

Randall: For sure.

Olma: I don't care, out of the way.

Randall: Go next door.

Olma: I don't like them.

Randall: We have to, you have to too.

(Olma starts back to her room.)

Rudy: Where you going, Olma?

Olma: My room.

Rudy: But you have to go. You said.

Olma: I don't like those people. (Exits to room)

Randall: She'll shit in her room.

Rudy: She won't.

Randall: She will. I know her. Where you going?

Rudy: Buy a stamp.

Randall: I have a stamp.

Rudy: You do?

Randall: I know where one is.

Rudy: Can I have it.

Randall: You can if you ask for something bigger.

(Rudy writes)

Randall: What are you asking writing. What are you askin' for?

Rudy: Something bigger. Can I have a stamp, now?

Randall: In Ma's good hat. In the band.