

Scene Two

*(Inside the Loftins' house. It is a run-down shack of a house with no indoor water or plumbing. EDITH, and WINNIE are preparing dinner. [EDITH is a hard woman, who loves her family fiercely. WINNIE, Edith's sister-in-law, has had to move in with the family because of the depression.] There is a barrel of rainwater for indoor use. GARY RAY is painting with watercolors, coughing occasionally. DEBBIE is sitting on a stool with a bar of soap in her mouth.)*

DEBBIE. *(Pulling the bar of soap out of her mouth:)* Ma . . . are we . . . poor?

GARY RAY. Yep.

EDITH. *(To GARY RAY:)* You hush down there.

*(To DEBBIE:)*

Why're you askin' me that?

DEBBIE. That ugly girl at school stood up in front a' th' class an' said we was dirt poor an' not t' sit by those stupid Loftin kids.

EDITH. Well, you can tell that ugly lil hussie—nope—uh uh—

*(Looks up to the heavens:)*

Sorry, Lord—

*(To DEBBIE:)*

Don't you say a word back to that lil girl—an' put that soap back in yer mouth. I won't have you talkin' like that at school . . . no matter WHAT someone else says or does!

~~MIKE. *(Calling from off:)* MAAAAAAAAAAAA!!! MAAAAAAAAAAAA!!!~~

GARY RAY. Tell 'er off, Debbie! Sock 'er in th' mouth one time an' she'll stop.

EDITH. Hush, Gary Ray! No fights, no words. Do you hear me, Deborah Jean?

~~UNEX. MAAAAAAAAAAAA!!!~~

~~MIKE. SHUT UP UNEX!!! MAAAAA!!!~~

~~*(MIKE and UNEX enter, scuffling with one another.)*~~

EDITH. Deborah Jean. I mean it.

GARY RAY. Juss one punch, Debbie!

DEBBIE. One punch from me is all it'd take!

~~UNEX. MAAAAAAAAAAAA!!!~~