

**HAROLD**

Either you're closing your eyes to a situation you don't wish to acknowledge or you are not aware of the calibre of disaster indicated by the presence of a pool table in your community.  
*(As HAROLD continues, TOWNSPEOPLE gather around him one by one. N.B. The word "Slam" in the following merely denotes a rhythmic pulse)*

(Slam)  
WELL, YA GOT TROUBLE, MY FRIEND

(Slam)  
RIGHT HERE.  
I SAY, TROUBLE RIGHT HERE IN RIVER CITY.  
WHY SURE, I'M A BILLIARD PLAYER,  
CERTAINLY MIGHT-Y PROUD,  
I SAY, I'M ALWAYS MIGHTY PROUD TO SAY IT.

(Slam) (HAROLD)  
I CONSIDER THAT THE HOURS I SPEND  
WITH A CUE IN MY HAND ARE GOLDEN.

(Slam)  
HELP YOU CULTIVATE HORSE SENSE  
AND A COOL HEAD AND A KEEN EYE.  
'JEVER TAKE AND TRY TO GIVE  
AN IRON-CLAD LEAVE TO YOURSELF  
FROM A THREE-RAIL BILLIARD SHOT?

(Slam)  
BUT JUST AS I SAY IT TAKES JUDGMENT,  
BRAINS AND MATURITY  
TO SCORE IN A BALKLINE GAME,  
I SAY THAT ANY BOOB KIN TAKE'N' SHOVE  
A BALL IN A POCKET,

(Slam)  
AND I CALL THAT SLOTH!  
THE FIRST BIG STEP ON THE ROAD  
TO THE DEPTHS OF DE-GRA-DA –  
I SAY, FIRST IT'S A LITTLE - AH –  
MEDICINAL WINE FROM A TEASPOON;  
THEN BEER FROM A BOTTLE.

(Slam)  
AND THE NEXT THING YOU KNOW,  
YOUR SON IS PLAYIN' FER MONEY  
IN A PINCH-BACK SUIT,

(Slam)  
AND LIST'NIN' TO SOME BIG, OUT-A-TOWN JASPER,  
HEARIN' HIM TELL ABOUT HORSE-RACE GAMBLIN'.

(Slam)  
NOT A WHOLESOME TROTTIN' RACE, NO!  
BUT A RACE WHERE THEY SE' DOWN  
RIGHT ON A HORSE!

(Slam)  
LIKE TO SEE SOME STUCK-UP JOCKEY BOY

SETTIN' ON DAN PATCH?  
MAKE YOUR BLOOD BOIL?  
WELL I SHOULD SAY.

*(Slam)*  
NOW FRIENDS,  
LEMME TELL YOU WHAT I MEAN.

*(Slam)*  
YA GOT ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR,  
FIVE, SIX POCKETS IN A TABLE!  
POCKETS THAT MARK THE DIFF'RENCE  
BETWEEN A GENTLEMAN AND A BUM,  
WITH A CAPITAL "B",  
AND THAT RHYMES WITH "P",  
AND THAT STANDS FOR POOL.

*(Slam)*  
AND ALL WEEK LONG  
YOUR RIVER CITY YOUTH'LL  
BE FRITTERN AWAY,  
I SAY, YOUR YOUNG MEN'LL BE FRITTERN.

*(Slam)*  
FRITTERN AWAY  
THEIR NOON-TIME, SUPPER-TIME –  
CHORE-TIME, TOO!

*(Slam)*  
GET THE BALL IN THE POCKET!  
NEVER MIND GETTIN' DANDELIONS PULLED  
OR THE SCREEN DOOR PATCHED  
OR THE BEEFSTEAK POUNDED.

*(Slam)*  
NEVER MIND PUMPIN' ANY WATER  
'TIL YOUR PARENTS ARE CAUGHT  
WITH THE CISTERN EMPTY ON A SATURDAY NIGHT,

AND THAT'S TROUBLE,  
OH YES, YA GOT LOTS 'N' LOTS A' TROUBLE.  
I'M THINKIN' OF THE KIDS IN THE KNICKERBOCKERS,  
SHIRT-TAIL YOUNG-ONES PEEKIN' IN THE  
POOL HALL WINDA AFTER SCHOOL –  
YA GOT TROUBLE,

*(Slam)*  
(HAROLD)  
FOLKS,

*(Slam)*  
RIGHT HERE IN RIVER CITY.

*(Slam)*  
TROUBLE, WITH A CAPITAL „ T,°  
AND THAT RHYMES WITH "P,"  
AND THAT STANDS FOR POOL!  
NOW I KNOW ALL YOU FOLKS  
ARE THE RIGHT KIND A' PARENTS.

*(Slam)*  
I'M GONNA BE PERFECTLY FRANK.

*(Slam)*  
WOULD YA LIKE TO KNOW  
WHAT KINDA CONVERSATION GOES ON  
WHILE THEY' RE LOAFIM AROUND THE HALL?  
THEY'LL BE TRYIN' OUT BEVO;  
TRYIN' OUT CUBEBS;  
TRYIN' OUT TAILOR MADES,  
LIKE CIGARETTE FIENDS!

*(Slam)*  
AND BRAAAAGGIN'  
ALL ABOUT HOW THEY'RE GONNA  
COVER UP A TELL-TALE BREATH  
WITH SEN-SEN.  
ONE FINE NIGHT

*(Slam)*  
THEY LEAVE THE POOL HALL,  
HEADIN' FOR THE DANCE AT THE ARM'RY!  
LIBERTINE MEN AND SCARLET WOMEN AND  
RAG-TIME - SHAMELESS MUSIC  
THAT'LL DRAG YOUR SON AND YOUR DAUGHTER  
WITH THE ARMS OF A JUNGLE ANIMAL INSTINCT  
MASS-STERIA!

*(Slam)*  
FRIENDS, THE IDLE BRAIN  
IS THE DEVIL'S PLAYGROUND,  
TROUBLE!

*(The TOWNSPEOPLE join HAROLD)*

OH, WE GOT TROUBLE! **TOWNSPEOPLE**

**HAROLD**  
RIGHT HERE IN RIVER CITY!

**TOWNSPEOPLE**  
RIGHT HERE IN RIVER CITY!

**HAROLD**  
WITH A CAPITAL "T",  
AND THAT RHYMES WITH "P",  
AND THAT STANDS FOR POOL.

**TOWNSPEOPLE**  
THAT STANDS FOR POOL.

**HAROLD**  
WE'VE SURELY GOT TROUBLE!

**TOWNSPEOPLE**  
WE SURELY GOT TROUBLE, -

**HAROLD**  
RIGHT HERE IN RIVER CITY!

**TOWNSPEOPLE**

- RIGHT HERE.

**HAROLD**

GOTTA FIGGER OUT A WAY TO KEEP  
THE YOUNG ONES MORAL AFTER SCHOOL.

**HAROLD, TOWNSPEOPLE**

OUR CHILDREN'S CHILDREN GONNA HAVE TROUBLE,  
TROUBLE, TROUBLE, TROUBLE...

*(Chant continues in background through HAROLD'S speech)*

**HAROLD**

Mothers of River City! Heed the warning before it's too late! Watch for the tell-tale signs of corruption! The moment your son leaves the house does he rebuckle his knickerbockers below the knee? Is there a nicotine stain on his index finger? A dime novel hidden in the corn crib? Is he memorizing jokes out of Captain Billy's Whiz Bang? Are certain words creeping into his conversation? Words like "swell" and "Iso's your old man"? If so, my friends -

(Slam)

(Slam)

YA GOT TROUBLE!

**TOWNSPEOPLE**

OH, WE GOT TROUBLE!

**HAROLD**

RIGI IT HERE IN RIVER CITY!

**TOWNSPEOPLE**

RIGI IT HERE IN RIVER CITY!

**HAROLD**

WITH A CAPITAL "T",  
AND THAT RHYMES WITH "P",  
AND THAT STANDS FOR POOL!

**TOWNSPEOPLE**

THAT STANDS FOR POOL!

**HAROLD**

WE'VE SURELY GOT TROUBLE!

**TOWNSPEOPLE**

WE SURELY GOT TROUBLE!

**HAROLD**

RIGHT HERE IN RIVER CITY!

**TOWNSPEOPLE**

RIGHT HERE *I*

**HAROLD**

REMEMBER THE MAINE, PLYMOUTH ROCK,  
AND THE GOLDEN RULE!

**HAROLD & TOWNSPEOPLE**  
OUR CHILDREN'S CHILDREN GONNA HAVE TROUBLE.

**HAROLD**  
OH, WE'VE GOT TROUBLE.  
WE'RE IN TERRIBLE, TERRIBLE  
TROUBLE.  
THAT GAME WITH THE  
FIFTEEN NUMBERED BALLS  
IS THE DEVIL'S TOOL!

**TOWNSPEOPLE**  
TROUBLE, TROUBLE,  
TROUBLE, TROUBLE,  
TROUBLE, TROUBLE,  
TROUBLE, TROUBLE,  
TROUBLE, TROUBLE,  
TROUBLE, TROUBLE!  
DEVIL'S TOOL!

**HAROLD**  
OH YES, WE'VE GOT TROUBLE, TROUBLE, TROUBLE!

**TOWNSPEOPLE**  
OH YES, WE GOT TROUBLE HERE,  
WE GOT BIG, BIG TROUBLE!

**HAROLD**  
WITH A "T" -

**TOWNSPEOPLE**  
WITH A CAPITAL "T"!

**HAROLD**  
GOTTA RHYME IT WITH "P" -

**TOWNSPEOPLE**  
THAT RHYMES WITH "P"!

**HAROLD**  
AND THAT STANDS FOR POOL!

**TOWNSPEOPLE**  
THAT STANDS FOR POOL!

*(PEOPLE hold for finish.*

*As THEY start a reprise MARCELLUS runs ONSTAGE excitedly, waves to HAROLD and starts pantomiming wild piano arpeggios which we hear in the ORCHESTRA)*

**TOWNSPEOPLE**  
OH, WE GOT TROUBLE, TROUBLE, TROUBLE,  
RIGHT HERE IN RIVER CITY!  
WITH A CAPITAL "T",  
AND THAT RHYMES WITH "P",  
AND THAT STANDS FOR POOL!  
STANDS FOR POOL!

WE'VE SURELY GOT TROUBLE, TROUBLE!  
RIGHT HERE IN RIVER CITY!  
RIGHT HERE!  
GOTTA FIGGER OUT A WAY TO KEEP  
THE YOUNG ONES MORAL AFTER SCHOOL.