

Summary for after p.48, before Scene 11

NARRATOR: As had happened time and again before, the world was becoming disenchanted. This time, there was a Humbug flying around, beating on his humdrum.

The disenchantment had spread almost everywhere but a basement classroom in Winthrop, Massachusetts. And the only one in all the world who could get him to change his tune was the Lizard of Oz, who lived in Ome, the nicest part of Oz.

At least that's what Mr. Shermin said. Mr. Shermin knew lots of things. He used to be a teacher before he became a fish. And not many people, even teachers know how to change themselves into fish. So the class believed him, and they all set out on a quest to Oz and to Ome to save the world from disenchantment.

There were lots of them, all crowded into one little green VW -- Eugene and Mark and Linda S. and Linda C. and Gaynell and Kathy and Timmy and Kevin and Cindy and Donny and Peter and Miss Morgan and Miss Prysby.

On the way, they fell down through a huge pothole, to Potheadland, where everybody had flowerpots instead of heads. There they met and were joined by an Empty-headed Pothead. They also met a witch who told them, "For a real meal, see Sir Real; then egghead south to the mouth of the Nile and find the tooth,

the whole tooth, and nothing but the tooth, for smiles and smiles till suffer-time."

In Eggheadland, they met Humpty Dumpty and the little blue wallflower he had fallen for. It was in helping the little blue wallflower that the Empty-Headed Pothead found something worth putting into his head and became a ne man -- Paul Newman.

There, too, they met Sir Real, who had a bowl for cereal instead of a head. He led them to the Library, where they could get food for thought.

Mr. Shermin, the fish, understood that they were on an important quest to save the world from disenchantment. But to Miss Morgan, this was just another field trip. So when the school day ended, she gathered up all the kids from the Library, packed them back into the little green VW, and drove off.

She was sure that all she had to do to get back to Winthrop was do everything in reverse. But in this strange world they had entered, nothing worked the way it did in the real world. By accident, they drove into a sewer, where they met a dangerous-looking character named Mack the Knife. He led them out to a city that looked just like Winthrop, and had no street signs, just like Winthrop. But it wasn't the same place. Now they were really lost.

