

ACT 1, SCENE 5 – Revolution

(*The LEADING PLAYER appears, reading a newspaper.*)

LEADING PLAYER

→ *Start* Boy, when you frolic, you really frolic, don't you? Well, how do you feel now?

PIPPIN

I feel empty and vacant.

LEADING PLAYER

Oh, I don't know. That looked like fun to me, what you were doing...

PIPPIN

But, it wasn't... fulfilling. Why can't I find something completely fulfilling?

LEADING PLAYER

Look. You just got started. There's a whole lot of things you can try...

PIPPIN

Like what?

LEADING PLAYER

Like taking a look at this...

(*PIPPIN takes the newspaper and looks at it...*)

#8c – Pippin the Politico

PIPPIN

"Peasants revolt. King slays thousands. Peasants protesting a rise in taxes were slaughtered yesterday by Charlemagne's soldiers." What? That can't be true.

LEADING PLAYER

Now, would a newspaper print anything that wasn't true?

PIPPIN

My father would never slaughter people just for protesting.

LEADING PLAYER

Why not? He's the King.

(*LEADING PLAYER reads over PIPPIN's shoulder*)

'Charlemagne today has given orders that nonbelievers be given the choice between baptism and beheading.'

PIPPIN

Wait a minute! Forcing people to believe? Telling them what to think? Something's got to be done about this.

LEADING PLAYER

You're absolutely right.

PIPPIN

I'm finally beginning to see what my father really is. He forces people to fight and die over land that doesn't even belong to them...

LEADING PLAYER

He does!

PIPPIN

Well, I think that this has got to stop!

LEADING PLAYER

It has got to stop!

PIPPIN

It's time for a change!

LEADING PLAYER

Damnit, it is time for a change!

PIPPIN

You know — it doesn't matter that he's my father. We can't just sit around and wait for someone else to take action. Otherwise, one day we'll look around and ask, what happened? What happened is we failed to act!

(A group of PEASANTS appear.)

PEASANTS

Down with Charles! Down with Charles! Down with Charles! Down with Charles!

LEADING PLAYER

(Over this, testing microphone)

Testing... testing...

PIPPIN

(Into the microphone)

It's time to make a better world for all people, not just the rich and powerful. This tyrant must be overthrown!

(The CROWD cheers)

Terror and bloodshed must be ended! We need a leader with the youth and courage to sweep out the old order!

(The CROWD cheers)

Down with Charles! Up with... ME!