



## BRIGHTER THAN OTHERS

by Jeff Dunne

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## CHARACTERS

GRONK	Chairman of the Board. If not smarter than the rest of the board, s/he is at least less stupid.
GRUNK	Sibling of Gronk, and actually the most sensible of the board, which is why s/he is the Parliamentarian.
GRUB	Member of the board. Not too bright, but makes up for it by being difficult and nasty.
UGGUMS	Member of the board. Not much smarter than a fourth grade desk, but enthusiastic.
MONGUM	Aspires to be not too bright. Can sometimes manage a stalemate when arguing with driftwood.
WALTER	If cavemen had CPAs, Walter would be one. Self-appointed defender of truth, everything must be very precise to satisfy Walter.
HARRUMP	Bright, enthusiastic, and soon to be very disillusioned with the way bureaucracy works.

Note: All characters can be of any gender with a few pronoun changes to the script.

## SETTING

A forest glen at night, long before recorded history.

SCENE

*(Lights come up on forest glen. There are people in animal skins gathered about, sitting on logs and rocks. It is clearly prehistoric times. Walter wears something that could be a necktie.)*

GRONK

*(Banging a rock on his head.)*

Order. I would like to call the board meeting to order.

*(No one pays attention. He turns to the parliamentarian.)*

Grunk?

*(Grunk makes a loud whistling or grunting sound, and everyone immediately quiets down. Grunk makes a “there you go” gesture to Gronk, who continues.)*

Thank you. Now we have several items on the agenda, and I would like to get through them as quickly as possible. First, we shall review the minutes from—

GRUB

Point of order!

GRONK

*(Heavy sigh. Grub is always interrupting.)*

What is it, Grub?

GRUB

Ruggum’s Rules of Order dictate that all meetings shall start with a roll call.

GRONK

We all know each other.

GRUB

It’s the rules. We have to ensure there is a quorum in order to carry out business.

GRONK

The whole board has only fist and one finger members. We have fist and one finger members present. That's all of us. Now, let's proceed with a review of—

GRUB

Point of order!

GRONK

What!?

GRUB

Ruggum's Rules of Order dictate that all meetings shall start—

GRONK

Fine! Grunk?

GRUNK

Present.

GRUB

*(Correcting...)*

Present *and accounted for.*

*(Everyone shakes their heads at him.)*

GRONK

Mongum. *(No one says anything.)* Mongum.

*(Again, silence. Grunk motions to Grunk, who walks over and whispers something to Mongum. Mongum makes a "Me?" gesture. Grunk nods. Then...)*

MONGUM

Here.

GRONK

Uggums?

UGGUMS

Here.

GRONK

Annnnd Walter.

Here. WALTER

Okay, I think— GRONK

You didn't call my name. GRUB

Grub. GRONK  
*(With great patience...)*

Present and accounted for. GRUB

Alright, that's everyone accounted for. Now we can move to the review— GRONK

That's only fist. GRUB

What? GRONK

That's only fist, not fist and finger. GRUB

That's because I didn't call... *(He realizes they are never going to get past this unless...)* Gronk? *(Beat, then he raises his hand and says...)* Here. Satisfied?

*(Grub nods, and Gronk continues.)*

Now, let's move to a review of the minutes from our last meeting.

*(Grunk takes out a big stone bound notebook. With great ceremony, he opens it, and it is empty. He stands up, looks like he is about to say something, then just nods.)*

Any amendments or corrections? *(No one has any.)* Alright then. Do we have a motion to approve?

So moved. UGGUMS

Second. WALTER

All in favor? GRONK

Ugh. ALL BUT GRUB

Opposed? GRONK

*(Silence. He and one or two others give a dirty look at Grub, and in a "I can't believe I have to ask" voice...)*

Abstain?

Ugh. GRUB

How come you never just vote like a normal person? UGGEMS

I vote my conscience. GRUB

Whatever that means. WALTER

Alright. First order of new business... *(he turns to look at Grunk.)* GRONK

There has been a request to address the board. GRUNK

What board? MONGUM

This board. UGGUMS

MONGUM  
*(Looking around...)*

I don't see a board.

GRUB  
We're the board, Mongum. *(He still looks confused, so Grub points to the members. The light still does not come on.)* All fist and one finger of us.

*(Over the next lines, Mungum attempts to count up to six on his fingers, but struggles to get to six because that means he can't use the finger on one hand to count on the other. He gets distracted at his next line.)*

GRUNK  
Shall I show him in?

GRUB  
Not without a motion!

MUNGUM  
*(Suddenly excited, thinking he's caught up with everyone...)*  
Happiness!

GRUNK  
What?

UGGUMS  
Where!?!

MONGUM  
Happiness is an emotion!

GRUB  
*(In utter disgust...)*  
Not emotion. *A... motion.* We need to make *a* motion.

*(Mongum starts to wave his arms around.)*

No. No. What idiot voted him onto the board?!

WALTER  
Us. We all did.

GRUB  
I didn't.

We all voted—  
WALTER

I abstained.  
GRUB

Anyway... Do we have a motion to—  
GRONK

So moved—  
GRUNK

Second—  
WALTER

Bring him.  
GRONK

*(Grunk goes offstage for a moment, and comes back in with Harrump.)*

State your name.  
GRONK

Harrump.  
HARRUMP

No kidding. Any relation to Haroompa?  
UGGUMS

HARRUMP  
*(With the hesitance of one who is talking to your boss's boss's boss, and realizing he is so stupid that your world is doomed...)*

No. *(Then...)* Sir.

What brings you before us today?  
GRONK

HARRUMP  
Ah, sir, I have made a most amazing discovery, and I wish to register it formally.