

**GASTON**

Hello... Belle.

**BELLE**

*Bonjour, Gaston.*

*(GASTON blocks BELLE's way.)*

Excuse me.

*(GASTON snatches Belle's book.)*

Gaston. May I have my book, please?

**GASTON**

*(flipping through the book)*

How can you read this? There's no pictures.

**BELLE**

Well some people use their imagination!

**GASTON**

Belle, it's about time you got your head out of these books and paid attention to more important things.

*(GASTON strikes a handsome pose.)*

**LEFOU**

Hint... hint.

**BELLE**

Like you? Gaston, please! I have to get inside to help my father.

**LEFOU**

That crazy old fool. He needs all the help he can get!

*(GASTON and LEFOU laugh heartily.)*

**BELLE**

Don't talk about my father that way!

*(GASTON thunks LEFOU on the head.)*

**GASTON**

*(to LEFOU)*

Yeah! Don't talk about her father that way!

**BELLE**

My father's not crazy! He's a genius!

*(#5 MAURICE'S ENTRANCE. Belle's slightly addled genius father, MAURICE, brings his colorful and noisy invention onstage. As he waves merrily, part of the invention breaks. GASTON and LEFOU laugh and exit.)*

Papa! Papa, are you all right?

**MAURICE**

Oh, I'll never get this bone-headed contraption to work!

**BELLE**

Yes, you will! And you'll win first prize at the fair tomorrow.

**MAURICE**

Well... we'd better get cracking then! Now let me see, where did I put that dog-legged clencher?

**BELLE**

*(holds out a funny-looking tool)*

Papa...

**MAURICE**

Oh... thank you, dear!

*(takes the tool and starts tinkering)*

So... did you have a good time in town today?

**BELLE**

I got a new book.

**MAURICE**

You do love those books.

*(MAURICE ducks behind the invention.)*

**BELLE**

Papa... do you think I'm... odd?

**MAURICE**

My daughter! Odd?

*(re-appears with silly-looking goggles)*

Now where would you get an idea like that?

**BELLE**

I don't know. It's just... I'm not sure I fit in here. There's no one I can really talk to.

**MAURICE**

What about Gaston? He's a handsome fellow.

**BELLE**

He's handsome all right... and rude and conceited and— oh Papa, he's not for me!

**MAURICE**

Well, don't you worry, 'cause this invention's going to be the start of a new life for us.

*(MAURICE pulls a lever. The invention chugs to life.)*

**BELLE**

It works!

**MAURICE**

It does? It does!

**BELLE**

Papa, you did it! You really did it!

*(puts a scarf around MAURICE's neck)*

Here, I made you a scarf for good luck at the fair.

**MAURICE**

Now I know I'll win. And then, we'll get out of this town and travel to all those places you've read about in your books!

**BELLE**

Goodbye, Papa.

**MAURICE**

Bye bye, Belle.

**BELLE**

Be careful!

*(#6 INTO THE FOREST. MAURICE heads toward the forest.  
BELLE exits.)*