

CHORUS

OOOH OOH OOH OOH

BARFEE

S-C-H-A-U

(HE again looks over at OLIVE on the you.)

OLIVE

It's okay, Barf.

BARFEE

U-N-G. Weltanschauung.

PANCH

We have a winner!

#18 - The Champion

RONA

CHORUS

CHAMPION!

CHAMPION!

JUST SENSATIONAL

CHAMPION!

REPRESENTATIONAL

CHAMPION!

ALL

AT THE PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING
BEE!

PANCH

On behalf of our sponsors "The Putnam Optometrists" -

(indicating banner)

"you've got to see us to believe us"

(if there is no banner to point to, he can say "of whom I am a client")

- we'd like to present you, William Morris Barfay, with this two hundred dollar savings bond toward your future education.

BARFEE

I've worked so hard for this moment...

(Almost overcome, HE rallies)

All my life I have only been able to breathe through one nostril and today is no exception!

(PANCH is the only one to notice OLIVE in background looking very sad.)

PANCH

(making this up on the spot)

And this year there's also a runner-up prize.

RONA

There is?

PANCH

(clearly making it up as he goes along)

Yes, as you know, if for any reason the winner cannot fulfill his duties as Putnam County Spelling Champ, the Runner Up must step in and assume all spelling responsibilities, so this year our sponsors are also offering a cash prize of twenty-five dollars to the second-place finisher.

(After speaking, takes cash out of his wallet and gives it to OLIVE, bringing her forward from background)

- Nice going, Miss Ostrovsky.

OLIVE

Thank you!

I can't believe it! Thank you!

(OLIVE is really happy about this - she does not catch on to it being gift from PANCH - though RONA does.)

OLIVE

Miss Peretti - I can pay the fee now !

RONA

(to Olive)

Very good.

(and looking at Panch in a whole new way)

Very good.

BARFEE

(echoes)

Very good.

(PANCH and RONA walk off together.)

OLIVE

(to Barfee, at end of reception line)

Good bee.