

- 1 **MOM:** Sweetie, we both know there's no guarantees in life.  
2 **ALEEAH:** (*ALEEAH nods her understanding and then stares at*  
3 *the floor, thinking. Finally*) Then I can get the purple one,  
4 right?  
5 **MOM:** A purple one? Are you sure? Oh, all right. If we can  
6 get that past your daddy!

# Happiness

## Introduction

In this scene, JO helps PAT gain a new perspective on what true happiness really is.

- 1 **PAT:** (*Excited*) Jo! Jo, guess what? I am so happy. I just got  
2 ... a brand new car! My daddy bought me a new \_\_\_\_  
3 (*Fill in with the latest hot car*).  
4 **JO:** Wow, that's great.  
5 **PAT:** And to top it all off: Tonight, I'm going to the  
6 \_\_\_\_\_ (*Fill in with the latest hot band*) concert and  
7 I've got backstage passes so I get to hang out with the  
8 band after the concert!  
9 **JO:** That's terrific!  
10 **PAT:** And this morning, I got my acceptance letter from  
11 Harvard — my first school of choice.  
12 **JO:** Fantastic!  
13 **PAT:** And my prom dress? I got it yesterday. Oh. My. Gosh.  
14 It's soooo beautiful. I look at it and almost cry. I am  
15 soooo, soooo happy.  
16 **JO:** That's great. What color is it?  
17 **PAT:** Oh, it's pink with a chiffon trim and — oh, wait, just  
18 listen to me? I'm such a blabbermouth. I haven't even  
19 asked you about your day. How has your day been?  
20 **JO:** Well ... I went to St. Jude's this morning to see my  
21 cancer doctor and found out that I've probably got a year  
22 to live instead of the six months they gave me the last  
23 time I was there. I'm pretty stoked about that.  
24 **PAT:** (*Completely stunned*) Oh my gosh, oh my gosh! Jo! Jo,  
25 I — I am so sorry. I didn't know. What have you got?

1 Does it hurt?  
2 JO: Nah. It's OK. Nobody knows. It's a brain tumor. Pretty  
3 deep. They can't really do anything for it. You're the first  
4 person I've told. I haven't wanted to be everybody's  
5 object to pity my senior year. My eyesight got screwy.  
6 That's how they found it. At some point, I may start  
7 having seizures so if you see me flopping around on the  
8 floor, you'll know what's happening. But it's not growing  
9 as fast as they thought it would so that's pretty good.  
10 PAT: A year? Wow. *(A beat)* Oh my gosh, oh my gosh, then  
11 we really *do* have something to be happy about, don't  
12 we? Yeah ... That's something ... I mean ... Hey! Have  
13 you got your prom dress yet? Because if you haven't, I'd  
14 consider it a real honor if you'd let me help you pick one  
15 out, and then — then I'd like to pay for it! And *that's*  
16 what would really make me happy!

# Maturity

## Introduction

Part of being mature is knowing better than to play with fire. This scene begins with new teenage mom, PAT, and her own mother standing over the baby bed of their child and grandchild.

1 PAT: Mom, I can't do this. I can't take care of him.  
2 MOM: Yes, you can. You have to. You've always been crazy  
3 about the idea of having a baby and now you've got one.  
4 PAT: But I don't know what to do and he cries all the time.  
5 MOM: Honey, part of being an adult is putting up with the  
6 hard times and doing what's best for the ones depending  
7 on you even when you're hurting. That's called maturity.  
8 PAT: Then I'm not mature, OK? I can't do this.  
9 MOM: I wish you'd thought of that before you decided to  
10 have this baby.  
11 PAT: I didn't decide to have this baby!  
12 MOM: You decided to have sex!  
13 PAT: *That's not the same!* OK, I get it. OK? I goofed. I  
14 messed up. How long do I have to carry this cross?  
15 MOM: I don't know. For the next eighteen years, I guess.  
16 PAT: OK, Mom, I get it. I screwed up. Alright? But right now  
17 I need some help with this baby.  
18 MOM: What do you expect me to do?  
19 PAT: Help me! I don't know what to do. Please, Momma!  
20 MOM: No. I'm not going to help you! I didn't sign up for this.  
21 I've raised my kids. I'm not going to raise my grandkids  
22 because of your irresponsibility. You got yourself in this  
23 mess, you can get yourself out.  
24 PAT: Mother! Didn't you just say maturity was doing what's  
25 best for the ones you love even when you're hurting?