

## Hero Puppet Show

<b>Michael</b>	Hi Gus.
<b>Gus</b>	<i>(upset)</i> Hey, Michael. I gotta ask you something.
<b>Michael</b>	Okay. Shoot.
<b>Gus</b>	Why'd you do that?
<b>Michael</b>	Do what?
<b>Gus</b>	You know what I'm talking about. You took the blame for what I did. Why didn't you rat me out?
<b>Michael</b>	Because I didn't want to see you get wacked with that big yardstick.
<b>Gus</b>	But I did it! I stole the teacher's chalk.
<b>Michael</b>	I know.
<b>Gus</b>	Then I should be punished. Not you.
<b>Michael</b>	I didn't mind.
<b>Gus</b>	Are you crazy? Why would anyone take someone else's wacks when they don't have to?
<b>Michael</b>	I couldn't stand to see you punished again.
<b>Gus</b>	What do you care, anyway?
<b>Michael</b>	Well... ever since your brother died, you haven't quite been yourself.
<b>Gus</b>	I am myself. This is how it is now.
<b>Michael</b>	I loved all the cool pictures you used to make of animals and people and funny cars. I was kind of hoping that was why you took the chalk. To make some more art.
<b>Gus</b>	You should mind your own business. I can take my own wacks.
<b>Michael</b>	You don't need wacks. You need a friend.
<b>Gus</b>	<i>(smiling)</i> You are the craziest kid I ever met.
<b>Michael</b>	I know. <i>(laughs)</i> Sometimes friends do crazy things.
<b>Gus</b>	Now everybody thinks you're a punk, like me.
<b>Michael</b>	I don't care what they think.
<b>Gus</b>	Well, even if you are crazy, I think you're all right.
<b>Michael</b>	Thanks. <i>[pause]</i> I knew your brother.
<b>Gus</b>	Yeah? Good for you.

<b>Michael</b>	It <i>was</i> good. He stopped one of the bigger boys from beating me up. I'd say that was <i>very</i> good. [ <i>laughs</i> ]
<b>Gus</b>	That sounds like something he'd do. My big, tough football hero brother.
<b>Michael</b>	He was kind of a hero to me.
<b>Gus</b>	Well don't expect me to be a hero, 'cause I'm not a hero. I'm just me.
<b>Michael</b>	I know. But you don't have to beat up bullies or make touch-downs to be a hero. Just being a good friend makes you a hero.
<b>Gus</b>	( <i>hangs his head a moment, then looks up</i> ) I gotta go.
<b>Michael</b>	Where to?
<b>Gus</b>	I'm going back to talk to that teacher. It ain't right for you to take the blame for what I did. I shoulda spoken up. Taken it like a man.
<b>Michael</b>	You don't have to.
<b>Gus</b>	Yeah, I do. You're right. I loved school. I loved making artwork. Just because I can't be like my brother doesn't mean I can't be...me. I gotta work this out somehow.
<b>Michael</b>	You will. Give it time.
<b>Gus</b>	Yeah, okay. Thanks, amigo.
<b>Michael</b>	Hey, I've got a new video game. You want to hang out later?
<b>Gus</b>	[ <i>smiles</i> ] Sounds good.
<b>Michael</b>	Great. I'll talk to you later, then. Peace, Gus. ( <i>puts his hand out</i> )
<b>Gus</b>	Peace, Michael. ( <i>shakes, exits</i> )

The End