

THE GET DOWN

Ms. Green and Ezekiel in the classroom after the rest of the class has been dismissed .

EZEKIEL

Ms. Greene your poetry contest was poetry writing,
not poetry reciting.

MS. GREENE

So you did write it.

EZEKIEL

I didn't say that.

MS. GREENE

I don't know why it is Ezekiel that you seem to want
to be nothing. But with just a little courage you could
really be something.

EZEKIEL

I got courage.

MS. GREENE

No you don't. Leaders lead. Cowards cower.
Now I understand that your poem is personal.
I understand that it might make you feel uncomfortable
to share it, but take a look around, the Bronx is a war zone.
Our community dying and it's gonna take leaders to save it.
That leaves you.

That is why I have been trying to get you to stand up and
share your gift with the class. But every time you take the easy way out.

EZEKIEL

Well luckily for you I probably won't be in school next year.

MS. GREENE

How would you mother and father feel if they were
alive and heard you talking like that? You live with your
aunt and her boyfriend right? Do you think that they took
on the burden of raising you just so you could drop out of
school, be dead, be in jail by the time you turn 21?

EZEKIEL

I don't know.

MS. GREENE

You don't know. Maybe I was wrong about you. Maybe
you really didn't write this poem.

EZEKIEL

I wrote it.

MS. GREENE

Then prove it.