

## Scene 2

*Dauntless is at desk  
feet pacing*  
(Scene: DAUNTLESS has several books and is reading from one. He is helping WINNIFRED cram for the test they both think is tomorrow)

DAUNTLESS (Reading): "Sum."

WINNIFRED: Sum. S-U-M, sum.

DAUNTLESS: "Summer."

WINNIFRED: "Summer." S-U-M-E-R. "Summer."

DAUNTLESS: Good. Well, if Mama tests you in Literature or Spelling, you're sure to pass, Fred. (*Changes book*) That leaves . . . (*Reads*) "History." *Swaps books*

WINNIFRED: History. That takes in quite a lot but let's give it a whirl.

DAUNTLESS (Reading): The first chapter is called, "The Bravery of Prince Waldere."

WINNIFRED (Absently): . . . Waldere . . .

DAUNTLESS (Reading): "Young Waldere, wishing to slay the dragon Fafner . . ."

WINNIFRED: Who?

DAUNTLESS (Reading): ". . . wishing to slay the dragon Fafner —"

WINNIFRED: Oh, yeah, Fafner, that one.

DAUNTLESS: Takes his father's sword "Minning."

WINNIFRED: . . . Minning . . .

DAUNTLESS (Reading): "Disguised as the West Wind, he goes into the forest, surprises Fafner in his lair and slays him, whereupon he is enabled to understand the speech of birds. Meanwhile, Waldere's father, Alberich, disguised as the Sacred Goat, tells him that the spirit of Gunthere . . ."

WINNIFRED: Oh, yeah, Gunthere? But I thought . . .

WINNIFRED: Dauntless, you'd better go to bed. And leave the history book. *take chair back + sit*

DAUNTLESS: I'm positive you're going to pass Mama's test tomorrow. *X to count*  
(No reaction) Well, I'm pretty sure . . . If you don't . . . I'll go to *Country*  
understand. (*He leans down, kisses her and goes out UP*)

WINNIFRED (*Picks up book and begins to read*): "And so the young Prince Waldere, having slain the dragon Fafner with the sword Minning, rescued the Princess Frigga, and together they mounted his horse, Trigga . . . (*Pauses to turn page*) . . . and rode to the castle, Voonderbar, where they were married and lived happily ever after." (*She closes book*) Well, I'm glad. (*During the following song, WINNIFRED is getting ready for bed, and moves about the chamber somewhat in the manner of a "strip-tease" dancer, building in intensity to a "flash finish."*)