

PROF. PHILLIPS:

The Robinson Scholarship is comprehensive, as you know. It's a free ride. And free rides don't come easy.

BEN:

Absolutely.

PROF. PHILLIPS:

We have 76 applicants, this year. Only one of them will get the Scholarship. And most of whom have resumes just as impressive as you.

BEN:

Right. Uh, Professor Phillips? Some kids grow up wanting to play for the Red Sox. You know, some grow up wanting to be, I don't know, a fireman. I grew up... Well, really, I just wanted to come here to Harvard Med. And now that I've gotten accepted, it seems to only come down to the money. Which I don't really have. So, what I'm trying to say is that I really, really need this scholarship.

PROF. PHILLIPS:

Did you rehearse that?

BEN:

Yeah. Like, 14 times in front of the mirror.

PROF. PHILLIPS:

Unfortunately, desire doesn't figure into this much. The Robinson is going to

go to someone who... Dazzles. Somebody who just jumps off the page.

BEN:

Oh, well, then, I'm also involved in a science competition. We're building a robotic wheel that can navigate itself using a proprietary GPS system. Well, I'm designing the system. So...

PROF. PHILLIPS:

Right. Ben, last year, the Robinson went to Hyum Jae Wook, a Korean immigrant who has only one leg.

BEN:

Well, I have both my legs.

PROF. PHILLIPS:

Well, have you considered cutting one of them off?

(beat)

That was a joke. Ben, it's all about the essay. You need to really explain to us what makes you special. What life experience separates you from all the rest.

BEN:

Life experience.

PROF. PHILLIPS:

What can you tell me, Ben, that's going to dazzle me?