

Drummond:

Learning to find himself in the music

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Chapter by Chapter Outline

Note: Outline and analysis contain spoilers!

Book Synopsis:

Drummond, a thirteen-year-old C student in middle school, is steered into joining the high school's marching band. He's far from ready, and his friends help him make several attempts to learn new instruments to try and fit in better. With a little unexpected guidance from the drummers and their instructor, he realizes how well he already fits in. He discovers who he is inside. Home life deteriorates behind him and pushes him forward into the arms of his new family, the marching band.

Synopses by chapter:

Chapter 1 -

Drummond, the story's main character, meets Dwayne, the percussion instructor for the marching band. The two set up a lesson schedule to prepare Drummond for joining the band. He takes his first drum lesson with Dwayne and is fairly successful, but needs to practice more!

Chapter 2 -

Drummond witnesses the high school's band at a parade, bolstering his excitement, but also causing nervous thoughts of his own abilities and adequacy. He continues his drum lessons and Dwayne naturally gets him more excited. At his first band rehearsal, he gets yelled at by the leader of the drumline.

Chapter 3 -

After being scared by the drumline, Drummond seeks out a new instrument, beginning with the saxophone. He inadvertently makes two friends in the woodwind section, and though he fails to learn the saxophone, he's promised a clarinet lesson by a girl he develops a crush on. At the end of this practice, he trips over a music stand and cries in front of the drumline, reinforcing his decision to change instruments.

Chapter 4 -

The clarinet lesson goes well even though he is ultimately unsuccessful at playing it. He gets closer with his crush, Chelsea, and she even introduces him to two of her musician friends too! Drummond now has two more chances to learn a new instrument before the next band practice.

Chapter 5 -

At Drummond's french horn lesson next he spends time bonding with Jake, one of Chelsea's friends. Jake helps him the most so far, but after Drummond drops the horn on the floor and breaks it into pieces the two boys decide not to pursue this instrument any further.

Chapter 6 -

Steve, the other one of Chelsea's friends, is Drummond's final hope to learn a wind instrument. Steve wants to be a music educator, so he's also Drummond's best shot! The two go to band practice early to play the sousaphone. Drummond comes the closest yet to accomplishing his goal but ultimately fails in an embarrassing fashion.

Chapter 7 -

Drummond is dealt more blows as he finds out Chelsea, the girl he likes, isn't single. His parents argue and fight upstairs, and he's now failed at finding a new instrument to learn. Chelsea cheers him up and the two spend time together taking their minds off of things by watching a movie together at Chelsea's house.

Chapter 8 -

Arriving at rehearsal early once more, Drummond finds another drummer there with him. He settles down next to her and the two start to go over some music together. Danielle, the other drummer, takes Drummond under her wing and gives him an impromptu drum lesson and information about the drumline that he really needed to hear.

Chapter 9 -

Drummond begins to learn who the other drummers are, through Danielle's help, and starts to find himself fitting in with the drumline. After a successful rehearsal, however, he gets home to find out that his dad is leaving the family and splitting up with his mom. Things were almost looking up for Drummond, but his home life takes a big hit.

Chapter 10 -

In this chapter Drummond literally learns new drill for the marching band, coordinates that create the pictures they form on the field. He also figuratively learns the new drill as he adjusts to home life without his dad around. He's successful again at band, but in contrast, he learns of the inevitable divorce of his parents.

Chapter 11 -

The band puts together their full show several times in a row throughout this chapter. Drummond and his colleagues are challenged physically throughout the rehearsal. This chapter can also be read as a metaphor about his life at home, challenging Drummond mentally in similar ways.

Chapter 12 -

Drummond is woken up very early on the first show day for the band. The reason is actually to join a conversation with his parents about their divorce proceedings, nothing to do with the band. His parents delay his arrival to band and he has to pay the price before being allowed to rehearse, running several laps as punishment. He finally joins in with the drumline and they become inseparable. He's discovered who he was inside.

(Chapter analysis and extended outlines to follow.)

Chapter 1:

Lessons Are a Lot Like Church

Drummond, the thirteen-year-old main character of the story, answers the front door to a stranger at his home. Drummond immediately goes on a lengthy inner monologue, a script he calls it, complaining about shortening his name to Dru. A reference to the letter C first appears in this chapter, in the context of answering all the questions on a multiple-choice test as C. This reference becomes familiar throughout the novel to both explain Drummond as being a C-student, and also to show that the bass drum he eventually plays in marching band is written in the C-space of the musical staff. Drummond's parents appear and let the man inside and Drummond thinks he's come to discuss religion.

There are several analogies for religion throughout this chapter, but eventually, we discover that Dwayne, the so-called stranger, was invited by Drummond's parents to talk about the marching band and percussion lessons for Drummond. The clock on the wall ticks slowly, and tocks even slower as Drummond distracts himself during the meeting with Dwayne. This meeting at the kitchen table and the clock on the wall will be reprised in the closing chapter of the novel in a very similar way. In chapter one, Drummond watches the clock as it seems to slow down, this is a metaphor about how he is not yet a stable drummer, he needs lessons and practice. By the end of the book, when he watches the clock in chapter twelve, he does so several times as it seems to keep a consistent tempo on the wall. This idea subtly illustrates Drummond having progressed through Dwayne's twelve half-steps, preparing Drummond to be a percussionist by the story's end.

Drummond does indeed start his lessons with Dwayne, in the band room as the trophies up on the shelf are personified as an esteemed audience falling over each other to get a better view. More references to church saturate the lesson including the collection plate at the end when he pays Dwayne twenty dollars. Dwayne gives Drummond a few rudiments to practice and Drummond practices them in the classroom at school instead of handing up his homework. His grades tend to suffer and his dad takes his computer away as punishment. This allows Drummond to practice his drum rudiments with more focus, a byproduct of doing poorly in school. Drummond finally admits that lessons are better than church, in fact, he's begun to not believe in a god, and rather, he starts to believe in himself. Percussion has become Drummond's religion!

Chapter 2:

Joining The Marching Band

Drummond wakes up to the sound of his mom tapping percussively on his bedroom door. He quips that she must be taking drum lessons too. When he goes downstairs his family reminds him of the Memorial Day Parade they're planning to attend, a parade that will feature the high school's marching band Drummond would soon be joining! During the parade, Drummond is excited about the usual things, fire trucks, candy, etc. When he hears drums for the first time he suddenly focuses. He counts and describes the drumline and their uniforms but gets nervous when he thinks about what they're playing and his own ability levels. He gets both excited and worried about joining the marching band but he's also comforted in knowing that Dwayne will teach him everything he needs to know.

Drummond also attends his next lesson with Dwayne and they discuss the marching band after seeing them in the parade. Dwayne decides to pull out some different drums to let Drummond wear at the lesson which helps him get excited about band. Drummond tries on the tenor drums, which he describes as five drums in one. He is worried that Dwayne will want him to play all five drums at once, something Drummond knows is impossible. This can be viewed as a metaphor by presenting five of the story's antagonists to Drummond, overwhelming him all at once. His parents, his future girlfriend, the 'pit', the drumline, and the wind instruments are all represented by these five drums; some drums being bigger than others.

Upon joining the marching band at orientation night Drummond quickly finds out that he's the only new member of the drumline, all of the previous drummers he counted at the parade are back. In fact, the lead drummer, who Drummond calls the Boss, indicates that Drummond might get put in the pit. Drummond imagines the pit to be a literal hole in the ground where underachieving students are thrown down. Instead, Dwayne starts Drummond on bass drum number two, the second smallest bass drum. Drummond has never carried a drum this heavy for so long before, so he struggles. He gets no sympathy from the drummers, and instead, gets yelled at by the Boss because he was fidgeting instead of standing at attention.

Drummond explains everything to his mother who helps him cheer up on the ride home. However, Drummond thinks of a plan to help avoid the drumline and the pit altogether!

Chapter 3:

Woop Woop Wap Wap

The chapter title is both an onomatopoeia referencing the sound of a saxophone, but also ‘woop woop’ is little-known Australian slang that is a reference to being lost in an unfamiliar place. Drummond’s plan to avoid the drumline and the pit is to meet a saxophone player at rehearsal and see if they’d teach him their instrument. Maybe Drummond is a woodwind player at heart. In this chapter, we begin to see Drummond search for who he really is inside. This chapter follows the story of the companion children’s book *Drummy Drum Joins Marchy Band* in which Drummy starts by playing the saxophone.

Drummond is shy, so he devises a strategy to meet someone equally or more shy than him. He lingers by the woodwind warmup area and lets the first person to arrive start a conversation with him. He’s incredibly awkward when a girl named Ashley starts building her saxophone next to him but somehow pulls it off by getting her to show him the instrument. Ashley explains each piece of the expensive puzzle she’s connecting and even lets him try to play it with her spare mouthpiece. Ashley isn’t the best teacher, she’s only a year older than Drummond, so he struggles the entire time. It doesn’t help when Ashley’s friend Chelsea arrives and watches him battle the notes. As more and more woodwinds arrive Drummond gives up and hands the instrument back to Ashley. Chelsea takes pity on Drummond and offers to teach him her instrument next, the clarinet. He is intimidated by a very tall bag slung over Chelsea’s shoulder, but it turns out she’s in the colorguard and the bag is not concealing a tall clarinet, it’s actually for flagpoles! Drummond gets Chelsea’s computer username and they plan to talk later.

Drummond is almost late and bolts out of the woodwind area to get his bass drum and run to the drumline. He has trouble connecting the harness and then bangs his drum on the door as he leaves without being able to see in front of him while wearing the drum. This shows that he is still completely inexperienced when wearing the bass drum, but also sets up what happens next. Drummond checks his watch and with two minutes remaining, he arrives to the drumline. The drumline is already at attention waiting for him, they were all early and ready to go! Drummond tries to hurry up but trips over a music stand, blown over by the wind, and cries on the group in embarrassment.

Chapter 4:

Beep Beep Bip Bip

The title of this chapter is the next onomatopoeia pulled straight from the previous children's book. Beep Beep can refer to the sound a clarinet makes, but this time it shares the sound with a device that Drummond will become very familiar with throughout the rest of the book. The metronome is piercingly loud since it needs to be heard over the top of the drumline's drums. So Beep Beep will now be referenced throughout the remainder of the book to cue the metronome, a great tool with which to track Drummond's percussive progress.

Drummond takes another drumline avoidance maneuver by hanging out with Chelsea at her house and trying the clarinet with her. Drummond and Chelsea are foreshadowed as getting intimately close with one another in Chelsea's bedroom as she teaches him the clarinet. Chelsea is the story's love interest and the first scene alone with her implies this heavily through subtext. Chelsea only owns one mouthpiece for her clarinet, so she and Drummond have to share. Chelsea also helps Drummond place his fingers on the instrument properly by touching his hands several times. Another obvious reference to C is made here where Drummond practices that pitch several billion times, foreshadowing his bass drum music again and a nod to him actually being a drummer on the inside. Drummond spends more time on clarinet than he did on Saxophone, and in a much more comfortable environment, but he once again fails and gives up. Chelsea, being the opposite of Drummond in terms of personality, takes pity on him once more and invites him to meet her friends at the mall to take his mind off things.

Drummond walks with Chelsea to the mall where they meet up with her friends Jake and Steve. Luckily for Drummond Jake plays the french horn and Steve plays the sousaphone. After Chelsea explains Drummond's situation they agree to help Drummond learn their horns before the next marching band practice. The four friends take their minds off music and hang out together for the rest of the day. Drummond is making friends without having to be an extrovert, as Chelsea is shown to be his opposite again.

Chapter 5:

Honk Honk Honk Honk

Honk Honk is the third iteration of the children's book instrument references. This chapter highlights the sound of a french horn but is obviously not a pleasant sound for the instrument. The sound is more characteristic of a goose, an incredibly subtle acknowledgment of the children's game duck-duck-goose in which one player is the odd one out, in Drummond's case, it's him!

Drummond receives his final report card, he successfully brought his grades up to a C average, once again a reference to C and who he really is inside, a bass drummer. Dwayne misses a lesson and Drummond is motivated more than ever because his paranoia gets the best of him. He thinks Dwayne missed the lesson because he is destined for the pit. Drummond talks to Jake and makes plans to go learn the french horn!

Jake's family has a big house, unlike Drummond who lives in a mid-size house, and Chelsea whose house is quite small. Since Jake comes from a family with money he has two french horns, perfect for giving Drummond a lesson. Jake and Drummond bond over sports at first, Drummond being enticed to kick balls into a goal out in Jake's yard. For Drummond this was a nice way to get to know Jake before going downstairs with him and learning an instrument. Drummond sees Jake as a super cool kid, but also knows that Jake isn't actually in the marching band, he only plays horn in school. Either way, Jake shows Drummond the ropes. The two go over the intricacies of the horn and Drummond's mind wanders about. He especially ridicules the idea of holding his right hand inside the horn's bell and asks why they couldn't just use a mannequin hand with perfect technique instead. Jake is amused by Drummond's mental veering and eventually steers Drummond back on course. Drummond tries very hard to succeed at the french horn, but in the end, he accidentally drops the horn on the floor, damaging it in a few different ways. Drummond personifies the horn when putting it back in the case by calling it a coffin and bearing witness as Jake closes it shut. Once again Drummond fails.

Drummond leaves defeated and his will to proceed with his plan only survives because of the thought that Steve is planning on studying music education in college. Surely he would be the one that could teach Drummond a new instrument, and fast!

Chapter 6:

Boop Boop Bop Bop

With certainly the most esoteric reference, and the final children's book chapter title, *boop boop* is the onomatopoeia for a sousaphone but is also an allusion to the 1980s funk song Boop Boop Song by Edwin Starr. In the song, Starr says you don't have to know the words, a theme that parallels Drummond's own issues. The song continues with the idea of being all alone and attempting to join on in! The Boop Boop Song encapsulates Drummond's lesson with Steve on sousaphone, the lyrics also saying outright that he'll provide relief when you sing it, going into the boop-boop chorus symbolizing the sousaphone lesson with Steve.

Drummond is locked out of the school when he arrives to practice early to meet Steve. This symbolizes his isolation from the wind instruments and foreshadows his eventual failure again, he's not on the right track with who he is inside. Once Drummond is wearing his drum there are no more locked doors. Steve does come to the rescue and lets Drummond inside, having walked all the way around the school himself to get inside, with his big sousaphone case in tow. This shows Steve's dedication to his friends and his craft. Steve reminds Drummond that he's planning on going to college for music education and is obvious when Steve pulls out a notepad with his lesson plan written out. Steve really gets Drummond's hopes up during the lesson, making his eventual failure hurt that much more. C is also referenced more here, once again implying Drummond is a drummer and should be playing the C-space on his bass drum.

After a long lesson with Steve, Drummond is determined to hit a difficult note by blowing as hard as he can into the horn. Crudely, due to the pressure he builds, Drummond farts loud instead of playing a note! An embarrassed Drummond gives up and his hopes of learning a wind instrument are no more.

Drummond actually succeeds a little more later at practice with the drumline, although Drummond fails to see this. Dwayne introduces the drumline to the loud beeping metronome, helping Drummond to count his part and stay in time. The reader is shown Drummond accomplishing something in the marching band for the first time.

Chapter 7:

Distress And Distractions

Drummond talks more and more with Chelsea online, he notes that her quick replies imply that she's only talking to him. He already had a bit of a crush on her, but now he really starts to like her in a serious way. In fact, he thinks about how to ask her on a date, but just before doing it he finds the initials of a boy in her profile online, suggesting that she isn't single. Drummond shuts off his computer and walks downstairs to play his drumset for a while. He takes out some frustration while drumming to loud music, but he can hear his parents yelling in between songs. He shakes it off, they're probably just yelling over his loud music, but he's wrong, they're arguing with each other.

Drummond is at the bottom of his rope. He failed at all the wind instruments he tried to learn, the girl he likes isn't even single, his parents are fighting, the drumline doesn't seem to like him and he might get thrown into a pit! Drummond turns back to drums and practices drumming again and again.

Later the same day Drummond turns his computer back on and finds a message from Chelsea sitting in his inbox. He reads it, and to his surprise, she invites him to her house again. This time there would be no clarinet lesson, they would just watch a movie together, alone. Drummond is a bit puzzled, but can't turn down the opportunity to hang out with the girl he likes. He decides to go to her house as a detective and get to the bottom of this, does she have a boyfriend or not?

At Chelsea's house the two watch a movie and she gets really close with him, she actually cuddles up against him during the movie. Drummond enjoys a moment he's never experienced before while also imagining himself getting beat up by her boyfriend. He notes in his detective paperwork that this is an intriguing development. He melts when she pulls his arm around her, and they hold hands. Drummond is in heaven. Chelsea kisses him on the cheek and suddenly all his problems go away.

Chapter 8:

Understanding The Bass Drum

Back at marching band practice early because Drummond forgot to tell his mom that he didn't need to show up ahead of practice anymore. He wasn't trying any more wind instruments, so he just walks into the unlocked school and gets his bass drum. He notes that there's another bass drum already unpacked and as he walks out to the grassy island where they rehearse he finds someone already there.

Drummond walks up and puts his drum down and a girl with a bigger bass drum introduces herself officially, her name is Danielle. She has Drummond put his drum next to hers on the ground and they look at his music together. Danielle is working on a part of the music she missed last practice since she was absent, and Drummond notes that she's already playing it better than him! Danielle starts to give Drummond tips about the drum and his music, she coaches him in an impromptu lesson about the bass drum. She also helps explain how to get onto the section leader's good side, the Boss as Drummond knows him. His real name is Joel and he's the director's son, Danielle explains, and he's actually a nice person when you understand the rules of the drumline.

Danielle's biggest piece of information was to dispel the idea of the pit being a hole in the ground. She explains that it's actually where the stationary percussion instruments are placed, at a spot on the front of the field. Things that are too big to carry like marimbas and xylophones are rolled into place to be played without moving, like a pit orchestra in a theater. Danielle has already helped Drummond the most and he starts to understand his role in the drumline, how his bass drum functions in the big picture. It seems like fate, but Drummond doesn't believe in that, he thinks it's more coincidence. Even still, he doesn't even know the other drummers' names, or if they even care about him as Danielle does.

The last thing Danielle shows Drummond is something called *drill*, it's the pictures the band forms on the field. It's also one more thing to be stressed out about for Drummond, he didn't even consider that this band wasn't just a parade band, they march around the football field too!

Chapter 9:

The Fourteen Disciples

The chapter title is yet another religious reference, and the number indicates the fourteen members of Dwayne's drumline. Drummond doesn't yet know anyone's name, so the disciples is an interesting way to show that while also indicating that the percussion religion encapsulates them all. The title is also a clever way to show that the fourteen drummers follow Dwayne's every instruction, it's a clue to how good the drumline really is, and shows the dedication level to which Drummond needs to achieve. Drummond still has a lot to learn!

Drummond begins to pay more attention to the names of the other drummers, he does this by utilizing Dwayne. When Dwayne points out a mistake he usually says the name of the drummer he's talking to. The easiest names to learn are the tenor drummers, these are the five-drum instruments that Drummond fell in love with early in his lessons with Dwayne. In fact, these are the only people Drummond can even see with his drum on, symbolizing him facing his problems in a few ways. The Boss is a problem Drummond is facing, as well as the idea that the five drums represent the five main antagonists. Remember, the drums are all different sizes, and Drummond has already crossed the pit off his list of problems, presumably represented by the smallest drum.

As Drummond slowly learns the names of many of the drummers he also keys into their personalities as well. He indicates the challenges of the tenor drums that he sees from afar, more symbolism, but also describes his own role better and better within the ensemble. Drummond is finding out who he is himself while simultaneously finding out who the drumline is.

When the drumline is tasked with finding a new place to rehearse Drummond imagines them as voyagers on the stormy sea in search of a new island. This is also an analogy to describe how well Drummond is learning everyone's roles in the drumline as they march to the other side of the school behind Joel. The storm references throughout the book are also ominous symbols of obstacles to overcome. (The marching band's show music is called Stormworks, using the same symbolism.) Drummond is also able to count the seconds between lightning and thunder perfectly illustrating his development in both timing, indicating drum timing, as well as understanding the storm.

Finally, Drummond learns that his dad is splitting up with his mom and moving out. Drummond uses the same stormy sea imagery as he envisions his dad alone voyaging in search of a new island.

Chapter 10:

Learning The New Drill

Learning the new drill refers to several things in this chapter. First, it literally refers to Drummond learning the drill on the marching band field, the pictures the band creates. It also refers to learning his role more within the drumline, he's progressing and building confidence. He also needs to learn how to be a boyfriend, something he's never been before. Lastly, it refers to his home life, he needs to learn the new routine at home without his dad around.

Drummond turns to Jake to take him away from reality for a while. One of Drummond's many problems has actually gotten bigger instead of smaller. With his parents splitting up Drummond seeks relief and Jake is there to help. The two boys end up watching movies all day long together, this really helps Drummond take his mind off things for a long while. While not as clear-cut as Chelsea, Jake also gets close to Drummond while relaxing on the couch. The idea encroaches on the fact that Drummond may have more complexity under the surface that he doesn't outwardly share with the world, or even himself. Jake and Drummond end up falling asleep against one another on Jake's couch.

At marching band rehearsals Drummond is getting used to the word '*again*' being said after every single phrase they practice on the field. The word instills the idea that problems are solved just like mistakes on the field. The more you learn how to not make mistakes on the field, the more you'll be able to do so in real life. The idea is that Drummond is getting better at band which is a symbol of his life outside of the band. At this point, the marching band can be entirely seen as a metaphor for Drummond's life at home.

Drummond continues trying to probe the idea of Chelsea being single or not. One night Chelsea is absent from band practice and Drummond is chatting with Ashley. Ashley quizzes Drummond on his relationship with Chelsea. Ashley seems to know something Drummond doesn't, she's best friends with Chelsea and has the inside scoop. Ashley figuratively backs Drummond into a corner before revealing that Chelsea says they're dating, that they're already boyfriend and girlfriend. This comes as an awkward surprise to Drummond since he didn't even know Chelsea was single, and he embarrassingly didn't know he was already dating her! Ashley lets him off the hook as he is both delighted and disconcerted. Ashley tells Drummond that the initials he found in Chelsea's profile were her late father's initials.

The chapter ends with Drummond learning about the divorce of his parents, he will once again have to learn the new drill at home.

Chapter 11:

A Full Run Through

This chapter is literally a depiction of a full run of the marching band show as it's now complete. The chapter is also a figurative representation of Drummond's home life outside of the band. The two events take place simultaneously and inferences are drawn from hints within the chapter itself, as well as context clues given at the end of the previous chapter as well as the beginning of the next chapter.

The band begins in the end zone, before marching onto the field for a full run of their finalized show. Drummond is nervous but tries to stay focused. He is intimidated by the idea that the show is long and he has a tough job to do. His drum is heavy and blocks his vision, his music is challenging and he needs to play in time, and the show will not stop once it's set in motion. The last part is the biggest pill to swallow because he's used to getting breaks between reps at practice, or when working just a small portion of the show. But today they're gluing the whole show together in one shot! Drummond notes the heat of the day, another factor working against him. He sets up on the field standing next to the senior trumpet soloist, someone Drummond looks up to both figuratively and literally. The band waits at attention for the drum major to signal the show to begin.

Once the show sets off Drummond is laser-focused and the world around him becomes a blur. He is concentrating so hard on the music that he forgets about anything that isn't pertinent to the show and to his music. He has been practicing enough that this happens automatically, he's become one with the drum and the music!

However, by the end of the show, he is exhausted. He lays down on the turf with the other drummers and relaxes with the best tasting water he's ever had. After a good chunk of time, the band has to do it all again, over and over until they can't get it wrong. Drummond was prepared for the first run, but now the director is hardening him, and building the stamina of the entire band, by making them do it again and again.

Chapter 12:

The Longest Day

The chapter title refers to two things specifically. First, it's the inaugural show day for the marching band, which begins in the early morning for rehearsal, a break for lunch to then dress into uniforms before buses bring them out to the show site where they warm up again and perform. After the performance the members wait around for scores to be announced, resulting in a very long and physically exhausting day. Second, Drummond is about to experience the longest day of his life outside of the band. His mom wakes him up very early to meet as a family with his dad at the kitchen table, much like they had done with Dwayne in the first chapter. This is the beginning of a mentally exhausting day as well.

Much like the opening chapter of the book, this closing chapter has the family meeting at the kitchen table once more. Drummond also watches the clock again, this time with much more intent, almost trying to block out the important conversation. While his parents discuss their future, as Dwayne once did with him, Drummond tries to figure out how he fits in with this meeting, also reflective of what he needed to do in the marching band. He thinks of several things, like a judge that adjudicates his parents' performance, but in the end, he ultimately realizes that his job at this meeting is only to watch the clock. This symbolizes his unimportance to his family at home, while at the same time connects him more with the clock that symbolizes timing for his drumming ability. He's being pushed away from his deteriorating family at home and being pulled into his true family in the band. Drummond literally tells himself that he wants to get to band to be with his family.

The meeting with his parents made him about a half-hour late to band, home life directly interfering with his band life this time. He pays the consequences by running laps at practice, caused entirely by things outside his control. While he runs he listens to the drumline and notes the issues his parents caused, such as gaps in the bass drum music where his notes are supposed to fit, things he's learned so well over the course of the season. Once he suits up his drum he's aligned completely with the drumline, the missing piece that now fits so snugly.

The group travels to the show and warms up again in front of a small crowd outside the stadium. The drumline is completely in uniform and Joel gives Drummond some added inspiration as he inspects his section before performing. Drummond marches with the band knot the field and lines up in his spot with confidence, standing tall next to the trumpet soloist. Drummond plays the first note of the show and is now a percussionist, identifying fully with his new religion.