Midas (Metamorphoses)

A rich king, Midas is greedy for more gold.

Now, I'm not a greedy man, but it is an accepted fact - a proven fact - that money is a good thing. A thing to be longed for, a *necessary* thing. And my god, I have a lot of it! It wasn't always this way with me - the boats, the houses by the sea, the summer cottages and the winter palaces, the exotic furnishings, the soft clothes, the food and -

[to his daughter]

Honey, can you stop that now? Be still now. Daddy's talking.

[Midas turns back to audience]

Excuse me. The outrageous food and two-hundred-year-old wine. No, it wasn't always like this. I came from poor and I worked hard all my life. Still do, mind you. My father was a minor manufacturer in *[he can't remember]*... somewhere...in...somewhere. But I was born with a head for business and it's always been as though everything I touched has turned to gold. Not literally, of course - wouldn't that be something? Turned a profit, I meant. And -

[Again to daughter]

Sweetheart. Daddy asked you: Be still. Take it inside.

[She retreats but shortly reenters, jumping rope].

You see this pool? It cost a pretty penny, I can tell you. But all it takes is hard work. Plain and simple. And those who haven't got it in them, well, what can anyone do? They just haven't got it.