

BE THE LOVE

SCENE ONE

Alarm bell is heard. As the sound stops Mom 1 appears

MOM 1

Sally, get up. You'll be late for school

FRANK

But, ma, I don't feel like going to school

MOM 2

Get, the hell up!

BRYCE

I can't wait to get to school today. I did some research yesterday. In my search I found out that my teacher has lied. It's time for me to correct her with pride. I love school; oh how I think it's so cool. I love the education, with it there's just no limitation.

GREGORY

I can't wait to get to school. Well, I can't wait to get in the pool. Swimming try-outs are today I know I'm in; I'm the best they've got. Oh how I love school; well, at least the swimming pool. I love the swimming team; swimming is my Olympic dream.

BRIANNA

I don't want to go to school, I hate all the rules. You can't wear this, you can't say that, you can't pray this, you can't do that. And why does it have to be so long; seven hours in school is just wrong. Oh how I hate school it's totally not cool. Seven hours in school, I feel like I'm getting played at least at work I would be paid.

VICTOR

I don't like school; I wish I was really cool. I'm tired of all the kids shouting at me jeers, I wish I was cool I wish I had swag, but I'm nothing but a queer. Oh how I hate school; I wish I wasn't so awkward; I wish I wasn't a silly nerd.

MOM 3

Your bus will be here in one minute!

DONALD

Running in. Mom I'm coming. Sorry I slept late.

MOM 3

(Hands him his lunch). Why don't you go to bed at night?

DONALD

(Takes lunch and kisses Mom 3). Thanks, mom. See you later.

SALLY

I love the attention I get from the boys, but I hate wood shop the machines make too much noise.

FRANK

I love gym class I get to work out, but I hate Chemistry, there is no doubt.

JENNIFER

I don't care what time Bobby and Mike will meet at the train station. If they want to know tell them to get a train schedule. What I want is to learn something that matters for my life. Is that too much to ask for? Is it too much?

VANESSA

Why does it have to be such a difficult place to be? What can I do what can we do to make it a better place?

ALL

I love school, I love school, oh how I hate school. I hate school I hate school, oh how I love school.

GIRLS

Oh how I love school.

BOYS

I really hate school. Oh how I love school.

GIRLS

I really hate school.

BRYCE

(Kenny grabs Bryce's lunch). Hey, not today, please. I need to eat.

KENNY

Shut up.

TEACHER

(School bell rings). Alright students, take your seats. Class has begun. Take out your books and turn to page 145 and start reading. You will be tested tomorrow. *(Bryce raises his hand).* Yes Bryce.

BRYCE

Yesterday you taught us that A.D. means after the death of Jesus. I went to the library to double check and every book I read says that A.D. means Anno Domini which is Latin for in the year of our Lord.

TEACHER

Well, Bryce you are right. And I am glad you did research outside of school and you had the courage to challenge your teacher. That is what education is all about. Now start your reading assignment.

VICTOR

1, 2, 3

BRIANNA

A, B, C

VANESSA

Just another day in school

FRANK

Teacher educate me

SALLY

I before E

ALL

Except after C

DONALD

Columbus sets out to sea

ALL

Lincoln sets the slaves free

KENNY

Just another day in school

GREGORY

Teacher educate me

GIRLS

The sun, moon and the stars

BOYS

Pianos, drums, and guitars

FRANK

It's not good and bad; it's well and badly

GREGORY

B.C.

Before Christ BRYCE

A.D. SALLY

Anno Domini VICTOR

In the year of our Lord. ALL

SALLY, JENNIFER, FRANK, DONALD, KENNY, and ENSEMBLE
History, Math, Social Studies, Music, Art, Theater, Dance, Science, English, Language Arts, Geology, Geography, Geometry, Algebra, Statistics, Physics, Chemistry, Anatomy, Physical Education, Spanish, Italian, German, and French, Home Economics, Cosmetology, Sewing, Wood Shop, Graphic Arts, Auto Shop, bla bla bla bla; bla bla bla

BRIANNA, VANESSA, GREGORY, VICTOR, BRYCE and ENSEMBLE
World War One, thirty plus twenty equals fifty states, do re me, paint me a picture, Shakespeare, relevé, H2O, you and me, I and you, does it really matter, carbonate, Africa, Antarctica, Asia, America, parallel lines, altitude, Dr. Martin Luther King, x equals y 2 squared, centripetal, solid, liquids, gas, and heart, leg, run, football, mi dispace, spatula, surging, sand it down, bla bla bla bla; bla bla bla

Just another day in school KENNY

Teacher educate me GREGORY

(Whispers) 1, 2, 3 VICTOR

(Whispers) A, B, C BRIANNA

PRINCIPAL
(Enters) Hello, my wonderful students. And how are you today? (They respond unhappily) That's wonderful. I have a special message for you all.

TEACHER
Oh, that's so wonderful Principal. What is the special message?

PRINCIPAL

We have a wonderful student transferring all the way from New York City. She will be living here in our town and she will be starting classes, right here. Isn't that amazing? Or what you kids say, wicked? (*No response*). Okay, well, I'll let you guys get back to studying. Oh yeah and don't forget here at Rochelle Labelle High School we are nothing, but...say it with me. (*The reluctantly say the motto with him*). Courteous, welcoming, and loving to all who enter this building. Good. She'll be here tomorrow. So make sure you're nice to her. (*Exits*).

TEACHER

Thank you Principal for that wonderful surprise message. Alright students back to work.

SALLY

Brianna, did you hear that? She's from New York City. I totally can't wait to meet her. She is going to have so much swag. She will definitely be cool enough to hang with us.

BRIANNA

I know. Anyone who comes from NYC is so cool. I totally can't wait to hear her accent.

VANESSA

Hey, Jen, did you hear that?

JENNIFER

What?

VANESSA

The new girl; she's from New York. That means she's going to be cool. She'll be able to help us be cool and fit in with the cool guys.

JENNIFER

Yeah, but she's from New York. Everyone from there is rude. She'll totally ignore us.

VANESSA

Oh, I didn't think of that.

FRANK

Yo, Greg isn't that hot?

GREGORY

What?

FRANK

The new girl coming in. She's from NYC. Everyone from NYC is hot. I'm totally going to hook up with her.

GREGORY

How do you know she'll want you?

FRANK

Oh, please, no girl can turn all this down.

VICTOR

Hey, Don. You heard that? The new girl is from New York.

DONALD

Yeah, I heard. So what.

VICTOR

You think she could get us tickets to see Spiderman: Turn off the Dark.

DONALD

Oh cool, I didn't think of that. Maybe I could take her out on a date to New York City.

VICTOR

Hey, what about me?

DONALD

We could double date. Maybe you could take Sally.

VICTOR

Yeah, right. She'll never say yes to me.

DONALD

You gotta stop doubting yourself. Ask. Maybe she'll say yes.

VICTOR

Not in a million years.

TEACHER

Excuse me gentlemen, no talking please. Now everyone, close your books, I'm giving you a pop test. *(Everyone responds negatively)*. Stop your moaning and complaining. You can thank you classmates for talking during study hour.

SALLY

Thanks a lot Beavis and Butthead.

KENNY

(Whispers to them) You're both getting beat down after class.

TEACHER

Quiet class. You can begin the test. *Black Out.*

SCENE TWO

VICTOR

Are you okay? (*Donald nods his head yes*). You want me to take you to the nurse?

DONALD

No I'm fine. How could you leave me there?

VICTOR

I'm sorry. With Kenny, it's every man for himself. You either run or get beat. I chose to run. You look pretty bad. You know your mom is going to ask what happened.

DONALD

I know. I'll just tell her I fell in gym class

VICTOR

Why would you lie?

DONALD

Because if I tell her the truth she'll just come to school make a big scene and embarrass me.

VICTOR

Do you want to tell a teacher?

DONALD

No, because Kenny is just going to beat me even more for telling.

VICTOR

Well, then I guess you're just going to have to learn how to run. (*Beat*) I'm sorry I left you.

DONALD

It's okay.

VICTOR

(*Bryce enters*) Hey, Bryce. What's up?

BRYCE

(*Notices Donald*). Oh, my gosh, what happened to you?

DONALD

Kenny.

BRYCE

Oh. I'm sorry about that. Speaking of Kenny. Victor, I need a favor from you.

VICTOR

Why should I do you a favor?

BRYCE

Because I know you cheat off of me in class and I don't say anything.

VICTOR

Okay. What can I do for you?

BRYCE

Would you mind if I had half your sandwich today? Kenny took my lunch again.

VICTOR

You can actually have my whole lunch.

BRYCE

What? Why?

VICTOR

I brought two lunches. With a Kenny in this school you have to be prepared.

BRYCE

Oh, Victor, thank you so much. You're such a good friend.

VICTOR

Bryce, I told you, we're not friends.

BRYCE

Why not?

VICTOR

Because you're a nerd. I already don't have enough cool power to stop the cool kids from making fun of me. Hanging out with you would make it worst.

BRYCE

I don't understand why loving education makes someone a nerd. It's something we all need and yet you get ridiculed if you decide to love it. *(Beat)* That's alright, I have Jesus. He's the only friend I need. Thank you for the lunch. *(Exits)*.

DONALD

He's such a nerd. *(BLACK OUT)*

SCENE THREE

Sally, Brianna, and some Girls are chatting in the hall; Victor approaches her

VICTOR

Excuse me, Sally. May I speak with you?

SALLY

Victor, what do you want?

VICTOR

May I speak with you in private?

BRIANNA

Euuugh, for what?

VICTOR

I just wanted to speak to her. I wanted to ask her a question.

SALLY

What is it? Just ask me.

VICTOR

I...uh, wanted to know if maybe we...could, you know...maybe go out on a date or something like that.

SALLY

The girls look at each other and then Victor and then each other again and then burst into laughter. Victor hangs his head in shame. I would never go out with you. You're so beneath me. You must be kidding. I'd rather date Bryce.

GIRL 1

Now that's disgusting.

BRIANNA

Victor, go back to dream land. Life is better there for you. *(The girls exit. Victor hangs his head and exits).* **(Black Out)**

SCENE FOUR

Bryce is walking. As he walks Kenny walks by and pushed him. Jennifer and Vanessa witness it.

BRYCE

Hey, why did you push me? What did I do to you?

KENNY

Shut up.

VANESSA

My goodness, Kenny, you're such a bully. *(Kenny pushes Vanessa).*

JENNIFER

Hey, watch what you're doing, you punk. *(Kenny exits)*

BRYCE

Can someone help me up, please?

JENNIFER

Euuugh, no.

VANESSA

Get up yourself geek.

BRYCE

(Vanessa and Jennifer exit) Ah, man.

PRINCIPAL

(Enters) Bryce, what are you doing on the floor? Shouldn't you be in class?

BRYCE

Kenny shoved me down.

PRINCIPAL

Well, get up and go to class.

BRYCE

Well, I need help.

PRINCIPAL

Oh goodness. *(Principal tries to help him up, but can't seem to do so. He finally gives up and walks away).* What is wrong with you?

BRYCE

I don't know. *(Black out)*

SCENE FIVE

TEACHER

Quiet down everyone. *(She hands out tests to everyone)* I want to go over the test I gave you yesterday. Some of ya'll did not do that well. You must study more. It is the key to a healthy grade. Make sure you right these answers down and study them. This way when I give you the real test you will pass with flying colors. Alright, the first question. Jennifer, what is a molecule?

JENNIFER

The smallest physical unit of an element or compound, consisting of one or more like atoms in an element and two or more different atoms in a compound.

TEACHER

Good job! Alright, second one; Victor, what is a preposition?

VICTOR

Any member of a class of words found in many languages that are used before nouns, pronouns, or other substantives to form phrases functioning as modifiers of verbs, nouns, or adjectives, and that typically express a spatial, temporal, or other relationship, as in, on, by, to, since.

TEACHER

Wonderful job! Brianna, who invented the first automobile?

BRIANNA

Henry Ford. *(Bryce anxiously raises his hand)*.

TEACHER

No, my dear, that's wrong. Yes, Bryce.

BRYCE

The correct answer is Karl Benz.

TEACHER

Correct. Franklin, what is X when E equals M. C. squared?

PRINCIPAL

(Enters with Lisa). Excuse me. Do you mind if I interrupt?

TEACHER

Oh, look its Principal. And who is this lovely lady?

PRINCIPAL

This is Lisa King. She's the student I told you about on yesterday.

TEACHER

Oh, you mean the student from New York.

PRINCIPAL

Yes, this is she....this is her...this is... you know what I mean.

TEACHER

Well, I thank you for bringing her by. We will make sure that she is well welcomed to the class. Right students?

STUDENTS

Right Mrs. Teacher.

PRINCIPAL

I know you will, because here at Rochelle Labelle High School we are nothing, but *(The reluctantly say the motto with him)*. Courteous, welcoming, and loving to all who enter this building. That's right. Well, I will leave you back to your class. *(Exits)*.

TEACHER

Well, Lisa King, pick anywhere in the room where you would like to sit. *(Lisa looks around and realizes there is only one chair left)*. Wonderful. *(Beat)*. Would you like to introduce yourself to everyone?

LISA

Uh, sure. My name is Lisa King.

TEACHER

Class? *(They all recite with Teacher)*. Hello Lisa King. Welcome to Rochelle Labelle High School where we are courteous, welcoming, and loving to all whom enter the building. *(Teacher applauds)*. Oh, you guys did wonderful. *(Beat)*. Is there anything else you would like to say, Lisa?

LISA

No, thank you, Mrs. Teacher. Thank you for giving me the opportunity, though. I greatly appreciate it.

TEACHER

Well, you seem to be awfully nice. What a breathe of fresh air. Alright, students turn to your books, page 256 and read it....quietly.

SALLY

You like the new girl?

BRIANNA

I don't know. I'm quite disappointed.

SALLY

Why?

BRIANNA

She doesn't have the New Yorker accent. I wanted to hear it.

SALLY

I don't know. She doesn't seem cool enough to be from New York.

BRIANNA

She's probably from an upper part of Jersey close to New York.

SALLY

I don't know. She doesn't have the Jersey accent either.

BRIANNA

Then where is she from?

SALLY

I don't know.

FRANK

Yo, Greg? What's up with the new girl?

GREGORY

What do you mean?

FRANK

She doesn't seem very New Yorkish. She seems more like a good girl, then bad, you know.

GREGORY

Then where do you think she's from? You think she's from Jersey?

FRANK

Nah. She looks like she pumps gas.

VANESSA

Oh my gosh, Jenny. The new girl is so totally nice. She's not rude at all. I guess not all New Yorkers are rude. She can totally help us get cool.

JENNIFER

But if she's nice she's not going to know how to help us get cool. I mean to be cool you have to ignore all the little people and make fun of the big people. How is she going to teach us how to be cool if she's not rude?

VANESSA

Oh yeah. I didn't think of that.

JENNIFER

We won't be cool, but hey, at least we'll have a new friend.

VANESSA

Yeah, I didn't think of that either.

DONALD

She's pretty nice, the new girl.

VICTOR

Yeah, but too nice. She doesn't seem like she would know anything about Spiderman.

DONALD

Well, we could still go on a double date. Did you ask Sally out yet?

VICTOR

Yeah. She and her friends laughed in my face. I was so embarrassed. It's all your fault you know.

DONALD

Why is it my fault?

VICTOR

Because you told me to ask her out on a date. I knew she would say no, but not like that.

DONALD

I'm sorry, man.

VICTOR

It's okay.

TEACHER

School bell rings. Alright class, see you tomorrow.

SCENE SIX

All run off stage while Jennifer and Vanessa greet Lisa.

JENNIFER

Hey, Lisa. My name is Jennifer and this is my friend Vanessa.

LISA

Hi, Jennifer, Hi, Vanessa.

VANESSA

We wanted to know if you wanted to play outside with us.

LISA

Sure.

JENNIFER

Cool, let's go. *(They run to the other Students)*. Hey everyone this is Lisa. She just transferred here from New York. She's going to play with us.

LISA

What are we playing?

DONALD

Hide and seek. *(Tags Bryce)*. Tag! You're it.

BRYCE

Why do I always have to be it?

VICTOR

Don't be such a baby, Bryce.

BRIANNA

Yeah, turn around and count.

BRYCE

Fine. *(Everyone runs and hides)*. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10. Ready or not here I come. *(He goes looking around, but can't find anyone)*. Oh man, I can't find anyone. Where are you guys? Hey! Where are you? *Where did they go? I can't find them anywhere. Does anybody know; where did they go? Where did they go?*

ALL

Where did they go?

BRYCE

I can't find them any where.

Ahhhhh ahhh. ALL

Does anybody know... BRYCE

Where did they go? ALL

...where did they go? Where did they go? BRYCE

Where did they go? ALL

I can't find them any where. BRYCE

Ahhhhh ahhh. ALL

Does anybody know... BRYCE

Where did they go? ALL

...where did they go? Where did they go? BRYCE

Where did they go? ALL

I can't find them any where. BRYCE

Ahhhhh ahhh. ALL

Does anybody know... BRYCE

Where did they go? ALL

BRYCE

...where did they go? (He hangs his head and exits).

FRANK

Hey, where is he going?

BOY 1

I don't know.

GIRL 2

Is he giving up?

BOY 2

I think he quit.

BOY 3

Well, why would he do that?

VANESSA

He probably went home.

GIRL 3

Now what are we supposed to do?

KENNY

(By now all the students have gathered, no one sees Kenny talking). Maybe we should go to his house and see what's wrong with him.

SALLY

That is a stupid idea. What idiot said that?

KENNY

(Appears, responds angrily). I did.

SALLY

Oh, that's a great idea, I love it.

LISA

Let's just all make a house visit. I am sure there is a reason why he left.

SCENE SEVEN

MOM 4

You all can't be here selling cookies.

LISA

No, ma'am, we're here to see Bryce.

MOM 4

Seriously? I didn't know he had any friends.

BRIANNA

Well, technically—

LISA

Yes, we are his friends and we're worried about him. We wanted to know if everything was okay.

MOM 4

Worried? Why are you worried?

LISA

We were playing in the park and he ran away without telling us what was wrong.

MOM 4

Oh, it's probably his diarrhea, that's all.

LISA

Well, may we check on him anyway?

MOM 4

Sure. Come right in. *(Brief lights fade out).*

BRYCE

(Lights fade back in) What are you guys doing here?

LISA

We came to check on you.

FRANK

Why did you run out like that? We were in the middle of a game.

BRYCE

I didn't want to play anymore.

JENNIFER

Why not?

BRYCE

Because, I am tired of always being it. I never get to hide, I always have to seek and I'm tired of always being it.

SALLY

My gosh, Bryce, you're such a baby.

BRYCE

(Whining) I'm not a baby; now get out of my room. You're not smart enough to be in here.

KENNY

I'll smash your head in if you say something like that again.

LISA

Everyone, just cool it. How about this; would you play if I was it?

BRYCE

(Thinks for a minute). Well...No! I don't want to play with any of you ever again. You're all mean to me. I don't need any of you. I've got—

ALL

Jesus.

BRIANNA

Yeah, we know.

LISA

(Whispers to Jennifer). Have everyone leave; I'm going to talk to him in private.

JENNIFER

Well, let's go guys.

GIRL 1

Well, who's gonna be it?

ALL

Victor.

VICTOR

Hey. *(They all exit).*

LISA

I'm sorry that they all make fun of you. It hurts, doesn't it?

BRYCE

There is no pain greater. They have pills for physical pain, but they don't have any for emotional pain. Why do they hate me?

LISA

They don't hate you. They're just picking on you because they're weak.

BRYCE

Don't you mean I'm weak?

LISA

No, you're weaker. Weak people always pick on the weaker, because they're too weak to pick on the strong. If you just get past their weakness you can demand them with your strength to leave you alone. It works.

BRYCE

How am I going to do that? I'm weak. I can't fight. I don't even know how to toss a good punch.

LISA

(She laughs). It's throw a good punch. And strong people don't fight with their bodies or even weapons. They fight with their words. A good set of words can make anyone respect you.

BRYCE

You think so?

LISA

I know so. You know the best thing you can do when they pick on you?

BRYCE

What is that?

LISA

Love them.

BRYCE

What?

LISA

Be the love your bullies' lack. If they bully you; don't bully them back. Your bullies are filled with so much hate. So you have to fill them with love and that's no debate. Show love to those who have no love and be love to those who have hate. It takes time and sometimes you have to wait. But if you show them love; your love will conquer hate.

BRYCE

That's sounds good, but how do I show them love?

LISA

Give them a reason to love with a wonderful smile. Open your mouth and speak words of Love. Let them know just how great they are. Give them a gift of love. Show them you have forgiveness in your heart. And always be positive and never down. Be the love your bullies' lack. If they bully you; don't bully them back. It takes time and sometimes you have to wait. But if you show them love; your love will conquer hate.

BRYCE

Thank you, Lisa. I am going to start right away. *Being the love that my bullies' lack. If they bully me; I won't bully back. I'll give them a smile that'll chase all the hate away. I'll peak words that'll make a great day. I'll be the love that my bullies lack.*

LISA

There you go. It might not happen right away, but you have to keep on loving them.

BRYCE

You're such a nice person. You think we could be friends?

LISA

I thought we already were. *(Bryce smiles at Lisa. **Black out**)*

TEACHER

Sally and Frank please stay after class. I need to talk to you. *(The class exits. Sally and Frank approach Teacher).*

SALLY

What's the problem Ms. Teacher?

TEACHER

Neither one of you are doing that well on the pop quizzes I give.

FRANK

Well, maybe you shouldn't give so many.

TEACHER

That's not the answer. The answer is to study. I suggest you hook up with one of your classmates and ask them to help you. Lisa has really good grades. Maybe she can tutor you. You need to make sure your grades are well, because if you fail another test you won't be able to go to the school dance.

SALLY

Oh no.

TEACHER

Oh yes. It's either pass and dance or fail and stay home. Think about it.

SALLY

Ah, man! *(She runs to Lisa).* Hey, Lisa. Would you mind helping me study? I'm not doing well on my tests and Ms. Teacher said if I don't do better I won't be able to go to the school dance.

LISA

You should ask Bryce. His scores are excellent. I am sure he would be glad to help you.

SALLY

Yuk, Bryce. But he's such a nerd.

LISA

Either you want to pass or not. And you should get to know him better. You'll realize how great he is.

SALLY

I doubt that. Well, are you going to help me or not?

LISA

Go ask Bryce.

SALLY

Oh, goodness. (*Approaches Bryce*). Hey, Bryce.

BRYCE

If you came to bother me it won't work. I have nothing, but love for you (*Big smile*).

SALLY

Bryce, I need a favor.

BRYCE

Seriously?

SALLY

Unfortunately, yes. I am not doing well in class and Ms. Teacher said if I don't pull up my grades I will not be able to go to the school dance. So can you help me study?

BRYCE

Are you asking me to help you?

SALLY

Yes, Bryce. Don't make such a big deal. Either say, yes or no.

BRYCE

Well, yes, of course. I always enjoy helping people study. You know studying is such a fun thing to do.

SALLY

You are such a nerd.

BRYCE

Thank you.

SALLY

Here's my address, meet me tonight around 6pm.

BRYCE

Awesome. (*Exits*).

FRANK

(*Approaches Sally*) Yo, Sally. What's up?

SALLY

Nothing much.

FRANK

You have a date for the dance, yet?

SALLY

No, but it doesn't matter. I don't even know if I'm going.

FRANK

Why not?

SALLY

You heard the teacher. I may not even go if I don't get better grades.

FRANK

Oh, you don't believe that stuff, do you? They can't keep us from going.

SALLY

Yes they can. They're adults. They can pretty much do anything that has anything to do with ruining our lives. I just asked *Bryce* to tutor me. This is going to be so strange.

FRANK

Bryce? Why Bryce?

SALLY

Because he's the smartest guy in our class. I want to go to the dance and I am going to do anything I can to make sure my grades get better so I can go.

FRANK

Well, if your grades get better, you want to go with me?

SALLY

Sure. That would be great. But you better make sure your grades get better or you won't be able to go either. You should get some help.

FRANK

Sure thing. Well, see you later.

SALLY

Bye, Frank. *(As she exits Kenny walks by her and pushes her)*. Hey, what the heck? *(He ignores her and exits. She exits the opposite way)*.

FRANK

(Approaches Lisa). Hey, Lisa. I need a favor.

LISA

What is it?

FRANK

Can you tutor me? I need help getting better grades.

LISA

Well, I think you should ask Jennifer. She is really smart and her grades are just as good as mine and she is a great tutor.

FRANK

Jennifer? She's so boring. I don't want her.

LISA

It's not about what you want; it's about what you need. Besides, she's not as boring as you think. Go ahead and ask her. *(Exits)*.

FRANK

Oh goodness. *(Approaches Jennifer)*.

VANESSA

Oh, my gosh, Frank is coming this way.

JENNIFER

No, he's not. He's probably just walking by.

VANESSA

No, I think he's stopping by. I think he's going to ask you out on a date.

JENNIFER

Oh, stop it, no he's not.

FRANK

Hey, Jen.

JENNIFER

Yes, Frank.

FRANK

I'm not doing that well in class. The teacher said if I don't do better I won't be able to go to the dance. And I have to go. So you think you could tutor me?

VANESSA

YES! I mean...um, you know, whatever she says.

JENNIFER

That's not a problem. I can do that.

FRANK

Thank you. You rock.

VANESSA

Should she come to your place or you meet at hers?

JENNIFER

Vanessa.

VANESSA

What?

JENNIFER

I can come to your place, but your parent's have to be there.

FRANK

Not a problem. Here's my address. Come over around 6 tonight. Thanks again.

JENNIFER

You're welcome. (*Frank exits*). My goodness, Vanessa, you make me look desperate.

VANESSA

You are desperate.

JENNIFER

I am not.

BRYCE

(Enters) Wow, this is a nice room.

SALLY

Thank you.

BRYCE

(He looks around. He picks up a book). Diary of Stephanie Dane!? I love this book.

SALLY

Really? You've read it?

BRYCE

Only about a dozen times. I hate what happens to Johnny though.

SALLY

I know, it's very sad.

BRYCE

Wouldn't it be cool if they turned it into a movie?

SALLY

I not only thought of it, I dreamed of playing Stephanie.

BRYCE

You would be a great Stephanie.

SALLY

You think so?

BRYCE

Yeah.

SALLY

Thanks. Well, are you ready to get started?

BRYCE

Of course. Just tell me what you're having problems with.

SALLY

Everything. I can't seem to get motivated to study and I can't get enough care to listen in class. It all seems so boring.

BRYCE

Well, school usually is.

SALLY

What? You think school is boring? *Bryce the nerd* thinks school is boring? This is amazing.

BRYCE

I'm not a nerd I just like education.

SALLY

I'm sorry. I didn't mean to offend you.

BRYCE

It's okay. You see, I don't really like school, but I love my time in the library. You see after school I go to the public library and I research everything the teacher taught. Did you know that some of the stuff the teachers tell us is wrong?

SALLY

Really?

BRYCE

Yeah. That's the fun I have. Going to the library and challenging what I've been taught. The fun is in not only finding conflicts in what the teachers taught, but finding out so much more information. Information teachers don't have the time to teach. That's what makes it interesting. And interesting things are easy to remember.

SALLY

Well, what are some things you learned?

BRYCE

Well, for starters, Christopher Columbus was not the first to discover America.

SALLY

He wasn't? Then who was?

BRYCE

Well, there are some who believe Amerigo Vespucci was and others believe Lief Ericson was. They both traveled to America before Columbus did.

SALLY

How did you find that out?

BRYCE

I told you, by researching. Believe it or not researching is pretty fun when you actually learn something new without someone teaching you. You realize that we all have the power to teach ourselves.

SALLY

That's pretty cool.

BRYCE

Yeah. Maybe one day we can meet at the library and I can teach you how to properly research everything you learn in a school day. And then you will like school a little bit more because you know everything you learn will be challenged.

SALLY

Strangely enough, that sounds pretty cool.

BRYCE

Cool. How does tomorrow sound?

SALLY

(Thinks for a minute) It sounds cool.

BRYCE

Okay. Tomorrow after school you and me at the library.

SALLY

Isn't it you and I?

BRYCE

(Thinks) I think you're right. *(Black out)*.

JENNIFER

No, man. X is 7 because you have to subtract the 3.

FRANK

This is too difficult.

JENNIFER

It's really not. I'm not sure why you are not getting this.

FRANK

Because I'm not a nerd like you.

JENNIFER

I'm not a nerd. And you don't need to be nerd to understand this. It's easy. All you need is a working brain. You know you can use your brain on something else other than sports?

FRANK

Are you trying to say I'm a dumb jock?

JENNIFER

No. I'm just saying. Never mind. Do you want me to start from the beginning?

FRANK

No, I don't want to do this anymore. It's making my head hurt.

JENNIFER

Oh, goodness. *(Slight pause)*. Do you have a CD player?

FRANK

Yeah. What do you need it for?

JENNIFER

I also need some dance music. You have any good CDs?

FRANK

Yeah, over there. *(She walks towards the CD collection and looks through them)*. What are you doing?

JENNIFER

(She chooses a CD and puts it in). When I get frustrated with my homework I take a break and I dance. It removes all the care in the world and it clears my head so that when I get back to my homework I can work successfully. Maybe that's what you need. *(She presses play. The music comes on. She begins to dance.)*

FRANK

Wow, you're a pretty good dancer.

JENNIFER

Thanks. Join me.

FRANK

No, I'm good.

JENNIFER

I'm telling you, you'll feel better. *(Frank reluctantly begins to dance. Jennifer takes his hand and guides him. They then begin to dance together. Soon they both forget everything and get loose. Sally at some point sings with the song. After the song is over they look at each other and laugh).*

SONG (Sang off-stage):

*When the world troubles get to you; and you start to get too blue
It's time to let go and put your troubles down; Put a smile on your face and remove that frown
It is time to DANCE*

*Dance like there's only good days. DANCE. Dance like you see the sun rays
Forget about hell and think of only Heaven*

*You've got cares on your mind and your troubles you can't seem to forget
When you feel you're falling down and the floor you're about to hit
Then it's time to let go and put your troubles down
Put a smile on your face and remove that frown
And go ahead and DANCE. Let the music be your joy; let the rhythm be your happiness
Go ahead and DANCE. Don't think of the mess only think of goodness.
Forget about the bad and only remember the glad*

-----MUSIC-----

*When you feeling bad, when you feeling sad, when depression got you down
Then it's time to DANCE. Dance like there's only good days
DANCE. Dance like you see the sun rays
Forget about hell and think of only Heaven
Let the music be your joy; let the rhythm be your happiness
Go ahead and DANCE. Don't think of the mess only think of the goodness
Forget about the bad and only remember the glad*

FRANK

You're really a good dancer. And you have a really good singing voice. I didn't know you had that in you.

SALLY

Thank you. You think you're ready now?

FRANK

Yeah. I think so.

School hallway is full with students. Kenny approached Bryce and takes his lunch.

BRYCE

You give that back you bully.

KENNY

What?

BRYCE

You heard me you ugly bully. You give that back or I will beat you down. I'm not afraid of you anymore.

KENNY

You better watch it.

BRYCE

No, you better watch it. *(He approaches Kenny and pushes him).* Now, you give that back. *(Kenny smiles and then turns away. Bryce runs to him and pushes him harder.)*

KENNY

If you value your life, you'll stop.

BRYCE

And if you value your behind, you'll give me back my lunch. *(Kenny walks away. Bryce runs to him and kicks him in the butt). What you gonna do? (Kenny goes after Bryce. They fight for a bit and then Bryce pushes him down. The crowd goes wild and Bryce cheers like he is Rocky. As he does so, Kenny gets up and then attacks Bryce. Kenny knocks him the floor and then Kenny punches him repeatedly. Sally exits and then returns with Ms. Teacher.*

TEACHER

Now, that's enough! Everyone get back to class. Kenny, come with me. Sally, take Bryce to the nurse so he can get a band-aid. I don't believe this.

SALLY

I wonder how long the nurse is going to take.

BRYCE

Where could she possibly go?

SALLY

I don't know. Where did you learn how to fight like that?

BRYCE

Taebo.

SALLY

(She laughs) You really fought him pretty good.

BRYCE

I thought I beat him and then out of no where he comes at me as if I was Tina and he was Ike.

SALLY

(She laughs). You are really funny. My goodness. *(Beat)*. You're really something else.

BRYCE

Maybe you can help me out.

SALLY

How?

BRYCE

Just take some of the nurse's tools and fix me up.

SALLY

Okay. I'll take some of this. And this too. Oh, and I'll need this. Okay. Now, hold on, this is going to sting a little. *(She applies alcohol to his bruises. He responds negatively. She then puts band-aids and badges on him. She then rubs some soothing lotion on the bruises uncovered.)* There we go. That should do it.

BRYCE

Thank you nurse Sally.

SALLY

You're welcome, Bryce. *(Pause)*. Do you have a date for the school dance?

BRYCE

No. I'm not going. No one wants me there.

SALLY

Would you go with me?

BRYCE

WHAT? Are you serious or is this some kind of a joke?

SALLY

I'm serious.

BRYCE

Why me?

SALLY

I don't know. You just seem to be different now that I know you a little more. I think I like you. I think we could be friends.

BRYCE

Really?

SALLY

Yes. So what do you say; do you want to go with me?

BRYCE

Yes.

NURSE

(Enters) What's going on in here?

SALLY

I was just helping Bryce until you got back. He was beat up pretty bad. *(Bryce clears his throat)*. Oh, badly.

NURSE

(She examines Bryce). He's fine. Take a band-aid and get back to class.

DAD

Why are you calling me on my job? And why am I here. Don't you know I am losing pay by being here?

PRINCIPAL

I am sorry Mr., but your son is causing problems in my school halls. He was fighting with a young gentleman who ended up in the nurse's office with black eyes and bruises.

DAD

Oh, so I have to lose money and pick you up because you want to fight. You still want to fight (*no response*). Do you still want to fight?!

KENNY

No, dad.

DAD

Oh, I'll show you how to fight. I'm sorry Principal; I will make sure this will never happen again. (*He aggressively grabs Kenny's arm. Let's go.*)

TEACHER

Alright class put your text books away its pop quiz time. *(The class reacts negatively).*

BRIANNA

Ms. Teacher, why do we have to take so many pop quizzes?

TEACHER

Why is the sky blue and sometimes gray; why is the grass green and sometimes brown; why does the cartoon network have shows that are not cartoons? Who knows and who cares. Now put your books away and stop complaining. *(Kenny enters with a hat that hides his face.)* Kenny you're late. Take off the hat! *(He sits and removes the hat. Everyone notices his face.)* Oh, my gosh, Kenny, what happened to you?

KENNY

I...I um was riding my bike and I fell. I had an accident.

TEACHER

Oh my gosh, did you want to go to the nurse?

KENNY

No, I have a band-aid.

TEACHER

Well, alright. Well, put your stuff away. We have a pop quiz today.

KENNY

I know.

TEACHER

How did you know?

KENNY

Because we have one everyday.

TEACHER

(She hands him a quiz.) Be careful next time in riding your bike, okay? *(He nods yes. The lights fade then come back up. A school bell is heard.)* Alright class, don't forget to study chapter seventeen. They'll be a test tomorrow.

SALLY

Kenny, you sure you okay? You look pretty beat up.

BRIANNA

Are you sure all you did was fall off a bike? It looks like you were beat.

KENNY
Go away and leave me alone.

LISA
(Approaches Kenny.) Do you mind if I talk to you?

KENNY
What do you want?

LISA
Was this the first time?

KENNY
What?

LISA
That your father beat you?

KENNY
What? My father didn't...he didn't do this. I told you I fell...off my bike.

LISA
We both know that's not true.

KENNY
Why are you bothering me?

LISA
I'm trying to help you.

KENNY
How?

LISA
If you don't admit what's going on it's not going to get any better.

KENNY
How is it supposed to get better? I can't stop him.

LISA
So you admit he beat you?

KENNY
He makes me so angry. I try to please him in every way, but it's never enough.

LISA

Is that why you're always bullying people? Because you need someone to feel as bad as you feel?

KENNY

I want to fight back, I do, but I just don't have the courage. My father is ten times bigger than me. So the only thing I can do is pick on little people like Bryce. I don't mean to hurt him its just...bullying him makes me feel better.

LISA

Bullying Bryce is not going to stop your dad bullying you. And that's what you want, isn't it?

KENNY

How do I stop him?

LISA

What does your mother do?

KENNY

She left us...and he blames me. That's why he beats me. I thought about going to the police, but they'll just put me in foster care. I don't want that.

LISA

Do you have family in the area?

KENNY

Yeah, but...

LISA

But what?

KENNY

It's my mother's sister. I don't know that she would want me. The whole family blames me for her running away.

LISA

You don't know that. And you are not to blame. Running away is a choice. Nothing or no one can make someone run away. I think you should contact your aunt and stay there and let your father get himself together. This way he can stop beating you and you can stop beating Bryce.

KENNY

I'm afraid.

LISA

You afraid? Mr. Bully? How is that so?

KENNY

I'm not really that bad. I'm actually a pretty good kid.

LISA

You sure have a funny way of showing it. Would you like me to help you? I can call her or maybe we could go visit her together and let her know what's going on.

KENNY

You would do that for me?

LISA

Yes. Why not.

KENNY

You're really a nice person. I've never met someone like you before.

LISA

I'm sure you have you just was too hurt to notice it. I'll meet you after school, okay. And you can take me to your aunt's house.

KENNY

Okay. Thank you, Lisa.

LISA

You're welcome.

BRYCE

(Kenny exits as Bryce enters. They don't see each other). Hey Lisa. I need your help.

LISA

How may I help you?

BRYCE

The most awesome and terrible thing has happened at the same time.

LISA

What happened?

BRYCE

Well, Sally asked me the school dance.

LISA

Well, what's terrible about that?

BRYCE

I'm going to have to tell her I cannot go.

LISA

Why would you do that?

BRYCE

I cannot dance.

LISA

What do you mean? Everyone can dance.

BRYCE

Not me. I'll admit, I'm the smartest student in my math, science, history, and English classes, but when it comes to dance, I'm not smart at all. I was wondering that maybe you could help me. I mean you come from New York where there's nothing, but dance clubs so you would know how to dance, right?

LISA

I can move a step or two.

BRYCE

Great! That's more steps than I could do. Could we meet up somewhere and maybe you can teach me a thing or two, or three or four.

LISA

Sure. I have to help a friend out after school so meet me at the Teen Scream club over on 54 at about 7pm. Is that alright?

BRYCE

It sure is.

VANESSA

(Lisa and Bryce exit. Vanessa and Jennifer enter). Oh my gosh, I don't believe it!

JENNIFER

Vanessa, calm down.

VANESSA

I'm trying. I'm excited that we will finally get to eat at the cool peoples table.

JENNIFER

Vanessa, it's not that serious. He just wants to thank me for helping him get an A on his tests.

VANESSA

Jenny, you thank someone by sending them a thank you card, not asking them to the school dance. Oh my gosh, I think he loves you.

JENNIFER

It's just one night at a silly school dance. It doesn't mean anything.

VANESSA

It means everything. Oh my gosh, now I have to get a date. There is no way you are going to that dance without me. You think Gregory would go with me?

JENNIFER

As crazy as you act I don't think anyone would go with you.

VANESSA

Hey, what do you mean? Are you trying to lose me as a friend because the hottest and most coolest guy in the school asked you to the dance?

JENNIFER

Vanessa, we will always be friends. You just have to learn how to be calm...be cool.

VANESSA

I could do that. *(They look at each other and then go crazy screaming).*

JENNIFER

He really asked me out to the dance. I'm so excited! *(They exit screaming).*

SALLY

(Sally and Frank enter opposite sides. When they notice each other they run towards each other). Frank I have to—

FRANK

Sally, I need to—Oh sorry, you first.

SALLY

No, you go first.

FRANK

No, ladies, first.

SALLY

Um...I'm sorry I won't be able to go to the dance with you.

FRANK

Really.

SALLY

Yeah, I'm sorry. I told someone else I would take them.

FRANK

No, that's okay. I kind of did the same thing.

SALLY

Really? Who are you taking?

FRANK

Don't get mad, but I'm taking Jennifer.

SALLY

Really? Why, Jennifer?

FRANK

Well, she's really nice and she's a great dancer. And she helped me get an A in class. I just thought I should take her. You know, as a thank you.

SALLY

That's cool.

FRANK

Who are you taking?

SALLY

Believe it or not, Bryce.

FRANK

Bryce?

SALLY

Yeah, he is so much cooler when you get to know him. He's really not a nerd at all.

FRANK

Really?

SALLY

Yeah. Well, I guess I'll see you at the dance.

FRANK

I'll see you there.

BRYCE

(Enters with Lisa). You know I've never been in here before.

LISA

Why not?

BRYCE

Because I don't do too well in crowds. They make me nervous.

LISA

Well, in order to learn how to dance the first step is to learn how to relax. *(Music is playing)* Now let's start easy. Let's start with a sway. Just follow me. *(She sways back and forth. Bryce follows, but it is clear he has no rhythm.)* Bryce, just follow the music. *(She continues, but he cannot seem to follow well.)* You know what let's try something else. Let's try the two step. It's easy; you just left step, right step, left step, right step, and repeat. *(As she continues he follows unsuccessfully).* *(As she continues he follows unsuccessfully).* Okay. Stop. Let's do this. Just stand still, close your eyes and listen to the music. Don't, move, just breath in the music breathe in the rhythm. Now when I count to three just move with the music. Let the beat move your feet. Okay. 1, 2, 3, now dance. *(He begins to dance awfully).* Uh, not so hard, just move to the groove. Don't...no...that's not exactly...just let the music move you...okay this is not working---

ROBERT

(Approaches Lisa and Bryce). Yo, what are you doing?

BRYCE

I'm dancing...I think.

LISA

He's just learning how to---

ROBERT

That dance is awesome. What do you call it?

LISA and BRYCE

Excuse me?

ROBERT

What do you call the dance? It's awesome.

BRYCE

I don't know. It doesn't have a name.

ROBERT

Well, it has to have a name. What's your name?

BRYCE

Bryce.

ROBERT

Then we'll call it the Bryce. Can you teach it to me?

BRYCE

I guess so. You just do this.

KATHRYN

Oh my gosh, what is that?

ROBERT

It's the Bryce.

KATHRYN

Can you teach it to me?

ROBERT

Of course.

JESSICA

What's going on?

DAVID

Yeah, what's going on over here?

ROBERT

I'm about to teach everyone a new dance. This guy right here made it up.

ZELDA

What's it called?

ROBERT

Come on everybody gather around; I'm gonna teach you a dance that's new in town. It's called the Bryce and it's very nice like sugar and spice; it's sweet and easy come on let's be breezy and do the Bryce. –Dance Break-- Just lift your legs just like a horse and flap your arms like a bird of course, and do the Bryce. –Dance Break-- Just take my advice; if you'll ask me twice; I'll tell you thrice, just do the Bryce – Dance—I don't roll dice and I don't chase mice, but if you'll ask me twice; I'll tell you thrice I do the Bryce. Bryce, Bryce, do the Bryce (Repeat 4x). The Bryce...is cooler than ice and noisy device; I won't pay the price for a pizza slice, but if you'll ask me twice; I'll tell you thrice I do the Bryce. DANCE BREAK. JUST DO THE BRYCE!

BRYCE

(Enters dancing and singing). Just do the Bryce, just do the Bryce. (Kenny approaches him.)

KENNY

Bryce.

BRYCE

Don't touch me or I'll tell Ms. Teacher.

KENNY

Calm down, man. Be cool. I'm not going to hit you.

BRYCE

Well, you are not taking my lunch either.

KENNY

I know. I have my own.

BRYCE

Oh. Then what do you want?

KENNY

I just wanted to apologize to you for every time I bullied you. It was wrong and I was hoping you would forgive me.

BRYCE

Is this a joke?

KENNY

No. Do you forgive me?

BRYCE

Well, I don't know. How do I know you won't do it again?

KENNY

I won't I promise. *(He puts his hand out. Bryce reluctantly goes to shake it. Finally he shakes Kenny's hand). I'm sorry, Bryce. (He embraces him).*

BRYCE

Wow, you hugged me. Did you get saved or something?

KENNY

(Laughs). Something like that. *(School bell rings)* Let's get to class; we don't want to be late.

TEACHER

Alright class, put your books away its time for a pop test-quiz.

KENNY

Hey Ms. Teacher, where's Lisa?

TEACHER

Who?

KENNY

Lisa?

FRANK

Who's Lisa?

KENNY

The girl from New York.

DONALD

What girl?

KENNY

Lisa, she transferred here from New York.

VICTOR

Kenny, are you okay?

TEACHER

Do you need to see the nurse, Kenny? If you act as strange as you're acting, you just might get more than a band-aid.

KENNY

I'm fine. Don't any of you remember Lisa?

VANESSA

I don't remember her.

JENNIFER

Maybe you had one of those dreams last night that seemed really real. Real enough to make you believe it was reality.

KENNY

No, it wasn't a dream. She came here from New York and she—don't you remember her?

TEACHER

Okay that's enough talking. You have to finish your pop test-quiz in enough time so you can take your text book test. Everyone quiet.

LISA

(Appears). Kenny.

KENNY

Lisa! Is that you?

LISA

Yes it is. No one else can see me.

KENNY

Are you...what I think you are?

LISA

Yes.

KENNY

How come no one else remembers you?

LISA

My job was not to be remembered, it was to unify you and your classmates by simply helping you to realize the more time you see the good in someone the less you'll see the bad.

KENNY

Why am I the only one who can see you?

LISA

Because you needed me the most work. How is it going at your aunt's house?

KENNY

Really well. Thank you again. My dad is in counseling. He visits me every other weekend and he actually apologized to me. I thank you for everything you've done.

LISA

It was my job. I have to leave now. My job is done.

KENNY

Lisa. Why don't you have wings?

LISA

We don't all have wings.

KENNY

Why not?

LISA

We don't all need them. I have to go back now. Take care of your cousin. He looks up to you. And take Bryce to a baseball game. He likes to watch baseball.

KENNY

Bryce watches baseball? Who would have thought?

LISA

Well, if you spend less time judging and more time asking; you'll get to know a person better. Take care. *(She disappears.)*

KENNY

(Looks out to the audience). And that's my story. You may not believe it, but it happened. After Lisa left; our school became more unified. There were no more fights and no more bullies. But no one remembers Lisa except me. Bryce and I go to the ball game at least once a month. And you know he's not as annoying as one would think. He's pretty cool for a nerd.

BRYCE

I'm not a nerd!

*When the world troubles get to you; and you start to get too blue
It's time to let go and put your troubles down; Put a smile on your face and remove that frown
It is time to DANCE
Dance like there's only good days. DANCE. Dance like you see the sun rays
Forget about hell and think of only Heaven*

*You've got cares on your mind and your troubles you can't seem to forget
When you feel you're falling down and the floor you're about to hit
Then it's time to let go and put your troubles down
Put a smile on your face and remove that frown
And go ahead and DANCE. Let the music be your joy; let the rhythm be your happiness
Go ahead and DANCE. Don't think of the mess only think of goodness.
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-----MUSIC-----

*When you feeling bad, when you feeling sad, when depression got you down
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