

Now I Lay Me Down To Sleep

By
Jerry Walker

Walker8066@roadrunner.com
98 Hi Vu Drive
Standish, Maine 04084
Tel. 207 642-5188

Cast List
(in order of appearance)

Julie
A Girl
Guy
Jeffrey
Young Girl
Young Man
Lexie
Emily
Sam
Upperclassman
Paige
Tyler
The others
Skinny Girl 1
Skinny Girl 2
Carla
George
Roger
Jonathan
Jonathan's Mother
Samantha
Spike
Redstreak
Teardrop
Cara The Magnificent

Carl
Hank
Real Cute Girl
Rachael
Clara
Jenny
Adam
Jake
Sarah Grace
Robert
Jerk 1
Jerk 2
Chuck
Jody
Joey
Andrea
Billy
Mindy
Jeff
Nancy
Jeanette
Dick
Jane
Kate
Dad
Mother
Doctor
Nurse

Lifeless Figure In The Bed

NOW I LAY ME DOWN TO SLEEP

VOICES IN THE NIGHT

The set can be a bare stage with area lighting or it can be quite elaborate. Actually you can do pretty much what you please. (The original production had four areas with large set pieces. A swing set; a park bench and street light; a set of lockers and a white door framed in black.

Light Cue #1

THE CURTAIN OPENS ON A DARK STAGE.

A CHILDLIKE VOICE

Now I lay me down to sleep.
I pray the Lord my soul to keep.
If I should die before I wake
I pray the Lord my soul to take.

A PRAYER is spoken in a child like voice. OTHER VOICES join the prayer and it becomes louder and more intense. Suddenly it's silenced by a:

Sound Cue # 1 GUNSHOT.

JULIE

Light Cue #2 Light the swing

The lights come up on a GIRL on a swing. After a moment or two she slows the swing and speaks to the AUDIENCE.

JULIE

I love that little prayer. When I was little I used to say it every night. My favorite part was the God blesses at the end. I'd bless my cat, my bureau, the bus driver, my swing set, everything. Being a little kid was so great. I mean, all you had to do was play and have fun and everyone treated you special.

She can get up here and move or she can stay on the swing.

JULIE (cont'd)

But, then you grow up and everything changes.

(pause)

That's what this play is about. Everyday, it seems like something terrible happens to you. Like you get a zit and some hunky guy walks by, and he almost looks at you, but he doesn't and you know he saw the zit and he thinks you're ugly. So you try to hide it and of course it just keeps growing bigger. Everyone in school looks at you funny, so you spend the whole day with your hand over the thing. As if that's going to help... In school you're bombarded every day with do this, do that, don't do this, don't do that. Then you go home and the same thing happens all over again. Nobody understands what a horrible day you've had and they think you're just exaggerating h, I get so mad sometimes. We can usually handle most of these things, even if we don't seem to at the time. But, there's more. Some of us have another life, that we don't want anyone to know about. Private things, that we try to keep to ourselves. They just keep gnawing at you and you think you're going to explode and you fight against it, making life miserable for those around you. That usually doesn't help much. I just wish teachers and parents would lighten up a bit. Give us a break. Being a teenager is hard work. Most of us deal with our problems and we survive. Some don't.

No one on stage sees Julie, ever... the only exception is when she joins Lexie in ISN'T HE GORGEOUS. She can hang out at the swing set/playground... she can drift into some scenes, but must remain on the outside as a spectator.

Light Cue #3 The swing light goes out.

Sound Cue #2 A SCHOOL BELL rings.

DO YOU KNOW WHERE ROOM 118 IS?

Light Cue #4 General wash of Stage

Suddenly, there is a lot of chatter and noise. STUDENTS are coming into school. The entire cast should flood the stage with before school activity and noise. They can come out of the audience or appear on stage. The choices are endless. They should then just as quickly disappear.

A GIRL is left standing DC.

She appears lost.

A YOUNG GIRL rushes past her.

GIRL

(to girl rushing past)

Do you know where room 118 is?

The GIRL RUSHING PAST doesn't answer and dashes off stage left.

GIRL (cont'd)

(sarcastically, to stage left)

Thanks, a lot.

Light Cue #5 Fade to single light on girl DC.

(to audience)

This is my first day in this dump and I hate it here. Do you think my parents care? No, they don't care. They just yanked me out of my old school and dragged me here. I yelled and screamed and stamped my feet. I even threatened to pierce my nose, my lip, my eyebrows, and date the biggest loser in school if they made me move here. That didn't make any difference. They just didn't care. So here I am in this godawful place. I hate it here. It's my senior year! All my friends are going to graduate together, but not me. It's not fair.

(MORE)

GIRL (CONT'D)

My parents don't know what a horrible thing they've done to me. My father had a perfectly good job. But was he satisfied? NO. It wasn't where he wanted to be at this time in his life. He wanted more for us. So he quits and drags us all off to the wilderness. He says, "You'll love it there. It's really a safe place to grow up." Yeah right! The first week we were here I was all covered with bug bites. I had to wear long sleeves to cover up the wounds... And get this, I went for a walk on this cute little path. It was really pretty. You could hear the birds singing and cute little animals were running back and forth across the path. Maybe this isn't so bad after all I thought. And then, a bunch of four-wheelers came screaming right at me. I had to dive into the woods. I almost got killed!!! Does that sound safe to you? And listen to this. Last night we had a skunk in the back yard and our dumb dog "Shadow" thought he had a new playmate. Ya right. The stupid dog ran back into the house and hid in my clothes closet. I can still smell it in my clothes. No wonder no one will stop and tell me where room 118 is.*

At this point she may want to throw a little tantrum or even a big one. It depends on how angry she is.

GIRL (CONT'D) (cont'd)

There's nothing to do here. No movies, no mall, no nothing. I just sit in my room and look at my old yearbooks and cry. They don't care. My Mom says, "you can meet some nice kids here and everything will be fine." Yeah right. The kids here are so weird and they talk funny too. Ayuh, howyadoin. God, they're awful!

A YOUNG MAN appears. He is nice looking. In fact, he is great looking. The GIRL stands there with her mouth open, stunned by his awesome good looks. She is unable to speak.

GUY

Hi, are you lost or something?

GIRL

(with mouth gaped open)

Uhuh.

GUY
You're new here aren't you?

GIRL
Uhuh.

GUY
Can I help you?

GIRL
(with a shake of the head)
Uhuh

GUY
Let me see your schedule?

GIRL
(regaining her composure)
Okay.

GUY
Hey, neat we have the same classes.

GIRL
(happily)
We do?

GUY
Yeah, come on I'll show you around.

GIRL
OK, I really love it here.

She follows him out.

**Light Cue # 6 Light up at Locker light
wash SL**

*Julie enters the scene and stands by
the lockers. It would be neat if she
was sitting on top of them.*

JULIE
She survived. They're going out now. She's lucky, she got one
of the good ones. Most of the boys here are so gross. God,
they act so dumb.

FRESHMAN IN A LOCKER

A GROUP OF BOY'S enter and act dumb. Over do it. Act real dumb for about 5 seconds. You know how to do it. Exit stage Left

JULIE

And they're so mean. They really are. They're always picking on people.

JEFFREY walks into the light CS and stops. He keeps glancing down the hallway as if looking for someone. He appears apprehensive about entering SENIOR HALL.

JEFFREY

(to audience)

Hi. That's senior hall. I have to go down there. I'm a freshman. Yesterday, when I went down there, they stuffed me in a locker. I was in there a long time before the janitor let me out. Being a freshman sucks. I'm thinking of quitting school and coming back when I'm a sophomore. I remember last year when I was in eighth grade. I was cool and... now I'm a freshman. I used to be one of the biggest kids in school and nobody messed with me. I must of shrunk or something.

He glances nervously down the hallway.

JEFFREY (cont'd)

Okay, think it's all clear. Here goes.

He gets into a crouch ready to sprint down the hallway.

JEFFREY (cont'd)

(to audience)

Wish me luck.

Sound Cue #3 The Bell rings.

Jeffrey takes off. The light stays on.

VOICES are heard off stage.

VOICES
 HI Jeffrey.

JEFFREY
 Oh NOOOO!!!

VOICES
 C'mere Jeeffffrey.

JEFFREY
 C'MON GUYS DON'T. NOT AGAIN.

Sound Cue #4 Locker slamming

There is the sound of laughter, screams and the slamming of a locker door. THREE BOYS dash into the light, look back offstage and disappear UR. There is pause and then the sound of someone knocking on a locker is heard offstage.

JEFFREY (cont'd)
 IS ANYONE OUT THERE?

SILENCE

Julie x's and sits on bench.

JULIE
 And then there's freshman girls. Talk about dumb.

SCUM OF THE EARTH

LightCue7 Julie out Light Bench and Door.

A YOUNG GIRL and a YOUNG MAN appear on stage or they can come on and meet accidentally or they can come on in the dark and the lights come on with them in position. Or, you can do something else.

YOUNG GIRL
 Do you see that! That... SCUM OF THE EARTH over there.
(points to the boy)
 (MORE)

YOUNG GIRL (CONT'D)

I hate him. I really hate him. Why? You want to know why? OK, I'll tell you. He asked me out on a date. I was so excited. He was so nice to me. And then, he said "I love you." On the first date. I couldn't believe it. He said it was love at first sight. He was a senior and he loved me. I just knew he was the one... This is my freshman year and I wanted to be popular, but I never expected this. A senior. My God, all my friends died when they heard he asked me out. We had a wonderful date and he asked me out again. And then. Get this. He said, "when e in love you have sex". And I believed him. What an idiot I was.....

YOUNG MAN

(points to the girl)

She's cute and a freshman. So I made my move. I mean, why not? My buddies told me it was easy. You ask them to go out on a couple of dates, tell 'em you love 'em and bang.

(not really proud of himself)

It was easy.

YOUNG GIRL

I was so dumb. He dumped me the next week. He didn't care about me. I was just another girl he could brag about to his friends.

YOUNG MAN

She was so dumb. I dumped her the next week. She cried and carried on. It was awful. Man, she should of known better. No one falls in love that fast. I kinda feel real bad for her though. Really. I mean she was a nice kid.

YOUNG GIRL

(to him angrily)

What do you mean, I was a nice kid. I am a nice kid. You could have waited to get to know me. I really cared about you.

YOUNG MAN

You were all over me. What did you expect?

YOUNG GIRL

I thought that's what you wanted.

YOUNG MAN

I thought that's what you wanted. I'm sorry. I know I should have waited. But....

He pauses and looks over at THE YOUNG GIRL.

YOUNG MAN (cont'd)

You want to go out again?

YOUNG GIRL

No!

Light Cue #8

Her light goes out.

His light goes out.

Jeffrey bangs on the locker

JEFFREY

IS ANYONE OUT THERE?????

Light cue #9 Light up on the bench.

JULIE

(still on the bench)

Love can be a real painful thing. Sometimes no matter how much you want someone to care about you it just doesn't work out. My friend Lexie has this humongous crush on this guy who already has a girlfriend, but she doesn't care. She waits around just to get a look at him. She's so weird.

ISN'T HE GORGEOUS

Light comes up on LEXIE standing in front of a locker. Julie walks into the scene.

LEXIE

He oughta be here any minute.

JULIE

I don't believe you.

LEXIE

What?

JULIE

You just hang around here waiting to see him?

LEXIE

Yeah.

JULIE

He's not that great.

LEXIE

He is too!

JULIE

Lexie, he has a girlfriend.

LEXIE

Maybe they broke up.

JULIE

Yeah right, whatever.

LEXIE

They could of.

JULIE

He doesn't know you exist. Oh never mind. Are you ready?

LEXIE

Shush, here he comes. OOOooh, look at him. He's gorgeous.

LEXIE (cont'd)

Hi.

GUY

Huh! Oh hi.

Light Cue #10 light up DL By door. Blue wash.

He walks by and strolls up to his girlfriend. Lexie watches. Julie pushes Lexie off stage then stops to watch the next scene.

DISAPPOINTMENT***

A young girl comes to center stage. It appears she

is waiting for someone. She then starts to leave.

A young boy zips in from up right.

SAM

Hey Emily, wait up.

EMILY

(disappointed)

Oh, hi Sam.

SAM

(perplexed)

Hi, I've been looking for you. I haven't seen you for a couple days. I tried to call you last night, but you weren't home.

EMILY

(still looking for someone)

I was out.

SAM

Oh. Is something wrong?

EMILY

No.

SAM

Are you sure. I haven't seen much of you since we started school. I thought we were going out.

EMILY

Huh?

SAM

I thought we were going out. Like last year in middle school. You wanna go to the game after school.

An upper classman strolls into the scene.

UPPER CLASSMAN

Hey Em. You ready.

EMILY

Yeah, ah... see you later Sam.

They exit up left, leaving Sam standing center stage watching them leave.

SAM

(yelling to Emily)

OK... Alright... Go on. Dump me if you want. I'll be alright... yeah, I'll be fine. MAYBE I'LL GET MYSELF A SENIOR. HUH, HOWDAH YA LIKE THAT.

JEFFREY

(sharply)

IS ANYONE OUT THERE!!!

SAM

WILL YOU SHUT UP!!!

Sam sprays a little breath mint and zips offstage on his quest for a senior girl.

Light cue #11 Crossfade to Julie on swing.

JULIE

(Back to swing)

Go get'em big guy... Of course sometimes love happens and you wish it didn't.

TYLER AND PAIGE

Light Cue #12 Cross fade to Bench, Bring up Street light and light down Center and SL.

The lights come on revealing PAIGE. She is sitting on a bench, in a park, reading a book. She is well-dressed and well groomed. She is perfect.

TYLER enters on a skate board and skates around the bench and stops DL. He is not well dressed, or well groomed and he is definitely not perfect. He can really show off here. If he can do a trick let him. He gets off the board with a flourish.

TYLER

(to audience)

Hey!

*He glances at the girl on the bench.
She glances at him. They both quickly
look away.*

TYLER (cont'd)

(to audience)

That's Paige Smith. I love her. I think she loves me too. No fooling, I think she does. Yesterday, in the lunchroom, she said "hi" to me. Wow man, did I get nervous. I mean, all I could say was "halaaaa". I had a mouth full of pizza. Man, I musta sounded like an idiot, but ya know what, she didn't care. I mean, she still smiled at me. That's how I know she loves me. Girls don't smile at you when you make an idiot out of yourself unless they love you. Man, it's just a matter of time before we're together. Later.

*He climbs back on his board and skates
back by Paige and off stage.*

PAIGE

(to audience)

OH.. MY.. Gaawwd. Isn't he fabulous? Did you see him on that skateboard? He's sooo good and he's so cute. Ooooh gawd, I love him. I know I shouldn't, but I do. All my friends think I'm nuts. They think he's a loser and he'll get me into trouble... As if!! And he wears the neatest clothes. He has these big baggy pants that hang on the edge of his cute little butt. Someday I'd like to reach out and give them a little tug, but I wouldn't dare.

(pause and ponder)

My friends say all he does is ride around on that skate board and smoke pot. So what, that doesn't bother me. I can deal with that. I can get him to change.

Sound Cue #5

BOING!!! WARNING.

*A sting on the organ or something might
be neat here. (dum da dum dum)*

PAIGE (CONT'D) (cont'd)

I've never had a boyfriend. I think it's because I'm smart. Being smart scares boys away. You won't believe this, yesterday, in the lunchroom, I said "hi" to him. He was eating lunch and he said "halaloo" or something like that. It was so cute. I mean, his mouth was full of pizza and he still tried to talk to me. He must love me. Boy's don't make an idiot out of themselves unless they love you. I really want a boyfriend.

TYLER

(skating in on board)

You rang.

Light Cue #13 Blackout

Black out or you could have fireworks and real corny love scene. Either one works.

Five count

**Light Cue #14 Cross fade to Bench,
Bring up Street light. And light down
Center and SL.**

The lights come up on the bench. TYLER skateboards in and sits on the bench. (Paige has a quick costume change.) PAIGE enters. She is wearing baggy clothes, the sleeves of her flannel hang over her hands. She has a baseball hat on backwards. Her hair is down and straight. She slumps onto the bench next to TYLER.

PAIGE

Hey.

TYLER

Hey.

A bunch of their friends enter and hang out around the light.

TYLER AND PAIGE

Hey.

THE OTHERS

Hey.

They all take out fake cigarettes and smoke. The stage should fill with smoke. Use a smoke machine. (We ran a hose up the light pole and pumped the smoke out at head level. It worked great.)After a moment Tyler rises and starts to leave.

TYLER

I'll be right back.

PAIGE

Where you going?

TYLER

I have to get something.

PAIGE

Later.

TYLER

Later.

THE OTHERS

Later.

TYLER

Later.

TYLER jumps on his board and skates off.

PAIGE picks at her clothes and sniffs a few times. She takes a cigarette package out of her pocket and starts to open it. The FRIENDS stand there smoking.

She notices the audience.

PAIGE

What are you looking at? Me! You looking at me?

(pause)

Oh, I get it. You're disappointed in me.

(standing up)

Why? I'm happy. I got Tyler. He loves me and I love him. Things are going great. Oh, you don't believe me, huh. Well it's true, things are really, really great and you know what else.

She walks down stage.

PAIGE (cont'd)

I got friends, now. Lot'sa friends and they like me. They don't care if I'm smart or not. I'm cool. My friends are cool. So go away. Go stare at someone else.

PAIGE goes back to her new friends.

PAIGE (cont'd)

Hey!

THE OTHERS

Hey!

They freeze.

Light Cue #15 Wash and DL

TYLER is standing DL. His skate board under his arm. He is watching Paige.

TYLER

(to audience)

I ruined her didn't I? Remember how nice she looked when I introduced her to you? I don't know what happened. I didn't want to ruin her. Do you know what I really thought? I thought she might save me.

He turns around and walks out of his light and out of her life.

Light cue #16 Cross fade to Swing.

The light comes up on Julie.

JULIE

That happens a lot. Sometimes, I can't believe what some girls will do. It's as though they don't think, and you can't tell them anything. They don't believe you. They just don't see themselves as they are. They see themselves as they want to be.

**Light Cue # 17 Light up on park bench
no street light. Light wash on Lockers
and UL**

CARLA***

Seated on the bench is Carla and Skinny Girl No. 1. Skinny Girl No. 1 is nibbling on a carrot stick.

Carla, is a big girl, not fat. Big, as in tall and large, has a slab of pizza and a giant pile of french fries in front of her and she is holding up a 20 oz. bottle of diet soda.

SKINNY GIRL NO. 1

I could hardly fit into my dress this morning. It's like sooo tight.

(waving her carrot stick)

Course, James thinks I look alright.

(giggles)

He is so hot. I think he is going to ask me to the prom. God, I can't wait. Do you think I look too

Carla has a mouth full of french fries and is about to gulp down a gallon of soda. She is unable to answer.

SKINNY GIRL NO. 1 (cont'd)

You do don't you. I knew it. I'm getting fat. What am I going to do?

Carla still can't answer.

SKINNY GIRL NO. 1 (cont'd)

A diet. I'm going to diet. No more food.

She tosses her carrot stick into her lunch bag and pushes it away from her. She takes the cap off a bottle of bottled water and starts to drink.

SKINNY GIRL NO. 1 (cont'd)

All I'm going to eat is water.

She notices someone off stage and waves to her. SKINNY GIRL NO. 2 enters carrying a prom dress catalogue. She plops the catalog in front of Skinny Girl No. 1 and the squealing begins. Carla continues to stuff her face and watches them.

SKINNY GIRL NO.2
(pointing to a dress in the catalog)
Don't you just love it.

SKINNY GIRL NO. 1
Ohhh my Gawd . I love it. Are you getting that one? Are you?

SKINNY GIRL NO.2
Yeeessss. Don't you love it?

SKINNY GIRL NO.1
Yeeesss. I love it.

They both start to squeal and they grab up their stuff and squeal their way off stage. Carla just sits there for a moment watching them leave.

Light Cue # 18 Light bench no Street light. Wash out UL and Lockers

CARLA
(to audience)
They don't have a clue... Every day they run around with their bony little butts wiggling, and bitching about how fat they are getting. They are sick. I mean it, they're sick. They don't eat. They devour little nuts, fruits and carrot sticks. They're all bones and makeup.

She places her trash in a trash can.

CARLA(cont'd)
The boys like them though. In fact, they love 'em.

She moves downstage.

CARLA (cont'd)
It really bothers me that they didn't even include me in there little conversation. It's as though they figured I wouldn't be interested in looking at prom gowns. I might. Maybe I have a date and I want to find a new gown to wear. They didn't even ask me. Well the hell with them. I wish I had a reason to have a prom gown. I've never been to the prom. I've never even had a date. Four years in high school and I haven't been to anything.

(MORE)

CARLA (CONT'D)

I used to go to dances in middle school. I'd stand there hoping someone would ask me to dance, but they never did. The boys used to make fun of me. I think I was happier then... you know, when they used to call me names and make fun of me. At least they knew I existed. They stopped doing that freshman year when I beat the crap out Eddie Wilson. God, that felt good. Now, they just don't pay attention to me. I just exist. Oh, I am kinda popular and I get elected to committees and stuff, everyone likes to have me around when there is work to be done, but usually after the meeting or the project is over I end up alone, at home. They all go off with their little groups and they just sort of forget all about me. They aren't mean or anything. I just don't belong. Sometimes I wonder what it must be like to be thin. To have a tiny little body, with pert little boobs, and a tiny little butt. I close my eyes and just imagine what it must be like. Then I open my eyes and look in the mirror. I'm big, just big. I have always been big. There's nothing I can do about it... I try... I have been on a trillion diets... sometimes I even start to lose weight... but they don't last. Something happens and I get upset, then I eat. I know my folks love me and they're probably disappointed that I am not more popular with the boys. I bet they would love it if I brought home a boy. Maybe I will some day. Who knows...

Light Cue #19 Bench out Light up on the lockers and DC.

She leaves imitating the wiggle of the skinny freaks and walks by a boy who is bigger than she is. She gazes back at him over her shoulder.

CARLA (cont'd)
(with a toss of her head)

Hi George.

GEORGE
(smitten)

Hi Carla.

Carla exits the stage.

GEORGE (cont'd)

George paces back and forth. A group of kids rush by in gym clothes.

GEORGE (cont'd)
(to audience)

I got gym class.

VOICE STAGE LEFT.

GEORGE, MOVE IT!

GEORGE

(TO VOICE)

I AM.

(to audience)

I hate gym class. Well not gym class, that's fun. It's the before and after gym class I hate. It's kinda embarrassing to have to get changed in front of everyone. So I hang around out here until the others come out.

VOICE STAGE RIGHT

GEORGE, MOVE IT.

GEORGE

(screaming offstage)

I AAAAMMMM!!!

(back to audience)

And do you know what they expect you to do after gym class? They expect you to take a shower, with everyone...no way. I ain't going to strip naked and jump into a shower with a bunch of guys. It's too embarrassing. Why is it that boys have to take gang showers?... It's not fair.

(aside to audience)

You know what, I snuck into the girls locker room once. I couldn't believe it... they got nice little booths with curtains, little benches, a little shelf to put their shampoo on... Can you believe that? We don't even have doors on the toilets. It's a wonder we're not all constipated. I like my privacy and this is how I get it. I hang out here until the rest are gone and then I go in and change. Now I'm going to be late for gym and get laps and then I'll stall after gym so I can have some privacy while I shower, which will make me late for class and I'll get detention, so I'll be late to football practice and I'll get more laps.

(pause)

You'd think with all that exercise I'd look better.

VOICE STAGE RIGHT

GEORGE!! I SAID MOVE IT!!

GEORGE

I AM!!

He stomps into the locker room. Lights out.

Light Cue #20 door light and light wash SR and CS.

**(Jeffrey bangs on the locker. His voice is getting weaker.)*

JEFFREY

IS.. ANYONE... OUT.... THERE?????

I'M OUT'A HERE***

The door is ripped open and an angry young man charges out.

ROGER

I'M OUTTA HERE!!!

He slams the door shut.

ROGER (cont'd)

(To audience)

I'm out'a here..

(To door)

I HATE THIS PLACE! I CAN'T TAKE ANYMORE OF YOUR CRAP!

ROGER (cont'd)

(back to audience)

I really am out'a here. I'm sick of it. You know what I'm sick about? Huh... you wanta know what I'm sick about? Ok, I'll tell ya. I'm sick about being picked on. By everyone. Especially that jerk in there... everyday.... every day I'm in that room I get picked on. It's just the homeroom for criss sakes... just the home room. Everybody's sort hangin' out and just talking... gettin' ready ta start the day... no problems... just hangin' out. Then, the jerk comes in and starts kiddin' around with some of his "nice kid" students. Ya know the aaaatheleeets. So, get this... the warning bell rings... so Mr. Cool guy... looks around the room. Everybody's talkin', but he looks right at me and guess what? He screams right at me. "Roger let's quiet down and take a seat." I look around the room and I'm thinkin', Whoa. I didn't know everyone in the room was called Roger... I musta made a funny face or something cause then he really yelled " I SAID SIT DOWN, ROGER! Well, you know the rest. Now where do I go?

He stands there thinking about the answer. He then exits DL

The door is yanked open again. Another angry young man steps out and yells back into the room. He needs something to make a sound on the bleep words.

JONATHAN

I'm out'a here you(bleep bleep). We gut free speech you know. It's in the (bleep) Constitution of the United States you (bleep,bleep,bleep).

JONATHAN (cont'd)

(To audience)

What's wrong with these(bleeps). They always want to tell us what we can say or what we can't say. They got no right to do that. The Constitution of the U-nited--States of America says we got the right to free speech and that (Bleep, Bleep, Bleep) in there says it don't apply in school. Well lets see them stop me from saying (Bleep, Bleep, Bleep, Bleep, Bleep, Bleep. Etc....)

Jonathan UR. He starts back to the door. The bleeping continues. When he turns back UR a woman appears in the way. It's his mother. She appears not to be too impressed with his behavior.

MOTHER OF JONATHAN

What's the (bleeping)matter with you... you are a disgusting (Bleep, Bleep). You're just like your(bleeping) father.

(Improv on exit. More mother bleeping then son.)

The exit UR, the air filled with them Bleeping each other.

The door again is opened and a scantily dressed girl appears.

SAMANTHA

I'M OUTTA HERE AND I'M NOT COMING BACK.

(to the audience)

Do I look that bad. Am I a disgrace to the human race. Can you believe she said that to me. She's just jealous that she doesn't have my figure. These are pretty tight abs... they oughta be seen... and my skirt ain't too short... my legs are just too long. And a little cleavage never hurt no one. If you got it show it. That's what my mom say's. And get this, they don't like my shirt. What's wrong with it... Eye Candy... big deal, what's wrong with that. I don't get it. People should be able to dress the way they want. It don't hurt no one.

She stands there feeling the eyes of the world on her. She lowers her head and crosses her arms over her chest.

SAM AND SAMANTHA

Sam enters the stage and seeing Samantha he takes a cocky little stroll over to her and he stands there looking up at her.

SAM

Are you a senior?

Samantha stares down at him not sure what to say.

SAMANTHA

No. I'm a sophomore.

SAM

You look like a senior.

SAMANTHA

Well, I'm not. Goodbye.

She leaves.

SAM

(to audience)

She'll do.

He follows her.

Light cue. #21 Full Stage lights.

WEARING BLACK***

A Young Man In Black enters UR and walks across the stage. He is dressed in an all black outfit, including a hat and long trench coat. Three of his friends enter with him and gather around the bench. A group of popular kids gather DL. They are standing around waiting for the school bell to ring.

Two guys and a girl enter UL. They are dressed in letter jackets and athletic clothes.

*They stand in a group by the lockers.
The young man in black crosses over and
stares at them. They back up.*

SPIKE

Did you see that? Wow, what a laugh, Huh? I love it. They was scared to death. No one messes with me anymore. Not since I started wearing black.

*A group of kids wearing glasses and
carrying back packs and looking very
studious enter UR*

SPIKE (cont'd)

Graahhhhhhhh!

THE NERDS

Yikes!!! EEEEk!!!

REDSTREAK
(sneaking up behind them)

Boo.....

THE NERDS

AAAHHHH!

They dash off UR.

REDSTREAK

What a bunch of nerds. Up there are the jocks. Over there are the good kids, the preppies and here come the nerds again.
(*The nerds sneak back in UR*)

Man, they are pathetic.

Redstreak crosses to C stage

REDSTREAK (cont'd)

I can't stand the way these kids get together in their little groups. They think they are so great. Look at 'em. They all have to act alike and dress have their own cute little language.

*At this point each group takes a brief
moment to give an example of their
unique language. Make it quick, 5
seconds tops. All freeze facing front.*

REDSTREAK (cont'd)

See what I mean. I am an individual. I dress the way I want to. No group is going to tell me how to look.

*She returns to Kids in Black and all
four groups face front.*

Sound Cue: 6 School Bell Rings.

They all X into the school UL Except Teardrop who drifts DC and talks to the audience.

TEARDROP

(to audience)

I really don't belong in that group I mean, it's a total accident that I ended up there. One day my mom and I were talking about clothes and stuff and she told me that she liked to wear black, cause it was slimming. So I figured, what the heck, I'll wear all black today... so I did. I put on black lipstick, black eye shadow, and I thought I really looked pretty good. When I got to school everyone avoided me, even my friends. I felt myself standing alone. A lot. And then this kid called Billy came over and said "Hi, I'm Billy." He was wearing all black too. Except that he always wore all black. But, he was friendly and we started talking and then we met a few other kids that wore black and they were really nice to me. I didn't know it at the time, but my old friends dropped me right out of their lives. At first they would say "hi" but eventually they just ignored me, but not Billy and the others. I started wearing all black all the time. But, I still missed my old friends. That's why I wear this tear drop.

She starts to exit UL

Suddenly a loud voice is heard and a girl carrying a large sign with the words "Down with clicks".

CARA THE MAGNIFICENT

ALRIGHT EVERYBODY LISTEN UP. We are going to stop this clique stuff and treat each other with the respect and love that every human being deserves.

(noticing everyone is gone)

Where did everybody go? Crap!

She sits on the bench holding her sign.

Teardrop is hanging around the locker listening.

CARA THE MAGNIFICENT

(cont'd)

I give up.

(shouting off UL)

YOU CAN KEEP YOUR STUPID LITTLE GROUPS... I DON'T CARE.

(To audience)

I hate cliques.

(MORE)

CARA THE MAGNIFICENT

Everybody has a little group to hang out with, except me. I think people are interesting and they all have something to offer. So I find it difficult to be with just one group all the time. I know a lot of the kids from all the groups and when I am with them alone we get along great, but then other kids from their group show up and I'm just pushed aside... and sometimes they just get up and walk away. They don't even say goodbye.

TEARDROP

(walking over to her)

Hi.

CARA THE MAGNIFICENT

Huh?

TEARDROP

You want to form our own group?

CARA THE MAGNIFICENT

You look like you are already in a group.

TEARDROP

That's a long story. I'm really getting tired of looking like this. I just want to wear a different color once in a while. What do you think, want to form our own little clique.

CARA THE MAGNIFICENT

(getting up)

Why not. What's the story...

They both get up and exit during the final lines.

TEARDROP

Well, one day my mom and I were talking about clothes and stuff, and she told me she liked to wear black because it's slimming. So I decided to wear all black and.....

CARA THE MAGNIFICENT

You didn't. That's a riot.

They both start to laugh and exit UL

CARL AND HANK***

Someone dressed as a coach comes out and slaps a sign on the lockers and someone dressed as a drama teacher slaps another sign on the door. A young man enters and reads the sign on the lockers.

CARL

(turning away)

Man, that's not fair...

Another guy walks up and reads the same sign.

HANK

Man, that's not fair.

CARL

What's not fair? You made the team. I'm the one who didn't.

HANK

That's what I meant. I can't believe you didn't make it. Hey, your much better than Connors. He's the one that should of been cut. You've been on the team for three years. I'll quit.

CARL

No, you're not going to quit.

HANK

You sure?

CARL

Yeah, I'm sure.

HANK

(Relieved)

What are you going to do?

Carl shrugs and walks off. He stops at the door to read the sign there.

HANK (cont'd)

(to audience)

Poor Carl, he's upset. He's been on the team the last three years. Course he never got off the bench. What a bummer. He really loved the game. He just wasn't very good.

He walks off in the opposite direction from Carl.

Carl is reading a notice about play auditions.

CARL

(back to audience)

Actually I'm kind of relieved. All I ever did was sit on the bench. I think it's for the best. Maybe I'll try out for the play. I always wanted to.

He goes back to read the notice on the door.

A real cute girl walks up and stands next to him.

REAL CUTE GIRL

You going to try out?

CARL

Huh...

REAL CUTE GIRL

You going to try out?

CARL

(noticing the real cute girl)

Yeah, yeah I Think I might. You?

REAL CUTE GIRL

Yep.

Carl checks the girl out and is very interested.

CARL

Me too.

He spryly follows her out.

Light Cue #22 Light up DL Door Light

ANYBODY NEED A PUMPKIN

A young girl or Boy x's to the door and reads the sign. Dejectedly turns and x's DC and stops, looks back at the door and then front.

RACHEL

I'd really like to try for that play. I bet it would be fun to be in, but I won't get a part. I never get a part. I was a pumpkin in a play once. I sat down front of the stage in the pumpkin patch. We got to sing a couple of songs, but the rest of the time we just sat there watched the stars have all the fun. I think they just created the pumpkin patch so all the kids could be in the play. I guess they thought that would help our self esteem or something. It didn't work. I didn't try out for any plays after that. I knew I wouldn't get a part. It seems like everything I try I end up in the pumpkin patch, with an orange face and dumb green stem stickin' out of my head. I try to do good, but I can't do it. Like I'm in class and the teacher is talking about something really neat and I'm listening and she says something... and I get an idea and then I'm thinking about the idea and... then the class is over and I hear the teacher say something like "It's due tomorrow".....and I realize that I went away again. Don't ask me where. I don't know what to do. I'd ask what they meant, but then they'd say something like "Ya, gotta pay attention Rachel. So I just don't do it... And then sometimes they hand out a paper and they say "now read the directions and finish this project by tomorrow" But, the directions are so long. I can't seem to read them. It's like there's a crank or something in head and it cranks all the words around and they get all jumbled up and I get all confused. I try to read the directions, but, just can't seem to do it. So I give up. I like it better when they have a picture or something I can see. At least then I got some idea of what they want. I bet that play's got a lot of words to learn. I probably couldn't learn all those words. I wonder if they need a pumpkin.... Yeah, Right.

She turns and walks off UR.

I NEED A MAN I CAN LOOK UP TO***

Light cue. 23 Door out. Bench in.

Samantha is sitting there. She is wearing a sweat suit.

She talks to the audience. During her monologue, Sam enters and hangs out in the background, listening.

SAMATHA

The principal made me change into this. He said that I should be more selective with what I wear to school. I was going to fight it, but I decided it wasn't worth it. I guess I was a little over the top with my outfit, but I just wanted to be seen as a woman. Do you realize how hard it is to be tall. Most of the boys around here are so short. I got a chance to go out with this neat guy. He is out of school, has his own car and he is taller than I am, but my parents won't even think of me going out with him just because he's 22. They're so not with it. They think that because I'm only 15 I should be hanging out with guys my own age. Have you seen the boys my own age. They only come up to my chest. You saw one earlier. He's the runt of the litter. They just don't meet my standards. I need a man I can look up to.

SAM

I don't think of myself as the runt of the litter. My brother is.

SAMATHA

What are you doing here?

SAM

(sitting next to her)

You're only 15. Me too.

SAMATHA

What are you doing here and why have you been following me?

SAM

I didn't realize we were the same age.

SAMATHA

Will you please go away.

SAM

You don't want to go out with some guy 22.

SAMATHA

Will you leave me alone?

SAM

He'll take advantage of you.

SAMATHA

That's it, I'm out of here.

She starts to leave.

SAM

Wait! Please! Look, think about it. How come girls his own age don't go out with him? A jerk, maybe? What does a guy 22 have in common with a girl 15? How about, nothing.

SAMATHA

You don't know him. He's really nice to me. He said he'd wait.

SAM

For what? What's he going to wait for. You to get out of high school. Fat chance of that. He'll be 24 then and probably he will still be pumping gas.

(thinking up a story)

How many other 15 year old girls do you think he dated.

SAMATHA

I don't know.

SAM

12.

SAMATHA

How do you know that?

SAM

(lying to her)

I checked up on him. My cousin is his parole officer.

SAMATHA

YOU WHAT? Why does he need a parole officer?

SAM

Back child support. 5 kids. He hasn't paid a cent. Went to jail. He's lucky he didn't get worse.

SAMATHA

(surprised, actually amazed)

My parents were right?

SAM

Look, I know you and I aren't quite the gorgeous couple and you probably would feel a little uncomfortable walking around holding hands. I know we would look a little ridiculous and only way we could dance cheek to cheek would be for you to turn around. How weird would that look.

*Samantha returns and sits next to Sam.
The both get a chuckle out of Sam's
comment.*

SAM (cont'd)

My dad's 6'4" and my mom's 6'. All my older brothers are over 6' and so are most of my relatives.

(MORE)

SAM (CONT'D)

The only one in the family that's short is my uncle Ralph and we all think his mother got mixed up with the milkman. So there's a good chance you are going to come to school one day and I will be the man you can look up to. What do you think?

SAMATHA

I'll wait.

She gets up and starts to leave. Stops. Comes back to him. Gives him kiss on the cheek and leaves.

SAMATHA (cont'd)

Try to hurry. I don't want to wait too long.

Sam leans back and smiles.

Light cue. 24 Bench out. Door in.

I JUST WANT TO BE ME

The door opens and a girl steps out. She has a paper in her hand. She stops and reads it.

CLARA

I have to go to the alternative school. They say I need more help than they can offer here. I hope no one finds out. They'll call me dummy or loser or something like that. I can't do the work here. I try, but I just can't seem to do it. I really don't like school anyway. I'd quit, but my folks won't let me. They say I need to get a high school diploma or I'll have a hard time getting a job. I don't want a job, I just want to do something I'm interested in. Something exciting. But, I can't do it here. I get too nervous. There's too many kids here. In class, I almost get sick every time the teacher starts to call on people. I'm afraid she will ask me a question and I won't know the answer and everyone will laugh at me. They've done it before and it was awful. They're always talking behind my back, making fun of me and calling me names. When I walk down the hallway, I can feel them staring at me and making fun of me. I just want to hide someplace, sometimes I do and I miss a class or two, or I call my mother to come get me. I tell her I'm sick. All my friends have dropped me. I hate it here... no one understands. I just want to be me, but I can't.

She takes out a cellphone and punches in some numbers.

CLARA (cont'd)

Mom, will you come and get me... I don't feel good... please.

Light Cue. 25 Door out. Swing Up.

JULIE

She's afraid. A lot of kids are afraid at school. I know I was. If it wasn't for Lexie I probably would've quit. I couldn't call my mother so I just hid a lot. In fact that's where I met Lexie. I was hiding and she was sneaking a smoke. ...she's so together. She's totally different from everyone I know, but she doesn't seem to even notice... hang in there, Clara.

This section of the play will be a series of monologues about being different

I WANT TO BE DIFFERENT

A young girl is sitting on the bench. She gets up and strolls DRC. She has movement in her right hand. Don't make it exaggerated.

JENNY

My name is Jenny and I am a senior. I am really glad to be getting out of here. I have enjoyed going to school here and I supposed I will miss it. I don't know, really, if I will or not.

(hand movement increases here)

I have a mild form of Asperger's, which I guess makes me a little different from the other kids. I really don't feel any different. I look like everyone else. I dress like them and it's funny, but I don't really care. I have always been like this. I am kind of a klutz and there are a lot of things going on that don't interest me, but I feel alright about it. I am really interested in a lot of stuff and I am very good at the things I like. The rest I try to stay interested, but it's hard. When I was a little kid my Grammy took me to the park with the new bicycle she bought me. She was going to teach me to ride a bike. I couldn't do it. We spent most of the afternoon trying, but I couldn't do it. I tried real hard because I knew she wanted me to ride around on my new, shiny bike, but I lost interest in the first five minutes. All I could think about was how did the phone book get all those phone numbers and then I wondered how long it would take to call everyone in it, or I'd wonder if all the Smiths were related, so I made a chart and called a lot of them and drew different colored lines to each Smith's relative until I had them pretty well divided into families. I think it is important that they know their relatives because...

(looking at the audience with a smile)

Lost you, didn't I?

(MORE)

JENNY (CONT'D)

Sorry, but I do this a lot and I try to fit in and do things like other kids do. Sometimes I try to imitate the other kid but I usually screw that up too. This is how I am with a lot of things. I start to listen and then I lose interest and yet there are some things that I really get excited about and I can't get enough information on it. Some people call my condition a handicap... I call it a gift.

She leaves.

A young man, holding a backpack, enters DL and stops in front of the door. The sign on the door reads ' Mr. MacDonald Asst. Principal.

He x's to DC. He stands a moment. He then talks to the audience.

ADAM

Hi, I'm Adam, How you doin'. I think I'm in a little trouble. Don't worry, this isn't my first time. You see, I'm different from most of the boy's around here. It was by my own choice. Sometimes, because I'm different, I get harassed and I have to deal with it. Today was one of those days and now I am going to visit Mr. MacDonald, the Assistant Principal. I might get a few days off. They really don't like it when you... nah... you don't need to know. Let's just say the wise guy was suddenly on his back looking up at me with what I would call a real surprised look on his face. It's too bad, but when you are a ballet dancer, sometimes you have to stand up for yourself. When I was young, I decided to study ballet. I loved it. Right off. And I still love it. It is a very important part of being me. I've learned so much about myself through dance. I am strong and athletic. I am sensitive and expressive and I am a little conceited. Just a little. And I just have a great time doing it. There, now that I have made a good impression, let me tell you about my dance class. Right now, I am the only boy in the advanced Ballet class and unfortunately the rest of the class is girls. Nice looking girls. In tights. When I am in class with all these girls I sometimes think of some of my buddies on the football team. They all smell bad, they are sweaty, and they are all guys. Now the girls sweat too, but it's a different sweat. It's "Girl Sweat". Sometimes I have to wipe the sweat of their backs with my towel. I always have a few extra towels. The important thing is that I could have given this up and played football, but dance is what I'm about. Its what I live for right now. I may change later in life, but for now dance is my life. I feel sorry for the guys that dropped out, because of pressure from their friends.

(MORE)

ADAM (CONT'D)

My dad once said to me "you have to be who you are and enjoy the differences in others. Then you can be free to follow your own path". I can't believe dad came up with something like that. He probably read it somewhere. Probably on a bumper sticker.

He opens the door and goes into the office. As he closes the door we hear...

ADAM (cont'd)

Hey, Mr. MacDonald how are you today.

MR. MACDONALD

Sit down, Adam, what did you do this time.

The door closes.

Light cue 27 Door Out. Bench In.

A boy is sitting on the bench, staring out into the lights in the back of the auditorium.

JAKE

Have you ever just sat and looked into the dark and wondered if there was something out there. Something that we have never seen before. Like you could magnify the dark a thousand times and all of a sudden you're looking into another world and then a giant ray comes out of the world and it shrinks you and pulls you into it. It places you on a throne and all around you are little people with one eye and they are cheering "The king has returned, the king has returned." The reason they have only one eye is so they can see only you. Wow... wow. Weird huh. I've always done this. I think I have spent as much of my life in imaginary worlds as I have in the real world. I've always been different. I'm sort of a loner. I like it that way. When I was little, I knew I must have been adopted, and I would imagine that my real father was an Apache Indian. He might have been Geronimo. I wanted to be an Indian more than anything else on earth. I read everything I could get my hands on. I used practice walking quietly heel to toe so no one could hear me coming. I would go into the woods and see how close I could get to little animals. One time I almost touched a deer. Sometimes it was hard at home, cause my parents fought a lot and I needed to go someplace so I couldn't hear them argue. I would use my imagination and I could go away into the dark worlds that I thought existed all around me. I could spend hours in my worlds, having all kinds of adventures and then I would wake up and I would be wrapped up in a soft blanket of quiet and I would feel so alone. I don't mind being alone. It is somehow restful. I don't have to please anyone or listen to any one. But sometimes...

(MORE)

JAKE (CONT'D)

Well, it's time for Son of Geronimo to go fishing down at the river. I think I will bring my brother and teach him how to walk quietly through the woods.... I think he'd like that.

He does his quiet walk DR and disappears.

Light Cue. 28 Bench out. Lockers In.

A cute girl sitting on the floor. She is leaning up against the CS side of the lockers. She has an open book in her lap, but her mind is elsewhere.

SARAH GRACE

(to no one in particular)

I don't want to do this. I don't want to be here. I want to do something else: something fun... or... I don't know,.. something different.

She takes a big breath and slowly lets it out. She closes the book and looks at the audience.

SARAH GRACE (cont'd)

Do you realize how many hours I have been here. Not here, but in school. It's like I don't have a real home.... I just have a place I go to sleep and a place to keep my things. My life just keeps going on and on and on. One thing right after another. I have been here since early morning and I still have choir practice and then dance lessons and after that I have a play rehearsal. By the time I get home it will be late, and I still have homework to do. Aaaaahhhhhh..... I hate this.

She picks up a bunch of applications she has been looking at.

SARAH GRACE (cont'd)

And I have to fill out these things. College Applications! I really don't know where I want to go. But, my parents, the almighty, all knowing parents, rulers of my life are making my life a living hell. "Hurry up and get those applications done. You know they have to be in right away." "Have you got your resume' done. You know that's due right away." My Resume's six pages long. I have been in just about everything that the world has to offer, but my darling little Mom says, "You never can have too many things on your resume." and Dad, who pays the bills around here just says "She's right, now listen to your mother" and then he dashes out of the room and leaves me with her. You know. Mother! So here is sweet little Sarah trying to fulfill all of her parents dreams.

(MORE)

SARAH GRACE (CONT'D)

If that's not enough I have to deal with "Miss Tootsie Wootsie" my arch rival, who has already been accepted at some of the "better schools". Who cares about her.. She's just jealous 'cause I got the lead in the musical this year and I just happen to be going out with her ex-boyfriend who...

(leaping up)

Oh, my God, I'm supposed to pick him up and bring him to practice, which started 20 minutes ago.

She grabs up her stuff.

She dashes off UR.

Light Cue: 29 Lockers out. Wall DL in.

A young boy is leaning against a wall DL.

ROBERT

ROBERT

You remember me. I was the kid leaning up against the wall. The one you didn't see.

(pause)

How come you never asked me to play? Did I look that weird? I used to watch you and wish I could join in. I wanted to play, so bad, but no one would ask me. You just played and played and I just stood there leaning against the wall. Alone. Every day. I'd go to school and hope that today I would make a friend. Just one friend, someone to talk to, to be with, but I didn't. At home I used to pretend that everyone liked me, that I was the best at everything. I imagined what it must be like to be the first one chosen. I pretended you used to fight over who's team I'd be on. But then I'd go to school and I didn't exist anymore. I was just there, leaning up against the wall. Do you have any idea what it feels like to want to join in but you can't cause your too scared? So many times I'd see you walking towards me and my guts would start to ache I'd be so scared. I was afraid that you'd stop and talk to me and I'd say something stupid and then you wouldn't like me. I would be relieved when you walked by and didn't notice me. I was so lonely. But, I was afraid and you didn't see me.

JULIE, who has listening, talks to him.

JULIE

I saw you. I'm so sorry.

DOIN' NOTHING

**Light cue #30 Light up on lockers.
Light out DL. Swing light out.**

As Robert crosses to Lockers, three boys enter SL and stop.

JERK 1

Hey, Robby, how's it going.

JERK 2

Say there, Robby.

Robert storms off UR ignoring them.

JERK 1 AND JERK 2

Bye Robby, wobby...

They laugh and then exit UR.

Chuck who is with them just stands there and doesn't leave with them.

JERK 1

(coming back in)

Hey Chuck. You coming.

CHUCK

No, you guys go ahead. I forgot something in my locker. I'll catch up later.

The other guys leave and Chuck talks to the audience.

Light cue #31 DC light up when Chuck moves downstage into it.

CHUCK (cont'd)

I hate it when they do that. You know, dumping on other kids. They're always doing it. I mean, they don't even know the kid, but they think it's alright to pick on them. They don't care how the kid feels or even worry about hurting him. They really don't care. They think that it's alright. I mean what the hell, they're just having a little fun. JUST HAVING A LITTLE FUN! Last year, their, just having a little fun caused a kid to kill himself, because he just couldn't take it anymore. They just wouldn't leave him alone. Every day he'd come to school and they would do something. Every day. God, I couldn't have stood it as long as he did. The thing is, he was a really good kid, never bothered anyone.

(MORE)

CHUCK (CONT'D)

He just didn't fit in. He was a lot like Robert, didn't fit in, didn't have any real friends. He was always alone. Some people tried to be nice to him, but it didn't last. But that's not what makes me the maddest though. What really pisses me off is that I don't do anything about it. Nothing. I just stand there and watch and do absolutely nothing. I want to say something to them, tell them to knock it off, but I don't. There have been times when I wanted to go over to one of these kids and put my arm around him and say " I'm on your side, pal...."But I don't. I just stand there and let it go on... and on. I'm too afraid I'll end up being teased and harassed just like them and I couldn't stand that... so I do nothing.

JODY AND JOEY

A bunch of on and around the park bench. They get up and say their good-byes or whatever else they do after lunch and then they leave the area. A young boy sneaks out of the bushes and after checking out the area he sits on the bench. A young girl peeks through the bushes.

JODY

(masculine in her manner)

Are they gone.?

JOEY

(feminine in his manner)

Yes they're gone. You're safe now. Come on let's eat. We don't have much time.

She comes out and joins him on the bench.

JODY

What a bunch of jerks.

JOEY

Oh, come on Jody, they're not that bad... for a bunch of jerks.

They laugh at this and begin lunch.

JODY

I just don't like them.

JOEY

I know.

JODY

I just can't stand the way they are always... oh, never mind.

JOEY
(Chewing on sandwich, he nods)

Ummh.

JODY
 Ummh... That's it? That's all you can say... UMMH. God Joey,
 you bug me sometimes.

JOEY
 Look, I am not going to spend my life being pissed off at a
 bunch of jerks who don't understand me and think I'm some
 sort of freak. I know who I am and what I want to be. You
 have to lighten up and stop being so damn angry all the time.

JODY
(Mocking him)
 UMMMPH....

JOEY
 Jody, come on.

JODY
(Rise)
 I can't help it. I hate it here and I just want to graduate
 and get out of here. Go someplace where people are more
 accepting. God Joey, how can you be so friggin' happy all the
 time.

JOEY
 I'm going to class. Good-bye...

JODY
 Joey! I'm not going.

JOEY
 Remember, I want to be you.

JODY
 And I want to be you... see you later?

JOEY
 Yeah, want a ride home.

JODY
 Yeah. See you...

JOEY
 Bye.

*He leaves she watches him go and then
 speaks to audience.*

JODY

School sucks... it really does. It always has. The 5th grade was one of the toughest years for me. My best friend, David, had graduated elementary school the year before. Without him my identity was vulnerable. I went from being "one of the boys"... or maybe went from not thinking about my gender at all because it didn't matter to David or any of the other guys to... I don't know... We played video games, we climbed trees... had sleep overs, told ghost stories, talked about girls we thought were cute... just a bunch of guys hanging out. I went from feeling safe with my best friend to having to struggle to find my identity among new friends. So I made an effort to have new friends... girlfriends. I started growing my hair out in 5th grade. But that didn't help. They knew I didn't fit in. I wasn't good at being a girl.

I kept trying though... By 7th grade my hair was to my shoulders and I was wearing boat neck tees from the Gap. I wanted to feel attractive... to someone. I wanted to fit in. I wanted to pass as a girl. I wanted to be normal and tell the stories you hear people tell... about their first kiss, about the school dance, about boys and boyfriends. If I could be a pretty girl I would be rewarded, I would be seen as a girl. But I still didn't really "pass". Kids can sniff the vulnerability out in people. Girls in the locker room snickered at my underwear or would tell me not to look at them while they were changing. It's like, you try so hard to hide something not just from others but from yourself... and people still pick up on it. My freshman year in high school I was wearing a sweater that had different colored stripes down the side and a boy in my class asked if I was a lesbian. I shot back "No!". I still struggled with the shame and fear of being myself. I don't think I even knew what transgender was at that point. It's difficult when you don't have role models or aren't made aware of other ways of existing. It's difficult for anyone to "know" themselves. Sometimes all you have is the feeling but you don't have the language to explain it.

She walks off SR.

Joey is standing by the lockers.

JOEY

Jody is my best friend. We share so much, but she is so struggling with who or what she is. I pretend to feel the same way, but I don't. I don't want to be a girl. I am really comfortable with who I am. I'm gay... and I am in high school and living my life in spite of all the bullies and haters. I decided that I am who I am and no one can take that away from me. I don't hurt anyone and I refuse to hide who I am, except from Jody, who thinks I want to be a girl. I do that for her because she needs someone on her side and I love her with all my heart as a dear and trusted friend.

(MORE)

JOEY (CONT'D)

Being gay is a real challenge for anyone trying to appear normal and just making an effort to survive sometimes. I knew I was different even in elementary school. I didn't know why I just knew I wasn't like all the other boys. I just started spending time with the girls because they seemed to like me. I played little league baseball and football when I was younger, but I stopped when I got to middle school. That's when things got a little difficult and I started to get tormented by the other kids, you know, the kids that think they are normal and that you are not normal. I won't get into it, but you know what I mean. I joined chorus and tried out for the school play and that's when I met Jody. We became friends immediately. It was so great to have someone to talk to about who you were. After listening to her story I thought that a little lie wouldn't hurt and I said "I want to be you", and she said "I Want to be you." And that began our weird relationship. So we decided to pretend we were dating and even though they weren't really convinced the other kids sort of left us alone. So here we are in the world of pretend.

He walks off UL.

DYING

ANDREA

My brother was killed. Alcohol and a speeding car. One moment he was there and then he was gone... forever. He was my best friend.I didn't get a chance to say good-bye or anything... and now he's dead.

In our production ANDREA sang Amazing Grace after her monologue. In a later show JULIE sang it from the swing. Maybe a hymn here would be good or an original song or you could just do the monologues.

Light cue 34 Bench Light up

BILLY

My dad died last night. He had a heart attack. We rushed him to the hospital, but it was too late. Mom's really scared. She doesn't know how we're going to live. She is going back to work and I'll probably have to get a job after school. I'm going to have to quit basketball. I'll never forgive him. Dad drank too much.

(MORE)

BILLY (CONT'D)

We tried to get him to stop, but he wouldn't listen. I'm really mad at him. He didn't have to die.

Light cue 35 DR light up

MINDY

Mom, has breast cancer, they don't give her very long to live. She's real sick now. All she does is lie in the bed, waiting. I really miss her. I want her to get up and at least fight it, but she won't. She just lies there waiting.

Light cue 36 DL Wall up

JEFF

We found my friend dead last night. He overdosed on heroin. We were having a party and I noticed he was missing. We found him in his room, in the dark, with a needle in his arm. He was dead.

Light Cue 37 Door up

NANCY

My sister, was killed at college. She was at a party and she fell out a window. What a waste. They said she was drunk. I couldn't believe it. She never drank at home. How could she fall out of a window? She was my big sister. I loved her. I want her to come back, but she can't.

Light cue 38 Kid lights out. Lights up on the swing.

Julie is sitting there quietly.

JULIE

I remember the day my Grampy died. I really miss him. We always did things together. Sometimes he took me fishing with him. God, would we stink when we came home. Bug dope and fish... yuk. But, we didn't care. We just liked to do things together. He was my grampy and I was his pork chop. I guess I ate a lot of pork chops when I was little. I don't remember, but that's what he called me. "Want gramps to put the worm on your hook, Pork Chop". We used to have real neat talks. One time we kinda talked about sex. He wouldn't say the word, but he got his point across. He'd say "Julie, there are very few gifts you can only give once, so make sure before."

(imitating grampy)

(MORE)

JULIE (CONT'D)

"MAKE SURE BEFORE" he'd yell out to me whenever I had a date, which was rare.

(She pauses and reflects)

He didn't have to worry. I'm never going to have sex. It's too complicated. My friend, Lexie, and I have a vow, that if we are thinking of doing it we have to call the other one first. We made a blood oath, cut our fingers and everything. God, you should of heard her scream. Oh, everyone thinks we're little sluts, but we're not. We aren't as dumb as we seem. You'd be surprised at the girls and guys that are already involved. It's scary how foolish some of them are. It's as if they think they are special because of who they are.

Light cue #39 Swing out door in**JEANETTE**

JEANETTE is a nice appearing girl. She is leaning against the wall outside the School Nurse's Office.

JEANETTE

My boyfriend called last week. He wanted to tell me that he tested positive for the AIDS virus. I didn't believe him at first. I asked him how, but he wouldn't answer me. I couldn't imagine how it could of happened. When we first started having sex, he told me that I was the only girl he'd ever been with. What a joke that was. I found out later that he was sleeping with a girl from the next town at the same time he was going with me. She was doing it with a guy from her school, who was with a girl at another school and the list goes on and on..... I just couldn't believe it. AIDS. I didn't know what to do. I didn't know who to talk to. I finally went to the school nurse. I had a blood test and they said they'd contact me as soon as possible. Sex. I knew better. But, I thought we were different, that we were in love and it was the right thing to do, so it happened. I thought it would be some wonderful thing. You know, like you read about or see in the movies. I couldn't believe I felt so guilty after, and everything changed between us. Everything. We couldn't talk or be together without sex.

(MORE)

JEANETTE (CONT'D)

We used to have so much fun together. Now, we fight and then... I don't know. I never expected this. What will I tell my parents? My Dad will be so hurt. He really trusted me to make good decisions. I don't want to tell him, maybe I won't have to. The School Nurse sent for me... I guess the results are in. I am so scared. I prayed every night that the tests will come back negative. I've learned my lesson. I just hope....

The door opens.

She goes in and the door closes heavily behind her.

Light Cue 40 Lockers up Blue Wash In

Kate enters and stops at her locker

Light cue 41 light up down center. DL light dim.

DICK AND JANE

DICK is walking rapidly across the stage. JANE, obviously upset, is following after him.

JANE

(angrily)

Will you stop and listen to me.

Dick stops DC

DICK

What?

JANE

We have to talk about this.

DICK

Alright. What?

JANE

What do you want me to do?

DICK

It's up to you.

JANE

What do you mean it's up to me?

DICK

It's up to you. I don't know what to do.

JANE

You don't care, do you?

DICK

Yeah I care.

(shrugging)

I just don't know what to do.

Jane stares at him. She then takes a big breath and gives him her decision.

JANE

I'm going to keep it.

DICK

OK.

JANE

(stunned)

OK. That's all you have to say.

DICK

Yeah.

JANE

You don't love me at all do you?

He walks away and stands facing away from her.

JANE (cont'd)

Will you answer me.

She crosses to him and pulls him around to face her.

JANE (cont'd)

DO YOU LOVE ME?

DICK

LOOK, EVERYTHING'S DIFFERENT NOW.

JANE

(backing off)

What do you mean?

DICK

I don't know how I feel about you and me.

JANE

You said you loved me. What happened?

DICK

(large exhale)

I lost respect for you.

JANE

(long pause)

Just what do you mean by that?

DICK

(attacking)

I wasn't the first. I can't get over that.

JANE

You said it wasn't a problem, that.. it didn't matter.

DICK

WELL, IT DOES MATTER.

JANE

WELL THE HELL WITH YOU.

Jane backs away and then turns and scrambles off somewhere. Dick watches her go and then he X's to DL light and addresses the audience.

Light cue # 42 DC light out and DL light up. Locker light remains dim.

DICK

You think I'm a dirty lowlife don't you. You think I should go after her and beg her forgiveness, tell her I didn't mean what I said. I CAN'T. I want to, but I really can't. I got my life all planned. I'm going to college and then law school. I'm going to be a lawyer. I mean, what does she expect me to do, stay home with her and pump gas for a living. I don't know. She should of known better. There's no reason for her to get pregnant. She could of taken the pill... or something. I knew better, but I figured it would be alright once, if I was careful. But I wasn't careful. God, I feel like a real jerk. I thought the other guys before me didn't matter. I really believed it. But after, they did. I was just one of the guy's that did it to her.

(PAUSE)

The whole thing was about having sex. No penalties, no responsibilities, just sex. I wanted to and I knew she would be willing. I'd heard the stories and I knew exactly what I was doing.... But, she was really nice. I mean she was fun to be with. I think I really could have loved her, but I couldn't get the others out of my head. I'd see them in the hall and they'd give me that knowing little smile. They knew. It's not fair is it? It shouldn't make a difference, but it really does. I guess I really am a lowlife, aren't I?

Light cue #43 Dick's light dims out and light comes up on Jane sitting on the bench. Locker lights still on dim as Kate listens.

Jane is devastated and should take plenty of time with this monologue.

JANE

I thought he loved me. I should of known better. They all said they loved me. I wanted them to and I tried so hard to please them. I just wanted someone to hold me, to love me.... to care...

(long pause)

I love being held, but somehow that was never enough. I'd be afraid they'd leave me and I couldn't bear that. Every time I get real close to someone they leave. My dad left. One day he was there and then he wasn't. I knew it was my fault. That I must have done something awful.

(MORE)

JANE (CONT'D)

Everyone says it isn't my fault, but I know it was. I miss him so much.

(pause)

I remember when he used to come home from work and he'd grab me up into his arms and nuzzle his whiskers into my neck. It tickled so much. We'd laugh and roll around on the floor. I'd be screaming and begging him to stop. He'd stop, and then he would just hug me. He'd hold me real close. It felt so good. I was his little butterfly. That's what he called me. "Come're little butterfly and give me a hug." He'd say and I'd run to him and... and then he left. Sometimes I would find myself waiting, hoping that he would come back, hoping he would scoop me up and call me his little butterfly..... but he didn't. I guess I just want to be someone's little butterfly again.

Light cue #44 Bench light goes out and the locker light and DC light comes up on Kate.

GROW UP

KATY

(to Dick and Jane)

What about the child?

(to audience)

They didn't even think about the child. I'm going to keep it she said. IT, a child isn't an IT. "I'm going to be a lawyer". He says. "What does she want me to do stay home and pump gas"

(to Dick SL)

Yeah, that's what you should have done. Stayed home and pumped gas and taken care of your kid.

(to audience)

They could have been my mother and father. I never met my father. He just went off and became what he wanted. I think of him sometimes, but I don't want to see him. I think I would be too angry. Mom's worked so hard to bring me up. She's been a great mother. Sometimes I feel sorry for her though. I mean, I know she had dreams once too. I don't know what they were, but I know she had them. Maybe she wanted to be a lawyer. I don't know. I just know she wanted more. I really don't miss my father, I never knew him. I guess it's hard to miss what you never had.

(MORE)

KATY (CONT'D)

I get embarrassed sometimes, you know when you meet someone new and they want to know what your father does... I know I should be used to it, but I'm not. I just think it would be real neat to have a dad and maybe a brother or a sister, but I don't. I know mom loves me and we have a good life, but there is a big hole in my heart, that just won't fill in. I just wish that people would take a moment to think, before they do something that they know is wrong. Just Stop, take a big breath and ask out loud "Do I really want to do this." Then take another moment and answer the question. It might work. Try it next time, before you make a choice that ruins someone else's life, or maybe your own.

Light cue # 45 locker light out. Light DL , DC and door light up.

THE LIFELESS FIGURE IN THE BED

A hospital bed and a life support system is wheeled in by nurses and attendants. Julie comes in with them. A Man and a Woman enter and stand next to the bed watching a lifeless figure that is attached to a number of tubes and machines. Another man is standing at the window. Julie steps out of the scene.

Somehow the actors have to ignore the real Julie, that is the one that talks and moves around. They have to concentrate on the lifeless figure in the bed.

JULIE

(to audience)

That's the real me over there. I tried to blow my brains out, but I missed. They think I jerked my hand at the last minute. I don't know. All I remember was that I was really angry that day and I wanted to hurt somebody and I was the only one available. That's my Mom and that's the doctor, and the guy standing at the window is my dad. I haven't seen him in years.

The doctor leaves and the mother starts to follow him. Dad crosses to the bed and looks down at the lifeless figure in the bed. He brushes her bangs back and sits in a chair next to the bed. He takes the lifeless figure's cold hand in his and kisses it gently. He holds it against his cheek and stares hopefully into her eyes for some sign of life. Julie's Mom glares at dad.

MOTHER

To bad you weren't around earlier. Maybe she wouldn't be where she is now.

The Dad glares back at the Mother and continues holding The Lifeless Figures hand. The mother follows the doctor out of the room.

Dad sits there and looks at the lifeless figure in the bed.

DAD

Hey, baby wake up. It's your daddy. C'mon wake up.

He gently pushes at the shoulder of the lifeless figure in the bed.

DAD (cont'd)

C'mon wake up. I come to see you. It's your daddy.

JULIE

(imitating him)

"It's my daddy".....

She leaps up and down and claps her hands or whatever way she wishes to show the contempt that she has for her daddy. She fakes happiness at seeing him. She goes over to him.

JULIE (cont'd)

(sarcastically)

I think I'll wake up from this big bad coma and give you a hug, cause you're my daddy.

(backing away)

Yeah right, give me a break. I don't know you. What are you doing here? GET OUT OF MY LIFE.

DAD

I gotta go sweetheart, I'll be back later.

He kisses the lifeless figure in the bed on the forehead and exits the room.

JULIE

(waving to him sarcastically)

Bye Daddy, I love you...

(to audience)

Can you believe him. He hasn't even called me the last two years. I hate him. What makes adults think they can ignore us and we're going to still love them, just because they're our parents? God, where was he when I really needed him? He shows up now?..

(to the absent father)

GET LOST YOU BUM.....

(to audience)

My mother, she's a drunk. She comes home from work mixes a up a batch of Margaritas and slowly gets bombed. She moans about how hard it is to raise me alone and passes out...

A young girl bounces into the room and plops herself on the bed.

LEXIE

Hey, it's me.

Lexie sits quietly for a moment and then she slides next to the lifeless figure in the bed. She takes it's hand and strokes it.

LEXIE (cont'd)

Are you feeling better.

(excited)

(MORE)

LEXIE (CONT'D)

Alright; get ready for the news? OK, here goes. Andrea made cheering again.. Whoa, what a surprise that is. And let's see, Billy and Leslie are going out. She finally convinced him. And the big news flash. You're not going to believe this. Lindsay and Ryan broke up. Yes, yes, yes. They are history... He's all mine. And guess what else? He looked at me yesterday. I thought I was going to die.....

She continues jabbering in pantomime as Julie talks.

Julie is standing DL.

JULIE

(to audience)

That's Lexie, my best friend. I miss her the most. We have so much fun together. She's so neat. She has an awesome sound system.... Gigantic speakers, I mean you can crank those babies up and just blast yourself into obliviousness. It's beautiful. We used to listen for hours.

Lexie gets up and reaches into a bag. She pulls out a big fluffy stuffed cat and holds it out to the lifeless figure in the bed.

LEXIE

I got this for you. I know its not real, but it looks like Fluffy doesn't it.

She places the stuffed cat next to the lifeless figure in the bed and continues on with her pantomime.

JULIE

(to audience)

It looks just like her cat Fluffy. God, she's lucky. She can do any thing she wants. I mean, she doesn't have any rules. Whatever she wants to do she can. Her parents don't care. One time, we stole her father's car and crashed it. I mean we really crunched it up. You know what her father did?

(MORE)

JULIE (CONT'D)

He bought two cars and gave one to her. She didn't even get grounded.

LEXIE

We had a party at the trestle this weekend. It was a blast. You would've loved it. Everyone was there.... Oh God, wait... wait..wait this is so funny.

Julie crosses to the foot of the bed.

JULIE

(to audience)

Isn't she great?

Julie sits cross legged on the bed, listening to Lexie as if they were in Lexie's room.

LEXIE

(leaning close to the Lifeless Figure in the bed)

Listen. Leslie Wilson got so bombed she took all her clothes off and jumped off the trestle into the river. Can you believe it? Leslie Wilson... naked... It was a riot. And then, all the guys jumped in to rescue her. She was screaming and splashing and the guys were swarming around her like a school of Piranha fish... and get this, she wouldn't get out of the water until they all promised not to look. Yeah right. Can you believe her. So the guys all turned around and put their hands over their eyes. Duh, she is so dense. The minute she climbed out of the water they all turned around and looked. You should of heard her scream. She ran up the hill and climbed in the back seat of a car and locked all the doors.....

Lexie is laughing and Julie is laughing so hard she falls off the bed.

Lexie stops laughing and she gazes at the lifeless figure in the bed.

LEXIE (cont'd)

I miss you. Are you coming back?

JULIE
*(peering over the edge of the
 bed)*

I want to.

LEXIE
 Please come back. I need you.

JULIE
 I'm trying.

LEXIE
 If you die, I'll kill myself.

JULIE
(jumping back on the bed)
 LEXIE, NO.

LEXIE
 Listen to me. As if. I'd be too scared....

JULIE
 I love you Lexie. I'll get better. I promise.

LEXIE
 I tried to call you that night....

*She stares at the lifeless figure in
 the bed for a moment. Julie gets off
 the bed and crosses to the window and
 looks out.*

LEXIE (cont'd)
 I know what, I'm going to do your nails. Where's my bag...
(searching)

I left it in the car, I'll be right back... You're going to
 love what I'm going to do to your nails.

*She flies out of the room, leaving
 Julie at the window.*

*A Nurse comes in and begins to check
 the equipment.*

The doctor and her Mother come back into the room and cross to the bed. Her father follows, he stands in the doorway.

MOTHER

You're sure there's no hope.

DOCTOR

I'm sure. There's just too much damage.

JULIE

What are you talking about, I'm going to be fine.

DOCTOR

Do you want a moment with her.

MOTHER

No, I've said all I have to say.

JULIE

YOU HAVEN'T SAID ANYTHING TO ME.

MOTHER

Do I have to stay. I really don't want to.

JULIE

WHAT'S GOING ON?

DAD

Can I have a moment?

JULIE

Mom, what's going on. Please tell me. I'm sorry. I love you. Please don't go. Mom?

Her mother leaves the room, without looking back.

Julie's dad stands beside the bed looking down at lifeless figure in the bed.

DAD

I'm so sorry, baby. I'm so sorry.

JULIE

(going to him)

It's alright. Do you want to stay for awhile.

Her dad touches the lifeless figure in the bed and then slowly rises and walks out the door.

JULIE (cont'd)

DAD, I WANT YOU TO STAY. PLEASE STAY...

The doctor walks to the machines and slowly turns off the switch. He places his stethoscope on her chest and waits.

JULIE (cont'd)

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?. STOP IT. YOU CAN'T DO THAT. ...STOP IT.

She runs to the machine and tries to restart it. It won't start. She backs away from the scene.

Lexie rushes into the room. She is followed by a nurse who is trying to stop her. Lexie stands there watching.

LEXIE

What's going on?

The doctor motions to the nurse. She takes Lexie's arm and draws her from the room.

LEXIE (cont'd)

JULIE.....

JULIE

The doctor covers the motionless figure in the bed and the room goes to black.

Light cue # 46 Go to Black Pin Spot on Julies face.

JULIE (CONT'D) (cont'd)

Now I lay me down to sleep I pray the Lord my soul to keep.
If I should die..

**Light cue 47 pin spot out on Die. Swing
light on.**

CHILDLIKE VOICE

Before I wake, I pray the lord my soul to take. (beat) **swing
light out.**

The End