

EXT. AERIAL - CONTINUOUS

Above the little all-American town of Pleasantville nestled in Fall foliage, we glide slowly over homes and neighborhoods, the school, church, ball field, a strange foreboding mansion on the highest hill overlooking the town, and finally, the nearby lake.

INTERCUT throughout the slow sweeps, we meet seven kids and a little mutt.

INT. CLASSROOM - MORNING

RUSTY, a big goofy 12 year old performs a magic trick for his homeroom class. With a flourish, he puts a red scarf over a bird in his hand to make it disappear--

RUSTY

And now, magically the bird will...

A white BLOB plops on Rusty's sneaker.

CLASSMATE

Poop on you!

The class collapses in laughter.

INT. SCHOOL GYNASIUM - DAY

MAE, a 10 year old Asian gymnast completes a sensational routine on the balance beam, but then loses confidence and falls off. The audience groans.

INT. SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - AFTERNOON

DIEGO, a Latino 12 year old at the school Science Fair stands next to a large Tupperware container filled with kitchen garbage creating electricity, with a series of wires extending from either end attached to a small fan that's whirring away. The PRINCIPAL pins a ribbon on Diego's project.

PRINCIPAL BROWN

And the Silver Medal goes to Diego Schwartz.

Diego smiles, but looks enviously at the about-to-be Gold Medal Winner, and his little hovercraft.

EXT. SOCCER FIELD - AFTERNOON

The freckled 11 year old twins, TOMMY and TAMMY, on two opposing soccer teams, make it a personal contest and forget about the rest of their teammates as these super athletes challenge each other mid-field.

INT. REPAIR SHOP - LATE AFTERNOON

CLARENCE, a 10 year old Afro American sitting with his father ROY in front of office computer as Clarence runs a series of lightening fast diagnostics. Clarence's little mutt, SAMSON cowers at the sight of the shop cat.

ROY

You think you can fix this ol' clunker

CLARENCE

Done.

INT. BEDROOM - AFTER SCHOOL

BLINKIE, a plain pixie-like 10 year old is ridiculed by her two older tramy-looking SISTERS. She blinks nervously and frames their two heads between her thumbs and forefingers, and pretends to --

BLINKIE

Squeeze your brains out of your noses and ears.

EXT. LAKE SIDE PARK - EARLY EVENING

The aerial sweep settles down at the lake with all seven kids and their families at a BIRTHDAY PARTY for Tommy and Tammy with twin birthday cakes. DADS grill burgers and hot dogs, MOMS set up the tables and plates.

The kids and Samson pile into a few row boats, and race out into the lake but it all comes to to an eerie stop. The water turns BLOOD RED and suddenly SHARK FINS circle the row boats. The kids SCREAM for help, except --

DIEGO

This is technically impossible.

Rusty and Tammy paddle like maniacs.

RUSTY

Yeah? I'm technically outta here.

Behind the cover of reeds on the opposite shore, crotchety old BRUTUS SNIVELY looks through his binoculars and snickers with amusement at the panic in the distance.

He grabs the leash of a massive slobbering DOBERMAN at his side, with a big white dot on its forehead.

SNIVELY

That ought to scare the BB's out of 'em.
But they haven't seen anything yet. Shall we depart, Snow Flake?

INT. SCHOOL COMPUTER LAB - DAY

The group of seven are in a study period on the school computers with a room full of OTHER KIDS when the computer screens begin to display terrifying 3-D images with ghoulish howls and tortured screams: blood dripping from VAMPIRE FANGS, flying ZOMBIE HEADS, BUZZARDS ripping at a CARCASS, the burning EYES of the DEVIL and an old PAT BOONE video. Chairs crash, computers topple over as the kids crowd out in a panic. Blinkie flips open her cell phone --

BLINKIE

Mom, please come get me. I'm really, really scared.

CLARENCE

Dude, that guy's comb over was nasty.

INT. VARIOUS KITCHENS AND FAMILY ROOMS - NIGHT

INTERCUTS of MOMS on the phone --

BLINKIE'S MOM

Blinkie is terrified. After the thing at the lake, and this morning with the computers --

RUSTY'S MOM

I don't know if I can even get Rusty to go to school tomorrow. He's afraid he's going to vanish. For real.

CLARENCE'S MOM

Something's got to be done about this bull, ah, baloney.

TOMMY & TAMMY'S MOM

With all these strange goings on, Doug wants us to move away near his parents.

From another room --

TOMMY & TAMMY (O.S.)

You and Dad can move, we're staying. This is where all our friends are.

EXT. SNIVELY FARM PUMPKIN PATCH - DAY

A sea of parents and kids crowd around Snively standing in front of a field shed on a hay wagon.

SNIVELY

Welcome, all. My great great great grandfather, Cornelius Snively, started this town over 100 years ago for all the workers in his gold mine, and he planted this patch with his own hands for their children, so the little ones could enjoy the town's Jack 'O Lantern Carving Contest -- and the tradition continues next Saturday at our Halloween Festival. Which this year, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Pleasantville, will held up on the hill.

The crowd and Snively look up at his ominous mansion in the distance as dark, boiling clouds begin to blacken the mid-day sky.

SNIVELY (CONT'D)

So, children, please, take a free pumpkin for your handy work. Enjoy. I am anxious to see what you boys and girls can do with a carving knife.

As the families spread out looking for the perfect pumpkin it begins to rain DEAD FROGS, ROTTEN EGGS and SNAKES that splatter and slither on the ground and bounce off SCREAMING parents and children as they run to their cars.

Snively stands calmly on the hay wagon and pops open an umbrella and smirks as Snow Flake joins him.

INT. TOWN HALL MEETING - EARLY EVENING

The MAYOR and POLICE CHIEF face a crowd of angry, yelling parents. The kids' fathers speak out.

ROY

Why are these strange things happening? Who the hell is doing it? You gotta put an end to it now, Mr. Mayor.

DOUG

If I could I would sell our house and move right now.

The crowd chimes in --

CROWD

Yeah! We would, too. Me, too!

DOUG
But who would even think of buying in
Pleasantville now!

A voice from the back of the meeting silences everyone.

BENJAMIN
I would. I am Benjamin Schafer, Mr.
Snively's lawyer. And even though he is
sure these have been just a few unrelated
bizarre events it's unlikely there will
be any more --

INT. SNIVELY'S LABORATORY - SAME

Snively watches the Town Hall Meeting on a jumbo flat
screen, clapping his hands fiendishly.

BENJAMIN (ON SCREEN)
--Mr. Snively will buy the house of
anyone who wishes to leave because he
feels no one should have to live in
Pleasantville in fear. I'm prepared to
make offers now.

A mob rushes around Benjamin. Snively turns from the
monitor, and faces two giant goons, RUFUS and ELMER.

SNIVELY
I am going to make this year's Haunted
House so terrifying anybody who hasn't
plan to move away, will run screaming
from this town.

Using a pointer, he gestures to a layout of some of the
rooms in his mansion set aside for the Haunted House.

SNIVELY (CONT'D)
Let's start with the "Body Parts Room."

RUFUS
Where you gonna get fake body parts?

SNIVELY
Who said anything about fake? I want
real! I've already made arrangements.
Take Elmer, and go to my bother's
mortuary tonight. Real arms and legs.

EXT. CLARENCE'S BACK YARD - NIGHT

Hanging out, the kids are silent and depressed.

TOMMY & TAMMY (IN UNISON)
Our parents are gonna do it. We're
screwed. We're moving.

RUSTY

Sucks. I think my mom wants to get out of here, too.

BLINKIE

Can't let it happen. We'll never see each other again.

CLARENCE

Super sucks!

Samson races out of the yard after a squirrel. The kids follow him on their bikes and skateboards.

EXT. SNIVELY MANSION - NIGHT

The kids arrive at the towering fence around Snively's looming mansion as Samson crawls under the gate and almost catches up to the squirrel, but Samson suddenly stops, spins in circles at hyper speed and howls at the moon. So does the squirrel.

DIEGO

We gotta stop Snively.

EXT. PLEASANTVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL - MORNING

SUPER: THE DAY BEFORE HALLOWEEN

Buses unload in front of the school. Kids pile out wearing COSTUMES and so are the teachers waiting for the busses . Some kids also have their pets.

TEACHER

You all look great. Who do you think's going to win the costume contest today?

As they step off the bus: Rusty is dressed as a MAGICIAN.

RUSTY

I'm betting on Miss Thatcher. She's coming as a pole dancer.

Mae is a CAT BURGLAR, Diego a MAD SCIENTIST, Tommy and Tammy are SUPER HEROES, and Blinkie a WITCH.

Clarence's mom drives up and drops him off next to the bus. He's dressed as a GEEK, and Samson as a LION.

CLARENCE

I know why Snively's doing all this. I hacked into the town records. One of his relatives gave him a permit to reopen the old gold mine. It's underneath where almost everybody lives. That's *our* gold mine, unless we don't live here anymore.

DIEGO

We gotta snoop around up there some how.

INT. SNIVELY'S LABORATORY - AFTERNOON

Again at the chart. Now with more goons and a nine foot tall robot. Snively points to the "Torture Chamber Room."

SNIVELY

I don't want to hear that any of this cannot be done. In the Torture Chamber, really torture someone. I don't care who, but find someone. And have a few fresh ones ready if the first one dies. Spare no pain. And while you're at it, kill some cats just for fun.

Points now to the "Blood Bath Room" --

SNIVELY (CONT'D)

In here, throw some of those kids into the tubs, and dump real blood on them.

Points now to the "Butcher Shop Room" --

SNIVELY (CONT'D)

Who wants to be the butcher? Any one? Any one?

Rufus raises his hand.

SNIVELY (CONT'D)

Fine. You did get the body parts, yes?

RUFUS

No, sir, but we'll get them tonight.

SNIVELY

Mr. Nasty, eliminate, please.

The Robot swivel's its head toward Rufus and Elmer. Red laser rays shoot from its eyes and evaporate the two.

SNIVELY (CONT'D)

Oops, my mistake. I hate to waste things. We could have tortured them. Oh, well.

EXT. SNIVELY MANSION - EARLY EVENING

Samson and the kids in their costumes, on bikes and boards, roll up to the gate. As two hearses come down Snively's long driveway and out, they hide in the bushes, then slip inside. Diego wedges his board so the gate can't close completely. They sneak around to the back and peer through the laboratory windows.

There stands Snively shouting instructions to an army of assistants in the cavernous lab filled with hi-tech equipment, large flat screens alive with data streams, graphs and surveillance images. A towering SILO has a single control meter under the sign -- PROJECT EARTHQUAKE: PLEASANTVILLE. The COUNTDOWN CLOCK shows twenty-four hours and three minutes left. This is much, much more than they ever bargained for.

The intruder alarm goes off, and Snively turns to the surveillance screens as fuzzy images of the kids run into the night.

INT. SNIVELY'S LABORATORY - SAME

SNIVELY

Mr. Nasty, get rid of them, kill them if you can. Activate the storm machine. Turn Snow Flake loose!

EXT. SNIVELY MANSION - SAME

Mr. Nasty comes out the mansion doors, firing random laser shots into the dark. Ghosts and ghoulish creatures float out behind him, screeching and moaning, and the snarling Doberman chases the kids through the torrential downpour. Outside the gate, the kids and Samson run down the road.

EXT. THE TREE - NIGHT

Huffing and puffing, they huddle under an ancient OAK TREE to get out of the rain, and hide. A deafening bolt of LIGHTENING strikes the tree, and the kids are changed forever: they are suddenly imbued with the SPECIAL POWERS and talents of their Halloween costume characters. Not immediately aware of it, but the next day, each in their own way discovers their SPECIAL POWERS.

DISSOLVE SEQUENCE:

Diego, Mad Scientist, builds a giant, remote control hover craft.

Forget the door. Mae, The Cat Burglar, quickly scales the front of her house to go through her bedroom window.

Clarence, bespectacled Geek- breaks down and rebuilds his laptop...in 60 seconds

Samson, The Lion, roars and crashes through a neighbor's fence to chase another dog.

Tommy & Tammy, The Super Heroes, race each other and run so fast they start flying.

Rusty, The Magician, makes his complaining little sister disappear just for fun, and then reluctantly brings her back...still complaining.

Blinkie, The Witch, puts a spell on her two mean sisters...who actually look pretty good with mustaches and mullets.

EXT. SNIVELY MANSION - NIGHT

A large crowd of parents and kids in costumes walk up the endless driveway to the Halloween Festival. The the gang of seven and Samson drop back behind their parents.

DIEGO

Scientists call it electromagnetic transfer osmosis. And don't ask any questions, 'cause I don't know anything else. Just accept the fact that we've got what we've got.

Rusty fires his finger like a gun, and a pumpkin on Snively's porch explodes.

RUSTY

Awesome.

CLARENCE

OK, we've got our plan, let's do it.

INT. SNIVELY MANSION - NIGHT

Snively greets the children and their parents in the entrance hall. In the background, real blood curdling screams.

SNIVELY

Welcome to the Halloween Festival.

As they all enter, several petrified parents rush out with crying children, running for their cars.

SNIVELY(CONT'D)

My, my. They must have overactive imaginations.

BLINKIE

Mr. Snively, could you personally take all of us through the Haunted House?

SNIVELY

I could think of nothing that I would like better.

Looking at the parents --

SNIVELY(CONT'D)

Parents, please take the children's Jack 'O Lanterns outside to my assistants, they'll arrange them for the competition later. Thank you so much. Now children, please come with me.

The kids take Snively through all the rooms --

INT. BODY PARTS ROOM - NIGHT

On all four walls are arms, legs, feet, hands. Blinkie waves her witch finger, and the body parts float off the walls forming whole bodies. Rusty throws magic dust into the air, and Jack 'O Lanterns appear as heads on the bodies. Snively is paralyzed with fear.

SNIVELY

Get me out of here.

FLOATING BODY

But of course.

The bodies grab Snively --

INT. BLOOD BATH ROOM - NIGHT

The floating bodies throw Snively into a tub filled with blood. The kids are digging this. Blinkie wiggles her finger and Snively's head goes. His feet kick wildly. He's drowning. Bubbles floating to the top. Flick of a finger and he comes up gasping - ready for a coronary.

SNIVELY

Help! Help. I need to lay down.

INT. THE TORTURE ROOM - NIGHT

Snively is tied to the stretching table, two monster goons turn the stretching wheels -- tighter, tighter.

DIEGO

Is this what you had in mind?

SNIVELY

N-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o! Aghhhhh!

MAE

OK, we'll cut you loose.

INT. THE BUTCHER ROOM - NIGHT

Three men in leather butcher aprons tie Snively to the table, and take out their cleavers. Clarence checks his watch. As Snively possibly screams is last scream --

CLARENCE

Pardon the pun, but let's cut out of here. We have to change the coordinates on the earth quake generator.

INT. SNIVELY'S LABORATORY - NIGHT

Snively's army of assistants man the laboratory equipment. Suddenly, the towering windows of the laboratory shatter into a thousand pieces as the Halloween Heroes jump through. Their action is perfectly rehearsed.

Tommy and Tammy fly back and forth off the ceiling and walls like supercharged ping-pong balls. As Mr. Nasty's head swivels around to follow them, it comes unscrewed.

Snow Flake growls and approaches Samson, who raises up on his hind legs and roars like a bloodthirsty lion. Snow Flake whimpers off.

Rusty pulls weird things out of his magician's top hat, and throws them in the faces of Snively's stunned goons: chomping baby alligators, bats, octopus, skunks --

Blinkie ups the ante, and conjures up 10 Snively look-alikes, who are barking different orders at the goons, running them in circles.

Clarence hacks into the computer system for the earthquake coordinates.

CLARENCE

Wow, Snively was going to level the entire town. Let's change that.

He hands the new settings to Mae who scampers up the silo and resets the quadrants.

Diego uses a remote control to fly the hovercraft into the laboratory. As the kids hop in --

CLARENCE (CONT'D)

Blinkie, get all the parents and kids away from the Halloween Festival, and put them down by the tree.

BLINKIE

No problem.

EXT. THE TREE - NIGHT

All the parents and kids of Pleasantville stand looking up at the mansion. The earth shakes violently and it crumbles to dust.

Blinkie turns to the others

BLINKIE

So what do you guys want to do next
Halloween?

SUPER: MONTHS LATER

DISSOLVE SEQUENCE

Mae, at a gym on the balance beam doing a quadruple back flips and perfect dismount to the roar of the audience.

Clarence, wearing a jacket with "Super Geek, Inc." on the back being accompanied after school by his mother to the reception desk of a huge corporation:

CLARENCE

I'm here to fix your computer network.

The twins, Tommy and Tammy, on two opposing soccer teams, passing the ball to their teammates.

"The Amazing Rusty" on local TV making the show host disappear to the horror of the audience. "Sorry, folks, I'll get him back in just a second."

Blinkie, putting together a great outfit in the mirror, watching her sisters make her bed, clean her room, and bow out the door.

Samson, tearing the stuffing out of the giant stuffed gorilla.

Diego, winning a Gold Medal at the school Science Fair. He's standing next to his twelve foot tall space ship. The crowd is clapping, and the camera closes in on a gloved hand holding the leash of Doberman puppy with a white dot on its forehead.

