

RECESS BULLY

By
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Children's Drama Script

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FADE IN:

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

In a classroom, a teacher, MRS. HARRIS, stands at the blackboard and cleans off her notes.

The students write in their notebooks.

The hall bell RINGS and the students look up from their books.

MRS. HARRIS

OK class. Out you go to the schoolyard.
See you back in fifteen minutes.

EXT. SCHOOLYARD - DAY

A short boy, CHARLES, dressed in a white shirt and pants runs but constantly looks back.

He PANTS as he reaches a corner at the schoolyard fence.

A tall stocky boy, THOMAS, dressed in blue jeans and tee shirt, trudges towards him with clenched fists.

Thomas corners Charles against the fence.

CHARLES

Please don't hurt me.

THOMAS

Those clothes hurt my eyes. White too bright. Black too dark.

Thomas punches Charles who falls on the ground.

Thomas bends over and rubs his fingers on the dirt then rubs it on the white shirt and black slacks of the trembling Charles.

Two students, BOB and JAMES, stand near by, SNICKER and point.

BOB

Charles certainly asked for it.

JAMES

Yah, if he keeps wearing those dorky clothes.

Three young girls, NATALIE, MONICA and LYNN, huddle together and take furtive glances at Thomas and Charles.

NATALIE

Poor Charles. Thomas always picks on him.

MONICA

Natalie, you should be glad it isn't you.

LYNN

I'm not wearing my good clothes to school so Thomas can dirty them.

Three young boys, Miguel, Don and Carlton, shift nervously as they watch Thomas and Charles.

MIGUEL

Thomas is a bully. I should help Charles.

DON

(stuttering)

M, M, Miguel. Thomas picked on me last week.

CARLTON

Thomas may pick on you next week, Miguel, 'cause he doesn't like your name. Let's just watch for now.

A young Muslim girl, Aafreen, watches Thomas and Charles and leans against the fence and CRIES.

One boy stands at the fence and cringes.

Two girls twirl a skipping rope as another jumps it.

Two boys throw a ball between them.

The schoolyard bell RINGS.

The students line up and Mrs. Harris leads them into the school.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Mrs. Harris leans across her desk and watches the students CHATTER as they sit down at their desks.

MRS. HARRIS
Boys and girls. During your recess, I
watched a number of things that happened
and didn't happen.

Thomas turns and winks at Bob and James.

Bob and James SNICKER.

MRS. HARRIS
Unfortunately, it started here in the
classroom. I saw Thomas throw spit
balls at Charles.

Thomas sits up straight, looks around in the glow of attention.

MRS. HARRIS
A number of you watched this occur.

FLASHBACK:

Thomas throws spit balls at Charles' head.

Bob and James point and SNICKER.

Charles defends himself by dodging and putting up his hands to shield his face.

Miguel, Don and Carlton, shift in their seats nervously as they watch Thomas and Charles. They glance at each other.

NATALIE, MONICA and LYNN, look down at their desks and take furtive glances at Thomas and Charles.

Aafreen, watches Thomas and Charles and covers her eyes.

MRS. HARRIS

Charles was scared to go out to recess
since he knew what may happen to him.

FLASHBACK:

Charles hurries out the classroom as he looks back at
Thomas.

The other students ignore Charles as they run out the door.

MRS. HARRIS

I know you all saw what Thomas did to
Charles.

FAST VIGNETTES:

Thomas punches Charles who falls on the ground.

Thomas bends over and rubs his fingers on the dirt then
rubs it on the white shirt and black slacks of the
trembling Charles.

Two students, BOB and JAMES, stand near by, SNICKER and
point.

Three young girls, NATALIE, MONICA and LYNN, huddle
together and take furtive glances at Thomas and Charles.

Three young boys, Miguel, Don and Carlton, shift nervously
as they watch Thomas and Charles.

A young Muslim girl, Aafreen, watches Thomas and Charles
and leans against the fence and CRIES.

One boy stands at the fence and cringes.

Two girls twirl a skipping rope as another jumps it.

Two boys throw a ball between them.

The schoolyard bell RINGS.

MRS. HARRIS

Not one of you went to help Charles or talk to Thomas to stop.

Thomas looks down at his desk.

Bob and James look at Thomas, each other, then at their desk.

Natalie, Monica and Lynn shift nervously in their seats.

Miguel, Don and Carlton look at Charles then at Thomas.

Aafreen dabs her eyes with a tissue.

Charles wrings his hands, his lips parted and his eyes red.

MRS. HARRIS

We need all your help to keep this school a safe and friendly place for all students.

The SOUND OF BREATHING as the students look at each other, the teacher, Charles and Thomas.

MRS. HARRIS

Not everyone in this class may be your friend. You do not want their friendship. But as an individual and person, you must give them your respect and tolerance.

Student hands come up.

Mrs. Harris nods to Natalie.

NATALIE

Mrs. Harris, do you mean if someone is different than you, you don't have to be friends?

MRS. HARRIS

Natalie, in this classroom we have students of different colours, religions, nationalities and cultures.

DON

Our family practices the Baha'i faith.

MRS. HARRIS

We have students here that are from European and Asian cultures.

MONICA

My parents came from Romania. But I was born here.

BILL

My family is Chinese.

MRS. HARRIS

Sometimes because you don't know or understand something - like Aafreen is of the Muslim religion and wears a burka as part of her religion. Then you are upset, scared or ridicule them.

Thomas looks around the classroom from the corner of his eye then looks at his desk.

MRS. HARRIS

Thomas, just because Charles wears white shirts and black pants each day instead of blue jeans and tee shirts like you do, doesn't mean you need to punch him or bully him into dressing like you.

Everyone turns and looks at Thomas.

Thomas slinks down his seat and puts his head down.

MRS. HARRIS

I will get everyone to interview someone they don't know well and tell us about their uniqueness. We need all kinds of people: artists, plumbers, police officers, garbage men.

One boy taps himself on the chest and mouths 'police officer'.

MRS. HARRIS

There are all kinds of jobs out there so open your mind to different possibilities in different countries.

Another boy points at the boy beside him and mouths 'garbage man' but that but just shrugs and smiles.

MRS. HARRIS

Jobs and careers are not influenced by your colour of skin, your religion, how you dress or where you were born. Jobs and careers are received because you have the education and experience needed and the willingness to work. Here at school, we want to help you with your education.

The students look around and smile and nod at each other.

MRS. HARRIS

Part of that education is respect and tolerance for all types of people. Everyone has a purpose to help other people. What happened in the school yard and the setup before in the classroom will not be tolerated.

The students sit silent and pensive.

MRS. HARRIS

Repeat of any bullying or indifference or 'not seeing' what is happening to other students will have strict repercussions. In friendship, we need to watch out for the safety and well being of all our fellow students. Let us now stand up and make a ring of friendship.

Every stands up awkwardly and shifts and stumbles into a rough line.

MRS. HARRIS

At this point, we will split the line into two alternating lines and go one after the other and shake each other's hand. Smile and look into each other's eyes.

The children form two lines - one going one way, the other going the other way so that they can face each.

When the hand shaking begins, they are MOANS and GROANS and horseplay.

After they get into a rhythm, the actions are smooth.

MRS. HARRIS

Now that you are finished, we will shout out 'RESPECT and TOLERANCE'.

The children shout out: 'RESPECT and TOLERANCE'.

Mrs. Harris points them back to their seats which they take reluctantly.

MRS. HARRIS

We will do this everyday to remind us to keep a peaceful earth.

The students settle down at their desks and take out their books and notebooks.

FADE OUT.

Real life interviews of bullied children intercut with scenes from the script.

THE END.