You didn’t Do Anything!
A Research Play on Bullying

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photo by George Belliveau
CHARACTERS

KJ             Suzie’s sister. She has a tough home life and tends to take it out on Suzie and others at school
DARREN         Friend of KJ’s and hangs out with Chris when there isn’t anything better to do
CHRIS          Bright student and friend of Darren’s
SUZIE          KJ’s sister. She is the popular girl at school
COURTNEY       Friend of Lauren’s. The popular students invite her to join their clique
LAUREN         Friend of Courtney’s. Good athlete and student
FRIEND         Appears in a few scenes as a follower
CHORUS         These lines designated to Actor 1, 2, 3, etc can be distributed in various fashions

In the original production, there were 11 actors and 1 musician (guitarist). The actors were double cast, so that a given actor would play a principal role in one performance then a chorus member in the next.

SONG           Don’t Laugh at Me! (sung by the entire cast)[1]

I’m a little boy with glasses, the one they call a geek
a little girl who never smiles cuz I got braces on my teeth
and I know how it feels to cry myself to sleep

I’m that kid on every playground, whose always chosen last
a single teenage mother trying to overcome her past
You don’t have to be my friend if it’s too much to ask

(Refrain)
Don’t laugh at me, don’t call me names
Don’t get your pleasure from my pain
In God’s eyes we’re all the same
some day we’ll all have perfect Wings
Don’t laugh at me

I’m a beggar on the corner
You pass me on the street
I would’t be out here begging if I had enough to eat
and don’t think I don’t notice that our eyes never meet
(Repeat Refrain)

I’m fat, I’m thin
I’m short, I’m tall
I’m deaf, I’m blind
Hey aren’t we all

(Repeat Refrain)

SCENE I  Oh the wheels on the bus

ACTOR 1:  When I think of bullying, it hurts.
ACTOR 2:  When I think of bullying, I think about how badly everyone needs a friend.
ACTOR 3:  In my family, I don’t have any brothers or sisters to bug me.
ACTOR 4:  In my family, mom’s the boss.
ACTOR 5:  In my family, dad’s the boss. I have no control.
ACTOR 1:  People who bully, have been bullied.
ACTOR 2:  When I think of bullying, I think of the bus.

(On stage, there are chairs set up to resemble a bus. COURTNEY walks onstage. We see LAUREN walking quickly to catch up to her, as she calls out to COURTNEY.)

LAUREN
Hey Courtney, wait up. (COURTNEY turns and sees LAUREN trying to catch up to her. She rolls her eyes, then turns to LAUREN and smiles.)

COURTNEY
Oh, hi Lauren.

LAUREN
Gee, Court, you in a rush this mornin’ or what? Why didn’t you stop by my house to get me?

COURTNEY
I didn’t know you wanted me to wait for you. It’s not like you called or anything.

LAUREN
I just called you like ten times this weekend and you didn’t phone back.

COURTNEY
(Obviously lying) Oh, well I didn’t get any messages.

LAUREN
It’s OK, no big deal. I just wanted to know if you wanted to come shopping with me. I just went with my mom.

COURTNEY
You went to the mall with your mother?

LAUREN
I know, I hate goin’ into those stores, even without my mom taggin’ along. But, it’s not like I had much choice, I didn’t want to go alone. Look what I got! *(LAUREN shows COURTNEY her shirt.)*

COURTNEY
Nice. I like it. It looks familiar.

LAUREN
Thanks. So where were you all weekend?

COURTNEY
*(getting on the bus – represented by the chairs)* Oh, I was at Suzie’s house.

LAUREN
You were where?

COURTNEY
It was no big deal. Mr. Durant made us partners for that science project. Hey, that’s where I’ve seen that shirt before. Suzie has one just like it doesn’t she?

LAUREN
Yeah, I’ve been saving up to get one just like hers. Everyone likes it. They practically drool over Suzie every time she wears it. *(LAUREN and COURTNEY sit in the middle row on the bus. They mime a conversation.)*

KJ
*(From the opposite side of the stage KJ enters and calls to her sister SUZIE)* Suzie, would you hurry up. The bus is here. It’s not gonna wait for you again.

SUZIE
*(off stage)* Comin’ KJ. *(enters, ties shoe)* I don’t know how you can stand up to him like that, and then pretend like nothin’ happened. They were yelling their heads off when I left. I thought he was gonna lose his mind.

KJ
What was his problem this time? All I heard was that somebody left their boots in front of the door. Probably just yellin’ about nothin’, like usual. I wish mom never married him. He wasn’t as bossy when he didn’t live with us.

SUZIE
Yeah I know. You should just walk away from him. I always do, and I hardly ever get it as bad as you do.

KJ
I’m not you; I can’t just walk away!

SUZIE
You should just ignore him.

KJ
Just cause you didn’t do anything, doesn’t mean that I shouldn’t. Somebody has to say somethin’. Look, I don’t expect you to change, so don’t expect me to either. *(KJ and SUZIE freeze.)*
COURTNEY
(Still sitting on the bus) I don’t know if the shirt makes a difference. They drool over her anyway.

LAUREN
Oh, I know. It’s not like I expect people to treat me like Suzie or anything. I just like the shirt.
(Trying to change the subject) So what was it like goin’ to her house?

COURTNEY
It was OK. Her mom and dad were fightin’, but it was mostly with KJ. So we just stayed in her room and ignored it. Suzie is so nice. I know some people think she’s a snob but she isn’t. Even KJ was OK while I was there. She bosses Suzie around a lot, but whatever.

LAUREN
I can’t imagine KJ being nice to anyone but Darren. I think it’s ‘cause they grew up together. (LAUREN and COURTNEY freeze.)

SUZIE
(The sisters continue their conversation at the bus stop) I don’t know what Steve, dad, was mad about this morning. I’m sure you didn’t do anything, but he was lookin’ for you when I left.

KJ
Oh, I forgot to put the garbage out. Why didn’t you remind me, stupid? (She pushes SUZIE)

SUZIE
I’m sorry KJ, I just didn’t think of it. ‘Sides, it’s your job!

KJ
Yeah, maybe you’d remember better if it was you gettin’ the smack in the head tonight. (KJ and SUZIE freeze.)

LAUREN
(Continue their conversation) So, you gotta tell me, what did you do at Suzie’s?

COURTNEY
I told you, we just worked on our project. It wasn’t that big a deal.

LAUREN
What do mean not that big a deal? I’m your best friend Courtney. I think I know how much you want to hang out with ‘em; and, if you end up hangin’ out with them, I don’t want to be left out.

COURTNEY
You don’t have to worry about that Lauren. I’m not gonna leave you out. Suzie and I just did a project together. It was fun, but it doesn’t make us best friends.

LAUREN
Even if Suzie didn’t want to be friends with you, I still think you’ll end up hangin’ out with ‘em.
COURTNEY
How do you figure?

LAUREN
Oh, c’mon, don’t tell me you haven’t noticed Darren lookin’ at you. He totally likes you.
(They freeze)

DARREN
(DARREN and CHRIS walk on stage) Oh man, Chris, I got some great time on the half-pipe down at the park last night.

CHRIS
How was it?

DARREN
It was awesome. But, KJ wiped out so bad man.

CHRIS
Geez, Darren was she alright?

DARREN
Oh yeah, she’s tough. She just got up and pretended like nothin’ happened. It was great.

CHRIS
I was gonna go out, but I didn’t think there would be anybody there. Besides, I banged up my board last time. I think I have to get a new one.

DARREN
(lying) Yeah, man, that’s why I didn’t call you to go. I didn’t think you had a board. Well, I mean it sounds like it was fun, but you really didn’t miss too much. You should come out when your board’s fixed ‘cause there’s always somebody there. It’s usually a pretty good time.

CHRIS
Sounds good Darren, maybe you could give me call next time you’re goin.’ I’d rather go when I know somebody.

DARREN
Yeah, sure man, no problem. Just get your board fixed and let me know. KJ and I are there a lot. Her old man hates it when I come over to her place, so we’re hangin’ a lot more at the park.

CHRIS
Oh, KJ’ll be there?

DARREN
Yeah man, why, is that a problem?

CHRIS
No. I just don’t think I want to hang out with her.

DARREN
Why? She’s nice to me. She just picks on ya cause you let her. She doesn’t mean anything
by it.

CHRIS
I think you’re wrong Darren. I think she means every bit of it. I’m sure she’s nice to you, but you grew up with her. Besides, I think she likes you. (*CHRIS and DARREN freeze.*

COURTNEY
(Unfreeze) Do you think Darren likes me? Well even if you’re right, that doesn’t mean that I’m gonna be friends with them.

LAUREN
Yes it does. If Darren wants somethin’, then KJ is gonna make sure he gets it. And if anybody can tell Suzie what to do it’s her sister. You are definitely in. Just don’t forget about me when you’re sittin’ at the popular table. (*They freeze.*

DARREN
(Continue their conversation) What do you mean KJ likes me? We’re best friends, that’d be like datin’ my sister. You’re nuts.

CHRIS
OK. Maybe I’m wrong and I don’t know who she likes. I just know she hates me.

DARREN
I’m tellin ya you’ve got her all wrong. Come out to the park when you get your board fixed. You’ll see.

CHRIS
(hesitating) Yeah great! I’ve been wantin’ to go. I’ll give ya a call. Oh, I’ll almost forgot, I wanted to give you back your Zelda game.

DARREN
Did ya finish it already? (*CHRIS nods*) What’d ya think?

CHRIS
Awesome.

DARREN
Yeah, do you have it with ya? (*They meet KJ and Suzie and all of them get on the bus. CHRIS sits alone near the front. He reaches in his kitbag and hands DARREN the game. DARREN takes it, then goes straight to the back to sit with KJ and Suzie.*)

DARREN
(To KJ, referring to her skateboarding fall) How you feelin’ today?

KJ
No problems.

SUZIE
(Overhearing, looks over KJ to talk to DARREN) Yeah, no problems. She could barely get out of bed this morning. (*Joking*) It’s no different than any other day.

KJ
(annoyed) Was somebody talkin’ to you? Stay out of it. (*to DARREN*) Are you playing
intermurals at lunch?

DARREN
Depends on the teams. Last time my team stunk. I hate losing.

KJ
Well, I’ll be on your team. No fears of that happenin’.

DARREN
You sure you’re up for it. (KJ gives him a dirty look as if to say, “I said I’m alright”) Yeah, I’ll be there then.

KJ
Are you sure? I don’t want to take you away from anything. You might be too busy with Chrissy. (Leans up and flicks CHRIS’s hair) Hey Chrissy, got big plans for lunch? What is it today? Homework club or maybe checkers?

CHRIS
(turns to KJ, sarcastically) Yeah KJ, I’ve got checker club.

DARREN
(changing the subject) Hey, switch seats with me KJ.

KJ
Why?

DARREN
(gesturing towards COURTNEY, he takes COURTNEY’s key chain out of his pocket) Ya know?! (KJ moves disgustedly) Hey Courtney. (COURTNEY turns halfway in her seat, so that she is half facing the back and half facing LAUREN, she looks at DARREN) You forgot this at the movie Saturday night. (COURTNEY just looks at it, trying to keep LAUREN from hearing) It is yours right? (He looks at SUZIE) I thought you said it was hers. (KJ is half paying attention to DARREN and what he is doing, while throwing wads of paper at CHRIS.)

SUZIE
(Looking at COURTNEY) It is.

COURTNEY
Yeah, sorry it is mine. Thanks. I can’t believe I left it there.

SUZIE
Don’t worry. (Making fun of DARREN) Darren wanted to give it back to you, so I gave it to him.

DARREN
Yeah, thanks Suzie. I think your sister wants to talk to ya’. (SUZIE looks behind DARREN at KJ who is making a ‘shut up’ face at her. To COURTNEY) So what did you think of the movie?

COURTNEY
It was good. (Turning back towards the front)
LAUREN
What movie? I thought you didn’t do anything but work on your project.

COURTNEY
Oh, we went to a movie too.

LAUREN
So who went?

COURTNEY
It doesn’t matter. We’re all friends right?

SUZIE
(Annoyed at LAUREN and trying to get COURTNEY’s attention) Hey, why don’t you come back here and sit with us? (LAUREN and COURTNEY assume she is talking to both of them. They both move toward the back of the bus.)

SUZIE
(To LAUREN) Not you loser. (Everyone on the bus turns to look at what is happening. DARREN and KJ laugh. LAUREN turns to go back to her usual seat.)

COURTNEY
(to LAUREN) Oh, I’m sure she’s just joking. She’s just funny like that. (She moves past LAUREN, and sits down beside SUZIE. DARREN is in the aisle seat next to her.)

DARREN
(to COURTNEY) So what did you think of the movie?

COURTNEY
Oh, it was amazing.

SUZIE
I thought it was too gross.

KJ
Well as far as Steve, I mean dad, knows, it was a comedy. He’d be so ticked if he found out it was a scary movie.

SUZIE
I can’t let him find out or he’ll make me cancel my party this weekend.

COURTNEY
What party?

KJ
(To Chris who was gaining interest in the conversation) Turn around, freak.

SUZIE
I’m havin’ a huge bash this weekend, only the cool people are invited. (To COURTNEY) Do you wanna come?

COURTNEY
Yeah, I’d love to. (They continue miming a conversation. KJ is still quietly bothering
CHRIS, who is trying to ignore her. They all start giggling and whispering to each other. LAUREN looks at them with a sad face.)

LAUREN
(Under her breath she imitates COURTNEY) “Yeah, I’d love to.”

CHRIS
(Puts his headphones on. Music plays quietly) Lauren, you can sit here with me if you’d like.

LAUREN
(Looking toward the girls at the back, then looking at CHRIS) No, I don’t think so . . . thanks anyways. (The bus stops and everyone gets out and heads off stage into the school. The girls and DARREN still laughing and miming making fun of others and talking about the party.)

(Chorus members enter from various sides of the stage and they transform the bus chairs into the Lockers.)

ACTOR 3: I think bullying comes in many forms.
ACTOR 4: In my family we don’t talk about it.
ACTOR 5: When I think of bullying I feel bad for the innocent victims.
ACTOR 1: People who bully, don’t like themselves.
ACTOR 2: People who bully are strong and successful.

ACTOR 3: When it comes to bullying I probably do it myself without knowing.
ACTOR 4: When I think of bullying I think of people talking over me at the lockers.

SCENE II The Lockers

(CHRIS is at his locker. DARREN enters and gives CHRIS a slight push to the side as he walks by.)

CHRIS
Ugh! Thanks, Darren! I just love getting smacked into lockers.

DARREN
Yeah, yeah whatever. Not like it hurt or anything. Say, you got a good lunch today?

CHRIS
Yeah, my favorite (he sings) MONEY, MONEY, MONEY! It’s bean burrito day in the caff!

DARREN
I’ve got cash too but I like pizza better.

CHRIS
Naw man, the musical fruit is way better than that cardboard pie.
DARREN
Yeah, I could use the energy for the big game today.

CHRIS
Speakin’ a games, watch ya doin’ this Friday night? My dad scored coupons for bowling . . . buy one get one free. You wanna come?

DARREN
Yeah, I’m pretty open Friday. I’m so hungry. I gotta go get something to eat.

CHRIS
So that was your stomach trying to talk in French class. It has a better accent than you!

DARREN
Yah – pretty good huh? I think the girls were getting annoyed. *(CHRIS laughs in agreement)*
Anyways, I’m goin’ for the pizza. *(KJ enters. She pushes CHRIS into DARREN)*

KJ
Get outta the way Chrissy. I gotta get to my locker.

DARREN
Jeez Chris get offa me – what do ya want? A hug!

KJ
What's the matter? Can’t ya stand on your own two feet? Or are ya in love with Darren?

CHRIS
Ugh . . . yeah whatever KJ. *(CHRIS goes back to his locker)*

DARREN
I told ya, you just gotta stand up for yourself. Don’t let her push you around. She’s just messin’ with ya.

CHRIS
Yeah, yeah, whatever.

KJ
*(She starts a conversation with DARREN as if CHRIS is invisible)* Hey Darren, still up for the party this weekend?

DARREN
Yeah, when is it?

KJ
Friday night. Suzie says Courtney’s comin’ for sure. Not that you’d care, right?

DARREN
*(Embarrassed)* No, I don’t care, but what’d she say?

KJ
Just to make sure that you show up. So you’re gonna be over eh! No other plans?
DARREN
Nothing I can’t cancel.

CHRIS
Darren! I already asked you to . . .

DARREN
(Puts his hand over CHRIS’ mouth) Can’t you see I am trying to have a conversation?
(CHRIS takes his books and walks off stage. DARREN and KJ grab their books too and walk off in the opposite direction, talking about the party.)

(Chorus enters from various places and move the chairs to resemble a cafeteria.)

ACTOR 5: Bullying is destructive.
ACTOR 1: Bullying is something that people do to make themselves feel better than others.
ACTOR 2: People who bully don’t care.
ACTOR 3: People who bully don’t realize what they’re doing.
ACTOR 4: When I think of bullying I wonder if I’m a bully.
ACTOR 5: Bullying is cool for some people.
ACTOR 1: Bullying often happens in the cafeteria.

SCENE III The Cafeteria

(SUZIE, COURTNEY, and FRIEND are sitting together in the cafeteria to one side. At the other end, sitting by herself, is LAUREN. The popular girls are talking about her and their lunches.)

FRIEND
Did you guys see the new girl in class this morning?

SUZIE
Which girl?

FRIEND
That one. (Pointing to LAUREN at the other end of the table)

COURTNEY
You mean Lauren.

SUZIE
She’s not new, she goes on our bus you freak. Didn’t you see her this morning?

FRIEND
Nope. Weird, you think I need my eyes checked?

SUZIE
Your eyes are fine, not like she stands out. Least she didn’t until she took her coat off. Who does she think she is? That shirt looks so bad.
COURTNEY
Don’t you have one kind of like it?

SUZIE
Yeah, but it looks different when I wear it. It just doesn’t suit her at all. She has totally ruined that shirt. When you come over Friday I’ll give you mine, ‘cause I’m never wearing it again. What’s her name? . . . Louise . . . she can have that look all for herself.

COURTNEY
I think her name is Lauren.

SUZIE
Yeah, whatever. I am starving, did either of you bring money today?

FRIEND and COURTNEY
No.

SUZIE
Well I have to find something to eat. Courtney, why don’t you go ask KJ if she has anything she can give me?

COURTNEY
I don’t want to ask her. You’re her sister. I’m sure she’d give you something.

SUZIE
You obviously don’t know her very well if you think she’d do something nice for me. Well, I need something, we have soccer tryouts later and I need some energy. Hey Court, you know that girl pretty well don’t ya? She’s got lots, could you go ask her for somethin’?

COURTNEY
Uhm, yeah I guess so. What do you want?

SUZIE
Anything, I’m starvin. (COURTNEY gets up and walks over to LAUREN. LAUREN looks up at her thinking she has come back to be friends. She smiles.)

COURTNEY
Hey Lauren, how’s it goin’?

LAUREN
Okay I guess.

COURTNEY
Well, I was just wonderin’, see well actually, Suzie was just wonderin’ if you might have anything you could share for lunch? See, she forgot her money today and she needs to eat before soccer tryouts.

LAUREN
Yeah, sure I can share. (Smiles, gets up and follows behind COURTNEY to SUZIE’s table) Hi Suzie. Courtney said you forgot your lunch. I’d be happy to share some of mine with you. (LAUREN sets her lunch down on the table and goes to sit down. As she does, SUZIE grabs the bag of chips that was from LAUREN’s lunch) Wow, this is great. We haven’t had lunch together since grade 6 . . . (SUZIE and Friends stand up. SUZIE inspects the bag of
chips, opens it up, takes 2 or 3, then crumples the bag and throws it over her shoulder onto the floor and walks away with COURTNEY and FRIEND) Where are you going? I thought . . . I’m so stupid. (LAUREN obviously upset runs off stage. She passes by DARREN and KJ who are holding cafeteria trays. KJ is pushing past CHRIS and others waiting in the cafeteria line up.)

KJ
Look out, comin’ through.

DARREN
Intramurals don’t start for 15 minutes. We’ve got time to wait KJ.

CHRIS
Yeah, you could’a waited your turn.

KJ
You might Darren, but I don’t. I can’t stand when people are slow. *(Indicating cafeteria server who could be played by a chorus member)* Besides, star players need time to relax and warm up before a game. *(DARREN laughs reluctantly, and follows her, passing others in the line up including CHRIS.)*

CHRIS
(to KJ) You could wait your turn, ya know. *(KJ pushes past him. As DARREN goes by, CHRIS gives him a look)* Nice Darren, I think you forgot to push me on your way by.

DARREN
Hey man, you can go ahead of me, I’m in no rush.

CHRIS
No thanks, you better hurry or you’ll get in trouble?

DARREN
 *(laughing about it)* Yeah man, when she’s hungry she’s a pain in the butt.

KJ
 *(from the front of the line)* Darren they’re not gonna have anymore pizza for like 10 minutes. I’m not waitin’. Do you want the last burrito or what?

DARREN
Yeah, save it for me. *(to CHRIS)* Catch you later. *(DARREN runs up to the front of the line to get the last burrito. CHRIS walks off stage. KJ and DARREN exit. Chorus reconfigure the chairs to resemble a bathroom.)*

ACTOR 2: When I think of bullying, I feel sad, frightened, and angry.
ACTOR 3: When it comes to bullying, the effects go far beyond the actual event.
ACTOR 4: When I think of bullying, I realize that I am one too.
ACTOR 5: When I think of bullying, I think of really mean people.
ACTOR 1: When I think of bullying, I remember the times I didn’t get involved.
ACTOR 2: When it comes to bullying, I just don’t think.
ACTOR 3: When I think of bullying, I think of crying alone in the bathroom.
SCENE IV The Bathroom

(We see LAUREN looking off into a mirror. She has her headphones on. We hear the song “unpretty.” She is trying to pull herself together as she has been crying. She begins to talk to her reflection. The music continues playing in the background.)

LAUREN
I just don’t get it. I don’t understand why Suzie doesn’t like me. We all played soccer together last year. We got along then. What did I do to make them hate me so much? I just don’t get it. I look like her. I even dress like her. We like a lot of the same stuff. I just don’t get what I’m doing wrong. (COURTNEY walks into the bathroom. We see that LAUREN sees her in the reflection. Pause. LAUREN takes off her headphones and the music stops.)

COURTNEY
Who are you talking to?

LAUREN
Nobody.

COURTNEY
I heard you talking somebody. Are you OK?

LAUREN
I wasn’t talking. I just had a cough.

SUZIE
(SUZIE and FRIEND walk in and overhear a little of what LAUREN is saying. SUZIE makes a gesture to her friends like she is crazy.) You might want to see a doctor about that. Thanks for the chips by the way. Feel free to bring another bag for me anytime, as long as it’s ketchup. (She looks at her friends and smiles. to FRIEND) Give me your lip gloss. (Pretends like she is fixing her makeup and then says to LAUREN, while she is still looking in the mirror) I love your shirt, Louise.

FRIEND
I think her name’s Lauren.

SUZIE
Yeah, that’s what I meant, Lauren. I love your shirt. Where did you get it?

LAUREN
Huh, oh I got it at Eclipse.

SUZIE
Wow, I shop there a lot and I don’t think that I’ve ever seen you there.

LAUREN
I don’t get to the mall very often.

SUZIE
Oh, and you just happened to choose that shirt?

LAUREN
Yeah, well actually, I saw yours and I really liked it, so I saved up to get one too. I was lucky though, cause . . .

SUZIE
(Cuts her off) It’s really too bad cause I used to like that shirt. I guess no one told you, it just went totally out of style.

LAUREN
(timidly) But I thought everybody liked this shirt. (Looking at COURTNEY) Courtney, you just told me this morning that you liked it and you thought it looked good on me.

COURTNEY
No I didn’t. (SUZIE, COURTNEY, and FRIEND all turn to leave the bathroom.)

SUZIE
Get a life, loser. (All but COURTNEY and LAUREN exit. Pause.)

SUZIE
Courtney, are you comin’ or what?

COURTNEY
(Hesitates a moment.) Yeah, I’m comin’. (COURTNEY exits and LAUREN is left alone. She puts her headphones back on. The music starts again. LAUREN looks down at her clothes and then reaches into her kitbag. She pulls out a sweater and puts it on to cover her new shirt. Chorus enters and re-arrange the chairs of the lockers.)

ACTOR 4: Why do some people try so hard to be mean?
ACTOR 5: People who bully don’t think about others.
ACTOR 1: When I think of bullying, I feel pain.
ACTOR 2: When it comes to bullying I do it to fit in and belong.
ACTOR 3: Bullying is a show of power.
ACTOR 4: People who bully are usually insecure and angry.
ACTOR 5: People who bully are often looking for help.
ACTOR 1: Bullies seem to like the lockers.

SCENE V     Calculator Results – A MIRRORED SCENE

(End of the day. CHRIS and DARREN are at their lockers.)

DARREN
Hey Chris, thanks for the tip on the bean burrito. Our team rocked at intramurals.

CHRIS
(CHRIS is fiddling with his new calculator) How was my bean burrito?

DARREN
Great. *(noticing CHRIS’s calculator)* Whatch’ya got?

CHRIS
Oh, you gotta see this new calculator I got. *(Hands the calculator to DARREN)*

DARREN
Oh cool, is that the one you can draw pictures on?

CHRIS
Yeah, they use these in the high school. Hey, you should see this cool trick I learned. Put in 77345 and turn the calculator upside down. Look what it spells. *(DARREN enters the numbers and turns the calculator upside down. CHRIS goes over and they both look into the calculator laughing. KJ enters.)*

KJ *(Looks at the two guys. To DARREN)* Hey, what are you looking at? A new calculator? Sweet. Let me look at it. Hey D, throw it over here. *(DARREN gently throws the calculator to KJ.)*

DARREN *(to KJ)* Try putting in 77345 and turning the calculator upside-down. *(KJ does so and laughs)*

Cool Huh?

CHRIS
Hey, I showed you that Darren! DARREN!

KJ
Who cares! Hey Darren, go long. *(KJ throws the calculator to DARREN. CHRIS tries to grab it.)*

DARREN
Geez be careful KJ, give me a heads up first.

KJ
C’mon you need the practice man. Throw it back.

DARREN
I’ll show you who needs practice. *(Throws the calculator back to KJ. They continue to play the game of ‘keep away’ for a few seconds, then all freeze.)*

*(A group of girls crowd around a sheet of paper on the wall. Scanning the roster with their fingers, each girl turns away pleased. COURTNEY and FRIEND are the first two to look, they high five each other. LAUREN looks next, she made the team too. COURTNEY holds up her hand to give LAUREN a high five. LAUREN looks a minute and then gives her a high five.)*

COURTNEY *(to LAUREN)* You played a good game.

LAUREN *(to COURTNEY)* You too. *(The girls all start to pack up for the end of the day)*
COURTNEY
Our team is gonna be awesome. I can’t believe all the great players this year.

LAUREN
Even the grade sevens were awesome. (SUZIE enters. She goes to the list and scans down the page with her finger. She turns angrily. COURTNEY goes to give her a high five and SUZIE pushes past her.)

SUZIE
Keep away from me.

COURTNEY
What’s the matter Suzie?

SUZIE
Why don’t you ask Louise?

LAUREN
Who me? What did I do?

SUZIE
Oh yeah, like you didn’t do anything.

LAUREN
I don’t know what you’re talking about.

SUZIE
(approaching LAUREN) There’s no way you made that team and I didn’t. I’m twice the player you are.

COURTNEY
Everyone played really well. It must have been hard for the coach to choose the team.

LAUREN
Yeah Suzie, you played really well.

SUZIE
Give me a break. I saw you talkin’ to the coach before the tryouts. What did you say to her?

TEACHER
(from outside the locker room) Hey, what’s taking so long in there? (All freeze)

(Back to other half of stage. DARREN and KJ continue to play ‘keep away’. KJ holds the calculator in front of CHRIS's nose. A TEACHER walks by. They momentarily stop. Then KJ takes his calculator again.)

KJ
Hey, what’s the matter, you too slow? Come on turtle boy, ya waaaaaan it? Here it is down low . . . ahh sorry, Chris, too slow. (CHRIS reaches for the calculator. The keep away game continues. CHRIS pleads as the calculator is tossed back and forth.)
CHRIS
KJ that was a present from my mom . . . Darren you know I need that calculator . . . Come on, it was expensive . . . (adamantly) Kimberly Jane! Please! If that gets broken I can’t get a new one. Stop messin’ around and give it back!

KJ
(angry) Okay, come and get it Christopher! (KJ pretends that she is going to give the calculator back to CHRIS. She holds out the calculator and CHRIS reaches out to get it. She drops it just as he is about to get it. It drops on the floor. Pause. CHRIS kneels down to pick up the calculator pieces. The bell rings. Pause. KJ grabs her kitbag, closes her locker door and walks off. DARREN leans down to help CHRIS who pushes his arm away. DARREN turns and catches up to KJ. CHRIS is left trying to put the calculator back together.)

(Scene continues with the girls on the other side of the stage.)

LAUREN
I didn’t say anything, I swear.

SUZIE
Yeah right, the only reason she put you on the team is ‘cause she feels sorry for ya.

COURTNEY
(trying to defuse the situation) C’mon Suzie, we’re gonna miss the bus.

SUZIE
I’m glad I didn’t make the team. Or should I say the loser league?

COURTNEY
Just forget about it. You have more important things to think about, like who’s goin’ to this party.

(Both scenes unfreeze. DARREN and KJ walk off stage talking about the party, as do COURTNEY, SUZIE, and FRIEND. CHRIS AND LAUREN are left alone on the stage, a little defeated.)

CHRIS
(Looking at his calculator) It’s broken. (Drops the calculator on the floor) This happens everyday.

LAUREN
All I wanted was to be on the team.

CHRIS
How come they always pick on me? I don't understand.

LAUREN
They could at least let me do what I am good at.

CHRIS
I share my answers all the time.

LAUREN
I know I’m good.

CHRIS
What’s their problem?

LAUREN
If I wasn’t any good I wouldn’t have made the cut.

CHRIS and LAUREN
I just don’t understand! *(CHRIS leaves his broken calculator and they both walk off stage.)*

DARREN
*(DARREN enters looking around, picks up the calculator and runs off stage, calling to CHRIS as he exits)* Hey Chris, wait up.

*(Chorus enters.)*

ACTOR 1: When I think of bullying I get upset.
ACTOR 2: People who bully need to think about their own lives instead of bugging me about mine.
ACTOR 3: When I think of bullying I think of people in different sizes and shapes.
ACTOR 4: When I think of bullying I wonder what I can do to stop it.
ACTOR 5: In my family bullying doesn’t exist, we have mutual respect.
ACTOR 1: When it comes to bullying it is almost never forgotten.
ACTOR 2: Bullying doesn’t stop till I get off the bus and go home.

**SCENE VI Back to the Bus**

*(COURTNEY, SUZIE, and FRIEND are all waiting for the bus. They are talking about the party. KJ enters alone.)*

KJ
Hey, Suz, how’d tryouts go?

SUZIE
Who cares, it’s just a stupid game.

KJ
I take it that means it didn’t go too well.

SUZIE
Whatever, I’m sure you think it’s hilarious.

KJ
Hey, after all the time I spent helpin’ you with your game, I don’t find it funny at all that you didn’t make the team. What happened?

SUZIE
*(Pointing to LAUREN, who has quietly entered to wait for the bus)* She’s what happened.
KJ
Are you kiddin’? She made the team and you didn’t? Do you know how bad that makes us look?

SUZIE
What do you mean us?

KJ
You’re my sister, if you look bad so do I.

SUZIE
Yeah, well she cheated anyway. I could of beat her if she hadn’t made the coach feel sorry for her.

KJ
(Walks over to LAUREN) Hey, you think its funny making my sister look bad?

LAUREN
(Intimidated) I didn’t. I wouldn’t try to do anything to her. (All the girls walk over and stand by KJ)

KJ
So now you’re callin’ her a liar too? Are you mental or what?

LAUREN
(frightened and upset) I swear I didn’t do anything. I made the team ‘cause I’m a good player.

SUZIE
Are you sayin I’m not?

LAUREN
No, I just mean . . . (They go back and forth form one girl to another improvising dialogue. COURTNEY stands by torn over what to do. CHRIS comes out and sees what’s happening. He runs over and gets between the sisters and LAUREN.)

CHRIS
What’s goin’ on? Leave her alone.

(DARREN enters but stays back a bit)

KJ
(to CHRIS) What’s the matter Chrissy? You stickin’ up for your girlfriend? (to DARREN) Hey Darren, come here, you’re missin’ all the fun.

CHRIS
Yeah, you’re all so tough. Three against one that’s really impressive.

KJ
(Grabs CHRIS by the collar) I’ll show you impressive. (DARREN sees that KJ has grabbed CHRIS and goes over)

CHRIS
Yeah, whatever Kimberly Jane.
KJ
Shut up, ya little freak. (She pushes him. He falls back and hits LAUREN, who drops her books. DARREN hurries over. KJ stands above CHRIS.) Shouldn’t you be busy fixing your little calculator? (DARREN gets between them. He bends down to help CHRIS up.)

DARREN
(to KJ) What are ya doing? (DARREN moves KJ towards the bus. COURTNEY is helping to pick up LAUREN’s books) Come on KJ let’s go catch the bus.

SUZIE
(to LAUREN) Wait till tomorrow, Louise. I wouldn’t wanna be you. (She laughs and starts to walk towards the bus)

SUZIE
(To COURTNEY) Courtney, are ya comin’? (COURTNEY puts the books that she has picked up on top of the rest of LAUREN’s books on the ground. She gets up, hesitates, looks at SUZIE, the looks at LAUREN, obviously torn. She shrugs her shoulders and walks off with SUZIE. CHRIS helps LAUREN gather her books and helps her up.)

CHRIS
(to LAUREN) Are ya okay?

LAUREN
Yeah, thanks Chris. You’re actually pretty cool. (They walk off to the bus. DARREN takes CHRIS by the arm before he gets on the bus. He leads him to centre stage.)

DARREN
Yo, Chris, wait up a minute.

CHRIS
(Starts walking slowly back toward the bus. Then turns to DARREN)
What’s the matter Darren, you forget to get in on the action? You need to give me a shove so KJ won’t think you’re a wimp?

DARREN
Wait man. I don’t know what you’re talking about. I just wanted to know if we’re still on for bowlin’ Friday night.

CHRIS
Bowlin’ with me? What about KJ’s big party? Hangin’ out with me she might think you’re a loser.

KJ
(KJ yells from the bus) Darren, come on? Get back here ‘fore somebody takes your seat.

DARREN
(Looks at KJ then at CHRIS) No worries, you can give it to somebody else today. (To CHRIS, who is looking away from DARRÉN) Look man, there’ll be plenty of other parties. Side’s I’d rather go bowlin’ with you. (CHRIS ignores him) Hey, Chris, I got something for ya. (Takes out the calculator from his pocket) I managed to fix your calculator. Aren’t you gonna talk to me? Geez man, what did I do?

CHRIS
That’s just it Darren, You didn’t do anything! *(They freeze while chorus takes the stage to deliver final lines)*

ACTOR 1: When I see bullying I could...stand up for what is right, even if I am standing up against my friends!
ACTOR 2: When I see bullying I could do something.
ACTOR 3: When I see bullying I could tell an adult!
ACTOR 4: When I see bullying I could do something.
ACTOR 5: When I see bullying I could stand up to the bully and tell them they are wrong!
ACTOR 6: When I see bullying I could do something.
ACTOR 7: When I see bullying I could try and stop it!
ACTOR 8: When I see bullying I could do something.
ACTOR 9: When I see bullying I could be a real friend and make the right decision! *(DARREN unfreezes and faces the audience)*
DARREN: When I see bullying I can make a difference!

Repeat Song - *Don’t Laugh at Me!*

END

[1] There are many different versions of this song, and the group adapted the lyrics and melody from the Peter, Paul, and Mary version.