

CLIQUEES AND CAFETERIAS

A COMEDY IN ONE ACT

By Laura Toffenetti

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CLIQUES AND CAFETERIAS

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

NOTE: Flexible cast of 28 characters. Some doubling possible. Normal gender casting. Some male parts could be female and vice versa, especially the teachers, possibly Harry, Tom or Sam. William, Tim, and Johnny have to be male. Cheerleaders and Jackie's friends have to be female.

Mr. Wormsat.....Principal. (9 lines)

Mrs. SomboliHomeroom Teacher. (14 lines)

Mr. Bergant.....French Teacher. (5 lines)

PE Teacher.....(1 line)

Mrs. CarmichaelBiology Teacher. (3 lines)

Mrs. Reilly.....Math Teacher. (5 lines)

PA Voice.....(6 lines)

Tina.....Cheerleader. (26 lines)

JeanCheerleader. (19 lines)

Debbie.....Cheerleader. (10 lines)

SherriCheerleader. (11 lines)

Hannah.....Cheerleader, not too bright. (12 lines)

Sally.....Cheerleader. (12 lines)

William.....Dungeon master. (21 lines)

HarryDungeons and dragons player. (14 lines)

Tom.....Dungeons and dragons player. (11 lines)

SamDungeons and dragons player. (12 lines)

AnnStudious student. (19 lines)

Sharon.....Talent show. (11 lines)

CarolTalent show. (10 lines)

JackieBreak up friends. (16 lines)

Kathy(13 lines)

Laura.....(11 lines)

Nancy.....(12 lines)

Maria.....(15 lines)

TimDidn't study pair. (19 lines)

Johnny.....(21 lines)

MaryQuits play. (13 lines)

Student OneOptional, double cast with Mrs. Reilly.
(2 lines)

Student Two.....Optional, double cast with Mr. Bergant.
(2 lines)

Student Three.....Optional, double cast with Mrs. Carmichael.
(1 line)

LIST OF SCENES:

The classroom scenes should have EXTRA students who don't have any speaking lines in the scene. Basically, you want about half the students in the stage left classroom and half the students in the stage right classroom.

BEFORE SCHOOL (All students and teachers should "hang out")

SONG (All students)

HOMEROOM (Must include the following characters: Mrs. Somboli, Tim, Carol, Ann, William, Sam, Tom, Harry, Sharon, Johnny, Jean, and Tina)

HALLWAY (All students)

FRENCH CLASS (Must include the following characters: Mr. Bergant, Hannah, Tom, William, Sharon, Carol, Ann, Mary, Jean, Sally, Johnny, Tim)

HALLWAY (All students)

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MATH CLASS (Must include the following characters: Mrs. Reilly, Debbie, Sharon, Sherrie, Sally, Jean, Tina, Hannah, Carol)

HALLWAY (All students)

PE Class (All students, PE Teacher)

CAFETERIA (All students, Mrs. Somboli, Mr. Wormsat)

HALLWAY (All students)

BIOLOGY CLASS (Must include the following: Mrs. Carmichael, Ann, Sharon, Carol, Debbie, Tina, Jean, Hannah, Sherri, Sally)

SETTING:

This is a typical middle school. There should be a classroom set up on stage left and another on stage right. Center stage is pretty open. It's where the kids "hang out" before classes and it also acts as the gym and cafeteria. The classrooms should be pretty generic. Basically, a lot of desks, a blackboard on rollers so it can be moved from side to side. The first scene, before homeroom, is little snippets of conversations. Those who are speaking should move to the apron to deliver their lines then sink back into the mob as they finish. ALL students are on stage the whole time. When class is in "session," some will be in one class that has the scene. Some will be in the other class with lights down, sleeping, quietly talking, listening to head phones, etc.

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MR. WORMSAT: Welcome to Middle School U.S.A. Nothing unusual goes on in our school. It's just a typical middle school filled with typical students accomplishing typical tasks during a typical day. We thought you might enjoy a visit. Please note that we are governed by the same criteria that all typical American middle schools are governed by...tests. Not that that's a bad thing. Or a good thing. It's just the way things are.

All enter up the aisles as if coming to school. They should have backpacks and books, etc.

PA VOICE: *(PA Voice can be done off stage or on stage at a podium or microphone.)* Attention! Attention! If you are interested in the fifteenth annual Middle School U.S.A. Talent Show please be sure to sign up in Mrs. Somboli's room by 2:30 today.

TINA: Happy Birthday!

JEAN: Oooh! What did you get me?

TINA: Open it! Open it!

DEBBIE: Hottie, twelve o'clock!

HARRY: I didn't have time for breakfast. Got any grub?

TINA: *(Passing HARRY.)* Grubworms.

SHERRI: Let me tell you, shopping for a dress with my mother is a total waste of time. She wants me to dress like a nun.

ANN: Achooo!

SHERRI: Bless you. See, now I even sound like one. Great game, Tim!

HANNAH: Swim practice didn't get over until 10:00. Can I look at your math homework during study hall?

ANN: This backpack is killing me. Hey, Tim! Awesome game!

SHARON: I want to be in the talent show, but I don't know what I want to do.

CAROL: Well, don't ask me!

WILLIAM: Can you believe this? They banned me from the computer except on weekends. What kind of life is that?

KATHY: I didn't get any sleep last night. My folks were fighting again. I'm gonna have to sleep in French class.

LAURA: I can't believe this! I spent two hours typing my paper and I forgot to print it out!

NANCY: Want to go to the mall today? My mom said she'd take us.

JOHNNY: What do you mean it's only Thursday?? Oh man! I thought it was Friday!

HARRY: What we need is a good old-fashioned snow day.

TOM: In September??

HARRY: I do NOT want to take this English exam.

MARIA: Why do we have to go to school?

MRS. SOMBOLI: (*Sounds like "somebody."*) Come on, people. Get to homeroom. The bells are going to ring any minute.

SONG

Students gather on the apron to chant these lyrics, "WHY DO WE HAVE TO GO TO SCHOOL?" Have fun with this chant and feel free to improvise and exaggerate. Instead of the CHORUS, cast members could each take a line also.

Another day of school has started
Another school day has begun
Homework, papers, drills and lectures
And very little fun

Chorus

It's not that we don't want to learn (Oh no!)
It's just that we've got things on our minds (Our minds!)
Why do we have to go to school (Boo hoo!)
All of the time?

Rules and examinations
Lots of pressure to excel
What ever happened to our recess?
We're regulated by the bell

Our friends are what's most important
Who broke up with who's – that's our breaking news
Chatting, shopping, playing soccer
Who's got time for school?

Our parents they don't understand us
They don't know how hard it is
To be a student, sibling, son or daughter
We just need time to be us

We know you worry about our future
But must we really sacrifice
Our childhood?
We're paying such a price

*Bell rings. Kids ad-lib: "See you at lunch! See you in math!
Good luck in English! Later! Bye! See ya!"*

Kids file into homerooms. Lights come up on one class.

MRS. SOMBOLI: Settle down. Settle down. (Mrs. Somboli starts to take roll.) Tim Anderson...

TIM: Yo!

MRS. SOMBOLI: Congratulations on the game last night. This is the first time the team's made the playoffs in five years.

TIM: Thanks, Mrs. Somboli. We're going to go all the way!

Half the class cheers.

MRS. SOMBOLI: Carol Bennet...

CAROL: Here.

MRS. SOMBOLI: Ann Deitrich...

ANN: Morning, Mrs. Somboli.

WILLIAM, SAM, HARRY and TOM are sitting in a group. They are playing "Dungeons and Dragons." WILLIAM is the Dungeon Master, SAM is into the wizard stuff. He tries hard to say profound things. HARRY is an enthusiastic player who doesn't really get how to play the game. TIM likes getting blown up. It's

perfectly “okay” for the audience to not really understand a lot of what they are saying as long as the four of them say everything with a lot of emotion and conviction!

WILLIAM: *(To the audience.)* I am the Dungeon Master. I control all the players. I have ultimate power. I can be generous or I can be vindictive. Compassionate or vengeful! Though to be honest, I wish I had a brighter group to work with. These guys don't get it. They don't understand how sophisticated a game this is. They keep trying to cheat and be cool. They don't know how to really get into their character and stay there. Harry is always making up these ridiculous powers and weapons, Tom is about as bright as a sheep dog. And Sam, well, lately Sam's whole brain is being devoured by his obsession with Debbie. As if he would ever in a million years have a chance with Debbie. Ah, but it's something to do. *(To his players.)* Let's recap the last session. You just completed clearing out the orcs from an old abandoned mine, and you were returning to the king in hope that you would get some sort of a reward for that. Got it? Has everyone recovered from their injuries?

SAM: My injuries are inconclusive.

WILLIAM: Inconclusive? You lost 40 hit points from it! Explain yourself.

SAM: Well, although my skin is badly burned, my heart still beats as well as ever.

TOM: I'm down to single digits!

HARRY: Sorry about that. I didn't mean to blow up the mine shaft. It just kind of happened.

WILLIAM: *(Frustrated and trying to get them on task.)* You're standing in front of King... *(checks notes for his name.)* King Bimprnottin. You're not looking all that great.

HARRY: What are you talking about? I just used my super rod of healing plus seventy two point five! I should be completely healed!

WILLIAM: *(This is a discussion they have had before.)* You don't HAVE the rod of healing. You LOST it in the explosion YOU caused. It's GONE. Got it?

HARRY: But I cast a special spell of protection on it so that it wouldn't be damaged! It should be in my inventory!

MRS. SOMBOLI: Harry Fichetti.

HARRY: Here.

MRS. SOMBOLI: Sam Gould.

SAM: Present.

MRS. SOMBOLI: Sharon Hernandez.

SHARON: Here.

ANN: Hi Tim. Great game last night. Are you ready for the English test today?

TIM: The test is today???

ANN: Yeah. Mr. Johnson only told us about it a gazillion times. I studied for TWO HOURS last night.

TIM: Hey, Johnny, did you know that English test was TODAY?

JOHNNY: WHAT??? I thought it was next week! I'm so going to fail. My mom's going to kill me.

ANN: (*Walking over to another group.*) Hi, Jean, did you study for the English test today? I studied for THREE HOURS last night.

TIM: Oh my God. What am I going to do?

JOHNNY: What are YOU going to do? What am I going to do?

TIM: I haven't even read the book.

JOHNNY: Oh man! We had to read a book??

TIM: I am going to be so grounded.

MRS. SOMBOLI: Bill Johnson.

WILLIAM: I prefer William.

SHARON: Maybe I should sing a song. What do you think?

CAROL: You sing terrible. Do NOT sing a song?

MRS. SOMBOLI: Lunch today is tacos, rice and beans.

JOHNNY: The magical fruit! (*Class laughs.*)

MRS. SOMBOLI: That's enough. Star wars club has been canceled but will meet again next Tuesday. If anyone is interested in signing up for summer soccer please pick up a form at the office. Oh, and people, today's the last day to sign up for the talent show. It's a great opportunity to show your school spirit and it's for a good cause. You have until 2:30 today.

JEAN: I LOVE THOSE SHOES!!!

TINA: Aren't they great? I got them at the mall last night. You'll never guess who I saw there!

JEAN: Who?

TINA: (*Pointing to Tim.*) Tim!

JEAN: You mean Jackie's Tim?

TINA: Uh huh. And guess who he was with!

JEAN: He wasn't with Jackie?

TINA: Guess who! You'll never guess! Not in a million years!

JEAN: Tell me! Tell me! Who?

TINA: (*Looks around to make sure no one is listening.*) You have to swear yourself to secrecy. I mean it!

JEAN: I swear. I swear. Who is it?

TINA: Kathy!

JEAN: Not Kathy! She's Jackie's best friend! It couldn't have been Kathy!

TINA: Please. I know what Kathy looks like.

JEAN: Then it couldn't have been Tim.

TINA: PULEESE! I REALLY know what Tim looks like. (*Giggles.*) What do you think I am, blind?

JEAN: I don't believe you.

TINA: Don't believe me. But that's who he was with.

JEAN: That's unbelievable! So which store did you get those shoes at?

Bell rings. All get up to change classes.

PA VOICE: Attention! Attention! Don't forget to show your school spirit! Today's the last day to sign up for the talent show! Sign up is in Mrs. Somboli's room.

SHARON: How about a dance?

CAROL: You know how to dance?

SHARON: Well, no. But you could help me.

CAROL: I could NOT help you.

NANCY, MARIA, and KATHY huddle around JACKIE who is crying.

NANCY: Jackie, what's the matter?

JACKIE: Tim broke up with me!

LAURA: WHAT!!!??? Do you know why?

MARIA: Did he say anything?

NANCY: Did he say why he dumped you?

JACKIE cries louder.

KATHY: Don't get so upset.

LAURA: What are you talking about? Why shouldn't she get upset?

NANCY: Of course she should be upset! If Tim dumped me, I know I'd be upset! (*Jackie cries.*)

MARIA: They were perfect together! (*Jackie wails.*)

JACKIE: I don't know what happened!

NANCY: Did you have a fight or anything?

JACKIE: No! I don't know! I couldn't go to the game yesterday. And last night...he had Johnny tell me! Johnny called me up and said Tim wanted to go out with somebody else!

KATHY: You must have misunderstood. You know how Johnny is. He can't remember his own name half the time.

LAURA: What a rat. The LEAST he could have done was tell you himself.

MARIA: What a jerk.

NANCY: Why would he want to go out with somebody else?

LAURA: Kathy's right. Johnny must have messed up. I'm sure Tim still likes you.

JACKIE: You think so?

KATHY: Maybe Johnny didn't say it right. Maybe Tim just wanted to talk to other people besides you.

MARIA: Like who? He's in love with Jackie!

NANCY: Who would go out with him?

MARIA: Everybody knows you two were going out.

LAURA: Who ever it is, is really mean.

MARIA: I mean you just don't go out with someone else's boyfriend.

JACKIE: Who would do that to me?

KATHY: Maybe the somebody didn't know he really liked her. Maybe the somebody thought he just wanted to talk. Maybe the somebody didn't realize...

LAURA: How long have you two been together?

JACKIE: Ten days.

NANCY: That's like forever!

JACKIE: *(To audience.)* What is it with guys anyway? What is so hard about paying attention? When I care about a guy I expect him to notice. And say nice things to me. And call me. And write me notes. And want to be with me. What's so hard to understand about that? I think about Tim all the time. Shouldn't he be thinking about me all the time? Why is this so hard?

Bell rings. Students get to class. Lights come up on French class.

MR. BERGANT: *(The ACTOR doesn't have to know how to speak French. I can't spell it! Fake French is good enough.)*
Bonjour! Bonjour mon class! Silence! A say ay vous si vous ples. Attention! *(Taking roll call.)* Pierre?

HANNAH: Here.

MR. BERGANT: Ici! Ici! Repete! Repete!

HANNAH: Ici, ici, repete, repete.

TOM: I rolled a perfect 20 and if I add my dexterity modifier to that it brings it all the way to 18. Do I succeed?

WILLIAM: Oh, too bad. You needed a 19 to succeed. You fall and break your nose. You take two points of damage.

TOM: Is my nose bleeding?

WILLIAM: Of course it is!

HARRY: Ooo! Ooo! I'll use my special rod of healing and heal his broken nose!

TOM: But I like my broken nose. It's a battle scar.

WILLIAM: How many times do I have to tell you? Your rod of healing is GONE! Get it? You can't USE your rod of healing anymore because it blew up!

TOM: How much am I bleeding?

MR. BERGANT: Je m'appel

HANNAH: Je m'appel

MR. BERGANT: Monsiour Bergant.

HANNAH: But my name isn't Monsiour Bergant. It's Hannah!

BY LAURA TOFFENETTI

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