

Contents

Love and Lycra

1

by Andrea Hayes

Scot, the coolest guy in school, is coming to Marnie's house. No embarrassing parents and her alien brother is out of the way. What could possibly go wrong? Just about everything. More cast members in the form of cyclists and visitors to the house can easily be added.

The quest for the stone

15

by Travis Vladich

Chaos reigns in the small village of Byrnia since the evil Sivart and Xam stole the stone, a symbol of peace and unity. A once proud and prosperous folk are contemplating the future of all Byrnians. They must get the stone back or perish. Four adventurers set off on a dangerous journey to retrieve the stone. On their quest they have to overcome the magical and mystical obstacles which will test their honour, courage and strength.

To Have and to Hold

31

by Don Parnell

It's the happiest day of your life. Or so it's meant to be. In this comic play, Pierre, a hopeless romantic, seeks to marry the woman of his dreams. Unfortunately his recklessness and lack of commitment have left a trail of broken and vengeful hearts. As the big day draws near, Pierre's past begins to catch up with him.

Because!

49

by Geire Kami

'Because!' is a series of short scenes that explore different aspects of teenage life, including love, jealousy, suspicion, friendship and loyalty. The flexibility of this play makes it an excellent resource for either acting practice or performance.

School Under Siege

65

by Don Parnell

An oversized potato creates mayhem in a local high school. A science class unwittingly becomes the victim of a dangerous experiment. The students succumb to the effects of the errant potato and are quarantined in the science lab. As they gradually become more ill it seems that even their own school principal is unwilling to help them.

Rapunzel Uncut

85

by Mariah Everman

It's story time and the two narrators can't agree on who knows the correct version of the tale. In this send-up of Rapunzel, the stock characters are given a modern touch. Complete with singing witches, intellectually-challenged princes and a host of curious townspeople, this play is lots of fun to perform.

Never Kill an Agana

99

by Don Parnell

It's December and there are two words you can't say to Lynn Porter: Christmas and koala. In this black comedy we are taken back in time to the fateful arrival of Lynn's relatives from the northern hemisphere. As they try to settle into their Australian holiday, the Porters' plans to show the visitors a good time go horribly wrong.

Shakespeare Soup

117

by Andrea Hayes

Camp Dunsinane has a murderer, a ghost, three witches who cook, and a ropes course over a cliff! It's March and the kids from Birnam High are on camp with a teacher from Planet Nuts. 'Shakespeare Soup' is a one-act play that introduces students to some of Shakespeare's characters, plots, themes and stagecraft. It's fun and easy to stage.

Glossary

133

To the student

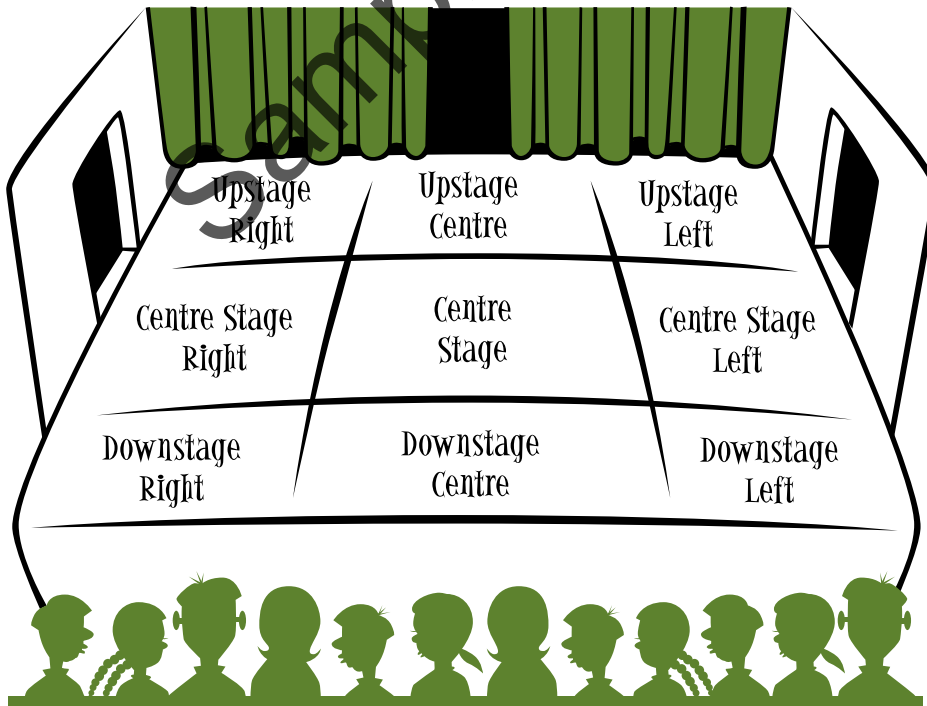
This book is a collection of plays that are full of fun situations, silly characters and lots of opportunities for laughter. The Scene Docks at the beginning of each play have suggestions regarding props and set design. Feel free to add your own ideas. Think of ways you may be able to experiment in the areas of direction, set design, and sound effects.

Scripts are a great way to explore people and places. There are a few points to remember to help make your performances successful:

- Learning lines is made easier by repetition.
- The sooner you learn lines, the more fun you will have rehearsing and performing.
- Use the Rehearsal Room activities at the beginning of each play to prepare for your performance.

Definitions for various drama-related terms can be found in the glossary at the back of the book.

Use the diagram below to help find your position on stage. Remember, left and right are from the actor's point of view.



Introduction

To the teacher

Class Acts 2: Plays for Fun contains a selection of eight one-act plays specifically aimed at the mid-secondary level. The plays are fast-paced and comic, containing a mixture of identifiable and imagined characters and situations. Some plays run for twenty to twenty-five minutes and others run for thirty to forty minutes in performance time. All plays can be staged within one lesson. There is provision for extras and sound effects operators in many of the plays, and the opportunity for students to experiment with props and set design.

Drama activities prepare students for their performances, as well as providing extension role plays, improvisations, and 'write and discuss' questions to extend their understanding and appreciation of script work, themes and performance styles. The glossary provides students with various drama-related terms. A list of related Drama outcomes from the National Curriculum Statement and Profile for the Arts KLA Stage Five has been provided. Students achieve these outcomes by undertaking both the performance of the scripts and the activities.

National Curriculum Statement and Profile for the Arts KLA

Outcomes level 5

Creating, Making and Presenting

Using skills, techniques and processes:

5.7 Structures drama by organising drama elements and applying appropriate skills, techniques and processes.

Presenting:

5.8 Plans, selects and modifies presentations for particular occasions, taking into account factors such as purpose, space, materials and equipment.

Arts Criticism and Aesthetics:

5.9 Uses appropriate language to describe the ways drama is organised to express ideas and feelings.

Because!

BY GEIRE KAMI



Performers

Seventeen: twelve female, five male.

Length

Twenty to twenty-five minutes.

Director's Notes

'Because!' is a series of short scenes that explores different aspects of teenage life, including love, jealousy, suspicion, friendship and loyalty. The flexibility of this play makes it an excellent resource for either acting practice or performance.

Where [da] appears, the character is talking directly to the audience.

Some scenes have been marked for overlapping speech with forward slashes //. This indicates that two or more actors deliver part of their dialogue simultaneously.

Scene Dock

'Because!' contains a number of self-contained scenes. To maintain the flexibility of staging this script it is recommended that the performers use minimal setting and props.



Penny	Seeing her best friend's brother behind her back
Kate	Penny's best friend
Melanie	Subject of a secret admirer
Arnie	A very secret admirer
Kim	An accusing friend
Sam	The accused
Sally	Attempts to give advice to Jim
Jim	Sally's friend
Tate	Attempts to understand Maureen's logic
Maureen	Jealous and angry
Lil	Victim of a piece of jewelry that doesn't fit
Paul	Embarrassed and angry
Jeanne	Discovers her friend on a date with her boyfriend
March	Jeanne's friend
Adam	Thinks Suzie has forgotten his birthday
Suzie	Tries to surprise Adam
Phillip	Accused of starting a fire

Rehearsal Room

1 Mime Scenes

Choose one of the scenes from 'Because!' Work with a partner or small group and choose the characters you would like to play. Rehearse and present the scene in movement only. Work to communicate the text of the play through the use of body language, movement and gesture.

2 Character Objectives

Using the scene you chose in activity one and working with the same people, identify the objective of the characters in the scene. Find a pose that represents how the character feels when they do or do not achieve their objective. This moment will be found somewhere towards the end of each scene.

scene 1 Brother

- Penny [da] Kate is my best friend. Not just a best friend, but a *best* friend. You know?
- Kate Hi Penny.
- Penny Hi Kate! [da] Ever since we met we have told each other everything. There isn't anything about me that's a secret from her ...
- Kate [da] I hate Penny. She's a total bitch. We used to be best friends. But best friends don't keep secrets from each other do they?
- Penny [da] Except ...
- Penny/Kate [da] I'm/She's kissing her/my brother behind her/my back.
- Kate [da] She thinks I don't know. I'm not going to say anything either. I'm going to let her go on doing it until her conscience gets the better of her.
- Penny [da] He's so cute. His name is Jarad. He's sooo cute. [giggling] Oh I said that already didn't I?
- Kate [da] My brother is a dickhead. I really thought she had better taste. You know one time he told me he hadn't brushed his teeth in six months. He hasn't changed. His idea of personal hygiene is scratching plaque off his teeth with potato chips.
- Penny [da] He's so romantic.
- Kate [da] His breath would melt paint.
- Penny/Kate [da] I'm serious!
- Penny [da] He is. He bought me some chocolate on the walk to my house ... He ate it but that's okay, it's the thought that counts.
- Kate [da] I want to say something to her so much. I just want to ask her, do you know who you're kissing? He's a pig!
- Penny Did you get your homework finished?
- Kate Yep.
- Penny Cool.
- Penny/Kate [da] See? She doesn't know.
- Penny [da] Which is good. Because sometimes I think it would put a bit of a strain on our friendship.
- Kate You?
- Penny Yep.

- Kate What'd you do last night?
- Penny Homework.
- Kate After that?
- Penny Nothing.
- Kate [da] My brother was around at her place. I followed him. He's so dumb. He was so busy stuffing his face with an entire block of chocolate that he didn't see me. I was practically walking beside him.
- Penny Why?
- Kate Oh I just tried to call you [da] from the phone booth right outside her door [to Kate] that's all.
- Penny Oh yeah ... there's something wrong with our phone at the moment.
- Kate [da] My brother probably used it and melted the mouthpiece. [to Penny] Oh, what's wrong with it?
- Penny I ... don't know.
- Kate Are you okay?
- Penny Yeah why?
- Kate You're acting funny.
- Penny [da] Am I? [to Kate] Am I?
- Kate Yes.
- Penny Now that you mention it, I'm not feeling so good.
- Kate [da] Is gingivitis contagious?
- Penny It must have been something I ate.
- Kate [da] Ugh! [shuddering] [to Kate] Yeah, must have. [da] Gross!

scene 2

Cody

[Melanie stands looking for someone. Arnie enters behind her. He creeps up on her.]

- Arnie Hi!
- Melanie Oh! Jesus Christ! You gave me a heart attack! You shouldn't sneak up on people! It isn't good for their hearts!
- Arnie Waiting for someone?
- Melanie Yep!
- Arnie Who?
- Melanie It's a secret.

- Arnie Really?
- Melanie Yep.
- Arnie Go on! Tell me!
- Melanie Well ... okay, I guess I could tell you. It's not like you could tell anyone!
- Arnie What's that supposed to mean?!
- Melanie Keep your voice down! Jeez! ... I'm waiting for my ... secret admirer.
- Arnie Oh, really?
- Melanie Uh-huh. I got a letter in my locker today saying to meet here ... BUT ... it's not really a secret. Cody has been hanging around my locker all week. I just know it's him. And he's late. *[sighing blissfully]* Cody is late for everything. *[giggling]* He's so cute.
- Arnie What if it ISN'T him?
- Melanie Oh yeah right! Ha! Of course it's him! The note even said *[making quotation marks in the air]* 'I'll be wearing a jumper', and guess what Cody is wearing today?
- Arnie *[making quotation marks in the air]* 'A jumper'?
- Melanie Yep!
- Arnie So what? So am I.
- Melanie Everything always has to be about you, doesn't it? I could be talking about the weather and you'd turn it into a discussion about Arnie! *[mocking]* Arnie likes this, Arnie likes that, Arnie saw this, did that, tried the other! God, I'm yawning here! Can't you tell? If you don't have anything to say other than to talk about yourself, just go away!
- Arnie Well, I just think *[//]* um well you don't really know for sure if it's him.
- Melanie You just think ... here we go! I'm dying of boredom! Of course I do! IT'S HIM!
- Arnie How do you know?!
- Melanie Because! Go away, you're making me angry!
- Arnie I'm making YOU angry? Bloody hell!
- Melanie Arnie, go away. I was in a really good waiting mood before you came and started sniffing around. Go home to your Bertie Beatle collection.
- Arnie For your information I stopped collecting Bertie Beatles ages ago. *[//]* Now I collect ...

Melanie Oh my God! I think I see him coming! You'd better go! I don't want him to think we're friends!

Arnie WHAT?

Melanie Quick! *[she shoos him away]* Go away!

Arnie I'm not going anywhere!

Melanie If you don't leave now ... I'll tell everyone about the time you stuck a marble up your nose and had to go to the hospital!

Arnie You would too, you're such a bitch!

Melanie Yeah whatever ...

[Melanie is nervous, preening. Then she deflates.]

Melanie It's not him.

Arnie Oh too bad. Well, see ya.

Melanie See ya Bertie. God! How long is he going to be?

Arnie How long you going to wait?

Melanie Forever, if he takes that long.

Arnie Good.

scene 3

Crime stopper

Kim Did you hear what I just said?!

Sam I'm sorry, I wasn't listening. What were you saying?

Kim Ah, it doesn't matter.

Sam No it sounded important, I'm just tired so I'm ... god I haven't been concentrating all day.

Kim No really. It doesn't matter. *[pointed question]* If you're *worried* about something ... why not ... get it off your chest? ... Well?

[Silence.]

Kim Okay. Well I was just saying ... it was just about ... something that I saw.

Sam Oh.

Kim On the news.

Sam Right. Yeah, I haven't watched the news in ages. I'm never home at the right time.

Kim Really? *[pause]* It was ... you know that um ... Crime Stoppers thing.

Sam Yeah?

- Kim 'Put a finger on crime.'
[Silence.]
- Sam Well ... what was it?
[Silence.]
- Kim Where were you last Wednesday?
- Sam What?
- Kim I'm serious. Where were you last Wednesday? I remember you were going to drop over, but you didn't. You said your tram broke down so you just went back home ...
- Sam What are you asking me here?
- Kim I'm asking you where you were last Wednesday 'cause I saw your picture on the TV saying you were wanted for, I don't know! CRIMES!
- Sam Kim ...
- Kim Don't get upset ... but I've ... I found you out. So consider yourself, you know, under, um ... citizen's arrest.
- Sam You're arresting me? I'm not wanted. I don't even think you can make a citizen's arrest in Australia. Listen to yourself. You're crazy.
- Kim It was you.
- Sam *[laughing]* What am I wanted for?
- Kim Who cares?! You're WANTED. You're a wanted criminal, on the run, and I've busted you, so admit it. You're wanted.
- Sam Stop saying that! I'm not.
- Kim *[revealing a composite picture]* Oh really?
- Sam Who's this?
- Kim Ha ha.
- Sam You think that's me?
- Kim I don't think it's you.
- Sam Good!
- Kim I know it's you!
- Sam You're joking aren't you? *[//]* Please tell me you are.
- Kim Sure, you don't look like this today, but it's easy to see that it's you. Look at the nose. The eyes. I mean you're good at disguise I'll give you that, but you can see that it's you. You look exactly like your dad in this picture.

Sam Seek help, Kim. I'm serious.
[Sam starts to leave.]

Kim There's a reward you know.

Sam One word. Therapy.

Kim I'm not above turning you in for it!

scene 4

Consolidating Things

Sally Look, it wasn't as if you didn't see it coming, right?

Jim You make it sound as if I deserved it, or that I shouldn't be upset.

Sally I don't mean to! I'm just saying that you knew about a month ago that she was leaving, so why have this huge nervous breakdown now?

Jim Because I miss her? Because I didn't think she was really going to go? Because she's my mother? Pick a reason.

Sally Look, I hear you. Okay? I understand that you're upset, I'm just saying take it easy. You knew she was going, she warned you. I think you should have prepared yourself a little better, that's all.

Jim How, exactly, would you have prepared for your mother walking out on you and leaving you with a bum like my dad?

Sally Well, I ... I mean I ...

Jim You don't know!

Sally No, I would have talked to her, I would have ... I would have consolidated my feelings. I would have.

Jim Consolidated your feelings? Get real! How do you consolidate your feelings?

Sally Well, you could do something like write a list. Good feelings about your mother on one side, bad feelings on the other side, right?

Jim Yes ... and then?

Sally Well ...

Jim So you've got this list, and then what?

Sally It's not about the list! It's about really looking inside yourself and figuring out how you feel about things before they blow up in your face.

Jim But they'll still blow up in your face.

Sally Well you can't change people. They'll still do what they want to do.

- Jim You know she's been telling me she was going to leave for years, not just a month...since I was five, at least.
- Sally Really?
- Jim Yeah, so the list wouldn't have helped.
- Sally It might have.
- Jim If I had have been taking her seriously, yeah, I might have actually listened when she said it.
- [Sally is about to say something, then thinks the better of it.]*
- Jim You should really be careful with the advice you give people, because, I mean, it's all relative.
- Sally I guess.
- Jim No, it is! There's no 'I guess' about it! Maybe you should make a list before you give someone advice. Ways I might damage the individual and ways I might help.
- Sally Gee, that was really good the way you turned that right around and put it on to me.
- Jim Just to *consolidate* things.

scene 5

Jealousy

- Tate Okay. Let me get this right ... there's this girl, she's beautiful and intelligent and talented ...
- Maureen Yes.
- Tate ... and you hate her.
- Maureen Yes.
- Tate With a passion.
- Maureen Yes.
- Tate And the reason is that ... she did something horribly mean to you?
- Maureen No.
- Tate To someone you know?
- Maureen No.
- Tate She's indiscriminately cruel to animals? Help me out here!
- Maureen Nope.
- Tate Okay, the reason is?
- Maureen Is that she's beautiful and intelligent and talented.

- Tate Right! I see now. So it's not that she's hurt you or been nasty, it's just that you're jealous of her, and that's why you hate her.
- Maureen No, it's not an issue of jealousy.
- Tate But she's never done anything to you and you hate her anyway.
- Maureen No I hate her because it's not fair! No one should have all those things! It should be spread around. It's not right.
- Tate But hating her because of it is right?
- [Silence.]
- Tate Well at least tell me she's a bitch and I'll understand.
- Maureen She isn't a bitch though! She's really nice.
- Tate It's not making much sense to me.
- Maureen Which is what makes her even more hateable!
- Tate I really don't follow.
- Maureen Well, she's this supergirl and she doesn't even care! She doesn't use her powers for good or evil, she just *is*. It's pathetic. It's a waste! Someone who was going to do something with those things should have got them. It's not right that one person should be so lucky. What makes her so special? She's going to coast through life because she was born with these gifts that she doesn't exploit! It's not right.
- Tate And you would exploit them.
- Maureen Bloody oath I would.
- Tate Hmm, you know what I love about you? It's your total lack of political correctness, Maz. You know everyone is equal; I can't understand why you're so upset about this girl.
- Maureen Equal? Yeah right. Two examples. Her and me. She's gorgeous, I'm not. She's smart and talented and I'm not. How can that possibly be equality?
- Tate Equality. Maureen, it boils down to this: everyone is born and everyone dies. That's equality. No one is better or worse off than anyone else, because in the big scheme of things we're really all just living until we die.
- Maureen Tate, shut up. Yeah, yeah, we're all born and we all die. Yawn! It's achievement in life that separates the losers from the victors. Read any magazine! And if you're born with all these bonuses, well it just makes it easier for you than it is for the rest of us ordinary people.
- Tate And that makes you angry.

- Maureen Of course it does! Why should some people get all the luck?
- Tate You know, you could be just as attractive as her if you weren't so mean and bitter. And just as talented if you did something with yourself rather than sitting around all day complaining.
- Maureen *[sarcastic]* You reckon?

scene 6

The Ring and Feeling Lonely

- Lil *[trying to remove a ring from her finger]* Oh damn! It won't come off!
- Paul *[continuing]* ... and then she said 'I'm lonely'.
- Lil *[still struggling]* Uh oh.
- Paul She just said it. Just like that.
[Lil keeps trying to remove ring.]
- Paul It completely distracted me. I couldn't finish my presentation. I looked like a total idiot!
- Lil I think it's stuck. You reckon spit will help? Ugh, I don't really want to spit on my hand. Someone might see. Oh this is bad.
- Paul And now I can't get it out of my head.
- Lil Ooh, come off!
- Paul 'I'm lonely.' Just like that. Looking me right in the eye.
- Lil They can't charge me with shoplifting if I can't get it off my finger, can they?
- Paul I don't know. Did she plan it? I mean she knows I like her. Everyone knows.
- Lil You don't know about the ring, or about the girl?
- Paul Both. But the thing is, why would she just up and say it like that in front of everyone?
- Lil Oh, it's kinda nice actually.
- Paul *[clicks his fingers]* I've got it!
- Lil It kind of suits me. Does it look like it's jammed on my finger?
- Paul She was making fun of me.
- Lil No. It looks like it fits me.
- Paul That bitch.
- Lil Perfectly.

- Paul Now that I think about it, she had this evil glint in her eye. Everyone probably knew she was going to do that to me.
- Lil If it's not too much I'm going to buy it.
- Paul I told you ages ago that class has it in for me. And now look.
- Lil Where are the price tags for these things?
- Paul I knew I should have done something from the start. Been more ... macho, erk. I shouldn't have let them pick on me like I did. It was funny for about a week but it set up a pattern for the entire year.
- Lil What?! Seventy nine dollars? Oh GOD! I can't afford seventy nine dollars. [//] I don't even have *ten* on me!
- Paul Oh GOD! How can I go back there?
- Lil Right that's it. *[talking to ring]* You're coming off my finger right now mister!
- Paul How could you ever be so cruel to someone? You make yourself so vulnerable when you declare your feelings, and then someone comes over and tramples all over your heart. It's wrong.
- Lil Argh! It won't come off! Where are the bloody sales assistants? Paul?
- Lil/Paul You aren't even listening to me!
- Paul Here, give me your hand.
- Lil I think you're overreacting. I think she was just being honest and you're making a big deal out of nothing. Just go and ask her. What have you got to ... OW! *[the ring comes off]* ... lose?
- Lil/Paul Thanks.
- Lil/Paul No problems.

scene 7

The 8 o'clock session

- Jeanne Well, well, well. Look who it is.
- March I'm sorry I didn't call you last night.
- Jeanne No! That's FINE!
- March I was ... sick.
- Jeanne Really? Were you really?

- March Yeah I was *really* sick. I had this headache. It was so [//] bad ...
- Jeanne Really? Wow! How bad? Like, really bad?
- March Yeah! Really bad!
- Jeanne There's a lot of that going around at the moment. This bad headache ... and um, this stomach flu [//] kind of thing.
- March That's what I had!
- Jeanne Hmm, yeah that's what Jamie had too. Isn't that funny?
- March Yeah what a coincidence.
- Jeanne Hmm ... It's too bad, 'cause I really wanted to go to the movies.
- March Yeah. Sorry. Oh well, we'll catch it some other time.
- Jeanne So, what did you just stay home in bed or something?
- March Yeah.
- Jeanne Well, I sat around being worried about you and missed the six o'clock session. But then I decided to go to the eight o'clock session and tell you all about it! I know how much you wanted to see it!
- March Oh! Really?
- Jeanne Yep! And I saw someone there I knew.
- March Really?
- Jeanne Yes! Guess who it was?
- March Um, Carol?
- Jeanne NO! IT WAS YOU! With Jamie!
- March What? I was ... sick at ... [//] home
- Jeanne No YOU WEREN'T! I called your mum! You were at the movies with MY BOYFRIEND!
- March No I wasn't! Oh my god!
- Jeanne Just shut up! I already spoke to Jamie and I told him you told me that you two went and he bought it! He confessed everything!
- March Oh.
- Jeanne So ... the friendship is over! You both deserve each other! Anyway, he always told me how much he hated and despised you!
- [*She storms off.*]
- March I think maybe that should have been a clue.

SCENE 8

The Birthday Present

- Adam Oh excuse me! Here she is. Take your bloody time why don't you.
- Suzie I beg your pardon?
- Adam You said you'd be here an hour ago! I've been hanging around in the cold like an idiot waiting for you. Not so much as a call to say you'd be late! NOTHING!
- Suzie [da] I've been in the city trying to arrange his birthday present. He saw this jacket he really liked so I went to get it for him last week, but he has these funny short arms so I had to arrange for it to be altered. Then I tried to explain how much it needed to be adjusted and they didn't believe that his arms were that short, so I had to get his mum to measure them while he was asleep, but she said every time she went to do it he woke up and was getting suspicious so I had to sneak his other jacket away. Then the shop closed. Jesus! This day has been murder, now he's going to carry on about how late I am and I haven't even got his present!
- Adam You always do this! I think you just like to think about me sitting around twiddling my thumbs waiting for you! And I'm bloody freezing! I can't find my jacket. Have you seen it?
- Suzie No.
- Adam [da] Well that takes the cake. She hasn't even said happy birthday. She's probably forgotten. She remembered when it was Valentine's Day. *[mocking girl voice]* Adam are you going to buy me flowers? Adam are you going to take me to a movie? Man, I took her to see this chick flick ... it was so boring I fell asleep and she started to cry. She said she thought I didn't care because I fell asleep and it was Valentines Day. I'm never going to go to a movie with her again. What the hell is Valentines Day anyway? It's not as important as a birthday! A birthday only happens once a year!
- Suzie You probably left it at Paul's.
- Adam Nah, I saw Paul today. It's not there, I asked him. Oh god I'm freezing. *[da]* I bet I get a cold or something. *[to Suzie]* Are you sure you haven't seen my jacket?
- Suzie I'm not cold.
- Adam [da] *[mocking girl voice]* I'm not cold.
- Suzie Are you in a bad mood with me?
- Adam *[innocently]* No!
- Suzie Okay. Well we'd better go. I'm taking you out.
- Adam Why?

- Suzie Because it's your birthday!
- Adam Oh, I don't care about birthdays. But if you want. Cool. Where are we going?
- Suzie To a movie.
- [Adam groans, da]

scene 9

The Fire

Phillip There was a fire in the locker room at school. They did a pocket search and found some matches on me. So *I* got the blame. I tried to tell them that I had the matches because I *smoke!* Not because I lit the bloody fire! But they said 'Very funny—tell it to Mr. Darling,' school principal. They said something serious would have to happen. The school called the cops and they said there wasn't enough evidence that it was me who lit the fire just because I had matches in my pocket. The police officer who interviewed me said he thought my principal was a moron because who would keep matches in their pocket after lighting a fire and burning down half the school? I had to go and see the school counsellor. My parents said they'd talked it all over with Darling, and the only way they'd let me stay at the school was if I went and saw the counsellor every week. The counsellor is this big dopey guy. First session he didn't say anything to me. He just sat waiting for me to talk.

So I sat there and didn't say anything either, although I tried to think up something original I just couldn't. I thought, right now I am doing exactly what he expects me to do as a *rebellious young boy!* It was so obvious I thought I was going to throw up. He looked at the clock after about 50 minutes and said, 'You're a strange boy Phillip, a strange, strange boy.' Which I thought was pushing the boundaries of professionalism. I don't know why he had to say it three times. I hate it when people repeat themselves! I was hoping he'd show me some of those pressed together paintings and ask me what they looked like, but he didn't. I had it all planned too.

I was going to say all of them looked like mangled people just to freak him out and give him something good to put in my report. I want something to remember the school by before I burn the rest of it to the ground next week.

the end



1 Duologues

Divide into pairs. With your partner share stories about adventures you have had with your friends. They may be embarrassing stories, stories about being in dangerous situations or times when you have had conflict with friends. When you have shared a few stories, choose the one you like the most. Script the dialogue of this situation so that there are two characters. Give the duologue to another pair to perform.

2 Stage directions

The scenes in 'Because!' have minimal stage directions. Choose one scene you would like to perform with a partner. Rehearse the scene incorporating movements, gestures and actions. You may like to add props and set items to your performance. Paste a copy of your scene in a workbook and leave the opposite page blank. This will be your prompt copy. As you rehearse your scene, record your movements and gestures on the blank page opposite the line on which they occur. Rehearse and present your performance to the class.

3 Extending Scenes

Using the scene you have selected as the basis for your performance, write a short scene that is a continuation of the story-line. Rehearse the scene and perform it for the class.

4 Write and Discuss

Choose one pair and evaluate their performances considering their use of movement, body language and voice. Imagine you are one of the characters in one of the scenes in 'Because!' Write a letter to a friend that extends our knowledge of the character beyond what is given in the script.

Sample pages