

#MakingMemories

An Original Middle School Play about Friendship

An original play developed as a result of the 2013 Lin Wright Professional Teaching Grant Award from the American Alliance for Theatre & Education. Developed in collaboration between East Hamilton Middle School Drama students; Holli Hutson, the 2013 Lin Wright Professional Teaching Grant Award winner; and Laurie Melnik as the Lin Wright project mentor.

#MakingMemories: An Original Middle School Play about Friendship

Notes: Play happens within a 24-hour period. It's the first day of school at East Middleton School, and alarm clocks are about sound off for 4 students. During the play, the setting will change where sometimes the characters will be together and other times they will be in separate places. In moments where they are separated, such as different classes, lighting will be used to section off the stage accordingly.

Characters:

CHRIS- Sarcastic. A bit of a loner. Loves listening to jazz music and never leaves home without his headphones.

AARON- Outgoing. A class clown hopeful.

BETHANY- New girl. Usually the shortest in her class. Up on the latest trends.

DANIELLE- A star athlete and student. Constant overachiever and prissy.

GABY- Trendy on the outside. Super smart in the inside.

ISOBEL- Friendly. Likes going shopping.

FOREST- Popular but doesn't stand out too much. Tries to be everyone's friend.

HENRY- Craves attention and lots of it.

MISS MAPLETHORNE/COACH/MRS. KNIGHT- All played by the same actor and are distinctly different.

Scene 1: Alarm Clock

(4 characters asleep in their bedrooms. An alarm clock goes off and AARON pushes the snooze button and moves over. A second alarm clock goes off and BETHANY slowly sits up and stares like a zombie. A third alarm clock goes off and keeps buzzing as CHRIS does nothing. A fourth alarm clock goes off and DANIELLE gets up right away to begin her morning routine. The alarm goes off again for AARON, and he hits the snooze button. BETHANY gets up from bed and stands while resuming a zombie stare. The alarm clock for CHRIS still buzzes and he still does nothing. DANIELLE finishes her morning routine, grabs a towel, and exits. AARON turns off his alarm clock, gets out of bed, grabs towel, and exits. BETHANY slowly gets a towel and starts to exit... resuming zombie stare the entire time. CHRIS pops up suddenly and turns off his clock. He rushes off stage.)

Scene 2: First Period

(Two different classes occur simultaneously. AARON and CHRIS are in MISS MAPLETHORNE's visual art class. BETHANY and DANIELLE are in a math class. As the scene goes back and forth between both classes, characters turn their backs to the audience when their scene ends or pauses.)

MISS MAPLETHORNE: (Holding up a finished color wheel made on a paper plate.) As you make your color wheel, remember you only have the primary colors to work from. I highly recommend taking a pencil and writing what colors you will need on your color wheel BEFORE you start using the paints. I will be walking around and making sure you are on the right track.

(MISS MAPLETHORNE walks over to AARON.)

MISS MAPLETHORNE: Are you chewing gum?

AARON: Maybe.

MISS MAPLETHORNE: Throw it away!

AARON: Do you have some red?

(CHRIS doesn't acknowledge AARON. AARON reaches for the red paint.)

AARON: Do you have any yellow?

(CHRIS still doesn't acknowledge AARON.

AARON reaches for the yellow paint.)

AARON: Does this look right to you?

(MISS MAPLETHORNE walks over to AARON.)

MISS MAPLETHORNE: Did you plan out your color wheel before adding paint?

AARON: Kind of.

MISS MAPLETHORNE: I can see someone is not good at following directions. Don't get ahead of yourself. (Hands him a new paper plate.) Please make sure you plan out your color wheel before you start adding paint. I'll be back in a minute to check on your work.

AARON: Can I see your color wheel? (CHRIS doesn't respond. AARON walks over to his side of the table.) Your color wheel is going to turn out great. (Awkward pause.) Have you done this before? I really need some help. (Awkward pause.) Mine looks really messy. (Reaches for CHRIS'S color wheel.) Let me see yours.

CHRIS: Do you mind?

(AARON returns to his seat, and they

both turn their backs and freeze. The

other scene comes back to life. A

teacher voice, similar to the "Charlie

Brown adult voice," can be heard.

DANIELLE is taking detailed notes while

BETHANY is zoned out and has resumed her zombie stare. The "Charlie Brown adult voice" can be heard again and DANIELLE raises her hand and answers. This "wakes-up" BETHANY who realizes she hasn't been paying attention the entire time.)

BETHANY: What are we doing?

DANIELLE: We have a quiz on Friday.

BETHANY: (Confused.) It's the first day.

DANIELLE: It will be easy.

BETHANY: Can you help me?

DANIELLE: Who are you?

BETHANY: Sorry, I'm Bethany.

(“Charlie Brown adult voice” can be heard.)

BETHANY: Sorry, Mrs. Matthews.

(“Charlie Brown adult voice” can be heard.)

BETHANY: I mean, sorry Mrs. Matthews. (To DANIELLE.) Can you help me?

DANIELLE: Shhh... Mrs. Matthews asked us to be quiet.

(BETHANY and DANIELLE turn their backs and freeze. Scene goes back to AARON and CHRIS.)

MISS MAPLETHORNE is still walking around the room and checking everyone's work.)

AARON: Hunger Games was ok. Haven't read the book. I started, but then the movie came out, and I didn't really care to read it anymore. (Beat.) It's weird how they're our age and fighting each other. It's sort of sick, you know.

MISS MAPLETHORNE: Do I hear talking?

AARON: No

MISS MAPLETHORNE: (Ugly glare) I better not.

AARON: Harsh, much? (Beat.) Do you have some blue?

(CHRIS still not acknowledging AARON, passes the blue.)

AARON: Have you seen the Hobbit? It's boring. It's like 5 hours long.

CHRIS: Three.

AARON: Three what?

CHRIS: I need my red back.

(AARON gives the red back. CHRIS puts his headphones on. Awkward pause. AARON and CHRIS turn their backs. Scene between BETHANY and DANIELLE comes back. DANIELLE is still taking detailed notes. BETHANY is tapping her pencil

and trying to get focused. "Charlie Brown adult voice" can be heard.)

BETHANY: What did she say? I'm lost.

DANIELLE: She's going over problem number 17.

BETHANY: She's going too fast. I can't keep up.

DANIELLE: Shhh! I'm trying to concentrate.

BETHANY: (Whining.) We're not supposed to have quizzes the first week. (Beat.) I never got your name.

DANIELLE: Danielle. (Signs her autographs on a piece of notebook paper). Here, take my autograph. You're going to need it later.

(BETHANY and DANIELLE turn their backs and freeze. Scene between AARON and CHRIS comes back. AARON and CHRIS are focused on their art projects.)

MISS MAPLETHORNE: It's time to start wrapping up. Please place your work on the rack and we'll return to your color wheels during our next class. Before you bring the paints back, make sure you put the lids back on their jars.

AARON: I'll take our paints back.

CHRIS: Don't forget to put the lids back on.

(AARON picks up all of the paints before putting the lids back on them. He drops one of the jars and paint splatters on CHRIS's new shoes.)

CHRIS: RRRR! I told you so! RRRR! I just got these!!

(AARON helps CHRIS clean up.)

MISS MAPLETHORNE: Don't worry. It's washable paint. Let's take care of it, and I'll write you a pass for your next class. (To AARON.) You really need to work on following directions.

AARON: I'm so sorry!

CHRIS: Whatever...

AARON: I'm so sorry! I really am! Please forgive me! Really!

(Bell rings. End of first period.)

Scene 3: Lunch

(Note: Characters who have dialogue written side-by-side say their lines together so that the conversations overlap. Two tables are set back to back. DANIELLE, GABY, and ISOBEL are sitting at one table. CHRIS is sitting at the other table alone with his headphones on and listening to music.

BETHANY enters.)

BETHANY: Is anyone sitting here?

(DANIELLE, GABY, and ISOBEL shake their heads. AARON enters and approaches CHRIS.)

GABY: Hi! I'm Gaby.

BETHANY: (Waving.) I'm Bethany. **AARON:** Hey!

GABY: You can sit here.

(CHRIS looks up at AARON. FOREST enters.)

BETHANY: Thanks. (To ISOBEL.) Did you get your shirt at Old Navy?

ISOBEL: Yeah. Got it this summer for my birthday. My mom always takes me shopping there.

FOREST: Hey, Aaron!

AARON: Forest! What's up?

FOREST: Not much.

(GABY overhears the other table.)

AARON: Going to the game on Friday?

FOREST: You bet. There's a pep rally, too.

AARON: During school?

FOREST: Yep.

ISOBEL: I got a smartphone for my birthday.

GABY: Unlimited text messages?

ISOBEL: Except during school.

Oh, and I am not allowed to have it out at dinner. My mom is so strict!

DANIELLE: Why can't you have your phone out at dinner?

ISOBEL: My mom thinks my vocabulary diminishing. See! I still use big words. I only use them when I need to, so I don't sound weird.

GABY: (Says the letters.) LOL!

DANIELLE: YOLO!

BETHANY: OMG!

DANIELLE: OMG is old.

BETHANY: Hashtag# noted.

GABY: Nice one, Bethany!

(Beat.) Did you hear about the pep rally?

DANIELLE: We get to miss our last class.

GABY: We should sit together.

DANIELLE: Ok, I'll text everyone about it after school. (HENRY enters.)

ISOBEL: Me, too.

(DANIELLE and GABY switch numbers.)

BETHANY: Can I come?

DANIELLE: What do you mean? The whole school gets to go.

You don't need an invite.

HENRY: Aaron!

AARON: Henry!

(HENRY and AARON do their signature handshake.)

HENRY: What's with the headphones?

AARON: He doesn't say much.

HENRY: (To CHRIS). I'm Henry.

(CHRIS doesn't respond)

HENRY: (Louder). I'm Henry!

(Other table laughs at Henry and the situation. CHRIS takes off his headphones.)

CHRIS: Can I help you?

HENRY: Are you listening to anything good?

(CHRIS puts his headphones back on and the other table giggles. Both tables begin talking to each other.)

HENRY: What's his deal?

AARON: He's mad because I spilled paint on his new shoes.

GABY: Nice one, Aaron!

AARON: I didn't do it on purpose, but he sure was mad.

GABY: Incredible Hulk mad?

HENRY: Incredible Hulk?

GABY: You know, that green angry guy.

HENRY: I know! I was commenting on your use of the Hulk to describe him. Weirdo.

GABY: Henry, get a life.

ISOBEL: That's pretty serious!

FOREST: I would go *cray-cray* if I got paint on my new shoes. These KD's were expensive. (Takes out a bandana.) That's why I carry this around.

(FOREST starts shining his shoes with the bandana.)

ISOBEL: See what I mean! New shoes are a big deal for guys.

DANIELLE: That makes no sense to me.

FOREST: Nothing makes sense to you.

DANIELLE: Excuse me?

FOREST: Don't you need to train for some star event or something?

DANIELLE: You're just jealous because I'm naturally talented.

FOREST: You keep telling yourself that.

HENRY: What's going on? (To Bethany.) Who are you?

BETHANY: I'm Bethany.

HENRY: You new?

DANIELLE: It's the first day for all of us. We're all new.

HENRY: I meant new to the area. She looks new.

BETHANY: I'm from Michigan. (Beat.) What's a pep rally?

DANIELLE: You really have a lot to learn!

(DANIELLE exits.)

BETHANY: Is she always mad?

ISOBEL: Don't worry about her. When did you move here?

BETHANY: A few weeks ago. My grandma lives here and we moved here to take care of her.

HENRY: Isn't your grandma famous?

BETHANY: She's a writer. You know about her?

HENRY: My mom told me about it. She saw something about your grandma in the paper and it mentioned you.

BETHANY: I was in the paper?

HENRY: It didn't say your name. It just said that she had family moving in with her.

GABY: I've heard about you. You're the girl whose grandma wrote all of those children's books. Doesn't she live in that house that looks like a castle?

BETHANY: That's where I live.

ISOBEL: You live there? I bet it's nice.

HENRY: It's haunted.

GABY: Henry!

FOREST: Is it really?

GABY: No. Don't be rude.

(Bell rings, everyone cleans up, and starts to exit.)

ISOBEL: Is your place really haunted?

BETHANY: I hope not!

GABY: Don't listen to them. They're just picking on you because you're new. What's your next class?

BETHANY: Gym

ISOBEL: Danielle has gym, too. It's why she left early. She's a crazy serious athlete and always wants to impress the coaches.

BETHANY: (Sarcastic.) Oh, great!

Scene 4: Gym

(Gym class. Nobody is dressed out since it's the first day of school and a series of "activity stations" have been set up where groups, divided by gender, go through each station. Whenever COACH blows her whistle, the groups shift stations. Stations include sit-ups and push-ups, jumping rope, corn hole, and hula-hoops. BETHANY and DANIELLE are playing corn hole. HENRY and AARON are jumping rope.)

HENRY: (Trying to hula-hoop.) You've got to be kidding me!

AARON: At least we didn't have to dress out.

HENRY: It's the first day. I haven't got my gym clothes yet.
Have you?

AARON: I'm going to use my stuff from basketball practice. Are you going to play this year?

HENRY: Don't know yet. It all depends on my little sister's dance competition schedule. It's intense. I'm hoping my dad can take me, but you know how that goes.

AARON: Have things gotten better?

HENRY: I guess. He's still working long hours. I barely see him, but it's cool that he became the Sheriff.

AARON: I bet you can get away with everything now.

(Impersonating.) "You can't arrest me, I'm the Sheriff's son."

HENRY: Exact opposite! I can't ever get in trouble. I'd never see my phone again!

(Switches to BETHANY and DANIELLE who are doing sit-ups/push-ups.

BETHANY doesn't really engage, but

DANIELLE loves anything athletic.)

DANIELLE: Tryouts are this weekend. My whole family has been in track and field. My dad almost qualified for the Olympics. What does your family do?

BETHANY: Nothing like that. We walk our dogs around the neighborhood. That's about it. (Beat.) So, what are you wearing to the pep rally on Friday?

DANIELLE: Nothing special. You don't have to dress up or anything.

BETHANY: I've never been to one.

DANIELLE: They're pretty fun.

(COACH blows whistle. BETHANY and DANIELLE go to the jump rope. DANIELLE starts jumping rope likes she was born to do it, and BETHANY stares at her. HENRY and AARON move to corn hole.)

BETHANY: You're intense! You're like Gabby Douglas!

DANIELLE: (Still jumping.) Who?

BETHANY: You know, the gymnast from the Olympics. I thought you knew about Olympic athletes. She was all over TV.

DANIELLE: (Still jumping.) I don't watch TV.

BETHANY: What?

COACH: I hope I don't see you standing there.

BETHANY: Sorry. (Starts jumping and struggles.) Last time, I jumped rope, I think I was, like, five years old.

DANIELLE: It's great for your heart.

COACH: Good form, Danielle!

DANIELLE: Thanks, Coach!

(Switches to HENRY and AARON.)

AARON: Watch this.

(AARON goes long and backs up.)

HENRY: You're never going to make that.

AARON: Watch and learn.

(AARON tries to throw the beanbag and make it in the hole, but he misses and hits the COACH instead. COACH walks over to AARON and HENRY with the beanbag.)

COACH: Gentlemen, do we have a problem?

AARON: Sorry, Coach. My aim is a little rusty.

COACH: This is your last warning.

AARON: Yes, mam.

(COACH walks away.)

HENRY: Coach is out to get you.

AARON: It's going to be a rough year. What do you have first block?

HENRY: Math. You?

AARON: Visual Art.

HENRY: Isn't Chris, the headphone guy, in your class?

AARON: Yeah. He's real intense, and doesn't talk to anybody.

HENRY: What's his deal?

AARON: His family used to live across town and just moved here. His mom is a good friend with my mom, but I don't know him. We've never hung out.

HENRY: I don't like him.

(Whistle blows. HENRY and AARON go to sit-ups/push ups. BETHANY and DANIELLE go to corn hole.)

BETHANY: Yes! I love corn hole! We have one setup in our backyard. My dad and I play this all the time.

DANIELLE: I thought your family only walked dogs.

BETHANY: I wouldn't exactly call us an Olympic family. We just have a lot of fun. What color beanbag do you want?

DANIELLE: (Beat.) I really need to stretch.

(DANIELLE starts to stretch.)

BETHANY: I can't play this by myself.

DANIELLE: This game is silly. Stretching is much more productive.

BETHANY: I'm really good at this one. I promise. This is the one thing here that I can actually do.

DANIELLE: I really need to stretch after all that jumping. If I get a cramp in my leg, then I can't practice my drills this evening. I can't miss any practice this week.

BETHANY: (Beat.) You can't play this, can you?

DANIELLE: It's corn hole. Anybody can play.

BETHANY: I think you're afraid to lose. We're finally doing something I'm good at, and you want to quit. Hashtag# not cool!

DANIELLE: What? That's the most ridiculous thing I've ever heard. (Sassy.) You just don't understand because you're not a serious athlete like me!

BETHANY: Let's play a round.

DANIELLE: Fine.

(BETHANY and DANIELLE begin to play.)

DANIELLE struggles a bit and throws the beanbag too hard. It flies in the air and hits COACH. COACH walks over with the beanbag.)

COACH: (To Bethany.) Do we have a problem?

BETHANY: It wasn't me.

DANIELLE: It was me, Coach. I'm very sorry. I'll start practicing more and show you that I am good at this. I promise.

COACH: Calm down. It's just corn hole. Clearly, this was an accident. Just try a little harder next time.

(COACH walks away.)

BETHANY: You ok?

DANIELLE: Look what you did. You made me look awful in front of the Coach.

BETHANY: You really need to chill out.

(Bell rings. DANIELLE rushes off.)

HENRY: Hey, Bethany! What's with her?

BETHANY: She's taking things so personally.

HENRY: Did she tell you about her Olympic family? Her family is super athletic. Her father almost went to the Olympics, but then broke his leg during the National competition.

AARON: I thought he still went.

HENRY: He did, but he couldn't compete. It was a huge let down.

BETHANY: Is she going to the Olympics?

HENRY: Danielle? No way!

AARON: Don't tell her that. She'll go nuts! We played tee-ball together. This one time, she struck out and started to cry like a baby. Our coach couldn't get her off the field. Her dad had to carry her off. It was hilarious!

HENRY: Tee-ball? That was so long ago.

AARON: I'm just saying she hasn't changed. (Beat) Have you got your locker assignment, yet?

HENRY: Yeah. Where's yours?

AARON: East hall. Locker 208.

BETHANY: Mine is next to yours.

AARON: (awkward) Swag.

HENRY: (Joking.) I think you two would be great together.

BETHANY: Great! I just made a super athlete angry, and now this.

HENRY: Don't sweat it. I was just teasing.

(HENRY and AARON start to exit. BETHANY stays.)

HENRY: (To BETHANY.) You coming?

BETHANY: Sure.

(Everyone exits.)

SCENE 5: Social Studies

(CHRIS enters and is still wearing his headphones. He intentionally goes to a desk on the outer edge of the classroom and sits down. He takes out a notebook and starts to draw. ISOBEL and GABY enter. They are talking about what they will wear to the pep rally as they enter the classroom. Both of them stop and stare at CHRIS for a moment before deciding to sit at desks on the opposite side of the classroom. FOREST enters and sits in a middle desk near ISOBEL and GABY.)

ISOBEL: Beats headphones are pretty popular, but I don't like them. They completely cover your ears. It feels weird.

GABY: They look like earmuffs.

FOREST: My older brother has a pair and won't take them off. They sound good, I guess.

ISOBEL: He's had them on all day. That's so not normal.

FOREST: Why is listening to music not normal?

(MRS. KNIGHT enters.)

MRS. KNIGHT: Good afternoon, and welcome to World History. This is a class where we will engage in a lot of fruitful discussions. I would like to begin our first day considering the question I've written on the board: What makes a great discussion?

GABY: (Raising her hand.) You mean class discussion?

MRS. KNIGHT: Well, what do you think?

GABY: I don't know.

MRS. KNIGHT: Yes, you do! There was a reason you asked me to clarify. You're not wrong, and I want you to share what you're thinking. So, why did you ask if the question only pertains to a class discussion?

GABY: Umm... Well... I, eh... You see, discussions can happen anywhere. It's not just class. A great discussion in class is going to be different than, you know...

MRS. KNIGHT: I think I get where you're going. Let me see if I can help. You think that a great class discussion can happen anywhere, but what makes a discussion great here in class can be different than what makes a discussion great at home. Am I on the right track?

GABY: Yeah, that's right.

FOREST: (Quietly to Gaby.) Show off.

GABY: Whatever.

MRS. KNIGHT: (To FOREST.) Would you like to share something with the class?

FOREST: Oh, no. Sorry.

MRS. KNIGHT: (Passing out papers.) Ok. I think we should consider Gaby's question. I'm going to put you in groups. On the top of your paper, you will have a number. Now, I shuffled these around, so these are not in any particular order. Everyone over here could get group number 1 or it might be spread out. Once everyone receives a piece of paper, I want you to sit near your group. (She should be near CHRIS and takes off his headphones. Beat.) I'm glad you're joining us, now. Your group number is written on the top corner, and you'll sit near them in a minute. (Back to passing out papers). Now, as I was saying, once everyone has their paper, please move so that you're sitting with your group.

ISOBEL: I'm group two.

GABY: Me, too.

FOREST: (Waving his paper.) Group two.

MRS. KNIGHT: (To CHRIS.) Which group did you get?

CHRIS: Two.

(While CHRIS gets his stuff and starts to move, ISOBEL and GABY whisper to each other.)

ISOBEL: He doesn't say anything. He was so rude to Henry. He's the nicest guy and he was so mean to him.

GABY: You like Henry, don't you?

ISOBEL: No! We're just friends. I've known him since kindergarten. (To CHRIS, who should be to his new seat by now.) Hi, Chris! How are you?

CHRIS: Fine.

FOREST: You like your Beats?

CHRIS: My what?

FOREST: Your headphones. They're Beats, right?

CHRIS: They're ok.

FOREST: What do you listen to?

CHRIS: (Beat.) You don't have to be nice to me.

FOREST: You've been ignoring everybody all day.

CHRIS: I'm fine. Let's just get started on our group stuff. What are we supposed to do?

ISOBEL: We're supposed to write down what makes a great discussion.

GABY: You mean, class discussion.

ISOBEL: You're such a show off.

GABY: Whatever. Chris, why don't you take notes?

CHRIS: Why?

GABY: Ok... Or I'll take notes. You really don't need to be rude. We haven't done anything to you. In fact, we've been trying to be nice to you all day.

CHRIS: Look, I don't need any of you to be my friend. I'm just here to get my stuff done, graduate, and then go.

ISOBEL: You've got, like, six more years to go before graduation.

CHRIS: What are you talking about?

ISOBEL: This is the sixth grade. We've got a ways to go before graduating. That's unless you're like some super genius that can skip grades and be in college before you can ever drive a car.

FOREST: (Beat.) Look, if you don't want to be our friend, fine. Let's just get our work done. Gaby, write down that a good class discussion shouldn't be boring.

CHRIS: Or a waste of time.

(MRS. KNIGHT overhears the group discussion so far and chimes in.)

MRS. KNIGHT: Please make sure you're being specific with your ideas. I'm hearing a lot of groups talking about discussions that shouldn't be boring. What makes a class discussion not boring? Please be specific.

GABY: How about that the discussion should relate to us on our level?

FOREST: What is with you? You've become all smart and stuff.

GABY: I've always been smart, and I like this class. I heard Mrs. Knight is the best, and that she gives parties if we do we a good job.

CHRIS: Class discussions should have more than one person contributing.

FOREST: Whoa! Where did that come from? I bet deep down underneath your headphones, you're a genius.

ISOBEL: Aren't you in advanced studies?

CHRIS: Yeah.

GABY: How did you know that?

ISOBEL: Aaron told me. (To CHRIS) Didn't you go nuts because you got paint all over your shoes?

CHRIS: Look, I just want to get the assignment done.

ISOBEL: Fine. (To GABY.) Do we have enough?

GABY: I don't know.

(GABY raises her hand.)

MRS. KNIGHT: Yes.

GABY: How long do these have to be?

MRS. KNIGHT: Long enough to answer the question.

ISOBEL: Oh, gosh! She's going to be one those. Are you sure this is the teacher that gives parties?

GABY: Yeah. She's hard, but she's really cool.

CHRIS: She's super hard, but she's a good teacher. (To ISOBEL.)
Your friend, his name is Aaron, right?

ISOBEL: Yeah.

CHRIS: Where does he live?

ISOBEL: Why would I tell you? It's not like you're friends.

CHRIS: I think we ride the same bus. And I think my mom and his
mom work together.

FOREST: Is your mom a professor?

CHRIS: Yeah. She teaches in the music department and directs the
jazz choir. What does Aaron's mom teach?

FOREST: I think she is a visual art person or something.

CHRIS: You mean, she's an artist? That's pretty cool.

FOREST: Were you listening to jazz?

CHRIS: Yeah, but you wouldn't know it.

ISOBEL: I like jazz. Didn't somebody sing a jazz song on *The
Voice*. You know, that *At Last* song that's popular.

CHRIS: Yeah, Etta James sang it originally. She's got some
pipes.

FOREST: She's got what?

CHRIS: Pipes. You know, vocal chords. She's a really good
singer. (Hands his headphones to Isobel). Here, listen.

MRS. KNIGHT: Please put your headphones away.

CHRIS: Sorry, Mrs. Knight. (Beat.) You all want to come over to my house after school and listen. We've got the best speakers ever.

FOREST: I don't know.

CHRIS: It's fine. I get it.

FOREST: Wait. I didn't mean that in a bad way. My dad picks me up, and we usually have stuff to do. I could ask about this weekend. You play any video games?

CHRIS: Yeah. I've a got an *X-box One*. It's pretty cool.

ISOBEL: What about us?

GABY: Yeah, I want to come.

CHRIS: I'll ask my mom and let you know. Are you all on Instagram? (Everyone nods.) Swag, I'll follow you when I get home.

(Bell rings)

GABY: What about our paper?

CHRIS: Hand it to me. (Goes to Mrs. Knight.) Do you mind if we spend some more time on this? We got a little distracted, but I promise it won't happen again.

MRS. KNIGHT: First day of school is always tough. Why don't you save your paper and be prepared to discuss your ideas during our next class.

CHRIS: Thanks, Mrs. Knight.

(GABY, ISOBEL, CHRIS, and FOREST pack up and exit together.)

Scene 6: Lockers

(A hallway of lockers, which faces the audience. When characters enter and go to their locker, they face the audience and pantomime their actions. AARON enters carrying a pile of books. He goes to his locker, it's a top one, and drops his books on the floor in front of his locker. He takes a note out of his pocket with his locker combination written on it. He tries to enter the combination once and fails. He tries again and fails. CHRIS enters. He is no longer wearing his headphones, but is carrying a pile of books. He finds his locker, a bottom one, and sits in front of it. He tries his combination once, and it works.

AARON: How did you get yours to work?

CHRIS: It's easy.

AARON: I must have the wrong combination.

CHRIS: Let me try.

(AARON is caught off guard by CHRIS who is all of the sudden nice to him. He gives him his note with the combination written on it. CHRIS enters the combination and gets it on the first try.)

AARON: Thanks!

CHRIS: Sure. Now you try.

(AARON tries the combination again and fails.)

CHRIS: You're not doing a full turn after the 2nd number.

AARON: I thought it was after the first number.

CHRIS: Nope. You reset the combination. Spin it around a few times. That's when you enter the first number. Then, you go back backwards to the 2nd number. Then, you do one full turn clockwise and land on the last number.

(AARON tries the combination and it works.)

CHRIS: See.

AARON: (Beat.) Sorry about this morning.

CHRIS: It's ok.

(DANIELLE enters carrying her books. She goes to her locker, a bottom one, and gently places her books down.)

AARON: Hey, Danielle.

DANIELLE: Hey.

AARON: You know, Chris?

DANIELLE: I didn't recognize him without the headphones.

CHRIS: I never leave home without them.

DANIELLE: Aaron, are you trying out for any teams this year?

AARON: Probably basketball. Are you trying out for everything? I bet you're going to try and get on the football team.

(Impersonating) "My name is Danielle, and I am the first female football player."

DANIELLE: Stop it. I can't help it if I'm an excellent athlete.

CHRIS: What do you play?

DANIELLE: I'm a runner.

CHRIS: Really?

DANIELLE: You don't believe me.

CHRIS: It's not that. I just don't meet many runners. (Beat) I see you got a bottom locker, too.

DANIELLE: I was supposed to get a top locker, but they gave my locker to someone else.

AARON: That stinks.

CHRIS: What's wrong with a bottom locker? You can sit in front of it.

DANIELLE: I don't want to sit on the floor. That's gross.

(BETHANY enters carrying her books. She goes to her top locker, which is near AARON's locker.)

AARON: Hey, Bethany. Is this your locker?

BETHANY: Sure is. Hi, Danielle!

(DANIELLE ignores BETHANY.)

AARON: (Quietly.) She's mad because she was supposed to get a top locker.

BETHANY: Oh. (Beat.) Danielle, do you want my locker? I really wanted a bottom one. I'm too short, for a top locker.

DANIELLE: Why would you give me your locker?

BETHANY: If you don't want it-

DANIELLE: (Interrupting.) I'll take it. Thanks!

(DANIELLE quickly gets up takes the locker. BETHANY and DANIELLE switch combinations.)

AARON: Well, I better go. I don't want to miss the bus.

CHRIS: Bus 403?

AARON: Yeah

CHRIS: Me, too.

(AARON and CHRIS exit. DANIELLE finishes putting everything in her locker and starts to leave but stops.)

DANIELLE: You really wanted a top locker, didn't you?

BETHANY: It's just a locker. I didn't really care.

DANIELLE: (Beat.) Maybe I do need to chill out.

BETHANY: What?

DANIELLE: What you said to me earlier, in gym. You were right. I can be way too serious sometimes. I just feel a lot of pressure, that's all.

BETHANY: It's ok. I hope you do well during tryouts. It looks like you have a good shot at making the team.

DANIELLE: Thanks! (Beat.) You walk home, right?

BETHANY: Yeah, I live just around the corner.

DANIELLE: (Trying to be nice, but is kind of struggling.) My mom is taking me to the yogurt shop after school. Want me to see if you can come, too?

BETHANY: Is it the soft-serve kind?

DANIELLE: (Sarcastic at first.) That's the only kind. (Kinder and more patient.) I mean, yeah, the soft-serve kind.

BETHANY: That would be nice. If it's ok with your mom, I'll just text my parents.

DANIELLE: Ok, cool.

BETHANY: Do you think you could help me with the math notes from this morning? I was totally lost.

DANIELLE: Sure.

BETHANY: Thanks!

(DANIELLE and BETHANY exit.)

Scene 7: Friendship Video and Poem

(A video montage of middle school friendships play. All characters in the video are older and reflect on friendships made during middle school and how they evolved. When the video scenes end, AARON, CHRIS, DANIELLE, BETHANY, ISOBEL, GABY, HENRY, FOREST, and MISS MAPLETHOREN enter.)

GABY: Years go by and we continue to move forward-

HENRY: But the friendships remain-

BETHANY: A real friend is one you can dream with, hope with-

ISOBEL: Laugh with, and cry with-

CHRIS: A real friend will be there for you when others aren't-

AARON: A real friend will remind you not to spill paint-

DANIELLE: But will cheer you on to run the race with endurance-

FOREST: To throw out everything that gets in the way-

MISS MAPLETHORNE: This kind of friendship endures and stands the test of time.

(End of play.)