

PRODUCTION SCRIPT

**EL
BULLY
BY
JOE ROSENBERG**

Script and Lyrics by

Joe Rosenberg

Music and Lyrics by

C. Michael Perry

Additional Music by

Kim Paice, Andrea Docter & Jared Rounds



Newport, Maine

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EL BULLY

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El Bully

Cast Of Characters

English Narrator

Spanish Narrator

El Bully -- Henry/Enrique

The Nerd -- Miguelito/Michael

La Muchacha -- Juanita/Joanie

The Teacher -- Mrs. López

The Principal

Other Students

EL BULLY by Joe Rosenberg. Music and Lyrics by C. Michael Perry. Additional Music by Kim Paice, Andrea Docter & Jared Rounds. Cast of 7 principals 2m 2f 3either + extras. Simple space setting. About 40 mins. (***This play is perfect for Adult actors performing for young people, and young people performing for themselves. Upper Elementary aged students though Middle School and Junior High ages would enjoy this play.***) This play has Spanish. This play has English. This play has them both together in the same sentence: Spanglish! In school, an English speaking tough-guy bully falls head over heels in love for an Hispanic girl. All goes well until he becomes victimized by a lack of Spanish language skills, simply because he doesn't know that "prima" in Spanish means "cousin". His prior treatment of his fellow students is also a hindrance for him to be understood by them -- no matter how much he longs to be understood. But, enlightenment, and compassionate treatment bring a happy ending. The play has seven song lyrics ready for musical improvisation by your cast. OR you can purchase the Piano-Vocal Score that includes music for all of them. **Order # 3169.**

JOSEPH ROSENBERG -- Playwright, Director and Theater Scholar, Joe is the founder and Artistic Director of El Teatro Bilingue (The Bilingual Theatre Company). He has established bilingual theatre programs in various school districts and founded international theatre exchanges. In 1983 the State Department sent him to South America to lecture on minority culture theatre in the United States. He has also edited an anthology of Hispanic Children's Plays entitled ¡**APLAUSO!** for ARTÉ PÚBLICO PRESS.

EL BULLY

(Introductory music. Enter ACTORS, who turn at Center and face back wall. End of Music)

SCENE ONE -- TWO NARRATORS, one speaking Spanish, the other English, face the public.

ENGLISH NARRATOR: Hello, hello, hello ...

SPANISH NARRATOR: Y hola, señores y señoras y los demás. Vamos a presentarles ...el cuento que se llama "EL BULLY".

ENGLISH NARRATOR: That's right. This is the story of "El Bully."

SPANISH NARRATOR: El Bully, así se llamaron.

(ACTOR of El Bully turns to face the public and snarls. NARRATORS hiss, motion the public to hiss. EL BULLY(HENRY/ENRIQUE) growls at the NARRATORS, who run off stage, then cautiously return. It looks as if EL BULLY will hiss again, and NARRATORS start to make tracks. EL BULLY laughs. THEY approach him cautiously, offer him candy, which he takes, smiles, laughs to the public)

ENGLISH NARRATOR: Nice Bully...

SPANISH NARRATOR: Nice, nice, muy nice...

HENRY: All right, as long as you got candy.

ENGLISH NARRATOR & SPANISH NARRATOR: Sí, sí...

HENRY: What did you say?

ENGLISH NARRATOR : Nuttin...nuttin at all.

HENRY: Dat's better.

ENGLISH NARRATOR: And the Nerd. The nuy the n nuy, the nuynuynuy...

SPANISH NARRATOR: Quiere decir "El Nerd".

(ACTOR of El Nerd turns to public, takes a bow, and NARRATORS applaud him. EL BULLY growls, so NARRATORS stop applauding, but behind his back urge the public pantomimically to boo EL BULLY, while they push EL NERD(MIGUELITO) forward to take another bow. When the audience responds, this happens, EL BULLY will growl at Public, and NERD will start to run away, whereupon the 'innocent' NARRATORS will pat EL BULLY on the back, and other things like that, to calm him down, while NERD takes a quick bow and returns to his place on the line. NARRATORS lead EL BULLY to line to take his place.)

ENGLISH NARRATOR: (Wipes his brow) Whew! And now the Girl.

SPANISH NARRATOR: La girl.

ENGLISH NARRATOR: Muchacha, you dope.

SPANISH NARRATOR: *(Laughs stupidly)* La muchacha.

(MUCHACHA(JUANITA) turns to public, takes a curtsy.. NARRATORS and PUBLIC applaud. EL BULLY melts in her presence. THE NERD looks at his computer and shakes it to make it work.)

ENGLISH NARRATOR: And all the others!

SPANISH NARRATOR: ¡Y los demás!

(OTHERS turn to Public and bow. NARRATORS signal public to applaud them. THEY take another bow, and another, and another.)

SPANISH NARRATOR: ¡Ya, basta!

ENGLISH NARRATOR: Enough already! Right?

(OTHERS stop bowing.)

SPANISH NARRATOR: Y nosotros, los narradores.....

ENGLISH NARRATOR: Don't forget. We're the narrators. Without us you wouldn't understand any of these muthers at all.

(THEY bow and bow and bow and...)

CAST: Ya basta!

ENGLISH NARRATOR: Look, you guys, we don't often have this chance...

OTHERS: Us neither! ¡Tampoco nosotros! You aren't the only ones! ¡Nosotros también importamos!

(Bow and bow and bow)

SPANISH NARRATOR: Tienen razón, ellos.

ENGLISH NARRATOR: They do have a point, don't they? Come on, let's join them.

(NARRATORS bow)

LEADS: All right, bow all you want, go ahead, not that we have a show to do, it's all yours, bow, go ahead, bow wow wow wow.

ENGLISH NARRATOR: Well, all right...and the guitarist! Don't forget the guitarist...

SPANISH NARRATOR: ¡Sí, el guitarrista!

(NOBODY)

Bueno...¿Bueno?

ENGLISH NARRATOR: I forgot. We don't have a guitarist...

BOTH: Ni modo...

HENRY: Hey, when are you going to quit messin' around and tell my story?

SPANISH NARRATOR: Pues, don't rush us! Dot's not very nice! ¡Mal educado!

ENGLISH NARRATOR: How rude!

(EL BULLY growls)

SPANISH NARRATOR: Sí, sí, sí. Vamos a decirles el cuento...

ENGLISH NARRATOR: Right, right right. The story of the bully.

(EL BULLY growls.)

I mean...

SPANISH NARRATOR: Quiero decir Meester Nice Guy.

ENGLISH NARRATOR: Nice Guy? Did you say Nice Guy?

(EL BULLY growls.)

Mr Great Guy!

SPANISH NARRATOR: *(As THEY pat him on the back)* Sí, sí, sí. Meester Great Guy!

(EL BULLY purrs.)

ENGLISH NARRATOR: Yeah, well ... It happened long ago...

SPANISH NARRATOR: Bueno, no tanto

ENGLISH NARRATOR: That's what I just said. It happened not so long ago...

HENRY: Huh?

SPANISH NARRATOR: Tampoco.

ENGLISH NARRATOR: Yesterday. It happened yesterday...

SPANISH NARRATOR: Ayer.

BULLY: When?

ENGLISH NARRATOR: It's happening right now.

SPANISH NARRATOR: Hoy mismo, este momentito.

ENGLISH NARRATOR: But we've gotta have a once upon a time. All make believe stories start with once upon a time.

HENRY: Not this one.

SPANISH NARRATOR: Not this one. This is a real story. No erase una vez this time. Pasa ahora.

ENGLISH NARRATOR: Right now? Not even Walt Disney can do that.

SPANISH NARRATOR: Porque pasa siempre.

ENGLISH NARRATOR: Well, you've got that right. It does. It happens all the time. Everywhere you look there's a bully who tries to spoil all the...

(Backs off as EL BULLY advances on him)

...fun. Not you, we don't mean you. You're Mr. Nice Guy.

SPANISH NARRATOR: Sí, Meester Nice Guy, sí...

HENRY: I don't see anyone else around, do you? So you mean I'm the bully.

(Sends them sprawling, then faces wall)

ENGLISH NARRATOR: (Whispers) Whew. But it does, it always seems to happen. ..

SPANISH NARRATOR: Cállate la boca...

ENGLISH NARRATOR: And everywhere you look there's a girl. There's always a girl.

SPANISH NARRATOR: Shut up you mouth! You want to live? Well then shut up you mouth! Pues...sí siempre pasa, pasa siempre. Only not so loud. He can hear you. Calmadito.

ENGLISH NARRATOR: And a Nerd. Always.

SPANISH NARRATOR: Siempre siempre. Y este nerd...

ENGLISH NARRATOR: Went to the same school with all these kids.

SPANISH NARRATOR: Todos fueran a la misma escuela.

(Pantomime of going to school. EL BULLY trips NERD up, laughs. OTHERS huddle together, afraid. HE laughs hard at them. THEY are forced to laugh. HE leaves. GIRL picks NERD up)

GIRL: Did he break your computer, Miguelito?

MIGUELITO: No, estoy bien, prima.

OTHERS: Bully...patán...

GIRL: Ay, Miguelito.

MIGUELITO: No es nada, prima, no es muy importante.

JUANITA: Hmph! That...that guy!

(ALL except JUANITA turn to the wall. JUANITA sings)

MUSICAL #1 -- JUST FOR MEAN

IF YOU TRY TO CROSS THE STREET HE'LL SPLASH YOU
JUST FOR MEAN! SO MEAN!

HE'LL GRAB YOUR ICE CREAM CONE AND THEN HE'LL TRASH IT,
PURE MEAN!

HE'LL STICK THUMB TACKS ON YOUR SEAT,
HE'LL DROP CHEWING GUM NEAR YOUR FEET,
HE'LL CALL YOU ON THE PHONE TO GET YOUR GOAT!

HE'S MEAN, MEAN!
HE'S A NASTY, MEAN MACHINE!
THE KIND THAT LAUGHS WHEN HE CUTS OFF KITTENS' TAILS!

HE'S SO HORRID, HE'S SUCH A PEST!
IT MAKES ME SO ANGRY TO CONFESS
I ... WELL, I LIKE HIM!
WELL...WELL, I LIKE HIM!
OOOH! IF HE'D JUST FOR A MINUTE STOP --
STOP BEING SO MEAN!
I mean...so ¡asqueroso!

(GIRL faces the wall)

SPANISH NARRATOR: ¡Allí va!

ENGLISH NARRATOR: Once upon a time.

SPANISH NARRATOR: ¡N'hombre! ¿Otra vez once upon a time? ¡Qué once upon a time qué nada!

ENGLISH NARRATOR: All right. already! Once - just once. All right? Once, when they were in Mrs. López' class ...

SPANISH NARRATOR: Bueno, eso sí. Sí, y se sintieron muy tristes ...

ENGLISH NARRATOR: Very sad, very ...

SPANISH NARRATOR: Por los abusos del bully ...

ENGLISH NARRATOR: Really, He was getting on their case all the time, it seems ...

SPANISH NARRATOR: Y decidieron ¡Ya no más!

ENGLISH NARRATOR: Enough is enough! Let's give that bully a dose of his own medicine!

JUANITA: Well ...

ALL OTHERS except HENRY: Well??!! Well??!!

ENGLISH NARRATOR: You saw what he did to your own cousin!

SPANISH NARRATOR: Con tus propios ojos, ¡Viste lo que hizo!

GIRL: I know, I know, but...well, but...

ENGLISH NARRATOR and OTHERS: But??!!

SPANISH NARRATOR and OTHERS: ¡Bueno, bueno, bueno, bueno! Enough but!

GIRL: Can't we just give him one more chance? Huh? Can't we? Just one?

MUSICAL #1A -- JUST FOR MEAN! (REPRISE)

HE'S SO HORRID, HE'S SUCH A PEST!
IT MAKES ME SO ANGRY TO CONFESS
I ... WELL, I LIKE HIM!
WELL...WELL, I LIKE HIM!
OOOH! IF HE'D JUST FOR A MINUTE STOP --
BEING SO MEAN!

MIGUELITO: How about it, guys?

ENGLISH NARRATOR: You say so too? You?

OTHERS: You? After all he's done to you?

SPANISH NARRATOR and OTHERS: ¿¡A tí?!

MIGUELITO: Let's do this for Juanita.

ENGLISH NARRATOR and OTHERS: Well...

SPANISH NARRATOR and OTHERS: Bueno...

MIGUELITO: (*To PUBLIC*) What do you say? Can we give him one more chance? Come on, guys, say it's okay. Please?

(Either thanks PUBLIC or pleads further, whichever is necessary, till HE gets approval)

OTHERS: Well, just this once!

JUANITA: ¡Oh, gracias! ¡Muchisima gracias!

(ALL form a line before EL BULLY, who thinks they are going to settle accounts with him)

HENRY: Back off, you muthers!

MIGUELITO: We just want to shake hands and be friends.

OTHERS: Sí, eso es todo.

JUANITA: That's all, Henry, honest!

HENRY: Yeah, right! First one comes near I'll send him home bawlin to mommy!

(MRS. LÓPEZ turns.)

ENGLISH NARRATOR & SPANISH NARRATOR: Whoops! The teach! ¡La profe! The teach! ¡La profe!
Ooooy!

(ALL scurry to their places, take imaginary seats.)

MRS. LÓPEZ: Good morning, children!

SPANISH NARRATOR: Ella habla pura inglés ...

ENGLISH NARRATOR: Before she got married her name was McGillicuddy. That's why she just talks English. And because she doesn't like people to talk Spanish. Not even her old man. That's why.

SPANISH NARRATOR: Eso.

MRS. LÓPEZ: Ah said, good mornin', children.

EVERYBODY: (*except HENRY*) Buenos días, mamacita.

MRS. LÓPEZ: Do what?

MIGUELITO: Buenos días quiere decir good morning

ENGLISH NARRATOR: Español, Mrs. López.

MRS. LÓPEZ: What's the matter with you? Cain't you talk English none?

MIGUELITO: Sí, but...

MRS LÓPEZ: It's what?

(*Silence*)

Ah said, ah said cain't you talk English none? Huh?

MIGUELITO: Sure we can? Remember, Mrs. López? You taught us how.

MRS. LÓPEZ: That's much better.

MIGUELITO: Yes, Ma'am. It's just that we were wondering if your husband, Mr. López, taught you some Spanish.

(*CLASS titters.*)

Like te quiero mucho, mi amor...

(*CLASS roars*)

MRS. LÓPEZ: It's what? Ah say, it's what? Do what? Whatwhat whatwhatwhat?

(*Turns to imaginary chalk board and writes*)

Two plus seven times fourteen divided by twenty five equals...

(*EL BULLY twists MIGUELITO's arm*)

MIGUELITO: Ouch!

MRS. LÓPEZ: Wrong answer! Wrong, wrong, wrong answer!

MIGUELITO: Hey, stop it! That hurts!

MRS. LÓPEZ: (*BOYS stop as SHE turns*) Do what? whatwhatwhatwhat?

MIGUELITO: I know the answer, Mrs. López! Ask me, Mrs. López! Ask me!

MRS. LÓPEZ: Henry?

HENRY: Would you please repeat the question?

CLASS: ¿Quéquéquéquéqué?

MRS. LÓPEZ: Whatwhatwhatwhatwhat! Ah said what?

(*Silence*)

That's better. That's much better. Now. How much is two plus seven times fourteen divided by twenty five.

(*Silence. CLASS begins to titter. HENRY looks around belligerently, slams fist on desk.*)

HENRY: Five hundred!

(*Glares at kids, who remain silent.*)

JUANITA: Miguelito said he knows the answer, Mrs. López.

HENRY: Sure! Sure! Miguelito!

MRS. LÓPEZ: Does anybody except Michael know the answer?

(Silence.)

Tell them the answer, Michael.

MIGUELITO: Cinco punto cero cuatro.

MRS LÓPEZ: Huh?

(HENRY laughs)

MIGUELITO: Cinco punto cero cuatro.

MRS. LÓPEZ: Y'all better start talkin English if'n you don't want people to think you're ignerant. If y'all learn to talk English you get good jobs when you git outa school.

MIGUELITO: Mi papá dice is better to speak two languages all at same time, señora. That way nobody understan nuttin what nobody talkin bout an you get better job.

(Laughter. NARRATORS ring imaginary bell)

NARRATORS: Uy! The bell, the bell, saved by the bell!

(Kids run off noisily, while MRS. LÓPEZ falls down in a faint. NARRATORS splash imaginary water on her face. SHE comes to.)

MRS LÓPEZ: Humiliated! Ah have never been so humiliated in all mah life!

(Starts off left, then off right, then off left Enter EL BULLY to reprise of "He's mean".)

SPANISH NARRATOR: Pasó que el bully...

(EL BULLY turns to PUBLIC)

ENGLISH NARRATOR: It happened that the bully, whose real name is Henry...

SPANISH NARRATOR: Henry se llama, Enrique. Pasa que el quiera mucho a la muchacha Juanita.

(JUANITA enters, turns to PUBLIC)

Pasa que Juanita también ...

ENGLISH NARRATOR: She likes Henry too...

SPANISH NARRATOR: Enrique...

BOTH: Henry/Enrique...

ENGLISH NARRATOR: ...and wants him to be her boyfriend...

SPANISH NARRATOR: Amigo...nada más amigo.

ENGLISH NARRATOR: Just her boyfriend. But she doesn't like how he behaves to people.

SPANISH NARRATOR: Especialmente a Miguelito.

ENGLISH NARRATOR: Who is her cousin.

(NERD enters, faces PUBLIC.)

SPANISH NARRATOR: Su primo. Miguelito es su primo.

(JUANITA and NERD turn backs to PUBLIC)

Una tarde...

ENGLISH NARRATOR: One afternoon after school...

SPANISH NARRATOR: Si, después de la escuela... Enrique esperaba a Juanita..

ENGLISH NARRATOR: Henry waited for Juanita so that he could ask her to let him carry her books for her...

SPANISH NARRATOR: Eso, para acompañarla después de la clase... y como no vino Juanita, el cantaba...

ENGLISH NARRATOR: Since she didn't come he decided to sing a song about how he felt....

SPANISH NARRATOR: ...de las tristeza que sentía.

MUSICAL #2 -- WISH I HAD A FRIEND

HENRY:

SOMETIMES A FELLOW ACTS AS IF HE'S MEAN
BECAUSE HE'S LONELY.

SOMETIMES HE WISHES HE WAS SOMEONE ELSE
WHO HAD A FRIEND!

SOMETIMES HE SEES, WHEN PEOPLE STARE,
EVERYONE'S HIS ENEMY.

AND WHEN HE LEAVES THEY SNICKER, KNOWING
HE'S CLOSE ENOUGH TO HEAR THEM!

IF ONLY HE HAD HALF A FRIEND WHO'D PRETEND TO LISTEN!
THEN, MAYBE THEN, HE'D PRETEND NOT TO BE SO MEAN!

*(During the song, OTHERS, wearing masks, dance a pantomimic dance of friendship. The song over,
OTHERS turn their backs to PUBLIC.)*

ENGLISH NARRATOR: Just then Juanita appeared...

SPANISH NARRATOR: y dijo...

JUANITA: Hola, Henry...

HENRY: Hola.

JUANITA: Hola

HENRY: Hola

(Pause)

Can I walk with you to your casa? Can I carry your books? Can I...

JUANITA: Si quieres.

HENRY: Yeah, I want to! I mean, I want to mucho!

JUANITA: Speak English. I do understand English. It's a very nice language.

HENRY: *(Confused)* Yeah, I know. It's that I want to...well, to walk you home. And...and could you maybe teach me some Spanish?

JUANITA: Of course. I would like to, very much.

HENRY: You would? I mean...you would?

JUANITA: I would.

HENRY: You really would?

JUANITA: Claro que si.

HENRY: Oh! I...I know what that means, Juanita!

(THEY laugh)

JUANITA: That's very nice.

HENRY: It's that I feel nice...when...when I'm with you.

JUANITA: Eso también es muy bonito. And very nicely said, like poetry.

HENRY: Huh? Me?

JUANITA: Yes, you. But why just with me? You are nice now, so why can't you be nice all the time?

HENRY: I... I don't know. I just can't.

JUANITA: You can.....Would you want to try?

HENRY: If you want me to. I think maybe -- I could.

JUANITA: I want you to. Very much.

HENRY: I...I...

SPANISH NARRATOR: Pero sabía...

ENGLISH NARRATOR: He really did know why he was a bully. He just didn't.

SPANISH NARRATOR: Hizo creer que no supo...

ENGLISH NARRATOR: Because it made him feel bad about himself...

SPANISH NARRATOR: Muy mal. Lo hizo sentir mal que...

ENGLISH NARRATOR: When he felt bad about himself, that's when he had to bully people.

SPANISH NARRATOR: Eso.

JUANITA: People might like you. I think they really would.

HENRY: You think so?

JUANITA: If you give them a chance to. Yes, I think so. I ... I like you.

HENRY: You do?

JUANITA: Sometimes...when you're...

HENRY: I like you! All the time!

(Silence)

JUANITA: Do you?

HENRY: I want you to like me...all the time.

JUANITA: I ... I like you.

HENRY: Would you let me carry your books?

JUANITA: Are you asking me?

HENRY: All the time, I mean?

JUANITA: I might.

HENRY: I'd be...nice to people, real nice....if you'd....

JUANITA: I want you to be nice because you are nice, not for me. Here.

(Is about to give him her books when OTHERS form a wall, and NERD jumps over it.)

MIGUELITO: Hi, Fatso!

HENRY: Huh?

MIGUELITO: Hi, prima, whatcha doing here with Fatso?

(Drops his glasses as HE and JUANITA joyfully laugh and embrace.)

Ay, Miguelito-Mikey!

HENRY: Huh?

MIGUELITO: My glasses! I can't see without my glasses! I'm as blind as a bat without my glasses. Oh, where, oh where can my glasses be?

(OTHERS laugh with him, dance with him, all pantomiming search for glasses)

MUSICAL #3 -- BLIND

MIGUELITO:

I'M AS BLIND AS A CAT IN A SACK WITHOUT MY GLASSES,
I'M AS LOST AS A FLEA IN THE SOUP WITHOUT MY SHADES,
I'M AS GONE AS A BEE IN THE SEA WITHOUT MY GOGGLES.
I'M AS DEAD AS THE FLY THAT DROWNED IN THE LEMONADE.

GROUP:

HE'S AS BLIND AS A CAT IN A SACK WITHOUT HIS LENSES,
HE'S AS DEAD AS THE FLEA THAT FELL IN THE CHICKEN SOUP,
HE'S AS THROUGH AS THE BEE THAT FLEW WITHOUT HIS CONTACTS,
HE'S KAPUT AS A FLY WHO KERPLUNKED IN THE MARMALADE.

MIGUELITO:

WHERE, OH WHERE CAN MY SPECTACLES BE?
WHY IS NOBODY HELPING ME?!

Help me, someone!

(HE is led by the OTHERS , blind man's buff style, until he is standing before HENRY. HE reaches out, touches Henry's nose, draws back)

Oh!

HENRY: *(Picks up the glasses. OTHERS turn to the wall.)* Looking for these?

MIGUELITO: Oh! You found them? Gee, thanks!

(HENRY hides them behind his back)

Where?

HENRY: Somewhere.

JUANITA: Give them to him, please, Henry.

HENRY: Why? Why should I give them to him?

JUANITA: Because you should..

HENRY: Oh yeah? And what's in it for me?

JUANITA: Please.....

HENRY: All right, so I'm Mister Nice Guy, I'll give them to him.

JUANITA: Please?

HENRY: I said I would. Here.

(Sets the glasses on the ground)

MIGUELITO: Where?

HENRY: Right in front of you nose.

MIGUELITO: Where?

JUANITA: On the ground.

MIGUELITO: Oh, thanks.

(As HE reaches down, HENRY picks them up and hides them behind his back.)

Where?

HENRY: On your knees, worm!

MIGUELITO: I can't see!

HENRY: On your knees or I'll step on them!

(Forces MIGUEL on his knees.)

JUANITA: ¡Te odio! ¡Malvado! ¡Te odio! I hate you!

HENRY: So, what else is new?

(to MIGUEL)

Now kiss my hand. Kiss it!

(As MIGUEL gropes and bends over, HENRY pushes him, sending him sprawling)

MIGUELITO: *(Terrified)* Please, please! JUANITA, help me!

HENRY: Juanita, help me! Joanie, Joanie, sat on a pony!

(Sends MIGUEL sprawling again. MIGUEL starts to cry.)

And then she fell off!

JUANITA: He might push me too if I try to help you.

HENRY: Why don't you try to find out? You can have them if you can take them from me!

(JUANITA, broken hearted, cries. Waves the glasses in the air, makes believe he throws them on the ground and stomps on them. Laughs cruelly. Turns to wall.)

MIGUELITO: Why does he do that to me?

JUANITA: Because he's a bully! A mean, nasty bully...and I hate him!

MIGUELITO: *(Understands)* Oh.

JUANITA: I do, I hate him! Hate him! Hate him!

(JUANITA cries. MIGUEL consoles her.)

MIGUELITO: No llores, primita, no llores. Va a salir bien.

JUANITA: *(Wails miserably)* Oh, Miguelito!

MIGUELITO: Mientras ayúdame. Porque no puedo irme solo. ¿verdad?

JUANITA: *(Drying her eyes, but still sobbing)* I'll be your glasses, Miguelito.

MIGUELITO: Ya, ya.

(MRS LÓPEZ and PRINCIPAL enter. THEY do this by going around a wall formed by OTHERS.)

MRS LÓPEZ: Hello, Michael, hello Joanie. My goodness, what happened to your glasses, Michael?

PRINCIPAL: Yes, what did happen to them?

MIGUELITO: I lost them jumping over the fence.

MRS LÓPEZ: You should never jump fences.

MIGUELITO: Sí, señora. I mean...

MRS LÓPEZ: Do what?

MIGUELITO: I mean...well...

MRS. LÓPEZ: Well, what do you mean?

MIGUELITO: Quiero decir yes ma'am.

MRS LÓPEZ: Do what?

PRINCIPAL: He said "yes ma'am" Surely that's not so hard to understand, Mrs. López., is it?

MRS LÓPEZ: Oh, no sir, course not, Dr. Johnson, it's jes that I'm studying Spanish - so as ah kin speak to ma husbin's folk, that is, and we ain't got to that part yit.

PRINCIPAL: Claro. Entiendo perfectamente.

(As MIGUEL & JUANITA start to laugh, he stares them down.)

Can we help you find your glasses?

MIGUELITO: No, thank you. I think I lost them some place else.

JUANITA: Sí, I mean...

PRINCIPAL: Sí is fine. It's a good word. I already learned what that means. It has nine different meanings.

JUANITA: Sí, meaning yes, it was some place else. He has another pair meanwhile.

MIGUELITO: At home...

PRINCIPAL: ¿No me echas mentiras?

MIGUELITO: Oh, no sir, I have one at home.

PRINCIPAL: Claro. Entiendo perfectamente. Eres un buen muchacho, Miguelito.

MIGUELITO: Gracias. Señor Johnson. Con permiso.

PRINCIPAL: Propio.

(MIGUELITO exits on JUANITA'S arm)

PRINCIPAL: Do you think he's telling the truth?

MRS. LÓPEZ: Well, he could be, or he could be hiding something from us, or...well, ah jist don't know,

PRINCIPAL: You do know what it is, don't you?

MRS LÓPEZ: He coulda lost them in a fight. He's always getting into a fight...

PRINCIPAL: You mean with jealous kids who don't speak Spanish? And don't want anyone else to?

MRS. LÓPEZ: Well, ah...

PRINCIPAL: With Henry, for instance?

MRS. LÓPEZ: Now why didn't I think of that?

PRINCIPAL: Because you don't speak Spanish and are afraid to try.

(THEY face the wall.)

SPANISH NARRATOR: Algunos adultos son tontos...

ENGLISH NARRATOR: And the rest don't understand anything.

SPANISH NARRATOR: Por lo menos así dicen.

ENGLISH NARRATOR: Although they really do know. More than they let on.

(BLACKOUT)

SCENE TWO -- Enter HENRY, paces around in a surly way, becomes pensive.

MUSICAL #4 -- MY DREAM

HENRY:

SOMETIMES I DREAM

I'M HANDSOME AND LEAN

AND SHE GOES OUT OF HER WAY TO SAY HELLO!

BUT THEN I COME TO AND FIND THE DREAM WASN'T TRUE!

I'M NOT THE STUD THAT I WANNA BE

AND SHE GOES WITH ANOTHER FELLOW.

SO I TRY TO SLEEP

BUT I DREAM AND I DREAM OF IMPOSSIBLE THINGS

THAT AIN'T WHAT THEY SEEM.

AND I MAKE BELIEVE I'M SEVEN FOOT THREE

AND TALL AS A TREE AND SHE'S LOOKING AT ME!

GEE ... IF I COULD ONLY BE ... THAT KIND OF POPULAR GUY

WITH A BOD THAT'S FIT AND A SMILE THAT'S BRIGHT AS THE SKY!

THEN ALL THE KIDS AT SCHOOL WOULD ASK ME TO BE THEIR FRIEND.

I'D THROW PARTIES THAT WOULD NEVER END.

I'D BE A FRIEND TO ALL!

AND THEN ALL THE GIRLS WOULD GO OUT OF THEIR WAY!

AND LIFE AT SCHOOL WOULD BE COOL

WHEN GIRLS WOULD SAY HELLO!

EVERY GUY WOULD BE BEST BUDDIES WITH ME

IF LIFE WAS A DREAM.

BUT IT'S NOT WHAT IT SEEMS TO BE.

(BLACKOUT)

SCENE THREE -- Stage is bare. Enter HENRY wearing pajamas. HE lies down, tries to sleep, stirs restlessly, then the lights come down and he is asleep. The lighting changes to dream light, perhaps black light on phosphorescent costumes. HE rises. moves in slow motion, as if in a trance. During this sequence, NARRATORS speak.

SPANISH NARRATOR: Cuando Enrique llegó a casa...

ENGLISH NARRATOR: When Henry came home, he tried to watch the television...

SPANISH NARRATOR: Pero no le gustó...

ENGLISH NARRATOR: Bored. It just wasn't fun...

SPANISH NARRATOR: Los programas le parecía estupidas, y cuando se sintió a comer...

ENGLISH NARRATOR: The food was just as boring. Chicken again? Yuk!

SPANISH NARRATOR: ¡Pura gallina! No tenía ganas para nada.

ENGLISH NARRATOR: So he decided to do his homework.

SPANISH NARRATOR: Pero su tarea tampoco le interesaba...

ENGLISH NARRATOR: Bored! I don't care for anything!

SPANISH NARRATOR: Así que decidió a acostarse...

ENGLISH NARRATOR: To sleep, perchance to dream, but in this dream.....

SPANISH NARRATOR: Ni pudo dormir.

ENGLISH NARRATOR: Not even a wink.

(At other side of stage JUANITA in bed clothes, lies down to sleep. Turns)

SPANISH NARRATOR: Soñaban.

ENGLISH NARRATOR: They both dreamed...of each other.

(Hands reach out towards each other, but encounter empty space. Enter OTHERS, milling around between the two dormant figures, who rise, try to reach out to each other, but cannot see each other because the OTHERS are in the way.)

SPANISH NARRATOR: La vida les interrumpió.

ENGLISH NARRATOR: Right. The life of others got in the way.

SPANISH NARRATOR: Confundidos...

ENGLISH NARRATOR: Confusion took over on them.

(DANCE. HENRY, HIS ARMS OUTSTRETCHED, TRIES TO REACH JUANITA. OTHERS MILL AROUND BETWEEN THEM. HE PUSHES THEM ANGRILY ASIDE, THROWS THEM VIOLENTLY TO THE FLOOR. AT LAST THEY ARE ALL OUT OF THIS WAY, BUT JUANITA, FACING THE WALL, IS OUT OF HIS SIGHT. THE PEOPLE HE THREW DOWN RISE AND FACE HIM, SURROUND HIM AGAIN, THEN LEAVE, ONE BY ONE, RETURNING TO THEIR POSITIONS FACING THE WALL. HENRY FALLS DOWN, STRUGGLES WITH SLEEP, CRIES, AND SUDDENLY SITS UP. IT IS A BRISK AND SUDDEN DAYLIGHT.)

ENGLISH NARRATOR: Bad dream

SPANISH NARRATOR: Una pesadilla...y se levantó con alarma...

ENGLISH NARRATOR: And he woke up suddenly.... and he thought he heard Juanita calling to him...

SPANISH NARRATOR: Con cariño...

ENGLISH NARRATOR: Tenderly...lovingly....

JUANITA: *(Still facing the wall, whispers)* Henry...Henry.... Henry.....

HENRY: Yes...sí, Juanita...sí...

ENGLISH NARRATOR: And she sang to him...

SPANISH NARRATOR: Le quería cantar ... tan tiernita que quería cantarle ...

(A soft light envelopes JUANITA as she tries to sing to background music, but can not. SHE paces. No music in the score. Choose some instrumental music and let her 'improvise' to it.)

MUSICAL #4a -- REALLY

JUANITA:

REALLY!

REAAAAAALLY!

REAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAALY!!!!!!!

(Stomps off stage.)

ENGLISH NARRATOR: He was...

SPANISH NARRATOR: ¡Humillado!

HENRY: *(Enraged)* Who needs her?! Who needs...anyone?!

(Weeps. Starts to run off, but his way is blocked by three OTHERS. He wheels around, tries to run off in the opposite direction, with the same results. OTHERS crowd him into a small, cramped space at center stage. He lashes out at them, one at a time. As one falls another rises. Among those he hits are the PRINCIPAL and MRS. LÓPEZ, and of course MIGUELITO. He hits and hits and finally becomes weak from the effort, tries to renew his strength, but fails, and falls to the ground. His shame is heightened by the fact that all the OTHERS step over him, tapping him with their shoes as they pass him. JUANITA enters.)

ENGLISH NARRATOR: He reached out to her desperately...

SPANISH NARRATOR: Desesperadamente, él que no tenía ni un solo amigo...

HENRY: Help me...Help me, Juanita...

JUANITA: *(Softly, tenderly)* All I know how to do is tell you I love you, Henry.

(Tenderly)

Fatso...

HENRY: Fatso?

JUANITA: Fatso...

HENRY: *(With renewed rage)* Fatso?! Is that how you love me? Fatso?

JUANITA: It's all right to be Fatso. I tell you it's all right to love someone who is called Fatso by other people.

HENRY: You're laughing at me!

JUANITA: No. If you would only try to understand. How can I make you understand? Listen.

(As he covers his ears and bawls with rage)

Please, listen to me, listen.

(Sings. Slowly he listens.)

MUSICAL #5 -- IT'S ALL RIGHT TO BE ME

SOME PEOPLE SAY I NEED TO BE
LIKE SOME MOVIE STAR INSTEAD OF ME
SHORTER OR TALLER, ANOTHER FACE,
LIGHTER COMPLEXION, A DIFFERENT RACE.
BUT THE PEOPLE WHO LOVE ME ALL COME HOME AT NIGHT
THEY SAY IT'S ALL RIGHT TO BE ME!

SOMETIMES IT SEEMS LIFE IS BIZZARRE
AND I'M AN ALIEN FROM ANOTHER STAR.
BUT I HAVE A MOTHER AND FATHER, TOO!
SISTERS AND BROTHERS ALL STUCK LIKE GLUE!
WHEN THE PEOPLE YOU LOVE, LOVE YOU BACK IT'S TIGHT!
IT'S ALWAYS ALL RIGHT TO BE ME!

(Spoken)

And so I love you, fatso.

ENGLISH NARRATOR: But when the song was over and she tried to reach out to him...

SPANISH NARRATOR: El dijo...

HENRY: *(Ashamed)* Yeah, sure, Fatso. Thanks...Thanks for calling me Fatso! Well, I am! I am! I am fat, and I can beat the crap out of anyone who says so! Anyone!

(Runs out. JUANITA reaches out to someone who is not there.)

SIX more pages to the end of the script