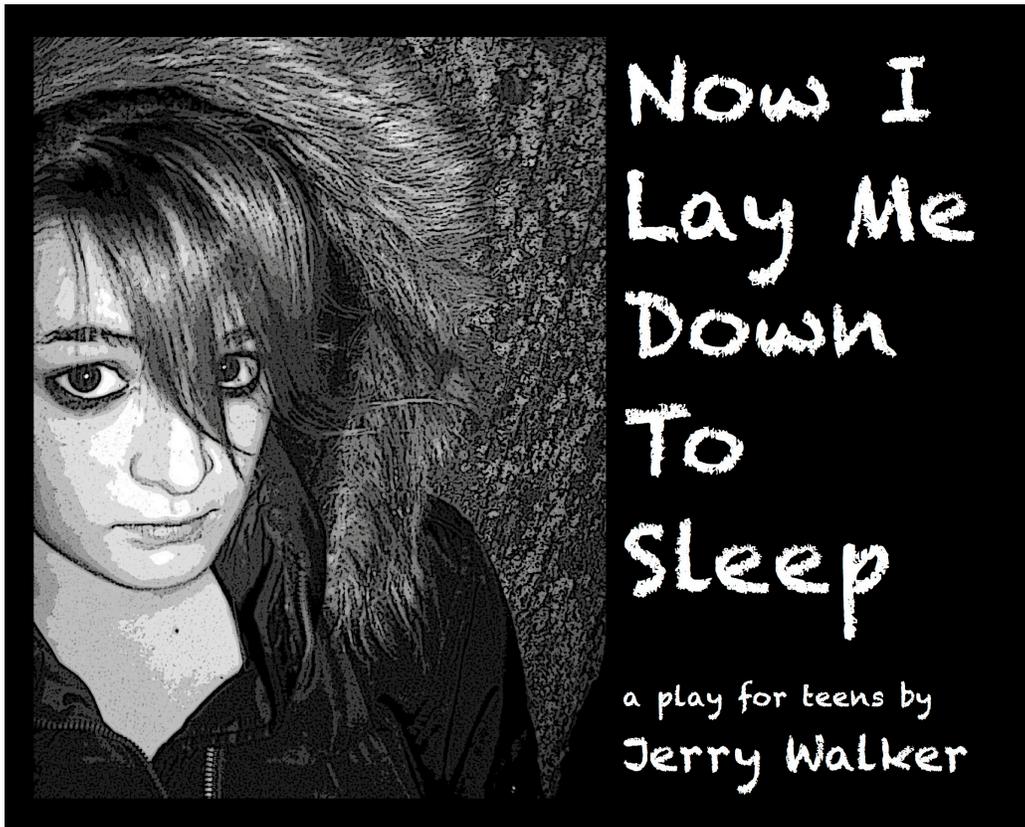


PERUSAL SCRIPT



Newport, Maine

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NOW I LAY ME DOWN TO SLEEP

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Cast List (in order of appearance) 29f 24m (some doubling possible)

Named characters may also appear in group scenes away from their featured scene or monolog.

Girls

Julie
A Girl

Young Girl
Lexie
Emily

Paige
The Friends
Skinny Girl 1
Skinny Girl 2
Carla

Jonathan's Mother
Samantha
Redstreak
Teardrop
Cara The Magnificent
Real Cute Girl

Rachael
Clara
Jenny

Sarah Grace

Jody
Andrea
Mindy
Nancy
Jeanette
Jane
Kate
Mother

Nurse
Lifeless Figure In The Bed

Guys

Guy
Jeffrey
Young Man

Sam
Upper-classman
Tyler

George
Roger
Jonathan
Spike

Carl
Hank

Adam
Jake
Robert
Jerk 1
Jerk 2
Chuck
Joey
Billy
Jeff

Dick

Dad
Doctor

SETTING: can be a bare stage with area lighting or it can be quite elaborate. Actually you can do pretty much what you please. The original production had four areas with large set pieces. A swing set; a park bench and street light; a set of lockers; and a white door framed in black.

COSTUMES are of course contemporary school clothes, but with a theatrical flair, if you wish.

LIGHTING becomes the real physical storyteller

SOUND EFFECTS: Gunshot, School bell(4x), slamming locker, 'boing' or musical stinger of some sort

NOW I LAY ME DOWN TO SLEEP by Jerry Walker 29f, 24m. (*A must for any group – professional, amateur and educational, performing for families and teens. A perfect play for High Schools and Youth Theatres.*) A school hallway, and other simple settings. About 90 minutes. Contemporary costumes. They are called the best four years of our lives...and they are, but that four year trek is also dangerous and confusing. You will find all of the things that young people, especially high school students, need to know, want to ask, get stressed-out about and complain about. Between the familiar items of teen angst and adolescence will come those moments of pleasant memory, deep identity, shocking surprise, and utter devastation, as your onstage 'child' reaches out for comfort, help, direction—approval; wanting to belong to something/someone. The scenes and monologues in this on-target theatrical, will have you laughing one second and crying for ...well, a considerable length of time. The play is about teens and how each action or word spoken by anyone has either a positive or negative effect on someone else, even oneself, and we come to find out that no word or deed is harmless or without consequence. Adults and youth alike, will see themselves in the halls of this school, in the lives of its students; in both the hopes, and the shattered dreams of high-schoolers not so very different from those adults in their lives around them who have walked this path before in a slightly different era but with all the manifestations of expectation, desire, dreams, and despair that haunted them. This is one fine and timeless play. **ORDER #3039 [Premiered by Stearns High School for the Northern Maine One Act Play Festival, 1997 [1st Place]. Premiered as a full length at School House Arts Center, 2002.]**

Jerry Walker is a retired **Band and Theater** director. He was the director of bands at **Oxford Hills High School** in South Paris and **Stearns High School** in Millinocket. While in Millinocket he was also the theater director and directed the Jazz Ensembles. Since his retirement in 1999 he has acted in and directed plays and musicals at **Schoolhouse**: "*The Hobbit*", and "*Now I Lay Me Down To Sleep*", "*The Odd Couple*" and a group of one-act plays; **Lake Region Community Theater**, where he directed: "*The Odd Couple*", (*female version*), "*Oliver*" and "*You Can't Take It With You*"; **Oxford Hills Community Theater**, "*Carnival*"; and **Windham Center Stage Theater**: "*You Can't Take It With You*" and "*Once Upon A Mattress*". He Directed "*My Fair Lady*" and "*Hello Dolly*" at **Deertrees**. Jerry is one of the founders of the **Daytime Players** as well as an actor and director in the ensemble. Some of his acting roles include *Tevye* in "**Fiddler**", *Fagin* in "**Oliver**", *Scrooge* in the "**A Christmas Carol**", *Fred* in "**All I Really Needed To Know I Learned Kindergarten**", *Kris Kringle* in "**Miracle on 34th Street**", *Bellomy* in "**The Fantastiks**", *Sextimus* in "**Once Upon A Mattress**", *Erroneous* in "**A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum**", *Birdboot* in "**The Real Inspector Hound**", *Al Lewis* in "**The Sunshine Boys**", and *Samuel* in "**A Little Something For The Ducks**". He reworked and directed the present expanded version of "*Now I Lay Me Down To Sleep*" at **Schoolhouse** in 2004 and 2008. He is presently writing "*Two Guys Seating on a Bench Talking About Stuff of No Importance to Anyone.*"

NOW I LAY ME DOWN TO SLEEP

...VOICES IN THE NIGHT...

Light Cue #1 -- THE CURTAIN OPENS ON A DARK STAGE.

A PRAYER is spoken in a child like voice. OTHER VOICES join the prayer and it becomes louder and more intense.

A CHILDLIKE VOICE:

Now I lay me down to sleep.

I pray the Lord my soul to keep.

If I should die before I wake

I pray the Lord my soul to take.

Suddenly it's silenced by a:

Sound Cue #1 -- GUNSHOT.

...JULIE...

Light Cue #2 -- *Light the swing*

The lights come up on a GIRL on a swing. After a moment or two she slows the swing and speaks to the AUDIENCE.

JULIE: I love that prayer. When I was little I used to say it every night. My favorite part was the God blesses at the end. I'd bless my cat, my bureau, the bus driver, my swing set, everything. Being a little kid was so great. I mean, all you had to do was play and have fun and everyone treated you special.

She can get up here and move or she can stay on the swing.

But, then you grow up and everything changes.

(pause)

It seems like something terrible happens to you every day. Like you get a zit and some hunky guy walks by, and he almost looks at you, but he doesn't and you know he saw the zit and he thinks you're ugly. So you try to hide it and, of course, it just keeps growing bigger. Everyone in school looks at you funny, so you spend the whole day with your hand over the thing. As if that's going to help... In school you're bombarded every day with do this, do that, don't do this, don't do that. Then you go home and the same thing happens all over again. Nobody understands what a horrible day you've had and they think you're just exaggerating. I get so mad sometimes. We can usually handle most of these things, even if we don't seem to at the time. But, there's more. Some of us have another life, that we don't want anyone to know about. Private things, that we

try to keep to ourselves. They just keep gnawing at you and you think you're going to explode and you fight against it, making life miserable for those around you. That usually doesn't help much. I just wish teachers and parents would lighten up a bit. Give us a break. Being a teenager is hard work. Most of us deal with our problems and we survive. Some don't.

No one on stage sees Julie, ever... the only exception is when she joins Lexie in ISN'T HE GORGEOUS. She can hang out at the swing set/playground... she can drift into some scenes, but must remain on the outside as a spectator.

Light Cue #3 -- *The swing light goes out.*

Sound Cue #2 -- *A SCHOOL BELL rings.*

...DO YOU KNOW WHERE ROOM 118 IS?...

Light Cue #4 -- *General wash of Stage*

Suddenly, there is a lot of chatter and noise. STUDENTS are coming into school. The entire cast should flood the stage with before school activity and noise. They can come out of the audience or appear on stage. The choices are endless. They should then just as quickly disappear.

A GIRL is left standing DC. She appears lost.

A YOUNG GIRL rushes past her.

GIRL: *(to girl rushing past)* Do you know where room 118 is?

The GIRL RUSHING PAST doesn't answer and dashes off stage left.

(sarcastically, to stage left)

Thanks, a lot.

(to audience)

Light Cue #5 -- *Fade to single light on girl DC.*

This is my first day in this dump and I hate it here. Do you think my parents care? They don't. They just yanked me out of my old school and dragged me here. I yelled and screamed and stamped my feet. I even threatened to pierce my nose, my lip, my eyebrows, and date the biggest loser in school if they made me move here. That didn't make any difference. They just didn't care. So here I am in this godawful place. I hate it here. It's my senior year! All my friends are going to graduate together, but not me. It's not fair. My parents don't know what a horrible thing they've done to me.

My father had a perfectly good job. But was he satisfied? NO. It wasn't where he wanted to be at this time in his life. He wanted more for us. So he quits and drags us all off to the wilderness. He says, "You'll love it there. It's really a safe place to grow up." Yeah right! The first week we were here I was all covered with bug bites. I had to wear long sleeves to cover up the wounds... And get this, I went for a walk on this cute little path. It was really pretty. You could hear the birds singing and cute little animals were running back and forth across the path. Maybe this isn't so bad after all I thought. And then, a bunch of four-wheelers came screaming right at me. I had to dive into the woods. I almost got killed!!! Does that sound safe to you? And listen to

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this. Last night we had a skunk in the back yard and our dumb dog “Shadow” thought he had a new playmate. Yeah, right. The stupid dog ran back into the house and hid in my clothes closet. I can still smell it in my clothes. No wonder no one will stop and tell me where room 118 is.

At this point she may want to throw a little tantrum or even a big one. It depends on how angry she is.

There’s nothing to do here. No movies, no mall, no nothing. I just sit in my room and look at my old yearbooks and cry.

They don’t care. My Mom says, “you can meet some nice kids here and everything will be fine.” Yeah right. The kids here are so weird and they talk funny too. Ayuh, howyadoin. God, they’re awful!

A YOUNG MAN appears. He is nice looking. In fact, he is great looking. The GIRL stands there with her mouth open, stunned by his awesome good looks. She is unable to speak.

GUY: Hi, are you lost or something?

GIRL: *(with mouth gaped open)* Uhuh.

GUY: You’re new here aren’t you?

GIRL: Uhuh.

GUY: Can I help you?

GIRL: *(with a shake of the head)* Uhuh

GUY: Let me see your schedule?

GIRL: *(regaining her composure)* Okay.

GUY: Hey, neat we have the same classes.

GIRL: *(happily)* We do?

GUY: Yeah, come on I’ll show you around.

GIRL: OK, I really love it here.

GIRL follows GUY out.

Light Cue # 6 -- Light up at Locker light wash SL

JULIE enters the scene and stands by the lockers.

JULIE: She survived. They’re going out now. She’s lucky, she got one of the good ones. Most of the boys here are so gross. God, they act so dumb.

...FRESHMAN IN A LOCKER...

A GROUP OF BOYS enters acting dumb. Over do it. Act real dumb for about 5 seconds. You know how to do it. Exit stage Left

JULIE: And they’re so mean. They really are. They’re always picking on people.

JEFFREY walks into the light CS and stops. He keeps glancing down the hallway as if looking for someone. He appears apprehensive about entering SENIOR HALL.

JEFFREY: *(to audience)* Hi. That’s senior hall. I have to go down there. I’m a freshman. Yesterday, when I went down there, they stuffed me in a locker. I was in there a long time before the janitor let me out.

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Being a freshman sucks. I'm thinking of quitting school and coming back when I'm a sophomore. I remember last year when I was in eighth grade. I was cool and... now, I'm a freshman. I used to be one of the biggest kids in school and nobody messed with me. I must've shrunk or something.

He glances nervously down the hallway.

Okay, think it's all clear. Here goes.

He gets into a crouch ready to sprint down the hallway.

(to audience)

Wish me luck.

Sound Cue #3 -- The Bell rings.

Jeffrey takes off. The light stays on. VOICES are heard off stage.

VOICES: HI Jeffrey.

JEFFREY: Oh NOOOO!!!

VOICES: C'mere Jeeffffrey.

JEFFREY: C'MON GUYS DON'T. NOT AGAIN.

Sound Cue #4 -- Locker slamming

There is the sound of laughter, screams and the slamming of a locker door. THREE BOYS dash into the light, look back offstage and disappear UR. There is pause and then the sound of someone knocking on a locker is heard offstage.

JEFFREY: IS ANYONE OUT THERE?

SILENCE

Julie crosses and sits on bench.

JULIE: And then there's freshman girls. Talk about dumb.

...SCUM OF THE EARTH...

Light Cue #7 -- Julie out Light Bench and Door.

A YOUNG GIRL and a YOUNG MAN appear on stage or they can come on and meet accidentally or they can come on in the dark and the lights come on with them in position. Or, you can do something else.

YOUNG GIRL: Do you see that! That... SCUM OF THE EARTH over there.

(points to the boy)

I hate him. I really hate him. Why? You want to know why? OK, I'll tell you. He asked me out on a date. I was so excited. He was so nice to me. And then, he said, "I love you." On the first date. I couldn't believe it. He said it was love at first sight. He was a senior and he loved me. I just knew he was the one... This is my freshman year and I wanted to be popular, but I never expected this. A senior. My God, all my friends died when they heard he asked me out. We had a wonderful date and he asked me out again. And then. Get this. He said, "when you're in love you have sex." And I believed him. What an idiot I was.....

YOUNG MAN: *(points to the girl)* She's cute and a freshman. So I made my move. I mean, why not? My buddies told me it was easy. You ask them to go out on a couple of dates, tell them you love them and

bang.

(not really proud of himself)

It was easy.

YOUNG GIRL: I was so dumb. He dumped me the next week. He didn't care about me. I was just another girl he could brag about to his friends.

YOUNG MAN: She was so dumb. I dumped her the next week. She cried and carried on. It was awful. Man, she should've known better. No one falls in love that fast. I kinda feel real bad for her though. Really. I mean she was a nice kid.

YOUNG GIRL: *(to him angrily)* What do you mean, I was a nice kid. I am a nice kid. You could have waited to get to know me. I really cared about you.

YOUNG MAN: You were all over me. What did you expect?

YOUNG GIRL: I thought that's what you wanted.

YOUNG MAN: I thought that's what you wanted. I'm sorry. I know I should have waited. But....

He pauses and looks over at THE YOUNG GIRL.

You want to go out again?

YOUNG GIRL: No!

Light Cue #8 -- Her light goes out. His light goes out.

JEFFREY bangs on the locker

JEFFREY: IS ANYONE OUT THERE?????

Light cue #9 -- Light up on the bench.

JULIE: *(still on the bench)* Love can be a real painful thing. Sometimes no matter how much you want someone to care about you it just doesn't work out. My friend Lexie has this humongous crush on this guy who already has a girlfriend, but she doesn't care. She waits around just to get a look at him. She's so weird.

...ISN'T HE GORGEOUS...

Light cue #9a -- Lights up on LEXIE standing in front of a locker.

JULIE walks into the scene.

LEXIE: He oughta be here any minute.

JULIE: I don't believe you.

LEXIE: What?

JULIE: You just hang around here waiting to see him?

LEXIE: Yeah.

JULIE: He's not that great.

LEXIE: He is too!

JULIE: Lexie, he has a girlfriend.

LEXIE: Maybe they broke up.

JULIE: Yeah right, whatever.

LEXIE: They could've.

JULIE: He doesn't know you exist. Oh never mind. Are you ready?

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LEXIE: Shush, here he comes. OOoooh, look at him. He's gorgeous.
(to the GUY)

Hi.

GUY: Huh! Oh hi.

Light Cue #10 -- Lights up DL By door. Blue wash.

He walks by and strolls up to his girlfriend. LEXIE watches. JULIE pushes LEXIE off stage then stops to watch the next scene.

••DISAPPOINTMENT••

SAM: Hey, Emily, wait up.

A young girl [EMILY] comes to center stage. It appears she is waiting for someone. She then starts to leave. A young boy [SAM] zips in from up right.

EMILY: (disappointed) Oh, hi Sam.

SAM: (perplexed) Hi, I've been looking for you. I haven't seen you for a couple days. I tried to call you last night, but you weren't home.

EMILY: (still looking for someone) I was out.

SAM: Oh. Is something wrong?

EMILY: No.

SAM: Are you sure. I haven't seen much of you since we started school. I thought we were going out.

EMILY: Huh?

SAM: I thought we were going out. Like last year in middle school. You wanna go to the game after school.

An upper-classman strolls into the scene.

UPPER CLASSMAN: Hey Em. You ready.

EMILY: Yeah, ah... see you later Sam.

They exit up left, leaving Sam standing center stage watching them leave.

SAM: (yelling to Emily) OK... Alright... Go on. Dump me if you want. I'll be alright... yeah, I'll be fine. MAYBE I'LL GET MYSELF A SENIOR. HUH, HOWDAH YA LIKE THAT.

JEFFREY: (sharply) IS ANYONE OUT THERE!!!

SAM: WILL YOU SHUT UP!!!

SAM sprays a little breath mint and zips offstage on his quest for a senior girl.

Light cue #11 -- Crossfade to Julie on swing.

JULIE: (Back to swing) Go get 'em big guy... Of course sometimes love happens and you wish it didn't.

••TYLER AND PAIGE••

Light Cue #12 -- Cross fade to Bench, Bring up Street light and light down Center and SL.

The lights come on revealing PAIGE. She is sitting on a bench, in a park, reading a book. She is well-dressed and well groomed. She is perfect.

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TYLER enters on a skate board and skates around the bench and stops DL. He is not well dressed, or well groomed and he is definitely not perfect. He can really show off here. If he can do a trick let him. He gets off the board with a flourish.

TYLER: *(to audience)* Hey!

*He glances at the girl on the bench. She glances at him. They both quickly look away.
(to audience)*

That's Paige Smith. I love her. I think she loves me too. No fooling, I think she does. Yesterday, in the lunchroom, she said "hi" to me. Wow man, did I get nervous. I mean, all I could say was "halaaaao." I had a mouth full of pizza. Man, I musta sounded like an idiot, but ya know what, she didn't care. I mean, she still smiled at me. That's how I know she loves me. Girls don't smile at you when you make an idiot out of yourself unless they love you. Man, it's just a matter of time before we're together. Later.

He climbs back on his board and skates back by Paige and off stage.

PAIGE: *(to audience)* OH... MY... Gaawwd. Isn't he fabulous? Did you see him on that skateboard? He's sooo good and he's so cute. Ooooh gawd, I love him. I know I shouldn't, but I do. All my friends think I'm nuts. They think he's a loser and he'll get me into trouble... As if!! And he wears the neatest clothes. He has these big baggy pants that hang on the edge of his cute little butt. Someday I'd like to reach out and give them a little tug, but I wouldn't dare.

(pause and ponder)

My friends say all he does is ride around on that skate board and smoke pot. So what, that doesn't bother me. I can deal with that. I can get him to change.

Sound Cue #5 -- BOING!!! WARNING.

A sting on the organ or something might be neat here. (dum da dum dum)

I've never had a boyfriend. I think it's because I'm smart. Being smart scares boys away. You won't believe this, yesterday, in the lunchroom, I said, "hi" to him. He was eating lunch and he said, "halaaaao," or something like that. It was so cute. I mean, his mouth was full of pizza and he still tried to talk to me. He must love me. Boy's don't make an idiot out of themselves unless they love you. I really want a boyfriend.

TYLER: *(skating in on board)* You rang.

Light Cue #13 -- Blackout

Black out or you could have fireworks and real corny love scene. Either one works. Five count.

Light Cue #14 -- Cross fade to Bench, Bring up Street light. And light down Center and SL.

The lights come up on the bench. TYLER skateboards in and sits on the bench. (Paige has a quick costume change.) PAIGE enters. She is wearing baggy clothes, the sleeves of her flannel hang over her hands. She has a baseball hat on backwards. Her hair is down and straight. She slumps onto the bench next to TYLER.

PAIGE: Hey.

TYLER: Hey.

A bunch of their FRIENDS enter and hang out around the light.

TYLER and PAIGE: Hey.

THE FRIENDS: Hey.

They ALL take out fake cigarettes and smoke. The stage should fill with smoke. Use a smoke

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machine. (The original production ran a hose up the light pole and pumped the smoke out at head level. It worked great.) After a moment TYLER rises and starts to leave.

TYLER: I'll be right back.

PAIGE: Where you going?

TYLER: I have to get something.

PAIGE: Later.

TYLER: Later.

THE FRIENDS: Later.

TYLER: Later.

TYLER jumps on his board and skates off. PAIGE picks at her clothes and sniffs a few times. She takes a cigarette package out of her pocket and starts to open it. The FRIENDS stand there smoking. She notices the audience.

PAIGE: What are you looking at? Me! You looking at me?

(pause)

Oh, I get it. You are disappointed with me.

(standing up)

Why? I'm happy. I got Tyler. He loves me and I love him. Things are going great. Oh, you don't believe me, huh. Well it's true, things are really, really great and you know what else.

She walks down stage.

I got friends, now. Lotsa friends and they like me. They don't care if I'm smart or not. I'm cool. My friends are cool. So go away. Go stare at someone else.

PAIGE goes back to her new friends.

Hey!

THE FRIENDS: Hey!

They freeze.

Light Cue #15 -- Wash and DL

TYLER is standing DL. His skate board under his arm. He is watching PAIGE.

TYLER: *(to audience)* I ruined her didn't I? Remember how nice she looked when I introduced her to you? I don't know what happened. I didn't want to ruin her. Do you know what I really thought? I thought she might save me.

He turns around and walks out of his light and out of her life.

Light cue #16 -- Cross fade to Swing.

The light comes up on JULIE.

JULIE: That happens a lot. Sometimes, I can't believe what some girls will do. It's as though they don't think, and you can't tell them anything. They don't believe you. They just don't see themselves as they are. They see themselves as they want to be.

...CARLA...

Light Cue #17 -- Light up on park bench no street light. Light wash on Lockers and UL

Seated on the bench is CARLA and SKINNY GIRL #1, who is nibbling on a carrot stick. CARLA,

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is a big girl, not fat. Big, as in tall and large, has a slab of pizza and a giant pile of french fries in front of her and she is holding up a 20 oz. bottle of diet soda.

SKINNY GIRL #1: I could hardly fit into my dress this morning. It's like sooo tight.

(waving her carrot stick)

Course, James thinks I look alright.

(giggles)

He is so hot. I think he is going to ask me to the prom. God, I can't wait. Do you think I look too...

CARLA has a mouth full of french fries and is about to gulp down a gallon of soda. She is unable to answer.

...or too fat?

CARLA still can't answer.

A diet. I'm going to diet. No more food.

She tosses her carrot stick into her lunch bag and pushes it away from her. She takes the cap off a bottle of bottled water and starts to drink.

All I'm going to eat is water.

She notices someone off stage and waves to her. SKINNY GIRL #2 enters carrying a prom dress catalogue. She plops the catalog in front of SKINNY GIRL # 1 and the squealing begins. CARLA continues to stuff her face and watches them.

SKINNY GIRL #2: *(pointing to a dress in the catalog)* Don't you just love it.

SKINNY GIRL #1: Ohhh my Gawd . I love it. Are you getting that one? Are you?

SKINNY GIRL #2: Yeeessss. Don't you love it?

SKINNY GIRL #1: Yeeessss. I love it.

They both start to squeal and they grab up their stuff and squeal their way off stage. CARLA just sits there for a moment watching them leave.

Light Cue # 18-- Light bench no Street light. Wash out UL and Lockers

CARLA: *(to audience)* They don't have a clue... Every day they run around with their bony little butts wiggling, and bitching about how fat they are getting. They are sick. I mean it, they're sick. They don't eat. They devour little nuts, fruits and carrot sticks. They're all bones and makeup.

She places her trash in a trash can.

The boys like them though. In fact, they love 'em.

She moves downstage.

It really bothers me that they didn't even include me in their little conversation. It's as though they figured I wouldn't be interested in looking at prom gowns. I might. Maybe I have a date and I want to find a new gown to wear. They didn't even ask me. Well the hell with them. I wish I had a reason to have a prom gown. I've never been to the prom. I've never even had a date. Four years in high school and I haven't been to anything.

I used to go to dances in middle school. I'd stand there hoping someone would ask me to dance, but they never did. The boys used to make fun of me. I think I was happier then... you know, when they used to call me names and make fun of me. At least they knew I existed. They stopped doing that freshman year when I beat the crap out Eddie Wilson. God, that felt good. Now, they just don't pay attention to me. I just exist. Oh, I am kinda popular and I get elected to committees and stuff, everyone likes to have me

around when there is work to be done, but usually after the meeting or the project is over I end up alone, at home. They all go off with their little groups and they just sort of forget all about me. They aren't mean or anything. I just don't belong. Sometimes I wonder what it must be like to be thin. To have a tiny little body, with pert little boobs, and a tiny little butt. I close my eyes and just imagine what it must be like. Then I open my eyes and look in the mirror. I'm big, just big. I have always been big. There's nothing I can do about it... I try... I have been on a trillion diets... sometimes I even start to lose weight... but they don't last. Something happens and I get upset, then I eat. I know my folks love me and they're probably disappointed that I am not more popular with the boys. I bet they would love it if I brought home a boy. Maybe I will some day. Who knows...

Light Cue #19 -- Bench out Light up on the lockers and DC.

CARLA leaves imitating the wiggle of the skinny freaks and walks by a boy who is bigger than she is. She gazes back at him over her shoulder.

(with a toss of her head)

Hi, George.

GEORGE: *(smitten)* Hi Carla.

CARLA exits the stage. GEORGE paces back and forth. A group of KIDS rush by in gym clothes.
(to audience)

I got gym class.

VOICE STAGE LEFT: GEORGE, MOVE IT!

GEORGE: *(to VOICE)* I AM.
(to audience)

I hate gym class. Well not gym class, that's fun. It's the before and after gym class I hate. It's kinda embarrassing to have to get changed in front of everyone. So I hang around out here until the others come out.

VOICE STAGE RIGHT: GEORGE, MOVE IT.

GEORGE: *(screaming offstage)* I AAAAMMMM!!!
(back to audience)

And do you know what they expect you to do after gym class? They expect you to take a shower, with everyone...no way. I ain't going to strip naked and jump into a shower with a bunch of guys. It's too embarrassing. Why is it that boys have to take gang showers?... It's not fair.

(aside to audience)

You know what, I snuck into the girls locker room once. I couldn't believe it... they got nice little booths with curtains, little benches, a little shelf to put their shampoo on... Can you believe that? We don't even have doors on the toilets. It's a wonder we're not all constipated. I like my privacy and this is how I get it. I hang out here until the rest are gone and then I go in and change. Now I'm going to be late for gym and get laps and then I'll stall after gym so I can have some privacy while I shower, which will make me late for class and I'll get detention, so I'll be late to football practice and I'll get more laps.

(pause)

You'd think with all that exercise I'd look better.

VOICE STAGE RIGHT: GEORGE!! I SAID MOVE IT!!

GEORGE: I AM!! Good thing I don't have to shower after football!

He stomps into the locker room. Lights out.

Light Cue #20 -- Door light and light wash SR and CS.

(Jeffrey bangs on the locker. His voice is getting weaker.)

JEFFREY: IS... ANYONE... OUT.... THERE?????

••I'M OUT'A HERE••

The door is ripped open and an angry young man, ROGER, charges out. He slams the door shut.

ROGER: I'M OUTTA HERE!!!

(To audience)

I'm out'a here.

(To door)

I HATE THIS PLACE! I CAN'T TAKE ANYMORE OF YOUR CRAP!

(back to audience)

I really am out'a here. I'm sick of it. You know what I'm sick about? Huh... you wanta know what I'm sick about? Ok, I'll tell ya. I'm sick about being picked on. By everyone. Especially that jerk in there... everyday.... every day I'm in that room I get picked on. It's just the homeroom for criss sakes... just the home room. Everybody's sort hangin' out and just talking... gettin' ready ta start the day... no problems... just hangin' out. Then, the jerk comes in and starts kiddin' around with some of his "nice kid" students. Ya know the aaaatheleets. So, get this... the warning bell rings... so Mr. Cool guy... looks around the room.

Everybody's talkin', but he looks right at me and guess what? He screams right at me. "Roger let's quiet down and take a seat." I look around the room and I'm thinkin', Whoa. I didn't know everyone in the room was called Roger... I musta made a funny face or something cause then he really yelled, "I SAID SIT DOWN, ROGER!" Well, you know the rest. Now where do I go?

He stands there thinking about the answer. He then exits DL.

The door is yanked open again. Another angry young man, JONATHAN, steps out and yells back into the room. He needs something to make a sound on the bleep words.

JONATHAN: I'm out'a here you (bleep bleep). We got free speech you know. It's in the (bleep) Constitution of the United States you (bleep,bleep,bleep).

(To audience)

What's wrong with these (bleeps). They always want to tell us what we can say or what we can't say. They got no right to do that. The Constitution of the U-nited--States of America says we got the right to free speech and that (Bleep, Bleep, Bleep) in there says it don't apply in school. Well lets see them stop me from saying (Bleep, Bleep, Bleep, Bleep, Bleep. Etc....)

Jonathan UR. He starts back to the door. The bleeping continues. When he turns back UR a woman appears in the way. It's his mother. She appears not to be too impressed with his behavior.

MOTHER OF JONATHAN: What's the (bleeping) matter with you... you are a disgusting (Bleep, Bleep). You're just like your (bleeping) father.

PERUSAL SCRIPT -- Now I Lay Me Down To Sleep by Jerry Walker

(Improv on exit. More mother bleeping then son. The exit UR, the air filled with them Bleeping each other.

The door again is opened and a scantily dressed girl, SAMANTHA, appears.

SAMANTHA: I'M OUTTA HERE AND I'M NOT COMING BACK.

(to the audience)

Do I look that bad. Am I a disgrace to the human race. Can you believe she said that to me. She's just jealous that she doesn't have my figure. These are pretty tight abs... they oughta be seen... and my skirt ain't too short... my legs are just too long. And a little cleavage never hurt no one. If you got it show it. That's what my mom say's. And get this, they don't like my shirt. What's wrong with it... Eye Candy... big deal, what's wrong with that. I don't get it. People should be able to dress the way they want. It don't hurt no one.

She stands there feeling the eyes of the world on her. She lowers her head and crosses her arms over her chest.

...SAM AND SAMANTHA...

SAM enters the stage and seeing SAMANTHA he takes a cocky little stroll over to her and he stands there looking up at her. Samantha stares down at him not sure what to say.

SAM: Are you a senior?

SAMANTHA: No. I'm a sophomore.

SAM: You look like a senior.

SAMANTHA: Well, I'm not. Goodbye.

She leaves.

SAM: *(to audience)* She'll do.

He follows her.

Light cue. #21 -- Full Stage lights.

...WEARING BLACK...

A Young Man In Black [SPIKE] enters UR and walks across the stage. He is dressed in an all black outfit, including a hat and long trench coat. Three of his FRIENDS enter with him and gather around the bench. A group of POPULAR KIDS gather DL. They are standing around waiting for the school bell to ring.

Two guys and a girl [THE JOCKS] enter UL. They are dressed in letter jackets and athletic clothes. They stand in a group by the lockers.

SPIKE crosses over and stares at them. They back up.

SPIKE: Did you see that? Wow, what a laugh, Huh? I love it. They was scared to death. No one messes with me anymore. Not since I started wearing black.

A group of kids [THE NERDS] wearing glasses and carrying backpacks and looking very studious enter UR.

Graahhhhhhhh!

THE NERDS: Yikes!!!

REDSTREAK: *(sneaking up behind them)* Boo..... AAAHHHH!

THE NERDS: EEEEEk!!!

They dash off UR.

REDSTREAK: What a bunch of nerds. Up there are the jocks. Over there are the good kids, the preppies and here come the nerds again.

(The NERDS sneak back in UR)

Man, they are pathetic.

REDSTREAK crosses to C stage

I can't stand the way these kids get together in their little groups. They think they are so great. Look at 'em. They all have to act alike and dress alike and have their own cute little language.

At this point each group takes a brief moment to give an example of their unique language. Make it quick, 5 seconds tops. All freeze facing front.

See what I mean. I am an individual. I dress the way I want to. No group is going to tell me how to look.

She returns to Kids in Black and all four groups face front.

Sound Cue: #6 -- School Bell Rings.

They all X into the school UL except TEARDROP who drifts DC and talks to the audience.

TEARDROP: *(to audience)* I really don't belong in that group I mean, it's a total accident that I ended up there. One day my mom and I were talking about clothes and stuff and she told me that she liked to wear black, cause it was slimming. So I figured, what the heck, I'll wear all black today... so I did. I put on black lipstick, black eye shadow, and I thought I really looked pretty good. When I got to school everyone avoided me, even my friends. I felt myself standing alone. A lot. And then this kid called Billy came over and said, "Hi, I'm Billy." He was wearing all black too. Except that he always wore all black. But, he was friendly and we started talking and then we met a few other kids that wore black and they were really nice to me. I didn't know it at the time, but my old friends dropped me right out of their lives. At first they would say, "hi," but eventually they just ignored me, but not Billy and the others. I started wearing all black all the time. But, I still missed my old friends. That's why I wear this tear drop.

She starts to exit UL. Suddenly a loud voice is heard and a girl carrying a large sign with the words "Down with clicks."

CARA THE MAGNIFICENT: ALRIGHT EVERYBODY LISTEN UP. We are going to stop this clique stuff and treat each other with the respect and love that every human being deserves.

(noticing everyone is gone)

Where did everybody go? Crap!

CARA sits on the bench holding her sign. TEARDROP is hanging around the locker listening.

I give up.

(shouting off UL)

YOU CAN KEEP YOUR STUPID LITTLE GROUPS... I DON'T CARE.

(to audience)

I hate cliques. Everybody has a little group to hang out with, except me. I think people are interesting and they all have something to offer. So I find it difficult to be with just one group all the time. I know a lot of the kids from all the groups and when I am with them alone we get along great, but then other kids

from their group show up and I'm just pushed aside... and sometimes they just get up and walk away. They don't even say goodbye.

TEARDROP: *(walking over to her)* Hi.

CARA THE MAGNIFICENT: Huh?

TEARDROP: You want to form our own group?

CARA THE MAGNIFICENT: You look like you are already in a group.

TEARDROP: That's a long story. I'm really getting tired of looking like this. I just want to wear a different color once in a while. What do you think, want to form our own little clique?

CARA THE MAGNIFICENT: *(getting up)* Why not. What's the story...

They both get up and exit during the final lines.

TEARDROP: Well, one day my mom and I were talking about clothes and stuff, and she told me she liked to wear black because it's slimming. So I decided to wear all black and...

CARA THE MAGNIFICENT: You didn't. That's a riot.

They both start to laugh and exit UL.

...CARL AND HANK...

Someone dressed as a COACH comes out and slaps a sign on the lockers and someone dressed as a DRAMA TEACHER slaps another sign on the door. A young man [CARL] enters and reads the sign on the lockers.

CARL: *(turning away)* Man, that's not fair...

Another guy [HANK] walks up and reads the same sign.

HANK: Man, that's not fair.

CARL: What's not fair? You made the team. I'm the one who didn't.

HANK: That's what I meant. I can't believe you didn't make it. Hey, your much better than Connors. He's the one that should've been cut. You've been on the team for three years. I'll quit.

CARL: No, you're not going to quit.

HANK: You sure?

CARL: Yeah, I'm sure.

HANK: *(relieved)* What are you going to do?

*CARL shrugs and walks off. He stops at the door to read the sign there.
(to audience)*

Poor Carl, he's upset. He's been on the team the last three years. Course he never got off the bench. What a bummer. He really loved the game. He just wasn't very good.

HANK walks off in the opposite direction from CARL, who is reading a notice about play auditions.

CARL: *(back to audience)* Actually I'm kind of relieved. All I ever did was sit on the bench. I think it's for the best. Maybe I'll try out for the play. I always wanted to.

He goes back to read the notice on the door. A real cute girl walks up and stands next to him.

REAL CUTE GIRL: You going to try out?

CARL: Huh...

REAL CUTE GIRL: You going to try out?

CARL: *(noticing the real cute girl)* Yeah, yeah I think I might. You?

REAL CUTE GIRL: Yep.

CARL checks the REAL CUTE GIRL out and is very interested.

CARL: Me too.

He slyly follows her out.

Light Cue #22 -- Light up DL Door Light

...ANYBODY NEED A PUMPKIN...

A young girl [RACHEL] crosses to the door and reads the sign. Dejectedly turns and crosses DC and stops, looks back at the door and then front.

RACHEL: I'd really like to try for that play. I bet it would be fun to be in, but I won't get a part. I never get a part. I was a pumpkin in a play once. I sat down front of the stage in the pumpkin patch. We got to sing a couple of songs, but the rest of the time we just sat there watched the stars have all the fun. I think they just created the pumpkin patch so all the kids could be in the play. I guess they thought that would help our self esteem or something. It didn't work. I didn't try out for any plays after that. I knew I wouldn't get a part. It seems like everything I try I end up in the pumpkin patch, with an orange face and dumb green stem stickin' out of my head. I try to do good, but I can't do it. Like I'm in class and the teacher is talking about something really neat and I'm listening and she says something... and I get an idea and then I'm thinking about the idea and... then the class is over and I hear the teacher say something like "It's due tomorrow".....and I realize that I went away again. Don't ask me where. I don't know what to do. I'd ask what they meant, but then they'd say something like "Ya, gotta pay attention Rachel. So I just don't do it... And then sometimes they hand out a paper and they say, "now read the directions and finish this project by tomorrow" But, the directions are so long. I can't seem to read them. It's like there's a crank or something in head and it cranks all the words around and they get all jumbled up and I get all confused. I try to read the directions, but, just can't seem to do it. So I give up. I like it better when they have a picture or something I can see. At least then I got some idea of what they want. I bet that play's got a lot of words to learn. I probably couldn't learn all those words. I wonder if they need a pumpkin....

Yeah, Right.

RACHEL turns and walks off UR.

Light cue #23 -- Door out. Bench in.

15 more pages of script to end