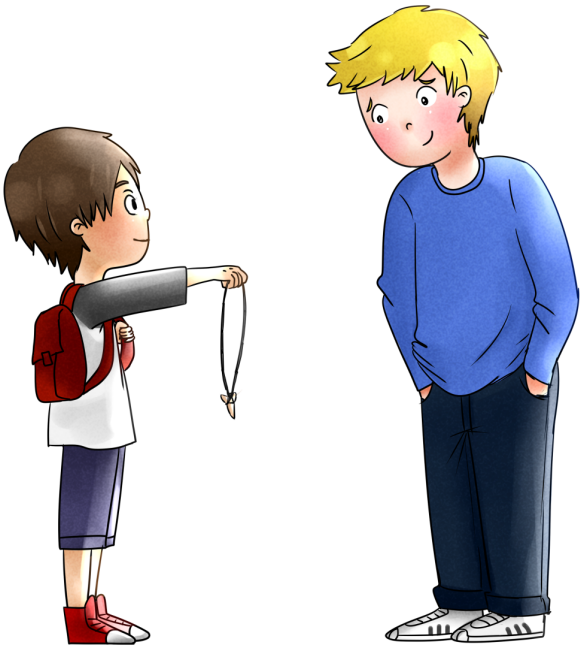
PERUSAL SCRIPT

The Upstanders

A musical



By Dean Olivet

Leicester Bay
THEATRICALS

Newport, Maine

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THE UPSTANDERS

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THE UPSTANDERS

CAST REQUIREMENTS:
There are 30 speaking roles, plus optional non-speaking chorus members, with a suggested minimum doubling cast of 15, where Brett, Izzy, and Jason refrain from doubling. There are 4 male roles (m) and 9 female roles (f). 17 roles can be gender-flipped and renamed (e).

CAST:

Mr./Mrs. Weet (e)	*Heather (f)	*Taylor (e)
Brett (m)	*Allison (f)	*Riley (e)
Tim (m)	Mr./Mrs. Abersol (e)	Janey (e)
*Jason (m)	Yusuf (e)	Calvin (e)
Davy (m)	**Elliot/Eleanor (e)	Alice (e)
**Izzy (f)	Evan (e)	Derek (e)
Felicity (f)	Penny (e)	Adrian (e)
Kerry (f)	Aamir (e)	Sascha (e)
Molly (f)	Aaliyah (f)	Younger Kid1 (e)
Daria (f)	Rosie (f)	Younger Kid2 (e)

* Solo singing ** Solo may be sung, or speak-sung/recited

SETS/TECHNICAL:
Classrooms, Lunch Room, Playground (optional). Suggested set: 3-4 leveled tables, with only a brief 'passing time' between scenes, indicated by a school bell.

PROPS:
Clipboard
Tie-Dyed Shirt and Blouse
Shark-Tooth Necklace
Papers, Books
Lunch-stuffs
Recycle bin
Popsicle Stick, Lunch Bag, Apple (or other small fruit)
Book - "How Full Is Your Bucket? For Kids" by Tom Rath (Optional)
Art Projects (optional)
Trading Game Cards (Pokemon, or other kind)
Note
Music Stand
2-5 Basketballs (or other sports equipment)
2-5 Recorders (or other instruments)
2 Try-out Posters
Granola Bar

RUN TIME:
35 Minutes

MUSICAL NUMBERS

Prelude	
MUSICAL #1 -- Upstanders	*Company*
Scene #1 -- Start of the School Day	
MUSICAL #2 -- It's My Way	*Jason and Kids*
Scene #2 -- Lunchtime	
MUSICAL #3 -- How Full Is Your Bucket?	*Heather, Allison & All*
Scene #3 -- Art	
MUSICAL #4 -- To Upstand Or Not To Upstand	*Elliot & Kids*
Scene #4 -- After School Activities Time	
MUSICAL #5 -- What Kind Of Person Do I Want To Be?	*Riley, Taylor & All*
Scene #5 -- Media	
MUSICAL #6 -- So They Won't Put Me Down First	*Jason & Izzy*
Scene #6 -- Outside	
MUSICAL #7 -- Upstanders Reprise	*Company*

THE UPSTANDERS by Dean Olivet Cast: 4 M, 9 F, 17 flexible, opt. extras (Doubling: 2 M, 1 F, 12 flex) Performance Time: Approximately 35 minutes. Bullying comes in many flavors. Kids can lie, steal, and intimidate, make others feel bad about not fitting in, or for being who they "shouldn't" be. They can even bully by getting revenge for being bullied in the first place. Fortunately, there are just as many ways to stand up to bullying, to be an "Upstander," and the kids at Highlands School may find it within themselves to stand up in the face of these all too familiar pickles. And, with a little empathy, they may even find ways to Upstand for the bullies themselves. This easy to stage musical, written to appeal to audiences of all ages, is perfect for 4th-8th grade thespians. Features 7 original songs. "The Upstanders" was originally commissioned and produced at Highlands Elementary in Edina, Minnesota to highlight the bullying awareness "Upstanders" curriculum used in the classrooms at Highlands. **ORDER #3211.**

DEAN OLIVET -- received a Music BA in Duluth around 2003. These days he teaches a lot of guitar and banjo lessons, and take care of his baby girl, Rosemary. He once directed a production of "The Fantasticks", and shaved a bald spot in his head to play Stephen Spettigue in "Charley's Aunt." He has a French Horn Trophy, a Jug Band Trophy, a plaque that reads "Best Musical Act at the Minnesota Renaissance Festival", and a deck of cards from when he played guitar for Minneapolis Musical Theatre's production of "Tommy". There're five records out there with his music on them. He has done some other things and will do more.

The Upstanders

A Musical

Prelude

MUSICAL #1 -- Upstanders

ALL:
UPSTANDERS, STANDING UP FOR WHAT'S RIGHT.
UPSTANDERS, REACHING UPSTANDING HEIGHTS,
DAY AND NIGHT!

SOLOS or **ALL:**
1. YOU MIGHT BE AFRAID TO TAKE YOUR STAND,
2. YOU MIGHT PREFER TO RUN AND HIDE,
3. BUT YOU'VE GOT TO HAVE COURAGE, YOU'VE GOT TO HAVE FAITH,
4. THAT IT'LL TURN OUT FOR THE GOOD AS LONG AS YOU'VE TRIED,

ALL:
TO STAND UP!
UPSTANDERS, STANDING UP FOR GOOD,
UPSTNDERS, SO WE CAN SAY WE STOOD.
SHOULD WE STAND? YES WE SHOULD!

SOLOS or **ALL.**
5. IF YOU'RE STRONG, STAND UP FOR THE WEAK.
6. IF YOU'RE WEAK, STAND UP TO BE STRONG.
7. ANYONE CAN DO IT, NO MATTER WHO THEY ARE.
8. WE'RE LOOKING AT YOU, SO COME ON,

ALL:
AND STAND UP!
UPSTANDERS, STANDING UP FOR WHAT'S NEEDED,
UPSTANDERS, WE'RE NEVER GONNA BE DEFEATED,
REPEAT IT!
UPSTANDERS,
STAND UPSTANDERS,
STAND UPSTANDERS,
STAND UP!

(End scene as STUDENTS move from freeze to take their seats.)

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Scene #1 -- Start of the School Day -- *MRS. WEET is checking attendance. STUDENTS are at tables or desk islands.*

MRS. WEET: Aaliyah…Molly…Taylor…Jason…and—oh, Brett! Brett, will you please stand up?

(BRETT stands up, wearing a tie-dye shirt and a shark tooth necklace.)

Class, this is Brett, Brett Todd. Brett's a new student from Tacoma, Washington. Moving to a new school can be a challenging thing to do, so I'm counting on everyone to help Brett get used to it here, and how we do things. Does that sound like something we can do?

ALL: Yeah/Uh-uh/Yes Mrs. Weet.

MRS. WEET: Thank you. Oh, Brett you may sit. Okay—Rose, Evan, and…where's Tim?

(TIM has been ducking below his table, now he sits up and puts his fist in the air.)

TIM: Tim Yibrowski! Yibrowski is present! Yibrowski!

MRS. WEET: Enthusiastic, as always. Now, if you'll turn your attention to the board, I'll explain the morning activity.

(MRS. WEET starts writing on the board. Some kids, at the back-most table, start talking.)

DAVY: Hey, Jason

JASON: What.

DAVY: The new kid, his last name's Todd,

JASON: So?

DAVY: And yours is Tadder, and you're next to each other, on the list.

JASON: So?

DAVY: So—Tadder, Todd…Tater-Tot.

(KIDS in the vicinity giggle.)

JASON: That's stupid.

DAVY: You guys could be "The Tater-Tot Bros."

JASON: You better be quiet, Snot-face. Anyone who thinks I'm like that kid is an idiot. Did you see his necklace? It had like a—

MRS. WEET: Jason, do you have a question?

JASON: No.

MRS. WEET: Alright then.

(Turns back and writes some more.)

Today we're working on our vocabulary from the blue list, and the yellow list…so we'll start with that… please take a minute to get out your work-books…

DAVY: … hey Jason, here.

(DAVY hands JASON a piece of paper he has just been scribbling on. JASON crumples it and throws it.)

MRS. WEET: Excuse me, who threw that paper?

(Some KIDS point at Jason.)

MRS. WEET: Jason, will you please pick up the paper and bring it to me?

(JASON does, MRS. WEET inspects.)

MRS. WEET: I think new super heroes will need to wait until art cl—

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JASON: I didn't even draw this!
MRS. WEET: I don't appreciate being interrupted Jason.
JASON: I'm sorry. But I didn't.
MRS. WEET: That's fine, I believe I know who did. Still, please recycle it and take the empty seat next to Isabel, at her table.
(JASON recycles the paper and goes to the table with IZZY and BRETT.)
Thank you. Okay class, we'll be partnering up for flash card exercises—
TIM. *(fist in the air)* Flash cards!
MRS. WEET: …Please turn to the blue list in your textbook, if you haven't done so already, and review the list, checking the words you need to work on, while I gather and pass out the materials.
(MRS. WEET rummages for a bit.)
BRETT: Hey man, so it's Jason?
JASON: What's that on your neck?
BRETT: It's a shark-tooth.
JASON: You think it's pretty cool?
BRETT: Um, I guess…
JASON: Your shirt's pretty 'cool' too…
(kids giggle)
can I see it a sec, cool guy?
BRETT: What, my shirt?
JASON: No, your shark tooth. I've never seen one before.
BRETT: Well, alright… hey did you know sharks lose 26 teeth a week?
(BRETT gives him his necklace and JASON looks it over, then puts it on.)
JASON: Sweet now I'm a cool guy.
BRETT: That's great… can I have it back now?
JASON: I'm not done being cool yet.
BRETT: Give it back. Now, please.
(JASON sees MRS. WEET coming and tosses the necklace back. MRS. WEET gives their table a stack of blank index cards.)
MRS. WEET: Remember, we're working on not just the words, but the spelling too. Also, it can help if you say the letters out loud as you write them down…
(MRS. WEET moves on.)
BRETT *(putting necklace back on).* Jeez, why you gotta be so mean?
JASON: I gave you your stupid necklace back. What's the big deal?
BRETT: Come on man—like half the kids at my old school have necklaces like this.
JASON: Really? A whole school of those dumb things? Well, you're not at your old school anymore, Cool Guy.

MUSICAL #2 -- It's My Way

JASON:
YOU'RE WEIRD, YOU'RE STRANGE, AND THAT'S NOT OK,

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GET BACK, IN YOUR PLACE, IT'S NOT YOUR WAY:
IT'S MY WAY.

DON'T WANT TO SEE NOBODY STEPPING,
NOBODY STEPPING OUT OF LINE.
SOMEBODY TRYING TO BE DIFFERENT,
IS WASTING MY TIME.

(A few more KIDS take Jason's lead and join in.)

JASON & KIDS.
YOU'RE WEIRD, YOU'RE STRANGE, AND THAT'S NOT OK,
GET BACK, IN YOUR PLACE, IT'S NOT YOUR WAY,
IT'S OUR WAY.

WE'RE REALLY DOING YOU A FAVOR,
BY TELLING YOU WHAT NOT TO DO.
IF YOU DON'T LISTEN TO US, LATER,
WE'RE GONNA MAKE YOU!

YOU'RE WEIRD, YOU'RE STRANGE, AND THAT'S NOT OK,
GET BACK, IN YOUR PLACE, IT'S NOT YOUR WAY,
IT'S OUR WAY.

(Even more KIDS join in, ganging up. A few KIDS do not participate looking sheepish.)

JASON & MORE KIDS.
IT'S HARD ENOUGH TO BE A KID,
A KID JUST TRYING TO FIT IN
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING TRYING TO BE:
WEARING YOUR OWN SKIN?

YOU'RE WEIRD, YOU'RE STRANGE, AND THAT'S NOT OK,
GET BACK, IN YOUR PLACE, IT'S NOT YOUR WAY:
IT'S OUR WAY.

JASON:
IT'S MY WAY!

MRS. WEET: Jason, what's the problem here?!
JASON: Nothing.
MRS. WEET: You were yelling. There is no yelling in class.
JASON: I'm sorry, I was just, um, excited, about helping tell Brett how we do things here. I was helping him "ak-limit."
MRS. WEET: What was that?
JASON *(points)*. Here—on the list.

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MRS. WEET: Oh, very clever Jason. Though, it's pronounced "acclimate." Well Brett, was Jason helping you get "acclimated?"

BRETT: Um … I guess.

JASON: May I please partner with Davy for vocab?

MRS. WEET: Not yet, Jason. How-ever… you may partner with… Aamir.

(JASON partners with AAMIR.)

Alright class, let's get to it! If you can't find a partner, please raise your hand.

IZZY: I'll be your partner new guy, I mean, Brett.

BRETT: What's your name?

IZZY: Izzy.

BRETT: Well…alright.

IZZY: Hey you know what? I like your stupid necklace and weird shirt. I wish I had something like'm—except, like maybe just one or two colors for the dye.

('finger-L frames' BRETT)

Yeah, this is too 'busy' for me. Huh… 'too busy for Izzy. Too Busy. For Izzy.' I like it—Ooo, maybe that can be the name of my Fashion Blog I've just decided I'm going to start!

BRETT: Uh, well…sorry about my stupid shirt being busy, geez.

IZZY: Oh, don't be sorry—like I said it totally works for you; you pull it off; you rock it. Just not me, I'd need to do it in a more "put together" way; a couple wrist accessories, maybe a blouse tie-dye type thing. Trust me—this school is way overdue for a new trend. Maybe we could start it?

BRETT: Initiate.

IZZY: Yeah, initiate, wait huh?

BRETT *(Pointing to the book)* Here 'initiate', it means start.

IZZY: Oh yeah, dang, you're quick, I'm glad you're my partner, high five.

(IZZY goes up for a fiver, BRETT obliges in a cautious way. End Scene. During the switch director may choreograph short mimed 'passing time' pieces if desired. Transition music, pulled from previous song accompaniment, is also optional.)

Scene #2 -- Lunchtime -- *Scene opens on a typical school lunchtime. MOLLY finishes her lunch at a table with several kids, mostly or all girls.*

MOLLY: Well, see ya later!

FELICITY: Bye Molly, kisses!

(MOLLY tosses her lunch in the trash, then leaves for the playground/recess.)

Oh. My. Goodness—you guys—did you see how fast Molly scarfed down her lunch today? It's like every one of her bites was on display for all of us to see. Like a display case even, like at Ambercrombie and… um, Chomping.

KERRY: Totes—she was like "Om Nom Nom Nom."

FELICITY: That's gross Kerry.

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KERRY: Oops, sorry.
DARIA: Or like the Gap.
FELICITY: What?
DARIA: Like the Gap—like her mouth was a gap, had a gap in it.
FELICITY: Oh, yeah, but it's like, I mean, is all of "One Direction" *(or another boy band)* out there on the playground, signing autographs or something, and we didn't get the memo?
DARIA: LOL, I wish! I'd have eaten so fast, I'd have eaten the whole table.
FELICITY: That doesn't make any sense, Daria.
DARIA: Well, I'd have eaten my whole bag then, I just meant—like I'd eat a lot, Geez.
FELICITY: Oh, your whole bag? Your lunch bag, your school bag, or that dress you're wearing today.
DARIA: What? Felicity, now—that doesn't make any sense.
FELICITY: Yeah, like your baggy dress doesn't make any sense.
DARIA: What?
KERRY: Your dress looks like a bag.
DARIA *(cough gasp)*. This dress is J. Crew *(or some other store)*; my sister gave it to me, they're way in at the high school.
FELICITY: Yeah, they were—like last forever ago, probably when your sister was your size.
KERRY: Yeah. Totes Probs.
DARIA: What-ever Felicity, I'm outie.

(DARIA gets up and starts to leave.)

FELICITY: Daria? *(DARIA turns)* I was just joking, kisses okay?

(DARIA gives a snark smile and head bobble, then throws her trash away and leaves. KERRY sticks a popsicle stick through the bottom of her brown bag and then sticks an apple on the end, making it a puppet.)

KERRY: Look, it's bag dress lady! "Whatever, Felicity, I'm outie. Doot-da-do."

(The table giggles as KERRY continues to manipulate the puppet. HEATHER and ALLISON have been watching from another table.)

ALLISON: Man, why do those girls always pick on each other so much?
HEATHER: Yeah, I mean, it's like they're friends, but they're not like…friends-friends.
ALLISON: It's like they're always dipping each other.
HEATHER: Dipping?
ALLISON: Like that book, with the bucket above everyone's head. It's like: their buckets are empty, and that's why they keep bothering each other and making fun.
HEATHER: Oh, "How Full Is Your Bucket," yeah, it is kind of like that book. I remember—there was that boy Felix, and his bucket kept dripping because bad stuff kept happening to him and people were mean to him.
ALLISON: Yeah, but then after good stuff started happening to him, his bucket filled back up.
HEATHER: And—then—he figured out that if he helped make good stuff happen for other people, it didn't only drop more drops in their buckets, but it dropped a drop in his bucket too!
ALLISON: Double Drops!
HEATHER: Ooo, yeah, Double Drops!
ALLISON: That was my favorite part!

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HEATHER: What? That was my favorite part too!
ALLISON *(Gives HEATHER a wait-a-sec gesture, then puts her hands on her head).* Wait, wait, wait—I think, I'm having—an epiphany.
HEATHER: A what?
ALLISON: *(Opens eyes and puts her hands back out).* Okay, so if people dropping drops in other peoples' buckets makes 'double drops' for both dropper and dropee—then, that would mean people dipping from other peoples' buckets must make…
BOTH: *(Gasp).* Double drips!
HEATHER: You're so smart.
ALLISON: No you are!
HEATHER: So like, when they were making fun of Daria's clothes…
ALLISON: And how fast Molly ate her lunch…
HEATHER: Not only were they making Molly and Daria's buckets drip…
ALLISON: They were making their own buckets drip too.
HEATHER: Double dripping buckets…that's so—sad.
ALLISON: It is sad.
(They sit in sad silence for a few beats, then…Bing!)
HEATHER: Hey! Maybe we should try and fill those girls' buckets today, like at the end of the book...
ALLISON: Like—we should drop some double drops? How?
HEATHER: *(Stands up and makes a fist)* I dunno, but I just feel like we have to try.
ALLISON *(Stands up too).* Alright, I'm in.
(They shake hands.)
HEATHER: Team "Bucket Fillers!"
ALLISON: "Team: Bucket Fillers" …hmm, maybe just "The Fillers."
HEATHER: Fillin' like a villain!
ALLISON: Yeah! Let's do it!

MUSICAL #3 -- How Full Is Your Bucket

HEATHER:
JUST THE OTHER DAY,
ALL:
HEY!
HEATHER:
COULDN'T FIND MY WAY,
ALL:
HEY!
HEATHER:
I WAS BLUE.
YES, I WAS FEELING PRETTY EMPTY TILL I HEARD SOMEBODY SAY:
HEY YOU!"

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(Mini Scene 1. DARIA and KERRY are skipping rope.)

ALLISON: Wow, you guys are like crazy good at this, can I watch?

KERRY: Oh, sure, of course.

DARIA: You want a turn Allison?

ALLISON: I think I'll just watch a bit. I want to see your guys' moves, then maybe I'll give it a try.

KERRY: Oh, there's nothing to it really.

DARIA: Yeah, you just kinda go like this…

(An optional Physical Bucket with a Macguffiny "Bing" drop-noise, may happen here, and whenever someone gets a drop in their 'bucket'.)

ALL:

HOW FULL IS YOUR BUCKET,
HOW BRIGHT ARE YOUR BEAMS,
HOW LOUD IS YOUR YEEHAW/HIP HIP HURRAY/(*other improvised cheers.*)
WON'T YOU FILL IT UP WITH ME?

ALLISON:

WHEN YOU'RE FILLING UP YOUR PAIL,

ALL:

PAIL!

ALLISON:

THERE AIN'T NO WAY TO FAIL,

ALL:

FAIL!

ALLISON:

'NO' BECOMES 'YUP.'
IF YOU TRY AND IF YOU 'WILL-IT', YOU CAN FIND SOMETHING TO 'FILL-IT'
SO FILL'R UP!

(Mini Scene 2. FELICITY is doing a math problem.)

HEATHER: Hey Felicity, whatchya doing?

FELICITY: Uhg, this is so stupid! I can't get the right answer, I've done it like 3 times but it keeps coming out wrong.

HEATHER: Oh, this one. I forgot to do the parenthesis first on this one.

FELICITY: The parenthesis? Oh… yeah, dang I'm stupid at math.

HEATHER: No you're not! I did it like 5 times before I got it. You'd have gotten it eventually!

FELICITY: Yeah…maybe, thanks Heather.

(Bing.)

ALL:

HOW FULL IS YOUR BUCKET,
HOW BRIGHT ARE YOUR BEAMS,
HOW LOUD IS YOUR YEEHAW/HIP HIP HURRAY/(*other improvised cheers.*)
WON'T YOU FILL IT UP WITH ME?

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LET ME HELP YOU (DRIP DROP), LET'S FILL IT—(TO THE TOP!)
WE'RE ALMOST THERE.
NOW WE'RE FULLER THAN BEFORE, WE FILL OUR BUCKETS EVEN MORE
WHEN WE SHARE—OUR—DROPS.

(Mini Scene 3. MOLLY is straightening chairs or doing something helpful.)

ALLISON: Wow Molly, that's really helpful of you to be straightening up the place, you don't have to do that.
HEATHER: Yeah, I'll bet Mrs. Weet will really appreciate it!
MOLLY: Oh, well, I just like it when they're not so messy that's all.

(Bing.)

ALL:
HOW FULL IS YOUR BUCKET,
HOW BRIGHT ARE YOUR BEAMS,
HOW LOUD IS YOUR YEEHAW/HIP HIP HURRAY/(*other improvised cheers.*)
WON'T YOU FILL IT UP WITH ME?

(HEATHER and ALLISON high-five. End Scene.)

Scene #3 -- Art -- *An Art Class in progress. STUDENTS are working on projects. MR. ABERSOL has just had a telephone call.*

MR. ABERSOL: Yusuf, your father is here to take you to the dentist. Here's your pass.

(YUSUF gets up from his desk with his project and receives the pass.)

YUSUF: Thanks, but what should I do with this?
MR. ABERSOL: Just set it on the shelf, on top of some paper with your name on it. You can finish it on Tuesday.
YUSUF: K, see ya later Mr. Abersol, thanks.

(YUSUF stows his project, then exits. He has left behind some cards. EVAN picks them up and inspects.)

PENNY: What are you doing?
EVAN: Checking out my brand new deck of Pokémon cards. *(or other trading cards)*
ELLIOT: What? You can't just keep them.
EVAN: We could split them.
ELLIOT: You guys!
PENNY: Elliot, you won't tell, will you?
ELLIOT: But, that's not right.
AAMIR: He left them behind, he probably doesn't even want them anymore. Finders Keepers.
ELLIOT: He probably just forgot them, duh.
EVAN: You forgot your face.
ELLIOT: You forgot—your face.
EVAN: Whatever, you're acting like a scared baby. You still use the booster step at the wash stand.

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(Giggles.)

ELLIOT: What! No I don't!

EVAN: Just, you better not tell anyone, or I'll hide it.

ELLIOT: Hide what?

EVAN: I'll hide the booster step, then you won't be able to wash your hands and you'll have 'bathroom hands' all day, gross.

PENNY: Ew, bathroom hands.

ELLIOT: What! No I don't.

EVAN: Just—are you gonna tell on us or not? Are you gonna be cool, or not be cool? Here, these ones can be yours…

(EVAN hands ELLIOT some cards. Lights down, everyone freezes except ELLIOT who holds the cards aloft.)

ELLIOT: To Upstand, or not to Upstand, that is the question.

MUSICAL #4 -- To Upstand Or Not To Upstand

(If desired, this song can be spoke-sung in a Shakespearian manner.)

ELLIOT:

IS IT NOBLER IN THE MIND, TO SUFFER,
THE SLINGS AND THE ARROWS OF ONE'S FOE,
OR SHOULD I TAKE UP ARMS AGAINST THESE TROUBLES?
SHOULD I UPSTAND? I JUST DON'T KNOW.

ELLIOT OR **ALL:**

THE HEARTACHES AND THE THOUSAND NATURAL SHOCKS,
THEY MAKE CALAMITY OF SUCH LONG SCHOOL,
OH WHO CAN BEAR THESE WHIPS AND SCORNS OF TIME?
SHOULD I UPSTAND? OR JUST "BE COOL."

ALL:

THUS CONSCIENCE DOES MAKE COWARDS OF US ALL,
AND OUR BOLDNESS BECOMES WEAK WITH TOO MUCH THOUGHT.
WITH THIS REGARD THEIR CURRENTS TURN AWRY,
SHOULD HE UPSTAND? PROBABLY NOT.

ELLIOT:

SHOULD I UPSTAND? PROBABLY NOT.

(With the last two notes of the song, ELLIOT sits down and puts his chin on his fist.)

11 more pages to the end

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