



**Sample Pages from
Funhouse**

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FUNHOUSE

A BULLYING PLAY BY
Lindsay Price



Funhouse

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Why Funhouse?

The Funhouse distorts reality. It is the intention of the Funhouse to startle and surprise visitors with unstable, unsettled, unpredictable physical circumstances.

Life in the Funhouse is no different that life in the real world for those who are bullied. It is reality. The unsettled, unstable, distortion of how people treat people.

This play shows scenes of bullying. Sometimes the bullies win in those scenes. That means there are acts of shoving and verbal violence. These acts are vital to the reality of the play, for indeed they are vital to showing the reality of what a bullied student must face. Those who are bullied must face these acts every day. **Do not ask to remove them from the play.**

When Oceanway Middle School premiered *Funhouse* they invited a stage combat specialist to teach the students how to fake a punch, and how to safely shove and fall. In this way, all students were kept in the theatre world with these real world actions.

Characters

Because of the number of group scenes, the size of the cast is very flexible. You can have different actors for each of the scenes, or have actors perform in more than one scene. I would suggest working with a minimum of 20 performers (including a minimum of four boys).

Funhouse: 3 group tableaux/1 boy/2 girls

Maze Chapter 1: Maze/Cat/Mouse (cat and mouse both boys)

Roundabout: Group Singers/Boy/Mom/Bully/Teacher

Maze Chapter 2: Maze/Cat/Mouse (cat and mouse both girls)

Freak: Everyone/Alone/Bystander

Three-Headed Dog: Girl/Teachers (3)/ Trio One/Trio Two/Trio Three

Hall of Mirrors: One/Three Mirrors/The Bullies

Falling Floor: The Bullies/The Adults/Leftover/Left Behind

Clowns: Leftover/Left Behind/Principal/Parent/School Board/Teacher

Tunnel of Love: Only/Word Holders/Flashlight Holders

Whac-A-Mole: Bully/Kid/Bully Monster

Maze Chapter 3: Maze/Cat/Mouse (same boys as first maze scene)

Dark Ride: One/Two

Exit: 3 group tableaux/1 boy/2 girls (same as Funhouse)

Costumes

Those who are bullied wear dark shirts while everyone else wears a brightly coloured T-shirt. This way, the bullied individual can change with each scene. All the actor has to do is put on a dark shirt to become the bullied, or take

it off to become part of the ensemble. I suggest a black sweatshirt overtop a brightly coloured T-shirt.

Set

Three cubes and a backdrop. The backdrop is an important part of the set – it should emulate the entrance of a funhouse (usually a scary clown face) with a large circle cut out to be used as an entrance.

Music

A couple of common camp songs are used – *Bringing Home My Baby Bumblebee* and *Dum Dum Da Da*. The lyrics for *Bringing Home My Bumblebee* can be found at the back of the script, and the tune for both can be found at theatrefolk.com/funhouse

Note to the Director

The scenes should flow one right after the other. Do not use blackouts unless specified. Keep the pace swift.

One Scene Permission

You may perform one scene from *Funhouse* without royalty at an assembly, meeting, or as part of a bullying prevention event.

Special Thanks

Carousel Theatre, Tracy Garratt & Eastdale High School, and Listowel District Secondary School.

Funhouse received a Theatre Creators' Reserve grant from the Ontario Arts Council under its original title *Push, Pull, Fall Up*.

First Production

Funhouse premiered November 3rd, 2011 at Oceanway Middle School, Jacksonville, FL. The production was directed by Carla Lahey.

Cast: Glacys Agustin, Tiffany Booker, Kayla Bowman, Daniella Camacho, Kara Carter, Samantha Carter, Megan Conner, Lena Corey, Shaun Didone, Dakota Edwards, Sarah Martin, Krista Martinez, Maya Morris, Acacia Morton, Megan Pierce, Kaylen Riley, Avery Sedlacek, Jaclyn Smith, Morgan Warren, Amanda Winnicki.

Crew: Carly Cisson (Stage Manager), Hannah Pippin (Props Master), Alori Despanie (Lights), Kayley Kline (Spotlight), Bailey Turner (Sound).

Funhouse

For the bullied, life in the real world and life in the funhouse are the same – Unstable, Unpredictable, Unreal.

A single spot on the side of the stage comes up. The TITLE GIRL enters the light. She is dressed in a vintage type sideshow/carnival/vaudeville outfit. She holds up a scene title card, which she also speaks aloud. She will do this at the start of each scene.

A drum roll is heard which culminates in the crash of a cymbal.

TITLE GIRL: Funhouse.

Blackout. She exits.

Modern music plays in the dark. Dim cool light come up on three tableaux. Everyone is wearing dark/black clothing. When the tableaux come to life, all are silent. No one speaks.

The first tableau comes to life and it's a group of STUDENTS in a semicircle. A BULLY pushes a BOY, who eventually falls to the ground. The others watch or cheer the BULLY on. The scene freezes.

The second tableau comes to life. A GIRL approaches another group of girls, the IN-CROWD. She smiles at them and waves, the IN-CROWD look her up and down with scorn. They turn away, leaving the GIRL alone. The GIRL hangs her head. The scene freezes.

The third tableau comes to life. A group of STUDENTS stand together, texting on phones and laughing. A GIRL walks by causing the STUDENTS to whisper and point. The GIRL realizes they are texting and laughing about her. The scene freezes.

A whistle blows. This causes the music to snap off. The whistle blows again. Everyone in the tableaux looks up. The whistle blows a third time. Light, calliope/carnival/circus music begins to play. The lights come up full and a backdrop is revealed. It is a huge open-mouthed clown face with a hole in the centre. If possible, a lighted sign blinks on that reads FUNHOUSE. Maybe there are clusters of brightly coloured balloons and streamers.

Everyone releases from their freeze, happy, jumping up and down, talking to each other. They get to go in the funhouse!

Everyone moves upstage, walking through the open mouth of the Clown backdrop. They exit off upstage and immediately re-

enter from the same side downstage, this time wearing brightly coloured T-shirts. Everyone is now IN the funhouse.

NOTE: The easiest way to do this is to have everyone wear a dark long-sleeved sweatshirt or hoodie which can be easily taken off to reveal the brightly coloured T-shirt underneath. ALSO, don't have all your cast involved in the tableaux. Those not involved can be the first ones who enter into the funhouse world, giving everyone else time to take off their dark item. This will speed up the transition.

As everyone enters, they move about the stage, laughing and having a good time. There is a variety of active playtime movement around the stage: Spinning, individually and in pairs. Bouncing. Twirling. Floating. Hopping. Galloping. Chasing. Leap Frog. Skipping. Stretching and bending. Twisting and turning.

Once the movement is established, the last to enter are the BOY and the two GIRLS who were bullied in the three tableaux. They have NOT changed into brightly coloured T-shirts. They are still in their dark tops, clearly different. They too spin onstage having fun, but as soon as they enter, everyone else takes notice and slowly stops what they are doing to stare at them. Those onstage gather into the three groups from the opening.

After a moment the BOY and two GIRLS notice that everyone else is looking at them. They stop what they're doing and try to leave but it's too late. Each group cuts off the exit for their victim, backs their victim into the original tableau spot, then moves to form their original tableau.

The pattern of the three tableaux is repeated, this time to the calliope music.

The first tableau comes to life and it's a group of STUDENTS in a semicircle. A BULLY pushes a BOY, who eventually falls to the ground. The others watch or cheer the BULLY on. The scene freezes.

The second tableau comes to life. A GIRL approaches another group of girls, the IN-CROWD. She smiles at them and waves, the IN-CROWD look her up and down with scorn. They turn away, leaving the GIRL alone. The GIRL hangs her head. The scene freezes.

The third tableau comes to life. A group of STUDENTS stands together, texting on phones and laughing. A GIRL walks by causing the STUDENTS to whisper and point. The GIRL realizes they are texting and laughing about her. The scene freezes.

A whistle blows. Everyone freezes.

The TITLE CARD GIRL enters, holding the title card for the next scene.

A drum roll is heard which culminates in the crash of a cymbal.

TITLE CARD GIRL: Maze: Chapter One.

She exits.

Maze: Chapter 1

For the bullied, sometimes there is no way out.

This scene is based on a common camp game called CAT AND MOUSE. The bully is the CAT and the bullied is the MOUSE. Everyone else on stage represents THE MAZE which will be set up like a grid. See the APPENDIX for diagram.

This time the CAT and MOUSE are both boys.

The whistle blows. Everyone on stage scatters. Each runs about the stage with his or her own pattern, moving in straight lines, careful not to bump into each other. The BOY and the two GIRLS from the previous scene exit.

MOUSE enters, wearing a dark shirt. MOUSE gets a little bounced about, always getting in the way. MOUSE is obviously out of place.

The whistle blows. At this cue, each MAZE member runs to get into their assigned position on the grid. As they find their place, they sound off – One! Two! Three! Four! And so on.

Each MAZE member gets into their assigned place on the grid in order. (e.g. Seventeen keeps moving about the space until Sixteen counts off.)

There are two not running to get into grid positions. The CAT lounges at the side of the stage or leans against the wall. The MOUSE is desperately trying to claim a grid position. He scrambles about, getting pushed and jostled. He continues to try to claim a spot before the person assigned to that position can. Even if the MOUSE claims a spot, he gets tossed out by the assigned person.

This continues on with each MAZE member claiming their position and counting off. When the last MAZE member is in place, they all raise their arms, placing their hands on the

shoulders of the MAZE member beside them. This creates corridors within the grid.

NOTE: Whoever calls out the last number has to be positioned downstage left, so that the MOUSE, having been ousted from the last spot can also end up there.

Once the MAZE forms the corridors, the whistle blows. The MOUSE stands downstage left, the CAT stands downstage right.

The MOUSE sees the CAT and freezes. The CAT sees the MOUSE and does two gestures: First, the CAT points, very directly, very manly. Second, the CAT draws his finger across his throat in a 'you're dead' gesture.

The whistle blows and the MOUSE dives into the MAZE stage left. The CAT dives into the MAZE stage right to chase the MOUSE.

The whistle blows and the GRID changes position: The MAZE members lower their arms to their sides with precision, then make a quarter turn to the left, then place their arms on the shoulders of the MAZE member beside them.

With this change in position the corridors change from East/West to North/South. The CAT and MOUSE continue their run through the maze. Keep the movements consistent with a cat and a mouse – the MOUSE moves in a frantic quick pace. The CAT strolls after its prey.

The whistle blows and the MAZE changes position as above.

The whistle blows and the MAZE changes position as above.

The whistle blows and the MAZE changes position as above.

The CAT has had enough of this.

CAT: Hey!

The MAZE falls apart as the members drop to the ground in a crouch with their hands/arms over their heads. This leaves the MOUSE alone, exposed, and unprotected.

The MOUSE tries to get one of the MAZE to stand up. They refuse. The MOUSE tries to get another one of the MAZE to stand up. They refuse.

The MOUSE freezes as the CAT approaches. The CAT grabs the MOUSE.

CAT: Gotcha.

The whistle blows. Everyone freezes.

The TITLE CARD GIRL enters, holding the title card for the next scene.

A drum roll is heard which culminates in the crash of a cymbal.

TITLE CARD GIRL: Roundabout.

She exits.

Roundabout

Being bullied is a nightmare of repetition.

Everyone starts to sing the tune for “Bringing Home My Baby Bumblebee.” They sing the tune with a ‘doo’ sound – no words yet. See APPENDIX for information on the song if you don’t know it – it’s a common camp song.

Everyone sings with great joy and happiness. They form a GROUP upstage. Anyone offstage enters as well. CAT and MOUSE from the previous scene exit.

A couple of cubes are set up far stage left with a blanket over them to make a bed. All of this set up should take the time of one ‘verse.’ BOY and MOM enter. BOY (wearing a dark coloured shirt) gets under the blanket and lies on the bed. MOM stands by the bed and poses with great happiness.

Now the GROUP starts to sing the first verse of the song, and the BOY mimes the following action.

BOY hears his alarm. Wakes up. Throws the blanket off as he sits up. He stretches. He jumps out of bed, and does a little exercise by reaching his hands up to the sky then touching his toes. He grabs a lunch bag from his MOM, who waves him off to school.

The above actions take up the first verse. If you get done sooner, go back and make sure each action is separate and done in a full exaggerated manner. After that the BOY then holds an “I’m so happy pose” till the GROUP starts up the second verse.

When the second verse starts, the BOY moves.

BOY walks across the stage with a spring in his step. When he gets far stage right, the BULLY enters. The BULLY shoves BOY to the ground and steals his lunch. The BULLY exits.

As soon as the BOY hits the ground, the GROUP falters. The singing slows to a halt. There is silence.

BOY stands up, brushes himself off, and crosses back to the bed. He lies down.

The GROUP repeats the first verse of “Bringing Home My Baby Bumblebee” joyfully.

The process starts again. BOY hears his alarm. Wakes up. Throws the blanket off as he sits up. He stretches. He jumps out of bed, and does a little exercise by reaching his hands up to the sky and then touching his toes. He grabs a lunch bag from his MOM, who waves him off to school. BOY holds his pose.

The GROUP starts the second verse of the song.

BOY walks across the stage with a spring in his step. When he gets to far stage right, the BULLY enters. The BULLY shoves BOY to the ground and steals his lunch. The BULLY exits.

The GROUP falters to a halt in their singing. There is silence.

BOY stands up, brushes himself off, and crosses back to the bed. He lies down.

The GROUP repeats the first verse of “Bringing Home My Baby Bumblebee.” This time they sing in double time.

This time everything is faster. The BOY’s movements are faster, as if he’s thinking he’ll miss the BULLY if he can get to school faster.

The GROUP starts the second verse, again double time.

This time, when the BOY gets centre stage, he freezes. When he freezes, the GROUP stops singing.

The BOY looks left and then right. Coast is clear.

The BOY starts moving slowly, looking around. The GROUP (picking up where they left off in the song) sings to match the movement. When the BOY moves slowly, the GROUP sings slowly. The BOY walks in a circle, looking around as he does. As he completes the circle, he starts to speed up his movements. The singing speeds up in tandem with the BOY.

The BOY gets to far stage right without incident. He breathes a sigh of relief, the singing moves up to normal speed, and that is the exact moment the BULLY enters and shoves the BOY to the

ground. This time, the BULLY not only shoves, he kicks. And takes his lunch. And stands off to the side with his arms folded.

The singing falters. There is silence.

The BOY stays on the ground this time. A TEACHER enters. She helps the BOY up and is clearly asking him what happened. The BOY looks over to the BULLY, who stands nearby with his arms folded. The BOY looks at the TEACHER, and shakes his head. The TEACHER tries again, looking at the BULLY. The BOY shakes his head. The TEACHER exits.

The BOY slowly crosses back across the stage toward the bed. He slowly gets into bed and pulls the blanket over his head.

The GROUP starts singing the song again, but this time the BOY doesn't move. He stays in bed with his blanket over his head. The GROUP starts to sound a little puzzled as if they're confused about what the BOY is doing.

MOM stands where she's supposed to and hands out the lunch bag, but there's no BOY. She looks around puzzled. She repeats her "lunch!" action. No BOY. She moves over to the bed and pulls the blanket off the BOY. The BOY pulls the blanket right back over his head. MOM pulls the blanket off and sits by the BOY.

The GROUP changes to humming the tune instead of singing.

MOM gets the BOY to sit up. He does so, but won't look at MOM. MOM taps the BOY on the shoulder. The BOY looks away. MOM taps BOY on the shoulder. The BOY won't look at her. MOM turns the BOY around. MOM crosses her arms and looks at the BOY with a "tell me what's going on" look. The BOY shakes his head. MOM puts her arms around the BOY.

The TITLE CARD GIRL enters, holding the title card for the next scene.

A drum roll is heard which culminates in the crash of a cymbal.

TITLE CARD GIRL: Maze: Chapter Two!

She exits.

Maze: Chapter 2

It happens to girls too.

This time, the CAT and MOUSE are both girls.

The whistle blows. Everyone on stage scatters. Each runs about the stage with his or her own pattern, moving in straight lines, careful not to bump into each other. The BOY from the previous scene exits.

MOUSE enters, wearing a dark shirt. MOUSE gets a little bounced about, always getting in the way. MOUSE is obviously out of place.

The whistle blows. At this cue, each MAZE member runs to get into their assigned position on the grid. As they find their place, they sound off – One! Two! Three! Four! And so on.

Each MAZE member gets into their assigned place on the grid in order. (e.g. Seventeen keeps moving about the space until Sixteen counts off.)

There are two not running to get into grid positions. The CAT lounges at the side of the stage or leans against the wall. The MOUSE is desperately trying to claim a grid position. She scrambles about, getting pushed and jostled. She continues to try to claim a spot before the person assigned to that position can. Even if the MOUSE claims a spot, she gets tossed out by the assigned person.

This continues on with each MAZE member claiming their position and counting off. When the last MAZE member is in place, they all raise their arms, placing their hands on the shoulders of the MAZE member beside them. This creates corridors within the grid.

NOTE: Whoever calls out the last number has to be positioned downstage left, so that the MOUSE, having been ousted from the last spot can also end up there.

Once the MAZE forms the corridors, the whistle blows. The MOUSE stands downstage left, the CAT stands downstage right.

The MOUSE sees the CAT and freezes. The CAT sees the MOUSE and does two gestures: First, the CAT points, very much as a mean girl would do. Second, the CAT draws her finger across her throat in a ‘you’re dead’ gesture.

The whistle blows and the MOUSE dives into the MAZE stage left. The CAT dives into the MAZE stage right to chase the MOUSE.

The whistle blows and the GRID changes position: The MAZE members lower their arms to their sides with precision, then make a quarter turn to the left, then place their arms on the shoulders of the MAZE member beside them.

With this change in position the corridors change from East/West to North/South. The CAT and MOUSE continue their run through the maze. Keep the movements consistent with a cat and a mouse – the MOUSE moves in a frantic quick pace. The CAT strolls after its prey.

The whistle blows and the MAZE changes position as above.

The whistle blows and the MAZE changes position as above.

The whistle blows and the MAZE changes position as above.

The CAT has had enough of this.

CAT: *(putting her hands on her hips) Hey!*

When the CAT speaks the entire MAZE falls apart. Each MAZE member drops to the ground in a crouch with their hands/arms over their head. This leaves the MOUSE alone, exposed, and unprotected.

The MOUSE tries to get one of the MAZE to stand up. They refuse.

The MOUSE tries to get another one of the MAZE to stand up. They refuse.

The MOUSE freezes as the CAT approaches. The CAT pokes the MOUSE in the chest.

CAT: *(sweetly, but oh so mean) Gotcha.*

The whistle blows. Everyone freezes.

The TITLE CARD GIRL enters, holding the title card for the next scene.

A drum roll is heard which culminates in the crash of a cymbal.

TITLE CARD GIRL: *Freak.*

She exits.

Freak

When the bullied try to change themselves to stop the bullying, it rarely works.

EVERYONE stands and starts the chant/song “Dum Dum Da Da.” This song has an accompanying clapping rhythm: hit the knees twice, clap twice, chop the air with horizontal hands twice, bop fists twice, shake a thumb over each shoulder.

The CAT and MOUSE from the previous scene exit. ALONE enters to join in the chant/song.

EVERYONE moves about the stage as they sing the song and do the rhythm. ALONE does the actions along with everyone else, but she is the only one wearing a dark shirt. EVERYONE else wears brightly coloured shirts.

NOTE: There needs to be a brightly coloured jacket brought in, or nearby for ALONE to use in the scene.

EVERYONE goes through the song and clapping rhythm twice slowly, and then once fast. At the end of the fast round everyone but ALONE stops with rhythmic precision. ALONE energetically starts another round, all alone, which causes everyone else to laugh meanly. ALONE realizes what she did and stops sheepishly.

EVERYONE: Freak!

ALONE looks around – “Who are they calling a freak?”

EVERYONE: Freak!

ALONE looks around – “Really, who are they calling a freak? Poor person!”

EVERYONE: Freak!

ALONE realizes she’s the freak. She points to herself – “Who me?”

EVERYONE: Freak!

ALONE gestures to herself and shakes her head. – “I’m not a freak!”

EVERYONE: (they turn their backs on ALONE) Freak!

ALONE scratches her head in thought for three beats. She raises her index finger as if to say – “I have an idea!” (NOTE: ALONE does NOT speak) She takes her hair out of a ponytail (or messes it up if it’s short) and presents the new her. She double claps

and then widens out her arms in a “Ta da!” action. (The Clap is important as it tells EVERYONE, who aren’t looking, what ALONE is doing.)

EVERYONE: (not looking) Freak!

ALONE scratches her head in thought for three beats. She raises her index finger as if to say, “I have an idea!” She runs to the side, puts on a brightly coloured jacket (so she matches everyone else) and presents the new her. She double claps and then widens out her arms in a “Ta da!” action.

EVERYONE: Freak!

ALONE scratches her head in thought for three beats. She raises her index finger as if to say, “I have an idea!” She runs to the EVERYONE group and pulls out BYSTANDER. She drags BYSTANDER to the other side of the stage. EVERYONE turns to see what she’s doing.

ALONE positions BYSTANDER so that she looks foolish: messes her hair, rumples her shirt, poses her funny. She then presents BYSTANDER as the REAL Freak. She double claps her hands and then widens out her arms in a “Ta da!” action.

EVERYONE: Freak!

BYSTANDER blows a raspberry at ALONE and rejoins EVERYONE. ALONE stomps her foot. She paces back and forth, no ideas come. She clasps her hands together and gets down on her knees. She takes up a begging pose – “What if I beg?”

EVERYONE: Freak!

She does a more exaggerated begging pose. “Please???????”

EVERYONE: (turning their back again on ALONE) Freak!

ALONE gets up and runs around to the other side, getting in front of EVERYONE. She takes on a third, much more exaggerated begging pose. She goes to the extreme – “PLEASE???????”

EVERYONE: Freak! (they all exit)

ALONE scratches her head. She doesn’t know what to do. She paces back and forth. Then she stops, and kind of gives a laugh. She gives an exaggerated shrug, and gestures offstage (swiping at the air with her hand) as if to say, “Who cares about you?” ALONE puts her hair back in a ponytail or smooths down her hair. She takes off the sweater/jacket and tosses it to the side.

She does the “Dum Dum Da da” song and clapping rhythm all by herself, proudly.

When she’s done, she smiles and puts her hands on her hips. She’s all right. She exits.

The TITLE CARD GIRL enters, holding the title card for the next scene.

A drum roll is heard which culminates in the crash of a cymbal.

TITLE CARD GIRL: Three-headed Dog.

She exits.

Three-Headed Dog

What adults see is not always the truth.

The GIRL enters. She is wearing a dark shirt. She is followed by the IN-CROWD TRIO. The GIRL stands off to the side. The IN-CROWD TRIO stands centre stage. They taunt and tease GIRL. The GIRL is facing away from the others, shoulders hunched, but it’s clear she can hear every word they’re saying.

TRIO ONE: *(barking at GIRL)* Ruff. Ruff. *(the TRIO giggle at how funny they are)* Ruff. Ruuuuff!

TRIO TWO: *(whistles, as if calling a dog)* Here doggy. *(she whistles)* Here doggy.

TRIO ONE: Ruff. Ruff.

TRIO TWO: *(whistling)* Here doggy.

The TRIO laugh.

TRIO THREE: Teacher!

The TRIO snap into place. Three girls who look nice and polite, smiling widely. A TEACHER enters crossing from left to right.

TRIO ONE: Hi Mrs. Benderson.

TRIO TWO: You look pretty Mrs. Benderson.

TRIO THREE: I like your hair.

The TEACHER exits. The TRIO resume their taunting.

TRIO ONE: Ruff. Ruff.

TRIO TWO: *(whistling)* Here doggy.

TRIO THREE: You are such an ugly dog.

TRIO ONE: My dog is way better looking.

TRIO THREE: Hey. Hey dog. I'm talking to you.

TRIO ONE: Teacher.

The TRIO snap into place – three girls who look nice and polite, smiling widely. A TEACHER enters crossing from left to right.

TRIO ONE: Hi Ms. Kerr.

TRIO TWO: You look pretty Ms. Kerr.

TRIO THREE: I like your hair.

The TEACHER exits. The TRIO resume their taunting.

TRIO ONE: Ruff.

TRIO TWO: *(whistling)* Here doggy.

TRIO THREE: Hey! Come here. Dogs do what they're told.

GIRL has had enough. She tries to exit one way, TRIO ONE gets in her way. She tries another, TRIO TWO gets in her way. She tries a third and TRIO THREE sticks out her foot and trips GIRL. GIRL goes sprawling across the floor. The TRIO laughs.

TRIO ONE: Awwwww.

TRIO TWO: The poor doggy.

TRIO THREE: Walk much?

A TEACHER enters.

TEACHER: What's going on here?

The TRIO run to help GIRL up.

TRIO ONE: Jenny fell right in front of us.

TRIO TWO: We were just helping her up.

TRIO THREE: Right, Jenny?

TEACHER: Jenny?

GIRL nods her head.

TEACHER: Are you sure?

GIRL shrugs.

TRIO ONE: See?

TEACHER: You're lucky to have such good friends.

She walks away. The TRIO pushes GIRL away from them.

TRIO THREE: Ugh. You stink.

TRIO TWO: See ya doggy.

They laugh and exit. GIRL gives a look at the retreating TRIO and then exits the opposite way.

The TITLE CARD GIRL enters, holding the title card for the next scene.

A drum roll is heard which culminates in the crash of a cymbal.

TITLE CARD GIRL: Hall of Mirrors.

She exits.

Hall Of Mirrors

As bullying goes on, the bullied start to feel as worthless as the bully tells them they are.

Carnival music plays. Three cubes are moved centre stage and three actors enter to stand on the cubes. These are the three MIRROR images. Each MIRROR image wears a different mask.

ONE (wearing a dark shirt) enters with a happy spring in their step and stands in front of the FIRST MIRROR image. ONE's back is to the audience, so we see the actions from the front via the MIRROR and from behind via ONE.

The FIRST MIRROR image is really tall, wears a handsome smiling mask, and stands with confidence.

Both ONE and FIRST MIRROR do the following actions: wave, scratch head, brush the dust off their own shoulders, turn around, stand on one leg, wiggle all over. ONE turns to face forward. ONE gives a happy shrug and poses.

THE BULLIES enter and pass by ONE. Every BULLY reacts differently to ONE. They either shoulder ONE, push ONE, spit on ONE, or laugh at ONE. It is an attack, a flurry, a cloud that passes by ONE and leaves ONE a little unsteady.

ONE moves to the SECOND MIRROR with a little less spring.

The SECOND MIRROR image is slumped over, and perhaps shorter. The mask is sadder. When the SECOND MIRROR does the actions, they are slower and sadder too.

Both ONE and FIRST MIRROR do the following actions: wave, scratch head, brush the dust off their own shoulders, turn around, stand on one leg, wiggle all over. ONE turns to face forward. ONE gives a shrug.

THE BULLIES enter and pass by ONE. Every BULLY reacts differently to ONE. They either shoulder ONE, push ONE, spit on ONE, or laugh at ONE. It is an attack, a flurry, a cloud that passes by ONE and leaves ONE a little unsteady.

ONE moves extremely slowly to the THIRD MIRROR.

The THIRD MIRROR is shorter still. The THIRD MIRROR has no mask on, but their hands completely cover their face.

ONE stands in front of THIRD MIRROR and stares at it for a moment. THIRD MIRROR does not move while ONE does the actions: wave, scratch head, brush the dust off their own shoulders, turn around, stand on one leg, wiggle all over. ONE turns to face forward. ONE imitates the pose of THIRD MIRROR. Slumped, covering the face.

THE BULLIES enter and pass by ONE. Every BULLY reacts differently to ONE. They either shoulder ONE, push ONE, spit on ONE, or laugh at ONE. It is an attack, a flurry, a cloud that passes by. This time ONE stands with face covered. ONE stands alone.

A whistle blows. ONE exits. The FIRST, SECOND and THIRD MIRROR jump off their cubes and exit.

The TITLE CARD GIRL enters, holding the title card for the next scene.

A drum roll is heard which culminates in the crash of a cymbal.

TITLE CARD GIRL: Falling Floor.

She exits.

Falling Floor

Sometimes those being bullied don't know where to turn.

Note: Leave the three cubes from HALL of MIRRORS in place, so they can be easily accessed for CLOWNS in the next scene. This scene should happen in front of the cubes.

EVERYONE enters as if they're being magnetically pulled from one side of the stage to the other.

EVERYONE: Whoooooaaaaaaaaaaaa!

They exit.

EVERYONE re-enters as if they're being magnetically pulled from one side of the stage to the other.

EVERYONE: Whoooooaaaaaaaaaaaa!

They form two groups. One stage left, one stage right. Stage left we have the ADULTS. Stage right, the BULLIES.

LEFT OVER and LEFT BEHIND (both wearing dark shirts) enter upstage from opposite sides. They meet in the middle and are blown downstage.

LEFT OVER & LEFT BEHIND: Whoooooaaaaaaaaaaaa!

They are then blown towards the BULLIES, who growl and form a threatening pose. The two scramble backward and hurl themselves toward the other side of the stage.

LEFT OVER & LEFT BEHIND: Whoooooaaaaaaaaaaaa!

When they get to the ADULTS, they stop and point across the stage at the BULLIES. In response, the ADULTS form an 'I'm too busy' pose. LEFT OVER & LEFT BEHIND get no help and are blown back to the other side of the stage.

LEFT OVER & LEFT BEHIND: Whoooooaaaaaaaaaaaa!

The two are stopped by the BULLIES who growl and form a threatening pose. LEFT OVER and LEFT BEHIND fight and struggle to get themselves back across the stage to the ADULTS.

LEFT OVER & LEFT BEHIND: Whoooooaaaaaaaaaaaa!

They point again at the BULLIES. The ADULTS form an 'I don't believe you' pose. This causes LEFT OVER and LEFT BEHIND to get blown back across the stage.

LEFT OVER & LEFT BEHIND: Whooooaaaaaaaaaaaaa!

They are again met by the BULLIES growling in a threatening pose. LEFT OVER and LEFT BEHIND fight and struggle to retreat. This time they stop centre stage, holding on to each other as if they can barely stand the wind. They look left to see the BULLIES in a threatening pose. They look right to see the ADULTS in their disinterested pose. They look toward the audience. Everyone freezes.

The TITLE CARD GIRL enters, holding the title card for the next scene.

A drum roll is heard which culminates in the crash of a cymbal.

TITLE CARD GIRL: Clowns.

She exits.

Music plays. LEFT OVER and LEFT BEHIND move downstage right. THREE of the ADULTS move upstage and stand on the cubes. Everyone else exits.

Clowns

Adults don't always do the right thing.

NOTE: These clowns move like the clowns with the big heads and the accordion necks, always weaving side to side with their legs and feet clamped together.

While the ADULTS are getting into place, they continuously say “blah, blah, blah, blah” until they’re ready to start the scene.

The three ADULTS from the previous scene become the PRINCIPAL, the PARENT, and the SCHOOL BOARD. LEFT OVER and LEFT BEHIND march up to the three and open their mouths as if to speak. They are blown to the side by the ‘blah, blah, blahs’

PRINCIPAL: Blah, blah, blah, blah.

PARENT: (*higher tone*) Blah, dee-blah blah, blah.

SCHOOL BOARD: (*lower tone*) Blah, blah, BLAH.

PRINCIPAL: Blah, blah, Happy School!

PARENT: Blah, blah, busy work!

SCHOOL BOARD: Blah, blah, Awareness Week!

ALL: Blah, blah, BLAH.

LEFT OVER marches up to the PRINCIPAL.

PRINCIPAL: Blah, blah, happy. Blah, blah, all in fun. Blah, blah, right, wrong? Blah happy school! Blah happy students! Blah, what's the fuss? Blah!

LEFT BEHIND marches up to the PARENT.

PARENT: Blah, blah, busy, blah. Blah, blah, work, blah. Busy work, busy home. Blah, blah, blah. School good? Great good, No time, blah!

LEFT OVER and LEFT BEHIND march up to the SCHOOL BOARD.

SCHOOL BOARD: BLAAAAAAH, initiative. BLAAAAAAH, committee. BLAAAAAAH, website. BLAAAAAAH, research. BLAAAAAAAH.

PRINCIPAL: Blah, blah, get along!

PARENT: Blah, blah, just a phase.

SCHOOL BOARD: Blah, blah, focus group.

PRINCIPAL: Blah, blah, your fault.

PARENT: Blah, blah, always whining.

SCHOOL BOARD: Blah, blah, you're important!

PRINCIPAL: Blah, blah, can't get involved.

PARENT: Blah, blah, stand up for yourself!

SCHOOL BOARD: Blah, blah, we can't do that!

PRINCIPAL: Blah, blah, blah, blah.

PARENT: (*higher tone*) Blah, dee-blah blah blah.

SCHOOL BOARD: (*lower tone*) Blah, blah, BLAH.

All three start to babble over top of each other. LEFT OVER steps forward.

LEFT OVER: Hey clowns! Shut up!

PRINCIPAL, PARENT and SCHOOL BOARD rear back and gasp in unison.

LEFT OVER: (quieter) Would you listen for one second?

PRINCIPAL, PARENT and SCHOOL BOARD start to 'blah, blah, blah' in full force and with the clear intent that LEFT OVER should not talk that way to adults.

PRINCIPAL, PARENT, SCHOOL BOARD: Blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, (continuing)

LEFT OVER and LEFT BEHIND turn their backs and cover their ears. The 'blahs' continue as TEACHER enters. TEACHER surveys the scene. She puts her hands on her hips and shakes her head. TEACHER touches SCHOOL BOARD, as if pushing a button. PRINCIPAL and PARENT continue until TEACHER touches them.

SCHOOL BOARD: (shuts off like a robot running down) Blaaaaaaaaah.

SCHOOL BOARD slumps forward. TEACHER moves between PARENT & PRINCIPAL and touches them both.

PARENT & PRINCIPAL: (shuts off like a robot running down) Blaaaaaaaaah.

PARENT & PRINCIPAL slump forward.

TEACHER walks over to LEFT OVER and LEFT BEHIND. She taps them on the shoulder.

TEACHER: Hey.

LEFT OVER and LEFT BEHIND look up.

TEACHER: Talk to me.

LEFT OVER and LEFT BEHIND shake their heads.

TEACHER: Talk to me.

LEFT BEHIND: What's the point?

TEACHER: Talk to me.

She gestures offstage and starts to walk. LEFT OVER and LEFT BEHIND stay where they are. TEACHER turns and gestures again. LEFT OVER and LEFT BEHIND look at each other, and then follow TEACHER off.

The TITLE CARD GIRL enters, holding the title card for the next scene.

A drum roll is heard which culminates in the crash of a cymbal.

TITLE CARD GIRL: Tunnel of Love.

She exits. Blackout. Everyone exits.

Tunnel Of Love

Bullying does not only happen in person.

From the darkness there is the sound of whispers. Start the whispers as soon as the lights go to black from the previous scene. At the beginning, everyone should whisper different words (see the list) so that we can't quite understand what's being said.

ONLY sits on a cube. She is sitting in front of a computer. ONLY is being bombarded with hate messages.

Once the whispering is established, we start to see what ONLY sees on her computer screen. One at a time, the words and messages appear above her head. Use two flashlights (one on either side) to light the words. The words have to be written large enough so that they can be seen by the audience, but on sturdy enough paper (or perhaps cut out of foam) so they can be held by an actor.

We see one word at first. And then another, and another. The words start to pile up on top of each other. Then the pace at which we see the words gets faster, and the whispers pile up on each other until both the whispers and the words climax with the repeated word DIE. DIE. DIE. The word DIE is shown above ONLY's head.

The timing of this scene is up to you as are the words you use. Choose which words you want to use, how often they're repeated, how long to spend on each section, and the pace of the buildup. The only stipulation is that you end with the repeated word DIE. DIE. DIE.

What follows is a selection of short form text words to use. Obviously some would be frowned upon by administration. But ALL these words have been taken from actual hate messages middle school students have received from other students. They are not made up for shock value.

NASTEE	UR FAT	COW
UR GAY	LSR	FAT
H8 U	HA HA	UR UGLY
Y DON'T U DIE	UGLY	I H8 U
DIE	SLUT	EVERYI H8S U
NOI LIKES U	FAG	PIG

DIE.

DIE.

DIE.

Blackout. Everyone exits.

The TITLE CARD GIRL enters, holding the title card for the next scene.

A drum roll is heard which culminates in the crash of a cymbal.

TITLE CARD GIRL: Whac-A-Mole.

She exits.

Whac-A-Mole

Fighting back like a bully rarely works.

Carnival music plays.

The BULLY enters to stand stage left in front of two cubes.

The KID enters stage right and crosses the stage. When the KID tries to pass the BULLY, the BULLY shoves the KID. The KID stumbles back and ends up on the floor.

The BULLY mimes laughing. (NOTE: The actors are silent in this scene, so the BULLY makes the movement and gesture of laughing but no sound comes out.)

As the BULLY laughs, others enter to join around the BULLY. They stand beside the BULLY and atop the cubes, emulating the BULLY's exact pose. They too are laughing. It's like the BULLY is growing in size, growing into a towering BULLY MONSTER, looming over the KID.

The KID cowers on the floor, curled up in a ball. The KID has his arms over his head and ears to try and block out the wall of sound as all in the BULLY MONSTER laugh and mock the KID.

The KID stands and mimes shouting at the BULLY MONSTER. The BULLY MONSTER continues to laugh.

The KID pleads with the BULLY MONSTER. The BULLY MONSTER continues to laugh.

The KID paces back and forth in frustration. The BULLY MONSTER continues to laugh. The KID can't take it anymore. The KID moves to the side and grabs a baseball bat.

The KID comes at the BULLY MONSTER and starts to hit. (This has to be done in a stylized fashion, so no one actually gets hit.) The KID swings again and again with full force. The elements of the BULLY MONSTER react as if being hit. The BULLY MONSTER falls apart and crumbles to the ground. Even when the BULLY MONSTER is on the ground, the KID does not stop swinging. The KID hits and hits and hits and finally stops mid-swing.

The KID stumbles back in horror at what has been done. The KID drops the bat, collapses to the ground, rolls up in a ball, and rocks back and forth.

The TITLE CARD GIRL enters, holding the title card for the next scene.

A drum roll is heard which culminates in the crash of a cymbal.

TITLE CARD GIRL: Maze: Chapter Three!

She exits.

Maze: Chapter 3

The bystander can stop bullying.

The whistle blows. Everyone on stage scatters and more enter. Each runs about the stage with his or her own pattern, moving in straight lines, careful not to bump into each other. The KID from the previous scene exits.

MOUSE enters, wearing a dark shirt. MOUSE gets a little bounced about, always getting in the way. MOUSE is obviously out of place.

The whistle blows. At this cue, each MAZE member runs to get into their assigned position on the grid. As they find their place, they sound off – One! Two! Three! Four! And so on.

Each MAZE member gets into their assigned place on the grid in order. (e.g. Seventeen keeps moving about the space until Sixteen counts off.)

There are two not running to get into grid positions. The CAT lounges at the side of the stage or leans against the wall. The MOUSE is desperately trying to claim a grid position. He scrambles about, getting pushed and jostled. He continues to try to claim a spot before the person assigned to that position can. Even if the MOUSE claims a spot, he gets tossed out by the assigned person.

This continues on with each MAZE member claiming their position and counting off. When the last MAZE member is in place, they all raise their arms, placing their hands on the shoulders of the MAZE member beside them. This creates corridors within the grid.

NOTE: Whoever calls out the last number has to be positioned downstage right, so that the MOUSE, having been ousted from the last spot can also end up there.

Once the MAZE forms the corridors, the whistle blows. The MOUSE stands downstage right, the CAT stands downstage left.

The MOUSE sees the CAT and freezes. The CAT sees the MOUSE and does two gestures: First, the CAT points. Second, the CAT draws his finger across his throat in a 'you're dead' gesture.

The whistle blows and the MOUSE dives into the MAZE stage right. The CAT dives into the MAZE stage left to chase the MOUSE.

The whistle blows and the GRID changes position: The MAZE members lower their arms to their sides with precision, then make a quarter turn to the left, then place their arms on the shoulders of the MAZE member beside them.

With this change in position the corridors change from East/West to North/South. The CAT and MOUSE continue their run through the maze. Keep the movements consistent with a cat and a mouse – the MOUSE moves in a frantic quick pace. The CAT strolls after its prey.

The whistle blows and the MAZE changes position as above.

The whistle blows and the MAZE changes position as above.

The whistle blows and the MAZE changes position as above.

The CAT has had enough of this.

CAT: Hey!

When the CAT speaks this time, the MAZE does not fall apart. The MAZE looks at the CAT.

CAT: I said, Hey!

Some of the MAZE move to block the CAT from the MOUSE.

CAT: Get out of my way.

More of the MAZE move to block the CAT from the MOUSE.

CAT: I said, get out of my way! Do it! If you don't get out of my way I'll...

All of the MAZE now stand in front of the MOUSE, blocking the CAT.

CAT: Whatever.

The CAT exits.

The whistle blows. Everyone exits on the run.

The TITLE CARD GIRL enters, holding the title card for the next scene.

A drum roll is heard which culminates in the crash of a cymbal.

TITLE CARD GIRL: Dark Ride.

She exits.

Dark Ride

I won't eat garbage for you just because I'm different.

TWO enters and sits centre stage. ONE enters and tentatively approaches TWO. ONE looks offstage, clearly gesturing to a group offstage. She looks at TWO. ONE is wearing a bright coloured shirt. TWO is wearing a dark shirt.

ONE: Hi. (*TWO does not look up*) Helloooooo.

TWO: (*does not look up*) Hello.

ONE: Don't you want to go in?

TWO: (*looking up*) Where?



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