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**Teen Plays for Inclusive Classrooms**

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**Includes Two  
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# TEEN PLAYS FOR INCLUSIVE CLASSROOMS

TWO PLAYS BY  
*Dara Murphy*



Teen Plays for Inclusive Classrooms

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## **Welcome!**

This book contains two fun and simple plays for teens. They were originally performed by teens with developmental disabilities, but they could be useful for many groups. Perhaps you are looking for a play for first time actors, or for your ESL group, or you have a student in your class who's deserving of a lead role but, for whatever reason, they need simpler material in order to be successful. This leads us to inclusive classrooms.

Most classrooms are full of diversity, with a wide variety of talents and abilities. As a teacher, it seems obvious to pick material that suits the academic level of the majority, and then to adapt that material for any outliers. In the arts, this can lead to certain students always having to "stand in the back," or "lip sync along to the song."

So, I challenge you to first, when you are designing your units, think of the students who need more support. Design a performance unit with them in mind. It's going to force you to be creative about how they will learn the material and how they will express what they've learned. Then you will have lots of good ideas that you can pull through to your other learners.

Plays like the ones in this book can be another tool in your kit. Although the language is uncomplicated, the acting doesn't have to be! These plays can give advanced learners room to explore other drama techniques such as movement, masks, melodrama, and directing... perhaps they could even perform the whole play through mime.

I hope you find these plays a useful resource. People with disabilities can be fantastic actors. When given the opportunity, they will wow audiences with their authenticity and energy. In return, you will likely see these students grow and develop their confidence, social skills, and communication abilities. This would be a great outcome for your inclusive classroom!

## **Some Tips**

Here are some tips on giving your students a successful acting experience.

### **Starmaker School**

This is a fun play to watch and perform. Because it contains music and dance, it includes students with a variety of talents and abilities.

For example, a nonverbal student can dance in the Dance Crew or play an instrument in the Music Crew. Also, practicing the different musical numbers breaks up the rehearsal so you don't always have to focus on acting and memorizing.

When we performed this play, we collaborated with the music and dance teachers, and we made sure to choose cool songs that the students loved.

We had fun planning and rehearsing the final dance number at the end. We wanted it to be a big showstopper and the students rose to the challenge.

We found the trickiest part of this play was the group scenes where everyone has just one or two lines each. You'll need to dedicate rehearsal time to learning these scenes, probably by rote.

There is also a bit of romance in this play, which can be exciting for your teen actors. However, if your actors are overly shy or anxious about this, you might want to consider changing the relationship to a friendship.

## **The Forest Creatures**

This play is enjoyable for older students who like to scare their audiences. Don't be shy; use scary music, sets, costumes, and make-up!

*The Forest Creatures* has some non-speaking roles, as well as some more challenging roles. Although there's no music or dance in this play, the variety of characters allow for more character exploration. How will the forest creatures move and make sounds? Is Evil Eye really evil? Who is Cal? How do the campers change when they are "zapped?" Also, have fun with the final fight scene at the end. Take your time with the choreography and make sure that everyone is safe.

The most difficult part of this play is the entrances and exits. We found it useful to have volunteers in the wings to help the students enter. We also had a fellow teacher acting as one of the campers (Miller). This teacher was able to help lead the students who needed more assistance.

## **Learning Lines**

Many students, regardless of their reading level, enjoy having a script and highlighting their lines. A script means that they are part of the team! Often, when actors are introduced to a new play, the script is handed out and the cast does a group read-through. This can be discouraging for those students who struggle with reading. To help with this, you can give the students their scripts beforehand so they can pre-read it. You can also run the read-through by chunking the play into sections. Read a section to them first, while they follow along. Discuss what has happened, and then have the actors read or repeat it.

Learning and memorizing lines might be difficult for many students. When we rehearsed these plays, we learned the lines by rote, working on one small section at a time. It's still valuable, however, to give students a sense of responsibility for learning their own lines. Teach them how to memorize their lines at home by using a friend or a recording, and encourage them to do so. Also, it's important to make sure students understand the words they are saying. Students should not say lines they don't understand.

Don't be surprised if a student memorizes all of their lines with ease, and perhaps even all of the lines in the play! Our students have amazing abilities.

In the end, however, you might need to have a line whisperer during the performance. That's okay! But during rehearsals, don't teach the actors to rely on that person. It's okay to let them experience a missed line.

Finally, everyone is different when it comes to learning and saying lines. Some words might be hard to pronounce, some lines might be too complicated, and some lines might be too simple. Please feel free to edit the lines in these plays as needed and adapt the plays to fit with your group.

### **Stage Directions**

Sometimes knowing where and when to move can be a struggle for students. When you are starting to block the scenes, look at how and where your students naturally want to move. Your students' unique and creative ideas are gifts to your rehearsal process. If you see that a student is having trouble with stage directions, have them follow another actor. Their characters can be friends!

Our groups can't rehearse on a real stage, so we found it useful to mark out a stage on the floor with pylons. Almost every rehearsal we reminded the students where the entrances were, and we demonstrated how to face the audience. We then taught the students a "group position." This was a place where everyone stands when the whole group is onstage. We practiced entering and standing in that position.

For certain students, you might want to create a visual script. For example, in *Starmaker School*, after Eggman says "check out the dance group" a student has to walk to their mark and start dancing. A visual script for that section could have a picture of Eggman with a speech bubble that says "check out the dance group," then a picture of walking, then a picture of where you want them to walk, and then a picture of dancing. A visual script would have to be tailor made for the student and simplified so that it shows only what that student is doing or reacting to.

Lastly, it's useful to have someone on both wings to help with entrances and exits. That person can also whisper helpful reminders to students before they enter, such as what scene they're on, where they should stand, and what their first line is going to be.

## Rehearsals

Here are a few final rehearsal tips:

- ✓ Students love warm-ups, but be careful when selecting games. Some of the popular “calling around the circle” games are tricky for students with hearing impairments, and tongue-twister type games, like Zip Zap Zop, can be very challenging!
- ✓ Don't give too many directions at once and be encouraging and positive. It might take a while to learn everything, so you need to keep the motivation up.
- ✓ Give breaks so your actors can relax and socialize with one another.
- ✓ Miming or imagining a prop or set piece can be difficult. It's much easier to have the actual, tangible item.
- ✓ Music can be a useful for cues, and sometimes I even stand by the stage with a guitar. For example, when the music sounds like this, exit, when the music sounds like that, march around. Keep moving until the music stops!
- ✓ Putting on a play might be a new experience for some of your students. Be sure to leave time to answer their many questions. It's valuable for them to understand your expectations and your routines.

I hope these plays and these tips are useful for you. We had a lot of fun performing these plays, and I hope you do too. Please help make the theatre a fantastic experience for all actors. Everyone deserves a chance to be in the spotlight!

Dara Murphy

## Starmaker School

### Cast of Characters

**Emily:** (F) A new student who enjoys music and dance.

**Ms. Roe:** (F) The snappy dance teacher.

**Mr. Logan:** (M) The tough music teacher.

**The Dance Crew:** Eggman (M), Annie (F), Jordan (F or M), Stella (F), and Raven (M or F). Additional students may be added.

**The Music Crew:** Poppy (F), James (M), Michael Jones (M), Rose (F), and Ray (F or M). Additional students may be added.

### Setting

This play takes place in a performing arts school that specializes in music and dance. Half of the stage represents the “dance crew” and the other half represents the “music crew.”

*Cheering, the Starmaker students rush onto the stage. The DANCE CREW runs to one side and the MUSIC CREW runs to the other.*

JAMES: (to the audience) Welcome to the Starmaker School of the Arts!

RAVEN: It’s a famous school!

RAY: For dancers and musicians.

EGGMAN: We study dance and music.

STELLA: But first you gotta know a few things.

MICHAEL JONES: To be in this school, you have to be good.

EGGMAN: Check out the dance group.

*Music plays and the DANCE CREW performs a cool choreography. They finish.*

EGGMAN: Amazing right?

ANNIE: And was just a warm-up.

ROSE: Ha, if you wanna see something amazing—

MUSIC CREW: —check out the music crew!

*The MUSIC CREW performs a song. They can be singing, rapping, playing bucket drums; choose something that suits your actors’ talents and interests.*



RAVEN: As you can see, we students are amazing.

JORDAN: Hold on!

ANNIE: What?

JORDAN: If we're teaching the audience about our school, we can't just show off.

JAMES: What do you mean?

JORDAN: There are rules!

RAY: Rule number one! Watch out for the teachers.

RAVEN: The teachers are scary.

ROSE: Watch.

*MS. ROE struts onto the stage and all of the DANCE CREW rush into a straight line. MS. ROE paces among them, yelling orders.*

MS. ROE: Stand straighter! Straighter!! You call this a line?! You, your outfit is too green. Change it or you're out!

MICHAEL JONES: Look at the music teacher.

MUSIC CREW: He's really mean.

*MR. LOGAN enters and glares at the MUSIC CREW.*

MR. LOGAN: You call that music? I call it a disaster! Did you even practice?

MUSIC CREW: (*nervous*) Yes.

MR. LOGAN: Well practice harder!!

RAY: AND there's another rule to remember.

STELLA: It's the biggest rule of all.

EVERYONE: No mixing!

DANCE CREW: The dance students stick with the dance students.

MUSIC CREW: The music students stick with the music students.

EVERYONE: No mixing allowed!

STELLA: Don't talk to the music geeks.

JORDAN: They're gross.

POPPY: Don't talk to the dance snobs.

ROSE: They're rude!

RAVEN: Rude? At least we're not nerds.

JAMES: Nerds?! We're not nerds!

ANNIE: Don't call us names!

MICHAEL JONES: Flat footed!

*The DANCE CREW and MUSIC CREW get into the side vs side shouting match. Everyone argues back-and-forth, even the teachers. EMILY enters, looking confused.*

EMILY: Hello? Hello? What's going on here? Hello!

*Everyone freezes.*

EVERYONE: New Student!

EGGMAN: Hey.

JORDAN: Yo.

MICHAEL JONES: What's up?

EMILY: Hi!

MR. LOGAN: Hello! Welcome to our school.

MS. ROE: We're happy to have you!

MR. LOGAN: I'll have a student show you around. What side are you on?

EMILY: What do you mean?

MR. LOGAN: Are you a dancer or a musician?

EMILY: Oh. I'm, um, both.

MS. ROE: Both!?

EMILY: I'm a dancer and a musician.

*Everyone gasps.*

MS. ROE: That's not possible!

MR. LOGAN: It's never happened in the history of our school!

EMILY: It's true.

MR. LOGAN: Let me see your papers.

EMILY: (*gives him a paper*) Here.

MR. LOGAN: It's true. She's in both! Music and dance.

*Everyone gasps and starts talking.*

Hold on, everyone! Quiet! We'll get this all worked out. Until then, I'll have two students show you around. Stella and... Michael Jones.

*STELLA and MICHAEL JONES go up to EMILY. The others exit, gossiping about the new student.*

STELLA: (*to MICHAEL JONES*) Dork.

MICHAEL JONES: (*to STELLA*) Toe Pointer.

STELLA: Trumpet head.

MICHAEL JONES: Tutu brain.

EMILY: Um, hello?

STELLA: What's your name?

EMILY: Emily.

STELLA: Listen, you can't be in music and dance. Pick one.

EMILY: Really?

STELLA: Yep. And pick dance because we're way cooler.

MICHAEL JONES: No, be smart and pick music.

STELLA: No way.

MICHAEL JONES: Yes way.

STELLA: No.

MICHAEL JONES: Yes.

STELLA: No!

MICHAEL JONES: Yes!

EMILY: Um, are you two going to show me around?

STELLA: No thanks. (*exits*)

MICHAEL JONES: Good luck. (exits)

EMILY: Hello? Um, I have to find room B? Hello? (exits)

*The MUSIC CREW, MR. LOGAN, and EMILY enter and take their places on the music side of the stage.*

MR. LOGAN: All right students. Let's practice our new song. Ready?

*They start to play/sing. EMILY tries her best, but she has trouble keeping up.*

Hold on! Stop! We're not together. Who's messing up? Who?!

*Everyone looks over at EMILY.*

EMILY: Sorry.

MR. LOGAN: You're behind! Practice more.

EMILY: I will sir.

ROSE: Maybe you should stop all that dancing.

POPPY: It's probably messing you up.

EMILY: Sorry.

*Laughing, the MUSIC CREW leaves. The DANCE CREW enters and EMILY hurries over to join them.*

MS. ROE: All right students. Let's practice our choreo. Ready?

*MS. ROE turns on the music and the DANCE CREW begins to dance. EMILY tries her best, but she just can't keep up.*

Stop, Stop, Stop! Emily. You are not keeping up. You have to practice more.

EMILY: Sorry Ms. Roe.

RAVEN: (to the others) It's cause she's too busy playing music.

ANNIE: (to EMILY) It looks like you're having trouble.

EMILY: I just got confused.

RAVEN: Stella can help you.

EMILY: Yeah?

STELLA: Sure. Join the music geeks where you belong.

*The DANCE CREW laughs and exits. EGGMAN notices how glum she looks. He stops.*

EMILY: If you're going to tease me, can you wait until tomorrow? I've had enough for today.

EGGMAN: No, I'm not going to tease you.

EMILY: Thanks.

EGGMAN: So why are you in music and dance?

EMILY: I dunno. I like them both. But I can't seem to cut it.

EGGMAN: I thought you were doing pretty good.

EMILY: Really?

EGGMAN: You've only just started. You're playing catch up.

EMILY: I know.

EGGMAN: If you need help with the dancing, just let me know.

EMILY: Thanks!

EGGMAN: Sure. The name's Eggman.

EMILY: Eggman?!

EGGMAN: Yep. You won't forget it. *(exits)*

EMILY: *(looking after him)* No I won't.

*EVERYONE enters. MR. LOGAN and MS. ROE stand at the front.*

MR. LOGAN: Attention students. Attention! It's time for announcements.

MICHAEL JONES: Who put the frogs in the music room toilets?

MR. LOGAN: That is still under investigation.

*The DANCE CREW snickers.*

MR. LOGAN: As for the announcements: the school prom is coming up in two weeks.

*The STUDENTS cheer.*

STELLA: Is everyone invited? Like, even the music students?

RAVEN: They don't know how to dance.

RAY: At least we know how to have fun!

MS. ROE: The principal told us that prom is for everyone.

*The STUDENTS groan.*

MR. LOGAN: But don't worry. You can still party on your own side of the gym.

*The STUDENTS cheer. The TEACHERS exit.*

ANNIE: This is so exciting!

RAVEN: Who are you asking to the prom?

ANNIE: Pete! He's such a good dancer! (*squeal*)

EMILY: You guys are taking dates to the prom?

RAVEN: Of course! Everyone will.

ANNIE: That's the point of a prom, isn't it?

STELLA: Ha, no dance guy will go out with a two-face like her.

EMILY: I'm not a two-face.

STELLA: Whatever.

*The DANCE CREW exits.*

JAMES: Hey Rose?

ROSE: (*getting excited*) Yeah?

JAMES: I wanna ask you something.

ROSE: (*getting more excited*) Really?

JAMES: Can you... pass me a pencil?

ROSE: Aw James, I thought you were going to ask me to the prom!

JAMES: Would you like me to ask you to the prom?

ROSE: Yes.

JAMES: Would you like to go to the prom?

ROSE: Yes!

*JAMES and ROSE grin and exit together.*

EMILY: (*to POPPY*) Do you have a date yet?

POPPY: Oh yeah, I'm going with Michael Jones. We've been dating for weeks.

EMILY: It seems like everyone has a date.

POPPY: You don't?

MICHAEL JONES: Maybe try one of the dance guys?

POPPY: If you want my advice. Pick one. Dance or Music.

*The MUSIC CREW exits. Leaving EMILY onstage alone. She sighs. EGGMAN strides up to her.*

EGGMAN: Sorry I'm late!

EMILY: That's okay. Thanks for offering to help me with the new dance number.

EGGMAN: I don't mind. Are you ready?

EMILY: I've been practicing, but I can't get the middle part.

EGGMAN: It's like this.

*He shows her a dance move and she follows.*

EMILY: Is this right?

EGGMAN: Not bad. Let's try it with the music.

*Music plays and they perform a sweet duet with some hand holding.*

EGGMAN: You're getting it!

EMILY: Thanks for your help.

EGGMAN: No problem. Hey, um, are you going to the dance?

EMILY: I'm not sure.

EGGMAN: I think I might go.

EMILY: Really?

EGGMAN: It could be fun.

*STELLA, ANNIE, and JORDAN enter.*

STELLA: Hey! Egghead!

ANNIE: He's hanging with the double-sided coin.

EMILY: I'm not a double sided coin!

STELLA: Come on Eggs, we have to do our group dance.

EGGMAN: Oh yeah. (to EMILY) Sorry but I have to go.

JORDAN: Come on!

*They pull him away. EMILY sighs again. MS. ROE enters with the DANCE CREW and MR. LOGAN enters with the MUSIC CREW.*

MR. LOGAN: Music students! Please line up here to buy your tickets to the prom.

MS. ROE: And I'm selling the tickets for the dance students over here.

*The STUDENTS line up. EMILY isn't sure where to stand.*

STELLA: Ha, look at Emily.

ANNIE: (yelling to EMILY) You can't stand in two lines at the same time!

RAVEN: Maybe she can split herself in half.

*They laugh.*

EGGMAN: Hey guys. Leave her alone.

RAY: Well you gotta pick one line. You're in the way!

EMILY: Sorry.

ROSE: Where are you going to go?

EVERYONE: Choose, choose, choose, choose!

*EMILY isn't sure where to go. She looks over at EGGMAN. He shrugs. She runs off, embarrassed. Everyone except for EGGMAN laugh and gossip about her. They get their tickets and exit.*

*Music plays. ANNIE and MICHAEL JONES walk to the middle of the stage.*

ANNIE and MICHAEL JONES: Welcome to the prom!

ANNIE: I will be the MC for the dancers!

*The DANCE CREW enters. They cheer and dance.*

MICHAEL JONES: And I will be the MC for the musicians!



*The MUSIC CREW enters cheering.*

MR. LOGAN: And we will be supervising.

MS. ROE: So don't try anything funny.

MICHAEL JONES: Let's start the music!

ANNIE: Let the dancing begin!

*Music plays and the CREWS dance.*

*EMILY self-consciously walks into the room. She's not sure where to go so she just stands to one side.*

*EGGMAN sees her and waves. She looks away. He walks over to her.*

EGGMAN: *(over the music)* Hi!

EMILY: Hi.

EGGMAN: I didn't think you'd come.

EMILY: Maybe I should have stayed at home.

EGGMAN: Nah. Wanna dance?

EMILY: Me?

EGGMAN: Sure!

EMILY: Okay!

*They laugh and dance together. The others start to notice and point. STELLA gets mad.*

STELLA: Stop the music! Egghead, you're dancing with a nobody!

EGGMAN: The name's Eggman. We're just dancing.

STELLA: She's not in our crew!

RAVEN: She doesn't belong.

*The two CREWS try to pull EMILY and EGGMAN apart.*

EMILY: Wait! Hold on! This is silly! This whole crew versus crew thing makes no sense!

JAMES: It's been like this for years and years. That's just how things are.

EMILY: But it makes no sense! Without music, you guys have nothing to dance to. And without dancers, your music has no purpose!

ROSE: You think we should try to get along?

EMILY: Why not? You need each other.

EGGMAN: I think that sounds like a good idea.

EMILY: You do?

EGGMAN: Yeah

*He holds her hand. They smile at each other.*

JAMES: Let's try working together!

POPPY: We could try it.

STELLA: I don't know...

DANCE CREW: Come on Stella!

STELLA: ...I guess... we could try it.

*All the STUDENTS start talking, mingling, and high-fiving. Music plays.*

STELLA: Dance party!!

*The STUDENTS cheer and rush back to their respective sides. The DANCE CREW strut from their side to the center and do a cool pose. They walk back. The MUSIC CREW strut to the center and pose. They walk back.*

*Next, the DANCE CREW perform a short dance along to the music. EMILY joins them. When they are finished, they go back to their side. EMILY joins the MUSIC CREW who sing or play along to the music.*

*When they're finished, both CREWS come together for a big finale. They sing and dance together. The music comes to an end and they pose.*

— THE END —

## The Forest Creatures

### Cast of Characters

Creatures of the Forest (Any gender)

**Skully the Creature of Death:** The hideous leader.

**Dark Shadow:** Always plotting.

**Cat Creature:** The sneaky minion.

Campers

If you change the gender of the characters, you may alter the pronouns in the script to match.

**Austin:** (M) Hates going camping with his sister.

**Clare James:** (F) Austin's sister. A skilled outdoorswoman.

**Carey:** (M or F) Macho.

**MJ:** (M or F) Expressive.

**Blue Eyes:** (M or F) Tough.

**Ricky:** (F or M) Scared of the great outdoors.

**Ari:** (F or M) A good friend.

**Mel:** (F or M) Kind-hearted.

**Miller:** (F or M) Tough and grumpy.

**Jo:** (M or F) Confused.

**Dana:** (F or M) Helpful.

**Chris:** (M or F) Problem-solver.

**Cal:** (M) Pawn of the creatures.

**Evil Eye:** (M or F) The owner of the campground.

### Setting

This story takes place in a dark, twisted forest. There should be at least one tree and one shrub; both large enough for people to hide behind.

*Scary, suspenseful music plays while the lights slowly come up to reveal a dark forest. The music fades into natural forest sounds.*

*ARI and MEL enter. They're wearing hiking clothes and carrying backpacks.*

RICKY: (off) Ahhhh!

*ARI and MEL jump and turn around.*

RICKY: (off) Guys, I think I just stepped on a bug!

ARI: It's okay, Ricky.

RICKY: (*catching up*) But I killed it!

MEL: Maybe you missed?

RICKY: (*lifting up her foot*) Do you see any guts?

MEL: Gross!

ARI: Come on guys. We're almost at the camp.

*They exit.*

*CAL hikes across the stage. He's whistling or humming a tune. He exits.*

*MILLER, JO, CHRIS, and DANA enter. JO is carrying a big map.*

JO: It's one more kilometre that way.

DANA: (*looking at her compass*) I'd say it's one more kilometre that way.

CHRIS: I think it's two more kilometres that way.

*They look at MILLER. MILLER sighs and walks off the stage.*

JO/CHRIS/DANA: Wait up! Hold on!

*CAL, still whistling, enters and hikes the opposite way. Scary music.*

*Two figures, DARK SHADOW and CAT CREATURE, sneak along behind him. He doesn't see them. They exit and the scary music fades.*

*AUSTIN, CLARE JAMES, CAREY, MJ, and BLUE EYES trek onto the stage.*

CAREY: Yeah, 20 kilometres done!

AUSTIN: Muscles!

CAREY, MJ, and BLUE EYES: MUSCLES!

CLARE JAMES: You know we still have to find the camp right?

CAREY: Aw Austin, why'd you bring your sister along?

AUSTIN: I had to.

CLARE JAMES: Excuse me? You'd still be lost in the parking lot if it weren't for me.

AUSTIN: Muscles!

CAREY, MJ, and BLUE EYES: Muscles!

*CLARE JAMES sighs. They all exit.*

*CAL enters, still whistling. His shoe starts to bother him. It feels like there might be a rock inside. He sits down and takes off one shoe. Scary music.*

*The dark figures sneak up behind him. DARK SHADOW takes out his power staff, places it over CAL's head. He zaps CAL and hypnotizes him instantly.*

*The two creatures march CAL to the exit. CAL's shoe is left behind.*

*MILLER, JO, CHRIS, and DANA enter.*

DANA: Here it is! We found the camp!

MILLER: I found the camp.

*ARI, RICKY, and MEL enter.*

ARI: It's here! We found it!

*AUSTIN, CLARE JAMES, CAREY, MJ, and BLUE EYES march in.*

CAREY: Yes! Camp!

CAREY, MJ, and BLUE EYES: Muscles!

AUSTIN: Barbeque!

CLARE JAMES: We have to set up our tents first.

CAREY, MJ, and BLUE EYES: Barbeque!!

*EVIL EYE, the old man who runs the campground, walks up to the group. He uses a cane.*

EVIL EYE: Hello! Welcome to the Black Spruce Campground.

CAMPERS: Hi.

EVIL EYE: I run this campground. It'll be five dollars per person. That gets you a porta-potty and a place to put your tent.

*Each group gives him some cash. He counts it.*

EVIL EYE: Okay, pick a spot. Don't complain if there are bugs.

RICKY: BUGS! Gross!

EVIL EYE: We'll meet in one hour at the main firepit to hear the camp rules.

*Everyone exits.*

*Scary music. SKULLY, the Creature of Death, stands in front of DARK SHADOW and CAT CREATURE. Still hypnotized, CAL stands in the background.*

SKULLY: Creatures, I sense many people in my forest tonight.

*The CREATURES growl.*

SKULLY: I think we should play a little game with them. Have some fun.

*The CREATURES laugh and howl.*

DARK SHADOW: (points to CAL) Let's use him.

SKULLY: Good idea.

*They exit.*

*EVIL EYE enters and the other campers gather around him.*

EVIL EYE: Everyone's here?

EVERYONE: Yeah/I'm here/looks like it.

CLARE JAMES: Okay, so what are the rules?

EVIL EYE: There's only one rule. Don't go into the forest at night.

DANA: Is it dangerous?

EVIL EYE: VERY dangerous!

*Everyone gasps.*

BLUE EYES: Why?

EVIL EYE: Because there are dark creatures in the forest at night.

RICKY: What kind of creatures?

EVIL EYE: Just stay by your tents when the sun sets. NO FOREST!

*Talking nervously, most of the campers exit.*

*ARI, RICKY, and MEL stand together.*

ARI: That camp guy is strange.

RICKY, ARI, and MEL: Totally!

CAL: (*off*) Hello? Hello? Can someone help me?

RICKY: Wait! I hear someone!

*CAL enters. He's only wearing one shoe and he's acting a bit odd.*

RICKY, ARI, and MEL: Hi!

ARI: Did you just get here?

CAL: Yes.

RICKY: Are you okay?

MEL: What happened to your shoe?

CAL: You help me?

RICKY, ARI, and MEL: Sure!

CAL: Betty lost in forest.

RICKY: Who's Betty?

CAL: Friend.

RICKY, ARI, and MEL: Oh no!

RICKY: We'll help you find her!

CAL: Hurt leg. Maybe dying.

ARI: Really?! That's terrible!

RICKY: Hey everyone! Come help!

*The other campers enter in a big commotion.*

JO: What's going on?

ARI: He's lost his friend in the forest!

MEL: We have to help find her.

MILLER: Wait! It's almost night! We can't.

RICKY: But she's hurt!

*Everyone gasps.*

CLARE JAMES: Then we have to be brave!

DANA: Let's split up.

JO: Maybe we can find her before it gets dark.

CHRIS: What's her name?

RICKY, ARI, and MEL: Betty.

*They all split up and exit, calling "Betty!" as they go.*

*Scary music. CAT CREATURE sneaks on and hides a letter in the tree. He sneaks off.*

*The groups return and wander back and forth across the stage, still calling "BETTY!"*

MILLER: Wait! I see something!

CHRIS: What is it?

MILLER: It's weird, but it's a letter, on that tree!

CAL: Open it.

*She opens it.*

*At the side, or as a voiceover, SKULLY says the letter out loud. DARK SHADOW and CAT CREATURE growl along with him.*

SKULLY: Humans! We have captured the human Betty. If you do not play along with us, she'll be lost forever!

EVERYONE: Oh no!

SKULLY: You will find more instructions at three different places: the large river, the tallest tree, and the darkest cave. Go there now, or she will die! Sincerely, Skully, the Creature of Death.

*Everyone gasps.*

RICKY: How can we find all those places?

DANA: And it's almost night!

CAL: Follow letter or friend die!



AUSTIN: You talk weird.

CLARE JAMES: We have to save Betty!

EVERYONE: Yeah!

CAREY: Who's Betty again?

*Everyone groans.*

CLARE JAMES: Let's split up into three groups.

MILLER: Good idea! (*pointing to areas of the stage*) River group go there, tall tree group go there, and dark cave go group there.

*Everyone goes in either the large river group or the tall tree group. No one goes in the dark cave group.*

MILLER: Aw, come on, someone has to go to the dark cave.

*Everyone shakes their head "no way!"*

MILLER: Anyone?

CHRIS: Why don't you do it?

MILLER: Can't. I'm allergic to bats.

CLARE JAMES: Oh fine. I'll do it.

AUSTIN: By yourself?

CLARE JAMES: No, you'll be coming with me.

AUSTIN: No way!

CLARE JAMES: Mom said you have to look out for me.

AUSTIN: I knew I shouldn't have brought my sister camping (*he stands with CLARE JAMES*)

MILLER: Anyone else? Cal? What about you?

CAL: Friend. Betty. Dying,

MILLER: We got that. Go in the cave group.

*In the end the groups look like this:*

*Dark cave: CLARE JAMES, AUSTIN, and CAL*

*Tall Tree: RICKY, CHRIS, CAREY, BLUE EYES, and MILLER*

*River: ARI, MEL, JO, MJ, and DANA*

DANA: I have some emergency whistles! Each group can have one.

*She gives one whistle to each group.*

ARI: What do we do with these?

DANA: Use it if anyone is in trouble. We'll all come running to help.

EVERYONE: Good idea!

MILLER: Let's go!

EVERYONE: *(as they exit)* Betty? Betty! Betty!

*EVIL EYE enters. He looks around.*

EVIL EYE: Hold on... Where did all the campers go?! *(calling)* Hello! Hello, campers!?

*EVIL EYE sees CAL's shoe on the ground. He lifts it up.*

EVIL EYE: What's this? A shoe? *(he sniffs it)* The creatures! *(he runs off).*

*Scary music. The CREATURES enter.*

SKULLY: Our game has begun!

*The CREATURES howl.*

SKULLY: Now that they are split up, it will be easier to eat them!

*They howl and laugh.*

*SKULLY places a letter on the ground downstage center and exits. DARK SHADOW and CAT CREATURE hide behind the forest shrubs.*

*The River group treks in.*

DANA: Look it's a river!

JO: We made it!

MEL: Another letter!

*MJ points at the letter. He gets it and gives it to DANA.*

*While DANA is reading the letter, DARK SHADOW uses his staff to hypnotize JO. He pulls him into the forest without anyone seeing.*



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