



Sample Pages from
The Super Non-Heroes: Competition Version

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THE SUPER NON-HEROES: COMPETITION VERSION

A COMEDY IN ONE ACT BY
Taryn Temple



The Super Non-Heroes: Competition Version
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The Characters

2W 3M 9 Any Gender + Other Students and Evil Sidekicks

- PRINCIPAL BOOM / FIREHANDS:** Any gender. Has the unenviable job of keeping a school full of superheroes under control. Takes on the role of a supervillain to help students practice.
- REFLECTOR:** Female. She can reflect any weapon used against her back onto her enemy.
- SMELLINATOR:** Any gender. Imagines things into existence using her sense of smell. Unfortunately she doesn't have much control over her power yet.
- TOXIC SLUDGE:** Any gender. Big-hearted, simple and slow-moving. No one can touch them because of their nuclear skin.
- GOLDEN BOY:** Male. He has both beauty and strength, plus the ego to match. Strength and charm are his superpowers and he uses them to get what he wants.
- SIDEKICK:** Male. He has attached himself to Golden Boy because he believes he can never be anything more than a sidekick.
- BIG WHOOP:** Male. Golden Boy's buddy and hype man. He's a super bro.
- MRS. TEACHER:** Female. An elderly educator who sometimes unwittingly falls victim to her students' powers.
- THE SHIELD:** Any gender. Has the power to protect those around him.
- WET BLANKET:** Any gender. The pessimist of the group. Always sees the negative side but ultimately has a very useful power.
- SNEEZY MAGEE:** Any gender. His sneezes could move mountains but they are out of his control.
- SNAGGLETOOTH:** Any gender. Blindly hith enemith by thpitting all over them when he talkth.
- CHARLIE:** Any gender. The only non-super attender of the superhero school.
- THE VILLAIN:** Any gender. A non-super villain bent on revenge.
- OTHER STUDENTS:** Any gender. Other super students in the school. They fawn over Golden Boy
- EVIL SIDEKICKS:** Any gender. Adore The Villain. They want to help The Villain however they can.

A Note About Gender

Several characters are identified as “Any Gender” in the character list, but are referred to as a specific gender in the play for ease of description. If you change the gender of a character, you may change pronouns and other references in the script as needed.

Characters identified as “male or female” in the character list have more defined gender roles. However, if your cast and audience are open to varied gender pairings, you may adjust their genders accordingly. The only exception is Golden Boy.

Double Casting / Adding Extra Parts

If you are attentive to entrances and exits you can double-cast several roles in this play. If you have a large cast you may redistribute or add lines for other super students as long as they stay true to the spirit of the play.

Time

The present

Place

A school for superheroes

The Set

The play takes place in different locations in and around a super school. The set may be simple with a few tables and chairs, or more elaborate.

Changes

Any cultural references may be adapted to suit the time in which the play is being performed.

The Super Non-Heroes was first performed at Topeka Civic Theatre & Academy under the name *The Non-Super Hero* on July 8, 2016. The cast was as follows:

Emily Bearse:	Charlie
Colton Cattoor:	Cacophony, Sneezy Magee
Kiefer Halepeska:	Sidekick
KayLynn Hall:	Guilty Pleasure, Evil Sidekick
Sophia Harrison:	Hot Mess, The Villain
Zoey Haugsness:	Reflector
Aidan Kent:	Toxic Sludge
Bry'Auna Mitchell:	Ember, The Poet
Aaron Orozco:	Chief Chipmunk, Snaggleteeth
Griffin Ramos:	Big Whoop
Finn Reilly:	Smellinator
Thomas Schmidt:	Golden Boy
Jordan Thompson:	Wet Blanket, Mrs. Teacher
Tyler Tiede:	The Shield
Taryn Temple:	Director
Morgan Shipman:	Assistant Director
Abby Price:	Choreographer
Brenda Blackman:	Lighting Design
Kerstin Schmitt:	Lights
Jamie Ramos, Ethan Pettit:	Spotlights
JC Rodriguez:	Sound
Morgan Hottman:	Crew

The stage is dark as dramatic music starts to play. Suddenly a spotlight comes up on FIREHANDS. She is standing on the edge of the stage in a dramatic pose, laughing evilly. REFLECTOR is “hanging” off the front of the stage as if hanging from a tall building.

FIREHANDS: You thought you had defeated me, Reflector, but you were wrong! I had one last trick up my sleeve. And unfortunately for you, Reflector, it's impossible for you to reflect my powers back at me while you are clinging to life with the tips of your fingers.

She leans down and cruelly taps each finger on one of REFLECTOR's hands. REFLECTOR screeches in pain, letting go of the stage with that hand and turning her body so her face is out toward the audience.

FIREHANDS: And after you're gone I will burn this city to the ground!

She lifts her fiery gloves into the air and cackles.

REFLECTOR: (*struggling to hang on*) Firehands, you coward! I'll get you yet!

FIREHANDS: I highly doubt that. You see, in this situation I hold all the power in my giant, fiery hands.

REFLECTOR: That's where you are wrong!

FIREHANDS: What do you mean?

REFLECTOR: You think I'm like you, don't you? That I work alone? Well, we have a surprise for you!

FIREHANDS: We?

REFLECTOR: Get her, supers! Now!

FIREHANDS: Who's we? (*She looks around curiously. Nothing happens.*)

REFLECTOR: (*Waits a beat. Louder.*) I said, get her, supers! Now!

FIREHANDS: Am I missing something? Is something supposed to be happening? (*She looks around again. Still nothing happens.*)

REFLECTOR: Oh for Pete's sake! I said, GET HER, SUPERS!!
NOOOOOW!

SMELLINATOR: (*running in from the back of the auditorium*) We're coming! We're coming! So sorry, Reflector! We couldn't hear you over Golden Boy's bragging.

GOLDEN BOY: *(running in after SMELLINATOR, trying to pass)* Hey, stay behind me! I'm supposed to go first!

SIDEKICK: *(chasing GOLDEN BOY)* Golden Boy, wait for me!

TOXIC SLUDGE: *(yelling and lumbering toward the stage)* Sludge help!

FIREHANDS: *(striking a defensive pose)* Who are these weaklings?

Lights come up just enough so the audience can see what is happening.

SMELLINATOR: *(climbing up on stage a careful distance from FIREHANDS)* We're here! We'll save you, Reflector!

GOLDEN BOY climbs up on the stage and pushes past SMELLINATOR.

SMELLINATOR: Ouch! Golden Boy!

GOLDEN BOY: *(facing FIREHANDS, striking a pose)* Just who are you calling a weakling?

SIDEKICK: *(struggles to get himself up onstage)* Yeah! *(unable to get up onstage)* Uh, can I get a little help here? Golden Boy? Some help, please?

TOXIC SLUDGE: Sidekick need help? *(lumpers toward SIDEKICK)*

SIDEKICK: No! Not you, Toxic Sludge!

TOXIC SLUDGE: Okay.

TOXIC SLUDGE shrugs and starts to climb up on stage. It takes a while. Meanwhile, REFLECTOR is still hanging off the front of the stage.

REFLECTOR: Anybody planning to help me?

GOLDEN BOY: In a minute!

SMELLINATOR: We're supposed to help Reflector first.

GOLDEN BOY: I'm going to take down this bad guy first, if you all don't mind.

GOLDEN BOY and FIREHANDS prepare to do battle.

SMELLINATOR: But that's not how we're supposed to do it, Golden Boy! Follow the protocol! Save our fellow super first!

GOLDEN BOY: Protocol is for losers.

SIDEKICK: (*finally making it up onstage*) Um, Gold, I think Smellinator might be right.

GOLDEN BOY: Shut your trap. Whose sidekick are you, anyway?

SIDEKICK: Yours.

GOLDEN BOY: Exactly. Now stand back and watch how it's done.

GOLDEN BOY lets out a battle cry and runs toward FIREHANDS just as TOXIC SLUDGE trudges in front of him to help REFLECTOR. This forces GOLDEN BOY to dodge dramatically, throwing himself to the ground and rolling away to avoid colliding with TOXIC SLUDGE.

GOLDEN BOY: Ahhhh, Sludge! You idiot!

REFLECTOR: Sludge, behind you!

TOXIC SLUDGE turns around, confused, and sees FIREHANDS approaching, hands posed to strike.

SMELLINATOR: (*yelling*) Get her, Toxic Sludge!

TOXIC SLUDGE starts lumbering toward FIREHANDS.

FIREHANDS: Toxic sludge? So that's what you are made of. Well, toxic sludge won't damage these hands! (*FIREHANDS tickles TOXIC SLUDGE*) Tickle tickle tickle, little sludgy poo!

TOXIC SLUDGE begins to giggle until they fall on the ground laughing hysterically.

REFLECTOR: Smellinator, help Toxic Sludge! Smell something into existence that can put out Firehands' hands!

SMELLINATOR: Oh, right! Umm... (*Closes eyes, sniffs deeply, and begins drawing in the air. FIREHANDS stops tickling TOXIC SLUDGE and watches intently.*) I smell... I smell... fresh mountain streams and rushing waterfalls and big lakes and... WATER!

A papier-mâché rock flies out onstage.

SIDEKICK: A rock?! Really? How is that supposed to help?

SMELLINATOR: Darn it, not again!

SIDEKICK: Wait, maybe I can throw this rock at the villain! (*tries to lift the rock but can't*) Uuugh. Urrrrrr. MMffffpphhh.

GOLDEN BOY: (*standing up and glaring at FIREHANDS*) Stop it, everyone! I will save the day. Watch this. Aaaaaah!

GOLDEN BOY yells a heroic yell and charges at FIREHANDS at full speed. FIREHANDS easily dodges him, and his momentum carries him completely across the stage and off.

FIREHANDS: This is pathetic. Is that all you've got?

SIDEKICK: (*collapses, exhausted from trying to pick up the rock*) Yeah. Pretty much.

FIREHANDS: Then it's time for this little lady to diiiieeeeeee!

FIREHANDS grabs REFLECTOR's hand and "throws" her away from the stage. REFLECTOR screams as if she's dramatically falling until she hits the ground with a final noise.

FIREHANDS: And now I will burn this city to the ground!

FIREHANDS gives an evil laugh and strikes a dramatic pose with her fire hands raised high. Then she sighs and drops her pose as the music stops and the lights come up full. As she says the next several lines, FIREHANDS removes her fiery gloves and eye mask and hands them to MRS. TEACHER, who enters and gives her a suit jacket to put on. FIREHANDS is, in fact, PRINCIPAL BOOM. Several STUDENTS [minus THE SHIELD and WET BLANKET] step forward and enter the scene as if they have been watching from the wings the whole time. The STUDENTS have backpacks and textbooks. They are holding notebooks and pencils as if they've been taking notes. REFLECTOR picks herself up off the ground and climbs onstage to join her group as they gather nervously in front of PRINCIPAL BOOM.

PRINCIPAL BOOM: That was complete chaos! I've never seen a more disorganized rescue! I expected more from all of you.

GOLDEN BOY: (*strikes his charming pose [optional sound effect]*) But Principal Boom, I'm sure you could tell that it was all their fault. I told them exactly what to do while we were waiting out in the hallway, but they didn't stick to the plan.

SMELLINATOR: No he didn't, Principal Boom! Golden Boy didn't say a word to us beforehand!

GOLDEN BOY: It's not like I need these losers to save the day. They ruined everything. I would have done better without them.

REFLECTOR: That is not true.

PRINCIPAL BOOM: From what I've seen today, none of you have earned a passing grade.

GOLDEN BOY: (*strikes his charming pose [optional sound effect]*) Not even moi?

PRINCIPAL BOOM: No. And don't try to use your powers on me, Golden Boy. It's against the rules and you know it. (*GOLDEN BOY drops his pose as PRINCIPAL BOOM turns to the rest of the STUDENTS*) I hope the rest of you will be more prepared when it's your turn. (*the other STUDENTS nod and put their notebooks and pencils in their backpacks as the super school bell rings*) Mrs. Teacher, I'll come back tomorrow to work with another group.

PRINCIPAL BOOM exits as the STUDENTS cluster in groups and pantomime gossiping.

MRS. TEACHER: Oh dear, I hoped you all would do a better job today.

GOLDEN BOY: (*saunters over to MRS. TEACHER and strikes his charming pose [optional sound effect]*) Mrs. Teacher, you saw everything. You know it's not my fault. You have to get Principal Boom to reconsider.

MRS. TEACHER: (*charmed*) Oooohh, you're such a sweet boy. She must have gotten it wrong somehow. I'll go talk to her right away. (*exits*)

GOLDEN BOY: (*to SMELLINATOR and TOXIC SLUDGE*) You can bet my father is going to hear about this!

REFLECTOR: Hear about what? That you couldn't defeat a fake supervillain?

GOLDEN BOY: No, that there are some complete frauds at this school. (*to SMELLINATOR and TOXIC SLUDGE*) You all shouldn't even be here.

REFLECTOR: That's not true!

SIDEKICK: Why are you defending Smellinator? You "fell to your death" because of her!

REFLECTOR: I fell to my death because Gold didn't follow protocol!

GOLDEN BOY: *(strikes his charming pose [optional sound effect])* Me? Not follow protocol? That's ridiculous. Your safety was my top priority the entire time. *(turns it up a notch)* In fact, I bet if you pleaded my case to Principal Boom she would change my grade in a heartbeat.

REFLECTOR: *(not affected by his charm in the slightest)* Save it, Gold, your charm won't work on me. I know what you're really like. And I know whose fault this is.

GOLDEN BOY: *(drops the act)* Whatever. If Mrs. Teacher can't get Principal Boom to change my grade I'm talking to my father. And then we'll see what grade I get. Come on, Sidekick, let's go. There's no use arguing with these losers.

GOLDEN BOY walks away. SIDEKICK scampers after GOLDEN BOY and they sit together on the other side of the stage.

SMELLINATOR: He's right, you know.

REFLECTOR: *(turning to her friend)* What? Don't listen to him!

SMELLINATOR: I can't control my powers. I'm less than worthless.

REFLECTOR: But that's why you're at school! To learn how to use them!

SMELLINATOR: I'm never going to get it.

TOXIC SLUDGE: Smellinator need hug?

SMELLINATOR: No! No hugs! No thanks, Sludge.

REFLECTOR: Don't let Gold get to you. Soon you'll learn to control your powers and then you'll show him.

THE SHIELD and WET BLANKET enter.

THE SHIELD: Hey everyone. How was first hour? You did a villain simulation with Principal Boom, right?

SMELLINATOR: It was terrible. Golden Boy completely messed up and then blamed everything on us.

WET BLANKET: You mean you successfully smelled something into existence today?

SMELLINATOR: Well, no, I didn't.

WET BLANKET: I didn't think so.

SMELLINATOR: It was water! How was I supposed to smell water into existence?? It doesn't smell like anything! Anyway, Golden Boy messed up just as much as we did and he still blamed everything on us!

WET BLANKET: Sounds like a normal day.

TOXIC SLUDGE: (*worried*) Sludge mess up?

SMELLINATOR: No, Sludge, you were great. Hey, Shield, did you get your homework done for Villains 101 class?

THE SHIELD: Yeah, I did.

SMELLINATOR: Lend it to me? Pleeeeease? I can't afford another F in that class!

WET BLANKET: Smellinator, don't copy. If you get caught cheating, you could be expelled. You don't want to get sent to villain school instead, do you?

SMELLINATOR: Wet Blanket, don't be such a... wet blanket. I'm stressed out.

SNEEZY MAGEE: (*searching through backpack*) Has anyone seen my inhaler?

SMELLINATOR: I'm stressed out and I'm hungry. I skipped breakfast today.

TOXIC SLUDGE: Sludge always hungry.

THE SHIELD: Yeah, I'm hungry, too. (*to SMELLINATOR*) Why don't you sniff us up a snack?

WET BLANKET: Don't ask her to do that. She's going to mess it up.

SMELLINATOR: No, I can do this. I've been practicing.

WET BLANKET: And getting it wrong every time.

SMELLINATOR: Shh! I need to concentrate. (*closes eyes, sniffs deeply, and begins drawing in the air*) All right, I'm smelling... I'm smelling... syrup and pancakes and bacon sizzling on the griddle.

She waves her hands about and then freezes. A shower of plastic fruit flies in from offstage. SMELLINATOR opens her eyes expectantly, sees all the fruit, and lets out a wail.

SMELLINATOR: Not again! I'm never going to pass my competency exam!

WET BLANKET: Told you so.

THE SHIELD: (*picking up a piece of fruit*) I think she's improving. It's at least food this time.

TOXIC SLUDGE: Mmmm, apple. (*picks it up and takes a "bite"*)

SNEEZY MAGEE: Is that an apple? I'm allergic to apples! If I'm even within five feet of one I... I... Ah... ah... ah...

THE SHIELD: Hit the deck, everyone! Sneezy Magee's about to blow!

THE SHIELD and WET BLANKET use their bodies to shield their friends. Everybody else ducks for cover.

SNEEZY MAGEE: Ah... AH... AH-CHOO!

SNEEZY MAGEE sneezes and everyone onstage acts like there's been a small earthquake. When it's over, everyone grumbles in SNEEZY's direction.

GOLDEN BOY: Sneezy, cut it out! I'm right in the middle of combing my hair!

WET BLANKET and REFLECTOR pick up fruit and start "eating" while SMELLINATOR does homework. BIG WHOOP enters.

GOLDEN BOY: Big Whoop! (*they greet with cool handshakes*) What's up, Whoop-man?

BIG WHOOP: Not much, Gold.

SIDEKICK: Yeah, what's up, Whoop-man?

SIDEKICK tries to do the cool handshake with BIG WHOOP and fails completely.

GOLDEN BOY: Did you see that fiasco first hour?

BIG WHOOP: Yeah, man. Tough luck being put in a group with those clowns.

GOLDEN BOY: Tell me about it.

SNAGGLETOOTH: (*running onstage*) Guyth, guyth, I have thome newth! (*running up to GOLDEN BOY*) Gold, lithten to thith!

The STUDENTS notice SNAGGLETOOTH's dramatic entrance and move closer to eavesdrop.

SNAGGLETOOTH: We're getting a new thudent today!

The STUDENTS react with curiosity.

GOLDEN BOY: So what's it to me? Happens all the time. And not once has the new student been stronger or more handsome than me.
(many STUDENTS agree)

SIDEKICK: Exactly.

SNAGGLETOOTH: That'th jutht it. The thudent ithn't anything.

GOLDEN BOY: What? What do you mean? (the STUDENTS edge closer, listening intently)

SNAGGLETOOTH: They have no thuperpowerth of any kind.

The STUDENTS are appalled.

GOLDEN BOY: No superpowers? At all? And they're coming to school here with us? How is that possible?

BIG WHOOP: Oh man, I heard a rumor about this but I didn't think it was real.

GOLDEN BOY: What are you talking about?

BIG WHOOP: It's some sort of inclusion thing. Our school has to be accessible to everyone regardless of their super status or something dumb like that.

SNAGGLETOOTH: It'th a big rithk. Thith perthon could learn our real nameth, reveal our identitieth, and put uth in danger.

GOLDEN BOY: How is this happening? You better believe I'll be talking to my father about this. Regular people coming to school with us superheroes... that's ridiculous!

CHARLIE enters. Everyone slowly turns to look at her. There is an awkward silence. CHARLIE doesn't know what to do. After a beat she walks up to GOLDEN BOY.

CHARLIE: Excuse me, could you help me find a class. It's called Villains 101.

GOLDEN BOY: Are you talking to me?

CHARLIE: Yeah, I'm just wondering if you could help me find Villains 101 taught by a Mrs. Teacher. Do you know where it is?

GOLDEN BOY: How dare you talk to me? Do you know who I am?

CHARLIE: No, I don't, but I was just hoping you could help me find—

GOLDEN BOY: *(interrupting)* Look, new kid, here are a few school rules. First, don't talk to me. Second, don't breathe my air. Third, stay out of my way. *(pushes past CHARLIE and exits)*

BIG WHOOP: *(walks up to CHARLIE and looks her up and down)* Who are you, shrimp?

CHARLIE: Umm, I'm Charlie?

BIG WHOOP: And what powers do you have?

CHARLIE: I don't have any powers. I'm just here because my mom moved here from—

BIG WHOOP: *(interrupting)* That's what I thought. See, here's the thing, shrimp. You don't belong here. You won't be able to do the classwork. You can't play any sports, and no clubs will let you in. They should never have let you come to this school. I bet you won't even last a week. *(pushes past CHARLIE and exits)*

The super school bell rings. The STUDENTS collect their belongings and start to exit. CHARLIE tries to catch a few of them on their way out but everyone ignores her.

CHARLIE: Excuse me, could you help me? I'm trying to find Villains 101. *(she is ignored and tries someone else)* Hello? Do you know where I can find Room 207? *(she is ignored and tries someone else)* If you could just tell me where Mrs. Teacher's room is... *(She is ignored. Everyone is gone.)* Well, that's just great. This is going to be the worst year ever.

Blackout. Lights come up as STUDENTS enter and set up a classroom.

MRS. TEACHER: *(entering)* All right, everyone, let's get class started. Find a seat, find a seat. *(CHARLIE rushes in, looking lost)* Are you our new student? Have a seat right there, dearie. *(to the class)* Good morning, everyone.

EVERYONE: Good morning, Mrs. Teacher.

MRS. TEACHER: Today we will be delving into villains and their monologuing. Can someone define monologuing? (*REFLECTOR raises her hand*) Yes, Reflector?

REFLECTOR: It's when the villain gets carried away verbally explaining something. It could be their backstory, how wonderful they are, or even describing their evil plan.

MRS. TEACHER: Marvellous, Reflector. Now who can tell me why that might be useful?

SMELLINATOR: Well, that would give me time to generate some kind of weapon to fight them.

GOLDEN BOY: You have no control over your powers, noodle-brain, so what kind of weapon would you generate? A piece of toast? A rubber chicken?

BIG WHOOP: An old shoe? (*they crack up and high five*)

MRS. TEACHER: Smellinator is correct. If you can get your villain to monologue, you will have extra time to find a weapon or gain a strategic position. Often the villain will even reveal a secret that can help you defeat them.

GOLDEN BOY: That's dumb.

SIDEKICK: Yeah, so dumb.

MRS. TEACHER: Let's bring up an example group to illustrate what I'm talking about. Smellinator and Toxic Sludge, come on up. Smellinator, try to get Toxic Sludge to monologue.

SMELLINATOR: (*coming forward with TOXIC SLUDGE*) So, um, what's your favorite color?

TOXIC SLUDGE: Green.

SMELLINATOR is out of ideas. Looks helplessly at MRS. TEACHER.

MRS. TEACHER: Try to get them talking about their upbringing or their motives.

SMELLINATOR: What was your childhood like?

TOXIC SLUDGE: Sludge visited Chernobyl! No pictures. Camera melted.

SMELLINATOR is out of ideas again.

MRS. TEACHER: Here, try asking this one. (*whispers in SMELLINATOR's ear, then steps back*)

SMELLINATOR: What is your biggest regret?

TOXIC SLUDGE: Sludge regret no hugs. (*on the verge of tears*) No hugs from Mom. No hugs from Dad. No hugs from friends. Sludge just want hug! (*bursts into tears*)

SMELLINATOR: (*taking advantage of TOXIC SLUDGE's distracted state, closes eyes, sniffs deeply, and begins drawing in the air*) I smell... I smell... Umm... Uhhh...

GOLDEN BOY: Time for revenge!

GOLDEN BOY catches BIG WHOOP's eye. BIG WHOOP laughs, takes off his shoe, and tosses it to GOLDEN BOY, who holds it underneath SMELLINATOR's nose.

SMELLINATOR: (*eyes still closed*) I've got it! I smell... I smell... a sodium bicarbonate solution!

GOLDEN BOY snatches the shoe away before SMELLINATOR opens her eyes. SMELLINATOR looks around hopefully until an old shoe flies in from offstage.

An old shoe?? Aahhhhh!

GOLDEN BOY high fives BIG WHOOP and returns the shoe as they burst into laughter.

MRS. TEACHER: Not bad, you two, except for the shoe. Now everyone partner up. Try to get your partner to monologue.

There is a general scramble for partners. Many STUDENTS try to partner with GOLDEN BOY. CHARLIE is, of course, left with no partner.

GOLDEN BOY: (*stepping forward from the cluster of adoring STUDENTS*) This exercise is a waste of time for me though, right? I mean, look at my muscles. (*Flexes. The adoring STUDENTS swoon and sigh.*) There's no need for yammering when you've got these guns.

MRS. TEACHER: (*his powers affect her*) It's obvious you're already the best in the class.

GOLDEN BOY: (*strikes his charming pose [optional sound effect]*) That's because I have the best teacher.

MRS. TEACHER: Aww, shucks! You know what, you're so good I'm going to pair you with our new student Charlie so you can teach her what to do. Now, everyone get to work! *(she moves away to help another student)*

GOLDEN BOY: Dang it! I was too effective. I've got to recalibrate my pose.

GOLDEN BOY experiments by striking different heroic poses. Several STUDENTS watch, they swoon and sigh with each pose. The STUDENTS spread out around the stage and quietly pantomime trying to get their partner to monologue. CHARLIE reluctantly walks up to GOLDEN BOY and watches him pose for a few beats.

CHARLIE: Hello.

GOLDEN BOY: *(dismissive, continues to try different poses)* Are you talking to me? I thought we discussed this.

CHARLIE: Mrs. Teacher said you're supposed to be my partner.

GOLDEN BOY: I refuse to waste my time on someone who doesn't have superpowers.

CHARLIE: *(losing patience, loudly)* Why are you being such a jerk!?

The nearby STUDENTS gasp and turn to look at the two of them. MRS. TEACHER is busy helping another pair and doesn't notice their exchange. GOLDEN BOY steps slowly toward CHARLIE, threatening.

GOLDEN BOY: How dare you talk to me like that. You'd better believe my father is going to hear about this. And when he does, goodbye Charlie.

The super school bell rings.

MRS. TEACHER: Oh, there's the bell. We'll work on this tomorrow. Have a super day, everyone!

Blackout. Lights come up on the entire stage. STUDENTS are sitting in groups with lunch boxes, talking and eating. THE SHIELD, WET BLANKET, TOXIC SLUDGE, REFLECTOR, SMELLINATOR and SNEEZY MAGEE are sitting together. CHARLIE is sitting all by herself.

THE SHIELD: Hey, look over there. Charlie's sitting all alone.

TOXIC SLUDGE: Charlie look sad.

REFLECTOR: Wouldn't you be sad? If you had to come to a new school and no one was nice to you?

TOXIC SLUDGE: Yeah.

WET BLANKET: Golden Boy was right, though. She's not super. She doesn't belong here. Maybe the sooner she figures that out and leaves the better.

REFLECTOR: I don't think so, Wet Blanket. So what if she doesn't have any powers? It's not like we're perfect.

SMELLINATOR: Yeah, but at least we all have powers. She doesn't have any.

TOXIC SLUDGE: (*starts toward CHARLIE*) I'll go give hug.

REFLECTOR and THE SHIELD get in front of TOXIC SLUDGE.

REFLECTOR & THE SHIELD: No!

TOXIC SLUDGE looks disappointed.

REFLECTOR: No hugs, Sludge, but I think you've got the right idea. Let's go sit with her. (*TOXIC SLUDGE looks happy again*)

WET BLANKET: Are you guys sure? People will make fun of us.

REFLECTOR: They already make fun of us no matter what we do.

THE SHIELD: Might as well be nice to someone instead of being afraid.

WET BLANKET: Alright, fine, let's go over there.

The group moves over to CHARLIE.

REFLECTOR: (*to CHARLIE*) Hi, can we sit with you?

CHARLIE: Um, are you sure you want to? This isn't the most popular place to be.

REFLECTOR: Don't worry about it. Your name is Charlie, right?

CHARLIE: Yep.

REFLECTOR: Well, I'm Reflector.

REFLECTOR strikes a pose. Each one of the following superheroes strike their own special pose as they dramatically say their name.

THE SHIELD: The Shield.

SNEEZY MAGEE: Sneezy Magee!

SMELLINATOR: Smellinator!

WET BLANKET: I'm Wet Blanket.

TOXIC SLUDGE: Toxic Sludge.

CHARLIE: Cool!

REFLECTOR: Those are our super nicknames, of course. We can't reveal our real names or identities. That would be against school policy.

CHARLIE: No problem. Thanks for coming to sit with me.

They settle in around CHARLIE and start eating their lunch.

REFLECTOR: So you're originally from Cincinnati?

CHARLIE: Yeah. My mom and dad just split up so I moved here with my mom. Believe me, coming to this school wasn't my first choice but it's within walking distance of my mom's house. She leaves for work really early so she can't give me a ride. Meaning I have to come here.

THE SHIELD: Has your first day been that bad?

CHARLIE: Well, you all saw what happened with Golden Boy in Villains 101 class. The rest of the morning wasn't much better. I couldn't lift anything but a small pile of bricks in Strength class, and Ember scorched me during Lasers and Fire class, literally scorched me (*reveals a burn mark on her arm*).

REFLECTOR: Don't let it get you down.

THE SHIELD: Yeah, we all struggled when we first got here.

WET BLANKET: (*indicating SMELLINATOR*) Some of us still do.

SMELLINATOR: Hey!

CHARLIE: No, seriously, these classes are going to kill me!

WET BLANKET: You think the classes here are dangerous? Try being friends with Sneezy Magee during allergy season.

SNEEZY MAGEE: Ugh. Pollen. Just the thought of it makes me... ah... ah... AHHHH-CHOOOO!

EVERYONE shakes as if there is an earthquake. A few people even get thrown to the ground. There are general complaints from all of the STUDENTS once it is over.

CHARLIE: Woah, that is one strong power!

SNEEZY MAGEE: Yeah, it's strong, but it's so lame.

CHARLIE: Look, this is all very nice of you, but I think Golden Boy and Big Whoop were right.

REFLECTOR: That would be the first time. Ever.

CHARLIE: What if I actually come face-to-face with a real villain? I have no way to defend myself! I don't have any special powers. I don't belong here.

TOXIC SLUDGE: You smart?

CHARLIE: I don't know. I used to get pretty good grades.

TOXIC SLUDGE: You work hard?

CHARLIE: Yeah, I have to. It's just me and my mom now. I've gotta pull my weight.

TOXIC SLUDGE: You have big heart? You nice to people?

CHARLIE: Uh-huh. What would I gain by being mean?

TOXIC SLUDGE: Then you belong.

CHARLIE: That's so sweet. I really wish I could hug you right now.

TOXIC SLUDGE: Hug! *(they reach out their arms for a hug)*

REFLECTOR & THE SHIELD: No!

REFLECTOR: Sorry, bud, not this time.

TOXIC SLUDGE: *(sadly)* Not ever.

CHARLIE: Can I ask an awkward question?

THE SHIELD: Shoot.

CHARLIE: Isn't Toxic Sludge more of, well, an evil power? Like something a villain would use?

TOXIC SLUDGE: *(indignant)* Sludge not villain!

REFLECTOR: I can see why you would think that, but it all depends on how you use your powers.

THE SHIELD: You see, if you use your powers for the greater good, you come here to our school.

REFLECTOR: But if you're discovered using them for your own personal gain, well, you run the risk of getting expelled and sent to villain school.

CHARLIE: So how is Golden Boy still here at this school?

WET BLANKET: His father donates a bunch of money to keep our school running. Plus he's so sneaky about using his powers, he never gets caught.

CHARLIE: Great. This is going to be a long year.

REFLECTOR: Maybe, but you're not alone now.

THE SHIELD: You have friends.

TOXIC SLUDGE: Sludge your friend.

CHARLIE: Thanks, Sludge. Thanks to all of you. My day is a million times better already.

REFLECTOR: We're glad to hear it.

GOLDEN BOY: (*sauntering toward their group*) Awww, look at that. Charlie found some friends as lame as she is.

REFLECTOR: We aren't lame! We're just as powerful as you in our own way! Plus we work together – something you know nothing about.

GOLDEN BOY: Teamwork? Really? Can you be any more pathetic? Who would want to be on a team with Smellinator, toxic sludge, a wet blanket and a non-super?

REFLECTOR: Yeah, well, someday we'll come face-to-face with a real villain and then we'll see who's actually got what it takes.

SNAGGLETOOTH: (*entering at full speed*) Ahhhhhh! Run for your liveth! There's a thuper villain on the loothe in our thchoool!

SMELLINATOR: (*nervous*) Are you sure it's not just Principal Boom in disguise?

BIG WHOOP: It can't be, I saw Principal Boom rushing out of here fifteen minutes ago to take Fly Man to the hospital. Some sort of accident in Mr. Pow's class.

SNAGGLETOOTH: Guyth, ith's not Printhipal Boom! The thuper villain ith real! And thee's coming thith way!

REFLECTOR: A supervillain in our school today? (to GOLDEN BOY)
What a coincidence.

WET BLANKET: Shouldn't we get a teacher or something?

GOLDEN BOY: Wet Blanket, you're no fun. As usual. But don't wet yourself in fear, I'll handle everything.

REFLECTOR: Oh really? You'll handle everything by yourself? I think this is the perfect chance to see what really defeats a villain – an overinflated ego or teamwork.

GOLDEN BOY: Bring it on.

REFLECTOR: You got it. (to SNAGGLETOOTH) So where is the "thuper" villain?

SNAGGLETOOTH: Thee could be anywhere! (we hear an evil laugh offstage) Why ith everybody thanding around like thitting duckth? Let'th get outta here!

SNAGGLETOOTH turns and runs away, running straight into THE VILLAIN as she enters with her EVIL SIDEKICKS. SNAGGLETOOTH falls to the ground. THE VILLAIN is dressed in cartoony villain garb. Her EVIL SIDEKICKS drag in a large, ridiculous, cartoony machine. It needs to be large enough that a stagehand can hide behind it or an EVIL SIDEKICK can disappear behind it and "shoot" suit coats out of it during this scene. Neither THE VILLAIN nor the machine should look real or scary. The part of THE VILLAIN should be played over-the-top and campy rather than genuinely evil. Nevertheless, all of the STUDENTS quickly retreat from her entrance, some of them fearfully, some of them cautiously.

SNAGGLETOOTH: Ahhhh! (gets up, scurries away, and hides behind GOLDEN BOY)

THE VILLAIN: Was that yell for me? Marvellous! I've waited years to hear a screech of fear like that!

REFLECTOR: Who are you?

THE VILLAIN: I am... The Villain!

REFLECTOR: Yes, we know you're the villain, but what is your name?

THE VILLAIN: I said, my name is The Villain! (*confused ad libs from the STUDENTS*) My name is universal. It's symbolic. I represent all villains everywhere. Why does no one ever get that?!

GOLDEN BOY: I don't get it.

THE VILLAIN: Be quiet! I've had enough of this. My moment of triumph has arrived. I'm going to freeze you! And you. And you. That's right, I'm going to freeze all of you! (*cackles evilly as she turns to her machine*)

Fearful and confused murmuring from the STUDENTS.

THE SHIELD: Freeze us? How?

THE VILLAIN: With this little baby right here. (*She pats her machine. Some STUDENTS are worried, some are skeptical.*) You'll all be as still as statues in three, two, one...

She presses a button. There is a laser beam sound. All of the STUDENTS freeze in place.

THE VILLAIN: Hahaha! It works! It works! Years of toil and sweat all for this beautiful moment right here!

CHARLIE: (*stepping forward*) But why are you here? Don't supervillains usually try to take over the world, not one little school?

THE VILLAIN: (*frantically pressing buttons on her machine*) How are you moving? How are you talking?

CHARLIE: Oh, I'm not super. Your machine must only freeze supers.

THE VILLAIN: (*stops pressing buttons*) Well, what a coincidence.

CHARLIE: What do you mean?

THE VILLAIN: I'm not super, either. And once upon a time I was a student here, too. Surely by now you've discovered how rotten it is to go to this school without having any superpowers of your own.

CHARLIE thinks for a moment. Then she has an idea. She's got to get this villain to monologue!

CHARLIE: (*strategically*) Rotten? How was it rotten?

Throughout THE VILLAIN's monologues CHARLIE carefully sneaks closer and closer to the machine. THE VILLAIN doesn't notice because she is wandering through her statues admiring her handiwork. The EVIL SIDEKICKS don't notice either because they are following THE VILLAIN and/or hanging adoringly onto every word she says.

THE VILLAIN: The other kids mocked me constantly. They claimed that one day I would become just like my father, a stuffy, boring businessman shut up in an office all day. We'll just see who's a boring office worker after today!

CHARLIE: Didn't you have any friends here?

THE VILLAIN: No, and I didn't want any, either. Having friends made the others weak. Made them vulnerable. Distracted them and held them back from realizing their full potential.

CHARLIE: You must have felt so alone.

THE VILLAIN: It didn't matter. I read every book in the library and learned to make my own machines – machines stronger than any superhero. I even hired evil sidekicks to help me with my nefarious plans!

CHARLIE: (*carefully moving close enough to the machine to pat it as she says the next line*) This machine must have taken a lot of work.

CHARLIE studies the machine to see how to disable it while keeping an eye on THE VILLAIN.

THE VILLAIN: (*oblivious to CHARLIE*) It did, it did. Years of design, long nights bent over a drawing board, hundreds of mistakes. I did what I had to do to...

CHARLIE has figured out the machine! She presses a giant button and a noise sounds. The EVIL SIDEKICKS squeal in alarm as the STUDENTS unfreeze and fall to the ground, groaning and gasping for breath. THE VILLAIN and the EVIL SIDEKICKS rush back to the machine as CHARLIE goes to help her friends.

THE VILLAIN: Get away from that machine! How did you...? Oh, very clever. I see what you did. You're not the only one who took Mrs. Teacher's Villains 101 class. You got me to monologue, you little scamp. But freezing people isn't all this baby does. Let me show you its real superpower. Or should I say, its un-superpower.

SNAGGLETOOTH: (*making a break for it*) Run for your liveth!

THE VILLAIN points her machine at SNAGGLETOOTH and presses a button. A noise sounds and a suit coat flies out of the machine (is thrown) and onto SNAGGLETOOTH.

THE VILLAIN: Gotcha!

The EVIL SIDEKICKS run to put the suit coat on SNAGGLETOOTH. He flails and fights but it conquers him. SNAGGLETOOTH's movements become stiff and proper. He stands at attention and straightens his suit coat proudly.

SNAGGLETOOTH: Wilthon, come here immediately. (*The EVIL SIDEKICKS cackle, delighted, and one bumbles up to SNAGGLETOOTH, pretending to be Wilson*) The reportth, Wilthon, get me the reportth!

The EVIL SIDEKICK scampers off to get the "reports."

REFLECTOR: What... what happened?

THE VILLAIN: I'm afraid his powers are gone. No more heroic deeds, no more saving the world. He will spend the rest of his days commuting and paying bills! (*she cackles evilly as the STUDENTS react with shock and horror*)

An EVIL SIDEKICK hands SNAGGLETOOTH a pile of folders. He thumbs through them.

SNAGGLETOOTH: Wilthon, thethe reportth are incomplete! Unacctheptable. I need thethe reportths immediately or I will thee you here on Thatursday!

THE VILLAIN and the EVIL SIDEKICKS celebrate and cackle with glee as SNAGGLETOOTH marches away, ignoring everyone as he flips through the contents of the folders.

REFLECTOR: How could you do this?

THE VILLAIN: Oh, very easily, my dear.

GOLDEN BOY: You think you're so clever, you just wait. That machine will be a pile of garbage by the time I'm done.

THE VILLAIN: Will it? I dare you to break my machine.

REFLECTOR: Gold, wait, it's a trap.

CHARLIE: Reflector's right! Don't get any closer, don't leave the group. If we want to defeat the villain we're going to have to stick together!

GOLDEN BOY: I don't need you. I don't need any of you! I'm the best and strongest student at this school. This is going to be a piece of cake! Aaaahhhh!

With a heroic shout, GOLDEN BOY leaps toward the machine. THE VILLAIN presses a button on her machine, a noise sounds, and another suit coat and perhaps a briefcase fly out of the machine at GOLDEN BOY. The EVIL SIDEKICKS rush forward to put the suit coat on GOLDEN BOY. He fights mightily but the suit coat wins. Once he is wearing it, he stands up straight, picks up the briefcase, and becomes a stodgy businessman.

GOLDEN BOY: Have you looked at the financial reports for the month of September? We went down twenty-five points in less than a month. This is a disaster! (*Marches over to SNAGGLETOOTH and takes a stack of folders*)

GIRLS: Noooooooooo!

The STUDENTS are panicking! No one wants to lose their powers. The VILLAIN and her EVIL SIDEKICKS celebrate together, mocking GOLDEN BOY.

SMELLINATOR: What are we going to do?

BIG WHOOP: I want my mommy!

CHARLIE: Wait! No one panic. We have something this villain doesn't have!

REFLECTOR: What's that?

CHARLIE: Each other!

WET BLANKET: How is that going to help?

CHARLIE: (*moving between the STUDENTS and the machine*) You heard her when she was monologuing. She believes she's strongest alone. Well, today I learned the power of friendship.

THE VILLAIN: You there, non-super kid, what are you saying?

CHARLIE: You guys made me feel like I wasn't alone any longer.



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