

for

Men/boys

Girls

1. Call Waiting

1 (GIRL enters carrying phone. NOTE: A ringing sound effect
2 is required.) Oh, he is so cool. (Staring at the phone) Call me,
3 Andrew. Please, call me. He looked at us today. No, he stared.
4 Jenny and I were sitting two tables across from him at lunch,
5 and every time I looked up, he was smiling. He has the most
6 gorgeous blue eyes. Maybe he wants to ask me to the
7 Valentine's Dance. Maybe I'll ask him... (Starts to pick up the
8 phone.) No, I can't. Maybe I'll get Jenny to ask him for me.
9 (Phone rings and she hesitates then composes herself.) Please,
10 let it be him! (Picks up phone.) Oh, Jenny, it's you. Yeah, I was
11 just thinking about you, too. Actually, I was thinking about the
12 dance. What...Andrew? Yeah, that's what I was going to talk to
13 you about...What...You want me to call him...for you? (Pause)
14 Sure, I'm your best friend, but... (Pause) you want me to say
15 you're thinking about what? (Frantically) Jenny, you can't ask
16 Andrew to the dance...Well...because...girls don't ask guys to
17 dances! Besides he may be going with somebody else. (Pause)
18 Who? I don't know who. What do you think I am...a mind
19 reader? (Pause) No, I'm not upset. Why would I be upset? You
20 want to go to the dance with Andrew Baker, you call him
21 yourself. Listen, I'm really busy right now. Did you get those
22 problems in math? Hey, Jen, hold on a minute, I've got
23 somebody on the other line...
24 Hello... (Her mood brightens.) Andrew... (Giggles.) Oh,
25 nothing much. What've you been doing? Yeah, I saw you at
26 lunch today. You should've come over. What? (Pause)
27 Valentine's Dance... (Giggles.) Yeah, I've been thinking I might
28 go. (Pause) Jen? Does she have a date? Well, I don't know,
29 Andrew. I don't keep up with her social calendar. (Getting
30 more irritated) What? Would I mind asking her if she wants to
31 go with you? (Looks at the phone.) What is this anyway
32 ...Western Union? Ask her yourself! (Presses call waiting button.)

1 *(Impatiently)* Jen...I gotta go now. No...wrong number,
2 that's all. And, Jen, *(Pause)* don't call me back tonight, no
3 matter how happy you are. *(Pause)* Oh, you'll get it, all right! In
4 about five minutes. And when you do, I don't want to hear
5 about it! And, Jen...if I don't speak to you tomorrow, don't take
6 it personally. *(Slams phone down and exits.)*

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2. Wallflower

1 *(GIRL enters wearing green party dress.)* Arr-rg! I feel like
2 an umbrella. I hate this green dress! Why does it have to stick
3 straight out? *(Motions to others around her.)* Excuse me, please.
4 Could you make a little space...for my dress? Yes, thanks...a
5 little wall space. I have to stand. I couldn't sit if I wanted to.
6 Maybe I ought to sit. That corner would be nice. But nobody
7 would ask me to dance then. There's a rule somewhere that
8 says: If you want to dance, you have to stand along the wall.
9 Sure, I've been standing here forty-five minutes and still
10 nobody asks me to dance...except Melinda, and if we get out
11 there no one will ask us to dance -- boys, I mean. Another rule:
12 Girls do not dance with girls.

13 Oh, I hate dances and I hate boys, too, for that matter! It's
14 not fair. Boys get to make all the decisions and girls just have
15 to stand around and wait. Like now, for instance. Here I stand
16 like a big green frog till some guy casually strolls over here to
17 ask me for a dance. I mean, I have to wait to be chosen. I hate
18 that!

19 How should I stand? Like this? *(Poses slumped over with*
20 *arms to her sides.)* No, I look like a baby gorilla with my
21 knuckles dragging the floor. How about this? *(She poses again.)*
22 Hand on hip, weight shifted to the right, casual, laid back...No,
23 that's not me.

24 This is me. *(Stands pigeon-toed with finger in mouth.)*
25 Duh...scuze me, Harold. Would you please ask me to dance?
26 I'll give you my lunch money. Oh, I hate being a wallflower. I
27 hate standing here on display and I hate the chaperons who
28 look at kids and whisper to each other and laugh. Oh...why am
29 I here anyway? What did I think would happen? Boy, am I
30 stupid. Stupid, stupid, stupid! Where is Jess? She said she'd be
31 here. At least then I'd have someone to talk to instead of just
32 sitting here like a goon.

WHAT TO DO...WHAT TO DO...OH WHAT TO DO WITH MY HAIR?

Age: 13-19

Gender: girl

Comedy

TRY THIS: Have lots of fun playing with this role and play a little with your own hair during it.

1 Oh what to do...what to do with my hair?

2 I could curl it with a curling iron, but the last time I
3 did that I burnt it. I could braid it or twist it, but the last time I
4 did that, my fingers got stuck in it. Oh what to do... What to
5 do...what to do with my hair? I could cut it off. I could snip it
6 off. But then I wouldn't have any hair. I could color it. I could
7 perm it. But then again, who cares. Oh what to do...what to
8 do...what to do with my hair?

9 I could call a friend to recommend the latest look at
10 school. I could fashion a wig so cute it would make the boys
11 drool. But if I'm not being me, I'm not being cool. Oh what to
12 do...what to do...what to do with my hair? Hair is important,
13 it tops your look and frames your face. It says you care a lot
14 about style and grace. Fine particles of hair are just begging to
15 be put in place. Oh what to do...what to do with my hair?

16 Time and time again, I question day to day life. Should
17 I go to the hairdresser and get a look that's out of sight? No, I
18 guess I'll just do what I did last week and last night. A look
19 that's me. A look that feels right.
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11:27 AM

Age: 13-19

Gender: female

Light Comedy

TRY THIS: *Infatuation can be so funny. Allow your character to experience all of the feelings that infatuation can bring about like:*

desperation, confusion, naiveness and glee.

1 He's so cute. He's got the curly hair and the big brown
2 eyes. He's tall and so funny. He's smart as a whip. I see him
3 everyday. We're practically soul mates. He's the ideal guy to
4 marry.

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6 The only problem is... he doesn't know that I exist.

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8 I pass him by in the hallway, everyday between sci-
9 ence and social studies class at exactly – 11:27 AM. For 3-5
10 seconds, I am with (*well, in the same hallway as*) the hottie
11 of my dreams. He looks so Kool when he throws his backpack
12 over his shoulder. Our theme song is playing in my mind and
13 one day at exactly 11:27 AM, our eyes will meet and I'll have
14 the courage to walk up to him and say ... and say ... uhhh, "Do
15 you have the time?"
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1 I'm taller than any guy here. Well, almost. There's Roger.
 2 He's about my size. He's about twice my size. But Roger
 3 doesn't dance much. He just stands around the snack table till
 4 all the little sandwiches are gone, mayonnaise on the sides of
 5 his mouth, broccoli dip between his teeth.

6 Ar-r-rg! This is the last time I go to a school dance. I'd
 7 rather be in front of a firing squad. *(Gets rigid, puts hand over*
 8 *eyes.)* Blindfold, cigarette, please. Any words to the folks back
 9 home? H-E-L-P! I hate this. That's it. I've had it. *(Walks over to*
 10 *left.)* Roger Wayne Richmond, I believe they are playing our
 11 song. What? *(Disgusted)* I don't know what song. The "Star
 12 Spangled Banner," for all I care. The point is...do you want to
 13 dance with me or not, Roger? *(Begins rambling.)* And please,
 14 don't do me any favors. A simple "yes" or "no," not a
 15 "probably" or "maybe later" or any other excuse. If you don't
 16 want to dance with me, fine...but what? You *do* want to dance.
 17 Why...why, thank you, Roger. I'd love to. Don't you just love
 18 these dances?

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3. If the Shoe Fits

1 *(At rise, OLD WOMAN is sweeping with broom or in*
 2 *pantomime.)* All right, I've had enough of this! Outta here...all
 3 of you! *(Looks to right.)* Suzie, get your fingers out of your nose
 4 and do something constructive! *(Moves to left.)* Jennifer, stop
 5 hitting your sister! *(Swats them with real or imaginary broom.)*
 6 Out! Out!

7 *(Shakes fist.)* Mother Goose, wherever you are, I'll get you
 8 for this! *(Speaks to audience.)* It's not enough that I have to live
 9 in a shoe. That I can deal with! It's these kids that are driving
 10 me crazy. And to think I coulda been a corporate executive for
 11 IBM...business lunches...expense accounts! All this I traded for
 12 a broom and a shoe? A house in the suburbs, maybe. *(Pause)* I
 13 think this Mother Goose person must have had it in for her
 14 own mother.

15 So...let's get down to the real story here, and it ain't
 16 Cinderella. Listen, girls, check the fine print before you sign
 17 on the dotted line, and if you get promised a little flat on 43rd
 18 Street, don't do it, I'm telling you. A condo on the beach
 19 maybe. This is ridiculous! Who can live in a shoe? There must
 20 be a mix-up here.

21 *(Focuses right.)* Charlie, get your foot off you brother's
 22 face! I've got enough to worry about already. Braces...always
 23 another set of braces. *(Hands on hips)* Kids...aye, ya gotta love
 24 'em! Otherwise, why would you put up with this stuff, I'd like
 25 to know? Mother Goose, humph...

26 *(Swats Downstage Left.)* Jenna, get away from that TV set!
 27 You want to get radiated? *(Pauses to listen.)* Looney Toons? Ha!
 28 My life is a looney toon. Turn that thing off!

29 *(Shakes fist again.)* Mother Goose, I'll get you for this!
 30 *(Starts Off Right.)* I know a duck that needs to be plucked.

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5. The Actress

1 When I grow up, I want to be an actress. I know that
2 sounds dumb. Everybody wants to be an actress, but I can do
3 it. I know I can. My teacher says you have to believe in yourself
4 no matter what anybody says. You have to go for it! So I've
5 been practicing my lines. I got a part in the Christmas play.
6 I'm an angel. It's dumb, but I'd do *anything* to be on stage. Last
7 year I was a tree...a tree in the enchanted forest. So I guess I'm
8 coming up in the world. I don't know why they write plays like
9 that. Whoever heard of a talking tree? Well, I guess there was
10 a tree that talked in *The Wizard of Oz*. Now, there's a play I'd
11 like to do! I've seen it at least five times on TV. I could be
12 Dorothy. In fact, last summer my friend Brenda and I did a
13 show for the kids in the neighborhood. I was Dorothy and she
14 played all the other parts. I sang the songs 'cause she didn't
15 know the words.

16 I also had a part in *Oliver*. They did it at the little theater
17 downtown. I was one of the kids in the orphanage. I'm not too
18 good at dancing, but Mom says I can take lessons.

19 What I'd really like to play is Annie. You know, that other
20 little orphan with the curly red hair. (*Sings*.) "The sun'll come
21 out tomorrow..."

22 I like to go to the movies. Sometimes I pretend it's me up
23 there on the screen. Did you see *The Secret Garden* or *My Girl*?
24 I saw that one twice. It was so sad when that kid died. I think
25 it would be hard to pretend you were sad and cry while
26 everybody was looking at you. (*Stops to think*.) Actually, I guess
27 I've done it lots of times with my brother. Anytime things
28 don't go my way, I just turn on the tears. (*Demonstrates her*
29 *act*.) "Mom, Bobby won't let me watch TV. Stop it, Bobby. Ouch!
30 You're hurting me. (*Clutches her arm*.) Oh no! I think you
31 broke my arm."

32 (*Shrugs*.) When you're the youngest and the only girl, you

1 have to learn some strategies, otherwise you never get to do
2 anything. Hey, no wonder I want to be in the movies! I've been
3 acting all my life. Watch this. (*Starts to exit, coughing*.) "Mom,
4 my throat's sore. Can I stay home from school today?"
5 Academy Award, huh? (*Winks and exits*.)

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12. Tomboy

1 (GIRL enters with baseball cap, glove, and a ball. There is a
2 stool On-stage.) I'm a tomboy. I'll admit it. (Hands on hip.) OK,
3 so what's wrong with being a tomboy? I can ride a bike better,
4 run faster, and shoot a B.B. gun better than any boy in my
5 neighborhood. It's not that I want to be a boy. It's just that boys
6 have more fun. Well, they do. I mean, dressing up and playing
7 with dolls are just not my thing.

8 (Pantomimes a girl playing with Barbie and Ken dolls.) Oh,
9 hi, Ken. I'm Barbie...Hello, Barbie. I'm your dream man, Ken.
10 (Rambles on in a monotonous tone.) Oh, Ken, let's dress up in
11 our beach clothes and ride in my Barbie mobile, and later on
12 we can dress up in our dance clothes and go on a date, and
13 after that we can dress up in our wedding clothes and get
14 married and live happily ever after in our Barbie dream
15 house.

16 (Sighs.) Give me a break! I'd rather be hikin' around
17 Goosepond Hill, playin' cops and robbers. Anything beats
18 playin' with dolls all day!

19 (Flops down on stool.) My dad says I need to act like a lady.
20 So how does a lady act? (Goes through the motions as she
21 speaks.) Am I supposed to sit up straight in a frilly white dress,
22 keep my face clean, my legs crossed, and my hands folded in
23 my lap? Please! Am I supposed to giggle, be shy, and look
24 pretty all day? How boring! (Gets up.) I'd rather be climbing
25 trees or hunting black birds. (Laughs as she remembers.) Last
26 year we made Earl eat one. Oh, we cooked it and everything!
27 He had to eat the bird to get initiated into the club. Me,
28 Bowser, Ray McKean, Sword Morgan, and Roger...he's Earl's
29 brother...we've got a clubhouse in the old tool shed over
30 behind Bowser's house. We've had this club for a long time,
31 since... (Pauses to remember) uh...sometime last year. Anyway,
32 we all go bike riding and sometimes we go swimming in

1 Bowser's pool, and at night, just after dark, we like to play
2 flashlight tag and hide-and-peek.

3 Oh, I guess someday I'll gossip on the phone like my
4 sister Susan, and maybe someday I'll like boys and go on dates
5 like she does. Yuck! Well, maybe not. Imagine going to the
6 movies with Roger or Bowser. Well...I guess that would be OK.
7 But what about the part where we hold hands? (Pauses, makes
8 a face.) Kiss Roger?! Forget it! (Pauses.) I guess I'll just have to
9 be a tomboy for the rest of my life. (Shrugs.) Oh, well, I can live
10 with that.

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13. Boy Crazy

1 Now let's get one thing straight...I am *not* boy crazy, and
 2 boys are *not* the most important thing on the planet – not by
 3 a long shot. *Clothes* are the most important thing! Just
 4 kidding! Now that I've got your attention, let me say it again...I
 5 am not boy crazy! Just because I stay on the telephone all the
 6 time talking to this absolutely gorgeous guy in my English
 7 class, and just because I've gone out with six different guys in
 8 the last one, two, three weeks...does *not* mean I am boy crazy.
 9 I just happen to like them a lot...a *whole* lot, and what's wrong
 10 with that? I'm a teenager. Well, almost. My birthday is in
 11 November...on Thanksgiving this year. And I'm thankful all
 12 right. I'm thankful that Brian is finally beginning to like me.
 13 He's the guy in my English class. Maybe he'll ask me to the
 14 Christmas dance this year. Last year he was a short, skinny kid
 15 with hair that stuck up like this. (*Pantomimes.*) And I don't
 16 know what happened, but sometime during the summer
 17 (*Pause*) Brian got taller and cuter. (*Pause*) A lot cuter! I didn't
 18 even recognize him at first. He's been helping me with my
 19 homework. (*Pause*) Not really, but that's a good excuse to call
 20 him. Last night, we forgot to talk about English. I mean, how
 21 much can you say about a pronoun anyway? But Brian? Now I
 22 can talk about him forever. He wears the coolest clothes and
 23 these little round sunglasses. Miss Randall makes him take
 24 them off in class. She is definitely not cool...about anything.
 25 (*Pause*) But Brian...well, he's weird, in a good sorta
 26 way...different from any of the other guys. Since Brian came
 27 along, I haven't even thought about anybody else. (*Pause*) Well,
 28 except for Eric, but he's my sister's boyfriend. I've always had
 29 a crush on Eric, and he's also got a friend named Charlie, who
 30 plays in a band. I think Charlie's a sophomore...too old...cute,
 31 but (*Pause*) OK, so I've thought about other guys, but...oh-h-h!
 32 Wait a minute! (*Eyes follow someone walking across*

1 *Downstage.*) Who's that? I've never seen him before. He looks
 2 lost. (*Straightens her clothes and fluffs her hair.*) Maybe I should
 3 go over there. (*To the audience*) Brian? Brian who? Just
 4 kidding! But what's wrong with helping out the new kid?
 5 (*Shrugs innocently and starts Off Right.*) Hey...are you lookin'
 6 for somebody special? (*Pause*) The library? Hang on a minute
 7 and I'll show you. (*Exits with a wink.*)
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And just about the time Jackie started feeling better, Libbo started bawlin'. Nobody's heart is more tender than Libbo's. She was hurting 'cause Jackie hurt, but then she started thinkin' about her little dog, Annie. I said, "Annie's just a puppy, not even a year old!" She sniffed and snorted, "Yeah, but someday she'll die...someday we'll all die." (Long pause) I knew she was thinking 'bout more than Annie. It was kinda dark right then, even though the sun was shining and I knew we were in serious trouble if somebody didn't say something funny fast, but I couldn't think of anything. (Long pause) And I guess sometimes good friends have just got to be sad and sorry together.

About that time, Jackie stood up in front of the canoe, put her hands out for the secret hold and started clucking to the top of her voice, "Pact, pac, pac, pac, pac, pac..." Then Libbo jumped up, but before she could get to Jackie, the canoe flipped and tossed them both into the river. There we were...laughing, choking, and doin' our pact...mostly underwater. It was great! (Pause) You know, that pact thing has helped a lot when nothing else seemed to work. (Pause) I think everybody needs a pact with somebody else. Somebody you can trust, somebody who can make you laugh, somebody like Jackie...and Libbo...and me.

20. Moving

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(As the scene begins, GIRL is tearing up pictures and tossing them in a trash can.) I'm throwing away all my pictures, trashing my whole life. Oh, this one is me and Melissa at the beach. What difference does it make? I don't have a life anyway...not anymore. Dad came home today and said we're moving. I don't want to move. Every time I get a few friends, every time I start to like school...we move again. North Carolina, Florida...this time it's somewhere in West Texas. Who cares? Nothing matters anymore. (Begins to cry.) It's not fair. This is my life, too. How can they do this to me? Mom says next summer I can come back and visit. She doesn't understand. Things change. By next summer, everything will be different. Everybody will make new friends. They'll all be going to high school. I won't fit in anymore. (Cries again.)

Oh, I hate this. I'm not going, and they can't make me. I'll move in with Missy...stay here and finish the year. Her mom wouldn't care. I'm over there all the time anyway. We're just like sisters...better than sisters! Whoa, imagine no little sister tagging along, messing up my room. I could stand life without Julie for a while. (Becoming more hopeful) And then I could be here for the spring dance and the track meets...and the eighth-grade graduation. Maybe they could come back for that, and I could go visit during spring break. It's not like we wouldn't see each other, and maybe then...maybe... (Flops down realizing the truth.) Maybe I better just forget about it and pack my stuff, 'cause no matter what I say...about Julie, about my parents...they're my family and I couldn't stay here without them. (Starts packing.)

Here's another picture of Missy at the fifties dance. The poodle skirt is her mom's. We had so much fun that night. She spent the night, and we climbed out my window onto the roof and watched the sun come up. We talked all night about

1 everything. (Long pause) Maybe she can come visit me this
 2 summer. I know Missy. She'll never write, but maybe we can
 3 call. (Continues packing. Emotion builds as she tries again to
 4 convince herself.) We don't have to stop being friends just
 5 because we don't live close. And when we go off to college, we
 6 can still room together like we planned. Nothing has to change
 7 if we don't want it to. (Long pause. She begins crying as curtain
 8 closes.) Oh, it's not fair. I don't want to move.

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21. LaLou

1 LaLou is my sister. She turned four last week. It's hard to
 2 believe it was four years ago when she came home from the
 3 hospital. She was named after both my grandmothers –
 4 Laura and Louise – but they call her LaLou for short. Cute,
 5 huh? Not like Becky. Rebecca...it's my mother's name. I like it
 6 OK, but no big deal.

7 I remember when they brought her home from the
 8 hospital. Everybody brought presents to the house. My
 9 grandma came to stay with us for a while. Usually she sleeps
 10 with me, but she slept in the room with the baby. My mom
 11 didn't feel so good, so Grandma took care of the baby till she
 12 got better. At first, it was just like having a new toy. I got to hold
 13 her and feed her and help give her a bath. Mostly she slept and
 14 ate, but then she started crawling around, getting into
 15 everything! Suddenly, it was my job to watch her.

16 (Imitates her mother.) No, no, LaLou. Becky, get your
 17 sister. Wave bye-bye, LaLou. Becky, get the stroller. She's
 18 crying. Becky, get your sister a baboo... (Talks to audience.)
 19 Baboo...that's LaLou language for bottle. Ninie was her
 20 pacifier. Buzz-buzz is her little push mower and Tatee is the
 21 blanket she drags around everywhere. I'm serious.
 22 Everywhere my sister goes, so does the blanket. LaLou, Tatee
 23 and Chopper.

24 Chopper's our new puppy. Chopper loves to clamp onto
 25 the ragged end of the blanket. We have lots of pictures of
 26 LaLou dragging Chopper all over the house. In fact, we have
 27 hundreds of pictures of LaLou doing everything you can
 28 imagine – LaLou taking her first step, LaLou on the potty,
 29 LaLou on her new tricycle with her Mickey Mouse ears, LaLou
 30 with her hands in the birthday cake, LaLou in the back yard
 31 trapping leprechauns. No, wait, this is true. They read a story
 32 at play school about leprechauns, then yesterday, I went out to

1 the back yard and she had a shoe box propped up on a stick
 2 with some strawberries inside...waiting for a leprechaun.
 3 She's only four years old. It's pretty embarrassing to have a
 4 genius for a sister. She can write her name and count to ten. ‡
 5 also taught her how to sing the ABC song.

6 She loves Barney. You know, the big purple dinosaur on
 7 TV. She's got these purple slippers with the Barney head on
 8 top, and every time we turn on her Barney video, she puts on
 9 her Barney slippers and dances in front of the TV. *(Imitates*
 10 *LaLou as she sings and dances.)* "I wuv you. You wuv me. We're
 11 a happy fam-i-wee..." She is so cute.

12 Yeah, I'm a little jealous sometimes. She gets all the
 13 attention, but when she looks at me with those big brown eyes
 14 and says, "Weed me a story, Sissy," I'm a sucker every time.
 15 What would I do without her?

16 Hey, LaLou, let's watch Barney on TV! *(Exits singing the*
 17 *Barney song.)*

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22. Graduation

1 This is it. Five more minutes and I'll be out of here – free
 2 – gone forever. Twelve years, a diploma in my hand and I'm
 3 on my way to college – new friends and a new life. No more
 4 high school. I'm giving up my pompoms, no more after-school
 5 practice, no more summer camp and competition in the
 6 blazing hot sun. No more skipping Mr. Davis's history class
 7 and hanging out in the parking lot, no more food fights in the
 8 cafeteria. No more Saturday nights circling McDonald's to see
 9 who's out, no more cherry bombs in the girls' locker room.
 10 That toilet looked like Old Faithful. I know it had to be Laura.
 11 She looks innocent, but she hated Mrs. Jenkins for making her
 12 run laps. No more fruit rolls in Mrs. Garrison's class. *(Laughs.)*
 13 I'll never forget the look on her face when Jim Pearson
 14 counted three and we all rolled apples, oranges and
 15 grapefruits up to the front of her room. She was lecturing on
 16 British literature...so boring, and then all of a sudden, there
 17 she was standing in a pile of fruit. It was great.

18 We had some good times. The homecoming dance, the
 19 prom. No more chaperons frisking us for who knows what. No
 20 more "anonymous" notes from David McBride. He'll probably
 21 find someone else in college. He was my first love. Look at him
 22 over there. He's still the best-looking guy in the senior class.
 23 *(Long pause)* And there goes Jenny, our valedictorian. If they
 24 only knew she was the one who put toilet paper in Mrs.
 25 Duncan's trees. *(Laughs.)* Well, I helped a little, but it was her
 26 idea. No more senior trips to the beach and no more parties
 27 after the games. No more jokes on the freshmen, no more
 28 senior plays. *(Long pause)* No more fun...I don't want to
 29 graduate. *(Frowns and puts hands over her face.)*

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Megan, a girl enduring family hardships, is enriched in many ways.

MEGAN

Sometimes I wish I had new toys and clothes and things but I can't because my father is sick and can't work anymore like he used to. My mom works now, and takes care of us the best she can. She works in the shoe factory over on Spring Street. Most of the time, when she gets home, she's real tired and after supper is over she sits in her chair and goes to sleep.

Daddy got hurt real bad in a car wreck and now he can't walk. He has to stay in a wheelchair. He makes these cute little toys that they sell at Henderson's store.

My sister, Julie, and my brother, Harry, and I do lots of work around the house and help out so it's easier for our mom. We do stuff for my dad, too. We run errands for him and get him wood and take him for rides in his wheelchair. Yesterday, we took him down to the river to watch the boats. It was fun. My father is a nice man.

My mother is nice, too. Even though most of the time she's busy and hasn't got time to play with us. But she's very nice to us and to Daddy, too. And he's nice to her. I love them both. And I love Julie and Harry too.

My family's the best family in the whole world.

Mindy reflects on child abuse.

MINDY

On TV there was this story about this little kid whose parents beat her up all the time. She was real little and skinny and didn't look like she got enough to eat. She had big red and blue places all over her back and arms where her mother hit her with a coathanger wire. It was awful. I almost cried.

My mom said that lots of kids get beat up by their parents and are mistreated by them. I don't know why anyone would want to beat up on a little kid. Little kids are helpless and can't get away or fight back. Anyone who mistreats a kid is a bad person and shouldn't be allowed to have children at all. I guess there are lots of mean people in the world; people who don't really care about other people; about what they think or what they feel.

If I ever have kids I'm going to treat them nice. Because I know how important it is to have a mom and dad who care about you - like mine. My parents would never hurt me. Because they love me.

I wish I could take all the kids who are being hurt away from the people who are hurting them and make them safe someplace and make them feel liked and not feel afraid. Nobody should ever be made to feel afraid. Nobody.

Frustrated and threatened by her parent's separation, Betty's feelings surface during this outpouring to her father.

BETTY

You didn't have to leave, Dad! You didn't have to! You could have stayed and everything would be just like it was before and all of us would be happy. Gee whiz. You didn't have to go and leave. You could have stayed!

Like everything's all creepy now. Ever since you went away and moved into this dumb old apartment. Gee whiz! And the only time I ever get to see you is on Saturdays and Sundays and on holidays and stuff.

And Mom and her crummy old job! And now I've got this creepy old woman taking care of me and bossing me around all the time. I hate her! And Mom has her dumb old boyfriend hanging around the house all the time. And he sits in your chair and eats with us and acts like he owns the place, or something. I don't like him. I hate him! I hate him in our house. I don't like anyone else in our house but you, Dad, just you!

When you and I do stuff now, it's not like before. Not like when you were home and all of us used to do stuff together. Then it was fun. Now - it's not any fun anymore. Nothing's any fun anymore!

Come on back home, Daddy. Please! Come on home with Mom and me. I know you guys still like each other. I just know you do. You have to . . . because you're my parents, because you're my mom and dad!

Carol dreads the anxiety of parental retribution.

CAROL

At my house, whenever I do something wrong, Mom makes me go to my room and wait for my dad. I just wish she'd go ahead and yell at me or spank me and get it over with. That way it would be easy. That way you don't have to sit in your room all day waiting for your dad to come home and wonder what he's going to do.

Daddy never says anything to me right away. He always makes it worse by waiting till after dinner to yell at me and stuff. I think he likes being mean better on a full stomach. He takes me to my room and closes the door so no one else can hear him being a creep. Then he always asks me why I did what I did. Gee whiz . . . if I knew that, and knew it was going to get me in trouble, I wouldn't have done it in the first place. Anyway, he listens to me and then like yells at me and makes me feel awful. Then he punishes me by making me do a whole bunch of work around the house or not letting me go outside and play and junk. Then he makes me go to bed real early.

I hate going to bed early because then I can't watch television. And it always seems like everytime I have to go to bed early is when all my favorite shows are on.

I'm gonna have to start remembering not to goof-up on the days when good stuff's on TV.

Monologues for Boys

25. Spud

1 Well, this is it. Today is the class party. That was Spud's
2 idea. As long as I've known him, he's always had big ideas, and
3 most of the time, I've regretted listening to any of them. You
4 see, me and Spud have been friends since that first day at Miss
5 Mertie's Kindercare when he pushed me into the wall and
6 tried to take my Star Wars laser sword. Now you know, I'm not
7 a pushy guy, but *nobody* touches my laser sword, even today. I
8 knocked him down and held him until Miss Mertie came over
9 and put us both in a corner, facing the wall. I guess that's
10 when we really got to know each other. We probably spent half
11 our time in that corner. Like it or not, we got pretty close.

12 I remember the time Spud talked me into crossing the
13 street to McDonald's for a Happy Meal during snack time.
14 Miss Mertie turned her back to give Kimmie a cookie and out
15 the door we went, through the hole in the fence, and across
16 the street. We were munching on our fries, when I saw Miss
17 Mertie marching across the street with blood in her eyes.

18 Another time, we found some matches and some old
19 newspapers and built a gigantic bonfire out by the swing set.
20 We wanted to roast some hot dogs, but...well, the only thing
21 that got roasted was... *(Pauses and rubs behind.)* Like I said,
22 most of the time I regretted listening to Spud.

23 Next year, Spud and I will be going to different schools.
24 So I guess this will be the last time we get together. I'll be
25 going to Lakeland Middle School and Spud...well...it looks like
26 Spud will be going to some military school up north. In a way,
27 I guess he is finally getting what he always wanted...a sword of
28 his own.
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26. Charlie's a Nerd

1 *(BOY enters with a soccer ball.)* Charlie's a nerd, but he's
2 also my friend. He'd never tell you, but his I.Q. is 153. I heard
3 the guidance counselor tell our teacher that Charlie scored
4 higher than anybody who ever took that test at our school. Me?
5 Well, nobody said...and I don't want to know. Who cares,
6 anyway? What good is being smart? All Charlie gets is more
7 work and a lot of lectures about not living up to his potential.
8 I'd rather be a regular kid and let things slide once in awhile.
9 Don't get me wrong. I can do it if I try. Well, I *think* I can.
10 *(Doubting himself)* But what if I can't? What if I try as hard as
11 I can, and I still can't make good grades. *(Deep sigh)* That
12 would be the worst! Then everybody would know I'm stupid.
13 And then again...what if I did make all A's? *(Pause)* The next
14 thing you know, everybody would expect me to do it from now
15 on. I'd have to be perfect!

16 *(Sits on the ball.)* That's what happened to Jimmy. He was
17 goin' along just bein' a regular kid. He scored high on that I.Q.
18 test and started goin' to that special program with Charlie,
19 and suddenly Jimmy doesn't have time to do anything...except
20 study. All his parents care about is gettin' good grades. They
21 started grounding him for C's and he can't watch TV or play
22 ball till he's done all his homework. Used to...he's got to do a
23 lot more.

24 *(Gets up.)* Nope, being a whiz kid is OK for them, but
25 me...well...I think I'll just keep doin' what I've been doin'...and
26 right now, I've got a soccer game.
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SITTING DOWN

Clay, dramatic

At school, talking to a few classmates.

Um, what are you doing to Dave? *(Beat.)* It looks like you're about to kick his butt. *(Beat.)* Well, how come? *(Beat.)* "Because" isn't a very good reason and he's, like, my friend. Could you maybe not kick his butt? Maybe? Isn't there, like, something else you could do instead?

(Backing up.) No, kicking *my* butt isn't really what I had in mind. At all. I meant something completely different. *(Beat.)* I don't know what! I'm just . . . I just . . . Listen, could you just . . . I really have to . . . I'm not sure it would be wise. Did you ever think maybe you could get in trouble for this?

Come to think of it, I'm sorry to interrupt. Why don't you go on with what you were doing. I have to get to class anyhow and . . . Sorry! Sorry, I . . . gotta go!

LOOK OUT

J, comic

At school, talking to his friends.

Watch, will you! Just stand outside and if he comes, let us know, Pete. Is that so hard?

Now I'm going to put the clock ahead. How far ahead do you think it should be? *(Beat.)* Ten minutes? Are you joking? It has to be more than that. *Much* more. This is Social Studies we're talking about. *(Beat.)* Come on. He's so old he doesn't even know the difference between us knocking on our desks and someone coming to the classroom door. Remember the time Pat made that ringing sound and he went looking for a phone? This guy is far gone. We could put the clock ahead forty minutes and he wouldn't know. Then someone just has to make a sound like the bell and we're home free. Simple! So stop being chicken already.

Why is everyone staring at me? Pete! Get back outside! Didn't I tell you to stand lookout? *(Beat.)* So? Is he coming? *(Beat.)* What do you mean, "He's here"? Like where. "here"?

Here here. Behind me. You stink, Pete. You really stink.

27. Dracula at the Unemployment Office

1 (DRACULA enters right and speaks to a character seated
2 Center Stage.) Excuse me, is this the unemployment office?
3 (Pauses.) Yes, I can read. Why do you ask? The sign on the door?
4 Well, excuse me for asking, but I don't see so well in the
5 daylight. I'm used to sleeping most of the day. (Yawns,
6 stretches, and takes a seat.) No, I did not lose my job because I
7 sleep all day! I happen to work the night shift. Every
8 night...for...oh, I'd say...about the last seven hundred years,
9 with no vacation, no sick leave and no insurance. So, please
10 don't insult me about sleeping all day. I happen to be very
11 good at what I do!

12 Bloodshot eyes? Yes, my eyes are always a little too red,
13 but I've been working too hard lately. (In a sinister tone) And
14 speaking of blood...I'm about a quart low. Could you spare me
15 a little? (Pause) You gave at the hospital last week? That was
16 not what I had in mind.

17 And why do you keep looking at me like that? "Rocky
18 Horror Picture Show"? No, I am not dressed for the theatre.
19 I've never even heard of that show. But I am pretty good at
20 horror movies. Allow me to introduce myself. I am Count
21 Dracula. Watch this. (Gets up and makes a sweeping motion
22 with his cape and speaks with an accent.) Welcome to my castle.
23 I've been waiting for you. Von't you stay for dinner?

24 Excuse me? (Pause) Werewolf impression? Look at these
25 teeth...this cape. Don't you recognize me?

26 No! I am not a rock star! I am a vampire! The greatest
27 vampire in all of Transylvania...I am Count Dracula! (Pause)
28 And you are who? (Pause) Frankenstein? Very funny.

29 (To himself) This man is an idiot. No wonder he doesn't
30 have a real job. (Sarcastically) Never mind, Mr. Frankenstein. I

1 think they're calling your number. Good-bye and good
2 riddance! (Watches him exit left.)
3 (Yawns and stretches.) Oh, what's the use? With
4 unemployment the way it is, I better stick with what I know.
5 Once a vampire, always a vampire. (Starts Off Right.) Taxi!
6 Taxi!

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1 cussin' up a blue streak.

2 About a half hour later, after my whole body had turned
3 inside out, I was flat on my back trying to keep the ground
4 from spinning 'round beneath me. I had the flu one time and
5 thought I would probably die before I got better, but *nothing*
6 compared to this.

7 Somewhere in the back of my mind, I knew by now Dad
8 had flipped off the TV and Mom had looked in again to see if I
9 was all right. I knew I was dead anyway, so I guess at that
10 minute it didn't really matter what happened next. All I
11 remember was a siren (*Makes siren sound*) and some
12 headlights shining in my face and the sound of my mom
13 shrieking somewhere in the darkness, "Tom Ter-ry! Tom
14 Ter-ry!" I don't know what she thought — probably that I had
15 drowned or something. She lunged herself down on top of me —
16 (Ugh) — and I lost my cookies again...if you know what I mean.

17 Junior explained about the tobacco and then he must
18 have disappeared in a hurry, 'cause after that my mom went
19 berserk. And sick or no sick, I got myself in the car. I heard her
20 apologize to the policeman...and the rest is history. *I'm*
21 *history!* My *life* is history! And I guess I'll be sitting in this
22 room till sometime next year...if I'm lucky.
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29. Wanna Be

1 I don't fit in. I've never fit in anywhere. At school there
2 are the Surfers, the Jocks, the Preps, the Hippies...and me, a
3 Wanna Be, a group of one, a nobody. I'm smart, but who wants
4 to be smart? That's not cool. (*Sits down with a book.*) I like to
5 read and write stories. That's not cool, either. Besides, I want
6 friends. I want to belong somewhere. You have to be alone to
7 read and write, and I'm sick of being alone all the time. I
8 wanna be the one they choose first when we choose up teams.
9 I wanna look cool when I'm hanging out at school. My mom
10 thinks you have to wear shirts and pants that match — that's
11 not cool. I tried to explain about the grunge look, and the way
12 the guys on skateboards wear their pants down low and their
13 hair kinda long. My dad's an ex-Marine, so you can imagine
14 what he thinks about long hair!

15 I wanna be one of the guys that plays basketball after
16 school in the gym. I'm not really good at basketball. I just
17 wanna hang out with those guys. I don't care about being on
18 the team, I just want to hang out in the gym, talk to the
19 coaches, like they do...maybe be a manager and ride the bus to
20 the games.

21 I wanna be part of that group that hangs out in the
22 courtyard over by the trees at lunch. Those guys don't look so
23 cool, but Leslie is always out there, and Tanya, too. I'd just like
24 one chance to talk to Leslie Parker. She writes good stories in
25 my English class. The first time I was up front reading a story
26 I had written, she started looking at me...like maybe I was, you
27 know...somebody important. Ever since then I volunteer to
28 read my stuff to class whenever I get a chance. I've got a whole
29 notebook of stories. I write some poetry too. One is about
30 Leslie.

31 I wanna be a writer when I get out of school, go to
32 Harvard, get a good job, have a Porche and travel all over the

1 world. Money. I wanna make lots of money!

2 I wanna *be* somebody when I grow up. Trouble is...I don't
3 know where to start. I don't know how to be anybody but me.
4 (Pause) And most of the time...I'm just a *Wanna Be*.

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30. I Love Summertime

1 (Enters whistling, tossing ball and catching it in mitt.) I
2 love the summertime! Nobody owns you in the summer.
3 Nobody makes you go to school and sit still all day. Nobody
4 yells at you about doin' your homework. The days are so long
5 and you don't always have to go to bed even when you're not
6 sleepy and get up when you're still tired. Summer makes a lot
7 more sense. It's slower. It's hotter too. But I don't mind
8 sweatin' when I'm having fun. I like to ride my bike and go
9 fishing. I don't even mind mowing the lawn, but I can't let my
10 mom know that. She'd have me out there every other day
11 tweasing out the undesirables. My mother's lost it when it
12 comes to growing a yard. I like to play baseball, too, and go
13 swimming, but I'm not on the team. They practice too much.
14 Every morning at eight my brother Greg goes down to the pool
15 to do his laps. His specialty is the butterfly. He won most of the
16 meets in his division. Somebody always asks me how come I
17 don't swim on the team like my brother. How come I don't do
18 as good in school like my brother. But the truth is, I don't want
19 to be like my brother. I just wanna be me. And besides, what's
20 the use of having summertime if you still have to get up every
21 morning and *go* somewhere, *do* something, just because
22 somebody else wants you to.

23 Some days I like to lie in bed, read comic books or just do
24 nothing. I've got a great room upstairs. It's like a loft with
25 skylights. It's great in a thunderstorm – but I like it in the
26 morning too. I can lie in my bed and watch the clouds
27 changing shapes. There are a couple of squirrels that like to
28 play in the big gum ball tree that hangs over that window.
29 Sometimes I like to look out and not do anything. And
30 sometimes I don't think anything either. I just let my mind
31 hang out there – kind of limp. It feels great not to have to
32 worry about anything.

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Not for long though. I get itchy to get outside. The days are so long in the summer you don't feel like you gotta hurry all the time. Not like after school when you have to cram everything into a couple of hours. There's never enough time.

So...today... *(Slams ball in mitt)* I'll play a little ball, ride my bike to the little store down the street, buy an ice cream sandwich, probably some Fireballs for later. I might go fishin' at the lake over by Paul's house. You can't swim in it, but Paul has a pool, so we'll probably swim a while and then...well, who knows, there will probably be plenty of time left to do a lot of stuff or nothing at all. I love summertime. *(Walks off whistling, tossing the ball up and catching it.)*

31. The Frog Prince

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(BOY enters in a prince costume or tuxedo.) Oh, hi. If I look a little green around the gills, it's because I am. Call it paranoia; call it an anxiety attack, but this transformation from frog to prince...prince to frog is about to get me down. I mean, one minute I'm walking along, minding my own business, and the next minute -- b-o-i-n-g -- I leap off toward the lily pads! Sometimes I get a little warning before it happens. First, I start to get itchy right behind the ears. I start craving flies and my skin gets tight. And do you know how long this has been going on? Years, decades, centuries even! Every time some princess comes along looking for a prince -- *whamo!* -- I get to be a croaker with bug eyes and weird-looking toes.

I remember once I was right in the middle of a dinner party down at the castle when I got that itchy feeling again. Somebody had just passed the roast pig when I felt this uncontrollable urge to-leap into the fruit salad -- b-o-i-n-g -- over the blueberry pie -- b-o-i-n-g -- across the candied yams and into the butter -- *splat!* The ladies were horrified. The kids were all screaming and jumping around everywhere and there I sat, right in the middle of the cabbage casserole with butter all over my boots and a *really* stupid look on my face. I mean, what do you say at a time like that? Thanks for the invite? Sorry for the table manners?

Oh, no! I'm getting itchy again. *(Starts scratching and pulling on his arms and legs.)* This is not good. My skin's getting tight. I better get out of here while I still can. *(Said like a hiccup)* Ribbit! Ribbit! Uh, oh! *(Starts walking off, then hops.)* So long, folks. Ribbit! Ribbit!

32. Batman Has Amnesia

1 (Scene opens with BOY in Batman costume getting up off
2 the floor, dazed and confused.) Oh, hello, boys and girls! I'm
3 your friendly...uh, well...your not-so-friendly super hero -
4 able to leap tall buildings in a single bound - no, uh, that's
5 Superman. Uh...let me see...I know! (Holds up fist in the air)
6 I've got the power! No, that's not it either. Let's see
7 now...Superman, He Man. How about - I am the terror that
8 flaps in the night - Dark Wing Duck? He's got wings, but
9 somehow I don't think I'm a duck. Oh, my aching head.

10 Zowie pow! I musta landed on my head when I jumped
11 off that building. I can't seem to remember anything. (Pulls
12 his mask up.) This mask is a little bit tight...cuts off the
13 circulation. Ears sticking out of my head. (Does some karate
14 move.) Zap! Pow! Bam! I don't get it! What's with the sound
15 effects? Either this is a bad dream, or I need a long rest. Maybe
16 I'm some kind of weirdo who acts like a regular guy during
17 the day and then - zamo! - at night he turns into a flying
18 freak who... (Looks confused.) A flying freak who... (Hits himself
19 on the side of the head.) Nothing! I just can't remember what
20 I'm supposed to do. Wait a minute...zap, zud, zip...and why do
21 I keep making those dumb noises? I keep seeing this stupid-
22 looking kid who wore a mask and funny boots...Blue Jay?
23 No...Sparrow...Chickenhawk...no. What was that kid's name?
24 Robin! That's it, Robin!

25 Now where is that guy and why is he following me? I also
26 remember some dude who looked a lot like a penguin. What a
27 nose on that guy! And besides being ugly, he was just plain
28 mean! Seems like he lived in the sewer. No way! I must have
29 lost some of my brains back on the pavement.

30 There's that searchlight again, and a giant bat. That's it!
31 The grand opening for K-Mart and I'm the main attraction.
32 Oh, no! What a letdown. Here I thought I was a super hero and

1 it turns out I'm some clown who stands on the corner and
2 waves while everybody drives by. That's right. Last week it was
3 Shoney's...next week it's the new car wash on Main Street.
4 What a life! No wonder I tried to forget it. Zowee zam!
5 Well...it's off to work. At least it's a job. (As he exits) Attention,
6 K-Mart shoppers. Batman will be arriving in (Looks at his
7 watch) five minutes. (Makes Batman music.) Batman!
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33. Mighty Mite

1 (BOY comes On-stage Left dressed in football uniform
2 holding a football. He has play list in pocket.) Well, this is it!
3 Today I get to show 'em my stuff. I've got to prove to coach that
4 I'm the best quarterback he's got. Bucky's been playing most
5 of the time in practice, but last week during practice Coach
6 put me in. I threw a pass from the ten-yard line and we scored!
7 Then another time I did a quarterback sneak right through
8 the middle. That big kid Tommy tried to run right over me,
9 but sometimes I'm pretty slippery when I get the ball. My dad
10 said (Demonstrates) you just gotta duck your head, hold the
11 ball in close to your chest, and keep moving till you make it to
12 the end zone. ^f

13 Ever since I can remember, I've wanted to play football.
14 When I was four, I got a football for my birthday. My brother
15 and some of the other guys played every afternoon after
16 school and I'd watch. Then one Christmas my dad got me my
17 own pads and a jersey from the Chicago Bears...a real one. My
18 mom wanted me to play T-ball and be on the Little League
19 baseball team, but I wasn't too interested in that. Then she
20 tried to get me into soccer, but that wasn't much fun either.
21 She knew I wanted to play football, but she thought I might get
22 hurt. That's when Dad stepped in and said I could be on the
23 Mighty Mites team. And here I am. Coach says I've got a good
24 arm. (Gestures like he might pass the ball.) And I can run fast,
25 too. This is the first game of the season, and all I want is one
26 chance...one chance to show 'em my stuff. (Paces back and
27 forth.) Dad says you gotta psych yourself up. (Slaps the football.)
28 Concentrate! Think about the game...just the game and
29 nothing else. Go over the plays in your head. Concentrate.
30 (Holds his stomach.) But to tell you the truth, I feel terrible. My
31 stomach is killing me, like maybe I might be sick or somethin'.
32 (Starts to breathe deeply.) But I just gotta concentrate, keep my

1 mind on the game. (Takes a deep breath.) OK, this is it. (Stops
2 suddenly, pulls a piece of paper from his pocket and studies it for
3 a minute.) Maybe I should write the plays on my hand. No, I
4 know what I'm doing. (Looks Off Left.) Hey, Coach! Wait up. I
5 want to ask you about this play. (Exits.)
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34. Welcome to Middleton

1 Hey, man, middle school is cool. No Charlie Brown
2 bulletin boards. Look, man, we got lockers and everything. No
3 more cubbyholes. No more reading groups and those dumb
4 smiley faces on everything. Miss Johnson musta majored in
5 smiley faces in college. No more lining up to wash your hands,
6 lining up to go to lunch, lining up to catch the bus. I hate
7 following behind a teacher like a bunch of ducks.

8 In middle school we get to change classes. That way if you
9 get a teacher you don't like at least you don't have to stay with
10 him or her all day. I wonder where I go to get my schedule. My
11 mom wanted to bring me to school today for registration. I
12 said, "No way. This is middle school, Mom." I didn't want her
13 hanging around. I can handle this. Trouble is I don't know
14 where I'm supposed to go. There are a bunch of guys – eighth
15 graders, probably – looking over here, laughing. I'll just be
16 cool. *(Walks to left.)* Hey, you guys know where I can pick up
17 my schedule? Orientation? Where? *(Looks Off-stage Left.)* Oh,
18 yeah. I see the door with the poster. Thanks. *(Exits left.*
19 *Screams and girls' laughter are heard Off-stage. He enters*
20 *looking embarrassed.)* Aw, man, that was the girls' restroom.
21 What? Welcome to Middleton... *(Laughs nervously.)* Yeah,
22 well...I guess I've got a lot to learn!

35. Superman Needs a Rest

1 *(From Off-stage)* Up in the air, it's a bird, it's a plane, it's...
2 *(Bounces in dressed as Clark Kent, with shirt, tie, glasses, etc. He*
3 *has a cardigan sweater tied around his waist. He brushes himself*
4 *off and straightens his tie.)* ...Superman! That's me! Able to leap
5 tall buildings in a single bound. Bet you didn't recognize me
6 in these glasses – nobody else does. Amazing how a pair of
7 specks can camouflage this face.

8 I was going to wear my leotards but my friend needed
9 them for dance class. Sometimes they get a little tight anyway.
10 Imagine wearing a stretch suit everywhere you fly. One or two
11 pounds and you look like a roly-poly with wings.

12 I mean, there's no chance of blending in with the crowd,
13 especially with a big red S on your chest and a cape flapping
14 around your neck. Sometimes I'd like a little peace and quiet
15 – R & R, if you know what I mean. And just when I get my
16 boots off and kick back in my La-Z-Boy, somebody starts
17 screaming for help. I mean there's no relief when you've got X-
18 ray eyes and supersonic hearing. And if it's not one tragedy it's
19 another – earthquakes, dams breaking, evil plots to overthrow
20 the government. After awhile even Superman needs a rest.

21 Being a hero is no piece of cake, let me tell you! Listen, I'd
22 gladly trade places with Big Bird or Barney. Or how about Mr.
23 Rogers. Now there's a laid-back guy. Just me and my cardigan
24 sweater, a song or two for the kiddies, and I'm finished for the
25 day. No more changing clothes in a phone booth, no more
26 drafty night flights. Sounds good to me. *(Turns around to slip*
27 *on sweater, then turns back to audience.)* Hello, boys and girls!
28 Won't you be my neighbor? *(Freezes with hand in a waving*
29 *position and a big fake smile.)*

1 when I'm afraid, he takes his place, no questions asked. Bob's
 2 a friend that way. If only he didn't snore... *(Looks at Bob.)*
 3 Sorry, Bob, I didn't mean to embarrass you again.

4 I think he might need his tonsils removed. In fact, when
 5 they take mine out next week, I'm gonna make sure that he
 6 gets his removed, too. But don't worry, Bob. They say we can
 7 have lots of ice cream. No, Bob, really it doesn't hurt much at
 8 all. They just take a pair of scissors and snip, snip...and it's all
 9 over. A couple of stitches and... *(Watches as Bob exits.)*
 10 Bob...Bob? Get back here! That duck is nothing but a big
 11 chicken. Bob! Excuse me, please, I have a duck to catch. *(Runs*
 12 *off right.)* Bob! Hey, Bob...wait up, buddy!

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42. Beginning Again

1 My parents are getting a divorce. They told my brother
 2 and me after dinner one night last week. I've been sick ever
 3 since. Everything that goes down, comes back up. I'm not
 4 hungry anyway. Who cares about food when your life is falling
 5 apart. "Falling apart is what has to happen before things can
 6 fall back together again." Some dumb teacher said that in
 7 class one day. She talked about endings being new beginnings.
 8 But I don't want things to change. What's going to happen to
 9 my family? My dad's not living with us anymore and Mom is
 10 going back to work. Oh, I can take care of Jimmy, but who will
 11 take care of me?

12 Dad says everything will be OK. He says that he and Mom
 13 still love my brother and me. Problem is...they don't love each
 14 other. I thought love was forever, sorta like your I.Q.

15 I used to hear them argue at night when they thought we
 16 were asleep. Mom says all people fight, but she gets mad when
 17 Jimmy and I do. Maybe that's the reason Dad is leaving. Maybe
 18 if we promised to get along better...Maybe if we cleaned up the
 19 kitchen and promised to keep our rooms clean...Oh, I wish we
 20 hadn't yelled at each other so much.

21 I wish it could be like that time when we went on
 22 vacation to Disney World. Dad took Jimmy and me on Space
 23 Mountain and Mom got somebody to take some pictures of us
 24 at Sleeping Beauty's Castle. We laughed a lot back then. *(Long*
 25 *pause as he/she remembers.)* And then there was the time we
 26 all went camping on the river, *(Starts laughing)* and the
 27 raccoons raided the picnic table while we were canoeing.
 28 *(Long pause)* We used to laugh about everything...I don't know
 29 what happened. When did we stop laughing? When did we all
 30 give up?

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Eric, an only child, is wary about the arrival of a new brother.

ERIC

Guess what? My mom's gonna have a baby. *(Beat)* Yeah - really. And pretty soon, too. Haven't you noticed how big and puffed up she is? That's because she's pregnant. Dad thinks she looks pretty. To me she looks funny.

They've been going to these classes where they're learning how Mom can have the baby without being knocked out. They practice breathing and stuff. Weird.

And they've already named him, too. Rodney. Wow. What a nerdy name. *(Beat for listening)* Yeah, they already know it's going to be a boy. They had this test done and they found out. They wanted to know so they could go ahead and plan. Like buying clothes and how to fix up his room and stuff. Rodney. Geez!

Since Mom got pregnant, it's not like I'm even here anymore. All they've got time for now is stupid classes and buying stuff and talking about the baby all the time. Everything's crummy and messed up now and it's not like home anymore. When they ask me if I'm happy about having a brother, I tell them yes. I don't wanna take a chance on getting it. But I don't want a brother. I just want things to be like always.

Rodney. Geez! Are they kidding?

Andy thinks his parents are nice. Well . . . most of the time, anyway.

ANDY

My parents are nice. I like them a lot. They treat me nice and let me play and mess around and do most of the things I want and have friends over. I'm lucky. Some guy's parents are all the time yelling at them and treating them mean. Like they aren't little kids and are supposed to be grownups and do the stuff grownups do. People like that are creeps. They shouldn't have kids in the first place.

Once in awhile my folks yell at me, too. But usually, it's because I goof-up and don't do what they tell me to do. It's hard, sometimes, doing all the stuff you're supposed to do. Like clean up your room and pick up your junk and help out around the house. Sometimes you forget because you're doing other stuff or you feel too beat to work. The other day I forgot and left my bike in the driveway and when my dad came home from work he had to get out of his car and move it before he could get in the garage. That's the second time in a week. He said the next time I leave it there he's going to run over it. Sometimes your parents act like creeps, ya know?

But most of the time, they're okay. So, it's important to treat your parents nice and help out at home and try not to be a nerd. Because they take care of you and spend money on you till you're grownup. I like my parents and I appreciate all the things they do. And they treat me okay . . . most of the time.

Ralph speaks to his father's girlfriend's daughter about the complications of their parents marrying.

RALPH

What if my dad married your mom? Ever think of that? Would you want me for a brother? *(Beat for response)* Um -me too - I don't know, either. I mean, I don't know if I'd want you for a sister, either. I mean, like you're okay, and all that, but . . . living in the same house all the time, and everything . . . I don't know. Besides, you wouldn't be my real sister.

I heard 'em talking about it the other night. About maybe getting married, I mean. They were talking about how it would be for us and if we'd get along. I guess having kids can be a problem sometimes. I mean, like when you wanna go ahead and do stuff and not hurt their feelings.

I like your mom, but I don't know if I'd like her yelling at me and bossing me around when she's not my real mother. Like it'd be for you if my dad yelled at you. And, hey! I don't know if I like the idea of my dad getting married, anyhow. We get along good the way it is. And maybe my mom wouldn't like me anymore if your mom was living with us, ya know? How would your dad feel? *(Beat for response)* Yeah . . . that's what I think, too.

I think people are nerds for getting married again. I mean, if they messed up the first time, why would they take a chance on messing up again?

Ernie, an unwilling rider, tells of motor trips with Mom and Dad.

ERNIE

I hate going places with Mom and Dad in the car. I try to get out of going, but they make me go along anyway. They always take these real long drives and I have to sit in the back seat and listen to them talk about lame junk and about things they see and about how bad other people drive. And my dad yells at other drivers and calls them bad names and Mom gets mad at him and yells at him and tells him to shut up. And they argue, too. About all kinds of stuff. Stuff that's stupid and doesn't make any sense. Grownups like to argue about everything.

Sometimes we take my aunt Ethel with us. She always kisses me and tells me how much I've grown. Even though it's only been a couple of weeks since she's seen me. Crazy. She never stops talking, either. And she's real fat and she smells awful because she wears tons of yuckie perfume. And she always messes with my hair, too. Tries to make it stay down flat. I hate people rubbing spit on my head. Wow.

Last Sunday we took a drive and we got lost and my mom yelled at my dad because we had to get back home before our dinner burned up. Dad got real mad and kept pounding the steering wheel because we were on this freeway and couldn't get off. When we finally got home, our dinner was ruined. It was okay with me, because we got to go to McDonald's instead of eat roast lamb.

Monologues for Boys or Girls

41. Bob, the Duck

1 Today for my show and tell, I'd like to introduce my best
2 friend. *(Looks Off-stage Right.)* Bob, get over here right
3 now...Bob! *(To audience)* Excuse me, please. My friend Bob is
4 feeling a little self-conscious today. Bob, I told you not to wear
5 those bell bottoms. No, I have nothing against bell bottoms.
6 It's just that your legs are a little long or your pants are too
7 short. Actually, he likes to pull 'em up under his armpits.
8 Sorry, Bob! *(To audience)* He's too touchy about his appearance
9 sometimes. *(To Bob)* That's right. Come on over and stand next
10 to me. *(Watches his/her imaginary friend cross the stage.)* Boys
11 and girls, I'd like you to meet Bob...Bob, the duck. As you can
12 see, he's no ordinary duck. I know he wears his hair kinda
13 long. That braid in the back is especially nice, and he always
14 wears his little round glasses. John Lennon is his hero. He
15 reads a lot, and he's smart, too. Don't blush, Bob, you know it's
16 true. As I said, sometimes he's too self-conscious. Actually, he
17 wanted to be a hippie, but like me, he was born too late. We
18 both write poetry, but Bob can play the guitar. He knows all
19 the songs from the sixties.

20 *(To Bob)* What? No, Bob, you can't sing a song now. Don't
21 pout. You look stupid when you curl your bill like that, and
22 stop sticking out your tongue. *(To the audience)* Sometimes
23 Bob can be a real brat. I have to remind my mother that Bob
24 has a temper. Every time she raises her voice and gets mad at
25 me, he starts quacking to the top of his lungs. She also gets
26 mad when I feed Bob my broccoli and those little green peas
27 that make me gag. But he loves those things, so why shouldn't
28 he have them?

29 At night when I'm scared, Bob sleeps under my bed, for
30 protection, of course. We all know monsters hide under the
31 bed at night. But not when Bob's around. Actually, he'd rather
32 sleep on the bed beside me, and most of the time I let him. But

1 when I'm afraid, he takes his place, no questions asked. Bob's
2 a friend that way. If only he didn't snore... *(Looks at Bob.)*
3 Sorry, Bob, I didn't mean to embarrass you again.

4 I think he might need his tonsils removed. In fact, when
5 they take mine out next week, I'm gonna make sure that he
6 gets his removed, too. But don't worry, Bob. They say we can
7 have lots of ice cream. No, Bob, really it doesn't hurt much at
8 all. They just take a pair of scissors and snip, snip...and it's all
9 over. A couple of stitches and... *(Watches as Bob exits.)*
10 Bob...Bob? Get back here! That duck is nothing but a big
11 chicken. Bob! Excuse me, please, I have a duck to catch. *(Runs*
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2 and me after dinner one night last week. I've been sick ever
3 since. Everything that goes down, comes back up. I'm not
4 hungry anyway. Who cares about food when your life is falling
5 apart. "Falling apart is what has to happen before things can
6 fall back together again." Some dumb teacher said that in
7 class one day. She talked about endings being new beginnings.
8 But I don't want things to change. What's going to happen to
9 my family? My dad's not living with us anymore and Mom is
10 going back to work. Oh, I can take care of Jimmy, but who will
11 take care of me?

12 Dad says everything will be OK. He says that he and Mom
13 still love my brother and me. Problem is...they don't love each
14 other. I thought love was forever, sorta like your I.Q.

15 I used to hear them argue at night when they thought we
16 were asleep. Mom says all people fight, but she gets mad when
17 Jimmy and I do. Maybe that's the reason Dad is leaving. Maybe
18 if we promised to get along better...Maybe if we cleaned up the
19 kitchen and promised to keep our rooms clean...Oh, I wish we
20 hadn't yelled at each other so much.

21 I wish it could be like that time when we went on
22 vacation to Disney World. Dad took Jimmy and me on Space
23 Mountain and Mom got somebody to take some pictures of us
24 at Sleeping Beauty's Castle. We laughed a lot back then. *(Long*
25 *pause as he/she remembers.)* And then there was the time we
26 all went camping on the river, *(Starts laughing)* and the
27 raccoons raided the picnic table while we were canoeing.
28 *(Long pause)* We used to laugh about everything...I don't know
29 what happened. When did we stop laughing? When did we all
30 give up?

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LAUGHING IS FUNNY BACKWARDS

Age: 12-15

Gender: boy or girl

Comedy

1 Having Dyslexia can be pretty funny sometimes. Like
2 the time I told my tutor she was fired but it came across like I
3 wanted to fry her. And when I wrote a math answer that was
4 519 but the teacher asked why I wrote ZIP. One time I read the
5 headlines of the newspaper as the "Pot of the World" instead
6 of the "Top of the World."
7

8 Life is sometimes confusing and it's a real challenge
9 just to get through a sentence, let a alone a day. I think that the
10 most important part is to laugh about it-not at it. Dyslexia
11 doesn't have to be really serious or really sad. You can just
12 work with it, because it is a part of who you are. The disabled
13 ones in this world, are the ones who don't get that. But I do.
14 For laughter, there is no right or wrong way. So I laugh out
15 loud at myself sometimes and it makes it all better. I mean
16 better. HA, HA, HA
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1 Clancy, our cocker spaniel. He sleeps with me now, but
2 sometimes I still get scared.

3 I wish my mom would have another baby...a brother or
4 sister...I really don't care. We just need more people around
5 here. Cindy going away is like somebody dying all over again.
6 Well, maybe not as bad, but I miss her so much. One day when
7 I came down for breakfast, I saw my dad had tears in his eyes.
8 He was reading a letter from my sister. I got worried
9 something was wrong, but he was just missing her, too.

10 When I grow up, I'm gonna have a whole house full of
11 kids – five or six at least, and the last two will be twins so that
12 everybody will always have somebody to be with and nobody
13 will ever have to be alone. It's too sad growing up alone...too
14 sad.

49. No Nap Today

1 I love kindergarten. (*Gets up from desk.*) Miss Pickford, I
2 drew you a picture. And here's another one I drew at home
3 last night. (*Digs in her pocket for folded piece of paper.*) This is
4 the Pilgrims and their dog Spot. Do you think Pilgrims had
5 dogs, Miss Pickford? Is that how dogs got to America? I bet
6 they came on the Mayflower. (*Pause*) Yes, Ma'am. I can sit
7 down. (*Returns to seat.*) I don't like sitting in this desk so much.

8 Will you tell us a story, Miss Pickford? When will it be
9 story time? Can I tell a story? I want to tell a story about my
10 dog named Parvo. (*As he/she tells about Parvo, she fidgets in
11 and about her desk.*) No, Ma'am, he didn't die, but he got real
12 sick. He's OK now. My daddy says he's hyper 'cause he's got
13 brain damage. Parvo can't sit still, Miss Pickford. Maybe I had
14 that disease Parvo had, Miss Pickford. I can't sit still, either.
15 Are you sure kids can't get Parvo? OK, if you say so. (*Yawns.*)

16 No, Ma'am, I'm not sleepy. My mat? I don't have a mat.
17 (*Pause*) Well, uh...my dog ate it. Parvo chews up everything. He
18 really does. He ate our hammock, too. Besides, I already had a
19 nap...this morning...right after breakfast. Yes, Ma'am, I'm sure.
20 It was right after I ate my Frosted Flakes. (*To himself/herself*) I
21 hate naps. This is the only part of kindergarten that's not fun.
22 (*Yawns.*) Yes, Ma'am, I'll be quiet. (*Draws and yawns.*) Miss
23 Pickford, when will it be snack time? After nap time? (*Pauses.*)
24 When is nap time over? (*Pauses.*) OK, OK, I'll be quiet.

25 (*Begins to draw vigorously, then looks up slyly.*) Ha! I
26 don't have to take a nap. They do and I don't. (*Keeps drawing,
27 shifts in chair, yawns and stretches.*) I hate naps. (*Begins to
28 sink slowly into chair.*) I'm too big to take a nap. (*Yawns
29 and continues to draw.*) I'll just draw a picture of Buckwheat,
30 my kitty. (*Rubs eyes, head gets closer to the desk.*) Buckwheat
31 under the tree... (*Nods off.*) with some flowers...Buckwheat...
32 and...Parvo...under the tree. (*Falls asleep.*)

53. Reverse Psychology

1 *(Enters and sits in last desk in a row.)* Maybe if I sit here in
2 the back, she won't call on me today. I didn't do my
3 homework. I usually do my homework. Well, sometimes I do
4 my homework, but today...today she'll call on me. They always
5 call on you when you don't do your homework. I could
6 pretend to be helping someone else. Teachers like good deed
7 doers. Hey, *(Taps someone in front)* do you need some help?
8 *(Pause)* I don't know...just thought I'd ask. *(Grins sheepishly.)* I
9 could act like I'm copying something from the book. No.
10 Maybe if I just scrunch down and pretend I'm reading
11 something...No, wait...if I sit back here, she'll know I didn't do
12 my homework. Maybe I should sit in front...all the way down
13 in the front row. *(Moves to front.)* I'll look excited, like I just
14 can't wait to give her the answers. Teachers never call on kids
15 who know the answers. That's it. I'll sit right here and look
16 interested. Super interested. History is what I love most in the
17 world. I'll organize my papers...and...what? Chapter ten...
18 question one? Me? Well, uh, *(Pantomimes shuffling papers)* I
19 guess I didn't get that one. *(Pause)* Number two? Uh...question
20 number two. *(Stalling)* I'm sure I've got that one. *(Pantomimes*
21 *shuffling papers.)* Well, maybe not. A zero. I could do chapters
22 ten and eleven tonight. *(Grins.)* Double or nothing? Maybe not.
23 Oh, well. *(Shrugs.)* So much for reverse psychology.
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54. Chill Out

1 *(CHARACTER enters, stands with hands on back of chair*
2 *he/she has carried On-stage.)* Let's try an experiment. All right,
3 get comfortable, close your eyes, take a deep breath, and
4 pretend. Pretend you're a cloud way up in the sky...floating,
5 drifting. Now pretend you're a tree and your roots go way, way
6 down through the rocks and the sand and the different levels
7 of earth, all the way down to the hot, hot core in the center.
8 You're connected and calm down there.

9 Open your eyes. It's not really hot, and you're not really a
10 tree or a cloud. You're really a kid like me who is trying to
11 learn how to chill out. Anybody in here need to chill out? Oh,
12 there's a hand...and one over there.

13 Hmmm. How many in this room have headaches like
14 right here above your eyebrows or back here in your neck?
15 You know, the kind that pounds and pounds. Do you wake up
16 in the middle of the night worrying about all the stuff you
17 should have done the day before? Do you get mad really easy,
18 yell and fight a lot? I saw a few hands back there. Here's the
19 final test. Look at your fingernails. Do you have any? OK, are
20 they chewed down to nubs like mine? Ha! I see a lot of guilty-
21 looking faces.

22 I'm an expert on this stuff and Dr. Jameson says it's
23 'cause I have problems and I don't know how to deal with my
24 stress. Judging from all of you, I'd say this stress thing is an
25 epidemic! So what are we gonna do about it? Go to bed, sleep
26 all the time and try to forget about it? *(Looks at someone in the*
27 *audience.)* I see you tried that, huh? Me too, but you gotta wake
28 up sometime. Maybe you read a lot, watch TV, fill up the
29 empty spaces with food. *(Puffs out his/her cheeks and stretches*
30 *his/her arms out in front to show how fat he/she can get.)* I don't
31 think that works very well.

32 I know nobody here takes drugs, but maybe you know

1 someone who does. Yes, I see you do. Drugs and alcohol don't
 2 solve any problems, but they sure can cause you some. Ask
 3 those kids who got caught down at the juvenile detention
 4 center. Ask the ones who have a habit they can't quit. They've
 5 got problems on top of problems. And it doesn't matter what
 6 the guy next to you decides. You've got choices. So what are
 7 you gonna do? How are you gonna solve your problems? Take
 8 care of your stress?

9 I've got a plan. First, sit down. (*Sits.*) You've got to learn
 10 how to stop once in awhile. Just stop, especially when your
 11 head is racing and you feel like you're gonna explode. *Stop.*
 12 Say that to yourself...stop! Come on and say it with me.
 13 One...two...three...stop! Sometimes you have to turn off the
 14 noise in your head. Now take a deep breath. Come on, do it
 15 with me. (*Takes a deep breath.*) And another one. (*Inhales and*
 16 *exhales.*) Now take another breath and let the air go out slowly.
 17 It's sorta like letting the air out of a balloon before it pops.

18 Now what's got you wired? If you have too much to do,
 19 forget about doing everything and make a list of two or three
 20 things or maybe even one important thing you can do today.
 21 One thing. Give yourself a little pep talk and do it! "OK,
 22 Leroy/Lucy, get out there and mow that lawn. If you start now
 23 you can finish in an hour...one hour and then you can play ball
 24 like you wanted to in the first place." If you got a lot of stuff,
 25 make a list of what's most important and check 'em off as you
 26 finish.

27 If you're mad and uptight at someone, write a letter. You
 28 don't have to mail anything. Write it and say everything you
 29 want to say. (*Pantomimes writing.*) Oh, yes! What language!
 30 What fun! Write it down, get it out. (*Pantomimes wadding up*
 31 *the paper.*) Then throw it away. (*Big sigh*) What a relief just to
 32 get it out. Then you can have a talk if you need to.

33 Maybe you're not the letter-writing kind. Have a little talk
 34 with the person you're mad at, but practice first. Let me
 35 demonstrate. Pull up another chair. (*Pantomimes pulling up*

1 chair.) You sit in one and imagine the other person is sitting
 2 across from you. OK, here goes.

3 "Ah, Joey/Jennifer, when you told everybody at lunch I
 4 liked Marty/Melissa, I felt like an idiot, and I wanted to beat
 5 your face in. What I told you was between you and me. I
 6 thought I could trust you. I'm mad at you. I know
 7 Marty/Melissa doesn't like me or he/she wouldn't have
 8 ignored me after you said that, and everybody at school was
 9 ragging on me about it for the rest of the day. Right now I
 10 really hate you!"

11 Well, you get the idea, the important thing is to say what
 12 you're thinking and feeling. It helps just to hear yourself, then
 13 you can decide what to do.

14 Of course, when all else fails, call a friend, or maybe you
 15 have an older brother or sister you can talk to. And don't
 16 forget your parents. Yeah, your parents. Believe it or not, they
 17 were kids once. I like to talk to my friend's mom. She's a good
 18 listener.

19 There are other things you can do, like relaxing, getting
 20 your mind on something else. Just taking time to think things
 21 out before you act. *Chill out.*

22 OK...one more time now. Close your eyes. (*Demonstrates.*)
 23 Take a deep breath and be a cloud floating... (*He/she continues*
 24 *as curtain closes.*)

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