

## A

## A Broken Heart

Characters Descriptions

**Chester** – a sixteen year old boy, average looking, wears glasses and is still dressed in his pyjamas. He has been dating Carla for four years and really likes her. He is very upset when she suddenly dumps him.

**Josh** – sixteen years old, tall and good-looking. He has known Chester and Bruce for a long time.

**Bruce** – also sixteen years old, an excellent basketball player, likes to spend time with his friends Chester and Josh.

Plot Summary:

Chester stayed home from school and his friends, Josh and Bruce, went to his home to see what the matter was. It turned out that Chester's girlfriend had dumped him the day before and his friends tried to cheer him up.

## B

**Chester:** *(Chester is sitting in his room crying.)* I'm never going to be happy again.

*(Josh and Bruce walk into Chester's room.)*

**Josh:** Hey Chester

**Bruce:** Hey man . Why weren't you at school today? How are you feeling?

**Chester:** I'm fine. Just leave me alone.

**Josh:** No man we know there's something wrong. We want to help you. We just want to help you.

**Bruce:** Yeah man, we just wanna help.

**Chester:** There is something wrong, but I just wanna be alone and deal with it myself.

**Josh:** Just tell us what's wrong man.

**Bruce:** Yeah man we wanna help you.

**Chester:** Well thanks guys I know you want to help but, I just don't want to talk about it just right now.

**Bruce:** Sure no problem man.

**Josh:** Yeah man all we want is to help you, so we understand man because we watch out for each other.

**Chester:** Well thanks guys for understanding. But I guess I can trust you guys so I will tell you guys because you guys are my best friends and all.

**Josh & Bruce:** Ok man.

## LEVEL 1

C

*(They move over and stand closer to Chester)*

**Chester:** Well you see it's over ...

**Josh:** What is?

**Chester:** Carla and I. She dumped me.

**Bruce:** What? Really?

**Josh:** Aw man that hurts.

**Chester** (crying) I just don't know what to do. All I want to do is curl up in a ball. I don't even feel like living anymore.

**Bruce:** Dude it's just a girl.

**Chester:** Yeah I know but I love her. I'm just lost I don't know what to do.

**Josh:** Man we'll be here. We're your friends. We watch out for each other.

**Bruce:** What happened man. Why did you two break up?

**Chester:** It's hard to explain. You see she told me yesterday that she needed to talk to me after school and she asked me how long have we been going out now and I said 4 years because it has been that long.

**Bruce:** Yeah then what happened?

**Chester:** Then she told me that she was not attracted to me anymore. Then I didn't quite understand. I was confused. Then she just said I don't like you anymore. I was in shock I didn't know what to say.

**Josh:** So why doesn't she like you any more?

**Chester:** I think it was because I gave her a promise ring because I love her so much and I want to be with her. I think she just got freaked out and she is not ready.

**Bruce:** *(astonished)* You gave her a promise ring?

D

**Josh:** *(astonished)* What were you thinking?

**Chester:** I gave it to her because I want to be with her forever and I love her.

**Josh:** Isn't it kind of soon for you to be thinking about marriage?

**Chester:** Dude I have been together with her for four years now and I really love her.

**Bruce:** You want to get married already and your not even 18! Your only in grade 11 and your thinking about marriage already! What's wrong with you?

**Chester:** What do you mean what's wrong with me? I love her and I want to be with her forever. What's wrong with that?

*(Josh moves over and stands beside Chester's chair and shouts at him)*

**Josh:** YOU'RE TOO YOUNG!

**Chester:** Does age really matter? Dude I am in love with her why does my age have anything to do with it?

**Bruce:** No wonder she left you man. Your so stupid for going too fast and now you have nothing.

**Chester:** Hey! Back off man that hurts. I thought you were here to cheer me up and now you're putting me down.

**Bruce:** Sorry dude. I guess I just took that too far. I didn't mean that. I just lost control of what I was saying and I just rambled on. Sorry man.

**Chester:** It's alright man.

**Josh:** So what are you going to do now man?

**Chester:** I don't know. I might just stay home for a couple of days and chill out and think things over and maybe I can talk to her and maybe we might get back together. Or maybe not because after I was done talking to her she said we will never get back together and she never wants to talk to be again.

## E

*(Chester starts to cry again and Josh and Bruce try to comfort him.)*

**Josh:** Dude stop crying. It's not worth it.

**Bruce:** Yeah man you remember when before you met her how happy you were?

**Chester:** Yeah.

**Bruce:** Well, why don't we just go back to those days when there were no girls keeping us busy and we can all hang out and just have fun?

**Josh:** Yeah man. What do you say? Does it sound good? I think it would be awesome for us to hang out again because ever since you started dating Carla all of us have barely spent any time together.

**Chester:** Well guys, I think that would be great because if I spent time with you guys I will forget about Carla and then I can be happy again.

**Josh:** Sounds good man. Well I guess we better get going because I gotta go home and eat supper.

**Bruce:** Yeah man , I gotta go too. So we'll see yah tomorrow at school?

**Chester:** Yeah, I'll see you guys tomorrow. Thanks again guys for all your help.

*(Bruce and Josh leave Chester's room and they go home. Chester lays down on his bed and falls asleep.)*

(END)

## Teacher's Notes

### Knowledge/Understanding

- The student provides information about the characters that is of limited appropriateness. Chester, Josh, and Bruce are described as “friends”, and this is evident from the fact that when Chester is unhappy, Josh and Bruce want to help him. However, none of the characters is given a specific personality: they seem quite similar to one another, except that Chester is unhappy because his girlfriend has broken up with him. Some of the information provided is irrelevant to the scene (e.g., information about the characters' physical appearance and the fact that Bruce is “an excellent basketball player”). Further on in the script, more information is given about Chester, namely, that he has entertained the somewhat unrealistic expectation of marrying his girlfriend.

### Thinking/Inquiry

- The student portrays character development in the script with limited effectiveness. In some ways the characters seem like typical teenagers, but they are one-dimensional. Chester gains a new appreciation for his friends' patience and understanding as they listen sympathetically while he explains his problem and then help him work out a solution. However, the solution they come up with, that Chester forget Carla and become happy again by spending more time with his friends, as he did when they were all twelve years old, is weak and unconvincing.

### Communication

- The student creates dialogue that is convincing to a limited degree. There is an attempt to use expressions that are appropriate to teenaged boys (e.g., “Sure no problem man.”, “Aw man that hurts.”). However, an inordinate amount of the dialogue consists of Josh and Bruce trying to persuade Chester to reveal his secret, and this part of the script is repetitive and circular (e.g., “**Chester:** I'm fine . . . **Josh:** No man we know there's something wrong . . . **Chester:** There is something wrong, but I just wanna . . . deal with it myself. **Josh:** . . . all we want is to help you . . .”). Also, the overuse of the word “man” and the rather futile back-and-forth dialogue are distracting.

**LEVEL 1**

There is improvement later in the script, when Josh clearly communicates to Chester that he is too young to be thinking of marriage.

- The student provides stage directions that are of limited appropriateness. With few exceptions (e.g., “*Josh moves over and stands beside Chester’s chair and shouts at him*”), effective directions are lacking for onstage movement and interaction among the characters. As a result, it is often difficult to tell where the characters are onstage and when and where they move.

**Application**

- The student creates a working script that is of limited effectiveness. The setting is given (i.e., Chester’s bedroom), but no details are provided. There is escalating tension as Chester reveals the details of his break-up with his girlfriend, but the solution the boys come up with, of returning to their past relationship, in which “girl problems” did not exist, is unrealistic and unfeasible.

**Comments**

This work is representative of a solid level-1 performance. The student demonstrates a limited degree of achievement of the expectations in all four categories of knowledge and skills.

**Next Steps**

In order to improve his or her performance, the student needs to:

- provide more details about the characters;
- portray character development in a more in-depth manner;
- make all of the dialogue purposeful;
- provide more directions for movement onstage and interaction among the characters;
- provide information about the setting that includes details such as the arrangement of furniture and other props;
- provide a more age-appropriate resolution to the problem.