

A

I Just Want to be Popular**Characters:**

- 1) Robbie – Robbie is a rude and disrespectful teenager. He doesn't like 'nerds'. Robbie acts like he can get away with everything.
- 2) Juan – Juan is a smart student and is also a member of the chess club. He likes to come to school early to do extra work. Juan thinks he is a typical student but others see him as a 'nerd'.
- 3) Lisa – Lisa is a type of girl that does all her work and gets good marks. She is very good friends with Juan. Lisa thinks she isn't popular and she wants to change that.

Summary:

Lisa wants to be popular. To do this she has to make fun of her best friend, Juan by calling him a 'nerd' in front of the whole school. After she makes fun of him she realises what she's done to him is wrong. Lisa makes amends and apologizes to Juan.

B

Scene 1

(In school hallway, Juan and Lisa are walking to Lisa's locker)

(Lights on full)

Juan: How was English, Lisa?

Lisa: It was good Juan, but my teacher is giving us less work everyday and I'm starting to get bored in class.

Juan: Yeah. I know how that feels. I'm just glad my teacher gives us a lot of work to keep us busy.

(Lisa looks over at Robbie who she thinks is the most popular guy in school.)

Juan: What are you looking at?

Lisa: Just the most popular guy in school.

Juan: Robbie?

Lisa: Yeah *(stops at Lisa's locker)*

Juan: You want to be popular don't you?

Lisa: Well I've never been popular.

Juan *(with a mean attitude):* Yeah, but popular people act like they know everything.

Lisa *(confused):* No they don't. Haven't you ever thought about being popular?

Juan *(smiling):* No, I'm happy with who I am.

Lisa *(confused):* So you're happy with everyone calling you a nerd?

Juan *(rudely):* I don't care what other people think or say about me.

Lisa *(mean):* Well, I do, because I don't like being called a nerd.

LEVEL 2

C

Juan: You should be happy with who you are

Lisa: Let's just go over and talk to Robbie.

Juan (*confused*): So he can make fun of us?

Lisa (*with anger*): Fine.

(Lisa and Juan walk over to Robbie) (lights dim)

Lisa: What's up Robbie?

Robbie: (*with a dirty look towards Lisa and Juan*): What do you nerds want?

Juan (*gives a dirty look to Robbie*): Lisa I told you he'd make fun of us.

Robbie: Get away from me!

(Lisa and Juan walk away) (Lights on Lisa and Juan only)

Lisa (*confused smile*): He's just having a bad day that's all.

Juan (*with disappointment*): Yeah right!

Lisa: Look Juan I have to go, I'll meet you at the arcade after school.

Juan: All right see you later.

(Juan walks away)

Lisa: Bye. (*Lights fade to black*)

(Lisa starts walking over to Robbie) (Lights only on Lisa and Robbie)

Lisa (*nervous*): Hey Robbie.

Robbie (*angry*): What do you want, I thought I told you to leave me alone!

D

Lisa (*nervous*): I just wanted to talk to you.

Robbie: About what? Being a nerd? (*laughs at Lisa*)

Lisa: As a matter of fact yes, I don't want to be a nerd anymore I want to be popular.

Robbie: (*laughs at her*): That can't happen unless you make fun of (*points at Juan*) that loser over there.

(Lights on full)

Lisa (*surprised*): But Juan's my best friend I can't do that to him.

Robbie: (*laughs*): He's a nerd and if you want to be popular that's what you have to do.

Lisa: I can't do that to him.

Robbie: (*starts walking away*): Fine, I guess you can't be popular then.

Lisa (*unsure*): Fine I'll do it.

Robbie: (*walks back over to Lisa and laughs in an evil way*): Great! Here he comes now.

Juan (*walks over to Lisa*): Hey Lisa

Lisa (*gives Juan a dirty look*): Who are you?

Juan (*confused*): It's me Juan, how can you not remember me when you were just with me a while ago?

Lisa: I don't know you. Get out of here you nerd, go play with your nerdy Chess club friends.

Juan (*really mad and confused*): What's gotten into you!?!?

Lisa (*mad*): What's gotten into me? What's gotten into you !?!?

LEVEL 2

E

(Juan is sad and heart broken, he walks away from Lisa and Robbie. Robbie laughs at Juan while Juan walks away from them. Lisa stands there and reflects on what she just did)

Robbie: I guess your part of our group now. Congratulations *(pats Lisa on her back)*.

Lisa *(unsure)*: Yeah thanks.

(Robbie walks away and everyone is in tableau except Lisa) (Lights dim on Lisa)

Lisa: I thought I would be happy once I was popular but for some reason I'm not. Is it because I betrayed a friend to become popular? I feel so bad for Juan but, I got what I want and it feels great because I'm finally popular. I never meant to hurt Juan's feelings. I think I got so caught up in being popular that I forgot who my real friends are. I know what I have to do now. I have to go to go and fix things with me and Juan because I know Robbie isn't a true friend now. I'm going to go talk to Robbie or first then I have to go apologise to Juan.

(Lights on full)

Lisa *(walks over to Robbie, angry)*: Hey Robbie! I don't want to be part of your group. I just realised that you're the one that you're the one with a problem not Juan. You made me break up my friendship with Juan! I can't believe you! You disgust me!

(Lisa walks away from Robbie and walks over to Juan)

(Lights dim on Lisa and Juan only)

Lisa *(nervous)*: Hey Juan.

Juan *(mad)*: What do you want?

Lisa *(sad)*: Look I'm sorry for what I did to you.

Juan *(mad)*: Your sorry! You made fun of me in front of the whole school and all you can say is I'm sorry!

F

Lisa *(nervous)*: I know what I did was wrong. I just got so caught up in wanting to be popular that I forgot who my real friends are. Please forgive me.

Juan *(looks Lisa straight in the eyes)*: Look, I can't forgive you just like that. You really hurt me, I can't trust you the way I used to. You will have to gain my trust back by being a true friend to me.

Lisa: I understand and I promise I will be a good friend. I know it's still going to be hard to trust me again but can we at least try and put this behind us?

Juan: Sure, just don't pull a stunt on me like that ever again.

Lisa: I won't.

(Scene ends, lights fade to black)

LEVEL 2

Teacher’s Notes**Knowledge/Understanding**

- The student provides information about the characters that is somewhat appropriate. For example, Lisa and Juan are described as “best friends” and as smart, motivated, and hard-working, and the scene bears this out. At times, however, there is not enough information (e.g., an explanation about why Lisa thinks Robbie is the “most popular guy” at school).

Thinking/Inquiry

- The student portrays character development in the script with some effectiveness. Lisa gains new insights about friendship (e.g., that friendship requires loyalty). However, her transition is too sudden to be believable. In addition, the fact that she blames Robbie for what she has done, saying “You made me break up my friendship with Juan! I can’t believe you! You disgust me!”, instead of taking full responsibility, shows that her development is incomplete.

Communication

- The student creates dialogue that is somewhat convincing. The characters usually express themselves in ways that reflect their personalities (e.g., Juan’s sensitive and logical “Look, I can’t forgive you just like that. You really hurt me . . .”). However, some dialogue is unnatural (e.g., “As a matter of fact yes, I don’t want to be a nerd anymore I want to be popular” is too stiff), and some is overly simple (e.g., “Fine, I guess you can’t be popular then.”).
- The student provides stage directions that are somewhat appropriate. Those given for the characters as they interact tend to emphasize their personalities (e.g., “*walks back over to Lisa and laughs in an evil way*” demonstrates Robbie’s roughness). However, directions are given for almost all lines of dialogue, and they are too numerous and sometimes unnecessary. Furthermore, almost all of them are related to emotions (e.g., “*with a mean attitude*”, “*with disappointment*”, “*confused smile*”) rather than actions. On the other hand, the student uses the lights to signify breaks in the action with some effectiveness.

Application

- The student creates a working script that is somewhat effective. The single setting and single time frame allow for ease of staging, but no information is provided regarding the setting, except that it is in the hallway of a school. There is some dramatic tension developed in the scene as Lisa and Juan argue about the value of popularity and about Lisa’s wanting to approach Robbie. This tension escalates when Lisa betrays her friend. A short, mild crisis follows, and the conflict is resolved in a somewhat effective manner. However, because of the stereotyping of the characters (i.e., Juan is “good” and Robbie is “bad”), the resolution is predictable.

Comments

This work is representative of a solid level-2 performance. The student demonstrates some 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:

- avoid stereotyping when creating characters;
- have Lisa’s understanding of betrayal and the meaning of friendship come to her in a more gradual manner;
- ensure that the dialogue is consistently natural;
- include more directions for movement on stage and fewer to describe emotions;
- make the setting more specific.