



## Sample Scenes

- **The New Student**
- **The Anti-Technology Plot**
- **The Suspension**
- **The Student Strike**
- **Rory's Solution**
- **The Games Are Over**



## SCENE: THE NEW STUDENT

**MISS SUTHERLAND**

*(to TOD)* Young man, who are you?

**TOD**

The name's Tod Dellnar.

*(to MISS SUTHERLAND)* I'm new.

*(to GIRLS)* I'm here. And I'm yours.

*(GIRLS swoon. KYLE snores.)*

**SUZY**

IMO, he is totally hot.

**STACEY**

Dreamy.

**SOPHIE**

Gorgeous.

**STEWART**

Familiar.

*(GIRLS, except RORY and STEWART, swoon over TOD, who smiles back.)*

**MRS. SUTHERLAND**

Young man, find yourself a seat.

*(MISS SUTHERLAND points to two empty chairs, one beside RORY and one beside STEWART.)*

**TOD**

*(to ADELL)* How long has she been teaching here?

**MISS SUTHERLAND**

Long enough to know what young men like you grow up to become.

*(GIRLS giggle. TOD walks over to the seat next to STEWART, looks at her, and then walks over to the seat next to RORY, where he sits. GIRLS react, and STEWART looks upset.)*

**TOD**

*(to RORY)* Hey, haven't I seen you somewhere before?

**STEWART**

Clever opening.

**TOD**

*(to STEWART)* Who are you?

**STEWART**

Stewart Ward.

**TOD**

*(Incredulous)* A boy's name?

*(TOD looks STEWART over.)*

**(to STEWART)** It suits you.

**(to RORY)** You're the kicker who won the football game last night.

**RORY**

It takes a whole team to win a game.

**TOD**

No. It takes a player. Like you. Like me.

**ADELL**

I'm Adell. And B-T-W, Rory is like so being modest. I guess that happens around total hotties, you know? O-M-G, did I just say that out loud? **(little laugh)** L-O-L. Sorry.

**TOD**

I like modesty... In a girl.

**(RORY is flustered.)**

**ADELL**

**(to RORY)** You're blushing. That's, like, so cute.

**SUZY / STACEY / SOPHIE (simultaneously)**

**(sarcastic)** Adorable.

**SUZY**

Just like when she sees Maxwell.

**(RORY overhears.)**

**TOD**

**(to RORY)** Hey, I know this may sound a little sudden, but... do you have a me-myself-and-I-space account?

**RORY**

No.

**(SUZY, STACEY, and SOPHIE react with disdain.)**

**TOD**

How do you keep up with your friends?

**SUZY**

She doesn't.

**TOD**

Well, you should get one. 'Cuz I was thinking,... we could talk outside of class, and maybe... I could be on your top five hot list. You'll be on mine. **(TOD winks.)**

**ADELL**

**(to RORY)** He is like *totally* hitting on you.

**RORY**

**(to ADELL)** Thanks. I realize that.

**(to TOD)** I'll think about it.

**TOD**

**(to RORY)** Think "yes."

**MAXWELL**  
(to **KYLE**) What a jerk.

**SUZY**  
He's after Rory?

**STACEY**  
How could he like *her*.

**SOPHIE**  
He's obviously not good enough for us.  
(**MAXWELL overhears. KYLE snores.**)

**MISS SUTHERLAND**  
*Kyle Thompson!* Are you sleeping in my class?  
(**MAXWELL kicks KYLE under the desk, and KYLE tries to look alert.**)  
(to **STUDENTS**) Class, today we are taking the National History Test.  
(**TOD raises his hand.**)

**MISS SUTHERLAND**  
Yes?

**TOD**  
What about me? Do I have to take it?

**MISS SUTHERLAND**  
Mister Dellnar, did your previous school prepare you for this?

**TOD**  
Test me.

**MISS SUTHERLAND**  
What was the most important technological advance in the history of civilization? A. The wheel. B. Bronze. C. The printing press. D. The steam engine. Or...

**TOD**  
E... me.  
(**GIRLS giggle.**)

**MISS SUTHERLAND**  
Maybe you're not ready for the test quite yet.



## SCENE: THE ANTI-TECHNOLOGY PLOT

**MRS. DARNELL**

We have a new problem.

**MR. LANGSTON**

What's that?

**MRS. DARNELL**

Some idiot alumnus gave Wiley High a lot of money for new technology.

*(MR. LANGSTON shudders violently.)*

Oh, right. You have a fit whenever someone says technol... the T-word.

**MR. LANGSTON**

*(regaining composure)* I care about abacuses. I care about pencils. I care about slide rules, 45s, rotary phones, eight-tracks, betamaxes, and...

**MR. LANGSTON / MRS. DARNELL (simultaneously)**

*Carbon paper!*

**MR. LANGSTON**

Abacuses helped build our great nation.

**MRS. DARNELL**

And your company,...

**MR. LANGSTON**

Abacus Pencil,...

**MRS. DARNELL**

Is the only one in America with the vision to see that abacuses...

**MR. LANGSTON**

And carbon paper,...

**MRS. DARNELL**

Will come back strong, when the digital age has its richly deserved...

**MR. LANGSTON**

And long overdue,...

**MRS. DARNELL / MR. LANGSTON (simultaneously)**

*Meltdown!*

**MRS. DARNELL**

Lance, the world needs more people like us with the courage, wisdom,

**MR. LANGSTON**

And family values,...

**MRS. DARNELL**

To assess the path of progress and politely, but firmly... say

**MRS. DARNELL / MR. LANGSTON (*simultaneously*)**

No.

**MR. LANGSTON**

Morgan, your company,...

**MRS. DARNELL**

Suburban Sprawl Realtors...

**MR. LANGSTON**

Has a brilliant plan.

**MRS. DARNELL**

I am buying a huge tract of land near Wiley High. For a very low price.

**MR. LANGSTON**

Reflecting the very low value of houses near a...

**MRS. DARNELL / MR. LANGSTON (*simultaneously*)**

*Loser school!*

**MRS. DARNELL**

I have a binding contract to buy that land at whatever the market price will be on graduation day.

**MR. LANGSTON**

So if, between now and then, Wiley suddenly becomes an ultra-modern high-tech high school, people will want to live near it, the price of land will rise, and you'll be...

**MRS. DARNELL**

*(interrupting)* Let's not dwell on the downside, dearie. But...

**MR. LANGSTON**

If, on graduation day, Wiley remains a loser school,...

**MRS. DARNELL**

*(interrupting)* The object of contempt, scorn, and ridicule.

**MR. LANGSTON**

After you buy the land...

**MRS. DARNELL**

Wiley will become a beacon of back-to-basics learning...

**MR. LANGSTON**

Thanks to Abacus Pencils...

**MRS. DARNELL**

Then you... and I... will be...

**MRS. DARNELL / MR. LANGSTON**

*Rich!*

**MRS. DARNELL**

**(sigh)** I love the smell of bulldozers in the morning.



## SCENE: THE SUSPENSION

**MRS. FOWLER**

I am suspending you, as well.

**MAXWELL**

Don't I have rights?

**ADELL**

*Yeah!* Miranda versus, like, the State of A-ri-zo-na. Nineteen sixty-six.

**MRS. DARNELL**

He's only a student. He has no rights.

**MAXWELL**

Oh yeah?

*(MAXWELL holds a yellow pamphlet.)*

This book of Student Rights and Responsibilities says otherwise.

**MRS. DARNELL**

*Lemme see that!*

*(MRS. DARNELL snatches the pamphlet from MAXWELL, and starts cackling triumphantly.)*

**MAXWELL**

What?

**MRS. DARNELL**

*Ha!* There's an asterisk.

*(MRS. DARNELL points at a page in the book.)*

*(reading)* Student rights may be waived, in the event of dire emergency.

**MR. LANGSTON**

*This is dire.*

**ADELL**

W-T-F?

**MRS. FOWLER**

What's *that* mean?

**KYLE**

Where's the fridge?

*(ADELL and KYLE high-five.)*

**MISS SUTHERLAND**

Careful, Jenny. Remember what happened in *your* senior year.

**MRS. FOWLER**

Don't you "Jenny" me, Miss Dacey Sutherland. Not if you teachers ever want another pay raise.

*(MISS SUTHERLAND exits.)*

**ADELL**

There is like, something so rotten in the state of Wi-Hi.  
*(MISS GRIFFITH nods and exits.)*

**MAXWELL**

Come on, Rory. Let's get outta here.  
*(MAXWELL and RORY start exiting together. RORY turns just before they leave.)*

**RORY**

What's wrong with them?  
*(MISS GRIFFITH stops working and looks at them. DR. BEVIN is about to speak, when MRS. DARNELL elbows him. MRS. FOWLER glares at MR. LANGSTON. MISS GRIFFITH shakes her head. RORY and MAXWELL exit.)*

**KYLE**

*(to MAXWELL)* Hey man, lucky you, *no school!*

**ADELL**

*(to KYLE)* Kyle, just stand there and look pretty...  
*(to STUDENTS)* The rest of you, like, *do something!* The School Board can't suspend Rory and Maxwell! *(STUDENTS grumble. MRS. FOWLER walks over to ADELL, crosses her arms over her chest. STUDENTS quiet down.)*

**MRS. FOWLER**

Young lady, what is your name?

**ADELL**

Edmund Burke. *(affecting a deep male voice)* The only thing necessary for, like, the triumph of evil is for good people to, like, do nothing.

**MRS. FOWLER**

*Enough! (sweetly)* Back to class, children. *(angrily)* Now!  
*(STUDENTS look at DR. BEVIN, who shrugs.)*

**DR. BEVIN**

She writes the checks.  
*(STUDENTS exit. MR. LANGSTON and MRS. FOWLER exit. STEWART starts to exit, but remains upstage, eavesdropping on TOD and MRS. DARNELL, unseen by them.)*

**MRS. DARNELL**

*(to TOD)* Time to step things up a notch.

**TOD**

Nope. I'm pretty happy where I am.

**MRS. DARNELL**

My money can buy you *even more* happiness. If my land deal goes through, I can get you... Well,... what do you want?

**TOD**

Rory.

**MRS. DARNELL**

What?

**TOD**

Yeah, Rory. *You* got me transferred to Wiley to get even. *I* came to get the girl.

**MRS. DARNELL**

To get her, you need to drive. To drive, you need a car, car needs gas, gas needs cash, cash needs me.

**TOD**

True.

**MRS. DARNELL**

You will continue with my plan until I instruct you to stop. See you at home. I'm going off to celebrate with Lance. Some place wild, like, ... Denny's.

**(MRS. DARNELL tries to exit, but collides with STEWART, who is walking up to TOD.)**

**STEWART**

Pardon me, Mrs....

**MRS. DARNELL**

Darnell. Morgan Darnell.

**STEWART**

Are you...

**(STEWART points at TOD and MRS. DARNELL.)**

**MRS. DARNELL**

On the School Board? Yes.

**(MRS. DARNELL exits.)**

**STEWART**

That's your *mother*... Mister Dellnar, or is it Darnell?

**TOD**

You're cute when you're flustered.

**STEWART**

*You sicken me!*

**(TOD puts his hands on STEWART's shoulders to steady her.)**

But I... I...

**(STEWART looks at TOD.)**

I'm willing to accept you as you are.

**TOD**

Lucky you.

**(STEWART briefly seems love-struck, but then her anger returns.)**

**STEWART**

Wait a minute.

**(STEWART shakes off TOD's hands.)**

**(very rapidly)** *You're* the guy from Wiley Prep who tripped and fell when Rory scored that touchdown.

You came to our school to get back at her. I should'a blown your cover the minute you walked in. I saw you switch the pencils, so we flunked the test. I saw you plant a cell phone in her backpack, to make it look like she was cheating. And I know exactly what you did with that bogus web site. I bet it was you

who hacked into Maxwell's email and sent it to the School Board! Why'd you do all that?

**TOD**

You're just jealous.

**STEWART**

*Jealous?!*

**TOD**

'Cuz I like *Rory* better than *you*.

**(TOD exits.)**

**STEWART**

You,... *you*,...

**(STEWART exits in the other direction.)**



## SCENE: THE TEENAGE STRIKE

**MRS. SMITH**

*(agitated, to MRS. FOWLER)* This morning, I stayed up until three A.M., trying to find where my so-called "desktop" was. I clicked and clicked until my seven-year-old son, who is thankfully *not* on strike, woke up and told me what it was.

*(PARENTS are very noisy.)*

**MRS. FOWLER**

*(to MRS. DARNELL and MR. LANGSTON)* What do I do now?

**MRS. DARNELL**

Protect the children.

**MRS. FOWLER**

*(very loudly, to PARENTS)* Good folks of Wileytown...

*(Music stops. PARENTS quiet down.)*

When we were in high school, we learned things the *hard* way. You never sent anyone a letter that you didn't write yourself, with your own bare hands.

**MRS. JONES**

*They don't know how to lick a postage stamp!*

**MRS. FOWLER**

Now our children can't do math without a calculator, or draw without a paint program, or write without a word processor.

**MR. JONES**

*Back in our day, they wouldn't have lasted ten minutes!*

**MR. SMITH**

So what do we do?

**MRS. DARNELL**

*Strike back!*

**MRS. FOWLER**

Do *not* drive them *anywhere!*

*(PARENTS mumble their approval.)*

Do *not* clean up their *rooms!*

*(PARENTS loudly mumble their approval.)*

And... teach them something every American teenager must learn. Something vital they need to know before they start making sloppy adolescent mistakes. I'm talking, of course, about...

*(PARENTS take a deep breath in anticipation.)*

*Handwriting!*

*(PARENTS exhale.)*

Read nothing from your children that is not presented in *perfect penmanship!*

*(PARENTS shout their agreement. MRS. FOWLER leads PARENTS offstage.)*



## SCENE: RORY'S SOLUTION

**MISS SUTHERLAND**

Rory, you've got to fix things before you and your friends end up like...

**MISS GRIFFITH**

Us.

**RORY**

Who do you mean?

**MISS GRIFFITH**

Dr. Bevin. The School Board. The people who ruined your senior year. They're the same ones who ruined mine.

**MISS SUTHERLAND**

And they're still acting like the teenage show-offs they were when they were my students at Wiley.

**MISS GRIFFITH**

We've all been mopping the same old floors, for thirty years.

**RORY**

All because of some stupid game?

**MISS SUTHERLAND**

It's funny. I remember how, back then, *their* parents thought TV rotted *their* brains.

**(MISS GRIFFITH nods.)**

Now *they* think digital technology is rotting *yours*.

**RORY**

But Dr. Bevin...

**MISS SUTHERLAND**

Arty's just trying to use the grant money, and you, to settle old scores. As for Mrs. Fowler, the School Board Chair who suspended you,... and Morgan and Lance, well, they have their own agendas.

**MISS GRIFFITH**

The five of us were all in Miss Sutherland's history class.

**VICTOR THE VOICE**

Attention, please. Miss Sutherland, please report to Dr. Bevin's office.

**MISS SUTHERLAND**

Some day, I'll show you his grades.

**(MISS SUTHERLAND exits.)**

**RORY**

But, but... what can I do about any of this?

**MISS GRIFFITH**

You know that little drop bar on your computer? Edit. Undo. Fix a problem, and move on. You may not be able to change the past, but you can change the future.

**RORY**

Why me?

**MISS GRIFFITH**

You're the only one around here who has a grip on things.

**VICTOR THE VOICE**

Attention, please. Maintenance personnel, please come to Dr. Bevin's office? He pulled the wrong lever on his chair and fell flat on his face.

**MISS GRIFFITH**

*(Sigh)* Well, duty calls.

**RORY**

But, wait, Miss Griffith, what do I do?... How can I fix my own problems when everyone else is stuck in the past? Hold on... *I know!* If a game tore everybody apart thirty years ago, maybe we could use another game to bring everybody back together now. And, maybe, end the strike. What if we used the same game?

**MISS GRIFFITH**

Might work.



## SCENE: THE GAMES ARE OVER

**SHERRY SHANNON**

The adults' only chance now is to win D.D.R., and force another game.

**DR. BEVIN**

I can get jiggy wit' it.

**MRS. DARNELL**

Yes, Arty, you do just that.

**TOD**

D.D.R.? Yeah, man. This one's m...

**MAXWELL**

*(interrupting)* I'll play.

*(D.D.R.: On sidestage, DR. BEVIN and MAXWELL dance in front of the game console, as ALL OTHERS watch. DR. BEVIN dances very poorly, and MAXWELL dances worse. On the mainstage, MISS GRIFFITH and JANITORS move the arrows. TOD elbows MAXWELL aside, takes his place, and dances well, as the arrows fly faster. MISS GRIFFITH puts down her arrows, walks over to sidestage, and pushes DR. BEVIN out, and takes his place. MISS GRIFFITH rips off her janitor's clothes to reveal a sleek gold dancer's leotard, and dances brilliantly. TOD and MISS GRIFFITH move to center stage, as the arrows fly even faster. STUDENTS and ADULTS join the dance, STUDENTS around TOD, ADULTS around MISS GRIFFITH. MISS GRIFFITH does a show-stopping dance. JONAH blows his whistle and signals an adult win. The scoreboard shows ADULTS 3, STUDENTS 3. Music continues.)*

**TOD**

Beaten by a girl. Again.

**JONAH**

*The final game will be... Pong!*

*(MRS. FOWLER, MRS. DARNELL, DR. BEVIN and MR. LANGSTON cringe simultaneously. Far to sidestage, MISS GRIFFITH smiles broadly.)*

**MAXWELL**

*(to RORY)* Pong?

**RORY**

*(to MAXWELL)* A game of Pong caused all this trouble?

**JONAH**

*New players!*

**MAXWELL**

*What?*

**RORY**

*(to MAXWELL)* Ssh! Let's see what he does.

**JONAH**

*The student player is... Mr. Tod Darnell!*

**TOD**

Piece of cake.

**JONAH**

*The adult player is... Mr. Lance Langston!*

**(MR. LANGSTON balks.)**

Thirty years ago, Lance, you set the rules. This time, I do.

**(PONG: MR. LANGSTON and TOD walk to the sidestage game console. JANITORS form walls, and hand one large horizontal paddle to PARENTS and another to STUDENTS. JONAH blows his whistle, starting play. STEWART enters the game, holding a pong ball above her head, and bounces off walls and paddles. MRS. FOWLER enters with a pong ball, then ADELL, then MRS. DARNELL, each of them bouncing off walls, paddles, and each other, in an ever-increasing mayhem. RORY enters with a pong ball, and bounces off the walls and paddles. MISS GRIFFITH enters with a pong ball, and bounces off the walls and paddles. The movement becomes increasingly frenzied, and all the bouncing WOMEN become increasingly aggravated, until STEWART, MRS. FOWLER, ADELL, and MRS. DARNELL crash into RORY and MISS GRIFFITH, in one large heap. RORY throws her pong ball offstage, walks over to the TOD's computer console, and pulls out the power cord. Music stops.)**

**RORY**

**Stop! (JONAH blows his whistle.)**

*People are not pixels!*

**(to ADULTS)** That's true for you.

**(to STUDENTS)** And it's true for us.

**JONAH**

The games are over.