NARRATOR- The NARRATOR is very sarcastic and expressive and really drives some of the comedy in the show. They also have several short monologues, introducing the action of each scene.

NARRATOR: (To AUDIENCE, as all of NARRATOR'S lines will be.) Hello, welcome to [insert name of your school]. I'm so glad you could make it. You came on a very interesting day! A day filled with drama, action, suspense, and maybe even a little romance. Lives will be changed, hearts will be broken, and in the end... Sorry. I'm getting ahead of myself, aren't I? I just get so excited, I can't help it! School begins in ten minutes. But before that, there are a few people I'd like you to meet. (Steps aside as the CURTAIN RISES on

NARRATOR: Superman has Lex Luthor, Harry Potter has Lord Voldemort, and Max has Trip McClusky. Trip is in the principal's office more than he's in class. They even named the detention room after him. Trip isn't much of an overachiever, except when it comes to antagonizing Max. If that were a class, he'd get straight A's. (Steps aside.)

NARRATOR: Fifth period is U.S. History with Mr. Strickland. You know how some teachers are just so cool and can have such a huge impact on your life? How they can make you see the world in ways you've never seen it before? How they can inspire you to never give up on your dreams? Mr. Strickland isn't one of them. (STUDENTS ONE-FOUR, GUYS, TRIP, AMANDA, and optional EXTRA STUDENTS file IN, take their seats, and get pencils out of their backpacks.)

MAX. DONNY and LUKE

MAX is the scriptwriter and director/leader of the crew. DONNY is a tech geek and LUKE is the resident dork.

MAX: (ENTERS LEFT, followed ON by DONNY and LUKE. Talks excitedly as they cross to MAX'S locker, RIGHT.) Everything's ready for this weekend. This is going to be our biggest and best movie yet! It's going to be epic! I even used my paper route money to buy an extra battery for my camera so we don't have to stop shooting and wait for the one battery we have to recharge!

DONNY: Awesome!

LUKE: Good thinking! (They stop in front of MAX'S locker and continue miming conversation as NARRATOR speaks. [NOTE: Stage business continues in the background as ALL continue to mime conversations and/or actions any time NARRATOR speaks throughout the play.])

DONNY: So, who are we getting to play the female lead?

LUKE: My sister said she won't do it. She's still having nightmares about being eaten alive by gerbils.

MAX: I'm working on it. I was thinking about asking Suzy Armstrong.

DONNY: But homecoming's this weekend. She's probably going to the dance.

MAX: Shoot, you're right. Stupid homecoming!

LUKE: Maybe Donny can wear a wig? You know, back in Shakespeare's day, guys played the female parts all the time.

DONNY: No way! I am not doing that again! (*Thinks.*) Maybe we should postpone the shoot till the following weekend.

MAX: We can't! The deadline for the Milwaukee Short Film Festival is Monday! (NOTE: Feel free to change the name of the film festival to localize to your community.)

LUKE: So? Why can't we just submit one of our other movies?

MAX: Because they're not good enough! This has to be the best film we've ever made. If we get in, it will be shown in a real theater in front of an actual audience! And one of the judges is an agent from Hollywood! This could be our big break! So, don't worry about the female lead, I'll think of something. That's why I'm the director. Oh, I almost forgot! I made some tweaks to the script last night. (Pulls a stack of papers out of his backpack and shows DONNY and LUKE as AMANDA and her BFFs—BRITNEY, FARRAH, and FELICITY—ENTER LEFT and stop in front of a locker at LEFT. Everybody wants to be AMANDA—especially her friends. They dress like her, wear their hair like her, even talk like her.)

AMANDA, BRITTNEY, FARRAH and FELICITY (NARRATOR also reads in this scene)

AMANDA is the most popular girl in school. BRITTNEY, FARRAH and FELICITY are her two-faced entourage

AMANDA: I still have to go to Party Town and pick up more streamers and a helium tank. We don't want to have an incident like last year when half the homecoming committee hyperventilated and then passed out from blowing up a thousand balloons.

BRITNEY: That was horrible!

FARRAH: Awful!

FELICITY: A disaster!

NARRATOR: (Steps forward.) Meet Amanda Hughes and her BFFs— Britney, Farrah, and Felicity. Amanda's the most popular girl in school. She's the captain of the cheerleading squad and head of the homecoming committee. (Stage whispers, as if telling a secret. Indicates the homecoming banner.) She's also a shoo-in for homecoming queen this weekend. (Steps aside.)

BRITNEY: So, what did you and Cody do last night?

AMANDA: Nothing much. He came over, and we just cuddled on the couch and watched The Princess Bride.

FARRAH: That's so romantic!

BRITNEY: I wish Blake were more like that. His idea of a romantic evening is pizza and watching mixed martial arts fighting.

FELICITY: You're the luckiest girl in the world, Amanda!

AMANDA: I know. (From OFF RIGHT, a bunch of GUYS—BLAKE, ELI, and MITCH—hoot and holler.)

(after other action takes place...)

AMANDA: Can you believe it?! That jerk has the nerve to break up with me the week of the homecoming dance! Who does he think he is?! I mean, seriously!

BRITNEY: Um, yeah, that's a real bummer.

FARRAH: We should probably get to class.

FELICITY: Don't want to be late!

AMANDA: You guys go ahead without me. I'll be there in a minute.

BRITNEY: (Eagerly.) Okay! FARRAH: See you later!

FELICITY: Hang in there, girl! (They hastily run OFF LEFT. AMANDA

stands there, shell-shocked.)

MAX and TRIP

MAX is a geeky filmmaker. TRIP is the school bully and Max's nemesis.

TRIP: (From OFF LEFT.) Out of my way!

MAX: (In horror.) Oh no—Trip McClusky! (TRIP barges ON LEFT.

STUDENTS dart out of his way as he crosses RIGHT. MAX, DONNY, and LUKE try to blend into the lockers.)

TRIP: (As he walks past, snatches the script out of MAX'S hands.) What do we have here?

20 MAX: Hey! Give that back!

TRIP: (Flips through the pages with a confused look on his face, as if it's written in another language.) What the heck is this?

MAX: It's called a screenplay.

TRIP: Like for a movie? Did you write this?

25 MAX: Yeah. But you wouldn't be interested. There aren't any pictures. (OTHERS let out a collective "Oooh!")

TRIP: What did you say, dork?!

MAX: You heard me. Now give it back.

TRIP: Oh, I'll give it back... but you won't like the delivery method.

30 MAX: (Gulps.) Please, that's my only copy.

TRIP: What are you talking about? Don't you have it saved on a computer somewhere?

AMANDA and NANCY

AMANDA was just dumped by Cody, who is now taking NANCY to the homecoming dance

5 NANCY: Oh!

AMANDA: Sorry. (When she sees who it is, she stiffens.)

NANCY: (Nervous.) Amanda!

AMANDA: (Through clenched teeth.) Nancy.

NANCY: I... I... I...

10 AMANDA: You and Cody are going to the homecoming dance, huh?

NANCY: Oh, so you've heard.

AMANDA: Yeah, I heard. I mean, you posted it on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, Pinterest, and Tumblr. Pretty hard to miss.

NANCY: So are you mad?

15 AMANDA: (Lies.) What? No! I mean, Cody and I have been broken up for half a day. That's like six months in high school years.

NANCY: (Lets out a sigh of relief.) Oh, good! I have to say, I really misjudged you! I thought you'd, like, want to kill me. Well, I better go! Cody's waiting for me!

20 AMANDA: Bye! (NANCY meets CODY at an empty table. Under her breath but cheery.) Have fun at homecoming with my two-timing, back-stabbing boyfriend! (Angrily grabs a tray and gets in line.)

MRS. GUNDERSON: (Gives her a sympathetic smile.) Hi, Amanda. I heard about what happened. I actually saw it on LinkedIn, of all places. (AMANDA rolls her eyes.) How are you holding up?

AMANDA: You know, it just feels like my heart's been ripped out of my chest and used as a fidget spinner.

BLAKE, ELI, MITCH (Additional students that can be gender swapped ala Blake, Elly and Michelle)

BLAKE: We brought Taco Bell to Spanish class, and Mrs. Rodriguez got offended.

ELI: That class always makes me crave a chalupa.

MITCH: You're a chalupa!

ELI: Well... you're a quesadilla!

BLAKE: What does that even mean?

MAX and AMANDA

MAX and AMANDA find out they have something in common and decide to help each other

1 AMANDA: Oh, please! What are you so upset about? Did Netflix cancel Stranger Things?

MAX: No! Trip McClusky stole my screenplay, and now I have to rewrite it before Saturday, or else we're going to miss the deadline for the Milwaukee Short Film Festival!

AMANDA: Don't you have it saved on your computer?

MAX: No, I use a typewriter.

AMANDA: Why?

MAX: William Goldman wrote all of his screenplays on a typewriter.

10 AMANDA: Who?

MAX: William Goldman! He's, like, the greatest screenwriter who ever lived! He wrote Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, Marathon Man, All the President's Men, and The Princess Bride!

AMANDA: He wrote The Princess Bride?

15 MAX: You know that movie?

AMANDA: Yeah, I love The Princess Bride!

MAX: Me too!

MAX/AMANDA: (In unison.) "Hello. My name is Inigo Montoya. You killed my father. Prepare to die." (Both laugh.)

20 AMANDA: (Gets an idea.) Wait a minute! You make those short films and put them on YouTube, don't you?

MAX: (Surprised.) You've seen my films?

AMANDA: No. But I have an idea of how I can get back at Cody.

MAX: I don't like where this is going.

25 AMANDA: Just hear me out. I want to humiliate him like he humiliated me. So, can you make an embarrassing video of him and post it on YouTube for everybody to see?

MAX: Like what? Cody's the coolest guy in school. What could possibly humiliate him?

30 AMANDA: (Looks around to make sure nobody's listening, then leans in close to MAX and confides.) He's afraid of the dark.

MAX: What?

35

AMANDA: Yeah, if he gets stuck in a dark room, he starts crying like a baby. If people found out, especially his teammates, he would absolutely die.

MAX: But how would we make a video?

AMANDA: You could hide in the janitor's closet with your camera, and I could lure Cody inside and then turn off the lights. He'll totally freak!

AMANDA and CODY

The breakup scene- both are the most popular kids in school

1 AMANDA: So... why? Is there someone else? Are you cheating on me?
CODY: What? No! I swear, it's not that!

AMANDA: Then what? Give me one good reason we should break up!

CODY: You want a reason? Fine. You're too smothering! I feel like I

can't even go to the bathroom anymore without you checking up
on me.

AMANDA: That's not true!

CODY: And I'm sick of you always telling me what to do! I have a mind of my own, you know?

10 AMANDA: I don't tell you what to do! Take that back!

CODY: And you want to know something else? I hate The Princess Bride! (AMANDA gasps in horror.) Just once, I'd like to watch a movie with The Rock in it! Is that too much to ask?!

AMANDA: (Holds back tears.) I can't believe this is happening!

15 CODY: Look, I know how much homecoming means to you, so I was going to wait until after the dance to break up with you. So if you still want to go, I'm cool with that.

AMANDA: You're kidding, right? You honestly think I still want to go to the dance with you?! I wouldn't go with you if you were the last guy on earth!

CODY: So... I'll take that as a no then?

AMANDA: Yeah, it's a big, fat no!

CODY: Okay, okay... I'm just going to go now.

AMANDA: Yeah, I think that's a good idea. (CODY turns to leave and runs right into BFFs and GUYS, who quickly pretend like they're not listening. CODY just shakes his head and walks OFF RIGHT. BLAKE, ELI, and MITCH quickly wave goodbye to the GIRLS and turn to follow CODY.)

MRS. GUNDERSON (Lunch Lady)- Amanda also reads in scene

Lunch lady with a heart of gold, really tries to make the kids feel better

MRS. GUNDERSON: (Gives her a sympathetic smile.) Hi, Amanda. I heard about what happened. I actually saw it on LinkedIn, of all places. (AMANDA rolls her eyes.) How are you holding up?

AMANDA: You know, it just feels like my heart's been ripped out of my chest and used as a fidget spinner.

MRS. GUNDERSON: (Confides.) Did I ever tell you about the time my boyfriend dumped me at prom?

30 AMANDA: No! What did you do?

MRS. GUNDERSON: I threw my punch all over his white tuxedo so he wouldn't be able to get his deposit back.

AMANDA: You did?!

25

MRS. GUNDERSON: Yup. Look, I know it's going to hurt for a while, but it will get better. There are other fish in the sea—you just have to watch out for the sharks, stingrays, and piranhas. (AMANDA cracks a smile.) I bet I know what'll make you feel better.

AMANDA: What?

MRS. GUNDERSON: An extra slice of chocolate cake! (Puts two slices of chocolate cake on her tray.)

MRS. DEETZ (The librarian) Max also reads in scene

Librarian who is a total quiet freak

MRS. DEETZ: Max! What in the world is that?

MAX: (Out of breath.) It's just my camera, tripod, and lighting equipment, Mrs. Deetz.

MRS. DEETZ: Why are you bringing them to study hall?

MAX: It's... for a special project.

MRS. DEETZ: For what class?

MAX: Um... social studies?

MRS. DEETZ: You better not make too much noise.

MRS. DEETZ: (Tries to regain control.) Okay, that's enough! (To MAX, AMANDA, and CODY.) The three of you can sort this out in detention! Now clean up this mess... (Turns to look at other STUDENTS.) ... and the rest of you get back to work! (ALL return to their seats.)

MAX: (Snaps at her.) None of this would've happened if you hadn't talked me into it! This is all your fault!

MRS. DEETZ: Shhh! (AMANDA watches MAX cradle his broken camera as LIGHTS FADE to BLACK.)

MR.STRICKLAND (History teacher) Trip and Amanda also read in scene

Total dork teacher who is very condescending

MR. STRICKLAND: (Walks up and down the aisles, handing out the quiz.) Keep your papers face down, and don't turn them over until I tell you.

TRIP: (Gets an idea and turns to AMANDA.) Hey, you want to get the dork's precious script back?

AMANDA: Yes!

TRIP: Then help me on the quiz.

AMANDA: What?!

TRIP: Give me the answers, and I'll give you the script.

AMANDA: How am I supposed to do that?

TRIP: I don't know. You're smart. Figure it out.

MR. STRICKLAND: (Places tests on each of their desks. To TRIP.) And make sure to keep your eyes on your own paper!

TRIP: Of course. I'd never dream of cheating, sir.

MR. STRICKLAND: (Sarcastic.) Right. (Walks to the front of the class.) You will have fifteen minutes to complete the quiz, starting... now! (after other action takes place...)

MR. STRICKLAND: Nice try, Mr. McClusky. Not only will you both be getting F's on the quiz, but you'll also be getting detentions. (AMANDA slumps in her seat, ashamed.)

PRINCIPAL SCHUMACHER Trip and Amanda also read in the scene

Principal who has a superiority complex- a little over dramatic at times with the hand expressions

PRINCIPAL SCHUMACHER: Good morning, Trip. Am I interrupting anything?

TRIP: No, not at all. My good friend Max here was just having trouble opening his locker, so I was giving him a hand. (Opens the locker and pats MAX on the back—hard. MAX winces.) There you go, buddy.

MAX: (In pain.) Thanks. (SOUND EFFECT: SCHOOL BELL.)

PRINCIPAL SCHUMACHER: Okay, show's over! Everybody get to class! (ALL STUDENTS except AMANDA, MAX, and TRIP grab their books and quickly run OFF in all directions. PRINCIPAL SCHUMACHER turns and EXITS RIGHT.)

PRINCIPAL SCHUMACHER: That's enough, ladies! (Still glaring at each other, they take their seats. PRINCIPAL SCHUMACHER crosses their names off her list.) Okay, that should be everybody. I have to say, I am very disappointed in all of you.

TRIP: Even me?

PRINCIPAL SCHUMACHER: Except you, Trip.

TRIP: (To himself.) Yes!

PRINCIPAL SCHUMACHER: (Crosses to MAX.) Max, you're one of our best and brightest students, and then I hear you get into a fight with Cody in the library? What's the matter with you? (MAX lowers his head, ashamed.)

AMANDA: (Raises her hand.) May I please say something, Principal Schumacher?

PRINCIPAL SCHUMACHER: Go ahead, Amanda.

AMANDA: Max doesn't deserve to be here. He didn't do anything wrong. He was just trying to help me get back at Cody. I never should've gotten him involved. (Looks at MAX.) I just hope he can forgive me someday, so we can be friends again.

PRINCIPAL SCHUMACHER: Well, that's very nice, Amanda. I'm sure Max feels better now. Don't you, Max? (MAX grudgingly nods his head.) Good. (Turns to CODY.) And what about you, Cody? You're our star quarterback. You're supposed to be a role model. Why are you picking fights with your classmates?

MR. BOSLEY (Chemistry teacher)

Total mad scientist spazz

MR. BOSLEY: Good morning, class! (ALL stifle their laughter as MR. BOSLEY waves the steam out of his face.) Okay, everybody! Settle down! We have a lot to do today! (Waits for them to quiet down and for the steam to dissipate.) Now, as you can see, there are a bunch of chemicals in front of you. We're going to see what happens when you combine these chemicals. I want you to work together and write down the results. But I must warn you, be very careful! I once had a student accidentally melt his fingers off! (Horrified, ALL stare at him. After a moment, he bursts out laughing.) I'm joking! These chemicals are harmless. The school won't let me use the dangerous stuff anymore. Okay, you may begin! (ALL start to work as the LIGHTS FADE DOWN to focus on MAX and AMANDA, who doodles in her notebook.)

MRS. O'TOOLE (English teacher)

Drama queen who thinks she is still on Broadway

- MS. O'TOOLE: This is Juliet's balcony, of course. (AMANDA rolls her eyes, but climbs up on the desk.) Excellent. Now, I'll set the scene. Romeo has just left the party and is wandering through the Capulet's orchard when he sees a light coming from Juliet's balcony. (ALL stare at CODY, waiting for him to begin, but he stares off blankly.) Cody?
- MS. O'TOOLE: No, no, no! It's all wrong! Like this. (With flair, she milks every word.) "O Romeo, Romeo! Wherefore art thou Romeo? Deny thy father and refuse thy name! Or, if thou wilt not, be but sworn my love, and I'll no longer be a Capulet." (Relishes the emotion and then breaks.) And scene! (Takes a bow to a smattering of half-hearted applause from the class. To AMANDA.) Okay, try again.