

MATTHEW THREE HORN

### Character Breakdown

MATTHEW	An average fourth grade monster ready to make new friends.
ANNE	A kindhearted and open minded monster.
THRASH	A smart, well read, well spoken, and aggressive monster.
GABE	A follower and a bit dim witted monster.
AMANDA	A fashionista and opinionated monster.
MRS. SHADDUCK	A lover of knowledge with a passion to mold and educate young monster minds. Also a monster.
MOM	Mother of THRASH. A monster that can be played by the same actor who is MRS. SHADDUCK.

This piece was written with the intent to travel. So even though it takes place at several locations minimal or simple set pieces are welcome and even preferred.

This play does not exceed a sixty-minute run time.

### Scene

A quiet monster suburb of a major monster city.

### Time

The present.

Lights rise on two rows of chairs and small desks that form the majority of MRS. SHADDUCK's classroom. A larger desk is visible with various books scattered on top accompanied by a single red apple. MRS. SHADDUCK is at the white board writing down several math equations. Her STUDENTS are loudly talking, laughing, and getting settled in their seats. MRS. SHADDUCK finishes her work and turns to the rabble that is her class. She closes her eyes and absorbs the chaotic energy. She calmly counts down to herself.

MRS. SHADDUCK

Five. Four. Three. Two. One.

The school bell RINGS. MRS. SHADDUCK'S eyes flash open and happily claps her hands together. The STUDENTS are all in their seats. MRS. SHADDUCK excitedly looks upon her class. She pauses slightly to build the suspense of what is about to happen.

MRS. SHADDUCK

Good morning my lovely students! My knowledge sponges. I have one word and four syllables just for you. Mathematics!

MRS. SHADDUCK savors the powerful word she just said while allowing her STUDENTS to realize the significance of it. They don't.

MRS. SHADDUCK

Please answer these equations out loud. Concentrate and listen carefully.

As the equations are asked by MRS. SHADDUCK and responded by the STUDENTS, the lesson morphs into a sing song chant of call and answer. The STUDENTS and MRS. SHADDUCK have all done this before.

MRS. SHADDUCK

Three times three divided by three is what?

STUDENTS

Three times three divided by three is three!

MRS. SHADDUCK

Good. B plus three is thirty-six.

STUDENTS

Thirty-six? Pick up sticks.

MRS. SHADDUCK.

What is then the value of B?

STUDENTS

B then equals to thirty three!

MRS. SHADDUCK

Yes! Three swans are at a lake.

STUDENTS

At a lake? What's at stake?

MRS. SHADDUCK

One of three flies away.

STUDENTS

Flies away? Have a nice day!

MRS. SHADDUCK

What's the fraction that went away?

STUDENTS

What could it be?

MRS. SHADDUCK

What could it be? I think you know.

STUDENTS

Is it one third?

MRS. SHADDUCK

Or in other words?

STUDENTS

One over three!

MRS. SHADDUCK

Wonderful! Well done. Give yourselves a hand.

MRS. SHADDUCK leads a round of  
applause. MATTHEW enters.

MRS. SHADDUCK

Well, hello there! Welcome. Come on in! Don't be shy now. Welcome to Maplewood Elementary. You must be Matthew. I am Mrs. Shadduck.

MATTHEW

Hi. Sorry I'm late.

MRS. SHADDUCK

No worries. No worries at all. The first day can be tricky.

MATTHEW

Thank you. Where should I sit?

MRS. SHADDUCK

We have a seat reserved just for you. But first, how about you introduce yourself.

MATTHEW

Oh. Sure. Hi. I'm Matthew. I moved here to be with my dad and I'm excited to meet all of you.

MRS. SHADDUCK

Wonderful. And?

MATTHEW

And nothing much else. I'm a pretty normal monster.

MRS. SHADDUCK

Of course. And?

MATTHEW

Well, I do like baseball and reading books.

MRS. SHADDUCK

Interesting. And?

MATTHEW

And the name Maplewood makes me think of bacon?

MRS. SHADDUCK

Cute. And?

MATTHEW

And?

MRS. SHADDUCK

AND????

MATTHEW

And...

MRS. SHADDUCK

And you're happy I'M your new teacher???

MATTHEW

Oh. And I'm happy you're my new teacher.

MRS. SHADDUCK

Marvelous! You're new and ecstatic, thrilled even that I am your newest educator! Let's make Matthew feel welcome.

MRS. SHADDUCK excitedly leads the  
STUDENTS in applause.

MRS. SHADDUCK

Your seat is right here. Go ahead and get settled. Class, please take out yesterday's spelling quiz for review. Or should I say R-E-V-I-E-W. I wasn't too happy with our first attempt, so we will be taking the quiz again later today.

STUDENTS groan in dismay.

MRS. SHADDUCK

No sound effects please. Use this time now to go over any words you may have missed and for some of you that means several. Matthew, here is a fresh quiz. Just try your best and if you have any questions don't be afraid to ask.

MATTHEW

Thank you.

MRS. SHADDUCK hands MATTHEW the  
quiz and returns to her desk.

MRS. SHADDUCK

Oh, but Matthew? No hats on in the classroom please.

MATTHEW

Oh yeah. Sure thing.

MATTHEW takes off his baseball cap revealing a third horn on his head. No one moves. All are still, silent, and staring at MATTHEW. Slowly a hand of a STUDENT is raised. Then another. And then another. One by one they rise until all STUDENTS have a hand raised to ask a question.

MRS. SHADDUCK

Yes? Thrash.

THRASH  
Why does Matthew have three horns?

MRS. SHADDUCK  
Oh.

AMANDA  
Why is he different?

MRS. SHADDUCK  
Well-

ANNE  
Does this mean we will all be getting an extra horn?

MRS. SHADDUCK  
Not exactly.

THRASH  
I don't like it.

GABE  
Yeah. I don't like it.

AMANDA  
I don't think anyone likes it.

ANNE  
Does he like having an extra horn?

THRASH points and counts MATTHEW's  
horns.

THRASH  
One plus one plus one is three! Mathematics!

STUDENTS laugh.

MRS. SHADDUCK  
Class, settle down. This is no way to make Matthew feel  
welcome. We apologize. Don't we?

All STUDENTS speak except for  
THRASH.

STUDENTS  
We're sorry.

MRS. SHADDUCK  
I couldn't hear you Thrash.

THRASH  
I'm sorry.

MRS. SHADDUCK

Better. Now please keep your focus on your quiz and continue to study.

A few moments pass as the STUDENTS study quietly. THRASH eventually raises his hand and speaks.

THRASH

Mrs. Shadduck? How do you spell the word freak?

MRS. SHADDUCK

That isn't one of your words, Thrash.

THRASH

I know. I'm just curious.

MRS. SHADDUCK

Please be curious about the words on your quiz.

THRASH

But I know them already.

AMANDA

I can spell it. Freak. F-R-E-A-K. Freak.

THRASH

I don't know if that's right. I thought it was freak: M-A-T-T-H-E-W. Freak.

STUDENTS laugh.

MRS. SHADDUCK

Thrash this is your final warning. Stop. Don't make me take away your recess time.

THRASH

I'm sorry Mrs. Shadduck.

STUDENTS go back to studying.

THRASH quietly begins a chant.

THRASH

Freak. Freak. Freak.

GABE joins. The chant builds and gets louder.

THRASH AND GABE

Freak. Freak. Freak.

The other STUDENTS join in. ANNE is hesitant. AMANDA gives ANNE a look.



ANNE surrenders and mouths the words but no sound comes out. The chant noise level and momentum hits its peak.

STUDENTS

Freak! Freak! Freak!

MRS. SHADDUCK

That is enough!

The STUDENTS stop. The school bell RINGS. STUDENTS get up to leave.

MRS. SHADDUCK

Freeze. Thrash and Gabe I need to talk to you.

THRASH

Of course. Whatever you would like to talk about I am fully available.

GABE

Fully available.

MRS. SHADDUCK

Very gracious of you both. You then won't mind if we take up most of your recess time. The rest of you can go. But this doesn't mean I'm not disappointed.

THRASH and GABE approach MRS. SHADDUCK's desk. The other STUDENTS exit. MATTHEW stays. Lights fade around MATTHEW leaving him in a single light.

MATTHEW

I'm different.

BLACKOUT

Lights rise revealing MATTHEW sitting down on the playground reading a book. ANNE and AMANDA enter and slowly walk about talking.

AMANDA

I was thinking short but I would keep my bangs.

ANNE

That could be cute.

AMANDA

I think so too. It's fun to change it up every once and a while.

ANNE

Not for me.

AMANDA

I know. If it's not long and flowing you won't be happy.

ANNE

I just like what I like.

AMANDA

And that's not short. Or braided. Or in a ponytail. Or any sort of style that isn't what you have right now.

ANNE

And you sound annoyed.

AMANDA

I just don't like it when certain individuals don't participate in certain slumber party activities.

ANNE

I participated. I ate pizza. Played truth or dare. Called a boy monster and hung up when he answered.

AMANDA

Yes. But-

ANNE

And tried to make you wet the bed by putting your hand in warm water while you were sleeping.

AMANDA

Which wasn't funny.

ANNE

I disagree.

AMANDA

Regardless. You didn't let me braid your hair.

ANNE

I never said I was perfect.

AMANDA

I'm starting to realize that.

ANNE finally notices MATTHEW  
sitting alone.

ANNE  
You weren't very nice to him earlier.

AMANDA  
Who?

ANNE  
Him.

AMANDA  
Oh, that was funny.

ANNE  
Not really.

AMANDA  
You did it too.

ANNE  
I pretended to.

AMANDA  
Really? Gosh. Okay, Mother Teresa.

ANNE  
It just seemed off that we would do that.

AMANDA  
Why do you even care about him? He's so weird.

ANNE  
You don't know that.

AMANDA  
He has three horns.

ANNE  
And you have two.

AMANDA  
Right. Two is normal. Three is not.

ANNE  
He's normal. Just different normal.

AMANDA  
Different normal means weird.

ANNE  
It means he's special.

AMANDA  
That doesn't sound better.

ANNE

I mean he's unique.

AMANDA

Fine. His three horns make him "unique".

ANNE

Thank you.

AMANDA

And his reading?

ANNE

What?

AMANDA

Look at him. He's reading.

ANNE

I like to read.

AMANDA

During recess? We're supposed to play during recess. Not read.

ANNE

That's silly.

AMANDA

That's called truth.

ANNE

Well, we're not playing. We're just walking around and talking.

AMANDA

Yes, but, we're not reading. He has three horns and he reads at recess. He's weird.

ANNE

Unique and that's kind of mean.

AMANDA

I'm just being realistic.

ANNE

And being kind of mean.

AMANDA

The truth hurts.

ANNE

Well. I'm going to go talk to him.

What?  
AMANDA

He looks lonely.  
ANNE

With his book.  
AMANDA

With his book. I'm going to talk to him.  
ANNE

Why?  
AMANDA

To be nice.  
ANNE

And I'm going to stay here.  
AMANDA

And judge me.  
ANNE

Yes.  
AMANDA

Why are we friends again?  
ANNE

I'm fashionable and delightful to be around.  
AMANDA

You're something all right.  
ANNE

THRASH and GABE enter.

Why hello, Anne. How are you?  
THRASH

Thrash. Not today.  
ANNE

You look nice.  
THRASH

Please don't.  
ANNE

I see you're wearing your light blue sweater.  
THRASH

ANNE

Thrash.

THRASH

I actually prefer your pink one but this is still nice.

ANNE

I just want to talk to Amanda, okay?

THRASH

Looks warm. Gabe?

GABE

Blue is good. Pink is better. Both are fuzzy.

THRASH

Agreed.

AMANDA

Grow up guys.

THRASH

What? We just want to talk. That's all.

ANNE

Let's go Amanda.

THRASH

Okay, okay. Fine. You're right. We also wanted to well...three.

ANNE

Thrash.

THRASH

Two.

ANNE

Please don't.

THRASH

One.

THRASH AND GABE

RAAAWWWHHH!!!

THRASH and GABE chase ANNE and AMANDA in dramatic fashion. ANNE and AMANDA scream and are sent off. THRASH and GABE remain laughing in triumph. They notice MATTHEW sitting alone.

THRASH

Well, lookie here. Hey, new kid. Reading a nice book, new kid? *Where the Red Fern Grows*. Wow. Sad book, new kid.

MATTHEW

My name is Matthew.

THRASH

Matthew. That's right. M-A-T-T-H-E-W. Matthew. Maaatheewwww. Just rolls off the tongue, doesn't it? Matthew. Matt-Y-thew. Matt-Theww.

MATTHEW

Hi.

THRASH

I'm Thrash. This is Gabe.

MATTHEW

Okay.

THRASH

Sorry Matthew. Are we disturbing reading time? Gabe and I just wanted to come over and say hi. Officially welcome you to our school. So welcome.

GABE

Welcome.

MATTHEW

Thanks.

THRASH

No problem Matthew. Matt-Y-thewwww. You're a baseball fan, huh? Very cool. I love baseball. Always wanted season tickets. Some day. You mind if I see your hat? It's okay. I'll give it back.

MATTHEW reluctantly hands over his hat to THRASH. THRASH puts it on.

THRASH

Pro fit. Cool. Fits good.

GABE

Looks good.

THRASH

Feels good. Yeah. I play first base on my little league team. I'm awesome.

GABE

Very awesome.

THRASH

Thank you, Gabe. I'm VERY awesome. And oh, there it is. The talk of the town. Horn number three.

MATTHEW

Please give me my hat back.

THRASH

You and that horn are causing a stir around here, Matt-thewww. I would say that you're actually popular in a weird kind of way.

MATTHEW

I don't want any trouble.

THRASH

Trouble? No trouble here. Just came over to say hello, welcome you to our wonderful school, try on your very comfortable hat, and point out the fact that you're a freak.

MATTHEW

Come on, Thrash. Give me my hat.

THRASH

No problem. No problem at all. No need to get anxious now. You'll get it back. Just say please. Freak.

MATTHEW

I already said please.

THRASH

Pretty please.

MATTHEW

Pretty please.

THRASH

Good. Here's your hat, freak.

THRASH tosses the hat to MATTHEW.

THRASH

I didn't want it anyway. Your freak germs are all over it. Wearing that thing will probably make me grow a third horn.

GABE

Yeah. Matthew probably gave you Matt-Flu.

THRASH

Holy crap! Gabe. That is the single greatest thing you have ever said in your life. Matthew has Matt-Flu.



Matthew Matt-Flu!

GABE

Please leave me alone.

MATTHEW

Alright. Let's bounce, Gabe. Matt-Flu is in the air.

THRASH

Oh no!

GABE

GABE begins to cough and gasp for air.

What is it Gabe?

THRASH

Thrash? I need help. Matt-Flu...

GABE

GABE dramatically passes out into THRASH's arms.

Oh no! I got you.

THRASH

THRASH pulls GABE's body away from MATTHEW.

It's not ending this way. Not today. Stay with me, Gabe. Gabe?!

THRASH

GABE meekly wakes up.

Thrash? Is that you?

GABE

It sure is, buddie. I'm not leaving you.

THRASH

Thrash...

GABE

I'm right here.

THRASH

Remember me...

GABE

GABE's body goes limp.

THRASH

Nooooooooo! Gabe! You're not doing this to me. Gabe? Gabe?!?!

THRASH frantically checks GABE's pulse and his two horns.

THRASH

Oh. You're fine. You still just have two.

GABE immediately stands up and is back to normal.

GABE

Thank goodness!

THRASH and GABE laugh and high five.

THRASH

We got to go, Matty-Mat. There's a Matt-Flu epidemic. But don't worry. We'll be back when things clear up so we can chat some more.

MATTHEW

Great.

THRASH

Wow, freak. Sarcasm is rude. You're on my list Matty-Flu.

THRASH turns to leave. MATTHEW notices something coming out of the top of THRASH's jeans. THRASH becomes aware and quickly covers it up. THRASH sees that MATTHEW noticed.

THRASH

What are you staring at?!?

MATTHEW

Nothing.

THRASH gets into MATTHEW's face.

THRASH

That's right, freak. NOTHING. And by the way...

THRASH smacks MATTHEW's book out of his hands and points to it.

THRASH

Both dogs die. Have a nice day. Gabe, you need to talk more. Matt-Flu. Genius.

GABE and THRASH exit.

MATTHEW

Dang it.

MATTHEW picks up his book and quietly leaves. A few moments pass before ANNE enters looking for MATTHEW.

ANNE

Matthew?

He is too far gone to be seen. The school bell RINGS and lights fade on ANNE.

Lights rise on the classroom. STUDENTS are seated as MRS. SHADDUCK is completely absorbed in her book of Greek mythology. She bounces back and forth from writing on the white board and reading the book as she delivers another life changing lesson to her class.

MRS. SHADDUCK

The tale of the Trojan War is one of love, betrayal, and deception!

ANNE seeks out MATTHEW with her eyes. She finds him. MATTHEW and ANNE smile. ANNE takes a piece of paper out and writes a note.

MRS. SHADDUCK

It involved the mighty kingdoms of Troy and Greece who found themselves in a ten year conflict full of turmoil and loss. And all of it. All of it was spawned from the singular action of kidnapping the lovely Helen.

ANNE passes AMANDA the note and urges her to hand it over to MATTHEW. AMANDA mouths the word, "no". ANNE nods her head "yes". AMANDA resists and shakes her head "no". ANNE pleads with her eyes. AMANDA finally concedes and tosses the note to MATTHEW. Before MATTHEW can even grab it THRASH snatches the note. All the STUDENTS are watching the note passing action.

ANNE

Hey. Give that back!

All STUDENTS gasp and turn to MRS.  
SHADDUCK.

MRS. SHADDUCK

Yes! Exactly! "Give that back!", says the Greek King Agamemnon and he sends a massive army across the Aegean sea to hunt down the captors and rescue his love.

All STUDENTS turn back to THRASH.  
THRASH happily rips up the note.

MRS. SHADDUCK

This is why it is said that Helen of Troy is the monster face that launched a thousand ships!

ANNE writes another note. THRASH is watching.

MRS. SHADDUCK

The Greek warriors armed with shields and spears, swords and bows, all took to the beach and marched onto the mighty walls of Troy.

ANNE finishes writing and slowly gets up from her seat. She carefully moves to hand deliver the note to MATTHEW without being detected by MRS. SHADDUCK.

MRS. SHADDUCK

But the resistance was strong. With the help of such heroes as Hector and Paris, the Trojans were able to intercept the Greek advancements.

THRASH moves to stop ANNE. ANNE back pedals. THRASH is chasing after ANNE. ANNE and THRASH are moving in slow motion in a game of "cat and mouse" as they go about the classroom. All the while MRS. SHADDUCK obliviously teaches on.

MRS. SHADDUCK

For years the battle waged on. Back and forth the two sides fought. Neither side giving up. Neither side letting down. Too strong was their resolve to allow any quarter given!

AMANDA

Just let her go!

STUDENTS gasp and freeze as they look to MRS. SHADDUCK. MRS. SHADDUCK is too enthralled with the story to look up.

MRS. SHADDUCK

Let her go? Oh, no! The Trojans couldn't! Like Agamemnon, Prince Paris was in love with Helen. Too far in love to even think about surrendering her to the Greeks!

ANNE gives up and sits back down in her chair. THRASH sits in his seat triumphantly. GABE gives THRASH a fist bump.

MRS. SHADDUCK

War, turmoil, and loss lasted for a decade! Ten long years until finally...an idea came.

ANNE gets an idea and takes out a large piece of paper.

MRS. SHADDUCK

The Greek army decided to retreat but not before leaving a gift for the Trojans.

ANNE hurriedly writes down a single word. THRASH sees this and takes out his own paper and writes down a word as well.

MRS. SHADDUCK

The Greeks choose to construct and leave a large wooden horse!

GABE gets inspired and takes out a large piece of paper and writes.

MRS. SHADDUCK

So harmless the horse seemed that the Trojans brought it inside the city walls and celebrated their victory.

ANNE lifts up her sign showing it to MATTHEW. It says, "WELCOME."  
MATTHEW and ANNE share a smile.

MRS. SHADDUCK

But, under the cover of night, several hidden Greek soldiers emerged from the horse.

THRASH shows his sign to MATTHEW. It says, "FREAK." THRASH is pleased with himself.

MRS. SHADDUCK

They opened the city gates and helped lead an assault on Troy that finally ended it all!

GABE reveals his sign. It says,  
"HORSES" with a heart drawn around  
it.

MRS. SHADDUCK

And that's how the Greeks ended the Trojan War. With a Trojan Horse! Any questions?

MRS. SHADDUCK is released from the story she was presenting and finally looks at her STUDENTS. ANNE and THRASH quickly put down their signs. GABE keeps his up. MRS. SHADDUCK sees it.

MRS. SHADDUCK

Oh. Correct Gabe. The Greeks used a horse. That I now know you love. Good for you, Gabe.

GABE smiles and proudly shows off his sign to the rest of the class. THRASH simply shakes his head.

MRS. SHADDUCK

Very well my students! We are now going to leave the shores of Troy and continue on. Free time is upon us!

STUDENTS happily get up to leave.

MRS. SHADDUCK

Freeze. Remember that it is Thrash and Gabe's turn for the computer.

THRASH AND GABE

Yes!

MRS. SHADDUCK

And for the rest of you there's still the puzzle corner, the study lounge, or the art station to take full advantage of. Now go. Grow. Let your scholastic minds be your guide!

Lights fade. Lights rise on MATTHEW. He's quietly standing at a small table putting together a panda bear puzzle. Sitting across the room is ANNE. She's busy drawing in a spiral notebook. MATTHEW notices ANNE. Their eyes meet and both smile. ANNE sets down

her notebook and pencil, and walks  
over to MATTHEW.

	ANNE
Hello.	
	MATTHEW
Hi.	
	ANNE
Can I help?	
	MATTHEW
That's fine.	
	ANNE
You sure?	
	MATTHEW
Yeah.	
	Silence.
	ANNE
I'm Anne.	
	MATTHEW
Hi.	
	ANNE
Hello. Again.	
	Silence.
	MATTHEW
I'm Matthew.	
	ANNE
I know.	
	MATTHEW
Right.	
	Silence.
	MATTHEW
Panda bear.	
	ANNE
Incomplete panda bear.	
	MATTHEW
They come from China.	

ANNE

Correct.

MATTHEW

They eat bamboo.

ANNE

Yes.

MATTHEW

For ten to sixteen hours a day consuming twenty to forty pounds.

ANNE

I did not know that.

MATTHEW

They're my favorite animal.

MATTHEW attempts to place a few pieces. He fails. ANNE picks up a few pieces and puts them in correctly.

ANNE

That piece goes there. And that one goes there. And that one there.

MATTHEW

You're pretty good at this.

ANNE

I have a grandmother.

MATTHEW

I see.

ANNE

My grandmother loves puzzles. We work on them together every Sunday. It's kind of our thing.

MATTHEW

Well, it shows.

ANNE

Thanks.

MATTHEW

You're welcome.

MATTHEW puts a piece in the correct spot.



Nice.

ANNE

Panda eyeball. Complete.

MATTHEW

Silence.

ANNE

You're different.

MATTHEW

I've heard.

ANNE

No. I mean, yeah, you do have a lot of horns.

MATTHEW

Only one more.

ANNE

Only one more. But what I meant was is that you act different.

MATTHEW

Okay.

ANNE

In a good way.

MATTHEW

Thanks.

ANNE

You're welcome. It's just nice to talk to a boy monster without having to be chased by them.

MATTHEW

That makes sense.

ANNE

It's tiring. I don't get it.

MATTHEW

Chasing. It's a love language.

ANNE

What?

MATTHEW

We chase because we care.

ANNE  
Why don't they just talk to us?

MATTHEW  
Boy monsters prefer to chase.

ANNE  
Well, I prefer a nice conversation.

MATTHEW  
While putting together a puzzle?

ANNE  
Yeah.

MATTHEW  
Good.

ANNE  
Good.

Silence.

ANNE  
I'm sorry I haven't talked to you until now.

MATTHEW  
It's okay.

ANNE  
I've wanted to.

MATTHEW  
It's okay.

ANNE  
It's just Amanda and then Thrash-

MATTHEW  
Really. Don't worry about it.

ANNE  
I should have tried harder.

MATTHEW  
Anne. You did just fine. Promise. I liked your sign.

ANNE  
Good.

Silence.

ANNE

Eucalyptus leaves are poisonous to most animals but not to koala bears who in fact are not bears at all.

MATTHEW

But are marsupials.

ANNE

My favorite animal.

A moment of smiles.

MATTHEW

You going to be around for free time tomorrow?

ANNE

Yeah.

MATTHEW

Would you mind if we do this again?

ANNE

Nope. This could be our thing.

MATTHEW

Awesome.

Another moment of smiles.

ANNE

Boy monsters chase girl monsters because they like them?

MATTHEW

Yeah. It's weird.

ANNE

Yep.

MRS. SHADDUCK enters.

MRS. SHADDUCK

Class! Free time has come and gone! Please take your seats for your next academic adventure!

MATTHEW and ANNE do so while the rest of the STUDENTS enter and follow suit.

MRS. SHADDUCK

Science!

The word gives MRS. SHADDUCK the chills as she allows it to linger. The STUDENTS feel nothing.

MRS. SHADDUCK  
On Monday we will be diving head first into the exciting world of science. How do you say you may ask? By presenting science projects!

The STUDENTS groan in dismay.

MRS. SHADDUCK  
No, no, no. Groans are not allowed. These projects can be whatever your little scientific hearts desire and, here's a twist, you will be doing them with science partners! Yes! Two minds are indeed better than one! To choose your science partners I will now randomly draw names out of the "thinking cap". Oh goodness!

MRS. SHADDUCK chuckles as she brings out a small beanie cap with a mini propeller on the top of it.

MRS. SHADDUCK  
This hat gets me every time. What a silly thing with such a dignified name. Am I right?

MRS. SHADDUCK laughs loudly longing for others to join her. Nothing but blank stares are given from the STUDENTS. GABE raises his hand.

MRS. SHADDUCK  
Gabe?

GABE  
The answer is... yes?

MRS. SHADDUCK  
Yes. Thank you Gabe. Moving on! The first three names drawn will be the first grouping, and they are... oh, drum roll please.

The STUDENTS make drum noises and then stop.

MRS. SHADDUCK  
Anne! Amanda! And Gabe!

ANNE and AMANDA happily exchange a high five. GABE attempts to excitedly high five AMANDA as well.

AMANDA denies and GABE is left hanging. Self high five for GABE.

MATTHEW AND THRASH

Oh no.

MRS. SHADDUCK

Then that means our final pair of science partners shall be Matthew and Thrash!

MRS. SHADDUCK sets down the cap and applauds excitedly. The STUDENTS don't join her.

MRS. SHADDUCK

Congratulations one and all!

THRASH

No way! Mrs. Shadduck I demand a recount!

MRS. SHADDUCK

No one was voting Thrash.

THRASH

Then I demand a redrawing then!

MRS. SHADDUCK

I'm sorry. The caste has been set. The science gods wanted you two to be partners. Oh my goodness! Science god. Oxymoron!

THRASH

Please Mrs. Shadduck I can't-

MRS. SHADDUCK

Let it go Thrash. These projects are to be presented on Monday so I suggest getting together with your partner as soon as possible. I await to witness your scientific brilliance! But first...

MRS. SHADDUCK pauses for the school bell. The bell RINGS.

MRS. SHADDUCK

We eat. See you in thirty!

The STUDENTS and MRS. SHADDUCK exit. THRASH lingers to glare at MATTHEW but eventually pouts off. ANNE and MATTHEW remain. MATTHEW is lost in his thoughts. ANNE gets her sack lunch out of her backpack and then approaches MATTHEW.

ANNE  
What do you have for lunch?

MATTHEW  
What?

ANNE  
Lunch. What do you have?

MATTHEW  
Oh.

MATTHEW gets his sack lunch and  
book.

MATTHEW  
A sandwich, fruit snacks, an apple.

ANNE  
Sounds good.

MATTHEW  
Or unexciting. I try not to rock the boat when it comes to  
lunch.

Lights change and ANNE and MATTHEW  
walk to a table. They are now in  
the lunchroom.

ANNE  
I'm the same way. It's nice to have something consistent.

MATTHEW  
Yeah. If I don't have my bologna sandwich I feel off for the  
rest of the day.

ANNE  
I feel that way with my ham sandwich. I wouldn't give it up  
for anything.

MATTHEW  
Except for leftover pizza.

ANNE  
Oh, of course. Give me cold pizza and I won't remember what  
a sandwich is.

MATTHEW sits. ANNE does also.

MATTHEW  
What are you doing?

Eating lunch.

ANNE

You know you don't have to sit with me.

MATTHEW

I know.

ANNE

I can be by myself.

MATTHEW

I know.

ANNE

I can just read.

MATTHEW

I know. *Ender's Game*.

ANNE

I really don't mind it.

MATTHEW

Are you trying to get rid of me?

ANNE

No. I just don't want to you to feel pressured to hang out with me.

MATTHEW

Because I'm the only one that will talk to you.

ANNE

Right.

MATTHEW

I don't feel pressured.

ANNE

But all of your friends are over there.

MATTHEW

No. Not all of them.

ANNE

You mean me, right?

MATTHEW

Of course. Chip?

ANNE

MATTHEW

Thanks. You're pretty awesome.

ANNE

I know.

MATTHEW and ANNE munch on chips happily. THRASH and GABE enter.

THRASH

Hey kids. Seat taken?

ANNE

Thrash. Please leave me alone.

THRASH

Oh, Anne. Sweet, sweet, Anne. Believe it or not but the world does not revolve around you. I'm here actually to speak to my good ol' buddy Matty-Pew.

ANNE

His name is Matthew.

THRASH

Anne. Shush now. Adults are talking.

MATTHEW

What do you want?

THRASH

Abrupt and to the point. Well, Matty-Flu, seeming that fate has a sense of humor and has forced us to be science partners, I have decided-

MATTHEW

You have decided?

THRASH

Yes. Don't interrupt. I have decided that we'll be doing our project at my house. Not yours.

MATTHEW

Okay. Why?

As THRASH answers the question it slowly evolves into a very hip beat poem.

THRASH

Five words. Your house. Germs. My house. Flu free. Me no want germs. No Matt-Flu please. Me no want third horn. Third horn. Bad. Me no want to be freak. Freak is bad. You freak.



Me not freak. No thank you freak. You big freaky freak.  
Freak. Freak.

GABE

Yeah!

GABE snaps his fingers together  
like he's at a poetry slam.

THRASH

Wow. That was way more than five.

MATTHEW

Whatever, Thrash.

THRASH

Great. Gabe will give you directions.

GABE

Here.

GABE tosses a piece of folded paper  
on the table.

THRASH

Be there Saturday at six. Don't be late. Anne, see you on  
the playground. You're wearing shoes you can run in.  
Excellent. Goodbye, Matty-Fatty.

THRASH notices MATTHEW's book.

THRASH

*Ender's Game*. Huh. Let's do a project about rockets.

MATTHEW

Super.

THRASH

You know what, Matt? Rockets are super. They allow space  
travel. Space travel is really super. Sarcasm is not.  
Alright. This conversation was almost pleasant. And thank  
you for the fruit snacks.

THRASH grabs fruit snacks.

MATTHEW

Hey!

THRASH

Bully tax.

MATTHEW

Goodbye Thrash.

THRASH

Yep. Enjoy your lunch. And Matty-Mat-Fat? Ender's games are actually real space battles being remotely controlled by Ender and his comrades that in part believe they are merely involved in training exercises. But they aren't. It's for real. Ender saves the planet. See you later.

THRASH and GABE exit.

MATTHEW

I really need to stop reading at school.

ANNE

You going to talk to Mrs. Shadduck about him?

MATTHEW

You want me to tell on Thrash?

ANNE

Not tell. Explain.

MATTHEW

Maybe.

ANNE

Just an idea. He's being a jerk. She could help.

MATTHEW

I'll think about it.

ANNE

I mean. Why wouldn't you? You're even having to go to his house now.

MATTHEW

I'm not excited about that.

ANNE

What if, I don't know, he tries to beat you up or something?

MATTHEW

I guess I would have to protect myself. Or run away.

ANNE

You know how to fight?

MATTHEW

No. Run? Yes. And besides I'm pretty sure if he wanted to beat me up he would have by now. So I'm good. No help required.

ANNE

Well. If you aren't going ask Mrs. Shaddock then you leave me with no choice. I'm going to have to protect you.

MATTHEW

You?

ANNE

Simply yell and I'll come running.

MATTHEW

You have supersonic hearing?

ANNE

Just the regular kind. Thrash lives three blocks away from me. Yell and I'll save you.

MATTHEW

I couldn't do that.

ANNE

And why not? Asking for help isn't a weakness you know.

MATTHEW

I can take care of myself.

ANNE

I know you can. But why take this on alone if you don't have to? Oh. Look. Amanda's coming. Let's have you talk to her.

MATTHEW

She's not a fan.

ANNE

Not a fan YET.

MATTHEW

I don't see the point.

ANNE

Because you also need help making friends. I can't be your only one.

MATTHEW

I'm weird. She knows it.

ANNE

You're just different. Show her why that's a good thing.

MATTHEW

I don't know.

ANNE

You can do it. Baby steps.

AMANDA enters.

AMANDA

Ready to go?

ANNE

I guess. Amanda. You of course remember Matthew.

MATTHEW

Hi. How are you, Amanda?

AMANDA

Come on, Anne.

MATTHEW

You excited about the science project?

AMANDA

Anne?

MATTHEW

You're not too happy to be in a group with Gabe are you?

ANNE

Please don't ignore him. He's just trying to be friendly.

AMANDA

Hi, Matthew. I'm fine. No. Not one bit. Can we go now please?

ANNE

I'm sorry for my friend's rudeness. Amanda has to go to the bathroom.

MATTHEW

Oh.

AMANDA

Anne!

MATTHEW

And you need to go with her?

ANNE

It's a girl monster thing.

MATTHEW

I've been noticing that.

AMANDA

I'm leaving.

ANNE

I'm coming. She doesn't like me revealing feminine secrets.  
And that was so good. Told you you can do it.

MATTHEW

Baby steps.

ANNE

See you in class.

ANNE and AMANDA begin to exit.

MATTHEW

Help!

ANNE stops and puts her hands on  
her hips and does her best  
superhero impersonation.

ANNE

Yes, citizen?

MATTHEW

Just testing you.

ANNE

See. That's all you have to do. I got your back.

MATTHEW

Thank you.

ANNE

No problem. But still remember how to run.

MATTHEW

I won't forget.

ANNE

Bye.

MATTHEW watches ANNE leave as  
lights fade.

Lights rise on MRS. SHADDUCK at her  
desk eating lunch. MATTHEW enters.

MATTHEW

Mrs. Shadduck?

MRS. SHADDUCK  
Oh, hello Matthew!

MATTHEW  
Hello.

MRS. SHADDUCK  
Don't be shy. Come on in!

MATTHEW  
Thank you.

MRS. SHADDUCK  
Sorry. I'm just finishing up here. Cucumber salad. Cucumis sativus! Delicious!

MATTHEW  
I can come back.

MRS. SHADDUCK  
Oh no. Please sit. What can I do for you?

MATTHEW  
Um. So. Mrs. Shadduck, I've been wondering what to do. Uh. You see-

MRS. SHADDUCK  
Oh dear. Matthew! I'm sorry to interrupt but may I first apologize? This morning was atrocious!

MATTHEW  
Yeah...

MRS. SHADDUCK  
I'm so very sorry. Usually they're such a welcoming group. Is this why you came to me?

MATTHEW  
Well, mostly because I've been struggling with one certain classmate.

MRS. SHADDUCK  
I'm sorry to hear that.

MATTHEW  
Me too.

MRS. SHADDUCK  
Being the new one in school can be difficult sometimes. What would you like me to do?

MATTHEW

I don't know really. Back home everyone was like me. This whole being different is so, well, different.

MRS. SHADDUCK

I want you to be happy here. Let me look out for you Matthew.

MATTHEW

I'm afraid that could make matters worse.

MRS. SHADDUCK

If not handled delicately. How about I start by just assigning you a different science partner?

MATTHEW

So you know it's Thrash then.

MRS. SHADDUCK

It was an educated guess.

MATTHEW

But to be honest I don't know if I would even want that. He'll know I was here and all this would just hand him another excuse to give me more trouble.

MRS. SHADDUCK

I can see why you would think that. Bullies can be a resilient entity. But I feel that if we-

MATTHEW

No. It's okay. I'm sorry. It's just. No. I shouldn't have come here. Sorry for bothering you Mrs. Shadduck.

MATTHEW moves to leave.

MRS. SHADDUCK

Matthew. Would you like to know a secret?

MATTHEW

Sure.

MRS. SHADDUCK

We're all a little different.

MATTHEW

Yeah?

MRS. SHADDUCK

Even me.

MATTHEW

Promise?

MRS. SHADDUCK

Promise. We'll get through this. You're not as alone as you think.

MATTHEW

Thank you Mrs. Shadduck.

MATTHEW moves to exit.

MRS. SHADDUCK

Matthew?

MATTHEW

Yes?

MRS. SHADDUCK

Are you sure you don't want help with a new science partner?

MATTHEW

Yeah. I'm sure. I think I can be pretty resilient myself.

MRS. SHADDUCK smiles. MATTHEW exits  
and lights fade.

Lights rise on MATTHEW as he  
approaches a door and knocks.  
THRASH opens it.

THRASH

You can follow directions. Congrats. Come on. Let's get this over with. Try not to touch anything.

MATTHEW

Okay.

THRASH

Just kidding. You can. We're going to disinfect everything once you leave. Mom! The new kid is here! We're going to be in my room!

THRASH's mom yells from elsewhere.

MOM

Sounds good, Sweetie!

THRASH

Let's go.

MOM

Would you like any refreshments?!

THRASH

You want anything? Don't answer that. Like I care what you



want.

To MOM.

No! We're fine!

MOM

Ants on a log?!

THRASH

To MOM.

No thank you!

MOM

Cheese and crackers?!

THRASH

This is really for me and not for you.

To MOM.

Mom! We're fine!

MOM

Mixed berry smoothie?!

THRASH

Oh. You know what? I could go for a smoothie. I'm a little parched. You allergic to anything? My mother doesn't need your death on her hands.

MATTHEW

Peanut butter.

THRASH

Matt-Pew there is no peanut butter in a mixed berry smoothie. Don't be stupid.

MATTHEW

Just answering your question.

THRASH

Huh. Touché.

To MOM.

Okay! Berry smoothies would be great!

MOM

Two smoothies coming up!

THRASH

Shall we?

THRASH and MATTHEW enter THRASH's  
bedroom.

THRASH

Yes. I know. My room is awesome. Please refrain from playing my gaming console during your visit and those action figures are for display only. Do not attempt to sit on my bed. If you must look at my extensive book collection you can do so but please keep it at a distance. I know you love books and the last thing I want you to have is have fun. Actually. Let's just make that a general rule. No fun while you're here. I set up a workstation for us. You can sit in this chair, not that one, and quietly watch me as I put the finishing touches on our fully operational homemade rocket.

MATTHEW

Wait. You finished the project already?

THRASH

Pretty much.

MATTHEW

Without me?

THRASH

Yes. I have survived in this world without you for many years now. Many happy years. Now shut up and let me work.

THRASH works on the rocket while  
MATTHEW sits in silence. MATTHEW's  
patience eventually gives out.

MATTHEW

This is stupid. I'm going home.

THRASH

You cannot leave.

MATTHEW

Why? There's no point of me being here.

THRASH

Yes, there is.

MATTHEW

No, there isn't.

THRASH

You are here, please pass me that glue, to show my mom that I did the assignment that was given to me, which was to do a science project with a science project partner.

MATTHEW passes THRASH the glue.

THRASH

You are here because you're said science partner and she's a stickler for the rules.

MATTHEW

But I haven't done anything.

THRASH

You just passed me the glue. Nice job, partner.

MOM enters with smoothies in hand.

MOM

Two mixed berry smoothies.

MATTHEW

Thank you.

MOM

Cathy. You're welcome.

MATTHEW

Matthew.

MOM

Very nice to meet you, Matthew. Welcome to our home.

MATTHEW

Thank you. It's very nice.

MOM

Thank you. I helped with the interior design.

MATTHEW

I like it. And that's a Kilcher wall sconce from the Hendrick Collection.

MOM

Yes it is. How in the world did you know that?

MATTHEW

My dad's in the lighting business.

MOM

Interesting.

MATTHEW

He likes it. Maybe a little too much. He tends to walk into things.

MOM

Oh dear.

MATTHEW

Yeah. He's always looking up at light fixtures. Walls are his worst enemy.

MOM

I never knew his occupation could be so dangerous.

MATTHEW

For him it can be.

THRASH

Mom. Are we staying long?

MOM

Hush Thrash. How are you liking school?

MATTHEW

Oh. Well. It's been a transition.

MOM

It usually is. Has Thrash been helping you get accustomed to everything?

MATTHEW

Well...

MATTHEW catches a challenging glare  
from THRASH.

MATTHEW

He was the first one to officially welcome me.

MOM

That's good.

THRASH

Okay. You need to leave now, Mom.

MOM

Matthew. There was a time when my son liked me to be around.

THRASH

Please Mom. We have work to do.

MOM

But those days are gone. I am now forced to bribe him with blended beverages just to be in his presence.

MATTHEW

The smoothie is great.

MOM

Good. I used raspberries, strawberries, and blueberries.

MATTHEW

And sherbet.

MOM

Yes, I did. Nice palate you have there!

THRASH

That's it! Break time is officially over. No more social hour with Matthew!

MOM

Be nice to your mother. You haven't even said thank you yet.

THRASH

Thank you for the drink but you need to go.

MOM

I raised you well.

THRASH hurriedly guides MOM to the door.

THRASH

Goodbye!

MOM

I'm going. I swear if you didn't bunch up your tail so much you would be a happier monster.

THRASH

Mom!

MOM

It was nice meeting you, Matthew.

MATTHEW

Bye, Cathy. Thanks again.

MOM

You're very welcome.

THRASH quickly closes the door behind CATHY. He turns and glares

at MATTHEW. THRASH goes back to the rocket. MATTHEW slurps from the straw of his smoothie and watches THRASH work. A moment passes.

MATTHEW

So. You do have a tail.

THRASH

RAAAWWWHHH!!!

THRASH tackles MATTHEW pinning him to the ground. Smoothie goes flying.

THRASH

You will never mention this to anyone! Got it? If you do, so help me, I will destroy you Matt-Pew!

MATTHEW

Get off me!

THRASH

What I want to hear right now is that you understand. Do you understand?!

MATTHEW

I understand. Now get off me!

THRASH remains holding MATTHEW to the ground cementing his point. THRASH eventually gets off MATTHEW and goes back to the rocket like nothing happened. MATTHEW lies there a moment before slowly getting up and noticing the smoothie mess. He grabs paper towels from a roll on the workstation and starts to clean.

THRASH

What are you doing?

MATTHEW

What does it look like? I'm cleaning up the mess.

THRASH

Why?

MATTHEW

Your mom is nice.

THRASH

What? I just tackled you, threatened your life, and the next thing you want to do is clean because my mom is nice?!

MATTHEW

She's nice. That's what I said. She didn't know me, saw my third horn, and was still nice to me. So I am doing something nice for her like cleaning up the house she cares about. So if you don't mind please stop talking and let me clean.

THRASH and MATTHEW continue their activities in silence. THRASH building. MATTHEW cleaning.

THRASH

I don't get you.

MATTHEW

I really don't care.

THRASH

No. I tease you, threaten you, physically attack you, and you don't let up. I don't get it.

MATTHEW

Thrash. What am I supposed to do? I can't change who I am. You don't like me. Fine. Others do. I talk to the others and try to avoid the ones like you.

A moment passes.

THRASH

None of the other kids at school have tails.

Silence.

THRASH

Everyone in my family does but they don't. You don't. No one does.

Silence.

THRASH

I hate being different.

MATTHEW

Welcome to the club.

MATTHEW finishes his cleaning and turns to leave.

THRASH

How can I make them like me?

MATTHEW opens the door but stops to answer THRASH's question.

MATTHEW

You can't make someone like you. All you can do is be yourself. Treat others how you want to be treated and don't bully them if they happen to be different.

THRASH

Why am I a freak?

MATTHEW

You're not. You're just you.

THRASH

Matthew?

MATTHEW

What?

THRASH

I'm sorry.

MATTHEW

Prove it.

MATTHEW exits. Lights slowly fade on THRASH.

Lights rise on MATTHEW and ANNE with their backpacks. They're walking to school the next day.

ANNE

And then you just left?

MATTHEW

Yeah.

ANNE

Dang. All I did with my science partners was build a solar system.

MATTHEW

I would have rather done that.

ANNE

Do you think Thrash will be mad that you told me he has a tail?



MATTHEW

I guess I trust you to not put my life in danger by telling him.

ANNE

I don't know. I've failed you once already.

MATTHEW

In your defense I never did yell for help.

ANNE

Thought we were getting better at that.

MATTHEW

Sorry.

ANNE

It's fine. I'm pretty new to this superhero thing anyways.

MATTHEW

You don't even have a name.

ANNE

Yes I do. Anne The Avenger.

MATTHEW

Catchy. Who are you avenging?

ANNE

The downtrodden and those in need.

MATTHEW

Which one am I?

ANNE

Both.

MATTHEW

That's fair.

Silence.

ANNE

Matthew. What if I'm different?

MATTHEW playfully peeks at ANNE's rear end.

ANNE

No. Stop it.

ANNE and MATTHEW laugh.

ANNE

I don't have a tail. I mean, what if I have something about me that makes me different.

MATTHEW

We're friends.

ANNE

Meaning?

MATTHEW

Meaning I'll accept you for who you are.

ANNE

You sound too good to be true.

MATTHEW

Anne. I like you because you're you.

ANNE

You really mean that?

MATTHEW

Of course.

ANNE

Oh.

Silence.

MATTHEW

You don't believe me.

ANNE

I want to. I just think if you knew all the facts it would be different.

MATTHEW

I don't think so. I'm a pretty accepting monster.

ANNE

Now you are. Maybe not later.

MATTHEW

You have nothing to worry about. I'm the one that's different here, remember?

ANNE

You don't know everything.

MATTHEW

Of course not. I still don't even understand long division.

ANNE

About me.

MATTHEW

Well, I want to. How about you tell me.

ANNE

I don't know. I'm afraid.

MATTHEW

You're afraid of me?

ANNE

Of what you'll think. And why are you looking at me that way?

ANNE fidgets with her hair.

MATTHEW

What way? I'm just looking at you.

ANNE

Please stop.

MATTHEW

You okay?

ANNE

No. I don't know. I'm fine. It's just-

Bell RINGS.

ANNE

Dang it. That's the bell. I got to go!

ANNE quickly exits.

MATTHEW

Anne. Anne?

Lights fade on MATTHEW standing alone.

Lights rise on MRS. SHADDUCK in front of the class. She's waiting for the perfect time to begin. After ANNE enters and sits MRS. SHADDUCK finds it.

MRS. SHADDUCK

Science!

MRS. SHADDUCK allows the word to swirl about and entice the STUDENTS with its grandeur. They're oblivious.

MRS. SHADDUCK  
Today we are exploring the scientific world and today you will be the teachers and I the student.

MATTHEW enters.

MRS. SHADDUCK  
You're late. Thrash has generously volunteered to go first. As for the rest of you, get your listening ears armed and ready. Matthew, please get settled quickly and prepare to present with Thrash.

MRS. SHADDUCK sits at her desk.  
MATTHEW sets his backpack down and finds a chair next to THRASH.

MATTHEW  
We're going first?

THRASH  
Seize the day, Matty.

MATTHEW  
I really don't have anything to add to the presentation.

THRASH  
Don't worry. I got this.

MATTHEW  
About Saturday-

THRASH  
You were right.

MATTHEW  
About what?

THRASH  
Me.

MATTHEW  
I don't understand.

THRASH  
It's okay Matthew. I got this.

THRASH takes a brief moment to collect his thoughts before getting

up with the rocket in hand. THRASH walks to the front of the classroom and MATTHEW follows. Gasps are heard as the STUDENTS see THRASH's now unhidden tail. THRASH ignores the reaction and confidently begins the presentation. The STUDENTS stare in stunned silence throughout THRASH's speech.

THRASH

Newton's Third Law is that for every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction. Rockets embrace this law. The solid fuel, once ignited, will burn quickly creating a gas that accelerates out of the back--the action--and is forced forward--the reaction--causing the rocket to take flight. This then means for those who may be lost: rockets use fuel, physics, and go very fast. Questions?

Slowly a hand of a STUDENT is raised. Then another. And then another. One by one they rise until all STUDENTS have a hand raised to ask a question. THRASH attempts to quickly give answers like he's conducting a press conference.

THRASH

Gabe.

GABE

Do you really have a tail?

THRASH

I do. Amanda.

AMANDA

Why do you have a tail?

THRASH

I was born this way.

GABE

Why are you different?

THRASH

Again. I was born this way. Any questions referring to our science project?

AMANDA

I think your tail is weird.

THRASH

Not really a question.

AMANDA

Is your tail weird?

THRASH

Nice correction. No, I don't think it's weird.

MATTHEW

Did we mention this rocket is held together by glue?

THRASH

Great point, Matt. Attention: glue was involved. Anne.

ANNE

Do you like your tail?

THRASH

Do I like my tail?

AMANDA

I don't think he likes his tail.

GABE

Are you and Matthew best friends now?

THRASH

What? Why?

GABE

Because you two are freak friends.

THRASH

Okay. Really Gabe?

AMANDA

Mrs. Shadduck. Shouldn't they have done a science project about themselves since they're now freak friends?

MRS. SHADDUCK

That is enough!

The classroom goes quiet.

MRS. SHADDUCK

Thank you, Thrash and Matthew. Your rocket is wonderful. Please take your seats.

MATTHEW and THRASH sit. THRASH is unsettled from the questions.

MRS. SHADDUCK

Anne, Amanda, and Gabe. It is now your turn to present. Amaze and inform us. And I expect a polite audience.

ANNE gets up and crosses to the front of the class. AMANDA is at her desk collecting her notes. GABE begins to quietly chant a familiar word.

GABE

Freak. Freak. Freak.

THRASH

Stop it, Gabe.

AMANDA joins and the chant gets louder.

GABE AND AMANDA

Freak. Freak. Freak.

THRASH

Come on guys.

GABE AND AMANDA

Freak. Freak. Freak!

MRS. SHADDUCK

Class! Behave!

GABE and AMANDA don't stop and in fact get louder.

GABE AND AMANDA

Freak! Freak! Freak!

THRASH

Gabe. We're supposed to be friends!

GABE AND AMANDA

FREAK! FREAK! FREAK!

THRASH stops his protest as the chant continues and he melts into his chair. He is a broken monster. MATTHEW wants to help but doesn't know what to do. He looks to ANNE and through the noise says one word.

MATTHEW

Help!

ANNE takes a deep breath and stands on a chair with her hands on her hips posing like a superhero.

ANNE

Citizens!

The chant stops. All eyes on ANNE. ANNE pulls back her hair revealing her ears.

ANNE

I have pointy ears!

STUDENTS gasp at the reveal. There is a stunned silence. A moment passes. The STUDENTS are confused and don't know how to react. ANNE begins to doubt her action and becomes self-conscious. MATTHEW sees this. MATTHEW stands on his chair.

MATTHEW

I have three horns!

MATTHEW exchanges a happy look with ANNE across the classroom. MATTHEW offers his hand to THRASH. THRASH takes it and is helped up onto his chair.

THRASH

I have a tail!

GABE like always gets his cue from THRASH and leaps onto his chair in a flourish and pulls back the long sleeves of his shirt revealing his bare arms.

GABE

I have scales!

THRASH and GABE grin at one another as GABE shows off his monster scales. AMANDA is the last one seated. She is nervously playing with her hair as the rest of the class look to her. After a moment AMANDA makes her decision and with dramatic flair stands on her chair



and takes off her jacket revealing  
a small set of monster wings.

AMANDA

I have wings!

The class erupts in cheering and  
applause. They realize they have  
all been hiding something.

MRS. SHADDUCK

Class! Class! Enough! That is enough!

The happy energy in the room  
deflates. MRS. SHADDUCK has had  
enough. All are quiet, looking at  
MRS. SHADDUCK.

MRS. SHADDUCK

Now. Everyone. Listen carefully to what I have to say.

MRS. SHADDUCK climbs onto her desk,  
takes off her shoes, and lifts her  
foot in the air wiggling her toes.

MRS. SHADDUCK

I have hairy feet!

The classroom breaks into wild  
cheers of celebration. THRASH and  
GABE exchange high fives. ANNE and  
AMANDA hug one another. MRS.  
SHADDUCK dances on top of her desk.  
MATTHEW watches the jubilation and  
chuckles.

MATTHEW

We're all freaks.

ANNE smiles.

ANNE

Huh. We're all freaks.

THRASH

We're all freaks?

MATTHEW

Yeah. We're all freaks.

MATTHEW AND ANNE

We're all freaks.

MATTHEW, ANNE, AND THRASH

We're all freaks.

The rest of the STUDENTS and MRS.  
SHADDUCK joyfully join the chant.

ALL

We're all freaks. We're all freaks. We're all freaks. WE'RE  
ALL FREAKS!

Everyone stops at the same time.  
ALL are beaming from ear to ear.

BLACKOUT

Lights rise on MATTHEW and ANNE  
with their backpacks on. ANNE has  
her hair pulled back in a ponytail.  
They're walking to school the next  
morning.

MATTHEW

No wonder your hearing is so good.

ANNE

Stop.

MATTHEW

I think your ears are neat.

ANNE

You think my ears are neat?

MATTHEW

Yeah.

ANNE

Well, thanks. I guess.

MATTHEW

What? Can't someone give you a compliment?

ANNE

Sure. But I would prefer one that doesn't involve my ears.

MATTHEW

You are a masterful-puzzle-putter-together-monster.

ANNE

And that's supposed to be better?

MATTHEW

Then I stick with my first compliment. I think your ears are neat.

ANNE

Okay. You win. Thank you for the compliment.

MATTHEW

You're welcome. And I like your hair today.

ANNE

See! That is a perfectly good compliment right there.

MATTHEW

I just thought of it.

ANNE

Fine. I like my hair today too. Not caring if people see my ears has its perks.

MATTHEW

Is this the beginning of a new Anne?

ANNE

Not really. Just one that will change her hairstyle every once in a while.

MATTHEW

Amanda will be proud.

ANNE

Yes she will. So how does it feel?

MATTHEW

How does what feel?

ANNE

To be normal again.

MATTHEW

I still have three horns.

ANNE

I know. But now everyone in class has something different about them. Being different is now normal.

MATTHEW

Sound logic.

ANNE

So how does it feel, Matthew? You asked for help and look what happened.

MATTHEW

How does it feel having my classmates accept me for who I am all the while Thrash and Gabe ending their routine of making my life miserable?

ANNE

Yes.

MATTHEW

It feels amazing. It feels like I'm finally home.

ANNE

Good. Because you deserve it.

MATTHEW

Thanks. But please don't get too jealous when all my new friends want to hang out with me all the time.

ANNE

I'll keep a level head.

MATTHEW

You will always be my favorite.

ANNE

I'll remember the good times.

MATTHEW

Hey. Thank you for being my friend when no one else would.

ANNE

No problem.

MATTHEW

No. Seriously.

ANNE

You're welcome, Matthew three horn. Thank you for being mine.

MATTHEW

You're welcome, Anne pointy ears.

ANNE

You're pretty awesome.

MATTHEW

I know.

MATTHEW and ANNE smile brightly at each other.

ANNE  
Mrs. Shadduck has really hairy feet.

MATTHEW  
Right?

Both laugh.

ANNE  
But we will accept her for who she is.

MATTHEW  
Hairiness and all.

ANNE  
We're all freaks.

THRASH enter with his tail proudly  
showing.

THRASH  
Good morning you two.

MATTHEW  
What's up Thrash?

THRASH  
Just decided to walk to school today.

ANNE  
And?

THRASH  
And I saw you so I hurried to catch up.

MATTHEW  
To do what?

THRASH  
To say hi.

MATTHEW  
Okay. Hi.

THRASH  
Hi.

ANNE  
And?

THRASH  
And to give Matthew this book.

THRASH hands MATTHEW a book.

MATTHEW

*To Kill A Mocking Bird.*

MATTHEW waits looking to THRASH.

THRASH

What?

MATTHEW

Oh, I'm just waiting for you to ruin the ending.

THRASH

The ending? It's good. It's one of my favorites. I hope you like it too.

MATTHEW

Wow. Thank you, Thrash.

THRASH

You're welcome.

MATTHEW and THRASH smile.

THRASH

Okay. And that's enough smiling from the both of us. Gonna go now. See you two in class. Huh. You look cute today, Anne.

THRASH exits.

MATTHEW

And there goes Thrash.

ANNE

The new Thrash.

MATTHEW

The real Thrash.

ANNE

Who said I was cute.

MATTHEW

Who gave me a book.

ANNE

And didn't chase me.

MATTHEW

And didn't tell me the ending.

ANNE

We're living the dream.

MATTHEW

Yep.

The school bell RINGS in the distance.

ANNE

When do you not make me late?

MATTHEW

I never said my friendship was free.

ANNE

Let's go!

ANNE hurries off and exits. MATTHEW is left alone. MATTHEW is admiring his book when ANNE reenters.

ANNE

Matthew! What are you doing? Come on!

MATTHEW

Coming!

ANNE waits for MATTHEW. They exit together.

BLACKOUT

End Of Play