

ANIMALS!

By Susie Stead 2009

CAST

TYLER ROBINSON - HAMZA JACK TURNER JAMIE: NELSON:	Bully – confident/assertive/aggressive Bully’s Assistant – Strong man – does the beating up. Bully’s re-inforcer and funny boy Victim – ordinary lad – lacking confidence Nerd – Clever, likes to show off how much he knows, He’s angry and afraid
BEN:	Potential defender and natural leader -doesn’t like what’s going on but doesn’t know what to do and is afraid
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OI-KI:	Outspoken, confident.
J:	Religious, confident, has a very protective mother (could be Christian/Muslim)
FIZZ:	Quietly most influential girl in her group of – Charlotte, Kerry and Elli. Girl friend to Jack. Values her own independence.
CHARLOTTE:	Outgoing, opinionated, strong character who wants to be best friends with Fizz – doesn’t like Elli but is discrete unless Fizz complains.
ELLI:	Eventual victim – grown up with Fizz and reliant on her – afraid of losing her to Charlotte – can be whiny
KERRY:	Newish to the group – struggling to be ‘in’. Competes with Elli. A bit immature but basically honest girl.

SCENE 1 – CLASS ROOM- a screen is up with a video about animals

The teacher is up front and the video turns off. The cast are sat amongst the audience.

TEACHER: So, remember everyone – the project is on the difference between people and animals – see if you can find any! The best project wins a prize! Have a good weekend.

Teacher leaves. Kids come onstage as if leaving classroom. Their physical posture is really important – Tyler, Jack and Hamza swagger, Ben and Nelson are confident – but Jamie keeps his head down – whole body shows fear. Ben and Nelson are together. Jamie is on his own but sort of hanging around them. Fizz, Kerry, Charlotte and Elli are a group. Tyler, Jack and Hamza are a group. J is hanging out with Oi-Ki

OIKI: This is going to be short project – I mean there’s no difference between Tyler and an animal.

CHARLOTTE: Oh yes there is – animals wash themselves. *[Girls laugh]*

ELLI: Oh Gross! When was the last time you had a bath Tyler? Last year?

TYLER: You know you love it girls! I'm all animal – grroooowl [*growls at them and they giggle*]

J: Anyway we aren't animals. My religion says that we're different – we've got souls – animals don't have souls.

JACK: But we came from the apes –ooh, ooh darling – [*grabs a bit of Kerry's hair and pretends to eat something*] – mmm that was tasty!

[*Girls scream indignantly*]

J: I don't believe that! We never came from the apes – we were made in the image of God

HAMZA: Will someone shut her up?

OI-KI: Yeah but don't you believe in evolution? I mean everyone knows the earth is like billions of years old and...

J: I've got a right to say what I believe

TYLER: Heh – gay boy – why don't you go and shut J up? Maybe if you kissed her, we'd change our minds about you? Heh Gay boy! I'm talking to you!

[*As soon as Tyler turns on Jamie, Nelson and Ben move away from him*]

JACK AND HAMZA: kiss her kiss her!
[*Girls all make gross noises*]

TYLER: Come on girls, he's not that bad – but he's not listening....
[*Jamie is trying to ignore Tyler – Tyler grabs his bag and he snatches for it – Tyler passes it to Jack who empties it on the floor*]

TYLER: You know your name gay boy –

JACK: [*puts on patronising teacher voice*] Good morning James Chapman....

HAMZA: We're talking to you.

JAMIE: Can I have my things back? [*Jack picks up some of Jamie's lunch*]

JACK: [*in a funny voice*] Dear me, 'James', you aren't eating properly...crisps and chocolate...haven't you been listening to the healthy eating lessons? Everyone have a crisp and help 'James' here out – he doesn't want to get porky does he? [*Hands round crisps to people who are all laughing*] – Heh! These are smoky bacon! Come on porky! [*Keeps handing out crisps – as the conversation goes on, people are eating sweets, crisps, chocolates etc*]

HAMZA: Heh! That's a difference between people and animals – we can choose to eat healthy food– animals stuff down whatever comes their way.

OI-KI to J: Should have seen that burger he was stuffing down his gob yesterday! Does that make him an animal? [*J giggles and nods -*]

TYLER: And there's another one Hamza – Animals aren't freaks – no gay animals [*Tyler gives Hamza and Jack a look and they grab Jamie and hold him as the conversation continues – Tyler slowly eats Jamie's chocolate bar*]

OI-KI: Why can't you just leave him alone? [*They ignore her*] Come on J – [*quietly*] I'm telling... [*Oi-Ki and J leave*]

NELSON to Ben: There are gay animals – I read about it on this website – gay penguins and dolphins – even orangatans.

BEN: You're having me on! I bet you saw that on wikipedia – my Dad says don't take any notice of info on there – like ½ of its wrong.

NELSON: I swear its true and it wasn't wikipedia – it was the National Geographic....

JACK: That'd be funny – a couple of gay pigs! Or gay frogs!

JAMIE: I'm not gay!

They laugh. Hamza pulls a wallet out of Jamie's pocket and gives it to Tyler. Jack & Hamza let Jamie go while Tyler takes the fiver out and throws the wallet on the floor.

JAMIE: Give it back – that's my lunch money.

Tyler tempts him, waving the money near him. Jamie makes a grab for it but Tyler waves it out of his reach. Tyler is taller than him. Jack and Hamza are laughing - others are watching, laughing or ignoring

TYLER: Sit up and beg – and I'll give it to you. My dog can sit up and beg. What about you gay boy? [*Jack does a sit up and beg impression which makes everyone laugh – Jamie doesn't do anything*]

EVERYONE FREEZES – CAST MEMBER TURNS TO AUDIENCE

CAST MEMBER: Think its funny do you? Or just glad it isn't you?

UNFREEZE –ACTION STARTS AGAIN.

BEN: Give him back his money. [*Tyler calmly pockets the money and looks at Ben – a challenge – Hamza and Jack close ranks – a teacher comes on*]

TEACHER: There's a lot of noise going on here. What's happening? [*Silence – teacher sees all Jamie's stuff on the floor*] What's this?

JAMIE: I dropped it. [*Teacher looks around at everyone*]

TEACHER: You alright, Jamie?

JAMIE: yes miss.

EVERYONE FREEZES

CAST MEMBER: Why doesn't Jamie tell the teacher about the money? Perhaps because of what happened last time he did.

CAST UNFREEZES TO RE-ENACT

JAMIE: He took my money miss.

TYLER: Why would I do that? It's not like I'm poor or anything.

TEACHER: Ok – anyone here see Tyler take Jamie's money?

HAMZA: Tyler never took his money, miss.

TEACHER: Nelson

NELSON: yes miss.

TEACHER: What happened?

NELSON: I didn't see anything miss – I was talking to Ben here.

TEACHER: Nelson, I could hear shouting all the way from the class room –you're telling me that you didn't notice anything?

NELSON: There's always shouting miss – I just ignore it.

SCENE FREEZES

CAST MEMBER: After school they beat Jamie up for that. Badly. Everybody knows. Jamie hasn't made that mistake again. What could anyone have done to help Jamie? What would you have done?

TEACHER: Very well. Keep the noise down will you?

Teacher leaves/or is off stage and goes. Jamie is picking bits up off the floor. Nobody helps him. The group of girls leave chatting.

TYLER: Looks like lunch is on me – come on lads

HAMZA: Thanks gay boy –

JACK: I'd blow you a kiss but I wouldn't like you to get the wrong idea.

THEY LEAVE – EVERYONE IS OFF STAGE EXCEPT NELSON AND BEN.

NELSON: Now that was typical animal behaviour

BEN: What was?

NELSON: In the animal world the males all have to show off to attract the females – that's what Tyler and the others are doing –

BEN: what, by taking Jamie's food and money?

NELSON: It shows how strong they are.

BEN: But that was 3 on 1 – that's just bullying. I bet animals don't bully each other.

NELSON: Chimps do. And with a litter of puppies the smallest one can get pushed out of the way by the others and not get the mother's milk – that's bullying. It's called the 'runt' of the litter.

BEN: Why didn't you tell the teacher what happened?

NELSON: Why didn't you?

BEN: She didn't ask me.

NELSON: She asked everyone. So why didn't you 'tell'? [*Ben stares at the ground, ashamed*]

BEN: We could tell the teacher quietly – anonymously?

NELSON: It's not our business. Jamie's weak, he's the runt. It's the strongest that survive – you don't want to be associated with the weak, Ben.

BEN: But we're not animals. We've done well by being clever. Lions are much stronger than us – they can tear us apart easy but we invented guns and now we can just shoot 'em.

NELSON: Then it's up to Jamie to find himself a gun... come on! Let's go.
[EXIT]

SCENE 2 – DIARY SCENE –
JAMIE COMES ON WITH SPOTLIGHT ON HIM

JAMIE: I'm trapped ... told Dad and all he said was "For God's sake Jamie! Stand up for yourself!" – told me not to tell mum and upset her. I did try – I threw a chair at Tyler one time but the teacher caught me and told me off – Tyler stood there looking all hurt and innocent. I wanted to thump him. I want to kill him – I want to drop a massive stone on his head – balance it carefully on the top of a door and then when he comes through it'll fall down and crush that stupid fat head of his.

My stomach hurts...Tyler and his mates caught me outside the newsagents today and made me go in and steal some sweets because I didn't have any money to give them.

When I got home, Dad asked me how school was going. I told him everything was fine – told him I'd given Tyler a black eye and they all respect me now – he was dead proud of me.

CAST MEMBER: If you were Jamie, what would you do?

SCENE 3 – LUNCH TIME AT SCHOOL

Boys come on chatting and sit down. Oiki and J come on and are about to sit down at a table when Charlotte runs on and sits down. The others walk in, except Kerry.

ELLI: Got here first – it's our table...Fizz! I saved you a seat – come and sit next to me.

[Fizz comes and sits next to Elli and Charlotte sits on the other side. Kerry comes in and argues with Elli -]

KERRY: I was going to sit next to Fizz – Fizz you promised.

FIZZ: Yeah, I did promise.

ELLI: I saved you the seat!

KERRY: But Fizz said I could sit next to her. Elli you got to move.

ELLI: I got here first and I'm not moving.

CHARLOTTE: Move will you Elli! Stop being such a pain...

ELLI: I got here first! Why don't you move Charlotte? I saved Fizz the seat.

KERRY: Fizz promised...

[KERRY comes up behind her and tries to move her chair chanting all the time]

KERRY: It's my chair, it's my chair, it's my chair.

ELLI: You are so immature – baby, baby, baby!
[Kerry glares at her, gives up and stomps over to the chair by Charlotte]

FIZZ: That sleepover was cool Charlotte – you got so many animals in your house – I wish I had.

CHARLOTTE: You can come over any time to see them Fizz. Anyway, you got your cat.

FIZZ: Yeah but he ignores me most of the time – bit like Jack.

CHARLOTTE: You still going out with him?

KERRY: I'm getting a hamster for my birthday.

FIZZ: Sort of – I think I might dump him.

KERRY: We've already seen him – he's really cute.

ELLI: Maybe we should come round your house again Charlotte for homework – we could look at the animals and see if there's anything they do that's different to what we do.

FIZZ: That'd be fun.

KERRY: Why are you all ignoring me?

FIZZ: We aren't.

KERRY: Yes you are – I was just telling you about the hamster I'm going to get and none of you said anything.

CHARLOTTE: That's because we were talking about something else.

ELLI: Your parrot was so brilliant, Charlotte!

FIZZ: That was funny! When your mum came in at 2 in the morning!

ELLI: That was funny! She was shouting so loud – I bet her neighbours heard her and not us!

CHARLOTTE: (*Mimicking the bird*) Keeping me awake! Keeping me awake! Shut up! Shut up!

FIZZ: Oh! I was going to put that people can talk and animals can't for our science project. But it doesn't work if your parrot can talk....

KERRY: (*Copying Charlotte*) Keeping me awake! Etc

ELLI: Yeah, we got it KERRY – it was funny first time.

KERRY: I can do it if I want to! Keeping me awake! Keeping me awake! Shut up! Shut up! I should ask mum for a bird, not a hamster.

FIZZ: But then you'd be copying Charlotte – that's not fair.

KERRY: But Charlotte's got loads of animals. She's got a cat and you've got one.

FIZZ: But I didn't get it to copy Charlotte.

KERRY: I'm not getting it to copy Charlotte.

ELLI: Yes you are.

KERRY: No, I'm not, stupid.

ELLI: Yes you are, stupid cow!

KERRY: You're the stupid cow and you're the one who copies everything, not me.

ELLI: Moo! Moo! Moo!

CHARLOTTE: Stop it you two!

FIZZ: No! Keep going! It's funny!
[Sound of a text being sent. It's Elli's phone. She looks at it].

FIZZ: Whose it from?

ELLI: It's alright – just my mum. Listen I've got to go. She's asked me...

CHARLOTTE: Who'd you think it was going to be?

ELLI: No-one

KERRY: But you said ...

FIZZ: She's getting nasty texts

ELLI: You said you wouldn't tell...

FIZZ: But we're all friends – at the sleepover we all swore to keep each others secrets and

CHARLOTTE: Yeah, we'll keep your secret. Come on Ells, we won't tell.

KERRY: Who'd you think it is?

ELLI: I don't know –

KERRY: We should tell.

ELLI: No! What's the point? Teachers won't know who it is.

KERRY: We've got to find out - Who've you given your number to?

ELLI: Just you three and my family. I don't know the number.

FIZZ: Maybe someone got it randomly.

CHARLOTTE: What's in the texts? You got one to show us?

ELLI: I've deleted them.

CHARLOTTE: what did they say?

ELLI: I've got to go – I've lost my PE bag and mum wants me to look in the lost property. You come with me Fizz?

FIZZ: I haven't finished eating. Come back here when you've got it.

ELLI: Ok. You'll wait for me Fizz? [*Fizz nods. Elli leaves*]

CHARLOTTE: So what did the texts say?

FIZZ: I shouldn't really tell you...

EVERYONE FREEZES. CAST MEMBER TURNS TO AUDIENCE

CAST MEMBER: Oooh! A bit of juicy gossip about a friend! Harmless? Or not? Would you tell Fizz to stop or go on?

They unfreeze.

KERRY: Go on!

FIZZ: It was a secret....well....one of the words began with s and l

CHARLOTTE: SLAG! They called her a slag!

FIZZ: Ssh! I never told you...ok?

KERRY: Did the text really say that?

FIZZ: That was just the start....

CHARLOTTE: Go on!

KERRY: Yeah – we won't tell a soul...

FIZZ: *[whispers]* It said she smells like a pig, looks like a cow and her name is Ellie the elephant. *[The other two giggle]* and it used the 'b' word

CHARLOTTE: Which 'b' word?

KERRY: Yeah, which one?

FIZZ: One that rhymes with witch... *[Girls react with horror and delight]*

KERRY: Ellie the elephant! That's funny! Her nose is quite big when you look at it! *[Others look at her disapprovingly]* the rest of its really mean...

CHARLOTTE: Lets all send her 'we luv you' texts to cheer her up...

OTHER TWO: Yeah –
[They all get their phones out and start texting. Jack, Hamza and Tyler walk past]

JACK: Heh Fizz – see you after school.

FIZZ: Maybe – I'm busy.
[Hamza and Tyler laugh at Jack.]

HAMZA: Come on Jack – you've got to show your girlfriend whose boss –

OIKI: You are so sexist!

HAMZA: Oooh – just cos you can't get a man....if you asked me nicely...well I'd consider it...

OIKI: Get lost! You're not a man – you're a ...you're a

J: slug! *[They laugh]*

TYLER: Girls – just admit it – your brains are so much smaller than ours....

JACK: Yeah! Best just let us tell you what to do

FIZZ: No-one's telling me what to do Jack Turner!

TYLER: J's a good girl –aren't you J? Your religion tells you to serve the men? Heh? Heh?

J: No! It's not like that! We've got our rights. Men have got to treat women right.

HAMZA: Shut up will you?
[Jack has got up – he’s upset with Fizz but can’t show it – he sees Jamie and goes over to him.]

JACK: So what you looking at?

JAMIE: Nothing.

JACK: I saw you laughing.

JAMIE: I wasn’t.

OIKI: Leave him alone

HAMZA: You fancy him do you? Didn’t you know he’s gay?

TYLER: Oh...the girls are looking after you now gay boy...be nice to him Jack or the girls will get you. *[Hamza and Tyler laugh]*

JACK: I don’t like people laughing at me.

JAMIE: I wasn’t.

TYLER: Let’s play gay boy’s favourite game shall we? Here pass us the ball Hamza. *[Hamza passes the ball]*

HAMZA: Remember the rules gay boy – if we get the ball between your legs, *(laughter)* then we get to hit you until you touch the wall – easy...

Hamza and Jack grab Jamie and pull him up – Tyler kicks the ball between his legs and then Jack and Hamza start beating him up, while Tyler holds him.

JACK: Come on gay boy – make an effort – its no fun if you don’t try and get to the wall.

FIZZ: So big and brave – 3 of you against 1.

TYLER: We’re only playing a game Fizz – just a bit of fun. *[Oi-Ki grabs the ball]*

HAMZA: Oi! What you doing! *[She throws it off stage]*

TYLER: That’s mine.

OIKI: Ooops! It slipped....doesn’t look like a game anymore Tyler – not if a teacher turns up now....

EVERYONE FREEZES

CAST MEMBER: Why does Oi-Ki do this? Do you think she should have?
UNFREEZE

Everyone leaves. Ben has been sitting there watching – he catches up with Jamie.

- BEN: Why do you let them do that to you?
- JAMIE: What am I supposed to do?
- BEN: Stand up for yourself – you look so pathetic when they look at you! It makes me want to hit you. Stop being so pathetic.
- JAMIE: What am I supposed to do? It's not fair! Nobody's helping me...
- BEN: It's not my problem – they're not hitting me.
- JAMIE: Yet.
- BEN: What?
- JAMIE: They're not hitting you yet....
- BEN: Oh – I wouldn't let them do that to me...

SCENE 4 – LOCAL PARK

Nelson and Ben are walking home together. Arrive at a park. Could be bouncing a ball between them

- BEN: You done that essay yet?
- NELSON: I've done some but I can't find much that's different between people and animals – every time I think I've got something, either Dad says that's wrong or I read something on the net..
- BEN: There's loads of stuff...
- NELSON: Like what?
- BEN: People can talk – animals can't.
- NELSON: You an idiot? Course animals talk to each other!
- BEN: You're the idiot!
- NELSON: They don't talk in English, durrh... little chicks when they're lost call out to their mums – dogs bark to tell each other to get lost –

BEN: Well, I'm writing it anyway . How bout this one.... With animals, its the law of the jungle – the strongest one wins. We're not like that – we've got laws and votes and we work together. We co-operate.

NELSON: Where you getting this crap from?

BEN: Its not crap! Its not like birds have votes to see who's the leader!

NELSON: Yeah, like we're so clever having Gordon Brown! But you know when birds fly in that V shaped formation?

BEN: Yeah...

NELSON: Well the one at the front, where the V meets – that one has the hardest job – its gets the wind full on in its face...all the ones behind have it easier because they're in its jet stream...

BEN: So?

NELSON: All the birds take turns.

BEN: What?

NELSON: They all take turns. After a while another bird takes that birds place.

BEN: That's a load of crap

NELSON: Come on! You must have seen those meercats – when we went on that trip to the zoo.

BEN: Yeah.

NELSON: They do the same – There's one of them standing sentry all the time. Well they take turns to do it. That's co-operation init? All these animals working together. Parrently groups survive better when they co-operate.

BEN: Watch out – Tyler and gang behind you. He's been getting bored cos of Jamie being off sick.

NELSON: Bet you a quid Jamie's just scared – total wimp he is.

BEN: Keep your head down. *[This doesn't work – Tyler and Gang come on stage]*

TYLER: Hey, Nerd face – where's the essay?

NELSON: Just finishing it off.

JACK: So what you doing out here then, playing with your little friend?

HAMZA: Which reminds me....Benny boy...

TYLER: Or is it Bent boy?

JACK: Or Bin boy? How bout bunny boy?! *[They're all laughing]*

HAMZA: Thing is...you owe Tyler an apology *[BEN looks blank]* forgotten already? *[Hamza and Jack close in on Ben threateningly]*

TYLER: You see, Jamie owed me that fiver – in fact he owes me more than that. I was just getting my own money back.....

HAMZA: When you poked your nose in.

BEN: I didn't know.

JACK: Of course you didn't.....but it always helps to say sorry – that's what my mum says – just sweetens everyone up – doesn't it Tyler?
[Ben's posture becomes like Jamie's, cowed and afraid]

BEN: Sorry.

HAMZA: You will be.

JACK: *[sing song]* Say it like you mean it – come on....

BEN: Sorry Tyler – didn't realise what was going on...

JACK: There don't you feel better now?

EVERYONE FREEZE.

**CAST MEMBER: Why isn't Ben standing up for himself like he told Jamie to?
Not so easy with a fist in your face...**

EVERYONE UNFREEZE

TYLER: And Nerd face – remember - I like to get my essays in nice and early – nice and early...

NELSON: Yeah.

TYLER: Let's go - by the way Bunny Boy, I'll need that fiver back that I lent you....Bring it in next week.... *[TYLER, JACK and HAMZA leave]*

BEN: I never lent him a fiver!

NELSON: You have now.

BEN: What'm I going to do?

NELSON: Give it to him, or do his homework for him – you're good at maths.

BEN: What essay are you doing for him?

NELSON: It's none of your business.

BEN: Why d'you let him push you around?

NELSON: Just shut up will you – I'm going home.

BEN: To write your essay for Tyler?

NELSON: Get lost! [*Shoves Ben who shoves him back*] Didn't see you standing up to him 'I'm sorry Tyler- I didn't realise Tyler – can I lick your shoes Tyler?' [*Ben attacks him and they have a short fight which ends with Nelson getting upset*] Just leave me alone! [*They both stomp off*]

CAST MEMBER: Nelson and Ben had a fight with each other, but who were they really upset with?

SCENE 5 - DIARY SCENE
SPOTLIGHT ON NELSON

NELSON: [*putting on interviewers voice*] So, Sir Nelson, let me be the first to congratulate you on your Nobel Prize for science. And I understand that you are now a multi-millionaire..... [*Changes to different voice*] Thank you, thank you...I'd like to thank my wife and family for their support.... [*Stops his imaginary play and looks directly at audience*] Because that's what I'm going to do – and you, brain dead, Tyler Robinson – You're going to be in prison for smashing someone's head in or on the dole doing nothing. Think you're so cool because you can beat people up? Loser!.... So, I give him my essay –so what? So what Ben? So? When it comes to the exams he's going to be stuffed – so stuffed – and I'm just going to walk past his desk and smile... [He doesn't smile]

CAST MEMBER: How has Tyler made Nelson feel? What does it feel like when someone horrible has power over you? What do you think will help you to do well in life?

SCENE 6 – SCHOOL

Fizz, Charlotte and Kerry come on giggling and talking quietly.

KERRY: I thought she was your best friend

FIZZ: No! I never said that - I've just known her a long time – she's being a real pain at the moment. She's always whinging and wanting to come over all the time.

CHARLOTTE: Well, this'll be a laugh – come on.
[They sit down around a table. Oi-Ki and J are there. Ellie arrives and comes over.]

ELLI: Shove over will you?

KERRY: What?

ELLI: You know I always like sitting there – that's my seat.
[Kerry, Fizz and Charlotte giggle. Kerry doesn't move.]

ELLI: What you giggling about?

FIZZ: Nothing *[they giggle some more]*

CHARLOTTE: We're just excited about the party we're going to on Saturday.

ELLI: What party?

FIZZ: Nobody you know.

ELLI: Nobody who goes to this school?

CHARLOTTE: Nah

ELLI: How d'you know them then?

KERRY: To do with friends of parents –that sort of thing

ELLI: How come I'm not invited?

FIZZ: I dunno. Maybe your parents don't know the same people.

CHARLOTTE: It's going to be such a cool party – they've got a DJ and there's a mystery famous person coming.

CHARLOTTE, FIZZ AND KERRY peel off in laughter.

ELLI: But Charlotte we're still coming over your house aren't we? To do the science project and look at all your animals. That's still on isn't it?

CHARLOTTE: Sorry, can't – got to get ready for the party.

KERRY: It is going to be soo cool!

CHARLOTTE: Don't worry about it Elli – heh lets get a picture of our gang. Elli, you stand behind. *[Calls]* Oi-Ki can you take the picture?

OIKI: Yeah sure

KERRY: We should give ourselves a name – like the 4 musketeers.

FIZZ: That's rubbish.

OIKI: Hold still, will you! Ok...Smile *[they all smile or make faces]*

KERRY: I know! I said 'like'...not actually

ELLI: ACTUALLY – you're so posh Kerry!

CHARLOTTE: Can you take another one?

OIKI: Sure *[snaps again]*

KERRY: I'm not posh.

ELLI *[mimicking Kerry]*: I'm not posh, I'm not posh.

KERRY: Get lost!

CHARLOTTE: Maybe we could call ourselves 'the posh girls'

FIZZ: Or posh spice?
[Oi-Ki gives them back the phone and they crane over to see the photo and laugh and giggle.]

OIKI: Come on Elli – we got PE now – she wanted us there early.

ELLI: Alright – see you later – Can I sit next to you in Science, Fizz?

FIZZ: Yeah, ok.
[ELLI goes. Charlotte, Kerry and Fizz burst into giggles]

FIZZ: She bought it! She thinks we're going to the party!

CHARLOTTE: She believed it all! Even the stuff about the famous person! You're good at making up signatures Fizz – who could we say we met? Something that would get her really wound up.

J: So you're not going to a party at all.

KERRY: Nosey parker – none of your business.

J: I could tell...

FIZZ: It's just a laugh J!

KERRY: Don't tell her – she'll only go off in a strop and sulk.

J: I thought you were her friends! Why shouldn't I tell her what rubbish friends she has?

FIZZ: We are her friends – it's just a tease.

CHARLOTTE: If you tell her that, then I'll tell her you're the one sending her bitchy texts.

J: What you on about? I've never done that.

CHARLOTTE: She's getting anonymous texts – I could say I seen you writing one.

J: You cow!

CHARLOTTE: I'm not gonna! Just don't ruin our joke.

J: Alright – leave it out will you [*J walks off in a strop*]

EVERYONE FREEZE

CAST MEMBER: People can frighten us into silence – How could J have responded differently?

UNFREEZE

KERRY: Is Elli still getting the texts?

FIZZ: All the time...

CHARLOTTE: Does she know whose sending them?

FIZZ: Not a clue – don't say anything about it – it really upsets her. Come on – we've got to go – we're going to be late...

THEY LEAVE

SCENE 7- DIARY SCENE
SPOTLIGHT ON ELLIE

Texts coming in all the time – we hear the sound of the text and then a member of the Cast reads them out:

CAST 1: You're a slag
CAST 2: Why don't you go drown yourself and do everyone a favour?
CAST 3: I hope you die.

CAST 4: Watch out when you go home....you might get hurt.
CAST 5: STUPID COW! STUPID ELEPHANT ! ELLI THE ELEPHANT! HA HA!
CAST6: No one likes you.
CAST 7: You're the reason your Dad left – cos you're a cow!
CAST 8: Your mums a slag and a bitch witch.

ELLIE starts to text and speaks out her text

ELLIE: Just leave me alone! [*She gives up*] FIZZ says not to pay them any attention – I can't. Its alright for her – she doesn't get them. I get them at school, at home, wherever. She says turn the phone off – but I want to talk to friends and mum says I've got to have the phone on . [*Pause*] I could tell Mum....No. She'd rant about how she's the one who has to sort everything out and how useless Dad is – and then she'd shout at the teachers and be really embarrassing.

I hear mum on the phone sometimes – arguing with Dad – she thinks I've gone to bed – 'why can't you have her next weekend? It's your turn!' Like he doesn't want me. [*Pause and then uncertain*] he does want to see me –its just he's busy. I could tell him. He'd be like “no one talks to my princess like that.” I could tell him...only I won't because he's busy. Bet he got an invite to that party they're all going to – he just couldn't go. No point telling me about it – cos he couldn't go. Anyway he's not taking me out this weekend – he's away somewhere. On business. [*she starts to cry – the sound of more texts coming in*]

VOICE 1: Your dad hates you
VOICE 2: You stink – Ellie the elephant
VOICE 3: You're adopted – You're real mum was a pig and your dad was an elephant.

CAST MEMBER: How would you feel getting texts like these, all the time and not knowing who sent them?

SCENE 8 – THE PARK

Jamie comes on, staggering and half running – he's terrified. He hides behind something. Ben appears casually from the other direction going somewhere. He sees Jamie – Jamie mimes for him to be quiet. Ben sees Tyler and crowd coming. He takes it all in – there's no way Tyler will miss Jamie. He walks towards Tyler

BEN: Just saw that idiot gay boy running along here – smacked right into me. I'm getting him when I see him -

TYLER: Which way did he go?

BEN: Headed off that way.
JACK: He won't get far
HAMZA: He's a better runner than I thought – we shouldn't have been so soft on him.
TYLER: Shut up Hamza – let's go.

THEY HEAD OFF STAGE – BEN WATCHES THEM THEN RUNS BACK

BEN: Jamie, you've got to move – they'll be back soon. *[Jamie is crying]* what happened?
JAMIE: I took your advice.
BEN: What?
JAMIE: They wanted me to steal stuff from the corner shop – that man's always been nice to me. I said I wouldn't do it.
BEN: Come on – we've got to move. *[Jamie's crying]* stop crying will you!
JAMIE: It's alright for you. What's the point? If they don't get me now, they'll get me tomorrow.
BEN: Go off sick.
JAMIE: done that – Dad says he doesn't care how sick I am – I've got to go to school. *[He suddenly crouches up scared]* there's someone coming! *[Ben looks]*
BEN: It's alright – its only J and Oi-Ki.
J and OI-KI: Hi.
OI-KI: What's happened to you Jamie? You look a right mess. *[Jamie refuses to speak]*
BEN: Tyler and that lot beat him up.
J: You got to tell someone Jamie – tell one of the teachers.
BEN: But this is outside school.
OIKI: They can still do something.

FREEZE

CAST MEMBER: Can teachers do something if bullying is outside school? What do you think?

UNFREEZE

- J: Tell your mum and dad – they can get the police on them.
- JAMIE: Don't want to.
- J: Why not? My mum says to tell her anything that's a problem. She's always checking that I'm not getting bullied. Says no daughter of hers is getting hurt – She's already given the teachers a mouthful over something that happened last term.
- JAMIE: Leave me alone. I'm alright – go away.
- OIKI: They're like a pack of wolves that lot – like a load of animals – not people.
- J: Jack's alright...
- OIKI: You don't fancy him do you?
- J: I never said that.
- OIKI: J fancies Jack, J fancies Jack.
- J: Shut up will you!
- BEN: Jamie, you've got to go now! If they find out I've helped you I'm dead meat. Get out of here will you? Go home.
- JAMIE: I can't
- J: Why not?
- JAMIE: Tyler and that lot will catch me.
- BEN: They'll catch you here. Just get out of here!
[JAMIE gets up and starts walking – he's looking around and clearly terrified. He walks off stage.]
- OIKI: Maybe there aren't any differences between people and animals.
- J: We've got souls.
- OIKI: What difference does that make? We still shoot each other, bomb each other, beat each other up. Survival of the most vicious – everyone out for themselves.

J: That's not true - not everyone's like that. Lots of people want peace.

BEN: Nelson says that animals aren't always like that either – some of them co-operate. He said that the groups that co-operated were the ones that survived the best.

OIKI: Like what?

BEN: Like groups of deer and stuff – If they're all together in a big group – the lions won't try and attack – they'll go for any strays – ones which aren't with the main group....and the best one is the bees – they do this dance to show the others where the nectar is.

J: What?

BEN: Yeah – a bee goes and finds loads of nectar – and instead of just keeping quiet about it, the bee comes back and does a dance to show the others where it is – and everyone gets loads.

J: Weird !

BEN: You know what? I'm getting a really cool idea. Want to hear it?

OIKI: Course!

BEN: Come on then.... *[They walk off talking]*

NEXT SCENE 9
CHARLOTTE HOUSE

Fizz, Charlotte and Kerry all at Charlotte's house – they're looking at a computer – If we can use an interactive whiteboard for this that would be brilliant. They have their homework up on the board – the difference between animals and people

CHARLOTTE: Animals can't cook

KERRY: Neither can my mum!

FIZZ: Your mum can cook, Kerry – its just that she burns everything!
[Charlotte and Fizz laugh]

KERRY: Don't be horrible about her.

CHARLOTTE: You just were! Ok so people can make fires and cook food. Animals can't.

KERRY: Like J was saying, people have religion but animals don't.

FIZZ: How do you know? The birds could be singing hymns to God –

KERRY: Which God?

CHARLOTTE: Let's put religion down – it fills the page up.

FIZZ: I know another one! We're writing – animals can't write.

KERRY: Or draw pictures.

FIZZ: We've got loads now.

KERRY: Yeah – let's do something different.

CHARLOTTE: I downloaded those pictures we took – want to see them?

KERRY/FIZZ: Yeah

[Picture goes up of them all. They laugh and respond to the pictures.]

CHARLOTTE: Want to see something funny?

KERRY: yeah!

CHARLOTTE: Remember those texts Elli got – Elli the elephant?

FIZZ: Yeah.

CHARLOTTE: Ok – well look at this...

She brings up a doctored picture of Elli – it's been cut from the original picture and has A trunk on it with big flappy ears. The girls laugh, although Kerry doesn't look very comfortable.

KERRY: It's a bit mean isn't it?

FIZZ: Don't be boring Kerry! It's really funny! We could do stuff with our own pictures. I could make you blue with red spots!

KERRY: No spots! I haven't got any spots anyway.

CHARLOTTE: Let's have a caption competition – Ellie Bellie or Big Ears Ellie.

KERRY: Have I? Fizz! I haven't got spots...

FIZZ: No! Shut up will you! *[To Charlotte]*Heh Charlie, How bout putting her on a chair that's breaking – and have 'can I sit next to you?' on it – she's so annoying when she asks me all the time.

CHARLOTTE: Yeah, she's so annoying. She goes on and on at you Fizz.

KERRY: Why don't you just say you don't want her to?

FIZZ: Cos she'd get in a strop – it's not worth bothering.

CHARLOTTE: She's always getting in strops. Shall I email the pictures to you and we'll see who can make the funniest picture?

KERRY: We going to send it to her then?

CHARLOTTE: No! She's got no sense of humour. She'll get all whiny and miserable.

FREEZE

**CAST MEMBER: Would Charlotte think it was funny if someone did that to her?
Would you?**

UNFREEZE

FIZZ: Yeah, and it'll remind her of the texts.

CHARLOTTE: She doesn't get that upset about it does she? They're just texts...

FIZZ: She was crying for about an hour when she came round my house last week.

KERRY: I thought you didn't like her.

FIZZ: I didn't say that. Anyway she asked to come over.

KERRY: I never get to come over your house.

CHARLOTTE: Leave it out Kerry. Why's she being such a baby about it – they're just words – all she has to do is delete it.

KERRY: I wouldn't like it.

FIZZ: Anyway – we're not going to tell her ok? We'll just send the pictures round each other.

KERRY: ok – but I don't want an elephant trunk on my face.

CHARLOTTE: Nor me!

FIZZ: Come on – let's do something else

CHARLOTTE: I know! Let's ring Elli and tell her what a great party we're at.

BOTH GIRLS: Yeah!

SCENE 10
SCHOOL PLAYGROUND

Everyone is on stage with their mobile phones – all sending texts to each other. The picture being sent is the doctored picture of Ellie – they react in their own ways. On the main screen is the doctored picture of Ellie. As Ellie comes in everyone starts chanting quietly and then louder: ‘Ellie the elephant packed her bags and wondered off to the circus....off she went with a trump trump trump.....’ Ellie looks bewildered – looking round for her friends. Kerry is looking at the floor, awkward.

NELSON: Great picture, Ellie – Going to use it for your science project?

TYLER: The nose job is great – improves your looks no end, elephant girl.

JACK: Heh Ellie, who are you off with today?

HAMZA: Jamie’s free – Aren’t you gay boy? Maybe he likes girls that look like elephants!

[Ellie sees Fizz standing next to Jack]

ELLIE: Fizz – what’s going on? What they talking about?

FIZZ: Just ignore it Ellie.

[FIZZ turns her back on Ellie, leaning against Jack.]

ELLIE: Fizz? *[She looks around – Kerry is looking at the ground – Charlotte is looking in her bag]*

OIKI: Someone’s been sending pictures of you round, Ellie – pictures of you with elephant ears – that sort of thing. *[She shows her – Ellie cringes]*
[Quietly] don’t pay any attention to it Ellie.

[Hamza goes over to where Jamie is lurking]

HAMZA: Heh gay boy – why don’t you go and make her feel better? We could take a picture of you together.

[JACK jumps up]

JACK: brilliant idea Hamza – lets get them together for a photo opportunity! Ellie the elephant and Jamie the ...what animals did you say were gay, Nelson?

NELSON: penguins, orangatans...

TYLER: which one shall we make you into gay boy? Penguin or orangatan?

HAMZA: Hasn’t got the brains for either.

JACK: Penguin! pppppPenguin! I vote penguin!

[All this time they're shoving Jamie towards Elli, who's frozen in horror. She finally sees what's happening and runs off crying.]

JACK: Go and get her, Fizz.

FIZZ: Don't tell me what to do.

TYLER: I thought you said you'd got it all sorted Jack...

HAMZA: Yeah – what about all that 'she's in the palm of my hand – she does whatever I say' stuff?

FIZZ: You said that?

JACK: Fizz – just go and get Ellie will you?

FIZZ: Get her yourself, Jack pppppenguin, Johnson.

HAMZA AND TYLER are laughing – Jack looks awkward for a moment – there's a pause – then he slaps her. There's a horrible silence. She tries to slap him back but he catches her hand. She breaks free.

FREEZE

CAST MEMBER: Is this the way to treat your girlfriend? What made Jack behave like this?

UNFREEZE

TYLER: You deserved that Fizz – shouldn't say things like that bout your boyfriend....

HAMZA: Tut tut... should stand by him...eh?

FIZZ: I am so breaking up with you.
[Fizz walks off with Charlotte.]

HAMZA: Good one Jack!

TYLER: Gay boy....money? *[Jamie gives him some cash – he doesn't look] – Lets go. [They head off]*
[Ben, Oi-Ki, J, Jamie and Nelson are left]

BEN: Time to put our plan into action

NELSON: What you talking about?

OIKI: We're going to do something about the bullying.

J: Yeah, we've given ourselves a name and everything.

OIKI: We're going to call ourselves 'The WASTERS'!

BEN: We Are Strong Together – get it?

NELSON: what are you on about?

BEN: In the animal kingdom, you said when animals co-operate in a group, that group is more likely to survive. Well that gave me the idea. If we all work together, we'll survive better.

NELSON: Leave me out of it – I don't want to get involved.

BEN: But you already are Nelson – they're bullying you – making you give them your homework – getting money off you – come on.

NELSON: I'm the one with the brains – I don't need you lot. It's going to me who makes all the money, me whose going to be the winner – I'm going to step all over them – I'm going to stamp on them! They'll ..

J: Stop it! You sound horrible! You sound just like they do –

OIKI: Yeah – you just want to bully in a different way.

NELSON: No I don't. They treat me like I'm a loser all the time. I'm going to show 'em.

OI-KI: But **you** know you're not a loser.

J: And why do you have to win – why can't we work together?

FREEZE

CAST MEMBER: How do you feel when people make you feel like a loser? How do you behave?

UNFREEZE

BEN: Anyway, what about now? What if they turn on you tomorrow and start beating you up? *[Pause]*

NELSON: What you going to do?

BEN: We're having a meeting at lunch time – I've talked to the teacher – just kept it general – she says it's ok if we use her classroom. What we've got to do is ask people we are really sure of – if this gets out then Tyler and his lot will turn up and ruin it.

OIKI: So, who do we ask? Maybe we should just stick to us?

J: We've got to get Elli in on it - I'll ask her.

OIKI: What about Fizz and Charlotte and Kerry?

J: No! They've been picking on her. I reckon its one of them that sent the photo round.

OIKI: Ok – but Kerry didn't look happy bout it.

BEN: I'll ask Jamie.

J: How about Jack?

NELSON: Are you out of your tiny little mind? Didn't you see him slap Fizz? He'd tell Tyler in 1 second flat.

J: Alright, alright.

BEN: ok, everyone? – We meet in Miss O'Keefe's classroom –lunchtime.

OIKI: And just make something up if someone asks what you're doing.

BEN: Ok...let's go...

SCENE 11
MISS O'KEEFE'S CLASSROOM

BEN, OIKI, J, NELSON, JAMIE, ELLI AND KERRY TURN UP.

J: What's she doing here? [*Pointing at Kerry*]

KERRY: I swear I won't tell anyone.

J: You better not!

BEN: Ok, everyone. Listen this is the first meeting of 'the WASTERS' – we called it that because it means we are strong together – good eh?

NELSON: Whatever.

ELLI I want to go home.

OIKI: We've got to stand up to these bullies, and look after each other. If we work together, we can stop them.

ELLI: Why are you bothered? I mean no-one's bullying you?

OIKI: I'm fed up of seeing people getting bullied – its unkind and unfair. Its really horrible that people are sending those pictures of you around. I wouldn't want anyone to do that to me.

FREEZE

**CAST MEMBER: OIKI wants to help kids who are bullied because its unfair.
What would make you want to help?**

FREEZE

J: Yeah, and what about those bitchy texts you've been getting?

ELLI: How do you know about that? [*Looks at Kerry*] You told them!

KERRY: I never said..

J: I heard them talking about it – Fizz and Charlotte and Kerry – and they made up a party – they told you they were going to but they never did.

ELLI: That's not true! [*to Kerry*] You didn't make it up...did you? [*Nasty silence*]

KERRY: It wasn't my idea ok? They said it would just be a joke – and I swear I never sent that picture – we weren't supposed to tell anyone – it was just going to be between us three and

ELLI: You made the picture?

KERRY: No! I didn't I'm telling you – I didn't – it was Charlotte! Remember that photo she took? Well she had it on the computer and she'd done that – made it into an elephant and all that.

J: You should tell a teacher Elli [*Elli gets up.*]

ELLI: I'm going home.

NELSON: You can't – its school.

ELLI: I'll tell them I'm sick.

BEN: And what about tomorrow?
[*ELLI starts to cry. OIKI puts an arm around her.*]

OIKI: We're going to sort it, ok?

ELLI: I thought they were my friends. What did I do?

KERRY: You're annoying Elli – you're always wanting to sit next to Fizz and you whine and.... [*Elli starts to cry*]

J: shut up will you! And you shouldn't have done that.

KERRY: I didn't do it!

J: *[whispering]* At least say sorry, Kerry!

KERRY: I'm sorry Elli, I'm really sorry.

BEN: We've got to find out whose sending the bitchy texts.

OIKI: That's easy – we did some stuff on cyber bullying in the school council. The teacher said that you can find out who it is as long as you keep a text with the number. If we talk to her, then she can get your phone provider to find out – they'll get the police in and everything.

J: Yeah. We should tell the police about this.

ELLI: I don't want the police – everyone will know.

JAMIE: We could work it out ourselves.

EVERYONE LOOKS AT HIM.

JAMIE: Who knows your telephone number, Elli?

ELLI: Only my family, Kerry, Fizz and Charlotte.

JAMIE: Would anyone in your family do this?

ELLI: No! Of course not!

JAMIE: then it's got to be Kerry, Fizz or Charlotte.

KERRY: Me! I never! I swear! Elli! I wouldn't do that...I wouldn't be here if I'd done it.

ELLI: But it wasn't one of their numbers.

NELSON: Maybe they're using an old phone or...their brother's or something?

JAMIE: Have you saved any of the texts?

ELLI: I've still got the last one.

JAMIE: Ok. At the end of school we make sure one of us is with Fizz and one's with Charlotte – then you text us and then you text the bully – if one of them picks up their phone to look at the text – then we'll know its them.

NELSON: Cool idea!

KERRY: Tell you what – I'll get them both to come to the park with me after school. And don't just send one text – send loads.

NELSON: We could do an ambush – lionesses go on the hunt and surround their prey – we could surround them and then grab the phone!

J: We'll get them!

OI-KI; This is wicked!

BEN: What about Jamie? We've got to do something for Jamie. And Tyler's after me for money too.

OI-KI: Remember when you said that deer and herds of animals all stick together – so it's only the strays that get taken down? [*Ben nods*] We stick together. We all walk home with Jamie and Ben today and we walk to school with him tomorrow.

J: My mum always drives me into school.

KERRY: Tell her its 'walk to school week' or something.

NELSON: I don't live near Jamie

BEN: Come on you lot – we don't have to do it forever!

NELSON: What happens when we meet them – Tyler and that lot?

OIKI: We stick together – they can't beat us all up.

NELSON: [*Quietly*] says who?

J: If they touch me, my mum'll have them in the police station before they can blink.

ELLI: What about at school? When they take his money?

J: We could tell the teacher.

FREEZE

CAST MEMBER: J keeps saying they should tell a teacher but no-one wants to. How could she persuade them?

UNFREEZE

NELSON: Don't bring any money in.

J: Bring sandwiches instead

JAMIE: They'll just throw them on the floor.

BEN: What do animals do?

NELSON: Squirrels bury their nuts *[everyone giggles]* yeah yeah, really funny –

KERRY: Then you could hide the money!

J: Or ask a teacher to look after it.

ELLI: I'll keep it for you if you want.
Everyone looks at Jamie – he looks awkward.

JAMIE: That would be brilliant Ellie – thanks

OIKI: We finished then?

BEN: One more thing – What about Nelson?

NELSON: I've got a cool idea... all I need you to do is promise you'll do the same for me as you done for Jamie and Ben - if I need it. Like walk to school with me and stuff. Alright?

EVERYONE: Alright .

BEN: Ok, see you all after school at the gates – ok?

They all leave chatting.

SCENE 12.
PLAYGROUND AT END OF SCHOOL

FIZZ: So where were you Kerry? Didn't see you all lunchtime.

KERRY: I had to er...go to the library – I hadn't finished some homework.

CHARLOTTE: What were you doing that for? Fizz was really upset.

KERRY: I'm really sorry Fizz. What about Ellie? Have you seen her? She was crying after all that horrible stuff with the phones and everything.

FIZZ: We never saw her.

CHARLOTTE: Don't know how anyone got hold of that. Did you send it to anyone?

KERRY? No! There's still a mark on your face Fizz.

FIZZ: I'm so going to get him back.

KERRY: Why don't we go to the park andwe could work out pay back on Jack.

FIZZ: Yeah, let's do that.

THEY GO OFF STAGE. TYLER, HAMZA AND JACK come on.

TYLER: That gay boy! – only gave me 50p at lunch – Let's go find him.

JACK: I want to get Fizz back –

HAMZA: You're sappy

JACK: No! Then I'm going to dump HER.

TYLER: So, what do we do?

JACK: Ok – we nick some flowers – I go up to her with them looking really sorry and all that – I get her away from her friends – say I need to talk to her on her own and stuff.

HAMZA: Then what.

JACK: You two appear – that's when I start shouting at her – calling her names and stuff.

TYLER: should be fun.... Let's go hunting boys...

CAST MEMBER: Jack and Fizz are both planning how to hurt each other. What makes them want to hurt each other and what could they do instead?

THEY HEAD OFF. JAMIE, NELSON, BEN, OIKI AND J appear – Ben's phone rings

BEN: It's Elli – she's got a text – really nasty one.

OIKI: *[text sound]*I got a text from Kerry – they're in the park, near the swings.

J: This is cool!

NELSON: I'm not feeling so well..

EVERYONE: Shut up Nelson

JAMIE: Keep an eye out for Tyler – He's like my cat – never makes a noise and then jumps on you when you're not looking.

[They all look around nervously then head off]

SCENE 13–
THE PARK

KERRY, CHARLOTTE AND FIZZ are sitting around.

KERRY: You could tell Miss Brunswell bout it – she'll be furious.

CHARLOTTE: No she wouldn't – she thinks the sun shines out of Jack's butt.

[They all giggle]

FIZZ: I'm not going to tell.

KERRY: Why not.

FIZZ: Just not, ok?

CHARLOTTE: We could put around a rumour about him?

FIZZ: Like what?

CHARLOTTE: You could say he's a rubbish kisser or something?

[Kerry gets a text.]

FIZZ: Who's that from?

KERRY: Just my mum – wants to know where I am. *[Texts back – text goes again – texts back – text goes again – texts back]*

CHARLOTTE: So what do you reckon – is he a rubbish kisser?

FIZZ: I don't want to do that.

CHARLOTTE: You still like him don't you?

FIZZ: No!

[A text goes – coming from Charlotte's bag. Kerry almost jumps.]

KERRY: what was that?

CHARLOTTE: Look at you! Just my phone.

[The phone goes again....and again...]

KERRY: Hadn't you better look at it? Might be important.

CHARLOTTE: Can't be bothered. What we going to do about Jack then?

[JAMIE, BEN, NELSON, OIKI AND J APPEAR surrounding the group.]

FIZZ: What the...? What you lot doing?

CHARLOTTE: Yeah – get lost.
[They open ranks and Elli walks through. She looks at Kerry]

CHARLOTTE: Ellie – what you doing?
[KERRY does a dive and grabs Charlotte's bag and digs two phones out. She throws them to Oiki]

KERRY: Its Charlotte – she's the one sending the bitchy texts!

CHARLOTTE: Heh! What you doing? That's mine – get off my stuff you cow!
[JAMIE AND NELSON stand in the way] –

OIKI: How come you've got two phones, Charlotte?

CHARLOTTE: Give 'em back!

ELLIE: She's going to in a minute. *[She's got her phone out. She speaks as she writes]* Why are you texting bitchy things to me? *[She clicks the button – one of Charlotte's phones goes – everyone looks at Charlotte]*

FIZZ: What's going on?

CHARLOTTE: What you talking about – I never sent you bitchy texts.

ELLIE: 15 minutes ago, someone sent me a nasty text – and I kept it. I just replied.

KERRY: That's when your phone went off.

FIZZ: You've been sending those texts, Charlie?

CHARLOTTE: No!

OIKI: I can take this to the teacher and we can find out. You could be in trouble with the police for doing stuff like this.

FREEZE

CAST MEMBER: Not so much fun when you get found out is it?

UNFREEZE

CHARLOTTE: It was just a joke – I was going to tell you – I didn't mean to...

ELLIE: Same joke like when you sent round that picture of me as an elephant?

CHARLOTTE looks around at everyone...

CHARLOTTE: That was a mistake – I sent it out by mistake.

FIZZ: You're disgusting. [*She gets up*]. Those texts were so bitchy! What's your problem Charlotte?

ELLIE: I thought you were my friend Fizz – and then you make up all that stuff about a party and...

FIZZ: That was Charlotte's idea – I didn't want to.

CHARLOTTE: But you thought it was funny. You don't even like Ellie anyway.

FIZZ: That's not true – It's not true Ellie. Charlotte, you're such a cow! Ellie, I'm really sorry about that.

CHARLOTTE: You're not going to tell are you Ellie? I didn't realise how upset you'd.

JAMIE: Oh Crap! Tyler alert! Tyler alert.

J: No its not – its Jack.

JAMIE: Where Jack is, Tyler is – and Hamza...

JACK appears looking a bit awkward when he realises how many people are there. He's got the flowers behind his back.

JACK: Fizz can I talk to you?

FIZZ: Go on then.

JACK: In private.

OIKI: What, so you can hit her again?

JACK: No!

OIKI: Where's the others?

JACK: what others?

OIKI: O come on!

JACK: Fizz?

FIZZ: Ok...I'll come.

NELSON: I wouldn't if I were you.

FIZZ: What do you know? I do what I want.

Fizz and Jack go off to the corner of the stage – he gives her the flowers – she’s smiling – it looks like they’re making up.

JAMIE: There they are.
[TYLER and HAMZA appear from the corner – waiting. Jack sees them.]

JACK: You stupid cow! I’m dumping you! Think I’d stay with you – I’d rather kiss a....dead rat!

FIZZ: What! But you just said...

JACK: What? What did I just say? That you’ve boring and annoying and you’ve got about as much fizz as a dead ppppp penguin? I’m so sorry...it just slipped out...

FIZZ: Stop it! *[She runs off crying]*

TYLER AND HAMZA are killing themselves laughing. Jack turns away from Fizz – he doesn’t look happy with himself.

FREEZE

CAST MEMBER: Jack likes Fizz and didn’t feel good doing this. So why did he? What other choices did he have?

UNFREEZE

JACK: Come on lads – let’s go.

TYLER: No way! *[Walks over to where Nelson and the others are]* Where’s the stuff you promised Nerd?

HAMZA: Yeah - Give it over.

NELSON: You’ll get it tomorrow morning – I swear.

TYLER: Very late....I don’t like that – Nerd features.. And lookgay boy. That 50p was an insultbut give the money over now and we’ll overlook your behaviour.

[JAMIE looks at the others. He looks at Tyler]

JAMIE: I’m not giving you any more money Tyler. Not now, not ever. And I’m not stealing for you.

TYLER: I can tell Mrs Watson that I saw you steal those chocolate éclairs.

JAMIE: You made me.

TYLER: Oooh. Gay boy’s being brave....*[nods at Jack and Hamza who walk towards Jamie. As they do, Ben, Nelson, Oi-Ki, Elli, Kerry and J all stand round Jamie. J sends something on her phone]*

HAMZA: Move away you lot – we haven't got an issue with you.

JACK: What you doing hiding behind girls?

KERRY: It's better than slapping them.

BEN: Me, Ben and Nelson against you, Jack and Hamza – 3 against 3.

NELSON: Great!

TYLER: Looks like we might have a decent fight on our hands lads.

J: Only one problem for you Tyler.

TYLER: What's that, Little Miss Perfect? You got special God powers or something?

J: No, nothing special...but I can do videos with my phone..

TYLER: And?

J: I've videoed all of this and sent it to Miss O'Keefe – I told her to look out for it. *[Her phone goes with a message]* that's her. Says she and Mr Hamilton are coming over now.

TYLER: Its none of their business – we're out of school.

J: I think you'll find it is ...

HAMZA: We better go, Tyler.

TYLER *[at Jamie]*: Don't think you've got out of this – Mr clever gay boy....You can't hide from me. Ever had broken bones gay boy?

JAMIE: I'm not scared of you Tyler.

HAMZA: Then you're more of an idiot than I thought.

OIKI: Oh sorry – forgot to tell you – I was videoing that as well. Just sent it to Miss O'Keefe.

JACK: Stop it!

BEN: When you stop it, we'll stop it.

TYLER: Let's go *[the three head off]*

The others wait until they're off stage and then they start whooping and high fiving!

OI-KI: That was so cool!

ELLI: Did you see his face! He didn't know what to do!

JAMIE: You are still going to walk home with me aren't you?

OIKI: No, we thought we'd see how many bones they can break!

J: Course we're coming with you!

NELSON: Lets go- I've got work to do.

BEN: You swat.

NELSON: Just you wait and see.

THEY HEAD OFF.

SCENE 14 CLASSROOM

CLASSROOM - TEACHER IS AT THE FRONT

TEACHER: Well – today is the day I promised I would give the prize to the best project – the theme being – How do people differ from animals? I've had some interesting pieces – Ben yours was a bit short on content but I loved the pictures! But the best one in my opinion has the name of Tyler Robinson at the top.

Tyler looks pleased with himself.

I would like to read some of it to the class. Is that alright, Tyler?
[Tyler nods] Great. 'People think that they are different from animals. People think they're better than animals. When a person says you're 'behaving like an animal' – that's an insult. If people behave like animals then they are behaving badly – if there's a fight outside a pub or if a bully attacks other kids and takes their money – that's acting like an animal – being brutal and uncivilised.

[TYLER LOOKS AROUND AT NELSON]

People can behave well and look after each other or they can attack each other like animals. Mahatma Gandhi said that "The best test of a civilised society is the way in which it treats its most vulnerable and weakest members." Well done Tyler, for getting that quote. 'So the best societies look after the weaker people well and don't let them get trod on.

But even what Gandhi says is still what animals do. Packs of animals look after each other. Like on that film about penguins we saw – when it was really freezing they all bunched together to stay warm and the

TEACHER: cont/ ones on the outside got to move back into the middle after they'd had their turn being freezing.

I think we're like animals – but we can be like the best of animals or the worst of animals. I think the difference between people and animals is that we have a choice about what we do. We can choose to fight people or sort it out peacefully. Animals have just got instinct – they just do stuff – they don't think about it and choose.

I'm still a bit of an animal. [*Laughter – Tyler smiles but he's not happy*] I don't bother to think about what I do – like if I don't get some qualifications then I won't get a decent job. I could do alright if I worked – but I get someone else to do it. I need money so I take it from the weakest boy in the year.

TYLER: I never wrote this miss – it's a load of crap

TEACHER: Tyler don't interrupt – and mind your language!

TYLLER: Its rubbish – and it's not mine.

TEACHER: It's got your name on it... if you didn't write it, who did?

TYLER: I don't know. I never wrote it..

TEACHER: It's almost finished. You can argue at the end. ' I can't show weakness or like a pack of wolves my mates will soon be attacking me and someone else will be top dog or top wolf or whatever.

People and animals – basically we're the same – but people can be better, can be different if they want. Because people have choice.'

TYLER: I never wrote that.

TEACHER: It's your name at the top.

TYLER: Someone else must have written it.

TEACHER: Then where's yours?

TYLER: Someone's swapped it.

TEACHER: So, you don't want the prize? [*Silence – Nelson's hand goes up*] Yes Nelson?

NELSON: I wrote it miss.

TEACHER: You wrote it and put Tyler's name at the top?

NELSON: Tyler can write his own name.

[EVERYONE LAUGHS except Tyler and the Teacher]

TEACHER: Nelson and Tyler. You will both need to stay at the end of the lesson.

[OI-KI'S HAND GOES UP]

TEACHER: Yes, Oi-Ki?

OI-KI: Tyler did do that miss. He took money from Jamie.

J: All the time.

BEN: And he beat him up – with Jack and Hamza.

HAMZA: I ain't done nothing miss!

JACK: Me neither!

JAMIE: They did. They've been bullying and taking my money and...

FIZZ: And you slapped my face!

TEACHER: Did you slap her face Jack?

Jack looks down at the floor. ELLI puts her hand up

TEACHER: Yes Elli?

ELLI: I want to talk to you after Miss.

TEACHER: OK

CHARLOTTE: Don't!

BEN: It's your fault! *[Everyone is talking at once]*

TEACHER: Everyone! Be quiet! It's like a zoo in here!

[EVERYONE IS QUIET]

BEN: Miss?

TEACHER: Yes Ben?

BEN: What about the prize?

TEACHER: I've got a bag of sweets here Ben to give – but it's not clear who should have it.

BEN: Nelson miss! He wrote the piece.

TEACHER: We'll see! Tyler, Jack and Hamza – I want to talk to you. Everyone else go to lunch.

EVERYONE GOES OUT.

EPILOGUE

All the cast come back on stage

NELSON: Miss O'Keefe was brilliant. I told her before the lesson what I'd done and she made the plan of what to do! And I told her about Wasters. She went and bought some extra sweets and gave us all some!

ELLIE: But she didn't know about me and Charlotte and the texting.

FIZZ: Or about Jack slapping me. You should have seen her! She was sooo angry!

J: We were brilliant! It was so cool! The look on Tyler's face when he knew he was for it! Mum wants to take me out of the school – says its too dangerous – I thought she'd be proud of me for helping sort it all out. It's not like anyone was bullying **me**.

OIKI: Ellie went to the Head and then the police got involved and everything. It was really cool.

CHARLOTTE: I'm scared... The police woman told me that what I'd done was really serious. I'm in big trouble. I might have to move school now. I keep saying I'm sorry but Fizz and Kerry won't talk to me at all.

KERRY: WASTERS is still meeting – it's brilliant – I never realised how nice Oi-Ki and J are – we go round together now.

ELLIE: I know you think I'm stupid being friends with Fizz again but she's my best friend. It's not like she sent the texts or anything. And she had a horrible time getting slapped by Jack.

JAMIE: The police came round and told Dad everything – he looked so mad, I thought he was going to shout at me when they left. Instead he said I should have told him about it – like I hadn't! He wants to get an ASBO out on Tyler. The best bit is that they're going to give me back all the money and Dad says I can keep it all. I've already given some back to the corner shop man. I said sorry. He seemed really pleased.

TYLER: They're making this big deal out of nothing. I keep telling them that Gay boy, I mean James, is just lying about everything but they won't listen. I've told Dad the school's crap anyway – I don't want to stay.

HAMZA: Mum keeps crying all the time. I told her I didn't do much – it was Tyler's fault. He made me. My step-dad's really angry. He's grounded me and taken my playstation and everything! Me and Jack and Tyler've got to pay back all the money. I said I never got any but nobody's listening.

JACK: Mum and Dad just looked at me like 'how could you do this?'. It was the worst day of my life. They walked me round Jamie's house. I had to say sorry to him and his parents. Then they took me to Fizz's house. I'm doing jobs at home to pay back Jamie the money. I don't want to talk about it anymore. Just leave me alone.

BEN: What a term! Dad's dead proud of me – keeps play punching me in the chest –it really hurts! Loads has changed at school. The head said WASTERS can have a class room and meet every week to talk about stuff – it's really cool! They've put bully boxes round the school so that students can write things in anonymously and anyone who wants to can go on these courses which help you to be more confident and stuff. The head said that I'm a 'natural leader' – how cool is that?

They all move into a line and bow. The End!

APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF LINES FOR EACH ACTOR

BEN -	110 lines
NELSON -	100 lines
JAMIE -	65 lines
TYLER –	<u>65 lines</u>
HAMZA –	41 lines
JACK -	56 lines
FIZZ	<u>92lines</u>
KERRY	<u>82Lines</u>
ELLI -	79 lines
CHARLOTTE -	75 lines
OI_KI -	58 lines
J -	66 lines