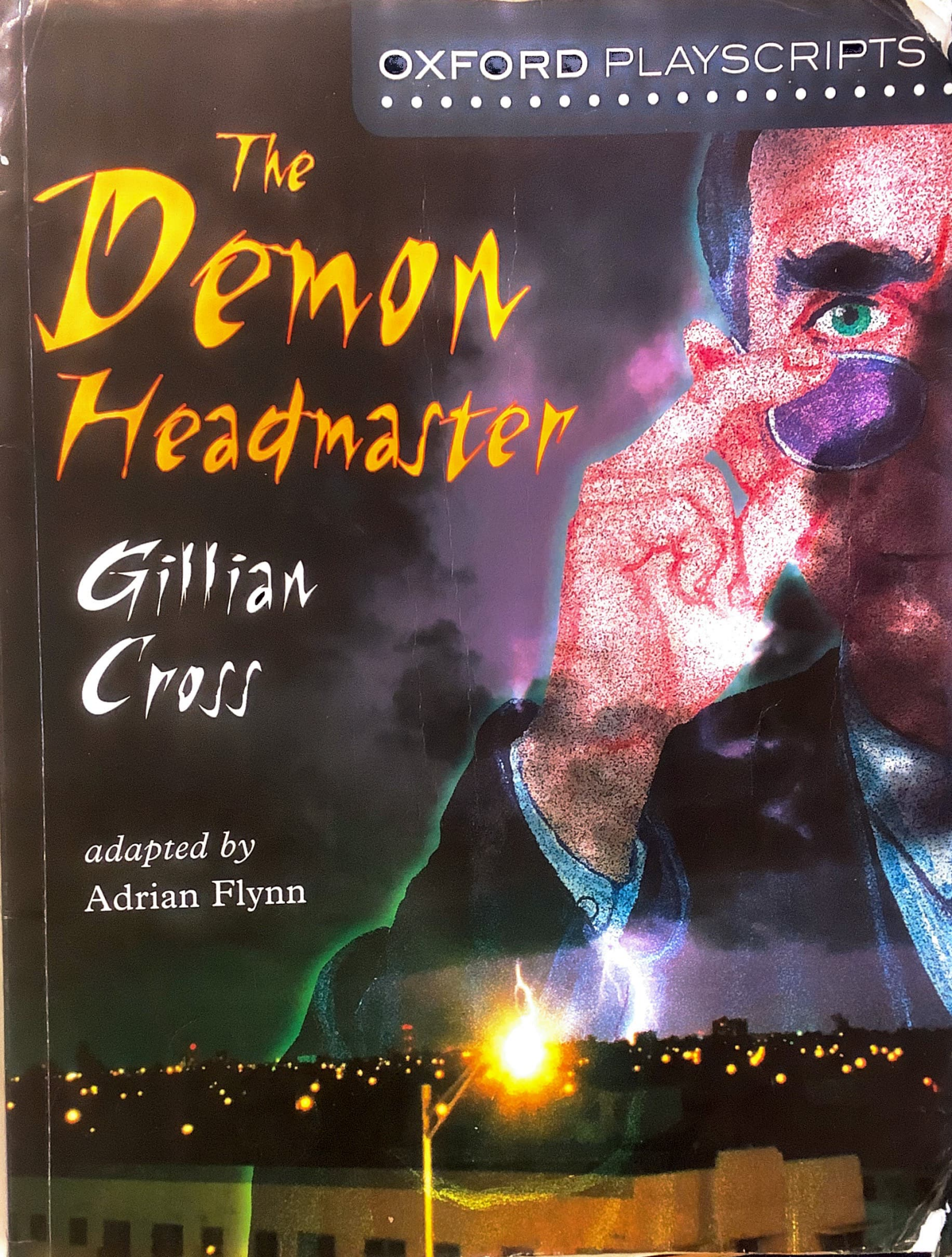


OXFORD PLAYSRIPTS

The
**Demon
Headmaster**

Gillian
Cross

adapted by
Adrian Flynn



A Note on Staging

Costumes and Props

Props you may need include:

- Dinah:** a large bag; a mug of tea; a small cassette recorder; gloves; a coat.
- Harvey:** a magazine; a torch; gloves; a coat.
- Lloyd:** a pen (to give to Dinah); a remote control; gloves; a coat.
- The Head:** sunglasses.
- Mrs Hunter:** mixing bowl (in three sizes); a spoon; a scarf (to give to Harvey).
- Gloria:** a tin of spaghetti; a custard pie; a mop.
- Simon:** 3 brooms (to give to Harvey, Lloyd, and Dinah).
- Mandy:** a tin of polish; a rag.
- Ian:** keys.
- plus:
a 'thick wodge of question papers'; 6 folders; boxes to sit on; a desk; tables; chairs; books; cables; a film camera; a 'large chip'; outsized pots of salt, pepper, and vinegar.

Sound Effects

For the lines of the 'Audience' in The Eddy Hair Show scenes, you may wish to use a recording. Alternatively, the rest of the cast could deliver the lines from their positions offstage.



Characters

At Home

Mr Hunter

Mrs Hunter

Lloyd

their elder son

Harvey

their younger son

Dinah Glass

their new foster daughter

At School

The Demon Headmaster

Rose, Jeff

Simon, Sarah

Darryl, Dawn

} the Prefects

Ingrid

Mandy

Ian

} the 'Normals'

Lucy

a pupil

Julie

a pupil

Other pupils

sometimes divided into First, Second, and Third Circle

Teachers

On TV

Eddy Hair

a TV celebrity

Gloria

his assistant

Announcer

Girl in audience

Cameraman & Technicians

Shillingstone School Head and three pupils

Manor School Head, Alec Bates, and two other pupils

Others

Miss Wilberforce

a social worker

Note: Many of the parts can be doubled if required.



THE DEMON HEADMASTER



SCENE 1

The Hunters' home. Harvey is lying on the floor reading a magazine. Lloyd is pacing up and down.

Lloyd

A girl!

Harvey doesn't respond.

A girl!

Harvey

[Not listening] Yes.

Lloyd

A wretched girl!

He shakes his brother's shoulder to get his attention.

Don't you understand what that means?

Harvey

She might be all right.

Lloyd

She'll be completely in the way. We'll even have to take her to school with us.

Harvey

[Sitting up] You never know. She might be another Normal.

Lloyd

Some chance! There're only five of us in the whole school. She'll be one of them, another goody-goody. Just think. The Headmaster'll have a spy in our own house.

Harvey

It might be interesting. We could spy on her. Find out what's really happening at school.

Lloyd

Don't start that again, Harvey! We don't want to find out. We stay out of trouble.

Harvey

[Standing up] Come on, Lloyd. Eddy Hair's starting in a minute. That might cheer you up.

Lloyd

Nothing can cheer *me* up.

Harvey exits.

Why does she have to be a wretched girl!

Lloyd exits.



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SCENE 2

The Eddy Hair Show. An Announcer comes on.

Announcer

Yes, folks, what you've all been waiting for. Your regular dose of TV craziness. It's the great, the magnificent, Eddy Hair Show!

Audience

Here's Eddy!

Eddy Hair leaps onto the stage and dances around, pretending to be a chimp. Suddenly he straightens up. The Announcer exits.

Eddy

Excuse me, I've been going ape today. You know, you must be mad to watch this rubbish and I must be mad to do it . . . That's all right then; we're all mad together.

He laughs maniacally.

And you're going to see some real trash tonight, folks. There's the Incredible Eddy Hair Challenge, the death-defying high wire walk with custard, and, best of all, the Great School Quiz! Not to forget my exploding socks. Do I really mean exploding socks? I've got you guessing and that's how I like it. Find out after the break.

He cartwheels off the stage.

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SCENE 3

Outside the Hunters' house. Miss Wilberforce enters with Dinah, who is carrying a large bag.

Miss Wilberforce This is the house, Dinah. I'm sure you'll like living here.

Dinah *[Unenthusiastic]* Yes, Miss Wilberforce.

Miss Wilberforce They've got two very nice boys, Lloyd and Harvey. I do hope you'll get on together.

Dinah Yes, Miss Wilberforce.

Miss Wilberforce It won't be easy getting used to a new family and school but you'll have to try your best.

Dinah Yes, Miss Wilberforce.

Miss Wilberforce Are you feeling nervous?

Dinah No, Miss Wilberforce.

Miss Wilberforce Hmm . . . Let's meet them.

She rings or knocks at the front door. Mr and Mrs Hunter come onto the stage. Mrs Hunter opens the door.

Mrs Hunter How lovely to see you. We've been expecting you.

She hugs Dinah, who stiffens.

Mr Hunter Hello, Dinah.

Dinah Hello.

Mrs Hunter Do come in, Miss Wilberforce.

Miss Wilberforce I won't stay. I'm going to leave Dinah to get to know the whole family. If there are any problems, you know where to ring.

Mrs Hunter Of course.

Miss Wilberforce We'll see how she gets on before we make a final decision. I expect she'll be a little bit shy at first.

Dinah I won't be.

Mr Hunter At least she knows her own mind.

Miss Wilberforce Goodbye for now, Dinah.

Dinah Bye, Miss Wilberforce.

Mr and Mrs Hunter Bye.

Miss Wilberforce exits.

Mr Hunter Give me your bag, Dinah.

Dinah No, it's all right, thank you . . .

Mr Hunter has taken it anyway.

Mr Hunter My word, it's heavy. What have you got in it? Bricks?

- Dinah** Books, actually.
- Mr Hunter** Whatever does a young girl want with a load of old books?
- Mrs Hunter** Let's go through to the living-room. *[Calling]* Lloyd, Harvey! Come and meet Dinah.
- Lloyd** *[Calling, off]* We're watching the Eddy Hair Show.
- Mr Hunter** Lloyd!
- Mr and Mrs Hunter go with Dinah into the living room. Harvey and Lloyd enter and join them.*
- Mrs Hunter** Now, boys, this is Dinah, who you've heard so much about. She's becoming part of the family.
- Harvey** *[Cheerful]* Hello.
- Mrs Hunter** That's Harvey. *[Pretending to whisper]* Chubby and cheerful.
- Harvey** Cheek!
- Mrs Hunter** And the older one's Lloyd.
- Lloyd and Dinah look very unenthusiastically at each other for a moment, then they speak at the same time.*
- Lloyd and Dinah** Hello.
- Mrs Hunter** Now you sit and have a nice chat while I go and get the tea ready.
- She tugs her husband's arm.*
- Come on.
- Mr Hunter** What?
- Mrs Hunter** *[Quietly]* They'll get on better without adults breathing down their necks.
- Mr Hunter** Make sure you're polite, boys.
- Mr and Mrs Hunter exit. Dinah, Lloyd, and Harvey are left feeling rather awkward.*
- Harvey** Can I get you a sandwich, Dinah?

Dinah No, thank you.

Lloyd Or a glass of cola?

Dinah No, thank you.

Harvey Or a biscuit?

Dinah No, thank you.

Lloyd *[Annoyed]* Is that all you can say? 'No, thank you'? Are you a robot or something?

Harvey Perhaps she's shy.

Lloyd Are you?

Dinah No.

Lloyd Then say something different.

Harvey *[Kindly]* Tell us about yourself.

Dinah *[As though she's said it many times before]* My name is Dinah Glass. I'm eleven. My parents died when I was one. Since then I've lived in a children's home.

Lloyd Suffering crumpets! She is a robot. -

Harvey It can't be easy for her ... Do you want to ask us anything, Dinah?

Dinah Tell me about school.

Lloyd *[To Harvey]* I told you. A goody-goody.

Dinah What's wrong with asking about school?

Lloyd Nothing's wrong ... stress

Harvey Lloyd ... Harvey stresses this too

Lloyd *[Firmly]* Nothing's wrong with school. Only we don't like to talk about it when we're not there.

Dinah I only wanted to ask ...



Lloyd We want a break from school, that's all. We're not going to talk about it.

Dinah I'll find out for myself tomorrow then.

Mrs Hunter enters.

Mrs Hunter I do hope you've all been having a nice little chat. I'll show you up to your room now, Dinah.

Dinah and Mrs Hunter exit.

Lloyd What did I say she'd be like? [Contemptuous] Asking about school!

Harvey We ought to warn her.

Lloyd She'll be just like all the rest. A spy in our own house!

Harvey Still, it's only fair to tell her.

Lloyd She'll find out soon enough what school's like. She'll find out soon enough.

Lloyd and Harvey exit.

(left) Push back table, remove push back chairs

SCENE 4

Quatrième

The school playground. The pupils enter and march across the stage with military precision. They form three perfect circles.

First Circle [Chanting] Once 21 is 21, two 21s are 42, three 21s are 63 ...

They continue chanting in mime as we hear the Second Circle.

Second Circle William the First 1066 to 1087, William the Second 1087 to 1100, Henry the First 1100 to 1135 ...

They continue chanting in mime as we hear the Third Circle.

Third Circle The capital of France is Paris, the capital of Spain is Madrid, the capital of Japan is Tokyo ...

All three Circles continue chanting in mime as Dinah, Lloyd, and Harvey enter.

No TALKING



Harvey

I hope I'm not too late to give out the registers.

Dinah

Why don't you run?

Lloyd

Huh! No one runs at this school . . . If you go in now, Harvey, you might just make it.

Harvey exits.

Dinah

I don't understand why you're so worried about registers.

Lloyd

You soon will.

Ian enters.

Ian

Why's Harvey going to the office?

- Lloyd He's got to give out the registers.
- Ian But it's too late. Rose told Sharon to do them. No one else is allowed in now.
- Lloyd Scarlet sausages! I'd better try and get him out before anyone sees him. [*To Dinah*] You stay here.
- Lloyd and Ian exit. Dinah shrugs her shoulders and walks up to the Third Circle. As she gets close to it, we can hear what they're chanting again.*
- Third Circle The capital of Italy is Rome, the capital of the United States is ...
- Lucy New York.
- ~~Jeff~~ *Rose enters* Lucy! That's not right.
- Third Circle What is it, Lucy?
- Lucy I'm sorry, I was away yesterday.
- Third Circle What is it?
- Dinah [*Whispering to Lucy*] Washington D.C. ...
- Lucy The capital of the United States is Washington D.C. ...
- The Third Circle turn and look accusingly at Dinah, who walks away.*
- Dinah [*To herself*] Never be too clever. Never let them know.
- ~~Rose and Jeff enter.~~
- Rose Line - up! *(behind each other)*
- Pupils Yes, Rose.
- The pupils form three perfect lines.*
- Jeff Lead - in! *← people ← Dinah*
- The rows lead in silently. Dinah is at the end of the third row. Rose and Jeff stop her from going in.*
- Rose Name?

Dinah I'm Dinah Glass. I'm new and ...

Jeff Just answer the question.

Dinah Honestly! Anyone would think you were a teacher, not a kid.

Rose All pupils shall obey the prefects. The prefects are the voice of the Headmaster.

Jeff Arms by your side.

Dinah Don't be so bossy ...

Rose *[Calling]* Sarah, Simon!

Sarah and Simon enter.

Arms.

Sarah and Simon take hold of Dinah's arms.

This is the new girl. She must report to the Head. Escort her.

Dinah Wait a minute.

Rose and Jeff exit. Sarah and Simon march Dinah round the stage, while Dawn and Darryl carry a desk and chairs onto the stage for the next scene.

SCENE 5

The Head's office. Dawn and Darryl exit, as the Head enters, wearing sunglasses. Sarah and Simon knock at the office door.

Head Enter.

Sarah and Simon take Dinah in.

Head Whoever can keep order can rule the world.

Sarah and Simon *[Coming to attention]* Sir!

Head Is this the new girl?

Dinah I'm Dinah Glass and I ...

Head Please do not speak until asked. *[To prefects]* You may go.



Sarah and Simon exit.

Sit down.

Dinah sits down.

Head

I'm going to give you a test all new pupils do.

Dinah

Haven't you got a report from my old school?

Head

Other people's reports are no use to me. Please do just as you are told. Spell 'onomatopoeia'.

Dinah

[Pretending to find this difficult] Er ... o ... er ... n ...

Head

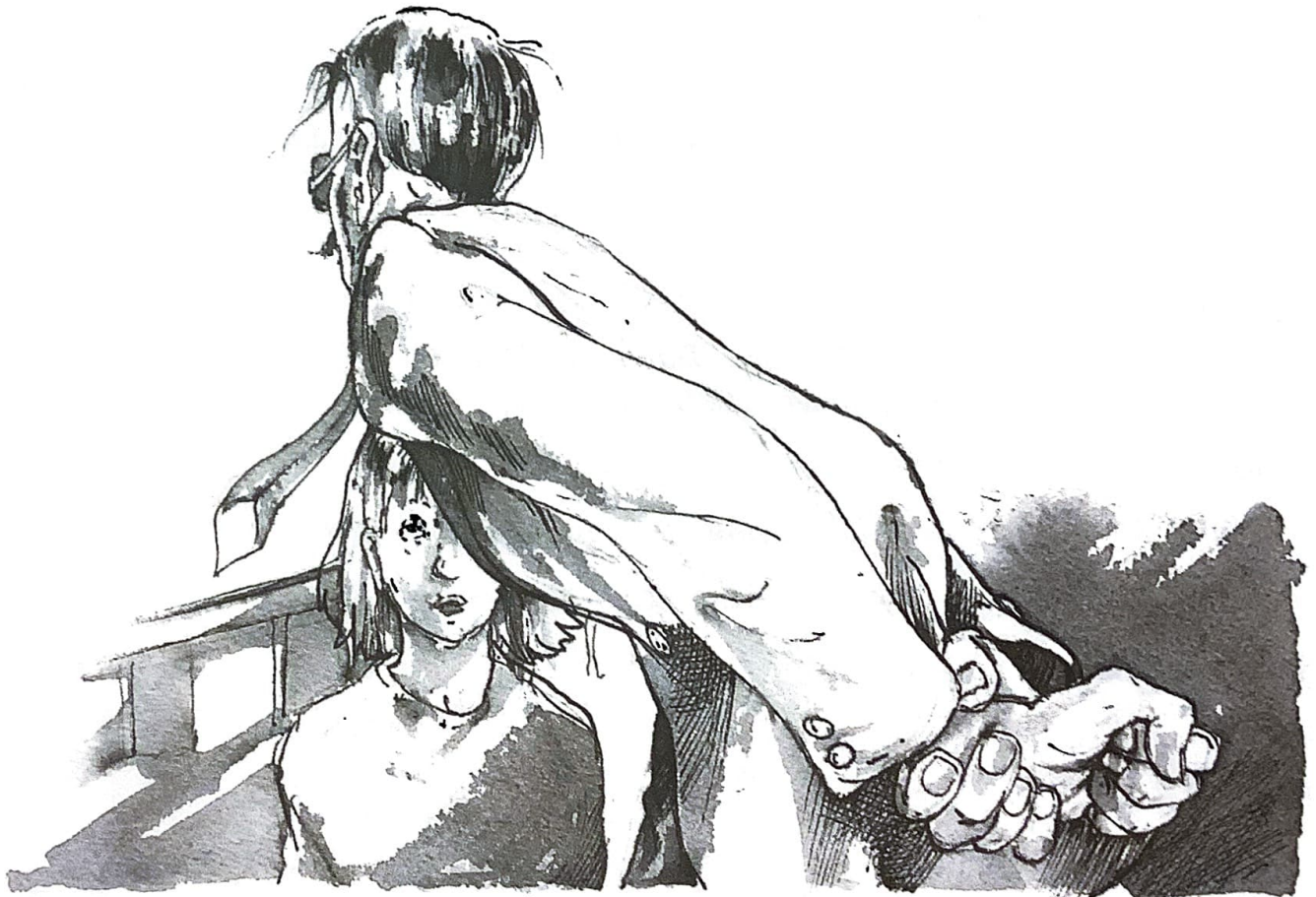
Quickly!

Dinah

[Flustered] O ... n ... o ... m ... a ... t ... o ... p ... o ... e ... i ... a.

Head

Correct. *[To himself]* Interesting ... What are seventeen 34s? Work it out in your head, please.



Dinah Erm ...

Head Quickly!

Dinah Five hundred and seventy-eight.

Head Correct. *[To himself]* Very interesting ... What's the chemical formula for sulphuric acid? Quick.

Dinah H_2SO ... *[very deliberately]* 5.

Head Incorrect. H_2SO_4 . You're an intelligent girl.

Dinah looks worried.

But careless.

She relaxes.

I wonder if ... It doesn't matter. We'll find out everything about you in due course. Now you must be feeling tired, Dinah.

Dinah No.

Head I think you are.

He takes off his sunglasses and looks at her.

It's funny you should be so tired this early in the morning.

Dinah opens her mouth to contradict him, but can't speak.

Head You're so tired, your head feels heavy, your eyes are starting to close. You're so very, very tired ...

Dinah falls into a hypnotic trance.

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SCENE 6

The dining hall. Rose and Jeff enter, followed by a neat line of pupils carrying chairs, which they place carefully. The pupils do exactly what the prefects say, except for the Normals who are always slightly out of step.

Jeff Collect knife, fork, and spoon.





Rose Collect two sausages.

Jeff One helping of instant mash potato.

Rose And seventeen frozen peas each.

Jeff Sit down.

The Normals sit some way from the other pupils.

Rose Start to eat now.

All the pupils raise their knives and forks, then freeze.

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SCENE 7

The Head's office. Dinah stretches and yawns as she comes out of trance.

Dinah I'm sorry. What did you say?

Head *[Putting his sunglasses back on]* You've been asleep all morning.

Dinah I don't understand. I wasn't tired.

Head Go and have some dinner. After dinner, come to assembly with Class One. Is that understood?

Dinah Yes, sir.

Dinah leaves the Head's office. She shakes her head disbelievingly.

Why did I fall asleep?

The Head exits. Dawn and Darryl remove the desk and chairs of his office from the stage.

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SCENE 8

The dining hall. Dinah enters and collects her meal. All the pupils eat silently and in precisely the same way, except for the Normals. Lloyd, in particular, is a noisy and messy eater. Dinah joins the Normals.

Lloyd Where've you been all morning?

Dinah Went to see the Headmaster.

The Normals exchange significant glances.

Ian What did you think of him?

Dinah *[Hypnotically]* He's a marvellous man and this is the best school I've ever been to.

Ingrid Ah-ha.

Mandy Quiet Ingrid.

Dinah What's wrong?

Lloyd Nothing.

The Normals start eating again.

Mandy *[After a moment]* What do you think of the Headmaster?

Dinah *[Hypnotically]* He's a marvellous man and this is the best school I've ever been to.

Ingrid Ah-ha.

The Normals nod at each other.

Dinah Tell me what's wrong?

Lloyd Nothing's wrong for you. You'll fit in beautifully.

Ian *[Pointing to the other pupils]* They all say the same thing about the Head.

Ingrid I bet he said you're to go to assembly after dinner?

Dinah Yes. Doesn't everyone go?

Mandy Everyone but us.

Ian We get extra work with a prefect watching us.

Lloyd And not because we're thick.

He stands up.



Dinah

Why?

Lloyd

Don't try and work things out.

Mandy

It's best to stay out of trouble.

Ingrid

Make sure you're not late for assembly.

Lloyd

Come on, or we'll be late for class.

The other Normals stand up and follow Lloyd off.

Harvey

[As he leaves] Good luck.

He exits.

Dinah

What do I need luck for? I don't understand.

Rose

Ready for assembly!

Jeff

Lead - out!

Jeff and Rose lead the other pupils out. Dinah goes over to Lucy, who is the last to leave.

Dinah

Lucy, what's the Head really like?

Lucy

The Headmaster is a marvellous man and this is the best school I've ever been to. *[Frightened]* Quick, or we'll be late for assembly.

Dinah

What happens at assembly?

Lucy has already gone. Dinah follows as Rose leads the Normals into the next scene.

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SCENE 9

A classroom at one side of the acting space.

Rose

Sit - down!

They all sit down.

Open your maths books at page thirty-seven.

Ingrid

I haven't done page thirty-six yet, Rose.

Rose Ingrid! All pupils should be on page thirty-seven by the third Monday of term. Kindly work in silence.

The Normals start to work. Rose reads a book.

Harvey *[Whispering]* Lloyd! Lloyd!

Lloyd Sssh!

Harvey Lloyd!

Lloyd *[Whispering]* What?

Harvey What do you think they do in assembly?

Lloyd They say they always watch films.

Harvey But the lights are never turned out. You can see at the edge of the curtains.

Rose *[Looking up]* Harvey! Why aren't you working?

Lloyd and Harvey go back to work.

Harvey *[After a moment]* I'm going to have a look.

Lloyd Rubber ravioli! Don't be stupid.

Rose Lloyd! Harvey! Will you sit and work!

Harvey Can I go to the toilet, Rose? I can't concentrate.

Rose Really! You should learn not to be so disorganized.

Harvey Please. I can't wait.

Rose Very well. You may leave the room for one minute twenty-two seconds precisely.

Harvey gets up and exits.

Rose Everyone else, get on with your work.

Rose and the Normals freeze, while the focus switches to the next scene.



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SCENE 10

The hall on the other side of the acting space.

Jeff *[Calling, off] Lead - in!*

The pupils and teachers enter in neat lines.

Jeff Sit - down!

Everyone sits. Dinah hurries in on her own. Everyone stares at her as she finds somewhere to sit.

Harvey comes to the edge of the hall and looks in, as though through a window.

The Head enters, still wearing sunglasses. He clicks his fingers at Jeff, who stands 'on guard' at the door.

The Head faces the assembly and takes his sunglasses off.

Head It's funny you should all be feeling so tired this afternoon. So tired your eyelids are starting to close . . .

All the pupils start to fall asleep.

Dinah *[To herself] Hypnotism!*

She turns her head away.

Head You're so tired. So very tired. You're asleep.

The whole assembly is asleep. Dinah, realizing the Head is looking at her, pretends to be asleep as well.

When you wake up, you will remember you saw a film about ants. If anyone asks, you will say, 'It was very interesting. We saw how they build their nests and how they look after their eggs.' If you are asked any more questions, you will say, 'I don't remember.' What was the film about?

Pupils It was a film about ants.

Head *[Walking among the children]* Good. Now what this assembly is really about . . .

He stops because he has seen Dinah turn her head to watch him. She pretends to be asleep again.

Dinah

Glass, open your eyes.

She does so.

Your left arm is completely numb. You can feel nothing. Not even this pin.

He jabs her with a pin. Dinah cries out in pain.

Head

As I thought. Pretending. Look at me, Dinah.

Dinah

I know what you're doing. Hypnotizing everyone.

Head

And I know what you're doing.

Dinah

What?

Head

You're feeling very sleepy . . .

Dinah

No . . . no!

Head

Very, very sleepy.

He looks deeply into her eyes.

Dinah

[Drowsy] I'll remember . . . remember . . .

Head

You'll remember nothing at all.

Dinah

[Almost asleep] Remember . . .

Head

Nothing at all. You're asleep.

Dinah is asleep. The Head straightens up relieved. Harvey sneezes loudly. The Head clicks his fingers at Jeff, who looks out in time to see Harvey running off.

Head

[To Jeff] Well? Did you see the snooper?

Jeff

Yes, sir.

Everyone in the hall freezes as the focus switches back to the classroom.

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SCENE 11

The classroom. Rose looks up from her book as Harvey enters.

Rose

You are two minutes and twelve seconds late, Harvey.

Harvey

Sorry, Rose.

He sits back in his place and whispers to Lloyd.

They weren't watching films. They were sitting like zombies listening to the Head.

Lloyd

What?

Harvey

Honest.

Lloyd

We'll ask Dinah on the way home.

Rose

Harvey! Lloyd!

They look back at their books. The school bell rings.

Rose

Dismissed!

The Normals and Rose exit, as does everyone in the hall. Only Harvey, Lloyd, and Dinah are left onstage.

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SCENE 12

On the way home.

Lloyd

[To Dinah] Hurry up if you want to walk home with us.

Harvey

There's no need to be nasty, Lloyd.

Lloyd

We've got something to ask you.

Dinah joins them and they start walking.

Dinah

What?

Lloyd

What did you do in assembly today?

Dinah

We saw a film.

Lloyd gives Harvey a significant look.

Lloyd Oh yes? What about?

Dinah It was a film about ants. It was very interesting. We saw how they build their nests and how they look after their eggs.

Lloyd Huh!

Harvey What else happened, Dinah?

Dinah I don't remember.

Lloyd Did the Head talk to you afterwards?

Dinah I don't remember.

Lloyd Well, you're either very thick or a liar!

Dinah *[Angry]* What do you mean?

Harvey Sorry, Dinah, but I know you're not telling the truth. You see . . .

Lloyd Don't tell her anything. Can't you see she's one of them?

Harvey It's only fair to tell her . . . I sneaked out of class this afternoon and looked into the hall. There was no screen, no projector, no sign of a film.

Dinah What did you see?

Harvey The Head talking and you all repeating it back.

Lloyd You shouldn't tell her anything. She can't be trusted.
He exits angrily. Harvey starts to follow rather apologetically.

Dinah Harvey, what's wrong with that school?

Harvey I don't know. No one really knows.

Dinah Well, what's everyone so afraid of there?

Harvey You'd find out if you got into trouble.

Lloyd *[Off]* Harvey!
Harvey exits. Dinah is left looking very puzzled.

Dinah Something wrong's going on at that school and I don't know what it is. What's more, I don't like not knowing. Well, Dinah,

you're used to working things out, so you'll have to work this out. If the only way to find out more is to get into trouble, then you'll have to make some trouble.

She nods her head decisively, then exits.

SCENE 13

The Hunters' house. Mrs Hunter enters, mixing something in a mixing bowl. Then Lloyd and Harvey enter.

Mrs Hunter

Did you have a good day, boys?

Lloyd

Same as usual.

Mrs Hunter

I don't know why you never have anything good to say about that school. All the other children love it.

She looks up suspiciously.

Where's Dinah?

Harvey

She's just coming.

Mrs Hunter

I hope you've been nice to her, boys.

Dinah enters.

Mrs Hunter

What did you think of school, dear?

Dinah

I think the Head is a marvellous man and this is the best school I've ever been to.

Mrs Hunter

You see, Dinah loves it.

Lloyd

Huh!

Mrs Hunter

Never mind that old sourpuss, Dinah. Let's go and have some tea and cake.

Dinah and Mrs Hunter exit. Harvey is about to follow.

Lloyd

Sky blue sandwiches, Harvey! We've got better things to do than listen to her singing the school's praises. Let's watch TV.

He exits a different way, followed rather reluctantly by Harvey.



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SCENE 14

Eddy Hair cartwheels on for the next part of the Eddy Hair Show.

Audience

Here's Eddy!

Eddy

I'm back and don't you wish I wasn't? I'm here with the outrageous Eddy Hair Challenge. I'm offering one hundred pounds to anyone who can slurp down a plate of spaghetti in ten seconds. Who'll take up the challenge?

Girl

[Running on] Me, Eddy!

Eddy

What a brave girl. Brave, but stupid. Are you ready for the challenge?

Girl

I'm ready, Eddy.

Eddy

Gloria, bring on the spaghetti.

Eddy's assistant Gloria comes on with an unopened tin of spaghetti on a plate.

Girl

You haven't opened the tin. I can't eat that.

Eddy

You should have thought of that earlier. You've got ten seconds from now.

Audience

Ten, nine, eight, seven, six, five . . .

The girl desperately tries chewing the tin.

Audience

Four, three, two, one!

Eddy

Out of time and out of luck, I'm afraid. You couldn't eat the plate of spaghetti, so, Gloria, bring the other plate please.

Gloria comes on with a custard pie.

Girl

Steady, Eddy.

Eddy

Will I or won't I? I've got you guessing.

He pushes the custard pie in the girl's face.



Eddy

Yes, I will.

The girl is led off spluttering. Gloria mops up any custard on the floor. Applause from the Audience.

Eddy

She was nice, but crazy to trust me. Too crazy to go on my Great School Quiz. But that's not coming up till later. Bye for now!

He bounds off.

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SCENE 15

The Hunters' house. Lloyd, Harvey, and Dinah enter separately. They are all wrapped up in gloves, duffle coats, etc. They mime looking out of three different windows.

Lloyd

Snow.

Dinah

Snow.

Harvey Snow! *[Excited]* Don't you love snow, Di?
Dinah Yeah. We used to have terrific snowball fights at the children's home.
Harvey Snowball fights? What a brilliant idea.
Dinah We could have one in the playground when we get to school.
Harvey Fantastic!
Lloyd Purple pancakes! Think of the trouble you'd get into.
Dinah Would I?
Lloyd Real trouble.

Dinah looks thoughtful. Mrs Hunter enters, carrying Harvey's scarf.

Mrs Hunter Aren't you ready yet? Put your scarf on, Harvey. You know the cold's bad for your chest.

She wraps it round him.

Off you go.

Lloyd, Dinah, and
Harvey Bye!

They exit. Mrs Hunter exits in a different direction.

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SCENE 16

The other pupils march onto the playground. Rose and Jeff enter.

Rose Line – up!

The pupils form three lines.

Jeff Lead – in!

The pupils march in, followed by Jeff and Rose. Lloyd, Dinah, and Harvey enter.

Lloyd Guzzling gooseberries! We're late.

He and Harvey walk quickly across the playground. Lloyd goes into the school. Harvey looks back and sees that Dinah is making snowballs. He hurries back to her.

Harvey

Wow! Are we really going to have a snowball fight?

Dinah

No. Harvey! I don't want you involved.

Harvey

[Snatching up some snow] Don't be a spoilsport.

Lloyd

[Hurrying out of school] Harvey! What are you up to?

Harvey

We're going to have a snowball fight.

Lloyd

Don't be an idiot! Let her get into trouble if she wants to, but don't get mixed up in it.

Dinah

[To Harvey] He's right.

Harvey

You're both being rotten. The snow may be gone by tomorrow. I'm going to enjoy it now.

He throws a snowball at Dinah and one at Lloyd.

Lloyd

Don't be stupid!

Rose, Jeff, Sarah, and Simon appear.

Rose

Come here.

Dinah, Harvey, and Lloyd go to the prefects.

Jeff

It is forbidden to play in the playground.

Rose

It is forbidden to create mess.

Sarah

You must be punished.

Simon

In a suitable manner.

Rose

Take off your coats and gloves.

Pause. The children don't move.

Rose

[More sternly] Take off your coats and gloves.

This time the children obey. Sarah collects their coats and gloves.

Jeff

Simon, fetch the brushes.

Simon goes off.

Lloyd This is your fault, Dinah.

Harvey I threw the snowballs.

Rose There is no need to talk.

Jeff It is unnecessary.

Simon comes out with three brushes, which he hands out to Harvey, Lloyd, and Dinah.

Rose Since you like snow so much, you can sweep up the whole playground.

Jeff When you've finished, you can make it all into a great pile of snowballs.

Sarah Aren't we kind?

Harvey Without our coats and gloves?

Lloyd You can't do that!

Dinah Harvey's got a weak chest.

Rose Silence!

Dinah What if we say no?

Rose, Jeff, Sarah, and Simon The prefects are the voice of the Headmaster. They must be obeyed.

Lloyd and Harvey start to sweep. Dinah looks defiantly at the prefects for a moment, then realizes it won't do any good and also starts to sweep. The prefects exit. A wind noise builds as the playground becomes bitterly cold.

Dinah, Harvey, and Lloyd sweep briskly, but the cold makes the job increasingly difficult. Harvey stops altogether, he's shivering so much. Dinah gives him a hug to encourage him. When all the snow has been swept into the centre, they start making snowballs. The cold, wet snow makes this agonizing and only a tremendous effort completes the job. Jeff, Rose, Sarah, Simon, Dawn, and Darryl come out as they finish the job. The wind noise stops.





The Head enters and stands unobtrusively at the edge of the playground.

Dinah We've finished.

Rose *[Smiling]* Not quite.

She gives a signal at which the prefects seize the three children and tip them face first into the snow, before standing them upright again.

Dinah That's enough! I'll tell the Head. He'll punish you.

The prefects start laughing. Rose points to the Head. Dinah hurries over to the Head.

Dinah You're disgusting! Harvey's got a weak chest and this'll make him ill. I'll tell Mr and Mrs Hunter tonight and you'll be prosecuted.

She exits angrily. Jeff signals Lloyd and Harvey to go off. Dawn, Daryl, Simon, and Sarah exit, laughing. The Head calls Rose and Jeff over to him.

Head It seems Miss Glass has a soft spot for Harvey Hunter. That could be very useful. Arrange a prefect's council for tomorrow. You're going to put him on trial.

Rose and Jeff Sir!

They exit.

Head *[To himself]* And I'll have a word with the girl myself after assembly.

He exits, smiling unpleasantly.

.....

SCENE 17

The Hunters' house. Mrs Hunter enters. She's mixing something in a larger bowl than before. A door slams offstage.

Lloyd *[Off]* Mum! Mum!

Lloyd and Harvey burst onto the stage.

Lloyd Guess what happened?

Mrs Hunter World War Three started from the sound of it.

Lloyd No. Something at school this morning. It was terrible.

Mrs Hunter Don't start with your silly stories again. You've caused all sorts of trouble like that.

Harvey This really happened.

Mrs Hunter What?

Lloyd Dinah'll tell you. You'll believe her.

Dinah enters.

Mrs Hunter What's all this fuss about, Dinah? What happened at school?

Dinah [*Hypnotically*] This morning we all made snowballs and had a snowball fight. The Head made sure we all dressed up warmly and afterwards he gave us drinks of hot blackcurrant. It was super.

Lloyd What?

Harvey Dinah!

Mrs Hunter It sounds lovely.

Lloyd You liar!

Mrs Hunter Stop it, Lloyd! It's always the same. You tell lies about the school and I get into trouble when I complain.

Lloyd [*Pointing at Dinah*] She's the one who's lying.

Mrs Hunter That's enough. You've been horrible to poor Dinah since she came here. This is her home as well as yours, so you'd better get used to it.

Lloyd But ...

Mrs Hunter Not another word.

Lloyd Come on, Harvey.

Harvey [*To Dinah*] How could you?





Lloyd and Harvey exit.

Mrs Hunter

I don't know what's wrong with those boys, I really don't. Thank heavens you don't make a fuss about school.

She puts her arm round Dinah and they exit in a different direction to Lloyd and Harvey.

.....

SCENE 18

A burst of music or drum roll introduces the next section of The Eddy Hair Show.

Audience

Here's Eddy!

Eddy Hair leaps onto the stage, carrying a bucket.

Eddy

OK, folks, I hope you're not enjoying the show. You're numbskulls if you are. Viewing figures show nearly the whole country watches this programme. The whole country can't be full of numbskulls, can it? . . . It is?

Manic laugh.

So, if you've any sense, switch off before you watch me cross this tight-rope carrying a bucket of custard. Here we go.

Drum roll. Eddy mimes walking across a tight-rope using the bucket to keep his balance. 'Oohs' and 'Aahs' from the Audience. Eddy falls off the rope and 'accidentally' empties the bucket over the Audience. It is full of confetti, not custard.

Eddy

Thought it was going to be real custard? I had you guessing. Next up, we have the Great School Quiz. Make sure you see it.

He exits, laughing.

.....

SCENE 19

The pupils march onto the playground. They give a short military marching display, before breaking into their three Circles.

First Circle

[Chanting] The past participle of être is été.

The First Circle continue chanting in mime.

Second Circle

The square root of a hundred is ten.

The Second Circle continue chanting in mime.

Third Circle

Ten millilitres equals one centilitre.

The Third Circle continue chanting in mime. Lloyd and Harvey enter.

Lloyd

Remember, we're not going to talk to her again.

Harvey

We're the only people she knows.

Lloyd

Then she shouldn't have been a traitor yesterday.

Harvey

I'm not sure it was her fault.

Dinah enters. Lloyd pulls Harvey away from her. She shrugs her shoulders. Rose and Jeff enter.

Rose

Line – up!

The pupils form three rows. Lloyd and Harvey join the end of one; Dinah joins another.

Jeff

Lead – in!

Dinah's row leads in first, Harvey and Lloyd's last. As Harvey is about to go in, Rose speaks.

Rose

Harvey Hunter, stop! You are to attend Prefects' Council.

Harvey

But I haven't done anything.

Jeff

Lloyd Hunter, lead in.

Lloyd

I'm staying with my brother.

Rose

That is not permissible.

Lloyd

People have lawyers in court, so he should have one at the council.

Rose and Jeff exchange looks.

Rose

Very well. But it won't do any good.

Jeff

Follow us.

Rose and Jeff lead Harvey and Lloyd round the stage and into the next scene.

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SCENE 20

A classroom. Simon, Sarah, Darryl, and Dawn have brought on a table and chairs. There are six folders on the table. Rose and Jeff join the other prefects as they sit down in precisely the same manner.

Rose

The proceedings may commence.

Simon

[Reading the charges] Harvey Hunter, we are here to deal with your disobedient and disruptive behaviour this week.

Sarah

The Head is most displeased with you.

All Prefects

Most displeased.

Darryl

The charges are: one, you entered school early on Monday morning, even though you know this is forbidden.

Harvey

The Head told me to do the registers . . .

Rose

Silence!

Sarah

Sharon Mandeville did the registers on Monday.

Lloyd

[Quietly] It was a mistake. The Head changed his mind.
Shocked silence.

Rose

The Head never changes his mind.

Dawn

[Reading the charges] Two: you left your classroom on Monday to spy on assembly in the hall . . .

Rose

Having lied that you wanted to go to the toilet.

Harvey

[Shocked] How did you find out?

Jeff

Silence!

Simon

[Reading] Three: you threw two snowballs in the playground yesterday.



Lloyd He's already been punished for that.

Rose The prefects took some immediate action, but now we're acting on behalf of the Head.

Lloyd Why doesn't the Head . . .

Harvey Don't argue, Lloyd. We can't win.

Rose I'm glad one of you is sensible.

Jeff Harvey Hunter, you have behaved very badly.

All Prefects Very badly.

Simon But the Head has decided to be merciful.

Harvey *[Hopefully]* Has he?

Sarah *[Handing Harvey a thick wodge of question papers]* You simply have to complete these sums.

Darryl At home.

Dawn If you complete them, all will be forgotten.

Rose If not, the Head will deal with you himself.

All Prefects Most severely.

Lloyd Is that it?

Jeff For the time being.

Simon You never know, if you can answer those, you might end up on Eddy Hair's Great School Quiz.

All the prefects laugh and then exit taking table, chairs, and folders with them.

Harvey How did they know about me going into school early and spying on assembly? Only you and I knew about those things.

Lloyd Exploding eggshells! Dinah knew.

Harvey She wouldn't have told, would she?

Lloyd Of course she would. She's on their side.



Harvey

[Looking at the sums] I can't do these.

Lloyd

[Taking them] I'll do them for you. *[Looking at them]* Blue bananas!

Harvey

Are they hard?

Lloyd

No. They're impossible.

Harvey

[Terrified] I'm for it now.

Lloyd

We'll show them to Mum when we get home. Even she'll have to admit there's something peculiar going on.

They exit.

SCENE 21

The Hunters' house. Mrs Hunter enters. She is mixing something in a still larger bowl. Dinah is sitting next to her, drinking a mug of tea.

Mrs Hunter

Nice day at school dear?

Dinah

[Hypnotically] Every day at school is a useful and stimulating experience.

Mrs Hunter

I'm glad you like it, dear. I only wish you and the boys got on a bit better. It worries me sometimes.

Lloyd and Harvey enter.

Lloyd

Mum, can we have a word with you?

Mrs Hunter

Of course, dear.

Lloyd

In private.

Mrs Hunter

Lloyd, Dinah is part of the family.

Lloyd

You don't understand about her.

Harvey

Don't waste time Lloyd.

He shows Mrs Hunter the sums.

Look at these sums the Head gave me, Mum.

Mrs Hunter gives Harvey the bowl while she takes the sums. She looks at them, turns them upside down, then turns them back again. She shakes her head.

Mrs Hunter

I don't really understand this new maths, dear.

Lloyd

But it's not new maths. It's just impossible.

Mrs Hunter

The Head wouldn't be so unreasonable, would he, Dinah?

Dinah

[Miserably] The Head is a marvellous man.

Mrs Hunter

You see. Now you have a little think, Harvey, and I'm sure you won't find them so difficult. I'm too busy with this cake to help.

She exits.

Harvey

What can I do? The Head'll punish me himself.

He starts to cry. Lloyd puts an arm round him.

Lloyd

It's all her fault.

Dinah

[Coming over] Can I see the sums?

Lloyd

Are you going to rub it in?

Dinah

Please show me.

Harvey

[Giving her the sums, tearfully] There.

Dinah

[Looking at the sums, then whistling with disbelief] He really didn't want you to do these! You need spherical geometry . . . tensor calculus . . . even the theory of relativity.

Lloyd

[Sarcastic] I suppose you can do them?

Dinah

[Matter of fact] Yes. Yes, I can. Have you got a pen?

Lloyd gives her a pen. She starts to write at lightening speed, discarding one sheet of questions after another on the floor.

Harvey gratefully picks them up, while Lloyd looks on in disbelief.

While Dinah works, we can hear her muttering very rapidly.

Dinah

The chord of the angle 10 is 0.1743 so . . . if the natural secant



... then given the probability of a series of whole numbers regressing to the power of x ... taking the circular function y over z cubed ... multiply by two million, divide by the cosine, think of the number you first thought of ...

She discards the last sheet.

There!

Harvey and Lloyd stand staring open-mouthed for a moment.

Harvey

All fifty of them?

Dinah

Sorry I was so slow, but one or two of them were quite hard.

Lloyd

How on earth did you do them?

Dinah

I'm clever.

Lloyd

Huh! And modest!

Dinah

I'm not boasting. I really am clever at sums and things.

Lloyd

No one told us.

Dinah

No one knows. The Head nearly found out on the first day, but I think I tricked him.

Harvey

Why don't you want anyone to know?

Dinah

You know how horrid people are if you're brainy.

Harvey

Anyway, you've done all my rotten sums. Hurray!

Lloyd

If you've kept it a secret for so long, why have you given it away now?

Dinah

I felt sorry for Harvey.

Lloyd

But we've been horrible to you.

Dinah

You have. Harvey's been quite nice.

Lloyd

If you like him, why did you tell on him for going into school early and spying on assembly?

Dinah

I didn't. Someone else must have seen him. Probably one of the prefects.

Lloyd You lied about the snowballs, though. All that stuff about hot blackcurrant.

Dinah I know I did. I don't know why. Whenever I open my mouth to talk about the school, words come out without me wanting them to. I know what I really think about the Head, but I can't say it.

Lloyd I wonder why.

Harvey Assembly.

Lloyd What?

Harvey It's the one place Di goes to, that we don't. And we know you don't really see films there.

Dinah So what happens there?

Harvey Try to remember.

Dinah I can't.

Lloyd You must.

Harvey Please remember, Di.

Dinah *[Trying to remember]* I can't.

Harvey Remember ... remember ...

Harvey and Lloyd Remember ... remember ... remember ...

Dinah is struggling to remember, but can't. Harvey feels a sneeze coming on.

Lloyd Remember ... remember ... remember ...

Dinah *[Hypnotically]* Remember ... remember ...

Harvey At-choo!

Dinah That's it! I was trying to stay awake; I heard a sneeze, and then I fell asleep.

Lloyd In assembly?

Dinah I was hypnotized. The Head hypnotizes everyone in assembly.



Harvey Why?

Lloyd To stop us misbehaving.

Harvey To teach us everything quickly.

Dinah He's not teaching us how to think. It's like a schoolful of robots.

Harvey How horrible.

Dinah He won't let your gang go to assembly because you can't be hypnotized, I guess. Some people can't be.

Lloyd That's right! I remember him looking into my eyes on my first day and telling me I felt sleepy.

Dinah What happened?

Lloyd Nothing. I said, 'I'm fine thanks, sir'.

Harvey That's what happened to me.

Lloyd It must be the same for Mandy, Ingrid, and Ian.

Dinah But he can control all the rest of us.

Lloyd He's just a bully wanting to boss around some kids.

Dinah I don't think that's it.

Lloyd What do you mean?

Dinah If you had an army of people willing to do everything you said, wouldn't you want to use it?

Lloyd Pink pineapples!

Harvey Don't you think you should tell her, Lloyd?

Dinah Tell me what?

Lloyd and Harvey look at each other. They nod their heads.

Lloyd About SPLAT.

Dinah What's SPLAT?

As Lloyd speaks, Ian, Ingrid, and Mandy enter, carrying boxes to sit on for the next scene.

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SCENE 22

The shed.

Lloyd SPLAT is the Society ...

Harvey For the Protection of ...

Mandy Our lives ...

Ian Against ...

Ingrid Them.

write here

Harvey joins the other three sitting on boxes. Lloyd stays with Dinah.

Lloyd We meet in this shed. I chair meetings ... It's very secret. Come on.

He leads Dinah over to the shed and knocks.

Mandy *[Giving a password]* Whoever can keep order can rule the world.

Lloyd But whoever can bear disorder is truly free.

Mandy *[Miming opening the door]* Pass, friend.

Lloyd and Dinah enter. Ian, Mandy, and Ingrid look suspiciously at Dinah.

Harvey Have a box, Di.

Dinah Thanks.

Dinah sits down, as does Lloyd.

Mandy Harvey's told us what you've said about assemblies.

Harvey The question is, what can we do about it?

Lloyd Hang on! I'm the Chair and I ask the questions. Now, what can we do about it?





Ingrid

How do we know she isn't one of them sent to spy on us?

Ian

She ought to take an oath.

Lloyd

Hang on! I think Dinah ought to take an oath. Dinah Glass, do you swear to honour the secrecy of SPLAT, to protect its members and never willingly reveal anything about us to any of them?

Dinah

I swear.

The members of SPLAT stand up to clasp their right hands together in the air. Dinah joins them. They sit down.

Lloyd

Right. Now we can begin.



Dinah We've got to find out why the Head wants the whole school hypnotized.

Lloyd Hang on . . . We've got to find out why the Head wants the whole school hypnotized.

Mandy Can't you stay awake in assembly?

Dinah Impossible. I tried.

Ingrid Perhaps one of us could try and sneak in.

Ian No chance. They're on double alert since Harvey tried eavesdropping.

Harvey gives an embarrassed cough.

Mandy Well, what can we do?

Harvey It's a pity we can't bug the hall.

Dinah That's it. Has anyone got a small cassette recorder?

Mandy I have.

Dinah I'll switch it on when the Head starts speaking. We'll find out what he's really planning.

Ian We'll have to have a vote . . .

Lloyd Wait a minute! I'm chairing this . . . We'll have to have a vote on it.

Dinah Why?

Ingrid We're such a small group, everyone has to agree to everything. We can't afford to argue.

Lloyd Right. All those in favour of Dinah taking in the recorder.

Ian, Harvey, Mandy, and Ingrid raise their hands.

Lloyd What about you, Dinah?

Dinah I agree, but what do you think?

Lloyd I don't know, it might be dangerous . . .



- Dinah** I'm the only one who'll be in danger.
- Lloyd** I'm not so sure.
- Ingrid** Oh, come on.
- Mandy** *[Impatient]* Lloyd!
- Lloyd** Oh, all right. Agreed.
They all stand up again and make their handshake.
- Lloyd** Meeting dismissed.
Ian, Mandy, and Ingrid exit. Lloyd draws Harvey to one side.
- Lloyd** Isn't that typical of Dinah? She joins our society and then starts deciding what we'll do.
- Harvey** I think it's very brave of her.
Harvey joins Dinah and they walk off together.
- Lloyd** *[To himself]* What's the point of having a chairman with her around? She's either very brave . . . or very foolish.
He exits as we hear a school bell.

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SCENE 23

Outside the school hall. Dinah enters, checking a small cassette recorder. Lucy enters behind her. Dinah hurriedly puts the cassette recorder in her pocket and turns round.

- Dinah** Oh, it's only you, Lucy.
- Lucy** Who did you think it was?
- Dinah** The prefects or the Head or someone. We're always being watched in this school. It makes me feel like Winston Smith.
- Lucy** Who?
- Dinah** Winston Smith. He's a character in a book called *1984*.
- Lucy** Funny name for a book.

Dinah It doesn't matter.

Lucy Let's get into assembly.

The prefects, teachers, and pupils, joined by Dinah and Lucy, enter the hall in neat rows.

Rose Stand – still!

Everyone stands still. The Head enters and walks through the hall. He faces the assembly and takes off his glasses.

Head I'm pleased you've all been working well this morning. But now you're all tired. So very tired that you're falling asleep. Asleep.

Everyone is in a hypnotic trance.

Head Now move into the groups you were in yesterday, where you will receive further instructions.

Everyone starts to lead off. Dinah still has one hand in her pocket, protecting the recorder. The Head sees her.

Head Dinah Glass, come here.

Dinah obeys.

Head You look most disordered. Take your hand out of your pocket.

Dinah does so, bringing out the recorder as well.

So, we have a spy, do we? Give me that.

Dinah gives him the recorder. He presses a couple of buttons, then puts it back in her pocket.

Head That deals with that. And now I'd better deal with you. Wake up, Dinah.

Dinah *[Comes round dazed]* What's happening?

Head You must have fallen asleep again.

He produces the sheets of maths questions.

Do you recognise these?





Dinah

Those are the sums Harvey had to do.

Head

But you did them.

Dinah

They were too hard for him.

Head

They were meant to be. I set them to see if you would help him. To see if you were bright enough to help. Now he'll be punished for not doing them himself.

Dinah

That's not fair!

Head

Fairness is an illusion designed to create disorder. He will be punished unless . . . unless you decide to co-operate.

Dinah

What do you want me to do?

Head

I'll explain in my office. I've great plans for you, Dinah. Great plans.

He smiles an evil smile, then exits. Dinah follows reluctantly.

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INTERVAL

SCENE 24

Ian, Mandy, Ingrid, Harvey, and Lloyd enter the shed. They sit on boxes.

Ian

Is she really going to be on The Eddy Hair Show?

Harvey

She's in the Great School Quiz.

Mandy

At our school?

Harvey

Yes.

Ingrid

But why's the Head asked her to be in the team?

Lloyd

It proves she's a goody-goody and not one of us.

Dinah enters.

Dinah

Oh does it? Is that all you think it means, Lloyd Hunter? Why do you think the Head's asked Eddy Hair to come here at all?

Ian Fame for the school, I expect. Everyone in the country watches Eddy Hair.

Dinah Think about it. The Eddy Hair Show's full of mess and chaos, the last things the Head likes. He must have a reason for inviting him.

Mandy He's up to something.

Ingrid Yes.

Harvey But what?

Lloyd Well, you didn't have to agree to be in the quiz team.

Dinah Oh yes I did. The Head knows I did Harvey's sums. It was a trap.

Harvey What?

Dinah If I don't go in the team and help win the quiz, you'll be the one who suffers.

Harvey You are clever enough to win the quiz, aren't you?

Dinah I expect so, but that's not the point. Why does the Head want us to win?

Ingrid If we watch the programme carefully tonight, we might get a clue.

Harvey Yes! We can record it . . .

Lloyd Hang on! Let the chairman say something. We can record it and you can all come round later to watch. Agreed?

Everyone Agreed.

They all stand up and do their handshake. They exit.

SCENE 25

Eddy Hair, with two teams of three pupils and their head teachers come onto the stage for The Eddy Hair Show on tape. They freeze, as the members of SPLAT – Lloyd, Harvey, Mandy,



Ian, Ingrid, and Dinah – come onto the edge of the acting space and sit down.

Lloyd

I've wound it on to the Great School Quiz.

He presses a remote control panel and The Eddy Hair Show comes to life.

Eddy

Shillingstone and Manor Schools are absolutely equal in tonight's quiz, so this is the decider and it's a real brain-buster. Not that it takes much to bust the brains of these yo-yos.

He laughs maniacally.

Are you ready?

Teams

Ready, Eddy.

Eddy

Here goes. I want to buy roller skates for my chickens. Twelve per cent of them only have one leg and half the rest refuse to wear roller skates. So how many skates do I need to buy?

The teams start frantically, but silently to work out the answer.

Mandy

That's impossible. He hasn't said how many chickens he's got.

Dinah

It's the same number of skates as chickens. It works out one each leg.

Lloyd

Oh shut up! We know you've got a brain the size of the Eiffel Tower.

Ingrid

How did you work it out? I couldn't.

Dinah

You're not trained to think at school, that's why.

SPLAT becomes quiet as we focus on the tape. One of the Manor School team is speaking.

Alec Bates

Is it the same as the number of chickens, Eddy?

Eddy

The boffin's done it! Manor School wins!

Cheers from the Audience.

Now let's have a word with the Head of the losing team.



The Shillingstone Head steps forward.

Your lot were a bit wobbly answering the questions, so here's something wobbly for you. Gloria!

Gloria enters with a wobbly jelly, which Eddy pushes in the Shillingstone Head's face. The Head wipes it off and laughs. Eddy laughs. Gloria wipes up the fallen jelly.

Eddy

And now we want the secret of success from the Head of the winning team.

The Manor Head steps forward.

You've got one minute to tell us exactly how you've produced a schoolful of geniuses.

Manor Head

[Looking directly at audience] The secret of good teaching, everybody, is doughnuts. Give your pupils doughnuts every day, especially the jammy ones . . .

Dinah

Stop it there.

The video stops.

Rewind.

Lloyd

What for?

Dinah

Rewind.

Harvey

Go on, Lloyd.

Lloyd presses the remote control. Eddy and the Manor Head move backwards as though being rewound on a video.

Dinah

Play!

Lloyd presses a button.

Manor Head

The secret of good teaching, everybody, is doughnuts.

Dinah

Further back.

Lloyd rewinds. Eddy and the Manor Head move backwards.

Dinah

Play.



Eddy

You've got one minute to tell us exactly how you've produced a schoolful of geniuses.

Dinah

That's it. You can wind it off now.

Lloyd presses a button and everyone on the video exits at video Jan forward speed. Dinah stands up in preparation for the next scene.

.....

SCENE 26

The Hunters' house.

Dinah

Don't you see?

The others stand up.

Lloyd

See what?

Dinah

Our Head could hypnotize the whole country if we win. He gets a whole minute in front of the camera.

Mandy

Is that long enough?

Dinah

More than enough. The question is, why?

Lloyd

Huh! That's obvious. He'll tell everyone in the country to rob a bank or something and send him the money.

Dinah

I don't think it's money he's after.

Lloyd

You don't want to admit I'm right for once.

Mandy

It doesn't matter why he's doing it. The point is, what are we going to do about it?

Ingrid

Couldn't Dinah just lose the quiz?

Harvey

Oh no!

Mandy

Think what the Head would do to Harvey.

Ian

Well, what can we do?

Dinah

If only we could stop the show from taking place at all.

Lloyd

Hang on! I'm in the Chair and . . . and [*pleasantly surprised*] as

it happens, I do have some very good ideas for stopping the show altogether.

Dinah Really?

Lloyd Everyone here ...

The others form a circle round Lloyd.

What we've got to do is this ...

His voice fades to a whisper. The others make the occasional 'Ooh' and 'Aah'. After a moment, Ian turns out of the circle to face the audience.

Ian [Amazed] Wow!

Ingrid Wow!

Harvey Wow!

Mandy Wow!

Dinah Wow – ee!

Lloyd Everyone agreed?

All Agreed!

They make the handshake.

Lloyd It's our secret till Eddy Hair comes.

They all exit.



SCENE 27

The school playground. Eddy's Announcer and a Cameraman enter.

Announcer This looks like the main entrance to the school. I hope they're ready for the broadcast tonight. Go back and tell the lorries to come in this way.

Ian [Running on] Excuse me! Are you from The Eddy Hair Show?

Announcer That's right, sonny.



Ian You mustn't come in this way. It's miles from the hall. The Head says you're to go the other way.

Announcer Where's that?

Ian Did you see some great steel gates further down the road?

Cameraman Looked like a disused quarry?

Ian That's it. The staff car park really. You're to go there. Through the gates.

Announcer Are you sure, sonny?

Ian Certain. All the lorries must go through the gates.

Announcer Anything you say. Let's go.

The Announcer and Cameraman go off. Ian takes a big chain and padlock out of his pocket, smiles, and follows them. Ingrid and Mandy enter.

Mandy Know what you're doing?

Ingrid I tell the teachers the Head wants them at the swimming pool while ...

Mandy *[Producing tin of polish and rag]* I make sure the side of the pool is nice and slippy.

They give a thumbs up sign. Mandy goes to one side of the acting area, 'opens' the door to the swimming pool, and starts polishing the floor. Ingrid goes to the other side and knocks at the staffroom door. A teacher appears.

Ingrid Please, Miss, the Head says you've all got to go to the swimming pool straight away.

Teacher Something to do with Eddy Hair coming?

Ingrid I expect so, Miss. The Head didn't seem very happy. He said you're to hurry.

Ingrid stands back.

Teacher

[Calling into staffroom] Come on, everybody. Down to the swimming pool, double quick time. Head says so.

Mandy stops polishing and holds open the door to the swimming pool as the teachers do a 'knees up' run onto the stage. When they reach the polished area, they start to slip and slide as if in slow motion. This sequence should be extended for effect, possibly with music in the background. Teachers threaten to topple over at every angle, catching hold of each other, perhaps even waltzing around, before they finally tumble off the stage. There are great offstage cries and splashes. Mandy and Ingrid lock the door to the swimming pool and slap hands to indicate a job well done, before exiting hurriedly.

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SCENE 28

Simon, Sarah, Dawn, and Darryl enter, crossing the playground to the prefects' room.

Simon

Now, I'm to take charge of transport with twenty children to help me.

Darryl

Covering Section C of the Master Plan.

Sarah

And I'm in charge of the Work Camps. With fifty children to help me divide up the population.

Dawn

Thus covering Section F of the Master Plan.

Dinah and Lloyd enter as the prefects exit.

Dinah

What do you think they mean? The Master Plan.

Lloyd

I don't know. Let's just lock them in the prefects' room while we can.

Dinah

But Rose and Jeff aren't in there.

Lloyd

We can't help that.

Dinah

They're the most dangerous.

Lloyd

Stop being so bossy.



He mimes locking the prefects' room.

Now let's help the others.

He hurries off.

Dinah Honestly, that boy!

She hurries off as Ian and Eddy Hair enter from different directions.

Ian Mr Hair, Mr Hair! You're going the wrong way.

Eddy That's the only way to get to the right place.

He carries on walking.

Ian Wait, Mr Hair!

Eddy Don't ask me for an autograph. You don't imagine I can write do you?

Eddy exits laughing.

Ian Oh blast!

He runs off.



SCENE 29

Harvey enters the school basement. He is carrying a torch, looking for something.

Harvey *[To himself]* I don't like it down here. Still, someone's got to cut off the electricity.

Lloyd, Dinah, Mandy, and Ingrid enter.

Lloyd Have you found the mains switch yet, Harvey?

Harvey It's here.

Lloyd Then let's put out the lights.

Harvey pulls down an imaginary switch and puts on the torch, which is now the only source of light.

Ingrid

Great!

Dinah

Now let's take out the fuses.

They start taking out fuses. Ian runs on. Harvey shines the torch on him.

Ian

I managed to lock all the lorries up in the old quarry, but I couldn't stop Eddy Hair coming into school. We'll be okay though, won't we?

The Head, flanked by Rose and Jeff, enters behind Ian. Harvey gasps.

Ian

What's wrong?

Ian turns round to see the Head.

Head

Well, well, you have been busy, haven't you? . . . Put the fuses back.

Ingrid

No, we won't. You're wicked!

Head

[Beckoning someone offstage] Come here, children.

The other pupils, in a hypnotic trance, enter silently and menacingly.

Ian

We'd better do what he says, or they'll make us do it anyway.

They put the fuses back. Harvey pulls up the mains switch and the lights come back on.

Head

Do you think I haven't had you watched? Rose and Jeff have released the teachers and the other prefects already. I didn't know about the quarry though. Give me the keys.

Ian reluctantly hands the keys over. The Head gives them to Jeff.

Tell them to get here as quickly as possible.

Jeff exits.

Dinah

You still won't win. I'll answer all the questions in the quiz wrong and you won't get to hypnotize the whole country.

Head

My, my. So clever to work out my plans. But I think you will

co-operate . . . in the end. *[To the hypnotized pupils]* Children, these are six straw dolls, no longer required . . . Tear them to pieces.

In a trance, the pupils advance and take hold of Dinah and the other Normals.

Dinah Lucy! Let go! Don't you recognize us?

Ingrid Let go!

Harvey Help!

Very calmly and almost ritualistically, the pupils lift the Normals in the air and are about to tear them apart.

Lloyd Dinah, do something!

Dinah All right, I'll do it. Whatever you say.

Head Stop children.

The pupils let the Normals down.

Head *only this part* I'm so glad you've seen reason. Just in case you change your mind during the quiz, your friends will stay with us. If you break your promise, I have only to say 'Destroy the dolls' . . . the rest I leave to your imagination.

Lloyd You may have beaten us, but you're still pathetic, doing all of this for money.

Head *[Genuinely surprised]* Money? I don't want money. I want something much greater. I want . . . *[breaking off]* We must go to the hall, the programme's due to start.

The Head exits followed by all the pupils, who keep close guard on the Normals.

SCENE 30

Eddy Hair, Gloria, the Announcer, the Cameraman, and other technical crew enter the school hall. They position chairs,

run out cables, and set up the camera in preparation for the broadcast.

Eddy Come on, guys. If we're quick, at least we can do some of the show. They're going crazy at Headquarters. If they're not careful, they'll end up like me.

The Head enters and taps Eddy on the shoulder. Eddy leaps up in surprise.

Eddy Aargh!

Head I didn't mean to startle you.

Eddy It's okay . . . I thought you were some horrible monster.
[Looking more closely at the Head] In fact, I think I was right.

Head *[Forcing a smile]* I was going to ask if I could bring the children in yet? Time's getting on.

Eddy By all means, egghead, the more the merrier. *[To the crew]*
Come on guys, thirty seconds to transmission.

The Head leads the pupils on. They sit round the edge of the stage, guarding the Normals.

The two quiz teams enter. Lucy, Rose, and Dinah are on one side; Alec Bates, two other Manor pupils, and their Head on the other side. Eddy leaves the stage.

Cameraman About to go on air . . . On air.

Announcer Yes folks, it's your regular dose of craziness, the magnificent Eddy Hair Show. And here's . . .

He waits for the pupils to join in. Silence until the Head waves his hand.

Pupils *[Lifelessly]* Here's Eddy.

Eddy bounces on.

Eddy Sorry you've had to wait tonight, people. It was due to circumstances beyond my control. But then, everything's beyond my control.



Sarah

He laughs maniacally.

We haven't got time for everything, but we're still able to do the fantastic Eddy Hair Challenge. I'm offering one hundred pounds to anyone who can eat one of my super-delicious potato chips. Only one. Who'll accept the challenge?

Absolute silence.

I'm not proud. Anyone'll do ... anyone at all ... *[Desperate]*
Please.

The Head signals Sarah to go forward.

[Stepping forward, still in trance] I'll do it, Eddy.



Eddy Don't sound so excited, you brave, but foolish girl. Gloria, bring me the chip.

Gloria brings on a chip several feet long and gives it to Eddy.

Sarah *[Lifeless]* I can't eat that, Eddy.

Eddy Why not? Don't you like my cooking? Bring her the seasoning, that might help.

Gloria and the Announcer bring on huge salt, pepper, and vinegar containers. They sprinkle salt and pepper on the chip.

Sarah *[Absolutely lifeless]* At-choo.

Eddy Now are you ready?

Sarah I can't, Eddy.

Eddy Then you've failed the Eddy Hair Challenge. But I'm still going to give you something.

He pours some vinegar over her.

There you are, condiments of the chef!

Sarah doesn't move a muscle. Eddy is puzzled.

Eddy Thanks for being such a lively competitor.

Sarah Thank you, Eddy.

She goes back. The pepper, salt, and vinegar posts are left onstage.

Eddy And on to the Great School Quiz. We've got last week's winners, the smarty-pants Manor School team against the home team. Wouldn't they look good in a gym – two sets of dumb-bells together.

He laughs. No reaction from Audience.

Only time for two questions each team tonight. Manor School, question one. King Zonk of Zoldavia has a hundred children. Ninety per cent of them have curly noses, eighty-five per cent of them are bald, eighty per cent of them have one leg, and





seventy-five per cent lisp. How many bald, one-legged, lisping children with curly noses must he have?

Alec Bates starts calculating furiously.

Eddy

Come on, yo-yos, we haven't got all day.

Alec

Thirty.

Eddy

Well done, brain-box. Over to the home team. Your question is this: every room in my house has as many old women in it as there are rooms altogether. Every old woman knits as many knee-warmers as there are rooms. I share out the knee-warmers among seven of my worst enemies, giving each the same number and as many as possible and I still have more than enough to cover my knees. How many have I got?

The Head gives a low cough. The pupils take hold of the Normals. Dinah sees this.

Dinah

[Helplessly] Six.

Eddy

The right answer . . . You know, it's usual for the audience to cheer the home team.

The Head raises his hand. The pupils cheer till he drops it, when they stop instantly.

Eddy

Craaazzy! I've never seen children organized like that before. Aren't we lucky that teachers don't run the country or we'd all be organized like robots!

Head

It'd be much better if the country was properly organized, Mr Hair.

Lloyd

[Calling] That's it, Dinah! He wants to run the country.

Announcer

Quiet, please!

Dinah nods her head in agreement to Lloyd. The Head signals to the pupils around Lloyd, who take a tighter hold on him.

Eddy

Second question for Manor School. Things are hotting up. I have a certain number, made up entirely of sevens. One seven after another. I can divide it by 199. I want you to give me the

last four figures of the answer. But, *[laughing]* I'm not going to tell you how many sevens are in the number. *[Laughing again]* Bit of a sneaky, peaky question. Come on, Smart Alec, what's the answer?

Alec

I . . . I don't know.

Eddy

And neither do I, but I do know that gives the home team the chance to win, if they get this question right. Here we go! I woke up and found I'd lost my memory. I couldn't even remember what year it was, so I asked a man who was walking past. He told me, 'If you multiply my age now by twice my age next birthday, you will get the number of the year we are in. I can't remember Queen Victoria, but I hope to live to the year two thousand.' Got it?

Lloyd

[Calling] You mustn't, Dinah!

Lloyd is gagged by the pupils.

Eddy

I know it's a tough one, so you can have a clue for half a mark.

Head

Give her the clue!

Eddy

I'm not quite as old as my cousin, Winston Smith.

Lucy

I know! That was the name of the man in that funny book you told me about, Dinah. 1984.

Eddy

1984 is the right answer! The home team win! And there's just time for their Head to tell us the secret of their success. Step forward, please.

The Head comes forward and removes his glasses.

Eddy

How do you do it?

Head

[Looking towards the camera and the audience] If you look into my eyes, I'll tell you. You must be ready for some sense after the chaos of the show. You want to have everything tidied and organized for you. You are feeling exhausted by the mess. You're feeling very tired and ready to sleep . . .

Everyone in the hall falls asleep, except for the Normals, and Dinah who is yawning desperately.





- Head** Your eyelids are growing heavier and all you can hear is my voice, telling you exactly what to do . . .
- Harvey** Dinah! The pepper!
- With a superhuman effort, Dinah wakes up enough to grab the huge pepperpot and shake it over the Head.*
- Head** You will do everything I say from now on. You are all to . . . to . . . a . . . a . . . aaa . . . AAA . . . TTT . . . CHOOO!
- As he sneezes, everyone in the hall wakes up. The Head looks round in panic.*
- Head** Destroy . . . the . . . the . . . d . . . AA . . . TTT . . . CHOOOO!
- He is convulsed with sneezes. Everyone starts giggling at him. Eddy steps forward.*
- Eddy** Well, that's it for tonight's programme, folks. What a whacky headmaster! But that's this show for you, always something new. I like to keep you guessing. Byeee!
- He exits exuberantly.*
- Head** *[To Dinah]* You fool! You've destroyed this country's chance of being the first properly organized, truly efficient nation in the world. AT – CHOOOO!
- Dinah** We've saved it from being a miserable place full of scared robots. I'm glad you're beaten.
- Head** Only for the moment. I'll be ba . . . ba . . . aa . . . AATTCHHOOO! You'll see, I'll . . . AATTCHHOO! I'll . . . AATTCCHHOOO!
- He exits sneezing, with everyone laughing at him. Everyone exits laughing, clearing the acting space, except for Dinah and the Normals.*
- Mandy** We did it!
- They all cheer and make the handshake. Mandy, Ingrid, and Ian go off together, laughing.*

Lloyd That was brilliant!
Dinah Do you think he'll ever stop sneezing?
Harvey Serves him right.
Lloyd But what can we tell Mum and Dad?
Harvey They'll never believe us.
They exit.

.....

SCENE 31

The Hunters' house. Mr and Mrs Hunter enter with Miss Wilberforce. They all look worried.

Miss Wilberforce Are you sure that's what you want?

Mrs Hunter I think it'd be best.

Mr Hunter I'm afraid so.

Dinah, Lloyd, and Harvey enter.

Miss Wilberforce Hello, Dinah.

Dinah [*Worried*] Hello, Miss Wilberforce.

Mr Hunter We've asked Miss Wilberforce to come here because ...
well ...

Mrs Hunter We're very happy to have you here, Dinah, but ...

Mr Hunter Because of the problems, we think you'd better go back to the
children's home.

Lloyd What problems?

Mrs Hunter You're always arguing.

Mr Hunter Never getting on.

Mrs Hunter [*To Miss Wilberforce*] I blame the boys. They never really
wanted her here.





- Miss Wilberforce** I'm afraid you'll have to come back, Dinah, if you're not wanted.
- Lloyd** Plum-coloured pumpkins! Of course we want Dinah here.
- Mr Hunter** What?
- Harvey** Please let her stay.
- Lloyd** Forever. Adopt her properly.
- Mrs Hunter** *[Amazed]* You like her?
- Lloyd** She's fantastic . . . Except for being a bit thick, of course.
- Miss Wilberforce** What about you, Dinah? Do you want to stay?
- Dinah** More than anything. Please let me stay.
- Mr Hunter** I will never understand children.
- Mrs Hunter** Whatever's happened to make you change your minds?
- Dinah, Harvey,
and Lloyd** Nothing much.
- They make their handshakes, as the adults look on, pleased but puzzled.*

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Portraying a Character

Writers can portray characters in different ways: through their speech, how they interact with other characters, and through direct description.

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SPEECH

In a playscript, a writer has to allow the characters to reveal themselves to the audience/reader, because there is rarely a narrator who can give direct description.

- Draw up a grid like the one below.
- Skim through Scene 5 and jot down in the first column what the Head says.
- Think about what each speech reveals about the Head's character. Write your thoughts in the second column.

Speech	What it reveals
Enter.	A man of few words. He is formal and to the point.
Whoever can keep order can rule the world.	

.....

INTERACTION WITH OTHER CHARACTERS

Now think about how the Head interacts with other characters.

- How do Sarah and Simon respond to the Head?
- What does this tell us about the Head?
- How does the Head treat Dinah? Is he welcoming, patient, flattering, sympathetic, or none of these?
- Why do you think he wears sunglasses?
- Why does he take them off when asking Dinah if she feels tired?



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DESCRIPTION

The following extract is from the novel, *The Demon Headmaster*, by Gillian Cross. It describes Dinah's first meeting with the Head.

It was the tidiest office she had ever seen. There were no papers, no files, no pictures on the walls. Just a large, empty-topped desk, a filing cabinet and a bookcase with a neat row of books.

She took it all in in one second and then forgot it as her eyes fell on the man standing by the window. He was tall and thin, dressed in an immaculate black suit. From his shoulders, a long, black teacher's gown hung in heavy folds, like wings, giving him the appearance of a huge crow. Only his head was startlingly white. Fair hair, almost as colourless as snow, lay round a face with paper-white skin and pallid lips. His eyes were hidden behind dark glasses, like two black holes in the middle of all the whiteness.

What do we learn about the Head from this description?
Think about the following.

- How the tidy office might reflect the Head's personality.
- The adjective 'immaculate'. What does it mean? You may need to look it up in a dictionary. What does it imply about the Head, apart from his smartness?
- Pick out the simile that the writer uses. How does this image add to our impression of the Head?
- The writer uses many contrasting colour/tone words. List them and explain why they are effective.
- The sunglasses have the effect of making his eyes appear like 'holes'. Why is this a sinister image?

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WRITING TASK

Experiment with writing about a teacher or another Head, maybe in contrast to the Demon Head. Here are some ideas to get you started.





- Imagine you are meeting him or her in school for the first time.
- Describe his or her office/classroom (to reflect his or her personality).
- Include physical description.
- Include some dialogue, in which the character reveals more about his or her personality.
- Think carefully about how your character is going to interact with others. This can reveal a lot about them.

When you have written a first draft, swap your work with a partner and ask what he or she likes most about your draft and which areas could be improved.

Re-write your text, until you are satisfied with it. Don't forget to proofread it to correct spelling and punctuation errors.

Story Structure

Good stories have a strong structure. This usually includes the following stages:

- an arresting, attention-grabbing opening
- a developing plot
- a complication
- a crisis
- a satisfying resolution (ending).

Copy the grid below to trace the structure of *The Demon Headmaster*. The questions in the first column should help you to identify features at each stage. In the second column explain what happens in the story at each stage.

Stages	What happens
<p><i>Opening</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In scene 1, how does the word 'Normal' arouse the reader's curiosity? ● What change is about to happen? ● What impression do you get of the Eddy Hair Show? ● Who joins the Hunter family? 	
<p><i>Developing plot</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What is unusual about the school? ● What is unusual about the Head? ● What mystery does Harvey try to solve? ● Why does Dinah want to get into trouble? 	
<p><i>Complication</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How does the Head trick Dinah? 	



- How does Dinah's plan go wrong?
- What is Dinah forced to do?
- How do SPLAT plan to fight back?

Crisis

- What goes wrong for SPLAT?
- When are their lives in peril?
- When do Dinah and Lloyd realize the Head's plan?
- How close does the Head get to achieving his aim?

Resolution

- What does Dinah do to save the situation?
- What effect does this have?
- Do you think the story is really at an end?

.....

WRITING TASK

Use the same structure to plan your own story. Draw up a grid, using the same headings. You might like to consider the following ideas to begin your story.

- A distant relative comes to stay and begins to behave strangely.
- He or she seems to exert strong influence over people.
- You discover something alarming about this character.
- No one else believes you.

Improvising a Scene

- 1 Re-read Scene 25. Near the end of the scene, the plans that SPLAT discuss fade into the background and we don't hear exactly what is said. However, we discover later what has been decided, as SPLAT carry out these plans.
- 2 In a group, skim read to the end of Scene 29 and make notes as to what SPLAT planned (don't worry about the outcome at this stage, it is the planning that is important).

Divert lorries (Ian)

Send teachers to the pool...

- 3 Using your notes, improvise in full the scene where SPLAT are in the shed, discussing their plans and allocating tasks.

Members of your group need to take at least some of the following roles:

- Lloyd
- Dinah
- Harvey
- Mandy
- Ingrid
- Ian
- Others.

Before you start the drama, individuals should think about:

- what they already know about their character
- how they usually speak
- how they might feel (e.g. afraid, excited, determined, etc.)
- the general atmosphere of the meeting
- how they might interact with the other characters.

Remember that although Lloyd is the Chair, he doesn't necessarily have all the best ideas.

- 4 Now enact your scene, unscripted, as a group. Perform this scene in front of another group or the class. The audience should listen carefully, to identify who is who and exactly what is being planned. They should be prepared to feedback their comments to the acting group.

When the scene is finished, discuss the performance with the audience. Invite suggestions for improving the scene and then about individual performances.



Instructions

In Scene 6, the prefects, Rose and Jeff, call out instructions to the pupils.

‘Collect tray – now.’

‘Collect knife, fork and spoon.’

‘Collect two sausages.’

‘Sit down.’

‘Start to eat now.’

Notice that the verbs have no nouns or pronouns before them. They issue commands and are called imperatives.

The most effective instructions are simple and direct. When they are written down, they are often numbered so that the sequence is clear.

Skim the text to find other examples of instructions issued by the prefects. Note them down.

Scene 9. Rose - ‘Sit down! Open your maths books’

Scene 10. Jeff - ‘Lead - in!’

WRITING TASK

Try writing your own set of instructions. Imagine that you are Harvey or Dinah and you now have power over the prefects. How would you get your own back? Remember, the prefects gave Lloyd, Dinah and Harvey a mean and meaningless task sweeping up the snow and making it into snowballs.

Follow the following steps.

- 1 Think of a suitable task to get your own back.
- 2 Write down your instructions.
- 3 Use numbers to sequence your instructions.

- 4 Use the imperative form of the verbs.
- 5 Keep your instructions clear and simple.
- 6 Give your instructions to a partner to read. Ask if they are clear and invite suggestions for improvement.
- 7 Revise your instructions until you are satisfied with them. Don't forget to proofread your work for spelling and punctuation errors.

Debate: What is Teaching?

You are going to hold a debate about teaching, in role. First, read what the author, Gillian Cross, says about *The Demon Headmaster* on page 5.

- 1 Gillian Cross makes many interesting comments about her novel, but can you pick out what she says specifically about teaching?
- 2 Now, skim the playscript to find out the Head's viewpoint. Is his purpose to make the students 'independent adults'?
- 3 Hold a debate in the classroom about teaching. One student should take on the role of the Headmaster himself. One half of the class should act in role, as if they are under the influence of the Headmaster. The other half of the class should debate as 'Normals'.

PREPARATION

Each group should discuss their viewpoint and note down some ideas to put forward in the argument. For example, the Headmaster and the students under his influence might argue:

- discipline and control means that everyone behaves in an orderly fashion and things can be achieved more efficiently
- independence and individual freedom will lead to disorder
- students like order and routine
- learning facts is important
- too much play wastes time and energy
- rules should always be kept so that order is maintained
- if everyone has the same aims and works towards the same goals, the school is harmonious and calm.



The Normals might argue:

- controlling through fear and force is unjust
- people have a right to choose how to behave
- variety of ideas and behaviour makes for a more creative community
- order and routine is boring and stunts the imagination
- teachers should help students understand that people have different views, ideas and values; this prepares them for life outside school
- people are much happier if they can say what they think and feel
- prefects should not just carry out the Head's wishes, but be able to think for themselves and decide what is just and what is unjust.

These ideas are just starting points and each group should be able to add their own ideas.

DEBATE

- Each 'side' should appoint one or two main speakers to put forward their case.
- An independent person should chair the debate, ensuring that everyone who wishes to has an opportunity to speak.
- A vote should be taken at the end of the debate. Note that the class need not vote for the case they have worked on. They should vote for whichever side they believe has put forward the best arguments.

REVIEW

After the debate, consider the role that you played and what you contributed.

- What were your strongest contributions?
- How could you improve your performance?

Drama Activities

The Demon Headmaster is a play about power and control. The Head has extraordinary power over the majority of pupils, through hypnosis. Think carefully about how you might portray someone under hypnosis on stage.

Note that it isn't obvious when someone is under hypnosis. Their behaviour is usually quite normal, except for when certain actions are triggered by the hypnotist's suggestion.

Explore the effects of power and control through the following activities.

'SAUSAGES'

- 1 One person is the 'hypnotist'. A small group (or the rest of the class) pretend they are under hypnosis.
- 2 The 'hypnotist' gives an instruction saying that the group must respond in a certain way whenever they hear a certain word. For example, whenever they hear the word 'sausages' they have to stand up, turn around, and sit down again.
- 3 The 'hypnotist' then recounts an anecdote about shopping or preparing a meal. The narrative should have lots of mentions of the word 'sausages'. Whenever the group hear this word, they have to respond immediately.

DICTATOR AND SPY

- 1 One person in a group is chosen to be the spy and leaves.
- 2 When the spy is gone, another person in the group is chosen to be the dictator.
- 3 Everyone has to copy the way the dictator stands or moves, without obviously staring at him or her.



- 4 The spy returns to the group and observes the group (they can be standing in a circle or moving about the room).
- 5 The dictator tries to make as many changes to his or her movement as possible, before the spy guesses his or her identity.

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MIME: BULLY AND VICTIM

- 1 Working in pairs, think about how you might portray a bully and their victim on stage, but without speech or direct physical contact.
- 2 Jot down some of your ideas, e.g. facial expression, eye contact, body posture, etc.
- 3 Experiment to find out which techniques are most effective. Take turns with the roles of bully and victim.
- 4 Perform these roles in front of other pairs. How quickly can the 'audience' identify which is which? Make sure you reverse the roles in front of another pair, giving each person the chance to play both roles.



Dinah's Letter

In a playscript, a writer presents the action *mainly through* what people say. The audience/reader *sees the action* unfolding before them as if the events were *happening at the* present time.

In a novel or recount, the writer describes what *has happened* in the past tense. The action is described by a *narrator*, although some direct speech may also be included.

Choose part of the story to retell in a letter that Dinah writes to one of her friends at the children's home. Remember, it is a recount, so you need to think about the following features:

- the use of the past tense
- clear sequence of events
- the use of paragraphs to divide up the events and suitable opening sentences to orientate the reader
- some quotations to give the reader a sense of the action and mood
- the use of complex sentences to relay as much information as possible
- the use of simple sentences for impact
- the use of temporal connects, such as 'first', 'then', 'meanwhile', 'finally', etc.

Lay out your letter in the traditional style, so include:

- your own address, top right
- date of the letter
- opening greeting, 'Dear ...'
- suitable signing off (depending on how well you know the person).

As well as what happened, Dinah's friend will want to know about what Dinah felt, so don't forget to include a description of her emotions too.

Additional Activities

- 1 Design a programme for a performance of the play. Include a character list, a summary of the plot (without giving away the ending), and a picture of how you see the Demon Headmaster.
- 2 Write a newspaper article reporting what happened at the Eddy Hair Quiz Show held at Lloyd, Harvey and Dinah's school.
- 3 Skim read the play to locate some of the expressions that Lloyd uses, e.g. 'scarlet sausages', 'guzzling gooseberries', and 'purple pancakes'. Think up some more expressions that Lloyd might use. What do they all have in common, apart from the reference to food?
- 4 What does SPLAT stand for? Research some other acronyms and decide which are most effective.
- 5 Imagine you are a prefect. Draw up a list of school rules for the Headmaster to approve.

