

# *Playing Up Again*

## **Script 3**

*“Let’s Not Talk To Her Anymore”*



*This play script looks at forms of bullying and how some pupils can be cruel or unkind to each other.*

*It examines how it can affect pupils,  
their families and their homelife.*

# Actors/cast required for playscript 3

\*This play has **11** reading parts.

*After each scene there are a number of questions to answer.*

- Your teacher may decide that you should write down your answers instead of answering them aloud in class.
- Your teacher may decide that you should read the play right through first and then read it a second time, but this time answering the questions at the end of each scene before continuing.
- Decide who is to play each part.
- If you are chosen to play the part, think about how you will play the character and the voice/ accent you might use.
- Will you be sulky? Enthusiastic? Sarcastic? Think of the tone of voice you might use.
- If you are performing it in front of the class or in assembly, what might you be doing? Where might you be standing or sitting?

Cast:

Played by:

**Zadie** (girl pupil) .....

**Rob** (boy pupil) .....

**Clare** (girl pupil) .....

**Najara** (boy pupil) .....

**Zadie's Mum** (Mrs Burns) .....

**Zadie's Dad** .....

**Mr Tafari** (Class teacher) .....

**Don Ratty** (Phone-in host) .....

*Callers:* **Kirsty** (female) .....

**Mohammed** (male) .....

**Vera** (female) .....

## SCENE 1 – *School Corridor, Friday lunchtime*

- Zadie:** Hi guys. Anyone want to borrow this CD?
- Rob:** Did anyone hear a noise? I think I did.
- Clare:** I think it came from over there somewhere.  
Sounded like a pathetic little squeak.
- Najara:** Maybe there's a mouse on the loose! Yeah, vermin!
- Zadie:** All right, guys? Anyone want to come down the shops after school?
- Clare:** There's that pathetic sounding noise again.
- Najara:** Kind of annoying really, isn't it?
- Rob:** Yeah, let's just ignore it. Come on let's go outside.
- Zadie:** Am I invisible now or something? Huh?

## SCENE 2 – *On the bus, travelling home after school*

- Clare:** Where's the bell? Hey! Next stop please driver.
- Zadie:** Do you want to come round later, Clare? We could watch a video.
- Clare:** Get lost! That sounds sad. I've got more exciting things to do with my time. We're all meeting round the bowling alley later tonight.
- Zadie:** Oh that's great! Shall I call for you? I really love bowling.
- Clare:** Who said you were invited? We don't want you with us anymore. Enjoy your video. This is where I get off.

## SCENE 3 – *At Zadie's house later that afternoon*

- Mum:** Hello, love. Good day at school?
- Zadie:** OK I guess.
- Mum:** Can you give me a hand later? I want to pop round and cook a meal for your gran. OK to give me a hand for an hour or so?

**Zadie:** Mum, I don't really feel like going out again tonight. Do you mind?  
Sorry mum. Think I'll go up to my room for a while.

**Mum:** You've been up there every evening this week and all last weekend.  
Why don't you meet up with your friends later? Clare's mum was  
telling me they're all going bowling tonight. I'd have thought you  
would have wanted to join them? You know you love ten pin bowling.

*(No response from Zadie. She stands picking at a towel, saying nothing.)*

**Mum:** Zadie are you listening to a word I'm saying? I said I thought you  
would want to join them at the bowling alley?

**Zadie:** No, I don't really feel like it. I'm bored with bowling anyway.  
It's stupid. I never win anyway.

**Mum:** What's the matter with you lately? You always seem to be by yourself.  
Have you had a quarrel with your friends? Go out and mix more.  
Don't stay up there in your room all the time.

**Zadie:** Oh mum, stop asking questions all the time. I'm going upstairs.  
I've got homework to do.

*(Zadie exits. Mother stares after her)*

### ***Ten minutes later in the sitting room***

**Dad:** Oh it's good to be back. That traffic was particularly bad in the  
tunnel. It's been a long day. Zadie back already?

**Mum:** Yes, she's gone up to her room.

**Dad:** Everything all right? You two haven't had a quarrel have you?

**Mum:** Not really. I simply asked her to try and go out and mix more with  
her friends. It worries me how she stays up there in her room by  
herself all the time. She should be out enjoying herself with her mates.

**Dad:** And she won't go out?

**Mum:** No, she's happy to just stay up there all the time. She's so quiet lately.  
Just keeps herself to herself. I don't know what's the matter with her.  
She used to be so bubbly, so happy. I think I'll have a talk with her  
form teacher on Monday. Something's not right. I can just tell.

## SCENE 4 – *Monday morning in the classroom*

- Rob:** But sir, if all essays have to begin with a short introduction, wouldn't that become boring?
- Clare:** Yes, sir. I always start mine with a long introduction.
- Mr Tafari:** What do you think, Zadie?
- Najara:** Who cares what she thinks?
- Mr Tafari:** I beg your pardon, Najara. I care about what all of you think. Zadie?
- Zadie:** I'm not sure, sir.
- Clare:** There you are. She doesn't know anyway.
- Mr Tafari:** Excuse me. Am I missing something here? Zadie has a perfect right to answer for herself without anyone else criticising her.
- Zadie:** It's OK sir.
- Mr Tafari:** No, it's not OK. What's got into you all today?

## SCENE 5 – *Interview Room*

- Mr Tafari:** Of course I don't mind you coming in to see me, Mrs Burns. We both have your daughter's interests at heart, don't we?
- Mrs Burns:** Yes, but I know how busy you must be and I'm sure it's not really important anyway. I'm sure I'm just worrying over nothing. My husband says I'm always doing that.
- Mr Tafari:** You say that Zadie seems quieter lately?
- Mrs Burns:** Yes, she just stays up in her room and never wants to go out anymore. She used to look forward to coming into school but I have a job to get her to come here at the moment. Monday mornings are particularly difficult. Something's making her unhappy and I don't know what it is. I hate to see my daughter like this.
- Mr Tafari:** But she's such a popular girl, isn't she?
- Mrs Burns:** She always has been. I haven't seen much of her friends lately.

**Mr Tafari:** Would you like me to have a word with her?

**Mrs Burns:** She'll only accuse me of interfering.

**Mr Tafari:** Yes, but it sounds as if we may have a very unhappy young girl on our hands at the moment, don't we?

**Mrs Burns:** I just wish she would talk to her father and me and tell us what's worrying her. I've never known her to be like this before.

**Mr Tafari:** Yes, Mrs Burns, it sounds as if something or someone is causing her a lot of unhappiness. Thanks for coming in. Don't worry. I'll see what I can do.

## **SCENE 6 – *School corridor***

**Clare:** . . . and she had this stupid headband on. You should have seen her!

**Najara:** What a loser.

**Clare:** Hey, listen. This afternoon in PE we'll have to choose teams again. Let's tell everyone not to choose her.

**Najara:** Hey, that's wicked! She'll hate that.

**Rob:** We certainly don't want her to play in our team, I know that.

**Clare:** She's just so annoying. She came top in most of her subjects last term and was chosen as basketball captain. "Miss Perfect".

*(They don't notice that Mr Tafari has approached and is now standing behind them, listening to their conversation)*

**Rob:** Oh well, at least now she's learning that we don't want her in our group anymore.

**Najara:** I'm going to tell some kids in the lower groups not to have anything to do with her, too.

**Mr Tafari:** Oh, you are, are you?

**Najara:** Sir! We were just talking about a movie we saw at the weekend.

**Mr Tafari:** I don't think so, Najara. Did Zadie go to this movie with you?

**Clare:** We wouldn't want her with us.

**Mr Tafari:** I think we had all better go and have a talk before this goes any further, don't you?

## SCENE 7 – *Talkback Radio 102.5fm and digital*

- Don:** 20 degree high expected today with a warm breeze from the south east. You're with Don Ratty on Talkback Radio 102.5fm and digital. We're taking your calls this morning about bullying in schools. Were you ever bullied at school? Has your son or daughter ever been bullied? Give us a call and tell us your story. Vera is on line ten. Morning, Vera. Were school days the happiest days of your life?
- Vera:** Morning Don. I'd rather forget about them actually!
- Don:** Why is that?
- Vera:** Well, we had this boy in school who tormented everyone. He seemed to be unhappy with his own life and wanted to make all the rest of us unhappy too. He wasn't doing very well academically and his home life wasn't too good. He was in trouble with the police and was generally unhappy with his lot in life.
- Don:** Let me guess. He used to come into school and bully you all so you would be as unhappy as he was?
- Vera:** Well, that's right, Don. We were scared of him. He gave us the creeps.
- Don:** If you think about it, Vera, most bullies are unhappy people who want to make others miserable too. They are telling everyone that they are unhappy in their lives by wanting to hurt and bully the rest of you.
- Vera:** I'd never thought of it like that before, Don.
- Don:** We have to move on, now Vera. We've got the news coming up in a few minutes but first let's go to Mohammed on line four. What point do you want to make, Mohammed?
- Mohammed:** Well, Don, my son was bullied by an older boy and it affected all of us in the family. I hated watching my son become so unhappy. We had to take him to the doctors because he was having nightmares and wetting the bed. His mother was very concerned and so was I. He should have told someone earlier, much earlier. He could have told us or his teachers.
- Don:** I couldn't agree more, Mohammed. They have to tell an adult so the adult can do something about it.

**Mohammed:** When it happens to your own child, Don, you really start to see how terrible bullying really is.

**Don:** How did it all get sorted out, then?

**Mohammed:** Well, in the end, our son became so anxious and withdrawn that one of his teachers finally got him to talk to her about what was troubling him and he eventually told her who was bullying him.

**Don:** Good to hear it was cleared up in the end anyway. Mohammed, you have a good day. Right, well we can just about fit in a final caller before the news and that's Kirsty. Were you bullied at school, Kirsty?

**Kirsty:** No, Don. I was the one doing the bullying!

**Don:** Oh, I see. Can you tell us why you bullied the other kids?

**Kirsty:** It's over twenty years ago now, Don, and I've got kids of my own but I remember when I was about fourteen I tormented another girl in our class. I used to hide her books, move her bags, scribble all over her work and generally annoyed her all day long. I even tried to get the other kids to do the same to her. I know it sounds terrible.

**Don:** How do you feel about it now, Kirsty?

**Kirsty:** It's not something I'm proud of, Don. In fact, I'm really ashamed of it. If someone treated my child like I treated that girl I'd be devastated.

**Don:** Do you remember why you did it?

**Kirsty:** Looking back, I think I must have been jealous of her. She was clever at school, lived in a nice house. She had everything going for her. Everything I didn't have. I think it gave me a sense of power.

**Don:** Kirsty, I appreciate your call. Well, there we are. We'll be back with more calls straight after the news. This is Don Ratty talking about the things that matter to you. Join me again in just a few minutes on Talkback Radio 102.5fm and digital. The news is next . . .

## **Introductory questions the teacher may wish to ask before the play begins:**

1. Does anyone here know of people who have been teased or bullied?
2. How do you think someone feels if they are teased or bullied?
3. If we know someone is being teased and made unhappy, what can we do? Who can we tell?
4. "Sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me." Do you agree with that?
5. Is bullying something that only happens in schools? Do adults bully each other?
6. Why do you think someone bullies or teases another person?
7. What can teachers do to help when someone is teased or bullied?
8. If a child is teased and is unhappy, how do you think it affects his or her life at home and in their family?

### ***Questions about: Scene 1***

1. What did Rob mean when he mentioned "a noise"?
2. Why did Zadie ask if she was invisible?
3. How do you think the events of this scene make Zadie feel?

### ***Questions about: Scene 2***

1. How do you think Zadie feels as Sue tells her she isn't invited?

### ***Questions about: Scene 3***

1. Why do you think Zadie wants to stay in her room?
2. What signs does her mother get that her daughter is not happy at the moment?
3. Why do you think the mother plans to see Zadie's form teacher?

### ***Questions about: Scene 4***

1. Zadie's friends continue the attacks on her in class. What forms do the attacks take?

### ***Questions about: Scene 5***

1. Do you think Zadie's mother was right to visit the school and express her concerns? Explain.
2. The form teacher says he will talk with Zadie. Is this a good thing in your view? How could it be a positive move? How could it make things worse?
3. Zadie is obviously very unhappy. Is she being bullied? What other forms can bullying take?

## ***Questions about: Scene 6***

1. Is there a clue in this scene about why Zadie is being bullied by her friends?

### **Instant replay:**

**Najara:** Sir! We were just talking about a movie we saw at the weekend.

**Mr Tafari:** I don't think so, Najara. Did Zadie go to this movie with you?

**Clare:** We wouldn't want her with us.

**Mr Tafari:** I think we had all better go and have a talk before this.

*\*Write down what you think the teacher may say to them.  
What might be the effect of his talk with them?*

3. If you were Zadie, how would you like the situation to be solved?

## ***Questions about: Scene 7***

1. Don tells Vera why he thinks bullies do what they do. What is his explanation?
2. What effect did the bullies have on Mohammed's son and their home life?
3. What finally led to Mohammed's son getting help with the problem he was having?
4. Kirsty explained why she had bullied the girl when she was younger. Why had she bullied her?
5. How do you think Kirsty would feel now if her own child was bullied at school?