

TOM

(playing with audience)

Me too, I'm a big sports fan. We actually tried to get one of the coaches from the (says name of local NFL team) to come and talk to you guys today...but they were too busy planning for the next big game. So we just made someone up. Ladies and gentlemen...I give you, the assistant...to the assistant coach for the Philadelphia Eagles...Schmandy Schmeed.

Loud offstage whistle. Jerry turns on mic pack, then Enters as COACH. Mustache, sunglasses, Eagles sweat suit, and clipboard. Coach is short, stout (pillow/fat suit), but surprisingly full of energy. Pillow/fat suit. Gruff voice, think Mickey from Rocky).

COACH

(To audience)

All right, all right, great game of hop-scotch! Tomorrow we'll work on ring-around-the-rosie!

Tom just shakes his head in disbelief, a look like, 'you've got to be kidding me.'

COACH

(To Tom)

Take a knee kid. Take a knee.

Tom slightly downstage left of the box. Coach places clipboard on upstage edge of box, he then turns, notices the placard.

COACH

All right, what have we got here. Ahh, Bullying. What...is...bullying?

Coach looks upwards in thought, places his hands on his hips, then wiggles his mustache left, right left, stops. Audience laughs. He faces audience.

COACH

(Dutifully)

Well, I'll show you.

Coach removes placard, keeps it in hand. Stands downstage of easel, but makes use of pictures to tell the speech.

COACH

Now, bullying is when a person feels the need to be stronger than someone else by picking on or frightening someone on purpose, again and again. So bullying is when someone is mean to someone else not once, but many many times.

Jerry gets an idea. Places the placard on its side, leaning on the easel.

COACH
(Elatedly)

Oh! I have an idea. I want everyone to repeat after me. This time say and DO as I do. Ready?

COACH does hand jive actions. On each / it is broken down to slapping knees, clapping hands, cross over hands, pounding fists, hitch hiker.

COACH
Bullying / happens when / someone is mean to someone else / not once / but many / many / times.

COACH
Very good my friends. Now bullying is very different than conflicts. Conflicts happen all the time. Think of conflicts when someone does or says something that you find unkind, but this happens once, and it often happens by accident, and it's between people you have a positive relationship with, I'm talking friends, family, people you spend time with. Now don't get me wrong, conflicts stink. But conflicts are very different than bullying, because bullying happens on purpose, conflicts happen by accident, bullying happens again and again, conflicts happen once, and bullying happens with unequal power, conflicts equal power.

NOTE - SCRIPT CUT FOR AUDITION TO WHEN COACH PUT TOM IN SLOW MOTION

COACH
(Urgently, but in control To Tom)
And I'd like to take down bullying!

COACH turns to audience

COACH
(non nonchalantly)
I gotta' magic hand. Now, I've made Tom move in extreme slow motion for a very good reason. Tom is all fired up and he's ready to hurt the box. He's ready to wet willy, back-pack flap, hit, kick, punch this box until it opens. Tom's all about violence. But there's no violence on my watch especially in school because...

COACH removes mustache and sunglasses to become Jerry

Jerry
School is a place that should be joyful, and fun, and safe. So I hope we all start by following Rule number 1, we will not bully others.

Jerry blows whistle.