

SCENE 1 INTRODUCTION

Both actors will be behind backdrop. The school representative gives the introduction. Note, Actors will check in, give action of encouragement before Tom's entrance.

TEACHER reads introduction script as follows: *"In live theater, unlike movies and television, the actors can see and hear you. If you talk or whisper during the assembly, you disturb not only the other audience members, but also the performers on stage, which makes the show not as much fun. This doesn't mean you have to remain silent. Actors want you to respond with laughter and applause. So the performers ask you a question you can respond. If they need volunteers, you can raise your hand and they may call on you. But such inconsiderate behaviors as shouting or whispering can ruin the concentration of the actors and other audience members. We want you to enjoy the Box Out Bullying experience. And we rely on you to exercise your common sense and mature judgment. Now! We have a **great show** about bullying prevention. It's actually the greatest show on bullying prevention. According to these actors. So please give a warm welcome to Tom and his cousin Jerry."*

Waiting a three count, Enter TOM. Watch video for timing and intention.

SCENE 2 - TOM WINS OVER THE AUDIENCE

TOM

(Spirited)

Oh! Wow! Hey guys, how are you?

AUDIENCE

Good.

TOM

(livelier, arms open)

Come on, you can do better than that, how are you!

AUDIENCE

GOOD!

TOM

Good. Good.

TOM, hands now clasped, is grounded, center stage. NOTE, words that are bold/italicized need additional emphasis.

TOM (CONT'D)

So I was *planning* on coming to your school today to *solve* the problem of bullying by talking to you about it.

TOM, hands unclasped. To achieve needed audience response, change in tone and timing.

TOM (CONT'D)

(building joyful elation)

But what if I told you, that we can solve the problem of bullying with...**out talking about it!**

Tom quickly strikes a pose of victory, chest out, huge smile, and holds. Tom expects an applause, instead the audience laughs. Tom slowly breaks the pose, thinking, 'oh I wasn't expecting that.' Wait, Tom knows how to fix it! Tom gives a one finger gesture of 'hold on'. Tom crosses upstage left to the speaker, lifts off the cover, grabs the remote, hits play to the sound of cheering crowd. Tom looks at the audience, big smile. All is right in the world!

TOM (CONT'D)

(surprisingly delighted)

Oh! Thank you! Thank you.

TOM hits pause button. Sets remote next to Bose, moves towards the box speaking while moving.

TOM (CONT'D)

(genuine)

Thank you so much.

NOTE - TOM reveals BOX on "[]". Discards sheet stage right of box. This is a section that audience members will interject. Keep with the pacing and don't pause when you reveal.

TOM (CONT'D)

(building excitement)

Now, inside this box that just came in "[]" lies the answer that will solve the problem of bullying **this very instant!**

TOM AGAIN strikes victory pose. Audience laughs. Now they get it! Tom is delighted.

TOM (CONT'D)

(Delighted)

Oh, thank you!

Tom becomes serious

TOM (CONT'D)

Now I need to tell you that this box has special powers.

TOM approaches box, leading with his upstage outstretched arm.

TOM (CONT'D)

(Sincere)

In fact, I'm getting some type of signal from it right now.

Watch video clip aide. Timing, sounds and body positioning needs to be as recorded.

TOM (CONT'D)

Be respectful, be responsible, be safe? Is this your school motto?

AUDIENCE

YES!

Tom moving stage left of the box.

TOM

Oh that's great! Wait, here's another one...

Watch video clip aide. Timing, sounds and body positioning needs to be as recorded.

TOM (CONT'D)

You were named a Blue Ribbon School last year? That's awesome give yourselves a round of applause!

Tom moves in front of the box.

TOM (CONT'D)

Wait...here's another one...

Watch video clip aide. Timing, sounds and body positioning needs to be as recorded.

TOM (CONT'D)

(lower level)

Oh man, you're going to love this one. Tomorrow,
recess all day!

AUDIENCE erupts in applause. TOM celebrates, gives an awesome punch of the air, pulls back, kicks...but then serious.

TOM (CONT'D)

(Lower Level)

At your teacher's discretion, of course. *At your teacher's discretion.* Now I know that bullying is a problem in schools in (NAME OF STATE or NYC BOROUGH) and across the country and you guys are definitely not alone. And that's why I called my cousin, Jerry. He'll know the answer. Jerry and I have known each other, for, forever!

TOM, revitalization turns into wrathful outrage, TOM strikes wrathful pose on **family trip to Georgia.**

TOM (CONT'D)

But we're not as close as we used to be ever since that **family trip to Georgia!**

AUDIENCE laughs. TOM looks at audience breaks pose.

TOM (CONT'D)

(Trying to save face)

Actually, let's just open the box and solve bullying on our own. No need for Jerry. I mean he'll show up, I'll say hi, he'll say hi, then I'll say bye, then that'll be that.

AUDIENCE laughs.

TOM (CONT'D)

(Re-energized)

So, here we go. Bullying days be gone!

Tom faces box. Tries to open it. Comically, movement from the posterior. He can't open the box. It's locked. He faces the audience.

TOM (CONT'D)

Ah, you know what, let's just forget it. Yeah let's just forget about it.

TOM crosses to Bose speaker. TOM presses forward button to cue the BOO track.

TOM (CONT'D)
(Confidently Re-energized)
How many of you think the best way of solving a
problem is by making believe that the problem
doesn't even exist?!

TOM, right hand raised, left hand hits play. BOSE gives a "boo" sound. TOM lowers hand, hits pause, places remote next to BOSE.

TOM (CONT'D)
Yeah, that's not a good thing.