

A.C.

A one-act play

By Rachel Bartel

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Setting

Small town high school. Specifically the biology classroom and the exterior of the school building. The biology classroom is decorated with a skeleton in one corner and a white board at the front. Diagrams of plants and animals dot the walls. Fifteen desks are arranged in three columns. The opening of the classroom faces the audience. The exterior of the building has a downspout in the center of the wall.

Characters

CATRINA, Junior

Wears a sky blue jumpsuit.

Neatly styled hair.

Stylish, peppy, easily angered.

CHARLIE, Sophomore

Wears a cerulean hoodie, often with the hood up.

Always has earbuds in.

Introverted, smart, loyal.

CASEY, Junior

Wears a cobalt tracksuit.

Hair in a messy bun.

Sporty, dedicated, fears nothing.

ADAM, Sophomore

Wears a black suit and red tie.

Hair slicked back with way too much hair gel.

Intelligent and he knows it, honest.

ALECIA, Junior

Wears a maroon poncho.

Loves magic, plays saxophone in the marching band, loyal.

AARON, Freshman

Wears a red and white baseball tee.

New in town, very smart, independent.

BECKY, Junior

Wears a green scrunchie in her hair.

Unenthusiastic, constantly chewing gum, kind.

OLIVIA, Junior

Wears bright yellow pants.

Member of the pole vaulting team, creepy, wise.

RANDY, Junior
Wears a purple baseball cap.
Awkward, funny.

TIPPY, Senior
Wears a stained, what used to be white, t-shirt and black gym shorts.
Long, messy hair.
Class clown, enigma.

MRS. FRANC, late 40s
The biology teacher.
Wears a professional black dress and cream scarf.
Hair is neatly styled.
Experienced, honest.

SIR WESTON, late 50s
The science fair judge.
Wears a three-piece suit that's too tight.
Has slicked-back, salt and pepper hair.
Enthusiastic, overwhelming, genuine.

SCENE ONE

THE CLASSROOM

Lights up.

CATRINA, CHARLIE, and CASEY sit in the column of desks on the right.

TIPPY makes the skeleton look like it's flipping everyone off.

ADAM, ALECIA, and AARON sit in a row on the other side of the classroom.

ALECIA's poncho drapes over the back of her chair.

An Oxford blue bomber jacket hangs off the back of AARON's chair.

BECKY, OLIVIA, and RANDY sit in the middle row.

MRS. FRANC
(enters)

Tippy!

TIPPY rushes back to his seat behind RANDY.

MRS. FRANC
Take your hat off in the classroom, Randy.

RANDY takes his hat off, places it on the desk, and smooths out his hair.

MRS. FRANC sits at her desk at the front of the classroom. She pulls a stack of papers out of her bag and plops them on the table.

MRS. FRANC sighs.

MRS. FRANC

I'm very disappointed with your performance on the last test.

CATRINA coughs.

MRS. FRANC

I literally told you right before the test not to pick D. for number three because it was a misprint and you all picked D. Every single one of you. And Olivia, a plant is not an animal.

BECKY raises her hand, but speaks before
MRS. FRANC calls on her.

BECKY

Should you be telling us other people's answers?

MRS. FRANC

What are you going to do Becky?

BECKY shrugs.

MRS. FRANC passes back the tests one by
one.

MRS. FRANC

Luckily, we'll be moving on from plant science to animal science.

ADAM raises his hand.

MRS. FRANC

What, Adam?

AARON perks up.

AARON

Me?

MRS. FRANC

No, not you. Are you Adam? Wait. Who are you?

AARON

I-I'm the new student. Am I in the right room?

OLIVIA

Not if you value your toes.

OLIVIA pulls a pair of scissors out of nowhere and points them at AARON. He leans away from OLIVIA.

MRS. FRANC

Olivia, you gotta stop saying that.

ADAM still has his hand up.

ADAM

I still have a question.

MRS. FRANC

Hang on, Adam.

ADAM sighs, keeping his hand raised.

MRS. FRANC

(to AARON)

Let me check my roster.

MRS. FRANC shuffles the papers so she can pull a binder out from under them.

The papers fall to the floor next to CHARLIE. He doesn't move.

RANDY stoops down and organizes the papers before handing them back to MRS. FRANC. He drops a few during the hand-off. MRS. FRANC bends down and picks up the stragglers.

MRS. FRANC looks at the stack of tests and squints.

MRS. FRANC

(to AARON)

Is this your test?

MRS. FRANC shows AARON the test.

AARON nods.

CASEY
(to AARON)

How did you already take it?

ALECIA

Yeah, you just got here.

MRS. FRANC

Yeah, how'd you do it?

AARON

I called the school and asked what all of my classes were doing before I got here.

All eyes are on AARON.

AARON

So I could, ya know. Catch up?

MRS. FRANC

Huh. I like you.

AARON slumps in his seat.

ADAM swaps arms.

ADAM

My question!

MRS. FRANC

What, Adam!

MRS. FRANC passes out the rest of the tests.

ADAM

What's our next assignment?

The "C" row and middle row groan.

RANDY makes a fart noise in his hand.

MRS. FRANC returns to the front of the classroom.

MRS. FRANC

You should really learn to be less like that or they're going to hate you.

CATRINA

We already do.

MRS. FRANC

(to ADAM)

See?

MRS. FRANC draws a picture of a lion on the white board.

MRS. FRANC

Your next assignment will be a group project on some topic related to animals. How they're being run out of their habitats, how vital they are to the ecosystem, stuff like that. It's for the science fair this year so make sure it's a good one.

CATRINA and ADAM jump up at the same time.

CATRINA

The inevitability that one day all animals will be removed from their natural habitats and contained to large pods where they will be exploited for their resources until the human race ruins the natural order and the world as we know it becomes a desolate wasteland where not even the mighty tardigrade can or wants to live.

ADAM

The inevitability that one day all animals will be removed from their natural habitats and contained to large pods where they will be exploited for their resources until the human race ruins the natural order and the world as we know it becomes a desolate wasteland where not even the mighty tardigrade can or wants to live.

MRS. FRANC is stunned into silence for a moment.

MRS. FRANC

Two groups can't do the same project so decide amongst yourselves who's going to change topics.

SCENE TWO

OUTSIDE

CATRINA, CHARLIE, and CASEY stand on the right side of a downspout.

ADAM and ALECIA are on the left.

ADAM
(to ALECIA)

Where's Aaron?

ALECIA shrugs.

ALECIA
Maybe he's taking another test.

ADAM
Why don't you go get him?

ALECIA
Why me?

ADAM
Because, you're you.

ALECIA playfully swipes at ADAM.

ALECIA
Stop. You're right though, I am pretty me.

ALECIA skips off stage.

CATRINA turns to ADAM.

CATRINA
You missing someone?

ADAM
Look, he's new alright? Give us a break.

CATRINA

You've got your panties all bunched in your crack because we won last year.

CATRINA, CASEY, and CHARLIE cross their arms in unison.

ADAM

That's not how that saying goes. And I don't care what that guy said. He was not qualified to judge a science fair.

CATRINA

Doesn't change the fact that we won.

ADAM

We're going to beat you so hard this year. We've got the best topic.

CATRINA

We have the same topic.

ADAM

You have our topic.

CATRINA

We're not changing topics.

ADAM

Oh yeah, well we're not either.

CATRINA

Oh yeah, well you're dumb.

ADAM

Oh yeah, well shut up!

CATRINA

You shut up!

CATRINA and ADAM lung toward each other, fists raised.

ADAM swings his fists with his eyes closed.

ADAM

Hold me back!

CASEY flings herself to the ground and grabs CATRINA's ankles. CATRINA falls.

CATRINA

Dammit, Casey!

ALECIA drags AARON onto the stage by the backpack. AARON struggles to stay on his feet as he's dragged backwards.

ALECIA

Found him!

AARON

Stop it, Ally! Or Ashley! Whatever your name is.

CATRINA and ADAM straighten themselves out.

ALECIA flings AARON next to ADAM. AARON fixes his backpack.

AARON

Uhhhhhggg.

ADAM

Finally. Now that Aaron's here, we can do this properly.

AARON

Do what properly?

CATRINA rips the legs of her jumpsuit just above the knee and puts on brass knuckles.

CHARLIE takes a pair of nunchucks out of his hoodie pocket and swings it, expressionless.

CASEY draws black lines under her eyes using a marker and pulls a 'skippit' from around the corner of the building. She swings it over her head.

ADAM pulls his tie up onto his forehead, puts the tail of the tie on the back of his head, and pulls it tight.

ALECIA pulls a full-length sword out of the downspout.

AARON, wide-eyed, mouth agape, backs away slowly from the group.

AARON turns to run, but ALECIA catches him by the shirt collar. AARON gags.

ALECIA

Where do you think you're going?

Everyone turns to look at AARON.

ADAM

(to AARON)

Did you bring a weapon?

AARON shakes ALECIA off.

AARON

WHAT?! NO! What is going on?! This is literally my first day! Someone please explain something, anything, to me!

ADAM

UGH! You're one of us.

AARON

What does THAT mean?

ALECIA

It means that you're on our team.

ADAM

Your name starts with an "A", which means you're with us.

CASEY

That's how it works.

AARON backs away again.

AARON

You people are insane.

AARON runs away. The rest of the group is left in their battle stances.

CATRINA sighs.

CATRINA

As much as I'd like to just get this over with, it's not really fair that you're down one member.

ADAM

Thank you.

The group puts their weapons away, grab their backpacks, and wander off-stage.

SCENE THREE

THE CLASSROOM

MRS. FRANC walks around the room with her hands behind her back.

MRS. FRANC

I hope you've all started on your group projects by now. The fair is in three days, so if you haven't...

MRS. FRANC leans down and gets right in CHARLIE'S face.

MRS. FRANC

... you'd better get cracking. I also heard through the old grape vine that Sir Weston is judging this year. He'll be coming in to see your projects before they're admitted into the fair.

ALECIA

As in Sir Weston of Weston International Science Adventure?

MRS. FRANC

Yup.

The students murmur to each other.

AARON

Who is this guy and why is a knight living here?

CASEY

He's only the richest, most sciency guy in the whole city. He knows what he's talking about when it comes to science. And he's not a knight. His first name is "Sir."

MRS. FRANC

Yeah, so make sure your projects are worth his time. There's no telling how much the school paid him to judge.

OLIVIA raises her hand.

MRS. FRANC calls on OLIVIA without looking at her.

MRS. FRANC

What, Olivia?

OLIVIA

How do we get started on our group projects if we feel deep in our hearts that our topic is not good?

MRS. FRANC

What are you talking about?

BECKY

Our group is researching the affects of water molecules on water and yeah, it's pretty stupid.

RANDY

Guys, I'm right here.

MRS. FRANC

Of course Randy came up with that one. It doesn't even have anything to do with animals, the one parameter for this project. Plus it's not Sir Weston quality.

RANDY throws his arms up.

ALECIA

Shut your faces up for a sec. We've got a bigger issue.

ADAM

(to MRS. FRANC)

You need to choose whether our group or Catrina's is going to change topics.

MRS. FRANC

Ok, first of all, you don't tell me what I need to do. I tell you what to do. Second of all, you still haven't decided whose going to change topics? The topic you've chosen is already terrible so whoever changes will automatically be my favorite.

CATRINA

Well, we're not changing.

ADAM

Neither are we!

ALECIA

Dang, straight!

AARON

What are you guys talking about? Of course we'll change topics. What's the big deal?

CASEY

Ok, great! There ya go, Mrs. Franc. The "A"s will change topics.

ADAM

Hey! No no no. He does not speak for us. He doesn't know what he's talking about.

(to AARON)

Stay out of this.

MRS. FRANC

I honestly couldn't care less about what's happening right now.

CATRINA and CASEY stand up and pull wads of paper out of their pockets. They fling them across the middle row of desks at the "A" row.

CHARLIE pulls a notebook out, rips out pages, and crumples them up into balls. He tosses the ammunition to CATRINA and CASEY.

ADAM and ALECIA fire back. AARON covers his face with his hands.

MRS. FRANC walks back to her desk and pulls her purse out from under it. She slings it over her shoulder.

MRS. FRANC

I'm sure you'll figure it out. Anyway, class ended like two minutes ago, so I'm going home.

No one hears MRS. FRANC over the ruckus.

MRS. FRANC steps over wads of paper and exits the classroom.

TIPPY jumps up on his desk and lets out a battle cry.

SCENE FOUR

THE CLASSROOM AND OUTSIDE

NOTE: The classroom and outside of the school should be visible at the same time.

In the classroom are ADAM, ALECIA, and AARON. ADAM sets a large cardboard box on one of the desks.

AARON

What's in there?

ALECIA

It's our group project supplies. Look.

ALECIA pulls out a glue gun and the biggest bag of pom poms ever.

AARON

So, what's so special about this Sir Weston guy anyway?

ALECIA

He's brilliant. There's no one in the whole city whose more qualified to judge a science fair. He invented the 'moon shoe' you know.

AARON

Wow, ok. Now I get it.

Outside are CATRINA, CHARLIE, and CASEY. They gather around a kiddie pool on the left side of the downspout.

CATRINA

They said it was supposed to have one in it already.

CASEY

Why would they keep it in a kiddie pool?

CATRINA

Maybe it is in here. What do tardigrades look like?

CHARLIE takes his hand out of his hoodie pocket and holds up his thumb and forefinger. They're almost touching.

CASEY

Ok, so maybe we just can't see it?

CATRINA

If we can't see it, Sir Weston won't be able to either.

CASEY

Sure he will! He has 40/20 vision, didn't you know?

CATRINA

Oh yeah, I did hear that.

The "A"s have all of their supplies strewn across the room. There's poster board, glitter, markers, foam, Tupperware containers, way more than would have fit in the cardboard box.

ALECIA

Where do we start?

AARON

Maybe we could make a collage or--

ADAM

Let me stop you right there.

AARON throws his hands in the air and sits in a desk.

ADAM

Sir Weston deserves more than a stupid collage. This has got to be really good.

BECKY, OLIVIA, RANDY, and TIPPY walk into the classroom. BECKY holds a glass jar. OLIVIA carries a large bucket around the center instead of the handle. RANDY holds three water bottles. The "A"s look at them.

ADAM

What are you four doing here?

TIPPY

We're working on our project, bro!

TIPPY attempts to vault a desk, but falls.

ALECIA

We're working in here.

AARON

We can share the space, guys.

ADAM

Nope. Get out.

ADAM shoos BECKY, OLIVIA, RANDY, and TIPPY out of the room.

RANDY

C'mon, man. We'd share with you.

ADAM

Nope.

ADAM closes the door behind them.

BECKY, OLIVIA, RANDY, and TIPPY approach the "C"s.

BECKY

Can we work on our project out here?

OLIVIA

We've been banished from the classroom.

CATRINA

Sure, why--

OLIVIA

Just like how I banished my cat to the underworld after he licked my favorite scented eraser.

Everyone looks at Olivia for a moment.

CATRINA

Sure, why not? I don't give a donk. Just don't get in our way.

OLIVIA sets the bucket down on the right side of the downspout. BECKY holds her glass jar out to RANDY. He unscrews the cap on one of the water bottles and fills the jar half full. He pours the rest of the first bottle and the other two bottles into the bucket.

BECKY

You didn't have to bring such a big container, Olivia.

The "C"s look at the other group.

CATRINA

What are you guys doing?

TIPPY

We're testing the effects of water on water, remember?

CASEY

I thought Mrs. Franc said that was a terrible idea.

RANDY

She didn't say that, exactly.

BECKY

It is terrible but it was Randy's turn to come up with the topic, so we're going with it.

TIPPY

Go on then, pour it in so we can see what happens.

BECKY rolls her eyes and pours the water from her jar into the bucket.

Fire bursts out of the bucket. Everyone screams.

BECKY

Wholly shit!

CATRINA

Good lord!

RANDY

What happened?!

OLIVIA

Whatever it was is sure to get us first place.

CASEY

It still doesn't have anything to do with animals!

TIPPY

That's what you think.

CATRINA
(under her breath)

You guys are so stupid.

CATRINA and CASEY turn back to the pool.
They hover over it. CHARLIE sits on the
ground next to it.

CATRINA

Back to a project that actually matters.

CASEY

What does it eat?

CATRINA

I'm pretty sure it can eat anything. Hand me a protein bar.

CATRINA holds out her hand without
looking away from the pool.

CASEY grabs her backpack from next to the
wall and unzips it. She reaches inside and
pulls out a protein bar. She throws her
backpack down and hands the bar to
CATRINA.

CATRINA unwraps the bar and tosses it in
the pool.

They stare at the pool in silence.

CASEY

What now?

ADAM

Ugh! I don't know what we should do! I'm all out of ideas.

AARON gets up and leaves the classroom.

CATRINA

I don't know! This is hopeless.

ALECIA

We could just flee the country.

CASEY

We could get a magnifying glass and see if we can find the little sucker... But then what?

ADAM

I don't know what we're going to do.

CATRINA

But I'll tell you this.

ADAM

Whatever we do do.

ALECIA giggles.

CATRINA

Has to be better than

ADAM

Those stupid "C"s!

CATRINA

Those dumb "A"s!

CHARLIE giggles.

BECKY, OLIVIA, RANDY, and TIPPY stop what they're doing and stare at the "C"s.

BECKY taps CHARLIE's shoulder.

BECKY

Is Catrina ok? Why is she talking in like half sentences?

AARON approaches the "C"s.

AARON

How's it going for you guys?

The "C"s slowly turn to look at AARON.

CATRINA

Excuse me?

AARON

Oh, sorry. Is that another rule? I can't ask the "C"s how their project is going?

CATRINA

Yes.

CASEY

(to AARON)

How's your project going?

CATRINA hisses at CASEY.

AARON

Not good. We don't really know where to start.

CASEY

Neither do we.

CATRINA

Shut up, Casey!

ADAM and ALECIA walk in stage right.

ADAM

There you are! Why would you just wander off without telling either of us?

AARON

We weren't making any progress and you didn't want to hear my ideas, so why wouldn't I just wander off?

ADAM

(loud whisper)

Don't tell them we're not making progress.

CATRINA

He already did.

ALECIA

Whatever. I bet you guys aren't any farther than us.

CASEY

You'd like that, wouldn't you!

ADAM

You watch your mouth!

CATRINA

Not if I watch it first!

CHARLIE stands up and gets in a fighting stance.

CATRINA and CASEY charge at the "A"s as ADAM and ALECIA charge at the "C"s.

AARON jumps in between the groups and puts his arms out, palms facing each group.

AARON

Stop!

Everyone freezes.

ADAM

Dude, Aaron. What are you doing?

CATRINA

Yeah! We're about to settle this thing.

AARON

You're going to kill each other over a science fair project?!

Everyone looks at each other.

ALECIA

We're not going to... kill each other.

CATRINA

Sheesh.

AARON

Well, ok. Good. Um, but do you need to fight about it?

ADAM

Who's side are you on?

AARON

What are you talking about?!

ADAM

You're name starts with an "A"! That means you're on our side. We've gone through this already!

AARON

What if I told you that my last name starts with a "C"?

Everyone looks at each other.

ADAM

What?

AARON

Aaron Cartman. That's my full name. If any of you crazy people took a second to get to know the new kid, you would have already known that, but whatever I guess. Whenever I first got here, I thought I'd get a nice fresh start after my old school literally caught fire and burned to the ground after the candles in the principal's shrine to beloved actor Kevin Kline, known for his Oscar-winning performance in the critically acclaimed film, A Fish Called Wanda, as well as his recurring character in the cheeky animated show, Bob's Burgers, fell over onto geometry two's mid-term test scantron sheets, but guess what. This is worse. I'd rather go to school on a pile of ash. As someone who technically represents both of you having both letters as initials, stop. Stop fighting. I know for a fact both groups haven't been able to come up with a good project, so why not work together on this one? We all want to impress Sir Weston, right? For once, consider helping each other out. Both groups have strengths that would benefit the other. What do you say?

CATRINA walks toward AARON, but moves past him and stops in front of ADAM.

CATRINA

Maybe he's right.

ADAM

I don't think so.

ADAM crosses his arms and turns his head. ALECIA follows suit.

CATRINA

Look, we don't have a good project. You don't either. Let's combine and make one big, awesome project. We have a tardigrade.

CASEY

We think.

ALECIA

You do? We have something for it to live in. Kinda.

AARON

And...

ADAM

Ugh! Fine!

ADAM shakes CATRINA's hand.

SCENE FIVE

THE CLASSROOM

Everyone sits at their desks.

An enormous, complicated-looking machine whirs in the back corner.

MRS. FRANC strolls in without looking at the students.

MRS. FRANC

Sorry I'm a few minutes late. I didn't want to come in today.

MRS. FRANC puts her purse down and looks up at the students. She is silent for a beat.

MRS. FRANC points at the machine.

MRS. FRANC

What is that?

CATRINA

That's our group project.

MRS. FRANC

Okie dokie.

MRS. FRANC sits down in her chair and lets out a huge sigh.

The students look at each other.

RANDY

Are you alright, Mrs. Franc?

MRS. FRANC

Yes, Randy. I'm alright. Just give me a second. I had one too many donuts this morning and I'm feeling it right now.

OLIVIA

Don't worry. We can wait.

ADAM

No we can't! My pits are sweating something awful over here! Just grade our projects!

MRS. FRANC

Geez Louise, Adam. Sir Weston should be here any minute.

MRS. FRANC looks down at her invisible watch.

There's a knock at the door.

MRS. FRANC leans forward slowly in her chair and groans. She takes an absurd amount of time to get up.

BECKY

Do you want me to get it?

MRS. FRANC

No, Becky. I wanna get it.

MRS. FRANC wobbles to the door and opens it.

SIR WESTON bursts through the doorway and slides into the room.

SIR WESTON

Young minds! Ah ha ha!

MRS. FRANC groans and closes the door. She walks back to her desk and sits down.

SIR WESTON bounces around the room, taking in each and every students' face.

He claps loudly and suddenly. Everyone jumps.

SIR WESTON

Alright, who's first!

BECKY raises her hand.

ADAM raises his hand.

OLIVIA raises her hand.

RANDY raises his hand.

MRS. FRANC stares at them then makes a popping noise with her mouth.

MRS. FRANC

You're all in the same group so one person would have done.

TIPPY raises his hand.

MRS. FRANC points at TIPPY.

MRS. FRANC

Stop. Ok, go ahead. Present your dumb-- I mean, what? Project. Present your dumb project. Shoot. Whatever, just do it.

SIR WESTON

Yes! Get on up here.

ADAM waves his hands in the air and puts his hand down.

BECKY stands up and pulls the glass jar out of her backpack.

OLIVIA pulls a bucket out from behind her chair.

RANDY grabs three water bottles from his backpack.

SIR WESTON rubs his hands together and grins from ear to ear.

SIR WESTON

Ooo, exciting.

BECKY, OLIVIA, RANDY, and TIPPY walk to the front of the room.

SIR WESTON moves out of their way.

TIPPY grabs CHARLIE's desk and struggles to pull it forward. CHARLIE just sits there, arms crossed.

OLIVIA places the bucket on the desk.
TIPPY starts beat boxing.

MRS. FRANC
(to herself)

What is happening?

SIR WESTON nods to the beat.

RANDY empties one of the bottles into BECKY's jar and the other two into the bucket.

OLIVIA
And now! Watch as the wonder of water subverts your expectations!

MRS. FRANC shakes her head and puts her palm to her forehead.

SIR WESTON leans forward.

BECKY dumps the water from her jar into the bucket. It splashes.

Nothing happens.

BECKY, RANDY, and OLIVIA are dumbstruck.

BECKY sticks her head in the bucket.

Ta-da!
TIPPY

RANDY
It was supposed to catch fire.

MRS. FRANC claps sarcastically. Her clapping is overwhelmed by SIR WESTON's genuine applause.

SIR WESTON

Incredible! I've never seen anything like it!

MRS. FRANC
(to SIR WESTON)

Seriously?

SIR WESTON ignores her.

BECKY, RANDY, OLIVIA, and TIPPY smile and walk back to their seats. They high five on the way.

MRS. FRANC grabs the bucket off of the desk. She looks at SIR WESTON.

MRS. FRANC

Do you want this?

SIR WESTON shakes his head.

MRS. FRANC looks at the middle row.

MRS. FRANC

Do any of you want this?

They shake their heads.

MRS. FRANC puts the bucket under her desk.

MRS. FRANC

This is my bucket now. Alright, next group. Anything will be better than that.

CATRINA and ADAM nod at each other. They both stand up.

MRS. FRANC

Uhh... You two? Together?

CATRINA

Yes.

ADAM

We joined our groups and made our project together.

MRS. FRANC

Um. That's not--

CASEY, CHARLIE, ALECIA, and AARON stand up and walk to the back of the classroom. They grab the machine and push it toward the front of the classroom.

CATRINA and ADAM join them.

CASEY

This is a completely automated tardigrade habitat.

SIR WESTON

(loud whisper)

Wow!

ALECIA

Complete with moss, shrubbery, and a pile of garbage.

AARON

What is the pile of garbage for, you ask?

CATRINA

Why, for the little water bear to eat, of course!

ADAM

Tardigrades can live anywhere and eat anything, which means that they'll likely outlive every other creature on earth.

CATRINA

Charlie, if you wouldn't mind opening the window so we can see the little guy?

CHARLIE moves the panel covering a small window. Inside is bright blue water.

MRS. FRANC and SIR WESTON lean over to look in the window.

MRS. FRANC

Where is it?

ALECIA

It's in there, we promise!

MRS. FRANC

Ok, sure.

SIR WESTON

I believe you!

CASEY

Anyway, that's our project. What do you think?

MRS. FRANC sighs.

MRS. FRANC

Well, it's great.

SIR WESTON

Undoubtedly.

Everyone high fives.

MRS. FRANC

But...

ADAM

But. But! But what!?

MRS. FRANC

There's too many people in your group. You're disqualified from competing in the fair.

ADAM faints.

Everyone looks at SIR WESTON.

CATRINA

Is that true?!

SIR WESTON

It is, indeed. I'm afraid to say that we cannot accept projects with more than four students attached to it. I'm sorry. I did so enjoy your presentation. I will, however, say that the water experiment will absolutely be in the running. Very innovative.

MRS. FRANC

What?

CATRINA
This is all Aaron's fault!

ALECIA
Yeah! He was the one who said we should join groups.

CATRINA
Way to go, Cart-man.

ADAM wakes up.

ADAM
Yeah, fuck you, Aaron.

AARON puts his head down.

CASEY
You suck, Cartman.

ALECIA
Yeah, Aaron. Go trip over a rake.

OLIVIA
Yeah man, I'll kill you.

Everyone looks at OLIVIA.

LIGHTS OUT.