

**WE ALL RISE ABOVE**

A Forum Theatre play

Devised By

Geoffrey Arndt and students at SPHS

October, 2018

CHARACTERS

ADAM JONES

DAVID MILLER

SAM MEDINA

MR. LAWRENCE

COUNSELOR

ADAM'S DAD

MIA SIMONS

BRADLEY THOMAS

KEVIN GIBSON

## SETTING

The action of the play takes place in Adam's life, and with the audience.

There will be scenes that show physical and verbal bullying, cyber bullying, as well as damage to personal property.

## Prologue

**NARRATOR:** Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Allison, and we are the cast of We All Rise Above. We are excited to bring you a different experience from a traditional play. We are here to tackle, through the power of theatre, this incredible problem, bullying. In a traditional play, there is a beginning, middle, and end. In our play, we will present the beginning and middle...but we don't know the end. That is where you come in. Tonight, we need you to watch with active eyes. We are going to show you scenes where our protagonist, Adam, is suffering under the oppressive force of bullying. He needs your help. We are going to ask you to watch these scenes to see the issue Adam is facing in the moment and think of a way that the characters can change this moment to help Adam. Then, we are going to ask a volunteer to come up and enact their change by taking one of our roles onstage.

Here are some guidelines.

ONE: You can play Adam and he has options.

TWO: You can play one of the bullies, and they can change.

THREE: You can play an ally and they can change the course of the action.

FOUR: Violence is never going to be a solution we are searching for, here.

FIVE: Magic is, unfortunately, not real, and it cannot help.

Now, we are not requiring you all to come up, so if you would like to watch the change, please do so. I hope you are as excited to find some solutions, as I am. To warm you up, I want you to repeat after me. "I am an agent of change." (*NARRATOR leads the audience to respond.*) Now, I'm going to warm you up by asking you to... (*NARRATOR will lead the audience in a warmup.*)

Good, thank you, you may retake your seat. Tonight, we are going to be agents of change, so I will ask you one more time to repeat after me. "I am an agent of change." (*NARRATOR leads the audience*) And together we will. Now, let's see Adam's story.

*(At this point, the play should flow from scene to scene, until the NARRATOR stops the action to interact with the audience.)*

## Scene One (Social Bullying)

*(All cast cross the stage, interacting with the lockers, as if going to class. DAVID bumps into ADAM and then takes a selfie with him. BRADLEY helps ADAM. A STUDENT rips a sheet of ADAM's paper. MIA engages ADAM and SAM teases ADAM from behind to get MIA's attention. MIA exits as the COUNSELOR enters with a chair.)*

**COUNSELOR:** ADAM JONES? Tell me about your day.

**ADAM:** Why?

**COUNSELOR:** Because I am here to help.

**ADAM:** Why?

**COUNSELOR:** Why am I here to help?

**ADAM:** No! Why should I tell you about my day? So you can feel good about yourself while you pretend to care.

**COUNSELOR:** If you do not want to tell me about your day, tell me about the incident in the cafeteria.

**ADAM:** You think that me throwing my trash out and running out of the room is an incident

**COUNSELOR:** Adam just answer the question. What led you to do that?

**ADAM:** To throw my tray and run out of the room?

**COUNSELOR:** Adam.

**ADAM:** I don't know.

**COUNSELOR:** You don't know or you don't want to say?

**ADAM:** Just stop , I was pissed and I just wanted to be alone is that such a big deal.

**COUNSELOR:** What happened that made you mad?

**ADAM:** It was nothing. This guy...these kids... were being dumb, and I wanted to leave.

**COUNSELOR:** Okay, Adam, how about you just tell me the events that led up to you throwing your tray and running out.

*(ADAM shrugs.)*

*(Lights shift to the cafeteria. two tables are set up. Students enter talking. four students sit at one table and two students sit at another. ADAM enters and looks around for where to sit. the group of four see him and start talking amongst themselves, clearly about ADAM.)*

**DAVID:** Hey, Jones! Saw you posted your first victory on Fortnite. You're complete garbage.

*(The table laughs. ADAM takes a beat, then:)*

**ADAM:** *(Breathing and holding something back)* I'm proud of that dub... just leave me alone . *(HE begins to walk away.)*  
*(The table laughs again.)*

**DAVID:** I bet you were in a squad and they carried you!

**SAM:** Yeah, dude, what are you, like five?  
*(ADAM crosses to the table of two students. ADAM sits with them.)*

**DAVID:** *(DAVID does the Fortnite Dance, while other students scream out "ninja wannabe, default skin.")*

**BRADLEY:** Just ignore them, Adam.

**ADAM:** Like I haven't thought of that before, I just want to eat my lunch.

*(DAVID and the group laugh.)*

**MIA:** Yeah, just forget them. So, this weekend. We are getting together.

**ADAM:** Yeah, you can come over to my house.

*(DAVID crosses over and sits with ADAM and puts his arm around him.)*

**DAVID:** Adam, my man.

**ADAM:** David please go away. Just let me eat.

**DAVID:** What? I can't just come over and talk to my friend.

**BRADLEY:** We're not friends, David. Leave him alone.

**DAVID:** What do you mean? This is my good friend, Adam.

**KEVIN:** *(Standing up)* David you need to calm down and leave us alone.

**DAVID:** Calm down. I'm not talking to you. So, you said you we are all coming over to your house this weekend. What are we doing?

**ADAM:** Screw this. *(ADAM takes HIS tray and stands up. MIA, KEVIN, and BRADLEY try to get HIM to sit back down.)*

**DAVID:** *(smiling, he stands up and crosses to face ADAM )* What are you gonna do, huh? You gonna hit me? Do it. I dare you!

*(ADAM takes a breath exits.)*

**MIA:** ADAM!

*(MIA, KEVIN, and BRADLEY exit. The other students laugh and exit with DAVID.)*

*(Lights shift to ADAM and the COUNSELOR.)*

**COUNSELOR:** So, you left the situation before you engaged with a violent bully. That's a good step.

**ADAM:** It's just going to get worse now

**COUNSELOR:** It won't, Adam, because I'm going to call Sam and David in, and we are going to discuss this situation.

**ADAM:** Are you serious ? Do you honestly think that talking this out and telling them to stop will do anything.

**COUNSELOR:** Adam...

**ADAM:** No that won't make them stop. Once you leave I'm getting my ass beat.

**COUNSELOR:** Adam, I promise, we will prepare you-

**ADAM:** Prepare me ... prepare me for what? ... forget it I'm fine. I'm just going to go.

**COUNSELOR:** Adam, please, you know that I want to help. Let's talk about something else. You don't have to go back to class yet. We can talk...

**ADAM:** Thank you, but I'm done talking.

**COUNSELOR:** Adam...

**ADAM:** Why now? This has been going on for a while now but all the sudden you decide to step in now... please just let it go, okay! I shouldn't have said anything.

*(ADAM and COUNSELOR exit.)*

---

**NARRATOR/AUDIENCE INTERACTION/ INTERVENTION (FORUM)**

**NARRATOR:** This was our first scene. Did you see some of those challenges Adam was going through? Did you feel inspired to turn your thoughts into actions? Maybe you were moved to intervene in the cafeteria, or maybe you wanted to change what happened when Adam was talking to his counselor. If you have a new way to help Adam, please raise your hand.

*(NARRATOR will lead the audience member onto the stage.)*

And scene. Thank you. *(NARRATOR leads the audience to applaud the audience member who stepped up.)* So, what did \_\_\_\_\_ do that was different? *(NARRATOR leads the audience to identify the difference; NARRATOR will call out the audience response.)* Did that shift anything? *(NARRATOR leads the audience to identify the shift; NARRATOR will call out the audience response.)* Good. All that needs to happen sometimes is a shift.

---