

2. Party Line

Topic: Gossip between guys on the telephone is accidentally overheard.

Cast:

GEORGE

JOEY

PAUL

- 1 *(This is a telephone conversation. Actors do not look at each*
 2 *other. PAUL is not on the phone at the beginning of the play.*
 3 *GEORGE is sitting in a chair facing Stage Left, playing video*
 4 *games or using a laptop. JOEY is lying on the floor on the*
 5 *opposite side of the stage, leafing through a motorcycle*
 6 *magazine.)*
 7 **GEORGE:** Speak.
 8 **JOEY:** Hey.
 9 **GEORGE:** Hey. *(Pause)*
 10 **JOEY:** Whatcha doin’?
 11 **GEORGE:** Nothing. You?
 12 **JOEY:** Me neither. *(Pause)* You want to three-way call Paul?
 13 **GEORGE:** Sure. *(JOEY pushes some buttons on his phone.*
 14 *PAUL enters Upstage and sits between the two boys, but it’s*
 15 *important that he does not glance at either kid. He walks*
 16 *while answering phone.)*
 17 **PAUL:** Yo.
 18 **JOEY:** Yo yourself.
 19 **PAUL:** What’s up?
 20 **JOEY:** Nothin. You?
 21 **PAUL:** Nothin. You talked to George lately?
 22 **JOEY:** As a matter of fact —
 23 **PAUL:** He’s such a jerk. *(GEORGE is surprised and angry by*
 24 *hearing this. He is listening even more intently.)*
 25 **JOEY:** Huh?

- 1 **PAUL:** I’m really mad at him today.
 2 **JOEY:** What? What’s wrong?
 3 **PAUL:** I heard that he told Amanda that Betsy said I was a
 4 jerk.
 5 **JOEY:** Betsy thinks everyone’s a jerk.
 6 **PAUL:** That’s not the point.
 7 **JOEY:** Paul, I think you should know —
 8 **PAUL:** I’m not even going to tell him about the party I’m
 9 going to have on Saturday.
 10 **JOEY:** Paul —
 11 **PAUL:** No, you can’t talk me out of it. He’s a jerk and I don’t
 12 want him at my party.
 13 **GEORGE:** I wouldn’t come anyway.
 14 **PAUL:** What? Who’s that?
 15 **GEORGE:** It’s me, and I didn’t tell Amanda. And I don’t
 16 want to come to your stupid party.
 17 **PAUL:** Joey, why didn’t you tell me George was on three-
 18 way?
 19 **JOEY:** I tried, but you kept cutting me off and —
 20 **GEORGE:** Anyway, Amanda said she thinks *you’re* a jerk.
 21 **PAUL:** She did not.
 22 **JOEY:** Hey, guys —
 23 **GEORGE:** Did too. None of the girls like you because you’re
 24 such a jerk. *(All three BOYS’ bodies should reflect tension*
 25 *and anger.)*
 26 **PAUL:** All the girls like me and you’re just jealous.
 27 **GEORGE:** *I’m* jealous? You’re the one that’s jealous. Ever
 28 since my dad got that new Jag —
 29 **PAUL:** I couldn’t care less about your father’s stupid car.
 30 **GEORGE:** Oh, really? I bet —
 31 **JOEY:** *Everybody shut up!* *(Long pause)* OK, everyone
 32 breathe. George, Paul, you’re best friends. Stop fighting.
 33 It’s stupid.
 34 **PAUL:** You’re stupid.
 35 **GEORGE:** You really are stupid, Joey. Gosh, what a mess

- 1 this is. And all because of you.
- 2 PAUL: Yeah, why did you start this fight anyway?
- 3 JOEY: *Me?* (*Jumps up.*) I didn't start —
- 4 GEORGE: Hey, Paul, meet me in the private chat room. I
- 5 don't think I want *him* in on our conversation anymore.
- 6 (*Hangs up.*)
- 7 PAUL: Right. Joey, you're a loser. (*Hangs up.*)
- 8 JOEY: Hello? Anybody there? (*Hangs up.*) Sometimes it just
- 9 doesn't pay to get out of bed in the morning.

3. Battle of Wits

Topic: A bully and a clever kid match wits.

Cast:

JOE: A bully. He should be tough, sarcastic, and edgy. Costume suggestions would include punk type clothing, chains, and multi-colored hair.

TONY: A smart kid. Smart *and* smart aleck. He's sarcastic and enjoys his superiority. He should be dressed as nerdy as desired, even a pocket protector might work. More appropriate would be modern clothing, perhaps slightly outdated or ill-fitting — pants too short, socks with sandals.

- 1 (*Scene opens as TONY is sitting in a chair, reading a textbook.*
- 2 *JOE enters, spots TONY, and saunters over.*)
- 3 JOE: What are you doing?
- 4 TONY: Huh?
- 5 JOE: I asked you what you were doing.
- 6 TONY: Uhhhh ... sitting?
- 7 JOE: I can see that. Why are you sitting in my chair?
- 8 TONY: This is your chair?
- 9 JOE: You know it is. What are you doing in it?
- 10 TONY: Well ... I'm sitting in it.
- 11 JOE: Get out.
- 12 TONY: (*Considers a minute.*) No thanks.
- 13 JOE: Huh?
- 14 TONY: I'm actually pretty comfortable here, so you go find
- 15 yourself another chair.
- 16 JOE: You're kidding, right? Don't you know who I am?
- 17 TONY: Sure I know who you are. We had gym together last
- 18 year, but I think you were in detention more than gym.
- 19 JOE: You got a lot of attitude for a little punk. Think you're
- 20 pretty bad, don't you?
- 21 TONY: No, actually, I'm very good. I even passed the fourth