

## 9. Gossip

**Topic:** A play that shows the hurtful side of gossip.

**Cast:**

SASHA, BRIANNA, and KIM: typical girls — chatty, gossipy, and enjoying their newfound common target

COURTNEY: trying to bring some decency to the other girls

- 1       (SASHA, BRIANNA, and KIM gather Center Stage. They are
- 2       carrying school books, dressed trendy, and giggling.)
- 3   **SASHA:** Did you see what she was wearing?
- 4   **BRIANNA:** Oh, good grief, does she even own a mirror?
- 5   **KIM:** I think I saw shoes like hers at the Salvation Army!
- 6       (COURTNEY enters and joins the group, smiling at her
- 7       friends.)
- 8   **COURTNEY:** What are you guys talking about?
- 9   **BRIANNA:** (Happy to share the gossip) Oh, Courtney, you
- 10    should have seen what Lisa was wearing at the mall last
- 11    night.
- 12 **SASHA:** It was this bright blue shirt ... (Starts laughing.)
- 13 **BRIANNA:** And those pants ... (Laughs.)
- 14 **KIM:** No, the best part was the shoes. (All but COURTNEY
- 15    laugh.)
- 16 **COURTNEY:** (Confused and disturbed) You're making fun of
- 17    Lisa?
- 18 **SASHA:** (Dismissively) No, we're not making fun of her.
- 19 **BRIANNA:** (Still giggling a little) It's just that she was
- 20    wearing this really funny outfit.
- 21 **COURTNEY:** That is making fun of her.
- 22 **KIM:** Come on, Courtney, it was really funny.
- 23 **BRIANNA:** If you had seen it, you'd be laughing too.
- 24 **COURTNEY:** (Trying to make her point understood) It's mean
- 25    to make fun of people.
- 26 **BRIANNA:** Oh, come on, you do it too.

- 1   **COURTNEY:** No, I don't.
- 2   **SASHA:** We don't mean anything mean by it. I like Lisa a
- 3    lot.
- 4   **KIM:** Yeah. She's one of our best friends.
- 5   **BRIANNA:** If only she knew how to dress! (All but COURTNEY
- 6    laugh.)
- 7   **COURTNEY:** (Getting angry now) You guys, it's really not
- 8    nice to make fun of other people. Maybe she can't afford
- 9    nice clothes like you.
- 10 **BRIANNA:** In her case, it's not about money. It's about
- 11    taste!
- 12 **KIM:** It doesn't cost anything to match colors!
- 13 **COURTNEY:** That's not the point. It's still mean.
- 14 **SASHA:** (Possibly understanding, still smiling) You're probably
- 15    right. But it was funny.
- 16 **KIM:** (Getting a little more serious) Maybe you're right,
- 17    Courtney. We are sometimes mean to each other.
- 18 **BRIANNA:** Right. Remember how you felt, Sasha, when you
- 19    got that new haircut last year and all the boys laughed
- 20    at you?
- 21 **SASHA:** (No longer smiling and remembering with pain) Oh,
- 22    don't remind me. I almost didn't come to school. I cried
- 23    every night for a week.
- 24 **COURTNEY:** See? Even when people are kidding it can be
- 25    really hurtful.
- 26 **SASHA:** Yeah, maybe you're right. It really did hurt my
- 27    feelings.
- 28 **KIM:** We don't mean to be mean to each other. Sometimes
- 29    we just think things are funny.
- 30 **COURTNEY:** Well, whether you mean it or not isn't the
- 31    point. You can really hurt someone's feelings even
- 32    without meaning to.
- 33 **BRIANNA:** I guess we should all work on this, huh?
- 34 **SASHA:** That's a good idea. Let's make a pact to try to stop
- 35    each other from making fun of other kids.

- 1 BRIANNA: That sounds like fun. We can be like judges.  
2 Whoever makes the fewest amount of slip ups gets a  
3 quarter from the rest of us at the end of the week.  
4 COURTNEY: Count me in!  
5 SASHA: I just hope I don't go broke trying to get rid of the  
6 habit!  
7 BRIANNA: Now we'd better all go talk to Lisa.  
8 SASHA: Let's go!

## 10. The Sweater

**Topic:** A funny skit about the dynamics between girlfriends.

**Cast:**

BRENDA: sly, not really honest, and trying to influence Marilyn for her own purposes

MARYLYN: innocent, kind, and a good friend who listens to Brenda's advice

- 1 (*The GIRLS are standing in front of a mirror. MARILYN has on*  
2 *a sweater — any color but red. Both GIRLS are evaluating. An*  
3 *option would be to have a table of sweaters with MARILYN*  
4 *holding up a particular sweater instead of wearing one.*)  
5 BRENDA: (*Considering it*) I don't think you should buy it.  
6 MARILYN: (*Turning this way and that, checking out the sweater*  
7 *from all angles*) Why not? It's fabulous.  
8 BRENDA: Why not? Let's see. (*Counts on fingers.*) It's ugly,  
9 doesn't fit you, and it costs a million dollars.  
10 MARILYN: It is not. I love it.  
11 BRENDA: (*Throws hands up in the air, as if in surrender.*) Fine.  
12 Buy it. But don't count on me to stick up for you when  
13 your parents yell at you for paying too much for a  
14 sweater or when the kids at school make fun of you.  
15 MARILYN: (*Beginning to show some doubt, looking a little less*  
16 *pleased with the view in the mirror*) Wow, you're really  
17 being mean. There's nothing wrong with this sweater.  
18 It's pretty.  
19 BRENDA: (*Shrugging*) If you say so.  
20 MARILYN: I don't get you. You're the one who picked it out  
21 for me to try on.  
22 BRENDA: Well, I didn't look at the price. And I couldn't  
23 really see how ugly it was until you put it on.  
24 MARILYN: But it's your favorite color.  
25 BRENDA: (*Defensively*) I like red now.