

- 1 find the vice principal. We'll get to the bottom of this.
- 2 **BRIAN:** *(To ALICE quietly)* If only you could learn to be as
- 3 quiet in here as you are in science class.
- 4 **ALICE:** *(To BRIAN)* If only you were creative in writing class
- 5 as you are when you're making up stories.

34. No Trespassing

Topic: An old, grumpy man makes friends with a student.

Cast:

MR. W: grouchy, burned-out, short-tempered, frustrated old man

NICK: defensive, but basically a good kid

- 1 *(Scene begins with MR. W slowly chasing after NICK, who is*
- 2 *crossing the stage.)*
- 3 **MR. W:** Hey you, kid. Come here a minute.
- 4 **NICK:** *(Wary)* Yeah?
- 5 **MR. W:** Yeah? Don't you have no manners?
- 6 **NICK:** *(Not interested in being friendly)* Do you need
- 7 something?
- 8 **MR. W:** I just want to know what the heck you think you are
- 9 doing trespassing on my lawn.
- 10 **NICK:** I didn't trespass on your lawn.
- 11 **MR. W:** *(Waving hands, pointing finger)* Don't tell me you
- 12 didn't. I saw you. Yesterday afternoon you and your
- 13 friends were playing ball and went and hit it over my
- 14 fence. Climbed right over the fence and into my yard you
- 15 come. Don't say you didn't do it.
- 16 **NICK:** *(Remembering, then getting caught up in the story)* I'm
- 17 sorry, I didn't mean to trespass. We never hit it that far
- 18 before. That Jimmy Washington has a real good bat and
- 19 he just ripped one. I won't go on your lawn anymore.
- 20 **MR. W:** Back in my days we knew how to respect people's
- 21 property. Never walk on a neighbor's yard without first
- 22 asking.
- 23 **NICK:** You're right. I should have knocked on your door and
- 24 asked first.
- 25 **MR. W:** *(Backing down a little)* Well, don't go knocking on my
- 26 door during *The Price is Right*. I'd get really mad about

1 that. No, it's all right, just don't trip on that trash back
 2 there and break a leg and go and sue me. Can't afford
 3 no lawsuit, that's for sure.

4 NICK: Yeah, uh, I noticed that trash. (*Hesitant to suggest*)
 5 Would you like, I mean, I'd be happy to help clear some
 6 of that trash out for you. Looks like you had some
 7 remodeling done. I could put it out front on trash day if
 8 you'd like.

9 MR. W: Doggone workers, charge me an arm and a leg to fix
 10 the floor in my kitchen and then leave a huge truckload
 11 of trash in the backyard. Don't haul it away, don't
 12 apologize. Nobody apologizes. Nobody cares an old man
 13 has arthritis and a bum knee and can't carry that trash
 14 around.

15 NICK: Really, I'd be happy to clear it out for you.

16 MR. W: (*Dismissively, defensively*) I can't afford no helper.

17 NICK: I wouldn't charge you. I don't mind. It won't take me
 18 more than a couple of minutes. In fact, I'll bet my friends
 19 will be glad to help me and we can get it all cleared out
 20 in no time at all.

21 MR. W: (*Becoming suspicious*) Why would you do that?

22 NICK: (*Shrugging, innocent*) I don't know. I don't mind doing
 23 it. It will only take a couple of minutes.

24 MR. W: (*Apparently not accustomed to kindness from kids*) I
 25 don't know what to say.

26 NICK: It's all right. You don't have to say anything. We'll
 27 come over on Wednesday night after dinner and put it
 28 out for the trash. No problem.

29 MR. W: (*Now friendly and eager to chat*) Well, that's really nice
 30 of you young man. I think I have cookies sitting around
 31 that I can get out. I might even put my lawn chair out
 32 front and watch your game. Planning on playing baseball
 33 on Wednesday night?

34 NICK: I don't know. Maybe. If it's not raining.

35 MR. W: All right then. I might even have some pointers for

1 you. I was quite the ball player in my day. Never
 2 trespassed on an old man's lawn, but I got a hold of a
 3 long one or two in my day.

4 NICK: Cool. See ya then. (*Exits.*)