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CHARACTERS

KIRSTY: *a 5th-grade female student*

EVELYN: *a 5th-grade female student*

KARL: *a 5th-grade male student*

JAMES: *a 5th-grade male student*

The four students are all members of the New Inventors Club.

TIME

The present day.

SETTING

The play takes place in a classroom at an elementary school. The members of the New Inventors Club are sitting around a table.

KIRSTY: I hereby declare the second meeting of the New Inventors Club open. [*Everyone claps.*] In our last meeting we decided that everyone had to come up with an invention. So now for the exciting part, seeing what inventions people have brought along? Who wants to go first?

EVELYN: I'll go first.

KIRSTY: Great Evelyn, I love your enthusiasm.

EVELYN: This is my first invention and it didn't take long to come up with.

KIRSTY: Well, tell us what it is.

EVELYN: I invented a poem. And it goes like this:

Inventing things is fun,

Inventing things is great.

If I invented a time machine,

I'd be in another date!

KARL: That's a great poem Evelyn. It even rhymes.

KIRSTY: It's hardly an invention. How does it help anyone?

JAMES: It made me feel happy.

KIRSTY: But it's not really an invention.

EVELYN: I made it up, so it's an invention.

KIRSTY: Anybody got a better invention?

JAMES: I invented something that can help with transport and pollution.

KIRSTY: What a great idea. Transport and pollution are a huge problem. These are the types of problems our inventions should be solving. Not a poem that makes us feel happy. Tell us more, James.

JAMES: It's sort of like a car, only much bigger. It takes you from place to place and it stops along the road to pick people up. Then, when you're on there you can ring a bell and it will stop at a special stop. People could catch it to work and school, you could even catch it to the shops. There could even be a place for people to store their groceries.

KIRSTY: That's not an invention—it's called a "bus."

JAMES: No—it's called "A big car that moves lots of people and drops them off at places when they ring a bell."

KIRSTY: Didn't you hear what I just said? It's called a "bus." I caught one to school this morning.

JAMES: I don't know if you heard me right, but my invention is called "A big car that moves lots of people and drops them off at places when they ring a bell." It's quite a brilliant idea.

EVELYN: Yes, that's brilliant. You could maybe even have another level on the top, and it could be just like a double-decker bus.

JAMES: I didn't think of that. What a fantastic idea.

KIRSTY: This is not going well. We haven't come up with any new inventions.

JAMES: Yes—we've come up with a great poem, and I am pretty sure I've come up with a solution to the world's transport and pollution problems.

KIRSTY: They're not inventions. Inventions are meant to solve problems, and be brand-new ideas.

KARL: Well, what did you come up with?

KIRSTY: I invented the club and the name so I thought that was good enough.

JAMES: How is that an invention?

KIRSTY: We needed a name and I invented one.

EVELYN: I knew I should have joined the chocolate-eating club. I bet they're not being told that their invention isn't even real.

KIRSTY: What about you, Karl—what did you invent?

KARL: I invented a dance.

EVELYN: Cool, let's see it.

[KARL gets up and dances. He provides his own sound track.]

JAMES: That's the most amazing, fantastic dance I have ever seen. How did you invent that?

KARL: Thanks! I was just walking on the weekend and my arms started moving and then my legs started kicking and then the dance just came to me and I thought, what an amazing invention.

KIRSTY: None of these are real inventions.

KARL: I just showed you my dance. Do you want to see it again?

JAMES: Definitely.

[KARL gets up and dances again.]

EVELYN: Yeah, Karl! That's a brilliant dance. You should do that on TV.

KIRSTY: It's not an invention!

JAMES: I think that they're all inventions.

KIRSTY: An invention helps people. It makes life easier. An invention is like a helicopter or a new computer. Anyone can make up a dance or poem.

KARL: Anyone could make a helicopter. That's easy.

KIRSTY: So you think it would be easy to make a helicopter?

KARL: What did you think I did on the weekend?

KIRSTY: What, you built a helicopter?

KARL: Yep. But then I had to pull it apart because it wouldn't fit in our garage.

EVELYN: This is the worst club ever!

JAMES: I thought the New Inventors Club would be fun. But you

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keep saying that none of these are real inventions. When they're great ideas.

EVELYN: I quit!

KARL: Me too.

JAMES: I'm out of here!

KIRSTY: Wait, you can't just leave the club. It's a new inventors club. I like being in a club and hanging out with you guys.

EVELYN: Me too.

KARL: I'll miss you all.

JAMES: I love this club.

KARL: But you keep saying that none of our inventions are real inventions.

EVELYN: We could invent a new name for the club.

KARL: Great idea!

JAMES: I really like Karl's dance. Maybe we could change it to a Dance Club.

KARL: There is already a dance club . . . and besides, I still want to come up with new inventions.

EVELYN: I've got it. Why don't we call it the New Inventors Who Dance and Sometimes Write Poetry Club?

JAMES: Yes! I think that is the best invention of the day.

KIRSTY: Brilliant.

EVELYN: I think that there's only one last thing to do before we close the first meeting of the New Inventors Who Dance and Sometimes Write Poetry Club. Lead the way, Karl. We need to dance!

[They all start dancing.]

END OF PLAY

THE NO SOCKS GANG

Shirley King
