

GLOBAL – WARMING MONSTER

CHARACTERS:

ANDREA
MINA

SETTING:

Their classroom

ANDREA and MINA are partners on an end-of-the-year science project. Their topic is global warming. It is two hours before they are to present their project to their classmates, teachers, and parents.

ANDREA: Have you got all the index cards?

MINA: I think so.

ANDREA: We are going to rock in this presentation.

MINA: Yeah.

ANDREA: Nobody has the stuff we do – the maps, the model of the Earth all wrapped in a blanket.

MINA: Do you think they'll get what's happening with the carbon dioxide?

ANDREA: I made the arrows bigger last night on my computer. And labeled them with big yellow letters – “Co2 Trapped and returning to earth.” Then I put a big headline – “The Earth is Being Eaten by the Global-Warming Monster.”

MINA: That should get their attention.

ANDREA: I want the whole world's attention. Don't you?

MINA: Of course.

ANDREA: So you're going to present our model of the ice caps melting, right?

MINA: No, you. I get too sad about the polar bears.

ANDREA: Then you do coral reefs. How they're turning white. Dying from lack of nourishment. The end of the

underwater paradise! Man, I wish we had some really scary music to play.

MINA: You do coral reefs, too. You make it all sound really bad, which is good.

ANDREA: Then, what will you do?

MINA: You... can do all the presentation part. I did a lot of the research, so that should get me a decent grade.

ANDREA: Mina, what are you talking about? We've been working together on this for weeks. Our parents are coming to see us do it!

MINA: Exactly.

ANDREA: Exactly what?

MINA: My mom is coming. So I need to sit it out. You'll do great.

ANDREA: I need a map, here, Mina. I'm lost!

MINA: She got a new job.

ANDREA: Congratulations. So?

MINA: She's working for the government now. It's some department that deals with lots of regulations and things.

ANDREA: So?! OK, you do droughts and hurricanes –

MINA: I can't!

ANDREA: Why?!

MINA: Cause my mom's new boss makes laws – rules about the environment. And he doesn't believe in global warming.

ANDREA: Where does he live? In a cave?!

MINA: He'll be at the presentations! He's Jared's dad in 8th grade. Mom's his assistant.

ANDREA: Oh.

MINA: What if what I say makes him mad at her?

ANDREA: It won't.

MINA: It could! It took Mom a long time to get this job. What if I mess it up for her?

ANDREA: (Very disappointed.) But we were going to save the world.

MINA: We will.

(Pause)

Just, maybe not this afternoon.

ANDREA: I thought this mattered to you, Mina!

(Pause.)

MINA: It does.

ANDREA: Incredible. Unbelievable. What's more important? Your mom's job or the world?!

MINA: How can I answer a question like that? What's the meaning of life, Andrea? Answer that one!

ANDREA: Life won't have any meaning if there isn't any.

MINA: Any what?

ANDREA: Life! If it's all gone by the time we grow up.

MINA: It won't be.

ANDREA: It might. I don't want to live in a melted-down world. Do you?

(Mina doesn't answer.)

ANDREA: OK fine. I'll do the whole thing myself.

(Andrea starts to leave the classroom.)

MINA: Don't leave out the last part. About what everybody can do to stop it.

ANDREA: Fine.

MINA: That's the most important part!

ANDREA: Yeah. It was your part. You wrote that whole part remember?! Quote...“Earth has given us our air, our water, our food, our life. Now it's our turn to give back, it's only right...”

(Andrea begins to leave the classroom.)

MINA: Wait!

(Andrea stops.)

MINA: I'll do that part.

ANDREA: You will?

MINA: Maybe the eight graders will go first and Mom's boss will leave.

ANDREA: Or you can wear a disguise!

MINA: (Laughing.) Andrea.

ANDREA: I've got some of those glasses with a mustache.

MINA: That's OK!

ANDREA: Don't say I didn't offer. Mina, you mom will be proud of you. You're standing up for what you believe in. She gave you that Shakespeare T-shirt you wear all the time, didn't she? It says, "To thine own self be true."

MINA: I should have worn it today.

ANDREA: Come on, let's get everything set up.

MINA: I'm there. Let's go.

(Andrea and Mina exit the classroom.)

End Scene.