

Mr. Potcher's Holiday

Bob Silberg

Comic

JAKE: 10 to 13; the other one of Chloe's two political advisors.

CHLOE: 13 to 15; student-body president.

WILL: 10 to 13; one of Chloe's two political advisors.

LORNE: 14 to 15; captain of the football team.

Note: The ages of the characters are flexible. The important thing is that **WILL** and **JAKE** should look about the same age as each other, and both should look younger (and ideally be shorter) than **CHLOE**. **LORNE** should be large, as befits a football player.

The school's new consultant, Mr. Potcher, has canceled all classes in the arts and all extracurricular activities. The kids have decided that someone should try to change his mind. When CHLOE and the other student leaders wimped out of confronting him, the task fell to Darcy, a girl who does the jobs no one else wants to do in hopes of getting the kids to accept her. CHLOE's political advisors are worried that if Darcy succeeds, she will become so popular that she'll be elected student-body president. Student-body president CHLOE and her two campaign advisors, JAKE and WILL, meet in an otherwise unoccupied classroom.

JAKE: I tell ya, I don't like it!

CHLOE: Simmer down, Jake.

WILL: This could cost us the election, you know!

CHLOE: What are you talking about? They love me!

JAKE: They do, huh? [*He reads from his iPad or phone.*]

Statement: Chloe Davenport should be reelected student-body president in the midterm election. Strongly agree: 2 percent. Two percent!!

CHLOE: [*Taken aback.*] Really?

[*WILL reads from his iPad or phone.*]

WILL: Somewhat agree, 38 percent. Somewhat disagree, 47 percent!

JAKE: We're losing them!

CHLOE: But I don't understand. What happened?

WILL: Darcy happened, that's what happened!

JAKE: She's getting big points just for *talking* to Mr. Potcher.

WILL: If she pulls off changing his mind, she could be elected the next president!

CHLOE: But she's not even running.

JAKE: Ever hear of a write-in vote?

WILL: She could be drafted!

[Football captain LORNE opens the classroom door.]

JAKE: Hey! This is a private meeting!

LORNE: But I forgot my lunch in here.

[WILL goes to the door and shoves him back out.]

WILL: Buy it! It's pizza day!

[He slams the door shut.]

CHLOE: Are you saying I should've talked to Mr. Potcher?

JAKE: No, no, that would've been too risky if you failed.

WILL: Political suicide!

JAKE: But it leaves you vulnerable if Darcy succeeds!

CHLOE: But it wasn't just me. Lorne and Meryl said they were too busy, too.

WILL: It's different for them.

JAKE: They *need* Darcy to succeed.

WILL: So he can play football.

JAKE: And she can debate.

WILL: Then all they have to do is win a couple of games.

JAKE: A couple of tournaments.

WILL: And no one will remember that they wimped out of talking to Potcher.

JAKE: But for you, it's a question of leadership.

WILL: Leadership!

JAKE: You can't afford to lose that aura right before the midyear election.

WILL: Especially with a fresh, new face in the race.

CHLOE: What can I do?

JAKE and WILL: You've got to confront Darcy!

WILL: She's been playing it cagey.

JAKE: Playing it cutesy.

WILL: No one really knows how her meeting with Potcher went.

JAKE: You've got to change that.

WILL: Find out how she's doing with Potcher.

JAKE: Pin her down!

WILL: Did she change his mind or didn't she?

JAKE: No more waffling!

WILL: And in front of the other kids. As many as possible.

JAKE: The longer she drags this thing out, the worse it is for you!