

## The Usual Suspects

Kids: Intermediate Level

Tweens: Beginner Level

### CHARACTERS

**APRIL:** A bully, but one who is a little bit more ready to examine her actions.

**BILLIE:** A bully who has no intention to take detention seriously.

**CATHY:** A bully who is a little bit quieter in detention, and eventually is influenced by April.

### SETTING

*Three bullies are in detention again on the last day of school. Meanwhile, the rest of the school is enjoying a full-school scavenger hunt and games day to celebrate the end of the year.*

**APRIL:** You guys again?

**BILLIE:** Yup.

**CATHY:** Uh huh.

**APRIL:** What you in for?

**BILLIE:** Same thing.

**CATHY:** Me too.

**APRIL:** Me three.

**BILLIE:** I swear it wasn't my fault this time.

**CATHY:** That's what I said.

**APRIL:** She didn't believe you huh?

**BILLIE:** Would either of you?

**CATHY:** Nope.

**APRIL:** Na ah.

**BILLIE:** Me neither.

*BILLIE looks through the window of the detention room and can see kids laughing, playing, and running around in the hallways.*

**BILLIE:** Shoot. They look like they're having fun out there.

**CATHY:** Awww... I wanna play too.

**APRIL:** This is the best day of the whole school year and here we are, sitting in detention.

**BILLIE:** While all the other goodie goodie's get to go on a school wide scavenger hunt.

**CATHY:** And play games and win prizes all day long!

**BILLIE:** I'm telling you it's not fair! For a minor infraction that didn't get anyone hurt.

**CATHY:** You glued Bobby to a chair.

**BILLIE:** So?

**CATHY:** So? He cried for, like, an hour.

**BILLIE:** So. He didn't get hurt.

**APRIL:** I bet his feelings got hurt.

**BILLIE:** Please, he knows it was just a joke. I mean, all the kids laughed right?

**APRIL:** Joke or no joke, he was really sad for the rest of the week.

*BILLIE see's Bobby running around outside with the other kids.*

**BILLIE:** Yeah well... he doesn't look too said right now.

That's it. I gotta get out of here. I've got to get out of here. I belong out there. Free to roam the halls. Free to play games all day. Free to drink pop!

*They all stop and stare out the window.*

**ALL:** Poppoooooooooooo!!!!

**APRIL:** Cold.

**BILLIE:** Refreshing.

**CATHY:** Pop.

**BILLIE:** That's it. We're breaking out of this joint. We're gonna get us some of what is rightly ours.

*BILLIE gets up out his chair and heads for the door. Just as she's about to bolt from the classroom, APRIL cries out.*

**APRIL:** BILLIE! Wait!

**BILLIE:** What?

**APRIL:** What about the letter Principal Johnson said we had to write for her?

**BILLIE:** It's the last day of school! I'm not writing no stinking letter, while those goodie two-shoes get to run around and play.

**CATHY:** She is not going to let us out of here, Billie, unless we write down the reason we're always getting detention, week after week, all year long.

**BILLIE:** Why should we have to write her a letter? Geez. She put us in detention—she should at least know why!

*APRIL and CATHY just look at each other and shake their heads.*

**BILLIE:** Why are you both staring at me?

**APRIL:** Because, Billie. Maybe, just maybe, those kids out there deserve the play day.

**CATHY:** And what we don't?

**BILLIE:** Exactly.

*BILLIE heads for the door again.*

**APRIL:** Before you two showed up, as per usual... I had some time to actually think about what Mrs. Johnson said.

**BILLIE:** Ummm... not to sound too crazy, but what did she say?

**CATHY:** You seriously don't remember?

**BILLIE:** Ah... sorry, Cathy. Refresh my memory.

**APRIL:** She said, "You three have sat in my office this year more than my secretary. So now, I want you sit in detention and write down the reason why."

**BILLIE:** Yeah, I remember her saying that, but who was listening?

**CATHY:** She also said, if we could honestly write down the reason why, she would let us go outside and play with the other kids.

**BILLIE:** That's crazy! I don't trust her for a second.

**APRIL:** Sute yourself, but I'm gonna get out of here today. The right way. You wanna break out? Break out. See how far that gets you.

*BILLIE looks at the girls for a second. She moves slowly back to her chair and just as we think she has heard what they have said, she bolts for door.*

**BILLIE:** See ya, Suckers!!!

**APRIL and CATHY:** Billie! Wait!

*It's too late. Her fate is now in her own hands. The two girls watch BILLIE running around outside the window. CATHY thinks about making a break for it. APRIL moves back to her seat.*

*CATHY and APRIL moves back to her seat.*

**CATHY:** What do you think we should write about?

*They both think for a long moment. And then it hits them. They realize why they have been in detention all year.*

**APRIL:** Agh... we're bullies!

**CATHY:** Just like BILLIE!

*The girls sit back at their desks and begin writing.*

**APRIL:** Dear Mrs. Johnson

**CATHY:** Dear Principal Johnson

*From offstage, shouting can be heard.*

**BILLIE (O.S.):** No—wait! You can't bring me back to detention! What do you mean I'm gonna be spending the rest of next year in there? That kid fell down by himself!

*APRIL and CATHY look up from their writing at each other, then continue writing.*

END SCENE