

1 PHILLIP: Me or her?  
2 MR. DOBBS: She leaves! You stay! Now, take a seat!  
3 PHILLIP: Again, I would, but ... I don't think she's budging.  
4 MADISON: I'm not!  
5 MR. DOBBS: Fine! Fine, fine, fine, fine, fine! One more picture  
6 of you, Miss Riley!  
7 MADISON: Thank you.  
8 MR. DOBBS: Shoulders to the side. Chin down. Head tilted. Sit  
9 up straight. And hold it ... *(Steps back.) Smile!*  
10 MADISON: *(Quickly moves into a dramatic pose and smiles. After*  
11 *the picture is taken, she jumps up.) Yes!*  
12 MR. DOBBS: I told you not to do that! The school pictures are  
13 all supposed to look the same!  
14 MADISON: *(Smiling)* Oops. Sorry.  
15 MR. DOBBS: Sit down! We're doing it again!  
16 MADISON: No! I liked that pose! It'll be cute.  
17 MR. DOBBS: Sit down!  
18 MADISON: No! *(Starts off.)*  
19 MR. DOBBS: *(Follows her.)* Come back here! We're going to take  
20 another picture of you! Then another and another and  
21 another if that's what it takes! You will look like the rest of  
22 your classmates!  
23 MADISON: But I don't want to look like the rest of my  
24 classmates! I want to look cute! *(MADISON and MR. DOBBS*  
25 *exit as PHILLIP is left standing there. After a moment, he sits*  
26 *down in the chair, looks around, and then smiles.)*

## 2. Lost

CAST: (1M, 3F) MRS. MILLS, RYAN, CASSIE, JANIE

PROPS: Map, schedule.

SETTING: Classroom.

1 *(At rise MRS. MILLS is teaching class as RYAN rushes into the*  
2 *room. CASSIE and JANIE are seated at their desks. Other*  
3 *students at desks are optional.)*  
4 MRS. MILLS: Correlative conjunctions are used to draw a  
5 correlation between elements in a sentence. They bring  
6 different things together and they work in pairs. For  
7 example ...  
8 RYAN: *(Enters.)* I know, I know, I know!  
9 MRS. MILLS: *(Looks at watch.)* Mr. Hodges, this is the third day  
10 in a row that you've been late to class.  
11 RYAN: I know!  
12 MRS. MILLS: First day of school, I could understand. Second  
13 day, OK, you're still finding your way around. But today ... ?  
14 RYAN: OK, so I was coming from the science wing and I took a  
15 right at the gym, left at the choir room, then another right  
16 at the cafeteria, but then I just stopped and looked  
17 around. I thought, am I supposed to go to the right or to  
18 the left? Right or left? So I took a right.  
19 MRS. MILLS: That was wrong.  
20 RYAN: I know that now.  
21 MRS. MILLS: Mr. Hodges, did you not receive a school map on  
22 the first day of school?  
23 RYAN: *(Pulls out a large map.)* I have it right here. But it's still  
24 confusing!  
25 MRS. MILLS: Hogwash. Anyone with any common sense can  
26 look at a map and find their way around. *(Takes map.)* How

1 hard is this? A Hall, B Hall, C Hall ...  
 2 RYAN: D Hall, E Hall, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N ... There's a hundred  
 3 freaking halls in this school! I mean, in elementary, there  
 4 were like four halls, plus the cafeteria and the gym. But  
 5 this ... *(Waves map.)* Look, Z-14! I have a math class in Hall  
 6 Z-14, Room 240, I think. But I haven't even made it in  
 7 there yet!  
 8 MRS. MILLS: You've never been to your math class? Where  
 9 have you been going?  
 10 RYAN: Roaming the halls looking for Z-14!  
 11 MRS. MILLS: Then why didn't you go to the office and ask for  
 12 help?  
 13 RYAN: Because I couldn't find the office!  
 14 MRS. MILLS: Mr. Hodges, watch your tone of voice with me!  
 15 RYAN: I'm sorry.  
 16 MRS. MILLS: Class, is anyone else having trouble finding their  
 17 way around school? *(CASSIE raises her hand.)* Yes, Cassie?  
 18 CASSIE: Well, on the first day of school I accidentally went to  
 19 lunch during third period instead of fourth.  
 20 MRS. MILLS: But did you get lost?  
 21 CASSIE: No, Ma'am.  
 22 MRS. MILLS: And have you been late to class?  
 23 CASSIE: No, Ma'am.  
 24 MRS. MILLS: And do you think you could find the Z-14 hall?  
 25 CASSIE: Yes, Ma'am, because I have a class in the Z-15 hall, so  
 26 I'd be just one hall over.  
 27 MRS. MILLS: Then could you please come up here and explain  
 28 to Mr. Hodges how to find the Z-14 hall?  
 29 CASSIE: Sure. *(Goes to the front of the classroom. Takes RYAN'S*  
 30 *map.)* OK, here's the front of the school.  
 31 RYAN: But I'm not coming from the front of the school!  
 32 MRS. MILLS: Do you always have to make everything so  
 33 difficult?  
 34 CASSIE: It's OK. So where do you start?  
 35 RYAN: *(Takes out his schedule.)* OK, from Hall G-22 I go to Hall Z-14.

1 CASSIE: OK, that's easy. Look.  
 2 MRS. MILLS: Are you paying attention, Mr. Hodges?  
 3 RYAN: Yes, Ma'am.  
 4 CASSIE: So here you are at Hall G-22, right?  
 5 RYAN: Right.  
 6 CASSIE: *(Points to the map.)* So you take a right here, then two  
 7 quick lefts, then another right, up the stairs to the S-Wing,  
 8 another right, up one more flight of stairs to the W-Hall,  
 9 an immediate left, a little curve to the right and a quick  
 10 left and there you are! Hall Z-14!  
 11 RYAN: A right, then two quick lefts, then what?  
 12 CASSIE: Do you want me to use my highlighter on your map?  
 13 MRS. MILLS: Oh my gosh! You'd think this was rocket science!  
 14 Mr. Hodges, was Cassie not clear enough on the  
 15 directions?  
 16 RYAN: Sure, but ... OK, it's a right, a left, another left, up the  
 17 stairs, then right or left ... *(Screams in frustration)* I can't  
 18 remember! How am I supposed to remember all that?  
 19 CASSIE: *(Trying to be helpful)* Mrs. Mills, I can highlight this for  
 20 Ryan.  
 21 MRS. MILLS: Class, does anyone else have trouble  
 22 understanding these directions? *(Pause)* Anyone? Janie, do  
 23 you think you could find your way to Hall Z-14?  
 24 JANIE: Yes, Ma'am.  
 25 MRS. MILLS: Could you come up here and give Ryan the  
 26 directions one more time since he's never even been to his  
 27 class in Hall Z-14?  
 28 JANIE: *(Moves to the front of the class.)* Yes, Ma'am. *(Takes the*  
 29 *map.)* You're starting from Hall G-22, right?  
 30 RYAN: Mrs. Mills, is this really necessary? I'll study my map  
 31 tonight, OK?  
 32 MRS. MILLS: But you need to find your math class in Hall Z-14  
 33 today, isn't that correct, Mr. Hodges?  
 34 RYAN: Yes, but ...  
 35 MRS. MILLS: Go ahead, Janie.

1 JANIE: (*Holding up map*) OK, starting from Hall G-22, you take  
 2 a right, then a left, then another left, then a right, go up  
 3 the stairs to the S-Wing, then take a right, then up another  
 4 flight of stairs to the W-Hall, then a left, then turn right  
 5 here, turn quickly to the right and there you are. Got it?  
 6 RYAN: No! No, I don't have it!  
 7 MRS. MILLS: (*Shaking head, frustrated*) Mr. Hodges, do you have  
 8 any sense of direction?  
 9 RYAN: Sense of direction, yes, but finding my way around a  
 10 hundred different halls, no!  
 11 JANIE: Maybe I should write it down for him.  
 12 RYAN: Do you mind?  
 13 MRS. MILLS: And what's going to happen when you enter the  
 14 real world, Mr. Hodges? When you learn to drive and have  
 15 to find your way around the city? Are you going to drive  
 16 around all day and miss work because you couldn't find  
 17 the correct street?  
 18 RYAN: No, I'll probably have a GPS. Hey, maybe I need a GPS for  
 19 school! (*He laughs, but the others don't.*)  
 20 MRS. MILLS: That wasn't funny.  
 21 RYAN: Obviously not.  
 22 JANIE: I have a suggestion.  
 23 MRS. MILLS: Yes, Janie?  
 24 JANIE: I could stay after school and teach him how to find his  
 25 way around.  
 26 CASSIE: I could help, too.  
 27 MRS. MILLS: Thank you, girls. That's very nice of you.  
 28 RYAN: I'm not staying after school!  
 29 MRS. MILLS: I don't see that you have a choice, Mr. Hodges.  
 30 RYAN: (*Halfway laughing*) I don't need two girls showing me  
 31 how to get to my classes.  
 32 MRS. MILLS: Mr. Hodges, how many days have you been in this  
 33 school?  
 34 RYAN: Three.  
 35 MRS. MILLS: And how many times have you been late for my

1 class?  
 2 RYAN: Three.  
 3 MRS. MILLS: And how many classes have you been late for, not  
 4 including mine?  
 5 RYAN: Not counting the classes I never went to because I  
 6 couldn't find them?  
 7 MRS. MILLS: Yes!  
 8 RYAN: All of them. I've either been late or never went because  
 9 I was lost.  
 10 MRS. MILLS: And you don't need help after school learning  
 11 your way around?  
 12 RYAN: I don't think so.  
 13 MRS. MILLS: Quick! How do you get to Hall Z-14?  
 14 RYAN: Uh, a right, a left, uh, another right, uh, up the stairs ...  
 15 MRS. MILLS: Wrong! Cassie, Janie, plan on helping Mr. Hodges  
 16 after school.  
 17 RYAN: But ...  
 18 MRS. MILLS: And plan to go over it again and again if that's  
 19 what it takes!  
 20 RYAN: But ...  
 21 MRS. MILLS: Thank you, girls. And Mr. Hodges, tomorrow ...  
 22 don't be late!  
 23 RYAN: But ...  
 24 JANIE: And remember, Ryan, each flight of stairs has its own  
 25 letter, too. A-F stairs are on the first floor.  
 26 CASSIE: G-L stairs are on the second floor.  
 27 JANIE: M and N are a little confusing because they go down to  
 28 the basement, but if you accidentally go down there and  
 29 get lost, just take the B-1 or B-14 hall back to the main  
 30 stairs, then you can start from the beginning.  
 31 CASSIE: And you can always go to the office.  
 32 RYAN: Wherever that is.  
 33 CASSIE: It's behind the band hall. See, you come in through the  
 34 main entrance, take a right at the teacher's lounge, quick  
 35 left at the cafeteria, turn down the D hall, take the E stairs

1 to the second floor, then another right to the G stairs, but  
2 remember, don't take the M stairs because that'll take you  
3 back down to the basement, and then ...  
4 RYAN: Whoa! Wait! Stop! Please, stop!  
5 MRS. MILLS: Confused again, Mr. Hodges?  
6 RYAN: Confused? Yes, I'm confused! Confused out of my mind!  
7 MRS. MILLS: *(Shaking her head)* Some students just try my  
8 patience.  
9 JANIE: It's not that hard, Ryan.  
10 CASSIE: Really!  
11 MRS. MILLS: All right, everyone back in their seats. Why don't  
12 we spend the rest of the class time doing something else  
13 besides teaching Mr. Hodges how to find his way around  
14 the school! All right, everyone open their books to chapter  
15 two. Mr. Hodges, do you need help finding chapter two?

## 3. A Change of Attitude

CAST: (2M, 1F) JAVIER, DEREK, TRINA  
PROPS: Lunch trays, utensils, glass of water.

1 *(At rise JAVIER and DEREK are sitting at a table in a*  
2 *lunchroom.)*  
3 JAVIER: *(Eating, with his mouth full)* Derek, what's wrong with  
4 you? Why aren't you eating?  
5 DEREK: Because I'm fat!  
6 JAVIER: What?  
7 DEREK: I'm fat!  
8 JAVIER: That's ridiculous! You're not fat!  
9 DEREK: Yes, I am! *(Stands, squeezes his stomach.)* See?  
10 JAVIER: No.  
11 DEREK: *(Continues to squeeze his stomach.)* Look! See?  
12 JAVIER: Quit being stupid. Sit down and eat. You're not fat.  
13 DEREK: *(Sits down.)* Do you know how many calories are in a  
14 kernel of corn?  
15 JAVIER: I don't know? Maybe one?  
16 DEREK: Then I'll only eat like fifty or something. That should  
17 get me through the day. *(Eats a kernel.)* One. Two.  
18 *(Continues to eat and count.)*  
19 TRINA: *(Enters carrying a lunch tray.)* Hey, guys.  
20 JAVIER: Hey, Trina.  
21 DEREK: Three ... four ... five ...  
22 TRINA: Derek, why are you counting kernels of corn?  
23 DEREK: I'm counting calories.  
24 TRINA: Why?  
25 JAVIER: He's on a diet.