

Shut up! MARK

Give me back my money or I'm going to scream louder. CHRIS

No. MARK

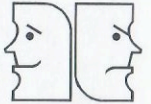
HELP!!! CHRIS

Okay. Okay. (Handing him the money) Here. Take your stupid money. But you're going to pay me tomorrow or I'm going to smash your face in. You got that? MARK

I got it. CHRIS

Chris runs off.

How does that loser get a date to the prom? I'm better looking than him. MARK



✕ Quitting School

INT. BEN'S ROOM

Ben and his dad, Rick, are in the middle of a fight.

RICK
You're not quitting school!

BEN
I've already made up my mind.

RICK
Well, then unmake it. As long as you live in this house, under my roof, you young man will go to school!

BEN
Then I'll move out!

Ben grabs his gym bag and starts throwing his clothes in it.

RICK
You'll be back as soon as it gets dark.

BEN
You'll see.

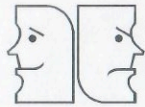
RICK
No, you'll see. You'll see what it's like to live on the street. To beg for food and money. To always be freezing cold. And scared. You'll see how good you have it here.

BEN
Yeah, real good. You're always yelling at me.

RICK
I yell because I care about you.

BEN
Yeah right.

Rick grabs his son.



Sensational Dramatic Scenes

RICK

I do. I care about you more than you'll ever know. Son, I didn't finish school and look how my life turned out. This place is run down. Our car—I barely make enough for us to live on. But Ben, you're smart. You could make something of yourself son. I believe in you.

BEN

But—

RICK

But what?

BEN

School is hard.

RICK

You think life is any easier?

BEN

Forget it. You won't understand.

RICK

Explain it to me then. Why do you want to quit school?

Ben opens his school backpack, pulls out a piece of paper and hands it to his dad.

RICK (cont'd)

What's this?

BEN

My SAT's. Look at my score.

RICK

Six hundred! Wow!

BEN

Dad, six hundred is terrible.

RICK

Oh.

BEN

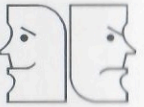
I'm wasting my time in school.

RICK

You're right, you should quit.

BEN

What?



Sensational Dramatic Scenes

RICK

You should quit. You took this test and it proves you're stupid. So quit.

BEN

I'm not stupid!

RICK

Really? Then take the test again. Prove it.

BEN

But it's a hard test.

RICK

Then work harder. If you want to run a marathon, you have to train.

BEN

You're right! I'm not a quitter. I'll take it again. But don't think you're so smart. That reverse psychology stuff doesn't work on me.

RICK

(Laughs) Of course not. You're not that stupid.