



Reaching Out to Victims Program Script

ACT ONE

Fade Up

Dieter screen left, pouring over a stack of books.

Dieter: (Slowly and deliberately) Okay. You've got three light bulbs. All in a row. (Thinking hard) Gggrrr. They call that a.... series. You wire them up, in a single line: 1, 2, 3, and connect the wire to the battery. But if you take another wire...

Enter Zazi screen right

Zazi: Dieter is that you?

Dieter: Of course it is Zazi. What do you think?

Zazi: Isn't there a pick-up game at the park today, starting like, right now?

Dieter: I know, I know. But I am really desperate. Our science unit on electricity is really getting me down.

Zazi: How come?

Dieter: (with growing anger) A few little things: electrons, protons, neutrons.

And...(Chants blissfully like *Om*) Ohms. (Sighs) And my learning group is a mess.

Zazi: That's not good. What's going on with the group?

Dieter: It's an ugly, freaky, mashed-up, whacked-out mess!

Zazi: Dieter, it will be okay. Believe me.

Dieter: I'm not so sure.

Zazi: Sure it will.... Hey, Dieter, what did the lightning say to the rain?

Dieter: What!

Zazi: What did the lightning say to the rain?

Dieter: (dejected) I don't know Zazi, what did it say?

Zazi: Lighten up! Tsk, tsk, tsk. A little science humor.

Dieter: I knew I didn't like science

Zazi: No, come on. Here is a good one.

Dieter: Oh, please Zazi!

Zazi: You are always cheering me up. Give me a chance. This one is right up your alley.

Dieter: Alright, alright.

Zazi: Two atoms are walking down the street. One trips and falls. His friend says, "Are you OK?" "No, I lost an electron!" "Are you sure?" "Yeah...., I'm POSITIVE!" Tsk, tsk, tsk.

Dieter: *Exhales and shakes his head*

Zazi: Come on, Dieter. That was pretty funny.

Dieter: Maybe if I understood atoms. (dejected) And maybe I am just not in the mood.

Zazi: You *are* really down. What's going on?

Dieter: My science table!

Zazi: How so?

Dieter: Nobody's getting along. Nothing is getting done.

Zazi: Hmm.

Dieter: Peter and Asha are in it and are really smart and understand *everything* without doing *anything*.

Zazi: That's not very helpful is it?

Dieter: No, it's not. There are a couple of kids who never open their mouth.

Zazi: There are always a couple of those.

Dieter: There is me, who just doesn't get it.

Zazi: You probably get it more than you think.

Dieter: Well.... And then there is Larry. The new kid. When he came in, things started turning into a mash up.

Zazi: How so?

Dieter: I think he is trying a little too hard to fit in. Tells a lot of jokes. Acts up a lot. (Moment of revelation) Kind of like me...on steroids.

Zazi: Like Dieter to the power of two?

Dieter: More science humor?

Zazi: No, math. Like a couple of Dieters in one body.

Dieter: Frightening! But yes.

Zazi: I hear he is really funny, though.

Dieter: He's hilarious, but that's the problem. He gets us going and we never get anything done.

Zazi: Not good

Dieter: No, it's not. And he is a little wacky too. Yesterday, I was trying to connect the light bulb when he told a joke and slapped me on the back so hard the bulb went flying across the table. I started to get angry, but then I saw he was just having a good time.

Zazi: That must have caused a commotion in class.

Dieter: Luckily, Mrs. Lessing was all the way across the room dealing with another group.

Zazi: Or not so lucky. Sounds like you need some help.

Dieter: Maybe, cause it gets worse.

Zazi: I was afraid of that.

Dieter: Larry gets kinda loud sometimes and tries to take over when he really doesn't know what he is doing.

Zazi: Not good. He is having trouble on the playground too.

Dieter: I am not surprised.

Zazi: He almost got into a fight when he really wanted to get in on a card game and the kids didn't let him play. He got mad and then some of the kids started calling him names.

Dieter: Not good.

Zazi: Not good at all. He kind of threw a fit and the teachers took him inside to cool down.

Dieter: Ooops! Been there, done that! Maybe that is why he got so mad when Peter and Asha told him to sit down and be quiet. And that is *not* how they said it.

Zazi; (exhales) Peter and Asha know better.

Dieter: And they started calling him names too. Kind of under their breath, but I know he can hear it.

Zazi: Boy, this guy is having a really hard time.

Dieter: He is. I can see the name calling really hurts his feelings.

Zazi: I wonder if there is something we could do about all this?

Dieter: I talked to Peter and Asha about the name calling. That should help.

Zazi: Has it so far?

Dieter: Well, not so much.

Zazi: Does Mrs. Lessing know what's going on?

Dieter: I'm sure. She knows *everything*. But I haven't talked to her about it.

Zazi: Dieter, I think you need to talk to her.

Dieter: I don't know, Zazi. I can handle it.

Zazi: I am not so sure, Dieter. This is a big deal.

Dieter: Let's give it a couple of days. Maybe things will chill out.

Zazi: What is the *problem* with talking to Mrs. Lessing?

Dieter: Cause then everyone gets in trouble. Look, I like Larry. I know what he is going through. I can handle this.

Zazi: Didn't you just tell me the group was an *ugly, freaky, mashed-up, whacked-out mess*?

Dieter: (reluctantly) Yes....

Zazi: You're upset. You're not getting your work done. This could start affecting your grade.

Dieter: Gggrrrades! Maybe we *should* do something....

Zazi: Let's go see Mike. I am sure he will have some good ideas.

Dieter: Alright, let's go.

Dieter and Zazi exit screen right.

Dieter: (looks back at the books) Gggrrr. Zazi, can you help me carry this stuff? It's really heavy.

Fade Out



ACT TWO

Fade Up

Mike is screen right as Zazi, then Dieter enters screen left

Mike: My two favorite people.

Dieter and Zazi: Hey Mike.

Mike: What's going on?

Zazi: There is a new boy at school who is trying really hard to make friends but the kids are being really mean.

Mike: Sorry to hear that

Zazi: He is having conflicts on the playground

Dieter: And problems in my science group too

Mike: Why is he having so many problems?

Dieter: He is kind of a class clown. He is really funny, but it's hard to get anything done when he is around.

Mike: Been there, done that!

Dieter: And he's kinda got a short temper too. When the kids hassle him, he can get really mad.

Mike: And the kids get angry too?

Dieter: Yeah

Mike: And call him names?

Dieter: Yep

Zazi: Happens on the playground too.

Mike: What kind of names are they calling him?

Zazi: (ashamed) Stupid. Idiot. Moron.

Dieter: And some kids told him to go back to his old school.

Mike: Ouch! That's a shame. Dieter, all this can't be helping with your science work.

Dieter: No, its not. And it was pretty gnarly for me in there already.

Mike: So what are we going to do to help this new kid, uh... (Looks at Zazi)

Zazi: Larry...

Mike: ...Cause, you know, we have got to break this cycle of meanness, anger and bullying.

Dieter: Zazi thinks I should talk to Mrs. Lessing about it.

Mike: I think that might be a good idea. What's the problem?

Dieter: I don't want to get anyone in trouble.

Mike: Dieter, do you really think you can handle this by yourself?

Dieter: Well...maybe not.

Zazi: If Mrs. Lessing knows there's a problem, she can come around to your table more often to work with you guys.

Mike: And maybe you and Larry can go over the stuff together.

Zazi: Mrs. Lessing is always helping kids after class. You could talk to her about that *too*.

Dieter: I don't know.

Mike: Why not?

Dieter: Won't the kids start calling me moron and idiot too?

Zazi: Not while I am around! Hey, maybe I'll join the group. Science has never been my best subject either.

Dieter: Right. Like you got an A- once.

Zazi: B+. But that is not the point.

Mike: How do you think we could get the kids to be nicer to him?

Zazi: We could ask them how they would feel if they came to a new school and didn't know anybody.

Mike: Good.

Dieter: And I could bring him around to my friends. He would really crack them up.

Mike: That's a great idea.

Zazi: Maybe we could find out what Larry is good at. He really wanted to play cards on the playground.

Dieter: Maybe he can teach us some new games. I am so tired of fish. *Go fish, go fish, go fiiisshhhh.*

Mike: I think you guys have figured this out. The point is to reach out. Be caring.

Zazi: Empathic!

Mike: Nice, Zazi. Empathetic. If people are nicer to Larry and include him in stuff, he might relax and be less frustrated.

Dieter: And we can avoid a big *us-them*, bullying, mash up thing.

Mike: So you are going to talk to Mrs. Lessing about all this?

Dieter: Yep, sounds like I'm going to.

Mike: Always good to reach out for help when you need it.

Dieter: And I've got a lot to learn here.... Like new card tricks.

Zazi: What??

Dieter: Card tricks. I am thinking Larry might be able to teach me some new card tricks.

Zazi: Dieter, You are taking random to a whole new level.

Mike: (Laughing) We are all wired a little differently. Keeps life interesting, especially if we are open to what we can learn. One of my favorite kids of all times came up to me and said, he's eight, (in voice) "Mr. Pritchard, did you know that *silent* and *listen* have the same letters in it?" Wow Johnnie, no I didn't know that. "Well, they do. Same with *secure* and *rescue*. I'm lydesic, I misspell as lot."

Dieter and Zazi look at each other laughing.

Zazi: So, are you saying I can learn from Dieter, even when he is being random?

Mike: Sure can!

Dieter: And from Larry too. Never underestimate the power of a... *new card trick*.

Mike: (Laughing) You're right Dieter. Don't underestimate the new kid in school, cause you never know what you might learn.

Zazi: Like maybe you have a lot in common.

Mike: Absolutely. Common feelings, common opinions

Zazi: Common interests

Dieter: Common *card tricks*!

Zazi: Dieter!

Dieter: I wonder if he knows the *Famous Four Ace Trick*.

Zazi: Will you stop!

Dieter: Or the *Dream Queen Magic*.

Mike: Dieter!!

Dieter: Yes, Mike.

Mike: Goodbye Dieter.
Dieter: Oh, right. We have a lot of work to do.
Zazi: And the card trick can wait till later.
Dieter: Oooh. *CARD TRICKS!*
Mike laughs as Zazi shakes her head
Fade Out

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