

## New Friends

### Scene One

Marilyn: It's going to be hard, but I'm going to try not to make any jokes today. I want to make a good false impression on the teachers.

Alex: Good idea! I think I'll do that too.

Mariana walks in, trying not to meet their eyes.

Marilyn: Oh, hi, Mariana!

Mariana squeaks and proceeds to her seat wordlessly.

Alex: How was your summer, Mariana?

Mariana: (almost inaudible) It was okay.

Oliver and Johnny walk in together.

Oliver: I can't believe they lost the game!

Johnny: They didn't! That foul was totally wrong!

They find their seats.

Ava walks in and silently proceeds to her seat.

AJ walks in and the class pretends not to notice, glancing warily over their shoulders. He finds his seat.

Emma, Gwen, Sera, and Olivia walk in together, chattering and laughing.

Emma: Isn't that unbelievable?

Gwen: I know, right?!

Sera: Totally!

Olivia: Oh my gosh YES!

They sit down together.

Jackson and Joel walk in.

Jackson: ...and so then I hit the home run, and everyone got home, and we won the game!

Joel: Hmm.

They sit down.

Felix and Felicia walk in. They're playfully arguing.

They sit down as the bell rings.

Mrs. Sashinson: Welcome to science class. I'm Mrs. Sashinson. Today we'll be discussing Punnett Square...

Rosemary walks in, panting. Everyone stares.

Jackson: (whisper in Joel's ear) Yo, she's late. Way to start the year!

Joel: Hmm.

Laura walks in, panting. Everyone stares.

Johnny: (whisper in Oliver's ear) Yo, that's the shortest sophomore I've ever seen.

Rosemary and Laura: Sorry I'm late.

Mrs. Sashinson: That's okay, dears. We're discussing Punnett Square. A brilliant system, it is...

Johnny raises his hand.

Mrs. Sashinson: Yes...?

Johnny: I'm Johnny. What is Peanut Square?

Mrs. Sashinson sighs.

Laura raises her hand.

Mrs. Sashinson: Yes, Laura?

Laura stands up.

Laura: It's a system designed to determine the probability that someone will inherit a given trait from their parents. And I think that I have discovered a better way to pinpoint the probability.

Here, I'll show—

Oliver: Nobody cares, Geekiana!

The bell rings.

Mrs. Sashinson claps her hands as students start to get up.

Mrs. Sashinson: We'll continue this tomorrow. See you then!

Blackout.

Hallway.

Laura: Um, excuse me. Where's Room 128?

Mariana: It's...I don't know. But I can lead you there.

Laura: Thanks.

Beat.

Mariana: I'd love to hear your idea, Laura.

Laura: What idea?

Mariana: About Punnett Square.

Laura: Ohhh! Sure, I'll tell you.

Mariana: Me? You want to talk to me?

Laura: Why wouldn't I? You seem awesome!

Mariana: I guess I think that just because I haven't been able to make friends in the past means that no one wants to be my friend. But I guess new kids are like a way to restart. I should probably look to them in the future.

Laura: I don't have any friends either. In fifth grade I was a huge nerd. They moved me up to sophomore high and now I definitely don't have any friends. I'm the 11-year-old genius. It's not fun.

Mariana: You're only *eleven*?! That's just...wow. You're amazing.

Laura: I guess.

Mariana: So you knew, like, the whole curriculum for all the grades before this?

Laura: No, I'm just a quick learner and can easily figure things out.

Mariana: Awesome! And here we are! Room 128.

Mr. Redrin: Hello and welcome to this year's math class! Now, sophomore math is a step up, as with every new year...

Lights fade to black as Mr. Redrin keeps talking. Laura and Mariana are grinning at each other.

Scene Three

Split stage; half Mariana's house with Mariana her father, and half Laura's father and her in theirs.

Fathers: So, did you make any new friends this year?

Laura and Mariana: Absolutely!

Lights dim. Curtain closes.