

Actor1:

Here we go, another day of fun filled learning. *[Exit]*

Actor2:

[Smacks 'snooze button']

MOTHER: VOICEOVER

Wake up. It's time for school.

Actor3:

[No response]

Actor4:

[Wakes silently and walks to 'bathroom']

Actor5:

Morning *[smiles]*

MOTHER: VOICEOVER

Get up.

Actor2:

[Smacks 'snooze button']

Actor6:

[Ugh] School; only a few more weeks until graduation.

Actor2:

Eff! I'm late!

Actor7:

[Shivers and wakes silently]

Actor3:

I'm not going today. I can't put up with another day of the harassing. Mom knows I'm not sick; she just goes along with it because she doesn't know how to help me. She tries, but in the end she can't stop them. I haven't really told her what happened; I haven't told anyone. I'm going to just lay here in bed and cry to myself, pretending that tomorrow everything will be ok.

Actor7:

[Walks silently across stage, downtrodden]

Actor5:

[Driving] So when are you going to tell them?

Actor4:

Honestly it isn't any of your business? I shouldn't have told you.

Actor5:

{NAME} They love you, it doesn't matter that you're gay.

Actor4:

Seriously I don't want to talk about it right now.

Actor1:

[Walks to center, joyful]

CAR: ^{VOICEOVER}

[Honk] FAGGOTT

Actor1:

[Waves] Awe thanks.

Actor2:

[Walks center] I used to take the bus, until I got hit with pens, an apple, and a bible. The bus driver did nothing. *[Pops hood and walks off]*

Actor6:

[Walks back, bus aisle, sits quietly and puts in headphones.]

Actor7:

Thanks Coach

Actor6:

I have to share a locker with my best friend, because if I use my own locker I risk getting shoved into one. Last year they broke my arm. When my mom came to the school to take me to the hospital, I told everyone I fell down the stairs, because I was too afraid to tell them the truth.

Actor5:

{NAME} came out to me at the beginning of the school year, but I've known for the longest time. Word travels fast around school. I worry about him sometimes. These hallways can be treacherous.

Actor4:

My sister worries too much. I can fend for myself.

Actor5:

I've seen what some of the other gay kids go through; I don't want him to get hurt.

Actor7:

[Mimes showering]

Actor3:

I see the way he looks at me, I feel uncomfortable; I won't do anything about it, I'm too scared. But his eyes are everywhere, those dark pools of greed and lust.

It makes me sick to see him, so I keep my eyes down and hurry to class.

Maybe once I'm in the classroom I will be safe.

Actor1:

[Flamboyantly] Good Morning Mr. Thomas *[smiles]*

Actor2:

So I'm late for first period. I honestly don't care. The teacher won't care either, she doesn't ever care, or pay attention.

Actor7:

[Sits down and begins writing]

Actor2:

Don't stare at me! You think I don't feel your eyes on me? Your whispers, "is it a girl or a boy?" SHUT UP!

Actor1:

Did anybody besides me notice that our anti-bullying and harassment policy doesn't mention sexual orientation or gender expression? Or the fact that our history teacher only mentions LGBT issues when we talked about the AIDs epidemic? And my relationship does not exist according to my health teacher. Something has to be done.

Actor7:

My grades were okay, for a while. But lately, I've been failing classes. It is hard to pay attention, when I'm more worried about where I'm going to sleep tonight, or when I'm going to get my next meal.

Actor2:

The other day this kid in my class decided it would be funny to openly call me an 'it'. Did the teacher say anything? Hell no. She acted like she didn't hear it. But when the same kid whispered a cuss word she stopped in the middle of the lecture and scolded him for ten minutes.

Actor4:

Some girl was talking about the book we were reading in class.

DITZYGIRL: VOICEOVER

This book is soo gay.

Actor4:

My teacher stopped dead in his tracks, turned to the girl and said,

TEACHER: VOICEOVER

Really that book likes other books? That is so scandalous.

Actor4:

I laughed so hard I almost peed my pants.

Actor2

After each period gets out I run very quickly to my next class, but I still have to take back hallways. If I take the fastest routes, the main hallways, I'm going to get pushed into the walls, shoved by those who are bigger than me. There are teachers in the hallways, they see it happening. Do they do anything? No, not a thing.

Actor1:

Would you go to a meeting of The Gay-Straight Alliance, if our school had one?

Actor6:

The GSA at our school exists. I went once, but it's kind of a joke. There were only five kids (all freshmen), the teacher isn't really involved, and they have no way of promoting. It made me sad.

Actor7:

I love going to GSA, it's the only place I feel safe in school.

Actor1:

No it isn't just some gay club; it is for anyone who wants to support the LGBTQA community in our school.

Actor2:

I went to GSA once. Then I got the crap beat out of me. Needless to say I haven't gone back.

Actor4&5:

Our school doesn't have a GSA

Actor4:

I asked the secretary in the school activities office if we had a GSA, she told me that the school doesn't allow immoral clubs.

Actor5:

I tried to start one last year, the administration said no. I didn't try to fight it.

Actor1:

I'm serious, we could change this place. I sent an email to our principal requesting a meeting with him to discuss starting a GSA. His exact response,

PRINCIPAL: ^{VOICEOVER} **& Actor1:**

I will not allow a student club that defies the moral values of our society. There will be no school sponsored GSA. Thank You for your email.

Actor1:

Oh hell to the no. This isn't fair, it isn't right! We deserve to meet just like any other club. Oh and one question, how does a group of kids meeting and discussing their lives and being in a safe environment have anything to do with defying the moral values of society?

Actor5:

{NAME} I'm sorry! I didn't know what else to do, you were getting picked on.

Actor4:

So that gives you the right to out me to mom and dad?

Actor5:

I'm sorry

Actor4:

You know what I found on my bed today when I got home? A bible and pamphlets on why it isn't ok to be gay. I get enough hatred when I'm at school; I don't need it from my parents too.

Actor5:

You think I don't know that? I hear what people call you, I see the things they write on your locker, I hear them whisper when I walk by, "there goes the fag's sister" I'm here to help you.

Actor4:

Well, did you ever think I didn't want your help in the first place?

Actor1:

So I was talking to my mom and she said she would be willing to go to a school board meeting with me to talk about starting a GSA. I love that my mom is so supportive.

Actor7:

My parents kicked me out when I told them I was bi.

Actor6:

I have two moms.

Actor1:

The meeting was a travesty. When it was our turn to speak, I got up and read my prepared speech. Then a few other students spoke. That was it, the board of directors didn't discuss the matter with any of us. They heard what we had to say and then moved on. I went home and cried. I was going to give up, but the next day I received an email from one of the board members.

FEMALE: VOICEOVER

Look up the equal access act, and don't give up without a fight.

Actor1:

My hope had been restored.

Actor6:

I'm not gay, or even bi, but people still call me names. When I report it, it just gets worse.

Actor2:

When I went to the administration, the principal wanted to hear what I had to say. But when all was said and done, his advice for me was,

PRINCIPAL: VOICEOVER

Have you thought about early graduation?

Actor2:

Nope never thought about it, but it is sounding like a good idea.

Actor5:

My parents sent {NAME} to an ex-gay retreat. They made him change everything in his life. He isn't allowed to listen to music, he has to wear clothes they approve of, and they have been setting him up on dates with girls from our church. This is entirely my fault

Actor1:

The Federal Equal Access Act of 1984 states that all federally funded secondary schools must allow equal access to extracurricular clubs. Basically if you have one non-curricular based club you have to allow any. If students are allowed to stay after school and play chess we are allowed to talk about gay stuff. But then, just as I thought we had seized victory, dark clouds once again began to gather on the horizon.

PRINCIPAL: VOICEOVER

Attention students. As of today there will be no school sponsored extracurricular activities, effective immediately. Thank You.

Actor1:

He found the loophole. All school clubs had been shut down, because a couple of queer students and their friends wanted to have a safe place to talk and have fun. I was expecting the student body to lash out at me and the other offending students. They didn't. Someone started a campaign on Facebook to allow ALL students clubs at our school. Within days we had the support of nearly three fourths of the school. And when we went before the school board as a whole, they ruled in favor of the students. We did it, we won.

Actor3:

I can't concentrate. I just keep thinking about it. It's time to talk to someone.

Actor7:

Most people at school don't know about the whole 'homeless' situation. I stay with friends when I can. The rest of the time, I sleep where it's safe; parks mainly. On those nights I just pray to God that I won't freeze to death or worse.
[Prays and curls up on bench]

Actor3:

Hi, My name is {Name}, I'd like to speak with my counselor. *[Nods]* Ok Thank You. *[To the audience]* Maybe this will help, but I have knots in my stomach, just like when it happened I can't do this, I'm too scared. They call my name and I just sit there, just like when it happened.

Actor4:

[As if looking in mirror] You're sick! YOU FUCKING FAGGOTT!
[Cuts self and slowly breaks down crying]

Actor5:

[knock] Are you okay?

Actor4:

Go away!

Actor3:

About a week ago, I was walking to the library during fifth period. I thought I was alone in the hallway, I wasn't. Just as I went to turn the corner a hand closed over my mouth and I was pushed into a small alcove where the bathroom doors were. His eyes were wild and he said,

BOY: ^{VOICEOVER}

Now what is a Dyke like you doing all alone on a day like today?

Actor3:

I couldn't think, couldn't move, my brain kept saying do something! But I just couldn't. He pressed his body against me and whispered in my ear,

BOY: ^{VOICEOVER}

I'm going to teach you a little lesson.

Actor3:

He dragged me into the bathroom and threw me against another wall. His hands slithered over my body, and I kept saying no please stop, but he couldn't hear me through his lust-clouded brain. He ripped open my shirt and then he, he grabbed my breasts. I was crying. After a few minutes of him touching me he looked into my eyes. Wild flames of hatred, rage and anger splayed in his dark orbs. Then he did what I had been dreading most, he pushed his crotch against mine and ground himself against me saying,

BOY: VOICEOVER

Let this be a warning to you. Dykes like you deserve this, and you know it

Actor3:

I was sobbing, but I couldn't make any words. He slapped me with so much force I fell to the floor. He spat on my face and then kicked me in the ribs.

BOY: VOICEOVER

See ya around carpet-muncher.

Actor3:

I lay on the cold tile for what felt like an eternity before I decided it was safe to leave, I went home. The searing pain in my side for the next few days told me something was wrong, but I ignored it and swallowed my pain. No matter how hot the water is when I shower, I can't get the filth off of my skin. I don't know if it will ever be gone, but the scars will always remain.

Actor2:

I got sick of everybody being so damn oblivious. So, I punched some kid in the face, because he called me a "tranny". I got expelled. At least I'm out of that hell hole.

Actor1&6&7:

I graduated!

(BANG!)

Actor5:

{NAME}!? {NAME}! *[holds limp body and cries]*

(Siren noises, followed by beeping of heart monitor)

(SILENCE 30SEC)

(ALL COMPOUNDING INTO A CACOPHONY OF SOUND)

Actor1:

What will you do [x7]

Actor2:

What will you do [x6]

Actor3:

What will you do [x5]

Actor5:

What will you do [x4]

Actor6:

What will you do [x3]

Actor7:

What will you do [x2]

(SILENCE)

Actor4:

To end the silence.