

## **SAMPLE PAGES – THE COMMITTEE**

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# THE COMMITTEE

An Anti-Bully Readers Theater Script

by Lois Walker

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## CAST:

5 Solo Readers

**PRODUCTION NOTES:** There is nothing humorous about bullying. Finding useful community solutions to bullying is a serious endeavor. But, with that said, all members of the community need to (1) *be able to readily recognize bullying behavior* and (2) *learn how to react safely and constructively when bullying is occurring*. This script was created to “lighten up” the learning of (1) and (2) above. Often, laughter can be the best teacher. If you can laugh while you learn, the learning sometimes becomes more meaningful.

In this Readers Theater script, the committee members are named ABLE-BODY, EVERYBODY, SOMEBODY, ANYBODY, and NOBODY. Some fun is had as committee President ABLE-BODY makes general statements about bullying that are taken personally by the strangely named committee members. (If you know the old comedy skit “Who’s On First?” you already understand the concept).

**PROPS:** (Use of props is optional). Large prop signs with the members names printed on them also add to the fun. Four readers carry large signs (mounted on sticks or handles) with their stage names printed on them: EVERYBODY, SOMEBODY, ANYBODY, and NOBODY. One reader wears a sign saying: PRESIDENT ABLE-BODY.

**OVERVIEW:** It is the writer’s hope that all the important information contained in the text will be more easily remembered by readers and audience because of the humor involved in the presentation. Have fun with this piece. The more ABLE-BODY is confused, frustrated, exasperated, and annoyed – the better. Readers’ facial expressions should communicate how individual characters are feeling during ABLE-BODY’S confusion. Remember, nobody is really on the “same page” here – except the audience.

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5 music stands stand, side by side, in the performance area. ABLE-BODY stands on either end of the line (or a little off to one side of the line). Reading scripts for each reader are placed on the appropriate music stands. All readers stand in front of his/her music stand with backs turned toward the audience. (BTA). All, except ABLE-BODY are making a lot of noise. There is much chit-chat going on between the other readers. (You might even use some recorded background noise to add to the bedlam).

(ABLE-BODY turns to face the audience, but the noise continues).

ABLE-BODY: Order! Order, please. This committee meeting of the LET'S STAMP OUT BULLYING AT \_\_\_\_\_ (your school) COMMITTEE will now come to order.

*(Readers turn to face the audience and continue chatting loudly to each other, waving to folks in the audience, etc.).*

ABLE-BODY: ORDER! I say ---- ORDER!

*(Chatter slowly dies down as committee members "shush" each other and try to come to attention. Finally all is quiet).*

ABLE-BODY: There – that's better! As most of you know, my name is President ABLE-BODY . Last year I was elected president of this LET'S STAMP OUT BULLYING AT \_\_\_\_\_ (your school) COMMITTEE, and here I am – as my name suggests – ready and *able* to lead our membership to victory over bullying behavior in our school.

*(All readers nod and applaud politely).*

ABLE-BODY: OK, I'm not sure everyone here knows everyone on the committee, so let me make some quick introductions. All committee members are present today and their names are: EVERYBODY, SOMEBODY, ANYBODY, and NOBODY!

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*(As each committee member is introduced he/she holds sign up overhead, waves, salutes, points to his/her sign, whistles, or smiles broadly. All applaud each other as each sign is held up. Encourage the audience to also applaud. Once all have been introduced, signs are brought down in unison and the next line is read):*

EVERYBODY: Excuse me, President ABLE-BODY, but I think it's important to mention something at the very start of this meeting. Bullying has become a problem in our community and our job is to encourage the entire student body to stand up against it! This is an important job and I'm sure SOMEBODY will do it!

*(All except ABLE-BODY look at SOMEBODY as he/she quickly raises sign up and down).*

ANYBODY: Well, ANYBODY

*(ANYBODY SIGN UP/DOWN)*

could do that important job but, so far, NOBODY

*(NOBODY SIGN UP/DOWN)*

has done it.

*(NOBODY is a little surprised at this).*

NOBODY: What do you mean? I haven't done *anything* yet. This is my first committee meeting!

SOMEBODY: Wait a minute! That really annoys me. Let's not point fingers here. This is truly EVERYBODY'S job!

*(EVERYBODY SIGN UP/DOWN)*

EVERYBODY: Well, why does this end up being MY job when ANYBODY

*(ANYBODY SIGN UP/DOWN)*

would be happy to do it?

ABLE-BODY: Sorry, but I think you are all missing the point. I think  
NOBODY

*(NOBODY SIGN UP/DOWN)*

realizes that EVERYBODY

*(EVERYBODY SIGN UP/DOWN)*

is not ready to do this important job! As a committee, we  
need to think of some way to get the entire school  
involved.

NOBODY: You're right! I *do* realize that. EVERYBODY

*(EVERYBODY SIGN UP/DOWN)*

is not ready to do this job because none of us are really  
sure what bullying *is* and what it *isn't*. SOMEBODY

*(SOMEBODY SIGN UP/DOWN)*

needs to make the clear.

*(ABLE-BODY is clearly lost during the above conversation).*

SOMEBODY: Right again! I'll make it clear. Bullying is something that  
can hurt you on the inside or on the outside.

ANYBODY: OK, let me get this straight. Bullying hurts you on the  
*outside* by hitting you and hurting you physically, right?

EVERYBODY: It hurts you on the *inside* by name calling and hurting your  
feelings.

NOBODY: Right! And both are done on purpose, they are not  
accidents.

SOMEBODY: So, if someone hurts you during a game by accident that's  
not bullying?

NOBODY: No! But if every time you played a game that same person  
hurt you - or hurt your feelings - *that* might be bullying.

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ABLE-BODY: Well, EVERYBODY

*(EVERYBODY SIGN UP/DOWN)*

knew that.

EVERYBODY: What are you talking about? I didn't know that – but I do now!

*(ABLE-BODY misses the point and looks confused).*

NOBODY: And, if ANYBODY

*(ANYBODY SIGN UP/DOWN)*

ignores SOMEBODY

*(SOMEBODY SIGN UP/DOWN)*

on purpose, leaves that person out, or doesn't allow them to join in a game – that's being a bully.

*(SOMEBODY AND ANYBODY are offended by this remark).*

SOMEBODY: Come on! ANYBODY

*(ANYBODY SIGN UP/DOWN)*

would *never* do that to me.

ANYBODY: I certainly wouldn't!

**CONTINUED...**

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