

# DIARY OF A WIMPY KID

by

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Based on the novel by Jeff Kinney

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10201 W. Pico Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90035

2ND STUDIO DRAFT (2nd Revision)  
JANUARY 22, 2009

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FADE IN:

1 INT. GREG'S BEDROOM

1

BLACK SCREEN. Soft breathing.

SUPER: "Monday" is scrawled across the screen in Greg's handwriting.

Then BLINDING LIGHT.

RODRICK (O.S.)

Greg.

GREG'S POV: we find RODRICK HEFFLEY, an insolent sixteen-year-old, in our face. Rodrick is dressed for school.

RODRICK (CONT'D)

Greg!

GREG

(half asleep)

What?

Rodrick shakes Greg awake.

RODRICK

Get up, you're going to be late.

END POV to find GREG HEFFLEY in his twin bed. Greg is eleven or twelve, average height, and really thin. Rodrick is going to town with the shaking thing, basically bouncing him on his bed.

GREG

(fighting him off)

Quit it, Rodrick! Why are you -- what am I late for?

RODRICK

Middle school, what do you think?  
Today's your first day. Hurry up or  
Mom's gonna lose it.

Rodrick exits. Greg sighs.

2 INT. HEFFLEY KITCHEN

2

Greg, now dressed and ready for school, eats cereal and reads the comics with bleary eyes. He turns the kitchen TV on to AN INFOMERCIAL FOR A JUICER. He changes the channel, it's an INFOMERCIAL FOR BUYING FORECLOSURES. He keeps changing channels -- it's all infomercials. Something's not right.

(CONTINUED)

2

CONTINUED:

2

FRANK (O.S.)

What are you doing?

Greg looks up. FRANK HEFFLEY, Greg's dad, is there, wearing a t-shirt and boxers. He mutes the TV.

GREG

Getting ready for my first day of middle...

Greg trails off as he looks out a window. IT'S DARK.

CUT TO:

3

EXT. HEFFLEY HOUSE - NIGHT

3

From across the street we see the Greg's house in the dark. An owl perches on a tree limb in the foreground.

CUT TO:

4

INT. HEFFLEY KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

4

On Greg and Frank.

GREG

...school.

FRANK

It's four o'clock in the morning.  
School doesn't start until next week.

SUSAN HEFFLEY, Greg's mom, unhappily enters. She's an attractive, harried mom. Frank watches MANNY, their wide-awake two-year-old son, scurry past her, grab the cereal box and start eating out of it.

FRANK (CONT'D)

(sadly)

You woke Manny up. He never goes back to sleep.

(to Susan)

He woke Manny up.

SUSAN

Have you lost your mind?

GREG

It was Rodrick!

5 INT. RODRICK'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER 5

They all stand in the doorway and look at Rodrick, sound asleep BUT NOW IN HIS PAJAMAS, snoring softly in his bed.

GREG

But he --

SUSAN

Go to bed.

As they leave, Greg turns back to look at Rodrick, who is in the same position only now he's smiling.

CUT TO:

6 OPENING CREDITS 6

7 Tight On a closed book. The cover reads 'Diary'. Pull back 7  
to reveal GREG HEFFLEY is holding the book and directly  
addressing the camera. Behind him is a WHITE BACKGROUND.

Greg is a grown-up trapped in a kid's body. He has a very matter of fact, casual manner about him -- a worldly, confident attitude. Even so, he remains a likeable boy because we know his bravura just masks normal insecurity. He's Bill Murray as a kid.

GREG

Okay, first of all, let me get something straight: this is a JOURNAL, not a diary.

(beat)

Right, I know what it says on the cover, but when mom went out to buy this thing I TOLD her not to get me a book that said "diary" on it. This just proves Mom doesn't know anything. If I walk into my first day of middle school carrying this book around, I might as well be wearing a sign that says "punch me"!

8 INSERT SHOT: The cartoon drawing FROM THE BOOK of THE BULLY 8  
DISCOVERING GREG'S DIARY. The drawing becomes animated: the  
Bully punches Greg, sending him and the "diary" flying.

BULLY

Wimp!

9 BACK ON GREG addressing the camera.

9

GREG

The only reason I agreed to write in this thing is because one day when I'm rich and famous I'll have better things to do than answer peoples' stupid questions all day long, and this book is gonna come in handy.

10 INSERT SHOT: The cartoon drawing FROM THE BOOK of Greg at the 10 press conference. The drawing becomes animated as reporters shout questions at Greg.

MALE REPORTER

Gregory! Tell us about your childhood!

FEMALE REPORTER

Were you always so smart and handsome?

Greg waves his journal at them.

GREG

Here's my journal. Now shoo, shoo.

11 BACK TO GREG addressing the camera.

11

GREG

I actually should have started keeping a diary -- I mean journal! -- years ago. Now there's gonna be this big gap from birth to middle school.

(beat)

Anyway, I think future generations will be glad I kept a record of this time in my life, but the truth is when they make a movie or a TV mini-series about me, they'll probably just skip over the middle school years and go right to the part where I'm famous.

(beat)

Seriously, who's gonna want to see a movie about a guy who's stuck in middle school with a bunch of half-grown morons?

He tosses the book on a nearby side table. ZOOM IN TIGHT ON THE BOOK AND HOLD.

END OPENING CREDITS

12 INT. GREG'S BEDROOM - MORNING 12

Still tight on the book, PULL BACK TO REVEAL the diary is on Greg's bedside table, and he is asleep in the bed.

SUPER: "September. Tuesday."

Susan, holding Manny, pokes her head in.

SUSAN

Get up, get up, it's your first day of middle school!

Greg stirs and opens his eyes. Suspicious, he checks the window for daylight to make sure it's legit this time. It is.

13 INT. HEFFLEY KITCHEN - MORNING 13

Greg, Rodrick, Manny, and Susan eat breakfast. Rodrick is working on a pile of flyers for his band Loded Diaper. The flyers feature a picture of Rodrick and his bandmates holding instruments and trying their hardest not to look like suburban teenagers. Rodrick is adding devil horns to the "L" in Loded and chuckling.

GREG (V.O.)

Mom's always saying I need to gain weight. But if you had to eat with my family, you wouldn't have much of an appetite either.

Pan around the table -- Susan picks her teeth, Rodrick chews his nails. Settle on Manny, who eats his cereal while sitting on a small training potty. Frank passes through on his way out to work, looks at Manny.

FRANK

The toilet at the table, that doesn't feel right.

SUSAN

I don't want him to think it's shameful.

FRANK

It should be a little shameful.

He grabs a piece of toast and kisses Susan.

FRANK

See you.

(CONTINUED)

He exits.

SUSAN

(to Greg)

So, middle school. You nervous?

GREG

(shrugs)

Nah.

SUSAN

Rodrick, give Greg some tips about middle school so he knows what to expect.

RODRICK

(to Greg)

It's like prison. Don't ever look anyone in the eye, but don't look down either -- always be looking away, like you're lost in thought.

He looks at Greg skeptically.

RODRICK

I'm wasting my time, you'll be dead or home-schooled by the end of the year.

GREG

No way.

SUSAN

Not helpful, Rodrick.

RODRICK

You're right. I'm sure he'll do great. He'll probably be Most Popular in the yearbook.

Rodrick grabs his flyers, gets up to leave. He stops and turns around.

RODRICK

Oh, and one more thing...watch out for the cheese.

He exits. Susan and Greg look at each other.

SUSAN

Okay, get Manny cleaned up and I'll drive you to school.

Manny looks at Greg, then dumps his cereal in his potty.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: (2)

13

GREG

He did that on purpose! I'm not cleaning it up.

SUSAN

It's your fault he's still potty training.

FLASHBACK TO:

14 INT. DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM - DAY

14

Greg, bored, perches on the vanity and watches Manny sit on the toilet.

GREG

Don't look down, Manny. The Potty Monster doesn't like it when you look at him.

Manny slowly looks down into the potty --

GREG (CONT'D)

(covers his mouth)

Rrrhaaaaaarrrrrr!

MANNY SCREAMS, jumps off the potty and runs out.

END FLASHBACK.

15 INT. HEFFLEY KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

15

Greg chuckles to himself at the memory. Susan looks at him sternly. Greg gets to work and unhappily dumps out the potty into the sink.

16 INT. SUSAN'S CAR - MORNING

16

SUPER: "First Day of School."

Susan stops in front of Whitmore Middle School in her older Honda. Greg looks out the window at students streaming inside. We see Susan wants badly for Greg to do okay here.

SUSAN

Want me to walk you in?

GREG

No thanks.

A beat; Greg just sits there.

(CONTINUED)

16

CONTINUED:

16

SUSAN

Are you going to get out?

GREG

Yeah.

He doesn't move.

SUSAN

Do you want me to walk you in?

GREG

No.

Greg hops out. Susan watches him head toward the school.

17

EXT. WHITMORE MIDDLE SCHOOL - MORNING

17

It's quiet as Greg nears the large metal front door. The school looks idyllic and nonthreatening. Next to the door is a cartoon poster of a character named "Wacky Dawg" welcoming new students.

GREG (V.O.)

Everybody's always saying how middle school is such a big deal. But to be honest with you, I wasn't really sweating it all that much.

He opens the door and is BLASTED BY A WALL OF NOISE.

18

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

18

Greg stands in the hallway. All around him is mayhem; it's loud and packed with kids roughhousing and jostling and shrieking. Greg begins to walk down the hall.

GREG (V.O.)

Okay, so I admit middle school was way different than what I was expecting. I mean, you got kids like me who haven't hit their growth spurt yet mixed in with these gorillas who need to shave twice a day.

GREG'S POV: EXTREME CLOSE-UPS of one big kid's BUSHY UPPER LIP FACIAL HAIR; another big kid's FREAKISHLY HAIRY AND MUSCLED FOREARM; another big kid's shirt open at the neck to reveal A TUFT OF YET MORE HAIR.

GREG (V.O.) (CONT'D)

And not just their faces.

(CONTINUED)

18

CONTINUED:

18

A hulking boy with acne, PRESTON, catches Greg's eye.

PRESTON

Hey, Greg.

GREG

Hey...

Greg squints at him, puzzled; he has no idea who it is.

GREG (CONT'D)

...fella.

GREG (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Half of these kids were in my school last year, but I could hardly recognize them.

SMASH CUT TO:

19

A SERIES OF PHOTOGRAPHS

19

Side by side, we see before and after photos of several of Greg's schoolmates. The "befores" are normal, cute grade school students. The "afters" look like bizarre hormone experiments. The first photo is of Preston, in which his clear grade school complexion becomes riddled with acne. In the ones that follow, full shiny hair becomes lank and greasy; others are stuck in weird, awkward phases of their growth spurts. In the last "before and after", A SMALL, NORMAL-LOOKING KID HASN'T CHANGED AT ALL.

GREG (V.O.)

Okay, so there were still a few normal looking people like me, but trust me, we were in the minority.

CUT TO:

20

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

20

Greg continues to move through the hall, three older guys approach him. The BIGGEST GUY steps in his path.

BIGGEST GUY

You new?

GREG

Yeah.

BIGGEST GUY

Newbie!

(CONTINUED)

20

CONTINUED:

20

He punches Greg hard in the arm, his buddies laugh.

21

INT. HOMEROOM - DAY

21

Greg rubs his arm at his homeroom desk as ROWLEY JEFFERSON enters behind a couple of other kids. Only his face is visible at this point.

GREG

(calls)

Hey, Rowley.

GREG (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Rowley Jefferson is my best friend.

The two other kids part and we get our first good look at Rowley. The word for Rowley is "thick". His head, neck, torso, and legs sit atop one another like a stack of blocks. He has a heartbreakingly open, honest, sweet face. HE IS ALSO WEARING A BRIGHTLY COLORED SERAPE. Greg cringes when sees Rowley's nerdy outerwear.

GREG (V.O.) (CONT'D)

But that's definitely subject to change.

Rowley sees Greg and becomes excited, waving frantically.

ROWLEY

(way too loud)

Greg! Greg! Greg!

As Rowley heads over to Greg, Greg notices some of the other kids snickering at Rowley.

GREG

What are you wearing?

ROWLEY

We just got back from Guatemala.

(with a flourish)

It's my serape!

Greg slouches in his seat as Rowley spins to show it off.

22

EXT. SPORT COURT - DAY

22

Greg, Rowley and the rest of the P.E. class wear gym clothes. Alarmed, Greg watches the large MUSCLED KID next to him slam a ball from one hand to the other as COACH MALONE talks.

(CONTINUED)

22

CONTINUED:

22

COACH MALONE

Today you're going to learn how to play dodgeball right. First off, no aiming for the head.

MUSCLED KID

(raises his hand)

What happens to us if we hit somebody in the head?

COACH MALONE

Nothing. Okay now, listen up, when I blow the whistle that means...

Coach Malone continues to talk as...

GREG (V.O.)

Don't ask me what genius came up with the idea of dodgeball. My parents spent a lot of money on my braces so I'm pretty sure they didn't want me to get my teeth rearranged by some moron chucking a rubber ball at ninety miles an hour.

CUT TO:

23

LINE-DRAWN ANIMATION - FANTASY

23

Greg gets hit in the mouth with a dodgeball thrown by a MORONIC GOON. His teeth fly everywhere.

CUT TO:

24

EXT. SPORT COURT - CONTINUOUS

24

Greg's hand shoots up.

GREG

Uh, I have a heart murmur. My doctor says I can't play dodgeball.

COACH MALONE

Okay, well...just go sit over there.

He points to the edge of the sport court. Rowley watches Greg go and raises his hand.

ROWLEY

I have...asthma.

COACH MALONE

Do you have an inhaler?

(CONTINUED)

ROWLEY

What?

COACH MALONE

An inhaler.

ROWLEY

Huh?

COACH MALONE

Where's your inhaler?

ROWLEY

Where?

COACH MALONE

(sighs)

Go sit next to the other guy.

Rowley runs off and catches up to Greg. As they walk...

GREG

The people running this place are trying to kill us. Maybe this is how they're gonna fix overcrowding in schools.

ROWLEY

I gotta get my hands on an inhaler.  
(points to dodgeball)  
'Cause that's scary.

GREG

I'm not scared, I'm walking away to make a point. This is just barbaric.

ANGIE (O.S.)

Like the Roman gladiators.

Greg and Rowley notice that ANGIE STEADMAN, an intense girl dressed all in black, has fallen in next to them.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

Gladiators were actually slaves that were forced to fight to the death just for people's entertainment.

ROWLEY

Really?

Greg shoots Rowley a look that says "don't engage".

(CONTINUED)

ANGIE

I'm glad somebody around here finally sees the parallel.

(then)

I'm Angie. This is my second year, and I'm telling you, middle school is nothing but a bad joke.

Through the following, Greg gets increasingly annoyed by Rowley's attention to Angie.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

And the crazy thing is, all the adults know it, but they keep it to themselves. I mean, you hear them talk all the time about how fun high school was and how cute they were in elementary school. But you never, ever hear them saying they wish they could be back in middle school. They never mention it at all.

ROWLEY

(locked in)

That's true.

Greg pulls Rowley away...

GREG

(to Angie)

I think the girls are supposed to be over there.

As they move off...

GREG (CONT'D)

Rowley, you gotta stay away from the nutsos. We're projecting an image here, it's a very delicate time.

They continue toward an empty spot on the blacktop, looking over their shoulders at the dodgeball game. They watch CHIRAG GUPTA, a little Indian boy, get nailed by four balls at once. Greg turns away just in time to see AN OLD GROSS SLICE OF CHEESE right in front of them.

GREG (CONT'D)

Whoa. Check it out.

ROWLEY

Is that...cheese?

CLOSE ON THE CHEESE. FOREBODING MUSIC STING.

(CONTINUED)

Greg squats down next to it. It's a slice of cheddar, delicat. He reaches out with his finger, and is about to touch it --

CHIRAG (O.S.)

Stop!

Alarmed, Greg and Rowley turn to see Chirag run up, battle-wounded and out of breath.

GREG

What, Chirag?

CHIRAG

You almost got the Cheese Touch.

GREG

The what?

Chirag takes a deep breath, and then begins speaking almost mystically...

CHIRAG

A long time ago -- no one knows how long -- that cheese just appeared on the blacktop. No one ever threw it away, and so there it sat, growing more foul by the day. Then one day, a kid -- some say his name was Bernard -- made the biggest mistake of his life.

FLASHBACK TO:

BERNARD, a curious kid, squats over the cheese and innocently touches it with his finger.

Another kid (KID #1) sees him do it and points.

KID #1

Bernard touched the cheese! Bernard touched the cheese!

A crowd of kids runs over pointing and screaming as if they see a zombie.

CHIRAG (V.O.)

From that day on, Bernard had the Cheese Touch.

END FLASHBACK.

26 EXT. SPORT COURT - CONTINUOUS

26

Chirag continues his tale...

CHIRAG

No one would go near Bernard because if they touched him, they would get the Cheese Touch. Bernard became an outcast. Until, that is, he was able to pass the Cheese Touch onto an unsuspecting foreign exchange student.

FLASHBACK TO:

27 INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

27

DIETER, a happy looking German foreign exchange student, talks to a group of kids. Bernard sneaks up to the edge of the circle and touches Dieter on the shoulder. The other kids recoil from a confused Dieter.

DIETER

Was soll das?

One kid (KID #2) points at him in horror.

KID #2

Cheese touch!

CHIRAG (V.O.)

And so it went, from student to student, from year to year.

As Chirag speaks, we see a ROGUE'S GALLERY OF CHEESE TOUCH VICTIMS through the years. Most are boys, but some are unhappy looking girls.

END FLASHBACK.

28 EXT. SPORT COURT - CONTINUOUS

28

As Greg and Rowley listen to Chirag...

CHIRAG

The reign of terror ended when Abe Hall got it five years ago. He moved to California and took the Cheese Touch with him.

FLASHBACK TO:

29 EXT. WHITMORE MIDDLE SCHOOL - DAY 29

A group of solemn kids watch a station wagon pull away. We see ABE, a haunted looking boy, peering out the back window, his hands pressing against the glass.

END FLASHBACK.

30 EXT. SPORT COURT - DAY 30

Chirag looks at them dolefully.

CHIRAG

And so today, the cheese sits,  
patiently waiting for a new victim.

GREG/ROWLEY

(blown away)

Wow.

CHIRAG

This is a terrible place.

Greg and Rowley look at the cheese. When they look up, CHIRAG IS GONE. Coach Malone blows his whistle, signalling the end of P.E.

ROWLEY

Maybe we should just throw it away.

Rowley starts to reach for the cheese -- Greg quickly holds him back.

GREG

Geez, Rowley!

31 INT. CAFETERIA - DAY 31

The cafeteria is just as loud and untamed as the rest of the school -- there's yelling, pushing, maybe some food flying in places. Greg and Rowley move through the lunch line, pushing their trays.

GREG

By the way, second floor bathroom? No stall doors. I learned that the hard way.

ROWLEY

What? If there's no doors people can see you. And all your business.

(CONTINUED)

31

CONTINUED:

31

GREG

Yeah, well, worse than them seeing you is you seeing them. Trust me, you don't want to lock eyes with some strange guy sitting on a toilet. It's a weird feeling.

Rowley shudders. The lunch lady hands Greg a plate of yellow, lumpy goop (chicken a la king). He and Rowley head toward the table area.

They see a few empty seats at a table of kids. Greg starts to put his tray down.

LUNCH KID

That seat's saved.

GREG

For who?

LUNCH KID

It's saved.

Greg moves toward another empty seat at the table.

LUNCH KID

That seat's saved.

Greg moves to the last empty seat. He looks at the kid who just shakes his head. Greg looks around at the others at the table; they ignore him and Rowley as if they don't exist.

32

INT. CAFETERIA - MOMENTS LATER

32

Greg decides to try his luck with some shaggy looking skateboard kids. He crosses to their table, but they take one look at him and Rowley:

SKATE KID

No way.

33

INT. CAFETERIA - MOMENTS LATER

33

Greg and Rowley approach a table full of girls.

HAUGHTY GIRL

Forget it.

Rowley turns to Greg.

ROWLEY

So where are we supposed to eat?

34 INT. CAFETERIA - MOMENTS LATER

34

Greg and Rowley have found a couple of lonely chairs in the corner and awkwardly try to eat with their lunch trays on their laps. FREGLEY, a thin hyper kid who breathes through his teeth in a way that often makes a whistling sound, approaches with a lunch tray.

FREGLEY

Hey Greg Heffley. Want to see my secret freckle?

GREG

No thanks, Fregley.

Fregley sits down on the floor next to them. Greg tries to cut his chicken, but without a table it's hard to do and the chicken goes flying off of his plate and plops on the floor near Fregley. They all look at it.

FREGLEY

Are you going to finish that?

35 EXT. WHITMORE MIDDLE SCHOOL - DAY

35

Kids stream out at the end of the school day. Greg and Rowley are mid-pack.

GREG (V.O.)

Okay, the first day wasn't great, but at least I got out with my dignity. Or so I thought.

ROWLEY

(yelling to be heard)

Hey Greg, you want to come over and plaayyy?!

An older kid, QUENTIN, overhears and steps in front of them.

QUENTIN

What did you say?

ROWLEY

(panicked)

...Flarb.

QUENTIN

(to Greg)

What'd he say?

(CONTINUED)

35

CONTINUED:

35

GREG

I don't know. I don't even know that guy.

QUENTIN

(calls to friends)

Hey guys, check it out.

Quentin's two buddies, ARTHUR and JOE, approach.

QUENTIN

This guy says to that guy, want to come over and plaayyy?

Greg grimaces at Quentin and his friends' scornful expressions.

GREG (V.O.)

This was hard to take, because in twenty years all these mouth-breathers would be working for me.

CUT TO:

36

INT. WAREHOUSE - DAY - FANTASY

36

It's Greg, the same actor, but with a mustache and wearing a short sleeve dress shirt with a tie. He holds a clipboard and watches Quentin, Joe, and Arthur (also with mustaches) struggle mightily to put a heavy crate on a high shelf.

QUENTIN

We finally got it up there, boss.

GREG

That's a shame. Because now I need you to take it back down, and after that I'm going to need you to put it back up there.

QUENTIN

But --

GREG

Chop chop!

CUT TO:

37

EXT. WHITMORE MIDDLE SCHOOL - MOMENTS LATER

37

A WHOLE CROWD OF KIDS are now gathered around Greg and Rowley as Quentin finishes gleefully repeating the story for newcomers.

(CONTINUED)

37

CONTINUED:

37

QUENTIN  
(mocking)  
...come over and...plaayyy!

THEY ALL LAUGH. Greg grabs Rowley and quickly pulls him away from the crowd to a space by the bike rack.

GREG  
Thanks a lot, Rowley.

ROWLEY  
What? What'd I do?

GREG  
We're in middle school now. Nobody plays anymore, they hang out.

ROWLEY  
What's the difference?

GREG  
The difference is we can't act like kids anymore.

ROWLEY  
Oh. Okay, got it.

ROWLEY NONCHALANTLY GRABS HIS BIG WHEEL which is parked next to a bunch of bikes. Greg looks at the Big Wheel in horror.

GREG  
Rowley. A Big Wheel?

ROWLEY  
(shrugs)  
I like being low to the ground.

Rowley takes off on his Big Wheel. Greg follows, conscious of the stares Rowley is attracting.

38

EXT. HEFFLEY HOUSE - DAY

38

Rodrick's van with the name of his band "Loded Diper" scrawled on the side is parked in the driveway. Next to the van is parked Rowley's Big Wheel.

39

INT. HEFFLEY LIVING ROOM - DAY

39

Greg and Rowley sit on the floor and play a racing video game. Manny sits on his tiny potty next to them and watches. Rowley is engrossed in the game, but Greg is clearly distracted.

(CONTINUED)

GREG (V.O.)

When we got home I tried to unwind, but I couldn't stop thinking about school. And I'm worried about Rowley. He'll never be able to figure out how to make it through that place. He lacks nuance. I mean, you can beat him at a video game just by naming your car something ridiculous.

On the TV, Greg's car passes Rowley's.

ROBOT VIDEO GAME VOICE

Bad Fart ahead!

ROWLEY

(falls over laughing)

Bwaahahaha!

In imitation, Manny laughs and falls off his potty.

ROWLEY (CONT'D)

Let's race again.

Greg switches off the game. Rowley looks at him questioningly. Manny mimics Rowley and also looks at Greg questioningly.

GREG

Rowley, you need to focus. Our first day sucked.

ROWLEY

It did?

Greg looks at Rowley like, "Is anybody home?"

GREG

We're nobodies at school. I don't know about you, but I never envisioned myself as the guy who has to eat lunch off his lap. That is okay for Fregley but not me.

ROWLEY

My mom told me to just be myself and people would like me.

GREG

That would be good advice if you were somebody else.

FLASHBACK TO:

40 EXT. HEFFLEY FRONT PORCH - DAY

40

Greg opens the front door to Rowley, who consults a book ("How to Make Friends in New Places with Jokes").

ROWLEY

Knock knock!

GREG

Huh?

ROWLEY

Thermos!

GREG

Excuse me?

ROWLEY

Thermos be some way to tickle your funny bone!

GREG

Say what?

END FLASHBACK.

41 INT. HEFFLEY LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

41

Greg gives Rowley a sideways look. Rowley gets an idea and looks excited. Manny looks excited, too.

ROWLEY

I think I may still have that joke book I used when I met you. Maybe I should bring it to school?

Greg looks at Rowley sorrowfully.

GREG

That book is not your friend. No book is going to help us.

A beat while Rowley and Greg think. Rowley screws up his face in concentration and stares at the ceiling. Manny imitates him. Greg gets an idea.

GREG (CONT'D)

We need to get into Rodrick's room.

ROWLEY

I'm not going in Rodrick's room.

Rowley shakes his head "no". So does Manny.

42 INT. BASEMENT - DAY 42

LOUD TERRIBLE MUSIC. Greg and Rowley peek around the corner to see Rodrick play the drums as he rehearses with his crappy band. They wince at the noise.

43 INT. RODRICK'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER 43

Rodrick's room is a mess. Posters indicate he's really into Nine Inch Nails, Tool, and Slipknot. Rowley watches the door nervously as Greg, on his hands and knees, tosses aside junk from underneath Rodrick's bed. A half-eaten candy bar; a ouija board; and A GLOSSY MAGAZINE ENTITLED "MOTO MAMAS", the cover of which features a very buxom model in a thong bikini draped promiscuously over a motorcycle. Rowley eyes widen as he looks at the magazine.

ROWLEY

Wow. I didn't know Rodrick was into motorcycles.

Greg pulls out the WHITMORE MIDDLE SCHOOL YEARBOOK, holds it up.

GREG

Rodrick's middle school yearbook.

He quickly pages through, finds what he's looking for.

GREG

Right here, Class Favorites. The best in the class. These people are famous. And I guarantee you they always get an actual table at lunch.

As Greg looks through the Class Favorites, we go CLOSE ON THE PICTURES.

INSPIRATIONAL MUSIC STING

GREG (V.O.)

This was it. If you can get yourself voted onto the Class Favorites page, you're practically an immortal. Even if you don't live up to what you get picked for, it doesn't really matter because it's on permanent record.

Settle on the photo of the "Most Popular" guy, BILL WATSON.

(CONTINUED)

43

CONTINUED:

43

GREG

People still treat Bill Watson like he's something special even though he dropped out of high school and works at the Food Barn.

FLASHBACK TO:

44

INT. FOOD BARN - DAY

44

Greg and Susan are at the grocery store checkout behind TWO HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS. An older-looking Bill Watson is the bagger. The girls eye Bill and giggle.

BILL WATSON

Will that be paper or plastic?

HIGH SCHOOL GIRL #1

(dreamy)

Whatever you think, Bill.

END FLASHBACK.

45

INT. RODRICK'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

45

Greg points Favorites from the book out to Rowley.

GREG

This is where I need to be. Most Popular, Best Dressed, Class Clown...they should just give that to me right now. I'm hilarious.

Rowley notices the picture of the "Cutest Couple".

ROWLEY

Hey, maybe we should go for "Cutest Friends".

GREG

You're kidding, right?

THE DOOR FLIES OPEN. IT'S RODRICK.

RODRICK

What did I tell you I'd do to you if I caught you in my room again?

ROWLEY

You said you'd kill him.

RODRICK

Good answer, Rowley. You can go.

(CONTINUED)

45

CONTINUED:

45

Rowley sprints out.

ROWLEY

I'm sorry, Greg!

RODRICK

Mom and Dad aren't here. It's just you and me. And I'm going to really, actually kill you.

Greg makes a break for the door. He feints left, then heads right, but Rodrick stays with him blocking the door. Greg jumps up on Rodrick's bed and grabs the edge of Rodrick's prized Nine Inch Nails poster and prepares to rip it.

RODRICK (CONT'D)

No!

Greg starts to rip it; Rodrick lunges for him. Greg jumps around him and runs out the door.

46

INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

46

With Rodrick right on his tail, Greg squeaks into his room. He shuts and locks the door behind him, leaving an enraged Rodrick in the hall.

47

INT. GREG'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

47

Rodrick beats on the door.

RODRICK (O.S.)

You can't stay in there forever, Greg!  
I don't care how long it takes, I'm  
going to be right here, waiting to  
kill you!

Greg peeks under his door. FROM GREG'S POV we see Rodrick's sneakers. Greg sighs.

48

INT. GREG'S BEDROOM - LATER

48

Greg creeps to the door, peeks underneath it. FROM GREG'S POV we see Rodrick's sneakers are still there. BAM BAM BAM, Rodrick bangs on the door. Greg jumps back.

GREG

Rodrick, time out, I have to pee.

RODRICK (O.S.)

No time outs!

49 INT. GREG'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 49

Night has fallen outside Greg's window. Greg peeks under his door; RODRICK'S SNEAKERS ARE STILL THERE. Greg hops from one foot to the other; he really has to pee.

Desperate, he puts his hand on the doorknob. Takes it off. Puts it back on, takes a breath, flings open the door and assumes a fighting stance...

But the hallway is empty. What? Greg looks down, revealing RODRICK'S EMPTY SNEAKERS. Greg speeds off to the bathroom.

50 INT. BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER 50

Greg stands over the toilet and starts to go. Suddenly, Rodrick leaps out from behind the shower curtain.

RODRICK  
Raaaaaaaaaahhhhhh!!!

GREG  
Aaaaaaaaaaahhhhhh!!!

Startled, Greg jumps and twists and WE HEAR THE SOUND OF PEE SPLASHING EVERYWHERE.

51 INT. BATHROOM - LATER 51

Greg scrubs the bathroom floor around the toilet. Susan stands over him.

52 EXT. SPORT COURT - NIGHT/DAY 52

It's dark. Time speeds up, the sun rises, revealing the cheese. A little steam comes off it as the day begins.

53 INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY 53

Greg and Rowley examine the Activity Board that is posted on a cork wall. There's a heading for each activity (Key Club, Swim Team, etc.) with a sign-up sheet underneath. Angie walks up behind them and listens.

ROWLEY  
You don't like any of this stuff.

GREG  
I know, but if I'm gonna be a Class Favorite I have to make a name for myself.

(CONTINUED)

ANGIE

Why do you want to be a Class Favorite?

Startled, Greg turns around to her.

GREG

I didn't say that.

ANGIE

Yeah, you did.

GREG

No, I...what probably happened is somebody yelled it over there and the sound bounced off this wall behind me so it sounded like I said it.

ROWLEY

I've seen that on Scooby Doo.

A beat. Angie looks at them, trying to decide if they're kidding. She forges ahead.

ANGIE

Okay. Well, you should sign up for the school paper. We're the voice of the people -- well, the people are mostly idiots, so I guess technically we're the voice of the people making fun of the people.

GREG

Thanks, but I can't be on the paper because I'm going to be in the paper a lot, so that would be a conflict of interest.

Angie realizes Greg is not the fellow iconoclast she thought he was.

ANGIE

Ohh. You're the people. Got it.

Angie walks off as PATTY FARRELL, a tall and aggressive girl, muscles Greg and Rowley out of the way.

PATTY

Outta my way, dweebs.

(then)

Oh. Hello, Greg.

(CONTINUED)

53

CONTINUED: (2)

53

GREG

Patty.

Patty haughtily turns to the activity board, signs up for something, and crosses off.

GREG (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Man, if I knew Patty Farrell was going to Whitmore, I'd have begged Mom and Dad to send me to private school. She's been a problem since kindergarten.

FLASHBACK TO:

54

INT. KINDERGARTEN CLASSROOM - DAY

54

Greg and Patty sit with the rest of the class in front of their KINDERGARTEN TEACHER.

KINDERGARTEN TEACHER

Can any of you tell me why Peter Rabbit went into Mr. McGregor's garden?

Patty's hand shoots up.

KINDERGARTEN TEACHER (CONT'D)

Yes, Patty?

PATTY

Was it because Greg Heffley smells weird?

Everyone laughs; Greg looks pained.

END FLASHBACK.

55

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

55

Fuming, Greg watches Patty sashay down the hall.

ROWLEY

(re: activity board)

Hey, they got wrestling this year.

GREG

What?

Greg looks at the activity board and locks onto the words "Boys Wrestling".

CUT TO:

56 INT. WRESTLING ARENA - FANTASY

56

SHOT IN BLACK AND WHITE -- RAGING BULL STYLE. Flashbulbs popping, crowds of kids screaming around the ring. Greg, in a flamboyant pro wrestling costume, finishes off a large Hulk Hogan-type opponent. A REFEREE raises Greg's hand in victory.

REFEREE

Greg Heffley wins everything!

The crowd goes wild in a blinding blaze of flashbulbs. FREEZE ON GREG. The image morphs into a picture.

CUT TO:

57 AN OPEN YEARBOOK - CLASS FAVORITES SECTION - FANTASY

57

We see Greg's wrestling picture. The caption underneath reads "Most Athletic".

CUT TO:

58 INT. GYM - DAY

58

A line of kids, including Greg and Rowley, shiver and shyly try to cover their personal parts in their WRESTLING SINGLETS. The only kid who does not seem self-conscious is Fregley.

They watch Coach Malone and his helper, COACH HARPER, demonstrate wrestling holds on the mat. The coaches move into a standing clinch, which means they're holding each other very close.

COACH MALONE

Okay gang, this is known as a clinch.

Greg winces; this isn't what he signed up for. He raises his hand.

COACH MALONE (CONT'D)

What is it, Heart Murmur?

GREG

When are we going to learn Pile Drivers and Body Slams?

COACH MALONE

Pile Drivers and Body Slams are TV wrestling. It's fake. Kind of like your heart murmur.

59 INT. GYM - DAY

59

The kids are lined up in three groups in front of three mats. We can't tell who's in what group because of camera angle.

COACH MALONE

Okay, we've divided you up into weight classes.

(points at group of big kids)

Rottweilers, you're on mat one...

(points at Rowley's medium group)

Bulldogs, you're on mat two...

Reveal Greg and Fregley in their own group of two.

COACH MALONE (CONT'D)

And Chihuahuas. Let's see you two try a clinch.

Greg looks at Fregley who whistle-breathes with excitement.

60 INT. GYM - DAY

60

Greg and Fregley face off on the mat.

GREG (V.O.)

I couldn't believe they were making me wrestle a little guy like Fregley. I just hoped I didn't hurt him too bad.

Coach Malone blows the whistle. Greg and Fregley go into a clinch. FREGLEY IMMEDIATELY PINS GREG. Coach Malone blows the whistle again.

61 EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD STREET - DAY

61

Greg and Rowley (who is pushing his Big Wheel by the handlebar) walk up a rather steep street. Greg, looking annoyed, tosses a football up in the air. As they go...

ROWLEY

Hey, you know, Fregley's just really good.

GREG

He's not good, he got lucky. I wasn't even trying.

Greg stops walking, Rowley continues to the top of the hill.

(CONTINUED)

61

CONTINUED:

61

GREG (CONT'D)

Next time I won't go so easy on him.

(then)

You ready?

Rowley points his Big Wheel down the hill and gets on.

ROWLEY

Ready.

Rowley takes off down the hill as fast as he can. As he goes, Greg takes aim. Rowley, keeping an eye on Greg, pedals furiously to avoid getting hit. Greg fires the football at him. Rowley swerves to the right to avoid the ball. Greg misses high and THE BALL SAILS OVER ROWLEY AND KNOCKS A MAILBOX OFF ITS POST. Greg looks around -- the HOMEOWNER OPENS HIS FRONT DOOR.

HOMEOWNER

Hey!

Greg takes off running.

GREG

(yells at Rowley)

Go, go!

62

INT. GYM - DAY

62

Wrestling practice. Greg steps onto the mat and faces Fregley. This time he's determined he's going to show this kid who's boss. Coach Malone blows the whistle. Greg and Fregley circle each other. Then Fregley charges Greg, knocks him to the ground and pins him.

COACH MALONE

(to Greg)

Keep at it, you'll get 'em next week.

63

INT. GYM - DAY

63

On the mat. Fregley immediately pins Greg. Coach Malone blows the whistle.

COACH MALONE

(to Greg)

That's okay, next week is your week.

64

INT. GYM - DAY

64

Fregley pins Greg; this time he's sitting on Greg's face.

(CONTINUED)

64 CONTINUED:

64

GREG  
Blow the whistle, blow the whistle!

The coach does. Greg looks to him for encouragement.

COACH MALONE  
Yeah, I got nothin'.

65 EXT. SPORT COURT - DAY

65

CLOSE ON THE CHEESE as dead leaves blow over it.

GREG (V.O.)  
So Fregley's clearly on steroids or something.

66 EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD STREET - DAY

66

SUPER: "Halloween."

Greg trudges home past houses decorated for Halloween.

GREG (V.O.)  
Problem is, nobody ever got Class  
Favorite getting his butt kicked by a  
guy like Fregley.

Suddenly, Rowley -- dressed in an impressively realistic  
"Knight" costume -- jumps out from behind a bush to startle  
Greg.

ROWLEY  
En Garde!

GREG (V.O.)  
Lucky for me, it's Halloween.

Rowley proudly models his costume.

ROWLEY  
Huh? What do you think?

67 INT. GREG'S BEDROOM - EVENING

67

Greg, in his PIRATE COSTUME, writes in his journal.

GREG (V.O.)  
I figure all I have to do is pig out  
on the candy I get and I'll bulk up  
enough to get out of Fregley's weight  
class.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

67 CONTINUED:

67

GREG (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I just have to make sure I get a ton of candy -- I've got no time to screw around at a haunted house like last year.

FLASHBACK TO:

68 INT. HAUNTED HOUSE - NIGHT

68

Greg, Rowley and Susan enter a dark room. They walk a bit.

SUDDENLY, THE EAR-SPLITTING SOUND OF A CHAINSAW. The room is bathed in red light, revealing a HUGE BLOOD-SOAKED GUY IN A HOCKEY MASK REVVING A REAL CHAINSAW. On the ground is a BLOODY CORPSE whose arms have been chainsawed off. The Chainsaw Killer takes a run at Greg and Rowley.

GREG/ROWLEY

Aaaaaaaahhhhhhhhhh!!!!

Just as CHAINSAW KILLER reaches Greg and Rowley, Susan steps in front of them.

SUSAN

Turn that off! Turn it off right now!

Chainsaw Killer does.

SUSAN

That is not very nice.

CHAINSAW KILLER

(chagrined teenage voice)

I'm sorry, ma'am.

The Corpse gets up to see what's going on.

SUSAN

(to both of them)

You should be ashamed of yourselves.

END FLASHBACK.

69 INT. GREG'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

69

The doorbell rings. Excited, Greg runs out.

70 INT. HEFFLEY LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

70

Greg answers the door. Rowley stands there, his Knight costume rendered completely uncool by orange reflective safety gear, including a safety flag tied to his belt.

(CONTINUED)

70

CONTINUED:

70

GREG

What happened to your costume?

ROWLEY

My mom wanted me to be visible at night.

Greg sighs.

71

INT. HEFFLEY KITCHEN - NIGHT

71

Greg shows Rowley a hand-drawn map of their route.

GREG

...so we'll hit a few houses on the way to the North Side, which is where we'll do most of our trick or treating.

ROWLEY

Why are we going all the way over there?

GREG

It's where the rich people live and I need maximum candy to get out of the Chihuahuas.

Rodrick enters in full goth rock and roll mode. He's wearing eyeliner.

GREG (CONT'D)

You look pretty.

RODRICK

Shut up, tool. Loded Diper's got a gig tonight.

Rodrick snatches the map out of Greg's hands.

RODRICK (CONT'D)

Going to the North Side, huh? Takes you right past the Devil Worshiper Woods.

(off Greg and Rowley)

You know that story, right?

Greg and Rowley shake their heads "no". Rodrick leans over them, very serious.

RODRICK (CONT'D)

Well, there used to be a house...

(points to map)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

71

CONTINUED:

71

RODRICK (CONT'D)

...right here where these woods are. But a long time ago, two kids who were, I don't know, maybe in middle school, trick or treated that house on Halloween night. But the house was full of devil worshipers who stuck the kids in giant ovens and cooked them and ate them. But they forgot to turn off the ovens and the house burned down with everyone in it. So the neighbors buried what was left and swore nobody would ever live there again.

Greg and Rowley's eyes are as big as saucers.

ROWLEY

How'd the trees get there?

RODRICK

(same forboding tone)

And then they planted trees.

ROWLEY

Oh.

RODRICK

And to this day, on Halloween night, you can hear the unearthly laughter of the devil worshiper ghosts as they roam the woods looking for more kids to eat.

Unseen by Rodrick, Frank has entered and heard.

FRANK

Real nice, Rodrick.

Rodrick turns around.

FRANK (CONT'D)

(pained)

Are you wearing eyeliner?

72

INT. HEFFLEY LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

72

Greg and Rowley are at the door, adjusting their costumes. Manny (dressed as a pumpkin), enters with Susan and Frank.

SUSAN

Greg, Manny wants to go with you.

Manny runs up to Greg.

(CONTINUED)

72

CONTINUED:

72

MANNY

Bubby!

GREG

Mom, I told you to make him stop calling me that, what if somebody hears?

CUT TO:

73

LINE-DRAWN ANIMATION - FANTASY

73

Greg comes out of school with a crowd of kids. Susan and Manny wait for him.

MANNY

Hi, Bubby!

All the kids around Greg point and laugh.

CUT TO:

74

INT. HEFFLEY LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

74

SUSAN

Then they'll know how much he loves you.

GREG

I can't take him, we're going to the North Side.

SUSAN

Over by Gramma's house? No, it's too far. Frank, go with them.

FRANK

Sorry, I can't. I have plans.

Susan looks at him suspiciously, then:

SUSAN

No. No way. You are not sitting in the bushes all night this year so you can dump water on teenagers.

FRANK

But they always TP our house.

SUSAN

Because you dump water on them!

(CONTINUED)

FRANK

Because they TP us.

SUSAN

Because you -- you're not doing it again. I'm still getting dirty looks from Sean Simmon's mother.

Greg laughs, remembering.

GREG

He was really mad.

FRANK

(fond memory)

I totally nailed him.

(off Susan's look)

It's my favorite part of Halloween.

Susan is unmoved.

Greg, Rowley, Manny and Frank stop in front of a house with a jack-o-lantern on the front step.

FRANK

You want to give this house a try, Manny?

They start to head up the walk, but Manny sees the jack-o-lantern. HE SCREAMS BLOODY MURDER until they retreat a few steps.

GREG

Come on, Manny, it's just a pumpkin. Look, you're a pumpkin.

Manny looks down at his costume and realizes that's true. HE SCREAMS AGAIN. They move away and Manny settles down, although periodically he glances at his costume, reminds himself he's a pumpkin, and makes a startled squawk.

FRANK

Okay, I think that's about it. Time to go home.

GREG

But we've only been to three houses.  
(waves his almost empty  
candy bag)

I...only...have...THREE PIECES OF  
CANDY!!!

(CONTINUED)

75

CONTINUED:

75

ROWLEY  
(uncharacteristically  
angry)  
Three!!!

FRANK  
All right, all right. You guys can go  
on your own. But stay in the  
neighborhood. No North Side, okay?

GREG  
I promise.

They watch Frank and Manny head home. As soon as they're out  
of sight, Greg and Rowley take off running.

76

EXT. NORTH SIDE STREET - NIGHT

76

Greg and Rowley leave a house, their bags bulging with candy.

ROWLEY  
That guy gave me a full size Snickers.

GREG  
Yeah, these people got money to burn.

Just then, A PICKUP ROLLS UP ON THEM. Two high school kids  
(CARTER and PETE) are in the cab, with two more (CHRIS and  
WADE) in the pickup bed. Greg and Rowley watch as the pickup  
slows to a crawl in front of them. WADE PRODUCES A FIRE  
EXTINGUISHER AND SPRAYS THEM.

GREG/ROWLEY  
Aaaaahhhhhh!

Rowley raises his knight shield and manages to block most of  
it. The pickup speeds off. Greg steps out into the street.

GREG  
We're calling the cops!

Brake lights.

GREG (CONT'D)  
Uh-oh.

Reverse lights.

ROWLEY  
Oh boy.

(CONTINUED)

76

CONTINUED:

76

The pickup speeds back towards them. Greg and Rowley take off down the street, but the pickup gives chase. Greg takes a left into a driveway.

GREG

This way.

77

EXT. SOMEONE'S BACKYARD - NIGHT

77

As Greg and Rowley climb a fence...

ROWLEY

Where're we going?

They get over the fence and run down a driveway to...

78

EXT. NORTH SIDE STREET - NIGHT

78

...the next block. There's the truck. They take off down the street, the pickup closing in, the teens inside whooping and hollering. As they approach a house...

GREG

This is it.

The pickup stops in front of the house.

CARTER

You guys are dead!

Greg and Rowley run to the front door as the teens bail out of the truck.

79

EXT. GRAMMA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

79

Rowley watches Greg search under the welcome mat.

ROWLEY

Whose house is this?

GREG

My Gramma's. She's out of town.

Greg finds the key, unlocks the door and they run in the house with seconds to spare.

80

INT. GRAMMA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

80

Breathing heavily, Greg and Rowley creep around to the living room window and peek outside. The four teens, their faces pressed against the window, look right back at them.

(CONTINUED)

80

CONTINUED:

80

CHRIS

(yells through glass)

What're you gonna do, get your mommy?

ROWLEY

(yells back)

We can't, it's not our house, it's his  
gramma's and she's not even home.

Greg stares at Rowley in disbelief.

GREG

What -- why would you tell them that?

ROWLEY

Oops.

81

INT. GRAMMA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

81

It's later, and Greg and Rowley have left the house dark. They peek out the window again. The teens lean against the pickup and watch the house; they show no signs of leaving.

ROWLEY

You need to call your mom to come get  
us.

GREG

Great idea. "Hey Mom, can you come pick us up on the North Side where you told us not to go? Oh, and by the way, we broke into Gramma's house, so that's where we'll be." You call your mom.

ROWLEY

I better not. She already thinks  
you're a bad influence.

(big smile)

And she's right.

Greg looks outside at the teens.

GREG

We're going to have to bust out of  
here.

ROWLEY

How?

82

EXT. GRAMMA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

82

The teens hang out by their pickup watching the house. A LOUD WHIRRING SOUND comes from the garage. They walk over to look.

WADE

What's that?

CHRIS

Over here.

GRAMMA'S GARAGE DOOR SLOWLY OPENS AND REVEALS GREG AND ROWLEY AS SILHOUETTES BACKLIT BY THE GARAGE LIGHT. Greg holds a WEED WHACKER and Rowley holds a LEAF BLOWER. The door thumps fully open and Rowley and Greg fire up their garden implements. THE MOTORS SCREAM as Rowley and Greg run/stumble under the weight of them toward the teens.

The teens laugh at first, but they begin to back off as the leaf blower blows dirt and leaves into their eyes and Greg waves the heavy weed whacker (over which he has little control) at them. They reach the pickup.

GREG

You better leave us alone unless you want a taste of this.

He jabs the weed whacker at them to make his point, but loses control a little and PUTS A GASH IN THE FENDER of the pickup.

PETE

Are you kidding me?!

Pete makes a move toward Greg. Greg squeezes the trigger on the weed whacker too fast and floods the engine. IT SPUTTERS AND DIES. As Greg frantically tries to restart it...

PETE

I'm gonna rip your arms off and then punch you in the face with your own fists.

Rowley provides cover with the leaf blower as he and Greg slowly back away.

ROWLEY

There's no place left to go.

GREG

There's one place.

He points to the woods.

(CONTINUED)

82

CONTINUED:

82

ROWLEY

The Devil Worshiper woods?

The teens are getting too close.

GREG

Run!

They drop the machines and hightail it toward the woods.

PETE

They're going into the woods.

CARTER

Yeah, I'm not going in there.

PETE

(calls after them)

This isn't over!

83

EXT. DEVIL WORSHIPER WOODS - NIGHT

83

MUSIC CUE: "Run Through the Jungle" by CCR.

All is shot shaky hand-held style, in greenish night vision.

Greg and Rowley race through the woods, tripping and yelling in fear every time a tree branch or bush grazes them. They stop to catch their breath, both of them breathing heavily.

ROWLEY

Which way?

GREG

We just keep running, Rowley.

Suddenly, a STRANGE, HIGH-PITCHED UNEARTHLY LAUGHTER FILLS THE WOODS. They look around frantically for the source, the shaky cameras mimicking their moves, then look at each other, scared beyond belief.

GREG/ROWLEY

Aaaaaahhhhhh!!!

They run off. A beat as we stay on the patch of woods they've left. Then, movement. First, a strange, bobbing head. It looks like...a child in costume? IT'S FREGLEY, DRESSED AS A MEDIEVAL COURT JESTER, LAUGHING WEIRDLY AND CLUTCHING A PILLOWCASE FULL OF CANDY. He skips happily through the frame.

84 EXT. HEFFLEY HOUSE - NIGHT

84

Exhausted, Greg and Rowley finally stop running when they reach the sidewalk in front of Greg's house.

ROWLEY

Are we safe?

GREG

Yeah. And we made it with all our candy.

They high five. SUDDENLY THEY ARE SOAKED IN WATER. They look up to see Frank standing there with an empty trashcan.

FRANK

(stifles a laugh)

Sorry. I didn't know it was you.

85 EXT. STREET - DAY

85

SUPER: "November. Sunday."

Susan and Greg are driving. They pass by Gramma's house and see that it has been extensively and thoroughly TP'ed. Susan and Greg stare at it in shock.

SUSAN

Oh my gosh, look at that. What would make them pick Gramma's house?

GREG (V.O.)

I kept my mouth shut. I did feel a little bad, because it looked like it was gonna take a long time to clean up. But on the bright side, Gramma is retired so she probably didn't have anything planned for today anyway.

86 EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD STREET - DAY

86

Greg and Rowley (pushing his Big Wheel) walk up the same steep street like before. Greg has his football tucked under his arm and is attempting to unwrap a wet candy bar.

ROWLEY

How is it?

GREG

Gross. But it's worth it. I just need to gain one more pound before wrestling practice.

(CONTINUED)

86

CONTINUED:

86

Rowley shakes his head admiringly.

ROWLEY

Gosh, you get to eat all that chocolate. I almost wish I was as bad a wrestler as you.

GREG

Top of the hill, Rowley.

87

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD STREET - MOMENTS LATER

87

Rowley comes screaming down the hill on the Big Wheel. Greg cocks his arm and fires the football at him. The ball goes wide and nails a parked car, putting a dent in the door. THE CAR ALARM GOES OFF.

GREG

(to Rowley)

Go, go!

Greg grabs the football, takes a frightened look around, and takes off running.

88

INT. GYM - DAY

88

Greg and Rowley are in their singlets waiting to weigh in for Coach Malone. Greg is eating another gross wet candy bar. They see BRYCE ANDERSON -- a cool kid in a basketball uniform -- talking to two cute girls in cheerleading outfits (SHELLY and MARLY).

ROWLEY

Girls really like Bryce Anderson.

GREG

Yeah. Get this, apparently it's because Bryce has a "cute butt".

ROWLEY

A cute butt? But it's a butt.

GREG

I know, but I heard Shelly say it. And it was definitely a good thing.

Rowley chews over what Greg just said.

ROWLEY

Jeez.

Greg, looking nauseous, stuffs the last of a candy bar into his mouth.

(CONTINUED)

88

CONTINUED:

88

ROWLEY (CONT'D)

You ready?

Greg burps then sighs.

GREG

Yeah.

Greg steps onto the scale.

COACH MALONE

Congratulations, Heffley, you moved up to Bulldogs. And here's your new wrestling partner.

Coach Malone points off. Greg looks to see Patty Farrell in a singlet striding toward the mats.

GREG

What? But this is boy's wrestling.

PATTY

Ever hear of Title Nine?

COACH MALONE

Her parents threatened to sue.

89

INT. GYM - A LITTLE LATER

89

Greg faces Patty on the mat. They circle each other.

PATTY

Come on, what're you waiting for?

Greg turns to the coach.

GREG

She's a girl, I don't know where to grab her.

Patty sees her opening and violently pins Greg, slamming him to the ground. Rowley cheers wildly for Greg, but it's clear Patty's got him immobilized in a horribly embarrassing and intimate position.

FLASHBULBS. Greg looks around and sees Angie standing off to the side and pointing a camera at him. Finally, Coach Malone blows the whistle and Greg untangles himself from Patty, who takes her sweet time getting off of him.

GREG

Get off me!

(CONTINUED)

89

CONTINUED:

89

PATTY  
(to coach)  
Can I wrestle somebody good now?

Greg crosses to Coach Malone.

GREG  
That's it. I quit.

COACH MALONE  
Yeah, I don't blame you.

90

INT. HOMEROOM - DAY

90

The "Whitmore Warbler", the school newspaper, slams down on Greg's desk. ON THE FRONT PAGE ABOVE THE FOLD IS A PHOTO OF GREG BEING PINNED BY PATTY.

GREG  
(to himself)  
Oh no, oh no, oh no, oh no, oh no.

Greg's head is turned away from the camera so you can't make out who he is. The headline reads: "A GREAT DAY FOR WOMEN". The subhead reads: "Unidentified Male Student Pinned by Female Wrestler".

Greg looks up. Angie stares at him impassively for a moment, then moves on to distribute papers to the rest of the class. He looks around, no one seems to recognize him.

GREG (CONT'D)  
(to himself)  
Okay, you're okay.

He breathes a sigh of relief. Just then Rowley runs up to him with a newspaper of his own.

ROWLEY  
Greg, check it out, you got your picture in the paper!  
(to everyone, proud and loud)  
Greg's in the paper!

Greg looks at Rowley incredulously as the other students overhear and begin to laugh at him.

91

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

91

Greg walks down the hall. IN GREG'S POV, QUICK CUTS TO VARIOUS STUDENTS as they look at the picture of Greg in the paper and howl with laughter.

(CONTINUED)

91 CONTINUED: 91

It becomes like a horror movie as their faces are distorted by funhouse lens effects and their laughter echoes through the hallway growing louder and louder. Greg rushes down the hall and out of the building.

92 INT. KITCHEN - DAY 92

Greg trudges into the kitchen to find Rodrick sitting at the table grinning broadly. He holds up the school paper.

RODRICK

Hey. I hear it's a great day for women.

Greg throws his backpack on the floor.

GREG

This is all Rowley's fault, he's the one who sold me out.

RODRICK

What do you expect, he's an even bigger loser than you. I'd tell you to dump him, but it's fun watching him take you down.

93 INT. GREG'S ROOM - JUST LATER 93

Greg throws himself on his bed, annoyed. He picks up his journal and starts to sketch.

GREG (V.O.)

Rodrick was right. Rowley's been my problem this whole time.

FLASHBACK TO:

94 EXT. WHITMORE MIDDLE SCHOOL - DAY 94

As Greg and Rowley exit with other students:

ROWLEY

Hey Greg, after school you want to come over and  
(echo effect)  
plaayyy?!

FLASHBACK TO:

95 EXT. WHITMORE MIDDLE SCHOOL - DAY 95

The bike rack in front of school. The front wheel of each arriving student's bike is shoved into the slots. Bike.

(CONTINUED)

95

CONTINUED:

95

Bike. Bike. Bike. Bike. Big Wheel. Except it doesn't fit. Pull back to see Rowley trying to wrestle his Big Wheel into the bike rack as other kids laugh and Greg shakes his head in disappointment.

FLASHBACK TO:

96

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

96

Greg and Rowley approach Bryce Anderson who is surrounded by a gaggle of girls, including Shelly and Marley.

GREG  
(to Rowley)  
There's Bryce Anderson, be cool.

They walk up to the group.

ROWLEY  
(trying to be cool)  
Hey Bryce, nice butt.

Everyone stares at Rowley aghast.

END FLASHBACK.

97

INT. GREG'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

97

He is still writing in his journal.

GREG (V.O.)  
I knew if I wanted to change my  
situation at school, I was gonna have  
to find myself a new best friend.

CUT TO:

98

INSERT - BEST FRIEND PHOTOGRAPH

98

Greg and Rowley are side by side at the beach, smiling for the camera. The half of the photograph featuring Rowley's face begins to spin like a slot machine. Greg's face is stationary in the first reel while the second reel spins.

CUT TO:

99

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

99

Greg heads down the hall toward the Boys Room. He falls into step with COLLIN, a classmate about his age.

COLLIN  
Hey, Greg.

(CONTINUED)

99

CONTINUED:

99

GREG

Hey, Collin.

Greg looks at Collin appraisingly.

GREG (CONT'D)

Going to the bathroom?

COLLIN

Yeah.

GREG

Looks like we got a lot in common.

They exit into the Boys Room.

CUT TO:

100

INSERT - BEST FRIEND PHOTOGRAPH

100

The second reel stops spinning. Collin's face clicks into position next to Greg.

CUT TO:

101

INT. BOYS RESTROOM - DAY

101

Greg and Collin take their places at the urinals. Unlike Greg, who goes with his pants up, COLLIN FULLY DROPS HIS DRAWERS TO HIS ANKLES. Greg can't believe it.

CUT TO:

102

INSERT - BEST FRIEND PHOTOGRAPH

102

The second reel begins to spin again. Collins's out.

CUT TO:

103

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

103

Greg hurriedly exits the Boys Room and heads down the hall.

GREG (V.O.)

If I was going to replace Rowley, it would be pretty dumb of me to replace him with Rowley, Jr. The problem was there weren't a lot of good best friend options around.

104 INSERT - BEST FRIEND PHOTOGRAPH

104

Greg is still in the first reel, the second reel is spinning. Quentin's face clicks into place.

GREG (V.O.)

Too annoying.

The second reel spins again. Chirag Gupta's face clicks into place.

GREG (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Too depressing.

The second reel spins again. Fregley's face clicks into place.

GREG (V.O.) (CONT'D)

No explanation needed.

A series of SEVERAL MORE CANDIDATES, each weirder-looking than the next, click briefly into place. The second reel moves faster and faster until the faces are a blur.

ROWLEY (O.S.)

Greg!

105 INT. CAFETERIA

105

Greg looks up to see Rowley smile and motion him over to their two corner chairs. When Greg looks at Rowley's innocent, smiling face he suddenly wonders if he is doing the right thing.

GREG (V.O.)

What was I thinking? I couldn't just dump Rowley. The kid'd be lost without me. But I could fix him and change everything about him that bugs me. Because I'm a good friend, and that's the kind of thing good friends do.

He returns Rowley's smile.

CUT TO:

106 INSERT - BEST FRIEND PHOTOGRAPH

106

The second reel stops spinning; Rowley's face clicks back into place next to Greg. PULL BACK...

CUT TO:

107 INT. ROWLEY'S ROOM - DAY

107

...to reveal the photograph is hanging on the wall in Rowley's room. Greg goes through the clothes in Rowley's closet as Rowley looks on. Greg pulls out a shirt that has a picture of Rowley and his mom. Underneath the picture it says "Me and My Mommy."

GREG

This one's gotta go.

ROWLEY

That was a present from my mom.

GREG

Well then your mom is trying to get you killed.

He throws the shirt on the floor.

108 INT. HEFFLEY LIVING ROOM - DAY

108

Rowley sits in a chair. Greg paces in front of him like an instructor.

ROWLEY

Want to come over and hang out?

GREG

Good. Now this time act like you don't care if I do or not.

ROWLEY

But I do care.

GREG

But you should act like you have something better going on.

ROWLEY

Isn't that mean?

GREG

No, it'll make people like you.

(off Rowley's confusion)

People are weird, Rowley, what do you want me to say?

109 INT. HEFFLEY KITCHEN - DAY

109

Greg and Rowley sit at the table, Rowley has a notebook and pen. Greg is holding Rodrick's yearbook.

(CONTINUED)

109

CONTINUED:

109

He flips to a page and holds it up for Rowley to see. It is a picture of a KID SKATEBOARDING down the front steps of the school.

ROWLEY

Cool.

Greg nods, flips to another page, holds it up. It's a picture of SOME PUNKY KIDS holding guitars.

ROWLEY (CONT'D)

Cool.

Greg flips to another page, holds up another picture. It's a KID IN A SAFARI HELMET holding a box of mounted butterflies.

ROWLEY (CONT'D)

Dork?

GREG

Good.

Greg holds up another picture - a KID WEARING A SASH that reads "Spelling Bee Champion" and being handed a trophy. Rowley smiles, this one is easy.

ROWLEY

Cool.

Greg groans.

GREG

No, dork. Dork! He's wearing a sash for godssake.

We see Rowley jot something in his notebook. We can read the words "sash no good" at the bottom of a list that includes "no pics mommy", "long hair ok skateboard" and "butterflies = death".

110

INT. GREG'S ROOM - DAY

110

Greg hands Rowley a backpack. Rowley starts to put it on.

GREG

No, one strap. One strap is cool.

He demonstrates with his own backpack.

ROWLEY

But there's two straps. Why would they put two straps on if you're only supposed to use one?

(CONTINUED)

110 CONTINUED:

110

GREG

Just trust me, Rowley, have I ever steered you wrong?

ROWLEY

Yeah, a lot.

GREG

One strap, Rowley!

111 EXT. ROWLEY'S GARAGE - DAY

111

Greg wheels Rowley's bike out of the garage. It is dusty and has seen very little service.

GREG

The Big Wheel has to go. You're in middle school now. Man up.

ROWLEY

But I don't really know how --

GREG

Every kid in the history of forever could ride a bike. You'll be fine.

Rowley mounts the bike and starts to roll down the driveway. He quickly loses control and crashes.

112 EXT. SCHOOL - MORNING

112

Greg waits by the bike rack in front of school watching as Rowley rides up.

IN SLO-MO: We get a good look at the "improved" Rowley. He looks terrified and is tilting to one side from the weight of his giant backpack which is slung over one shoulder. He rolls slowly, wobbling precariously. He is barely able to stop in time to avoid crashing into the bike rack.

ROWLEY

(slo-mo effect)

Aaah.

END SLO-MO.

As Rowley stands by the bike rack, gasping for air.

GREG (V.O.)

I don't want to get ahead of myself, but I will say I did an amazing job of improving Rowley. He was ready to be the friend of a Class Favorite.

113 INT. HOMEROOM - JUST LATER 113

The class is in their seats as Ms. Darnell makes some morning announcements.

MS. DARNELL

...And finally, there are some spots available on Safety Patrol. If anyone's interested, see me after homeroom.

This gets Greg's attention.

CUT TO:

114 INT. FUTURISTIC MILITARY LOCKER ROOM - FANTASY 114

A SERIES OF QUICK CUTS of Greg as he suits up for Safety Patrol. Orange vest strapped on. Sides of vest cinched. Badge clipped on. Sneaker laces tightened. Sunscreen slapped on.

CUT TO:

115 INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - FANTASY 115

Greg and his fellow Safety Patrols strut down the hallway IN SLO MO through a haze of smoke a la The Right Stuff.

Greg passes SHELLY AND MARLEY who watch him and giggle.

SHELLY

Greg Heffley has a cute butt.

CUT TO:

116 AN OPEN YEARBOOK - CLASS FAVORITES SECTION - FANTASY 116

A full page photo of Greg with his back to us, looking over his shoulder at the camera. The caption reads "Best Butt".

CUT TO:

117 INT. HOMEROOM - LATER 117

The class is gone. Greg and Rowley are at Ms. Darnell's desk. She hands them badges and orange vests.

MS. DARNELL

Okay, you'll be walking the kindergartners home after their half day.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

117

CONTINUED:

117

MS. DARNELL (CONT'D)

They go right after lunch, so you'll be excused from the first twenty minutes of sixth period.

ROWLEY

But that means we'll miss half of alge-

-

Greg gives Rowley a big pinch.

ROWLEY (CONT'D)

-- brahooney!

118

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

118

Greg saunters toward the front door of the school with Rowley. They are in their orange plastic Safety Patrol vests and each has a cup of steaming cocoa.

GREG (V.O.)

So we enlisted. And get this, because Safety Patrols are outside a lot, we get special, exclusive Safety Patrol cocoa.

Greg takes a sip of his cocoa, Collin passes by. Angie is further down the hall.

COLLIN

Wow. Is that cocoa?

GREG

(officious)

Sorry. Safety Patrols only.

Greg continues on, Rowley shoots Collin a rueful look.

ROWLEY

Sorry.

Angie is annoyed by Greg's attitude toward Collin.

ANGIE

You might want to ease up a little, Heffley.

GREG

Huh?

ANGIE

I mean, it's just Safety Patrol. In middle school. It's the lowest of the low.

(CONTINUED)

118

CONTINUED:

118

GREG

I don't think you understand the  
seriousness of our job.

Greg throws open the front door to reveal Ms. Darnell waiting  
outside with EIGHT LITTLE KINDERGARTEN KIDS.

MS. DARNELL

Okay, these are the kids you'll be  
walking home.

ANGIE

Actually, it's the lowest of the  
lowest of the low.

Greg glares at her.

119

EXT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - DAY

119

SUPER: "December. Wednesday."

Greg and Rowley are at the foot of the elementary school  
steps with the kindergartners lined up in a row on the  
sidewalk. Rowley suddenly sees THE PICKUP TRUCK FROM  
HALLOWEEN almost upon them.

ROWLEY

Greg, it's those guys from Halloween.

Greg looks where Rowley is pointing and sees the pickup.

EXTREME CLOSE-UPS: Shredded paint on the side of the truck;  
Pete behind the wheel; Wade in the pickup bed with the fire  
extinguisher.

As the truck passes them, PETE SEES GREG. GREG SEES PETE SEE  
HIM. The truck stops and quickly reverses back to where Greg  
and Rowley were standing. BUT NOW IT'S JUST THE  
KINDERGARTNERS -- NO GREG AND ROWLEY.

Pete puts the truck in park and is about to investigate when  
a CAR HONKS BEHIND them. Wade starts pounding on the back  
window.

WADE

(re: car behind them)

Dude, it's Principal Kinney, go go go!

As Pete throws it in drive and speeds away, THE CAMERA MOVES  
UP AND OVER THE CONFUSED KINDERGARTNERS TO FIND GREG AND  
ROWLEY FLAT ON THE GROUND BEHIND THEM.

(CONTINUED)

119

CONTINUED:

119

GREG

That was close.

ROWLEY

So close.

Rowley looks at Greg a beat then smiles. Greg starts to chuckle. As they laugh together...

120

EXT. SPORT COURT - DAY

120

Close on the cheese as snow falls on it.

121

EXT. MIDDLE SCHOOL - AFTERNOON

121

Kids pour out of the school, happy to escape captivity. Greg stands by the curb, in his Safety Patrol badge and vest. He sees some kids step into the street.

GREG

Wait for the light, people.

Feeling pretty good about himself, Greg turns back toward the school AS THE KIDS SHRUG AND CROSS ANYWAY.

GREG (V.O.) (CONT'D)

There's just something about a man in uniform. Even a plastic one. Now that I was on Safety Patrol everything was falling into place, I was on the road to Class Favorite.

122

EXT. HEFFLEY HOUSE - DAY

122

The house is decorated for Christmas with twinkly lights and a wreath on the door.

GREG (V.O.)

So I went into Christmas vacation feeling pretty good and ready to enjoy our Heffley family holiday traditions.

123

INT. HEFFLEY LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

123

Greg, Frank and Rodrick sit on the couch eating pie and watching a BIKINI BEACH MOVIE ON TV. A decorated tree glows behind them. It's nice, peaceful even. Rodrick notices Manny on the floor going through his backpack.

RODRICK

Manny, get out of my stuff!

(CONTINUED)

123

CONTINUED:

123

Manny slowly turns his head and glares at Rodrick for a beat. He then walks over and squeezes in on the end of the couch next to them.

ANGLE ON the TV, on which two young women in bikinis are bouncily running in slo-motion on the beach.

PAN DOWN THE ROW OF HEFFLEY MEN -- First Frank, then Rodrick, then Greg all with the same enthralled expression. Finally, we land on Manny, WHO STARTS TO YELL.

MANNY

Aaaaah! Aaaaah! Aaaaah!

Susan runs in.

SUSAN

What? What's going on?

Then she sees the TV.

SUSAN (CONT'D)

What are you watching? Turn that off.

RODRICK

What? Why?

SUSAN

I don't want Manny exposed to that kind of thing. Women are more than just a place to hang a bikini.

GREG

But these women are smart. Tracey and Sabrina are about to solve a dognapping.

Susan looks at Frank.

FRANK

I told them to turn it off.

Manny grabs the remote and changes the channel to a CARTOON. He then turns to Rodrick and smiles.

124

EXT. STREET - DAY

124

Greg and Rowley are walking up the hill. Rowley has his Big Wheel, Greg has the football.

(CONTINUED)

GREG

I'm thinking when we get back to school, it's time for me to really make my move. Maybe run for student council. Something easy, like Treasurer.

ROWLEY

Isn't that a lot of math?

GREG

You could do the math. You could be the man behind the man.

ROWLEY

I got a C in math.

GREG

Hm.

Greg stops, Rowley continues to the top of the hill.

GREG (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I didn't know exactly what it was going to be, I just knew I needed my big break.

Rowley turns his Big Wheel downhill.

GREG (CONT'D)

Ready?

Rowley takes off down the hill. As Rowley speeds past on the Big Wheel, Greg fires a tight spiral directly at him. The ball hits Rowley's front wheel.

GREG

Yes!

ROWLEY AND THE BIG WHEEL ARE KNOCKED OFF COURSE, HIT A CURB, AND GO AIRBORNE. Rowley flies through the air, then crashes into a snow drift.

GREG (V.O.)

Only the way it turned out, the big break wasn't mine.

SUPER: "January. Monday."

Students trudge into the school.

126

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - MORNING

126

Rowley's left hand is in a cast. He stands at his locker. Reveal Greg a few feet away looking at him sheepishly. He takes a deep breath, crosses to Rowley.

GREG  
(keeping it light)  
Hey, that was some ride, Rowley.

ROWLEY  
Hmm.

Shelly and Marley pass by. Shelly notices Rowley's cast and stops.

SHELLY  
Oh my gosh, what happened?

ROWLEY  
Broke it.

SHELLY  
How?

ROWLEY  
Big Wheel accident.

Shelly and Marley laugh.

MARLEY  
You're funny.

SHELLY  
Does it still hurt?

ROWLEY  
I guess.

MARLEY  
You poor thing.

SHELLY  
Can I sign your cast?

MARLEY  
Me, too!

Other girls gather around Rowley and push Greg further and further back until he is shoved right out of the crowd. Greg does not like being stuck on the outside and pushes his way back into the circle.

(CONTINUED)

126

CONTINUED:

126

GREG

Hey! Hey! I'm the one who broke his hand.

The girls all turn to look at Greg.

SHELLY

Then you're a jerk.

The girls turn back to Rowley as Greg slinks away.

127

INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA - DAY

127

Greg, with his lunch tray, heads toward his usual seat at the edge of the room when he sees something shocking. Rowley at a table with Shelly, Marley and some other popular girls. There are no empty seats. As Greg watches, Shelly feeds Rowley a bite of food. Rowley says something Greg can't hear and the girls laugh. This pushes Greg to his limit.

GREG (V.O.)

I couldn't believe it. Rowley was eating at an actual table -- and all because of a stupid broken hand. And he doesn't even care where he eats. If anyone should be at a table, it's me.

He looks out across the room, at the tables full of unwelcoming kids. His eyes fall on Angie who is sitting at a table nearby. There is an empty seat next to her.

ANGIE

I'd ask you to join me, but this table's for people on the paper, not in the paper.

Greg sighs and heads in the other direction, back to his usual place. He stops when sees Fregley is sitting in Rowley's old seat. But Greg really has no place else to go. He glumly sits.

FREGLEY

Hey Greg Heffley, want to see me eat my whole sandwich in one bite?

GREG

No thanks.

But Fregley does it anyway, stuffing his entire sandwich into his mouth. He grins and points to his mouth, "See, did it!" Greg's eyes drift back to Rowley's table.

128 INT. GREG'S BEDROOM - LATER

128

Greg is on his bed, sketching in his journal. We see a cartoon of Rowley at the lunch table with the girls.

GREG (V.O.)

I realized Rowley's injury thing was a pretty good racket, so I decided it was time for me to have an injury of my own.

129 INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

129

Greg throws his backpack in his locker. We see that one arm is now wrapped in gauze. He grabs a notebook from his locker and crosses to Shelly and Marley. He thrusts his arm toward the girls.

GREG

Hey guys, check it out.

SHELLY

Oh my gosh, what happened?

GREG

It's a raging infection caused by a splinter that was left untreated.

The girls just look at him. He holds up his notebook.

GREG

Want to be the first to sign my sympathy sheet?

The girls wrinkle their noses in disgust and walk away. Fregley approaches.

FREGLEY

Can I peek at your infection?

GREG

Go away.

130 INT. HOMEROOM - DAY

130

The kids are hanging around before homeroom starts. Greg enters, unwrapping the gauze from his hand. As he stuffs it in the trash he notices Rowley and Collin talking.

ROWLEY

...and on the x-ray you could see where the bone just snapped right in half.

(CONTINUED)

COLLIN

Wow. I broke a toe once. It got all purple.

ROWLEY

Cool.

CHIRAG

Hey Gregory, want to sign the card?

GREG

You got Rowley a card?!

CHIRAG

What? No. It's for Bryan Little, you know the guy who does that Wacky Dawg cartoon for the school paper? He has mono and he's going to be out for three months.

Greg notices that a bunch of kids are gathered around the teacher's desk signing a big posterboard card. The card has a drawing of a dog with a sad face and says "We're going to miss you, Wacky Dawg."

GREG

(suddenly interested)

Bryan Little's sick? So who's going to do the cartoon?

CHIRAG

They're having tryouts. But the important thing is that Bryan get better.

GREG

(distracted)

Uh-huh.

GREG (V.O.)

This was what I'd been waiting for all year. Everyone loves the cartoon guy. I mean, Bryan Little was Class Clown last year because of Wacky Dawg. And I draw cartoons all the time, it's like my biggest talent. I knew I could take something like this right to the top.

CUT TO:

131 INT. CHARLIE ROSE SHOW - FANTASY 131

Charlie Rose is interviewing Greg, who looks natty in a tweed blazer with leather elbow patches.

CHARLIE ROSE

Let's talk about how funny you are.  
What is that Greg Heffley "thing" that  
we all want but only you have?

GREG

It's three things, Charlie. Charisma.  
Good looks. Humility.

CUT TO:

132 AN OPEN YEARBOOK - CLASS FAVORITES SECTION - FANTASY 132

A full page photo of Greg holding up several school paper cartoons. The caption reads "Class Clown".

CUT TO:

133 INT. HEFFLEY KITCHEN - DAY 133

Greg and Rowley sit at the kitchen table drawing cartoons.

GREG (V.O.)

I decided to go ahead and forgive  
Rowley for milking the broken hand so  
hard, and told him he could work on  
the cartoon with me.

Chuckling, Rowley hands Greg a piece of paper.

ROWLEY

Here, what about this?

Greg looks at it, it's a series of three cartoons. Each one ends with the punchline "Zoo Wee Mama!"

ROWLEY (CONT'D)

(excited)  
Zoo Wee Mama!

GREG

It's the same joke every time.

ROWLEY

Yeah. Zoo Wee Mama!

Rowley cracks up.

(CONTINUED)

133

CONTINUED:

133

GREG

We can't just do the same thing over and over.

ROWLEY

We can if it's Zoo Wee Mama.

Greg tosses Rowley's papers aside.

GREG

It needs to be a little more sophisticated. Like mine is about a really dumb guy and he does dumb stuff that's funny.

Greg picks up a pencil...

CUT TO:

134

INSERT - CREIGHTON THE CRETIN CARTOON

134

THE CARTOON BEGINS TO DRAW ITSELF AS GREG DOES THE VOICES.

FIRST FRAME: CREIGHTON holds something shaped like a box in his hand.

CREIGHTON

I wonder what is in this cute little box.

SECOND FRAME: Creighton has been joined by a kid in a baseball cap (CREIGHTON'S FRIEND). The kid points at Creighton...

CREIGHTON'S FRIEND

That's not a box, it's a brick, you dumb moron!

CREIGHTON

Oops. I have been trying to open it all day.

CUT TO:

135

INT. HEFFLEY KITCHEN - DAY

135

The drawing in front of Greg is now finished. Greg looks to Rowley, expecting him to laugh at the cartoon.

ROWLEY

(unsmiling)

Can he say Zoo Wee Mama?

(CONTINUED)

135

CONTINUED:

135

GREG

Rowley, forget Zoo Wee Mama. This is serious business. Do you want me to be Class Clown or don't you?

ROWLEY

But I like Zoo Wee Mama.

GREG

You know what, if you like it so much then you should just go do it yourself.

The idea of doing it alone has never occurred to Rowley. He thinks about it.

ROWLEY

(shrugs)

Okay. See ya.

Rowley grabs his cartoons and goes. Greg is clearly surprised by this flash of independence.

136

EXT. WHITMORE MIDDLE SCHOOL - DAY

136

SUPER: "February. Wednesday."

It is a bleak, gray rainy day.

GREG (V.O.)

Safety Patrol was getting to be a drag because of the weather. But I figured once I got the cartoon, I'd just dump it anyway.

137

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

137

Greg crosses to Rowley who is at his locker.

GREG

I forgot my raincoat so I'm gonna need you to walk the kids home today.

ROWLEY

I can't. I can't get my cast wet.

Rowley holds up his broken hand. Greg sighs.

ROWLEY

You can borrow my coat.

He holds up a bright red slicker.

138 EXT. STREET - DAY

138

Greg, wearing Rowley's coat with the hood up, is hunched against the rain as he herds the kindergartners along the wet sidewalk. Suddenly, he sees the TEEN'S TRUCK making a turn toward them at the end of the street. He stops cold.

GREG

Oh no.

Greg frantically looks around for an escape route, but there's nothing but houses. One of the houses is being renovated; the construction site is deserted. Then he spies it: A CONSTRUCTION DUMPSTER. It's his only hope. He looks at the truck, which is getting closer. He spins around at the kids.

GREG

Okay, listen up! We're being attacked by space monsters and they're going to eat us unless we can get into that dumpster! Now follow me if you want to live!

139 EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE - MOMENTS LATER

139

Greg is hoisting terrified kids into the dumpster. Greg looks up to see THE TRUCK STOP AT A STOP SIGN JUST A HALF BLOCK AWAY.

GREG

Come on! Move it! Let's go!

Greg helps what he thinks is the last kid in the dumpster, but looks over and sees a one small straggler in a puffy parka wandering off. Greg takes off for the kid.

SLO-MO: Greg races across the site to the kid, hoists him over his shoulders like a soldier carrying a fallen comrade, stagger-runs back to the dumpster, and THROWS THE KID IN. WE WATCH THE KID ARC THROUGH THE AIR AND DISAPPEAR INSIDE THE DUMPSTER. END SLO-MO.

Greg doesn't have time to take a breath because THE TRUCK IS BEARING DOWN ON THEM. He turns around to get into the dumpster himself and is confronted by YET ANOTHER KID HE FORGOT, a big husky one this time.

140 EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE - MOMENTS LATER

140

Greg strains to push the hefty kid into the dumpster. He's almost got him in, but...it's too late. The truck is on them...but IT'S NOT THE TEEN'S TRUCK AT ALL.

(CONTINUED)

140

CONTINUED:

140

Same color, make, and model, but a lone woman is inside it, driving. Phew. He relaxes his grip on the kid who teeters on the edge of the dumpster...

MRS. IRVINE (O.S.)

Hey! Hey you!

Greg looks over, LETTING GO OF THE KID, WHO FALLS IN. It's MRS. IRVINE, an older woman standing on her porch in a housecoat, and she doesn't look happy. Her hair is in curlers under a clear plastic rain bonnet.

MRS. IRVINE

(mad)

Rowley Jefferson, is that you?

GREG

(hiding his face)

Yes, Mrs. Irvine.

Mrs. Irvine walks toward him. Panicked, Greg turns tail and runs off before she can see his face.

141

EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE - MOMENTS LATER

141

Mrs. Irvine looks inside the dumpster. A dog pile of kids crowded into the dirty dumpster look back up at her. With her curlers under the rain bonnet and her makeup running in the rain, she looks a little scary. One BOY KINDERGARTNER clears his throat.

BOY KINDERGARTNER

Are you going to eat us?

142

INT. HOMEROOM - DAY

142

The kids are watching the principal, MR. WINSKY, making announcements on the closed circuit TV on the wall. He reads from papers in front of him like a newscaster.

MR. WINSKY

...so to whoever took the lizard out of the science lab and put it in my car, you should know that it was very cold yesterday and the lizard is now in intensive care.

Mr. Winsky sets aside that paper and reads another announcement.

MR. WINSKY (CONT'D)

On a happier note, they've selected the new cartoon for the school paper.

(CONTINUED)

142

CONTINUED:

142

A murmur of excitement goes through the class. Greg smiles expectantly.

MR. WINSKY (CONT'D)

The winner is...

Greg leans forward in his chair, preparing to stand up and accept congratulations.

MR. WINSKY (CONT'D)

..."Zoo Wee Mama" by Rowley Jefferson!

Greg is shocked. Everyone claps for Rowley.

GREG (V.O.)

I couldn't believe it. But I guess it says a lot about the intelligence level at my school, and it doesn't make me feel real hopeful about the future of our country.

143

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

143

Greg grimly stands next to Rowley who is being chatted up by Shelly and Marley. Rowley is basking in the attention.

SHELLY

Will you put me in your cartoon?

ROWLEY

Sure. Heh-heh.

MARLEY

And me too -- ooh, I want to be the one who says Zoo Wee Mama.

ROWLEY

Okay.

Angie approaches.

ANGIE

Hey, Rowley, congratulations.

ROWLEY

Thanks.

ANGIE

You deserve it. I read all the submissions and yours was definitely the best.

(to Greg)

I read yours, too.

(CONTINUED)

143

CONTINUED:

143

Angie crosses away as Bryce passes.

BRYCE

Hey, Rowley.

ROWLEY

Hey.

(happily, to Greg)

Wow, everyone knows me now. It's like I'm famous.

Greg is dead inside.

144

INT. HISTORY CLASS - DAY

144

Mr. Worth addresses the class.

MR. WORTH

...So why did America send soldiers to England?

BRYCE

Because America rocks!

MR. WORTH

Well...yes. But in this case it was because Germany had...

(writes on board)

...invaded --

Mr. Worth drops his chalk.

MR. WORTH

Zoo Wee Mama!

The whole class cracks up (except for Greg) and Bryce high-fives Rowley.

GREG (V.O.)

Well, the failure of the public school system was complete. The way I see it, Rowley and the rest of these bozos deserve each other.

145

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

145

Greg and Rowley are walking down the hall. They pass a door that says "MR. WINSKY, PRINCIPAL". Mr. Winsky sticks his head out; he does not look happy.

MR. WINSKY

Rowley Jefferson?

(CONTINUED)

145

CONTINUED:

145

ROWLEY

Yes, Principal Winsky?

MR. WINSKY

I need to see you in my office.

Rowley shoots Greg a worried look and crosses to Mr. Winsky. They go in the office and Mr. Winsky shuts the door. Greg looks around to make sure nobody's watching, then crosses to the door, peeks in the glass window pane.

146

INT. MR. WINSKY'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

146

Mr. Winsky sits at his desk. Rowley sits in the chair across from him. He looks very small. We see Greg hovering just outside the door, but Mr. Winsky doesn't notice him.

MR. WINSKY

I got a call from Mrs. Irvine about what happened with the kindergartners last week. She's very upset.

Rowley looks confused.

147

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

147

Back with Greg outside the door. He looks alarmed. He peeks in the window again. From his perspective we see Mr. Winsky really laying into Rowley.

MR. WINSKY

...you brought dishonor to our school and you disrespected the badge.

ROWLEY

I really don't --

MR. WINSKY

Save it. You're going to apologize to those kids tomorrow and you're suspended from Safety Patrol for a week. Including cocoa. Now get out of here.

ROWLEY

Yes sir.

Rowley exits Mr. Winsky's office, joining Greg in the hall.

ROWLEY

(devastated)

I'm suspended for a week. I don't even know what's he's talking about.

(CONTINUED)

147

CONTINUED:

147

Rowley trudges to his locker, Greg watches him go.

GREG

Rowley, I...

ROWLEY

What?

GREG

Nothing.

148

INT. HEFFLEY KITCHEN - LATER

148

Greg comes home. Susan is there, cooking dinner. She takes one look at him and knows something is up.

SUSAN

Are you okay?

Greg hesitates a beat, then:

GREG

I don't know, I'm in kind of a tough situation.

SUSAN

Sit. Tell me.

Greg and Susan sit at the table.

GREG

I know something and if I tell the truth about it, it could hurt somebody.

GREG (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Namely me, but I kept that part to myself.

SUSAN

Well, I think you can never go wrong being honest.

On Greg thinking:

FLASHBACK TO:

149

INT. HEFFLEY KITCHEN - NIGHT

149

The family is celebrating GRAMPA HEFFLEY'S birthday. Susan sets a cake down in front of Grampa.

(CONTINUED)

149

CONTINUED:

149

SUSAN

Make a wish, Grampa!

GRAMPA

I wish for chocolate cake next year.

GREG

If you're alive next year.

Everyone glares at Greg.

GREG

Hey, I'm just trying to be realistic.

END FLASHBACK.

150

INT. HEFFLEY KITCHEN - DAY

150

Susan and Greg continue their talk.

SUSAN

You just have to go with your gut and try to do the right thing, because it's our choices that make us who we are.

Greg nods. Susan kisses Greg and exits. Greg chews over what she has just said.

151

EXT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - MORNING

151

Greg is walking to school. He has dark circles under his eyes and looks glum.

GREG (V.O.)

I was up all night tossing and turning about this Rowley situation, but I finally figured out what the right thing to do was.

He stops. Reveal Greg is standing across the street from the Elementary School. On the steps of the school are Rowley, Mr. Winsky and the kindergarten students.

ROWLEY

(to kids)

I'm sorry I terrorized you children.

The children look at each other, confused.

GREG (V.O.)

I decided to let Rowley take one for the team this time.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

151 CONTINUED:

151

GREG (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Now that he had the cartoon he didn't even need Safety Patrol anymore. Really, I was probably doing him a favor.

Head bowed, Rowley sadly hands Mr. Winsky his badge.

152 INT. HEFFLEY KITCHEN -- DAY

152

Greg comes in the back door from school wearing his backpack. Susan turns around from baking something.

SUSAN

How'd it go? Did you do the right thing?

GREG

I think so.

Susan smiles, proud of him.

153 INT. ICE CREAM PARLOR - DAY

153

Greg is in a booth with Susan. A GIANT HOT FUDGE SUNDAE is placed in front of him.

SUSAN

Dig in. You earned it.

Greg takes a bite. It's sawdust in his mouth.

154 EXT. WHITMORE MIDDLE SCHOOL - DAY

154

Rowley is sitting on the front steps. Greg approaches; he notices Rowley steal a sad glance at his safety patrol gear.

ROWLEY

(glum)

Did the kids ask about me?

GREG

Uh...no.

ROWLEY

Oh.

A beat.

GREG

So, it's kind of funny. You know that whole Safety Patrol thing?

(CONTINUED)

ROWLEY

Yeah?

GREG

Well, you remember that day you lent me your jacket? See, I thought I saw those guys from Halloween and so, you know, otherwise I never would've, but... Okay. I'm the one who threw those kids in the dumpster.

ROWLEY

What?!

GREG

Yeah, and I think we can both learn some valuable lessons from this. Like, I should be more careful what I do in front of Mrs. Irvine's house. And you...well, you should be more careful who you lend your coat to.

Rowley looks at him steadily for a moment.

ROWLEY

You know what, you're not a good friend.

GREG

Whoa, how can you even say that? I'm a great friend.

ROWLEY

If you were a great friend you would've told Mr. Winsky the truth.

GREG

Okay, one thing, you can't get mad about just --

ROWLEY

You're always bossing me around. You weren't happy I got the cartoon. You broke my hand and you didn't even seem sorry!

GREG

That broken hand was the best thing that ever happened to you.

ROWLEY

Don't call me, don't come by my house. We're done.

(CONTINUED)

- 154 CONTINUED: (2) 154
- Rowley exits, leaving Greg alone in the empty school.
- 155 EXT. WHITMORE MIDDLE SCHOOL - MORNING 155
- Kids are hanging out in the snowy front yard before the first bell. Greg watches Rowley who is deep in conversation with Angie.
- GREG (V.O.)
- I thought the whole thing would blow over, but Rowley was still giving me the silent treatment, even when I tried to make the first move.
- GREG THROWS A SNOWBALL AT ROWLEY, it hits him on the back of the head. Rowley turns around and Greg smiles and gives him a friendly wave. Rowley and Angie just glare at him and continue their conversation.
- 156 INT. MR. WINSKY'S OFFICE - DAY 156
- Greg and Rowley face Mr. Winsky who is holding Greg's badge.
- MR. WINSKY
- Thanks to an anonymous tipster, I now know the whole story. Greg, you're relieved of your Safety Patrol duties, effective immediately.
- (turns to Rowley)
- Rowley, for showing dignity under false suspicion, I'm promoting you to Team Captain.
- As Mr. Winsky hands Rowley a new, bigger badge, Greg looks out the glass window of Mr. Winsky's door. He sees Angie just outside the door watching.
- 157 INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - JUST LATER 157
- Greg and Rowley exit Mr. Winsky's office.
- GREG
- Hey, Cap'n, you're still gonna hook me up with cocoa, right?
- Rowley ignores him and walks off with Angie. Greg watches them go.
- 158 INT. GROCERY STORE - DAY 158
- They are in the frozen food aisle. Greg trails Susan who is pushing Manny in the cart.

(CONTINUED)

SUSAN

Should I get some more pizzas? Is Rowley coming over this weekend?

GREG

I don't think so. We're kind of on the outs.

SUSAN

Why? What happened?

GREG

Nothing. He got mad because I -- never mind.

SUSAN

Okay.

She keeps moving down the aisle. At the end of the aisle is a rack full of Valentine's Day cards.

SUSAN (CONT'D)

(taking a card)

Maybe it would help if you made a gesture. Like, say, send him a card for Valentine's day. They have friend ones.

Greg is stunned by the awfulness of this idea.

GREG

Mom, you've had a lot of bad ideas. Band camp. Getting me and Rodrick matching jackets. The family canoe trip. But that, that's the worst.

Susan watches him walk away and doesn't notice that Manny has taken the card and started chewing on it. When she looks back, it's all gummed up and slimy. Susan hurriedly puts it back in the rack behind some other cards and moves away.

SUPER: "March. Thursday."

Much like the first day of school, Greg walks down the hall alone, surrounded by kids who pay no attention to him. He watches as Collin crosses to Rowley, carrying an overnight bag.

COLLIN

Hey Rowley, my mom says it's okay for me to sleep over tonight.

(CONTINUED)

159

CONTINUED:

159

ROWLEY

Awesome!

Greg watches Rowley and Collin head off together.

GREG (V.O.)

The whole thing with Rowley is, I was willing to let bygones be bygones but then he made friends with Collin just to mess with me. As if I even care if he --

CRACK.

160

INT. GREG'S ROOM - NIGHT

160

Greg is on his bed writing in his journal. He looks at his pencil and realizes he's broken the tip off from the fierceness of his writing. He flops back on his bed and stares at the ceiling.

GREG (V.O.)

Well you know what? Two can play at that game.

161

EXT. ROWLEY'S STREET - DUSK

161

Rowley and Collin are playing in Rowley's front yard. Greg, carrying an overnight bag, walks super-casually past them to the next house, where Fregley is playing alone in the front yard. Rowley and Collin watch Greg pass, but nobody says a word.

Greg walks up to Fregley, who is stabbing a kite with a stick.

FREGLEY

Hey Greg Heffley.

GREG

What's happening, Fregley?

FREGLEY

Killing a kite.

Greg shoots a look toward Rowley and Collin. Rowley is watching Greg, but when he sees Greg look at him, he quickly looks away.

GREG

I was thinking maybe you might want to have a sleepover.

(CONTINUED)

161

CONTINUED:

161

FREGLEY

Yeah. With who?

GREG

Me.

FREGLEY

Yeah! When?

GREG

(losing patience)

Now.

FREGLEY

(jumping up and down)

Alright! We're gonna be best friends forever!

GREG

Uh-huh.

(loudly, for Rowley's benefit)

I can't believe I was able to pencil you in for a sleepover, what with my busy schedule.

FREGLEY

Greg Heffley, I love you!

GREG

(glancing at Rowley)

Uh-huh, uh-huh, let's just get inside.

Greg shepherds Fregley toward his front door.

162

INT. FREGLEY'S BEDROOM - LATER

162

Greg is at the window looking out. Fregley has set up a twister mat.

FREGLEY

Hey, Greg Heffley, you wanna play twister? Do ya? Wanna? Twister?

Greg looks at Fregley for a beat, then turns back to the window. FROM GREG'S POV we see that Rowley and Collin are still in Rowley's yard.

GREG

You know what, Fregley, maybe this wasn't such a good --

(CONTINUED)

162

CONTINUED:

162

FREGLEY

CANDY!

Greg turns and sees Fregley has gone through his overnight bag and pulled out a A BAG OF JELLYBEANS which he is feverishly stuffing into his mouth.

GREG

Hey!

FREGLEY

I'm not supposed to have sugar. Not even a little. My mom says it makes me cr-aaa-zzz-yyyy!  
(maniacal laugh)  
Hahahahahahaha!

Fregley empties the rest of the bag into his mouth.

163

INT. FREGLEY'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

163

Greg is backed as far into the corner as he can go. Alarmed, he watches Fregley twitch and dance. Fregley leaps up onto his bed.

FREGLEY

I. FEEL. LIKE. SUUPERMAAAAAN!

He fixes his eyes on Greg.

FREGLEY (CONT'D)

I will destroy you, Lex Luthor!

Suddenly, he makes a flying leap at Greg who dodges out of the way.

GREG

(calls for help)  
Hey, Mrs....uh, Fregley?! Hello???  
Is anybody there??

Fregley jumps to his feet and faces Greg.

FREGLEY

HA HA HA HA!

Fregley charges Greg. Greg makes for the door. He throws the door open and runs out with Fregley in hot pursuit.

164

INT. FREGLEY'S HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

164

Greg races down the hall. He doesn't know where he's heading.

(CONTINUED)

164 CONTINUED: 164

Fregley is right behind him, chasing him with his index finger outstretched. Greg spots an open door at the end of the hall. The bathroom. He races inside and slams the door behind him, locking it.

165 INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS 165

Greg catches his breath. We hear LOUD THUMPING SOUNDS as Fregley throws his body against the door.

166 INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT 166

Greg, traumatized, sits in a little ball on the floor. It's quiet. No sound from Fregley. Then a PIECE OF PAPER slides under the door. Greg gingerly crosses to it, picks it up and reads it.

The letter reads: "DEAR GREG HEFFLEY, I'M VERY SORRY I CHASED YOU WITH A BOOGER ON MY FINGER. HERE, I PUT IT ON THIS PAPER SO YOU CAN GET ME BACK."

At the bottom of the page is an arrow that points directly to where Greg's thumb is. Greg moves his thumb. JUST UNDERNEATH WHERE HIS THUMB HAD BEEN IS A BOOGER. Greg starts to sway gently as his head swims with the horror. As he starts to topple over...

THE SCREEN GOES BLACK.

167 EXT. SPORT COURT - DAY 167

The cheese is alone on the deserted sport court, surrounded by grimy old snow.

GREG (V.O.)

You know, to be honest I'm a lot better off without friends. All friends do is drag you down and suck the life out of you.

168 EXT. WHITMORE MIDDLE SCHOOL - DAY 168

Greg parks his bike in the bike rack, next to Rowley's Big Wheel.

GREG (V.O.)

Rowley's been nothing but a distraction. Now that I'm on my own and don't have to worry about carrying around all that dead weight, I can get back to the business of making a name for myself.

169 INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY 169

Greg stands in front of a poster that reads "SPRING PLAY AUDITIONS TODAY".

CUT TO:

170 INT. RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL-TYPE THEATER - FANTASY 170

Greg is on stage in Shakespearean garb and with long, artsy hair, taking his bows in front of an audience of kids. They are really going crazy for him. Rowley is in the audience too. He is so amazed by Greg's performance, he can't help but stand up and join the adulation.

CUT TO:

171 AN OPEN YEARBOOK - CLASS FAVORITES SECTION - FANTASY 171

A full page photo of Greg in his drama get-up. Underneath is the caption "Most Talented".

CUT TO:

172 INT. AUDITORIUM - DAY 172

A bunch of kids are gathered in the audience seats. A group of six kids, including Greg and Patty Farrell, are grouped around the piano on the stage. The drama teacher, MRS. NORTON, sits at the piano. Coach Malone, clearly assigned against his will, is there to assist.

MRS. NORTON

Greg Heffley, step forward.

Mrs. Norton plays the opening bars of "My Country 'Tis Of Thee." GREG BEGINS TO SING IN A SURPRISINGLY CLEAR AND PURE SOPRANO.

GREG

(singing)

*My country 'tis of thee/sweet land of  
liberty/of thee I sing...*

Mrs. Norton is so surprised she stops playing.

MRS. NORTON

That was...that was very good, Greg.  
One moment please.

She huddles with Coach Malone.

(CONTINUED)

172

CONTINUED:

172

MRS. NORTON (CONT'D)

He has amazing tone. I wonder if  
he...could play Dorothy?

COACH MALONE

Well, if girls can wrestle I guess  
anything goes around here.

Greg overhears this. So do some of the other kids, and they  
start laughing.

CUT TO:

173

PLAYBILL-TYPE LEAFLET - FANTASY

173

The "Wizard of Oz" Playbill featuring Greg on the cover  
dressed as Dorothy.

CUT TO:

174

INT. AUDITORIUM - CONTINUOUS

174

Greg looks mortified.

GREG

No, no I don't want to be Dorothy.

PATTY

(shrieks)

He can't be Dorothy! I'm Dorothy!

MRS. NORTON

Alright, Patty, calm down.

PATTY

(in meltdown mode)

I'm Dorothy! I am! My mom is  
president of the PTA, she can ruin  
your life!

Everyone stares at Patty aghast.

MRS. NORTON

Congratulations, Greg, you've been  
cast as a tree.

175

INT. HEFFLEY KITCHEN - EVENING

175

The Heffley family eats dinner. Manny is sitting on his  
potty. Greg slides into his seat.

MANNY

Bubby!

(CONTINUED)

GREG

Mom, make him stop calling me that.

SUSAN

Where were you?

GREG

Auditioning for the school play.

SUSAN

(excited)

The play? Really?

FRANK

Was it some kind of punishment?

Frank chuckles. No one else does. Greg sits, starts helping himself to food.

GREG

It's The Wizard of Oz and I'm going to be a tree.

SUSAN

Oh, I remember the trees. In the movie they throw apples at Dorothy.

GREG

Really? That could be cool.

RODRICK

Could be. But it won't be. 'Cause it's lame.

SUSAN

It is not. I'm so proud of you, Greg.

GREG

Thanks.

SUSAN

No, really. This is a very proud moment and I just want to acknowledge that. We're all so busy, we never take the time to tell each other stuff like that. I love you guys.

Susan squeezes Rodrick's hand. RODRICK BURPS LOUDLY. Frank and Greg start to laugh, then stop when they see the look on Susan's face.

SUSAN (CONT'D)

Fine, I'm sorry I shared a feeling.

(CONTINUED)

175

CONTINUED: (2)

175

She gets up and angrily begins clearing dishes.

FRANK

Honey. Come on.

(then)

Rodrick.

RODRICK

Sorry, mom.

SUSAN

I'm fine.

She's not. She's pissed. She exits. Frank looks at Rodrick.

FRANK

I'm going to pay for that.

He exits after Susan.

RODRICK

(to Greg)

Way to wreck dinner, jerk.

176

INT. AUDITORIUM - DAY

176

Greg is being fitted for his tree outfit. Patty Farrell is nearby practising some dance moves. As Mrs. Norton fits the tube over Greg, he notices there are no arm holes.

GREG

Wait, we don't get armholes? How are we going to throw apples at Dorothy without armholes?

PATTY

Hold on, nobody's throwing anything at me. I was Annie in the Strasberg Camp for the Performing Arts production of "Annie."

MRS. NORTON

Nobody's throwing anything at anybody.

GREG

What?

MRS. NORTON

(to Greg)

I changed the play a little bit and you won't need armholes.

(CONTINUED)

176

CONTINUED:

176

GREG

What are we going to do?

177

INT. AUDITORIUM - DAY

177

Greg and his fellow trees, ARCHIE KELLY and MARTY PORTER are lined up on stage in their tree costumes, miserably singing. Mrs. Norton places other kids, dressed as shrubs, around the stage. She places RODNEY JAMES (Bush #2) right next to the trees.

TREES

*We three trees from yonder glen/Do spy  
a maiden fair and sweet...*

Greg looks down and notices Rodney is playing a video game hidden inside his bush costume. WE HEAR VIDEO GAME BEEPS.

TREES (CONT'D)

*...Whilst we are rooted to our  
spots/She doth move on lighter  
feet./With her dog so small and  
true/We hope she fares well, indeed we  
do.*

The trees finish their song and start to wobble offstage, but ARCHIE KELLY DOESN'T SEE RODNEY AND TAKES A HEADER RIGHT OVER HIM. Because he has no arm holes, Archie can't break his fall.

ARCHIE

Aah, my tooth, I think I knocked out  
my tooth!

Mrs. Norton rushes over and pulls Archie to his feet. As she struggles to get him up...

GREG

(to Mrs. Norton)

Guess we need arm holes after all.

Mrs. Norton glares at Greg.

178

INT. AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

178

SUPER: "Show night."

Parents and kids stream in and take their seats. Murmuring anticipation.

179

INT. STAGE - NIGHT

179

Patty as Dorothy and Chirag as her dog Toto are mid-scene.

(CONTINUED)

PATTY  
(as Dorothy)  
Come on, Toto, let's explore this  
magical path!

Chirag doesn't move fast enough for Patty's taste.

PATTY (CONT'D)  
(snaps)  
I said come on!

They move toward the other side of the stage and reach The  
Trees. A SPOTLIGHT FINDS GREG AND THE REST OF THE TREES.

Greg looks out into the audience and sees his whole family --  
Mom, Dad, Manny and Rodrick, who is filming him with a  
camcorder. Susan holds a bouquet of flowers.

MANNY  
Bubby!

Manny's word rings out in the auditorium. Greg looks out at  
the crowd. Some of the kids in the audience laugh. CLOSE ON  
GREG as his eyes dart back and forth looking for a way out of  
this.

GREG  
(to Archie, loudly)  
Hey Bubby, I think you dropped an  
apple.

ARCHIE  
Huh?

A LARGER LAUGH from the crowd.

PATTY  
(as Dorothy)  
What say you, Toto? Should we explore  
this intriguing yellow path?

CHIRAG  
(as Toto)  
Bow wow.

Patty and Chirag exit to the wings. Mrs. Norton, sitting to  
the side of the stage, plays the opening bars of "We Three  
Trees." The trees start to sing.

TREES  
*We three trees from yonder glen/Do spy  
a maiden fair and sweet.*

(CONTINUED)

Greg looks out into the audience and sees ROWLEY AND COLLIN. Collin whispers something in Rowley's ear and Rowley looks at Greg and giggles. GREG STOPS SINGING.

MARTY/ARCHIE

*Whilst we are rooted to...*

Marty and Archie look at Greg questioningly. He just stares back at them, eyes wide. His fear is contagious and their singing trails off...

Mrs. Norton stops playing and stands up to see what's going on. Now there is silence. A long silence.

Patty stands off-stage watching and getting angrier.

MRS. NORTON

(desperate loud whisper)

*Whilst we are rooted to our spots, she doth move on lighter feet.*

The other trees look at Greg, but he just stares off into space. Patty is now hopping mad.

PATTY

(angry whisper)

Sing. Sing.

(then loudly)

Sing!

A kid in the crowd (AUDIENCE KID) yells out amid the deafening silence.

AUDIENCE KID

This bites!

It's too much for Patty. She steps out onto the stage.

PATTY

(screams)

You're not good at anything Greg Heffley!

Greg looks at Patty with hate in his eyes. He looks down at the apple on the stage floor, and then at his new armhole. Screw it.

HE GRABS THE APPLE OFF THE FLOOR AND CHUNKS IT AS HARD AS HE CAN AT PATTY. Patty's hand snaps up and snatches the apple out of the air, like Superman catching a bullet. She glares at Greg then HURLS THE APPLE BACK AT HIM, hitting him in the trunk.

(CONTINUED)

The other trees and Greg start pulling apples off their branches and pelting Patty as fast as they can. She returns fire just as rapidly. THE STAGE IS A HAIL OF APPLES. The audience is stunned into silence. Except for ANGIE. She is standing in the aisle and had been taking pictures, but is so mesmerized by the action onstage she's now simply watching.

ANGIE

Yeah!

Susan is mortified. Rodrick is filming madly, trying to catch all the action. A nearby dad, who thinks he's funny (FUNNY DAD) leans over to Frank.

FUNNY DAD

(points to Greg)

What's the worst thing that kid could say to you?

Frank shrugs.

FUNNY DAD (CONT'D)

"Hi, dad."

Funny Dad laughs at his own joke.

FRANK

Yeah, heh heh, good one.

Mrs. Norton has climbed the stage and is hurriedly CLOSING THE CURTAIN. The last thing we see before the curtain shuts is PATTY RUSHES GREG AND TACKLES HIM LIKE A LINEBACKER.

The audience is streaming out of the auditorium. Several families wait outside, congratulating/consoling their little "stars." The Heffleys are there, as is the FUNNY DAD from before. Greg walks up to them.

GREG

Hey, dad.

Frank looks over at Funny Dad, sees him looking at them. Funny Dad quickly averts his eyes.

RODRICK

(holds up camera)

I own you now.

Susan throws her bouquet of flowers in the trash and steams out the door with Manny. Greg looks to his dad. Frank looks at Funny Dad, then puts his arm around Greg.

(CONTINUED)

180

CONTINUED:

180

FRANK

I thought Dorothy deserved it.

Greg looks at him gratefully. They head out.

181

EXT. SPORT COURT - DAY

181

SUPER: "April. Monday."

The school yard is full of happy kids playing. Greg walks up to THE CHEESE.

GREG (V.O.)

These days, I don't feel much like doing anything. I don't know why. Maybe I have lyme disease.

Various kids run by, including Rowley and Collin, now wearing MATCHING "BEST FRIENDS" T-SHIRTS. Greg sighs, looks sadly down at the cheese. He is completely alone.

182

IN FAST MOTION, DIFFERENT GROUPS OF KIDS MOVE IN AND OUT AROUND GREG, WHO REMAINS MOTIONLESS. THE SUN COMES OUT, FLOWERS BLOOM. IT'S DEEP INTO SPRING WHEN TIME SLOWS DOWN AGAIN.

182

183

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

183

SUPER: "May. Thursday."

Greg watches his mother put dinner on the table. Manny is sitting at the table on his potty.

GREG

You know, I read this really interesting article.

SUSAN

(suspicious)

You did?

GREG

Yeah. About home-schooling. It sounds pretty good.

SUSAN

What?

GREG

Yeah. It's a scientific fact that kids who are home-schooled get a better education than kids at regular schools.

(CONTINUED)

Susan looks at him a long beat.

SUSAN

Is this about Rowley?

GREG

What? No, I just care about my education.

SUSAN

No, you don't.  
(then calls)  
Frank, Rodrick, dinner.

Frank enters and sits at the table. He looks at Manny.

FRANK

I just...what if he goes? What do we do then?

SUSAN

We celebrate his achievement.

FRANK

(to Greg)  
Am I the only one who thinks this is weird?

Rodrick joins them at the table and gleefully brandishes a crumpled piece of paper.

RODRICK

Hey, little brother, look what I found in the trash. Guess you threw it away by accident.

Panicked, Greg tries to grab the paper, but Rodrick holds it over his head and hands it to Susan.

RODRICK (CONT'D)

It's the invitation for the Mother/Son Sweetheart Dance. Know you don't want to miss that.

(mocking)

Phew. Lucky I found it.

Greg glares at Rodrick; Rodrick grins back at him.

(CONTINUED)

183

CONTINUED: (2)

183

GREG (V.O.)

That was it; I was fed up. I'd been taking it from Rowley and taking it from Rodrick and taking it from everybody else. It was time for some payback.

184

INT. HEFFLEY KITCHEN - DAY

184

The din of Loded Diaper rehearsing in the basement can be heard. Manny is sitting on his potty eating a snack at the table. Greg enters, carrying the girlie mag from Rodrick's room (Moto Mamas) and a big Tootsie Roll. He crosses to Rodrick's backpack which is on the chair next to Manny and unzips it.

GREG

Okay Manny, I'm putting this Tootsie Roll in Rodrick's backpack. It's for Rodrick, not you, so don't take it.

Manny watches as Greg slips the Tootsie Roll into the pages of Moto Mamas magazine and puts it in Rodrick's backpack. Greg exits smiling.

185

INT. HEFFLEY KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

185

Susan enters the kitchen with a basket full of laundry and stops cold when she sees Manny on the floor eating the Tootsie Roll and giggling at the picture of the bikini-clad girl straddling a motorcycle on Rodrick's magazine.

SUSAN

Manny, where did you get that?

Manny points to Rodrick's backpack. At that moment Greg enters and innocently looks at the magazine.

GREG

Oh my goodness, that's offensive.

186

INT. HEFFLEY BASEMENT - DAY

186

Susan storms into the band's rehearsal, followed by Greg who is grinning and carrying Manny.

SUSAN

Rodrick, I need to talk to you. Upstairs, now.

RODRICK

Go ahead and talk. We're a band, we have no secrets.

(CONTINUED)

186

CONTINUED:

186

SUSAN

Fine.  
(brandishing magazine)  
What is this?

Rodrick is immediately on the ropes.

RODRICK

It's not mine.

SUSAN

It was in your backpack.

RODRICK

No, it was in my room.  
(realizes he said too  
much)  
Ohh.

Rodrick slumps down. Greg can barely contain his glee.

187

INT. HEFFLEY BASEMENT - JUST LATER

187

Rodrick sits in a chair, Susan paces in front of him. His bandmates are lined up on the couch, enjoying the show. Greg is leaning against the wall, arms crossed, savoring every glorious moment.

SUSAN

Did owning this magazine make you a better person?

RODRICK

No.

Rodrick tries to ignore his bandmates' snickers.

SUSAN

Did it make you more popular at school?

RODRICK

Yes.  
(off Susan)  
No.

SUSAN

Do you have anything you want to say to women for having owned this offensive magazine?

(CONTINUED)

RODRICK  
(in agony)  
I'm sorry women.

Rodrick's bandmates burst into applause. He's mortified.

SUSAN  
You're grounded. For two weeks.

Rodrick shoots a glance at his bandmates. They look back at him like, "Are you going to take that?" In a last ditch attempt to save face:

RODRICK  
Okay, settle down. I think one week  
is plenty.

Greg can't believe Rodrick said that -- this is going better than he ever dreamed.

SUSAN  
Make it four weeks. And I'm going to  
need the keys to your van.

All the blood drains from Rodrick's face.

RODRICK  
(a mortal blow)  
My van?

SUSAN  
Do you have anymore smart comments?

Silence from Rodrick.

SUSAN (CONT'D)  
Okay, practice is over. Rodrick, you  
can go to your room.

Rodrick can't even look his bandmates in the eye as they file out. Susan grabs Manny from Greg and marches up the stairs behind them. As Rodrick sullenly heads out he glances at Greg, who looks back at him perhaps a little too innocently. Rodrick mouths the words "YOU'RE SO DEAD" at Greg as he passes.

Greg watches him exit, elated. He throws his fists into the air in victory.

GREG  
Yes!

(CONTINUED)

187 CONTINUED: (2)

187

He looks around, but realizes there's no one there to share the moment. His face falls, his arms slowly drop to his sides. He's all alone.

188 INT. SCHOOL GYM - NIGHT

188

The gym is dark, lit only by a disco ball. It's about half full of parents and kids. There is a DJ spinning records but nobody dances. In fact, everybody seems pretty uncomfortable and awkward. Greg and Susan enter. Greg looks grim, dressed in a suit jacket and slacks. Susan is dressed up, seems excited. Greg looks around and sees lots of kids from his class. He passes Archie Kelly who is being hassled by Quentin and his friend ARTHUR.

QUENTIN

Hey, Bubby.

ARTHUR

Where's your bubby now, Bubby?

They laugh. Greg nervously puts some distance between him and Archie.

SUSAN

Look at this place! Wow, it's like a real disco. Want to dance?

GREG

(aghast)

God no.

Just then, Rowley and Collin enter with THEIR MOMS. They look like they're having a great time. Susan watches Greg who watches Rowley.

SUSAN

Okay, enough already. Just go talk to him, fix it.

GREG

I can't.

SUSAN

He's your best friend. And sometimes, when somebody's worth it, you just have to put yourself out there.

A beat.

GREG

I wouldn't even know what to say.

(CONTINUED)

SUSAN

Invite him out for ice cream after the dance. Everybody likes ice cream.

GREG

I guess that's not your worst idea ever.

SUSAN

Stop, I'm blushing.

But she's really pleased Greg is taking her advice. Greg sees Rowley is at the refreshments table getting punch. He takes a deep breath and crosses to him.

GREG

Hey, Rowley.

ROWLEY

Hey.

A beat of silence. In the background, Susan cranes her head to get a better look.

GREG

So...you want to go get some ice cream after?

Collin steps between them.

COLLIN

We already have plans.

ROWLEY

(regretful)  
...yeah, we do.

GREG

Fine. My mom wanted me to ask, so I did.

Greg turns and heads back to Susan. As he approaches, she smiles at him expectantly.

SUSAN

Well?

Greg just shakes his head "no." Susan's face falls.

SUSAN (CONT'D)

Oh. Well...oh.

At that moment a new song starts.

(CONTINUED)

188

CONTINUED: (2)

188

MUSIC CUE: "Groove Is In The Heart" by Deee-lite

ROWLEY LEADS HIS MOM ONTO THE EMPTY DANCE FLOOR AND THEY START TO DANCE. But they don't just dance. They do a routine that they have clearly practised many times -- it's right out of "Dancing With The Stars". The crowd watches, mouths agape. Greg is horrified.

GREG (V.O.)

I couldn't believe what I was seeing.  
This is just the kind of thing I could  
have saved Rowley from doing if we  
were still friends. But now this fool  
was about to get himself killed.

BUT THE CROWD STARTS TO GET INTO IT. A group of people surrounds Rowley and his mom, clapping and cheering them on. Other people start streaming onto the dance floor and dancing. The party is kicked into high gear.

Rowley is now part of a whole group of kids, including Shelly, Marley and Collin, who are trying to learn his dance. Greg does not know a curse word bad enough to express what he's feeling.

189

EXT. SPORT COURT - DAY

189

Greg is on the sport court, Rowley crosses to him. He has a somewhat conciliatory air about him.

ROWLEY

Hey.

Greg senses a thaw in Rowley's attitude.

GREG

Hey.

ROWLEY

So...I left my racing game at your house and I'm having a sleepover so I need it back.

GREG

What? No way. Finder's keepers.

ROWLEY

You didn't find it, I left it.

GREG

Fine, then leaver's losers.

(CONTINUED)

ROWLEY  
(getting heated)  
That's not even a real thing.

GREG  
It is if I say it is.

ROWLEY  
It's my game!

GREG  
You wouldn't even have that game if I  
hadn't told you about it! You  
wouldn't have half the stuff you have  
without me!

ROWLEY  
Yeah, like a broken hand!

GREG  
That was a million years ago!

Greg and Rowley are now shouting at each other. A CROWD,  
INCLUDING PATTY FARRELL, STARTS TO GATHER AROUND THEM. Greg  
and Rowley don't notice.

ROWLEY  
It clicks now!  
(bending wrist)  
Hear that? Click click click click!  
And it's all your fault!

GREG  
It was an ACCIDENT!

PATTY  
Fight! Fight!

The crowd joins in. The noise gets the attention of Angie  
who is nearby on the grass reading a book.

KIDS  
Fight! Fight! Fight!

This stops Greg and Rowley cold. They look around at the  
shouting kids.

KIDS (CONT'D)  
(louder)  
Fight! Fight!

Greg and Rowley are stuck. Greg puts up his dukes. Rowley  
does the same, then starts hopping around.

(CONTINUED)

189

CONTINUED: (2)

189

It's clear neither has the faintest idea how to fight. Angie joins the crowd as Greg and Rowley start to half-heartedly circle each other.

Just then there is a loud SQUEAL OF BRAKES.

THE TEENS' PICKUP TRUCK HAS PULLED UP AT THE CURB. Pete, Chris, Carter and Wade hop out and head toward Greg and Rowley.

THE CROWD SCATTERS AND RUNS BACK INTO THE SCHOOL. Angie finds a spot behind a tree and looks on.

Greg and Rowley start to run but the teens are too fast and grab them.

190

EXT. SPORT COURT - DAY

190

Greg and Rowley are being held by Wade and Carter as Pete paces in front of them.

PETE

I waited a long time for this.

CHRIS

You're so freakin' dead.

Greg doesn't love what they're saying. But he's really freaked out by the fact that THE CHEESE IS ONLY A FEW FEET AWAY. In fact, as Pete paces, he's walking right by it.

PETE

You have no idea what we're going to do to you.

CHRIS

Oh yeah.

Rowley, following Greg's eye line, now sees the cheese and visibly blanches. Neither Greg nor Rowley can keep their eyes off it.

Chris pulls Pete aside.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

What are we gonna do?

PETE

Dunno.

(CONTINUED)

CHRIS

We need to move this along. My shift at Applebee's starts in like half an hour.

Pete looks at Greg and Rowley...then he looks at what they're looking at. Pete crosses to the cheese.

PETE

(re: Rowley)

Gimme the wide one.

Carter hustles Rowley over to Pete.

PETE (CONT'D)

Pick it up.

ROWLEY

But --

PETE

Pick it up!

Rowley reluctantly picks up the cheese. He holds it by the tips of his fingers, totally grossed out.

PETE

Now eat it.

Rowley's eyes widen in horror. He starts to bring the cheese closer to his mouth.

CLOSE ON GREG: Greg winces, closing his eyes to block out the horror of what he is seeing.

GREG (V.O.)

I don't even want to say exactly what happened because if Rowley ever tries to run for President and someone finds out what these guys made him do, he won't have a chance. So I'll just put it this way. They made Rowley BLANK the cheese.

Angie covers her eyes, aghast.

Pete looks over at Greg.

PETE

Now you.

Wade hustles Greg toward the cheese. Greg fights him the whole way.

(CONTINUED)

GREG

But...but...I'm allergic to dairy.

Wade just ignores him.

COACH MALONE (O.S.)

Hey! What are you doing on school property?

The teens, Greg, and Rowley turn to see Coach Malone running toward the sport court. Behind him, the kids from before trickle out of the school and cautiously begin to follow.

Greg turns quickly to Rowley who is so traumatized by eating the cheese he seems to be having an out-of-body experience.

COACH MALONE (CONT'D)

Pete Hosey is that you?

THE TEENS RUN TO THEIR TRUCK, JUMP IN AND PEEL OUT. With a satisfied nod, Coach Malone hitches up his shorts and heads back inside. The rest of the kids regather around Greg and Rowley, including Angie.

MARLEY

What happened?

BRYCE

What'd they want?

SHELLY

What'd they do to you?

Greg looks at Rowley who seems to be recovering slightly. Patty is near Rowley. She looks down at the place where the cheese used to be and sees that it's gone. THERE IS A FADED OUTLINE OF WHERE THE CHEESE WAS. She looks around and sees the cheese at Rowley's feet. WITH A BIT OUT OF IT.

PATTY

Oh. My. God.

Everyone falls silent. As one, they all look down at the cheese. Then they all look at Rowley. Rowley locks eyes with Greg. It's all too much for him, his eyes well up with tears.

PATTY

(to crowd)

Rowley Jefferson ate --

At that moment, Greg steps forward and picks up the cheese. THE CROWD GASPS.

(CONTINUED)

GREG

I ate the cheese.

THE CROWD GASPS AGAIN.

Rowley stares at Greg in wonder. Angie smiles.

GREG (CONT'D)

Yeah. I ate it. And you know what, people? I just did you all a huge favor.

Greg holds the cheese high, gathering steam.

GREG (CONT'D)

I ate the cheese to show everyone how stupid this whole school is. The wrong friends, the wrong lunch table, the wrong butt, it's all meaningless, just like this cheese. Anyone else who's sick of it, step forward and join me!

Greg surveys the crowd confidently.

PATTY

CHEESE TOUCH!!!

OVERHEAD SHOT: The crowd scatters like a bomb went off, leaving Greg and Rowley alone again. Except for Angie who gives Greg an approving look.

ANGIE

See you later, Heffley.

She goes inside.

Greg crosses to Rowley. They stand and look at each other. Then:

GREG

So, you want to come over after school and...play?

Rowley smiles.

ROWLEY

Yeah. Okay.

They head off together.

191 INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY 191

Greg walks down the hall with Rowley. Everybody gives them a wide berth.

GREG (V.O.)

So now I officially have the Cheese Touch. But it's not so bad. There are perks.

192 EXT. SPORT COURT - DAY 192

Greg stands with Coach Malone. Nearby are a bunch of kids in cowboy hats and vests.

COACH MALONE

Since nobody'll hold your hand, I guess you're excused from square dancing.

193 INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY 193

Greg and Rowley's way is blocked by Quentin who has his back to them.

GREG

Move!

QUENTIN

What'd you say?!

He turns around, ready to pound whoever said that. He sees it's Greg, shrinks away. Greg and Rowley pass by.

194 INT. CAFETERIA - DAY 194

Greg and Rowley, carrying their lunch trays, cross to a table full of jocks.

GREG

Hey, fellas.

He puts his tray on the table. Everyone at the table quickly grabs their lunch trays and clears out. Greg, immensely pleased, smiles at Rowley.

GREG (CONT'D)

After you.

They happily sit down to a civilized lunch.

195 INT. HEFFLEY KITCHEN - DAY

195

GREG (V.O.)

And I'm not the only one who had an exciting year.

The Heffley family is eating breakfast. Manny is on the floor playing. Then he climbs up onto his potty. The family watches; the air is thick with anticipation. Suddenly, THE SOUND OF PEE IN THE POTTY. Everybody cheers. Frank's cheer is half cheer, half wince.

196 INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

196

SUPER: "June. Friday."

Greg, Rowley, and Angie are having lunch at their own table. PATTY APPROACHES, HANDING OUT YEARBOOKS. She gives one to Angie.

PATTY

Here's your yearbook. You're not in it that much, maybe try to get out there a little next year.

ANGIE

(gently)

One day, Patty, middle school will end and become high school. And after that, it just becomes life. And all the things you think are important now, won't be anymore.

PATTY

(confused, thus snotty)

You wish.

Angie heads off. Patty hands a yearbook to Rowley. Greg holds out his hand.

PATTY (CONT'D)

As if.

She puts Greg's yearbook on the table.

PATTY (CONT'D)

Handing it to you is like touching you. And I'm way too smart to touch somebody who ate the cheese.

She puts her hand on Rowley's shoulder.

(CONTINUED)

196

CONTINUED:

196

PATTY (CONT'D)

Right, Rowley?

GREG

Yep, you're too smart for me, Patty.

Rowley is trying really hard not to laugh. Patty sashays off. Greg and Rowley look at each other, then crack up.

197

WE PAGE THROUGH THE YEARBOOK.

197

GREG (V.O.)

Well, the yearbook was pretty much the Rowley Jefferson show.

We see Rowley's pictures are all over it. On the Safety Patrol page, the Wrestling Team page, in the candid section holding up his arm in its cast.

GREG (V.O.) (CONT'D)

And I don't even want to talk about the Class Favorites page.

We flip to the Class Favorites page and see ROWLEY HAS BEEN VOTED CLASS CLOWN. The yearbook closes. PULL BACK TO REVEAL GREG IS HOLDING THE BOOK, IN FRONT OF A WHITE BACKGROUND. Greg addresses the camera.

GREG (CONT'D)

But it's okay. It's actually much cooler to keep a low profile. Who needs to be famous?

ROWLEY PEEKS IN AT THE EDGE OF THE WHITE SCREEN.

ROWLEY

Zoo Wee Mama!

GREG

And if Rowley ever gets too big for his britches, I'll just remind him who really ate the cheese.

FADE OUT.