

SCENE THREE: The Classroom

The school scene is set up using chairs and a small table placed at the front.

DONNA, PETE, KEV, JIMMY, KELSEA, STACEY, DAVE and EMMA all enter carrying a school bag each. They sit and begin chatting and messing around.

The teacher, MRS BELL enters.

MRS BELL: *(Shouting)* Quiet, everyone! *(She waits for silence)* Thank you. *(Pause)* Right, first of all we have to deal with the little matter of your homework.

DONNA: Oops!

MRS BELL: *(Consults her notes)* Now, I didn't get homework in from Donna Stanton, Chris Warner and Jimmy Smith. *(Pause)* Again, Jimmy.

DONNA: I've got mine now, Miss.

MRS BELL: Pass it forward then please, Donna, and try to get it in on time in future. Chris is absent again. *(Pause)* Jimmy?

JIMMY: *(Messing with his mobile phone under the desk and not paying attention)* Yeah?

MRS BELL: Homework.

JIMMY: *(Still concentrating on his mobile)* Oh, right.

MRS BELL: *(Exasperated)* Where is it?

JIMMY: *(Finally looking up)* Where's what, Miss?

The OTHERS begin to snigger, which only encourages JIMMY.

MRS BELL: *(Annoyed)* Your homework, Jimmy. Where is it?

JIMMY: *(Pretends to think)* I think it's at home, Miss.

PETE snorts with laughter, which makes the others laugh more and further encourages JIMMY.

JIMMY: Or it might be in my bag, Miss. *(He starts searching in his school bag).*

MRS BELL: *(Angrily)* Stop that! Right, Jimmy, you can stay behind after the lesson and explain why you haven't given me your homework yet again, despite letters home. You and I need to have a serious talk about this.

JIMMY: *(Whispering to PETE)* Ooh! I'm going to have a ding-dong with Mrs Bell.

PETE snorts with laughter again.

MRS BELL: *(Shouting)* Jimmy be quiet!

EVERYONE freezes in position as the lights fade quickly to blackout for a brief moment.

When the lights come up again, it is the end of the lesson and the pupils are sitting in different positions to denote the passing of time.

MRS BELL: That's the bell. Pack away and don't forget to finish off the work on chapter 25 for the next lesson. *(Pause, then curtly)* Jimmy, see me please.

EVERYONE except JIMMY and MRS BELL exits, taking their chairs and school bags with them.

MRS BELL: *(Sighing exasperatedly)* Why do you keep doing this, Jimmy?

JIMMY: *(Shrugging)* I don't know what you mean.

MRS BELL: I'm beginning to think you actually like all the attention.

JIMMY: *(Defiantly)* No.

MRS BELL: Well, there's got to be some reason why I spend more time dealing with you than any other pupil in this school. *(She pauses for JIMMY to respond).*

JIMMY simply shrugs again.

MRS BELL: I don't understand you at all. You're not stupid, but you act like you are.

JIMMY: I don't.

MRS BELL: *(Sighing)* You're an intelligent lad, Jimmy. You can do the work easily. Why do you have to let yourself down like this all the time?

JIMMY stares straight ahead.

MRS BELL: Is it because you think the others won't be so impressed if you behave yourself?

JIMMY: *(Quick and defiant)* No.

MRS BELL: *(Frustrated again at his lack of response)* Well I'm getting a little fed up with it all, Jimmy. Every lesson it's like this and it can't go on. I'm going to call your Mum into the school and set up a meeting with the head. All right?

JIMMY *(Shrugging)* Whatever.

MRS BELL: *(Irritated)* Oh, for heaven's sake, Jimmy! I don't know why I bother. Go on. *(She waves at him to leave)*

JIMMY exits, taking his chair and school bag with him as he goes.

JIMMY: *(As he exits)* I don't know why you bother either.

MRS BELL turns to face the audience.

MRS BELL: It's enough to drive you mad with frustration. A bright lad like that caring more about his friends than his education. Careful not to ruin his credibility by working too hard and wasting all of his brains on being the class clown.

MRS BELL exits.

The lights fade quickly to blackout.