

Andy's Story – The Script

A distressed boy runs into his bedroom, slams the door and sits panting on his bed. His mother calls to him:

Mother Andrew?! Is that you?

Andy: Aye, Ma.

Mother Why didn't you say hello? Are you all right? I'm coming up.

Andy I'm fine, just going to do my homework.

Mother Now I'm definitely coming up! *(enters, sighs as she surveys his mess, then starts picking up items of clothing)*

Mother What did you do after school? You're later than usual.

Andy Nothing much. Just hung about a bit with my pals

Mother *(Picks up his jacket)* Look at the state of this. Have you been rolling in the mud or something?!

Andy Leave it out, Mum. I've got homework to do.

Mother *(watches him as she continues to tidy up)* Andy, you would tell me if there was something wrong, wouldn't you?

Andy Look Mum. There's nothing wrong. I'm knackered. I want to have a shower, get my work done and go to my bed.

Mother OK son. I'll look up later. *She goes, he picks up a towel and follows. The furniture (cast members) comes to life.*

F Tell her? He tells her nothing now.

F Doesn't talk to anyone any more. Not even his beloved puppets. *(BP & GP animate immediately)*

Girl Puppet Yes, he does! You're just jealous because you're only bits of furniture and we're *(both together)* 'realistically human hand controlled companions'.

F (all) Ooooooooooh!

F He's changed

F You can say that again!

F He's changed

F Very funny.

F Remember that day he came home and took it out on us?

F How could we forget it! We were nearly wrecked!

F I've never shut properly since!

F *(with a sigh)* He was such a lovely boy too.

Boy Puppet It's his age. Just a phase. He'll grow out of it.

F I feel sorry for him. He's so unhappy.

F Have you seen his homework recently? It's a mess.

F Rushed

F Half done

F And all those punnies!

F If his Mum knew what we know.... *(They all start talking at once)*

F Shhh! He's back

Andy returns and they all shut down. He picks up a diary and starts to write.

Andy "It all started one evening a month ago when me and my pals were hanging out at the shops...."

Movement sequence

On a bare acting area lies a red mask CS.

A group of young friends enter DL, have a laugh at something someone says and continue to cross the stage. An older lot in red masks enter UR. The youngsters stop talking, pause, scared by the older lot's aggressive body language, then run. Except Andy, who, despite being urged to leave, holds his ground. The reds advance on him, rough him up, leave him on the ground and exit UL. Andy picks himself up, hurt and anger on his face. He sees the red mask, makes his decision, puts on the mask and throws a stone at the gang as they re-enter UL. It hits the gang leader. The rest of the gang are amused this, but the gang leader cannot get over this 'dissing' of him. Andy offers to shake Scott's hand, but Scott does not respond. He rebukes his gang for befriending Andy, calls them away from him and they exit.

3 freezes depict bullying incidents. They are separated by a school bell ringing. After each bell, pupils criss-cross the stage then form a freeze depicting bullying behaviours. One is cyber bullying as a text is sent and read, the next shows them ridiculing his trainers, the third shows him being excluded from the group as they 'huddle'.

Change of music

Then, we see Andy at the end of the day leaving with his friends. Fear rise from where they have waited DS and block their way. In two lines, in slow motion, we see Fear pull Respect's bags off them, scatter their stuff, tear their jotters up, trip them up, pull them along the ground by their hair, take their money, then finally spit on them. Andy returns for his bag, Scott steps forward and corners him. His gang gather, clearly anticipating something as they take out their phones. Scott pulls Andy's joggies down and Andy throws himself to the ground. Scott's gang take photos. Then they slide up their masks and return to speaking. They laugh and congratulate Scott as they exit. Andy's friends run to him and help him off stage.

Lights fade down then up. Return to bedroom. Andy finishes....

Andy "...And that's it. Probably the worse day of my life"
He puts the diary down and curls up on his bed. The puppets, at the front of the bed, animate.

GP Well?

BP Well what?

GP Well – that. The diary.

BP What about it?

GP Well, we're going to read it, aren't we?

BP Er ... no!

BP Look, Andy got us when he was only 5. We love him. We're his friends. We might be able to help.

GP No way, Millie. No, no, no, no no.
They look at each other then simultaneously grab the diary. They read, with increasingly shocked and horrified reactions.

GP That's terrible!

Behind them, the furniture leans in to hear and see better. The puppets look around and they quickly straighten up.

BP The Headie's called a meeting in school on Monday.

GP His Ma and Da have to go, and the other boy's parents.

The rocking chair creaks forward. The puppets glare at it, and it slowly creaks back.

BP The headie says they're going to get to the truth.

The wardrobe tiptoes forward, but stops dead when the puppets turn and stare.

GP What can Andy do?

BP I don't know. If he tells, they'll get him. If he doesn't, it'll never stop.

Mother Andy! *(louder)* Andy!

The puppets de-animate, Andy gets up.

Mother *(enters)* Andy, that was the school on the phone. Come downstairs please. Your dad and I need to talk to you.

Voice over

“Good morning everyone. You will appreciate that as Head Teacher of this school it is my responsibility and duty to find out what happened last Friday then take appropriate action. Boys, you know why you're here. All we want to do today is find out the truth. Andrew, I'll start with you. From the beginning, in your own time and in your own words, tell us exactly what happened.”

END OF PART 1

PART 2

Andrew stands CS. USC 'Respect' and 'Fear' stand in two lines, backs to audience.

Fear, in the red masks which symbolise the gang, turn and come forward to circle Andy. As each says their line, they point at him and hold the gesture. As each of them speaks, Andy's posture changes and their fingers follow his slow collapse.

Andy The bullying started after I threw the stone at him

GM Grass

GL I'll get you

His head drops

Andy He sent me threatening texts

GM Creep

GL I'll mark you

His shoulders slump

Andy They slagged my clothes

GM Traitor

GL I'll half kill you

His arms fall to his side

Andy They left me out

GM Coward

GL I'll haunt you

He sinks to one knee

Andy Then they got us all after school one day

GM Informer

GL I said I'd get you

He sinks to both knees

Andy They did the usual bad things

GM Loser

GL I'll mark you

He topples to one side

Andy Then he singled me out for special treatment

GM Rat

GL I'll half kill you

He lies on the floor

Andy He pulled my joggy bottoms down. They all took pictures.

GM Promise breaker

GL I'll haunt you

He raises one arm as if reaching out

Andy I was so embarrassed, so humiliated....

All GMs (chant) Fear, fear, fear, fear, fear

Andy And sent them round the school.

His arm falls. He curls into a whimpering ball

'Fear' retreat, 'Respect' come forward. Andy remains curled up while they speak the following lines. Andy shouts his responses from his submissive position.

Andy We started it, We went looking for trouble

R1 Truth

Andy We wanted to prove we were better than them.
R2 Courage

Andy We took them on

R3 Integrity

Andy We gave as good as we got

R4 Honesty

Andy We didn't mind what they were doing

R6 Self esteem

Andy So he pulled my joggies down. It was a laugh. I laughed.

R6 Decency

Andy It was just a bit of fun

R7 Justice

Andy I sent the picture round, It was great. Everyone though it was really funny.

R1 Truth

He lifts one arm

R2 Courage

He lifts his upper body off the floor, till he is leaning on his hand

R3 Integrity

He gets to both knees

R4 Honesty

He lifts one knee

R5 Self esteem

He stands

R6 Decency

He straightens his shoulders

R7 Justice

He lifts his head

R9 (chant) Respect, respect, respect, respect

On the next 4 chants, Respect's voices become quieter as they move to positions around the acting area. Fear start chanting 'fear' after each 'respect' word and their voices become louder on each repetition as they come forward to take up positions beside Respect.

MOVEMENT SEQUENCE

Music: Schindler's List

Respect cower in positions of submission. Fear assume positions of dominance over them. Respect try to rise but are prevented from doing so by the stronger Fear. As they struggle, Andrew calls out Respect's key words of Truth, Courage, Integrity, Honesty, Self-esteem, Decency and Justice. On the last word Respect throw off Fear, who fall to the ground but immediately start to claw their way back up Respect's bodies then shove them together CS. Respect circle Andrew clockwise, protectively, while Fear circle anti-clockwise at the same time. Gradually, the two circles reverse and Fear become the circle nearest Andrew. All circle more quickly until finally Andrew shouts "Enough" and everyone spins slowly to new positions, Fear SL and Respect SR. They pick up imaginary ropes and begin a tug of war sequence for control of Andrew, who is pulled right and left by the 'ropes'. When the voice over comes in, everyone assumes positions US.

Voice over

"Start at the beginning Andrew and, in your own time and in your own words, tell us exactly what happened that day."

Andy's mother enters and stands SR. Scott enters and stands SL.

Mother What are you going to do son?

Andy Everyone here knows what I should do.

Steps forward to audience. 'Fear' enter and stand UL. 'Respect' enter and stand UR.

How many of you would do it?

Everyone stands still, staring directly at the audience. They hold this for 5 seconds, then exit, holding eye contact with the audience all the way.