

EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY

LENO, the school security guard, watches over the grounds. He's a bald, human-sized costume puppet in short shorts.

Kids play flag football, sit on the swings, and jump rope. Quinn plays acoustic guitar while girls dance.

Colton walks through the crowds. Momo stumbles behind him.

MOMO

Where are we going?

COLTON

To see the only man who can take
down Sander.

Colton and Momo walk to the rock wall. Momo doesn't see anyone at first, then Dog Boy falls into frame. He gets up.

DOG BOY

Ya here for jumping lessons?

COLTON

What if I told you I have a dare?

DOG BOY

A dare? I'd say I'm interested.

COLTON

I dare you to fight Sander.

DOG BOY

Sure ya don't want me to eat a bug?

MOMO

How is Dog Boy fighting Sander--

COLTON

Lake Leland has zero tolerance for
fights. Both sides get in trouble.

DOG BOY

Wait. You're trying to win Star
Student. Who are you taking?

COLTON

That's not important. You're out of
the competition for this week
anyway. You might as well help us.

DOG BOY

I want a spot on the team.

COLTON

Fine. If you keep doing me favors,
you can come.

DOG BOY

No. I get to go for this one favor.
To keep helping you, I need more.

MOMO

What do you--

DOG BOY

I wanna go to Rainforest Café. I
wanna see the gorillas. I wanna do
all the activities on the kids
menu. I wanna order that thing that
makes the employees go "VOLCANO!"

COLTON

But the food isn't that good.

DOG BOY

Fine then. Let Sander go. Let him
enjoy the rich, jungle scenery.

Colton looks to Momo. Momo nods.

COLTON

Fine. You're on the team.

DOG BOY

Yes! You won't regret this. Come,
take a celebratory leap with me.

COLTON

We need to get going. We have other
arrangements to see through.

DOG BOY

Okay, suit yourself.

Colton and Momo walk away as Dog Boy climbs to the top.

DOG BOY (CONT'D)

Whheeeee!

He flings himself onto the ground.

INT. MISS YORK'S CLASSROOM - DAY

Miss York uses a STAPLER. It sings a song about its job.

STAPLER (SUNG)

I am a stapler, yes that's me.
I staple things together 1, 2, 3.

Sander lightly knocks on the already open door. Miss York puts the stapler in her desk drawer. Its song is muffled.

MISS YORK

Oh, Sander. I wasn't expecting you.

SANDER

I'm sorry for coming in during recess time. I understand this is a break for you too.

MISS YORK

That's very considerate of you.

SANDER

I wanna talk about Star Student.

MISS YORK

Go on.

SANDER

Up until now, we've always learned that kindness makes you feel good and makes the world a better place. Now, this competition is making it so kindness leads to one reward.

MISS YORK

Do you believe good things happen to people when they behave well?

SANDER

Like karma? Yeah.

MISS YORK

All the Star Student system does is streamline that process.

SANDER

But aren't you worried--

MISS YORK

I think I know what this is about. I've seen your records. You won the peace prize, the fruit of the spirit, the Tony Ferry kindness award. You've made a reputation of being the nicest kid in class. The Angel of Lake Leland Prep.

Sander hangs his head, embarrassed by his nickname.

MISS YORK (CONT'D)

You must feel threatened that if this works and everyone acts nice, you'll lose your place.

SANDER

That's not it. What happens when it's week 30 and half the class knows they have no shot? How will they behave then?

MISS YORK

I suppose they'll be so used to acting right, that it'll become their instinct.

SANDER

Then you don't know these kids at all.

Sander gets up to go back to the playground.

MISS YORK

Young man, you are dangerously close to a yellow.

Sander looks back defiantly, but his expression melts.

SANDER

I'm sorry, ma'am. It won't happen again. Enjoy your recess.

Sander does a silly puppet walk out the door.