

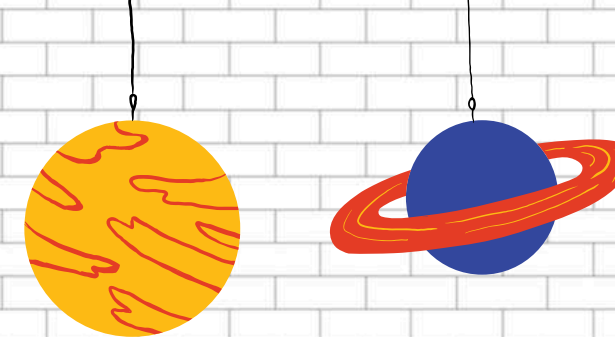
THINK BEFORE YOU SPEAK

- activity: drama acting

YOUTH EXCHANGE: WORDS.MESSAGES.VOICES.

PIROVAC, Croatia: 25. - 30.8.2026.

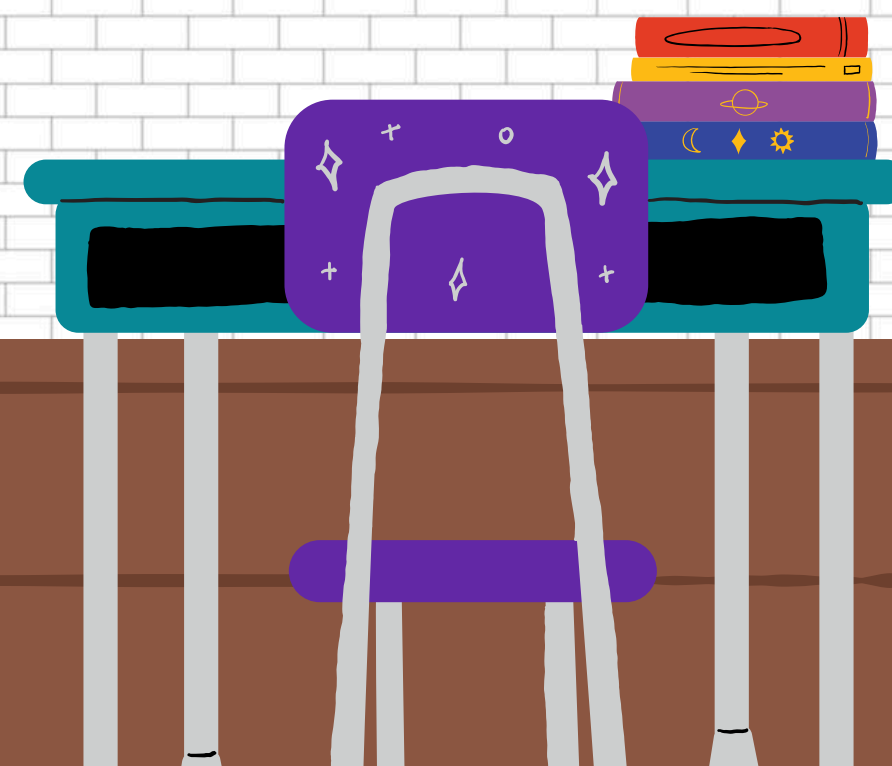
organized by PRONI Centre for social education



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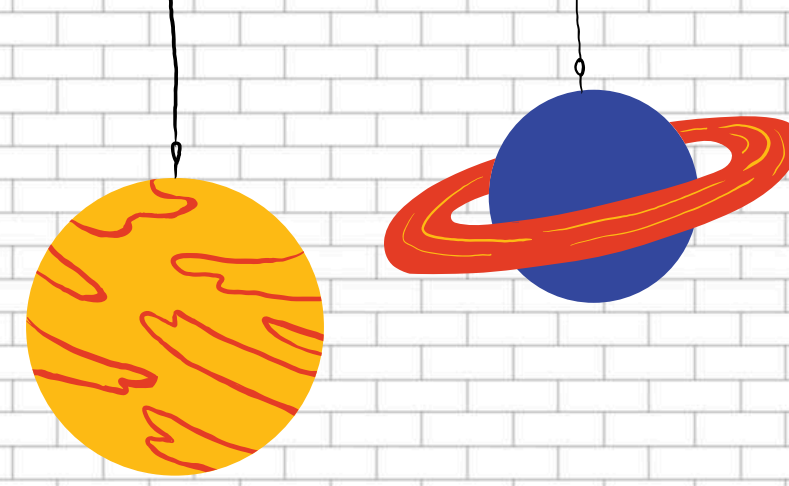


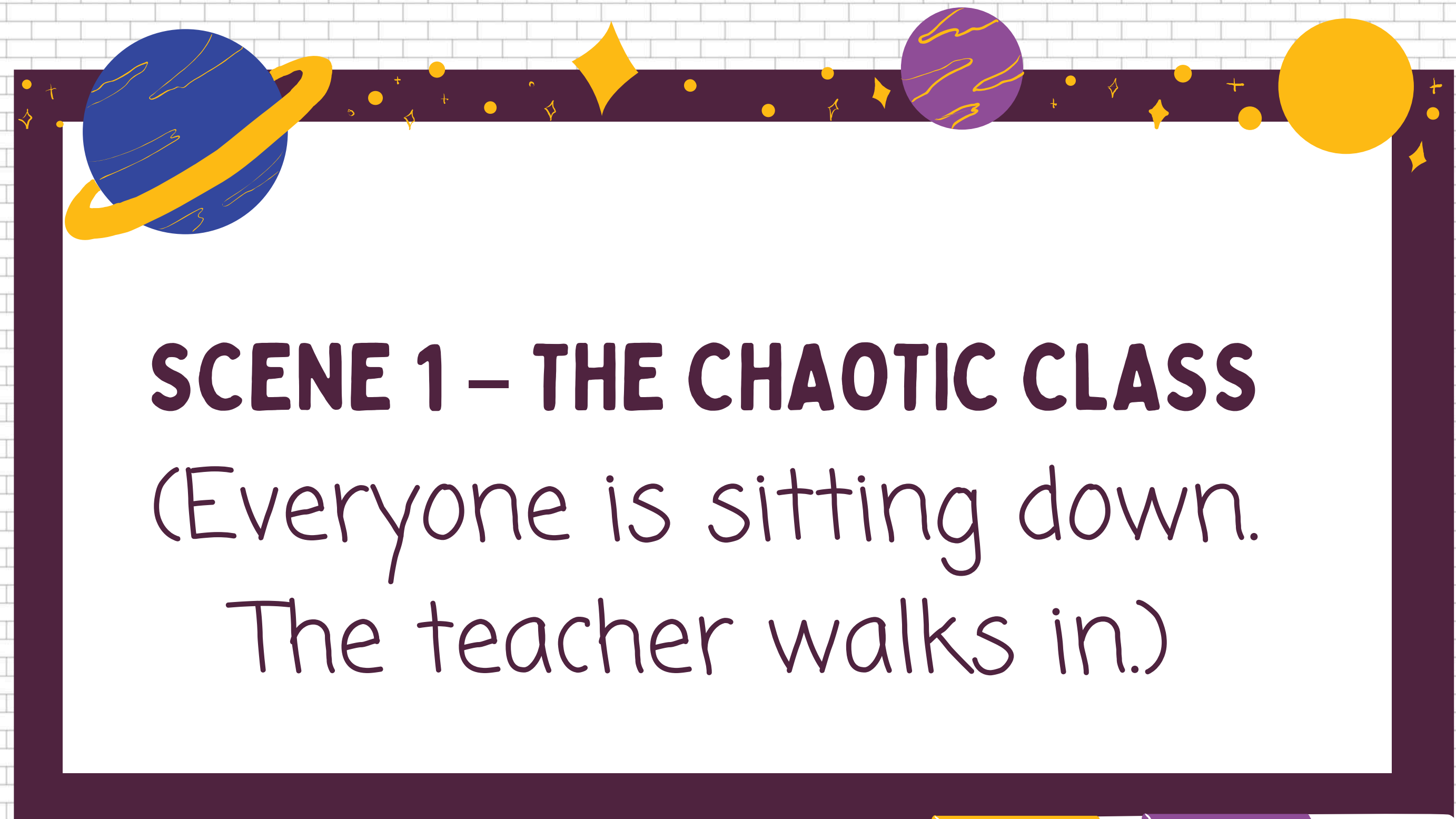
Duration: 10-15 minutes

Characters:

- Teacher – tries to keep control of the chaotic class
- Bully – funny and confident but takes jokes too far
- Victim – makes an innocent mistake and becomes the target
- Bystander – laughs along at first but eventually realizes they need to act
- Supporter – confident student who stands up for the victim

Setting: A classroom.





SCENE 1 – THE CHAOTIC CLASS

(Everyone is sitting down.
The teacher walks in.)



TEACHER: GOOD MORNING, EVERYONE.

BULLY: GOOD MORNING, GOOGLE.

TEACHER: I'M NOT GOOGLE.

BULLY: COULD'VE FOOLED ME. YOU ALWAYS HAVE THE ANSWERS.

(EVERYONE LAUGHS.) THANK YOU 4D ENTERTAINMENT ANA!

TEACHER: BUT MAYBE, THAT'S BECAUSE I TRY TO KEEP MYSELF INFORMED ABOUT MANY THINGS. PUT YOUR PHONES AWAY, PLEASE.

BULLY: MY PHONE IS AWAY.

TEACHER: IT'S LITERALLY IN YOUR HAND.

BULLY: THAT'S CRAZY. MY HAND MUST'VE PICKED IT UP BY ITSELF.

TEACHER: RIGHT... ANYWAY, TODAY WE'RE GOING TO TALK ABOUT GEOGRAPHY.

BYSTANDER: OH NO.

TEACHER: SOMETHING'S WRONG?

BYSTANDER: NOTHING. GEOGRAPHY AND ME HAVE A COMPLICATED RELATIONSHIP.

TEACHER: WELL, LET'S SEE IF WE CAN FIX THAT TODAY, AND MAYBE SOMEBODY WE WILL TRY TO SEND YOU ON A TRIP AROUND THE WORLD TO IMPROVE YOUR RELATIONSHIP.



SCENE 2 - THE QUESTION



TEACHER: CAN SOMEONE TELL ME... EASY QUESTION TO START. WHAT IS THE CAPITAL OF FRANCE?

(EVERYONE LOOKS AROUND.)

TEACHER: COME ON. SOMEONE KNOWS THE ANSWER FOR SURE.

VICTIM: BARCELONA?

(EVERYONE PAUSES.)

BULLY: BARCELONA?!

VICTIM: WAIT—

BULLY: BRO! YOU DIDN'T EVEN HESITATE!

BYSTANDER: THAT'S ACTUALLY IMPRESSIVE.

VICTIM: I DON'T KNOW, I GOT CONFUSED!

BULLY: CONFUSED? BRO YOU GOT THE WHOLE EUROPEAN UNION CONFUSED

TEACHER: ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT. IT'S OKAY TO GET AN ANSWER WRONG. THAT'S WHY WE ARE HERE, TO LEARN.

BULLY: MISS, I DON'T THINK HE GOT THE ANSWER WRONG. I THINK HE CREATED A WHOLE NEW COUNTRY.

(EVERYONE LAUGHS.)

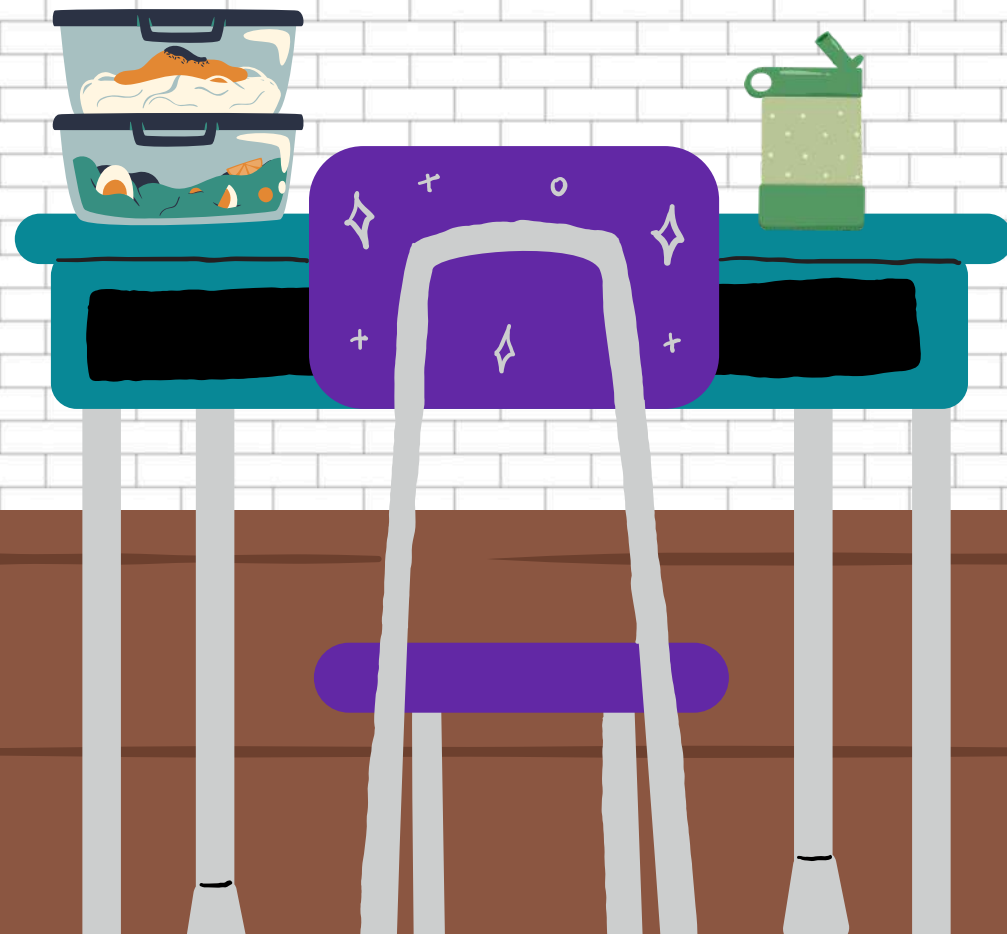
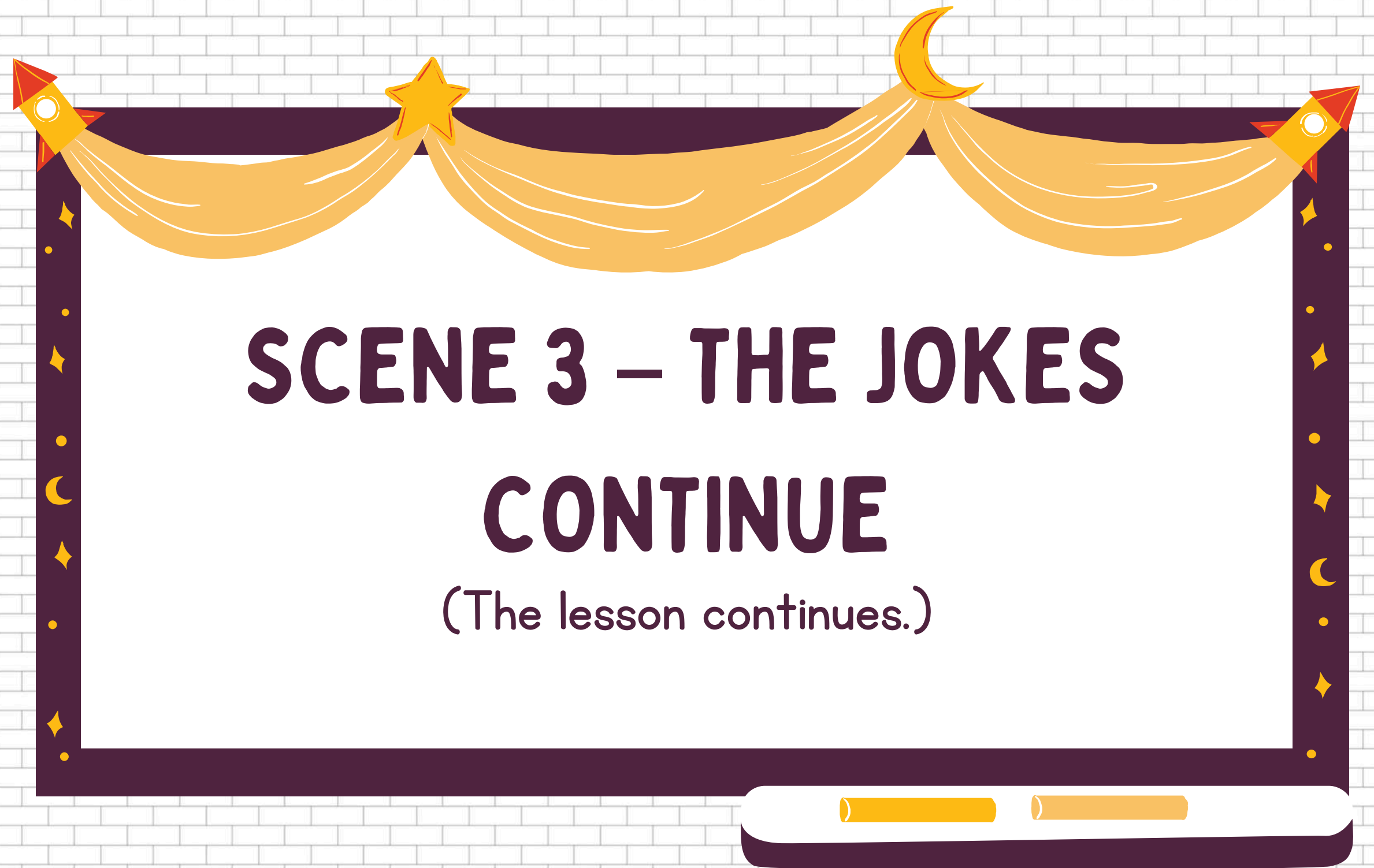
VICTIM: OKAY, OKAY, I GET IT.

TEACHER: THE ANSWER IS PARIS.

VICTIM: I KNEW THAT!

BULLY: YEAH, AFTER THE ENTIRE CLASS TOLD YOU.





TEACHER: NEXT QUESTION. WHAT IS THE LARGEST CONTINENT?

VICTIM: AFRICA?

BULLY: OH BROTHER... HERE WE GO AGAIN.

VICTIM: WHAT?!

BULLY: NOTHING. I'M JUST SCARED TO HEAR THE NEXT ANSWER.

VICTIM: CAN YOU STOP?

BULLY: RELAX, I'M JOKING.

BYSTANDER: COME ON, IT IS KINDA FUNNY.

VICTIM: IT WAS FUNNY THE FIRST TIME.

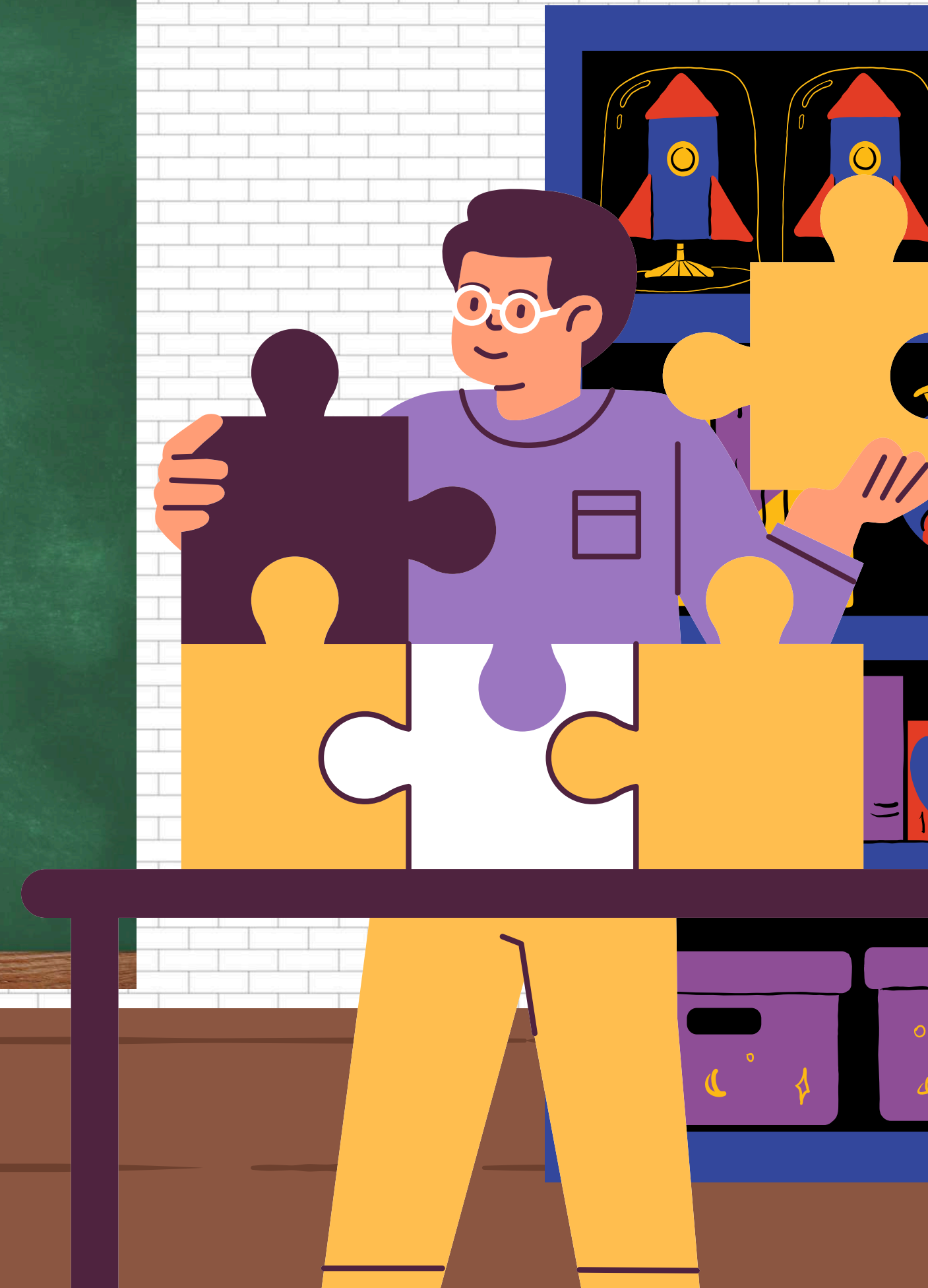
(SMALL PAUSE.)

BULLY: WHY ARE YOU GETTING ANGRY?

VICTIM: BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT JOKING ANYMORE. YOU'RE JUST MAKING FUN OF ME

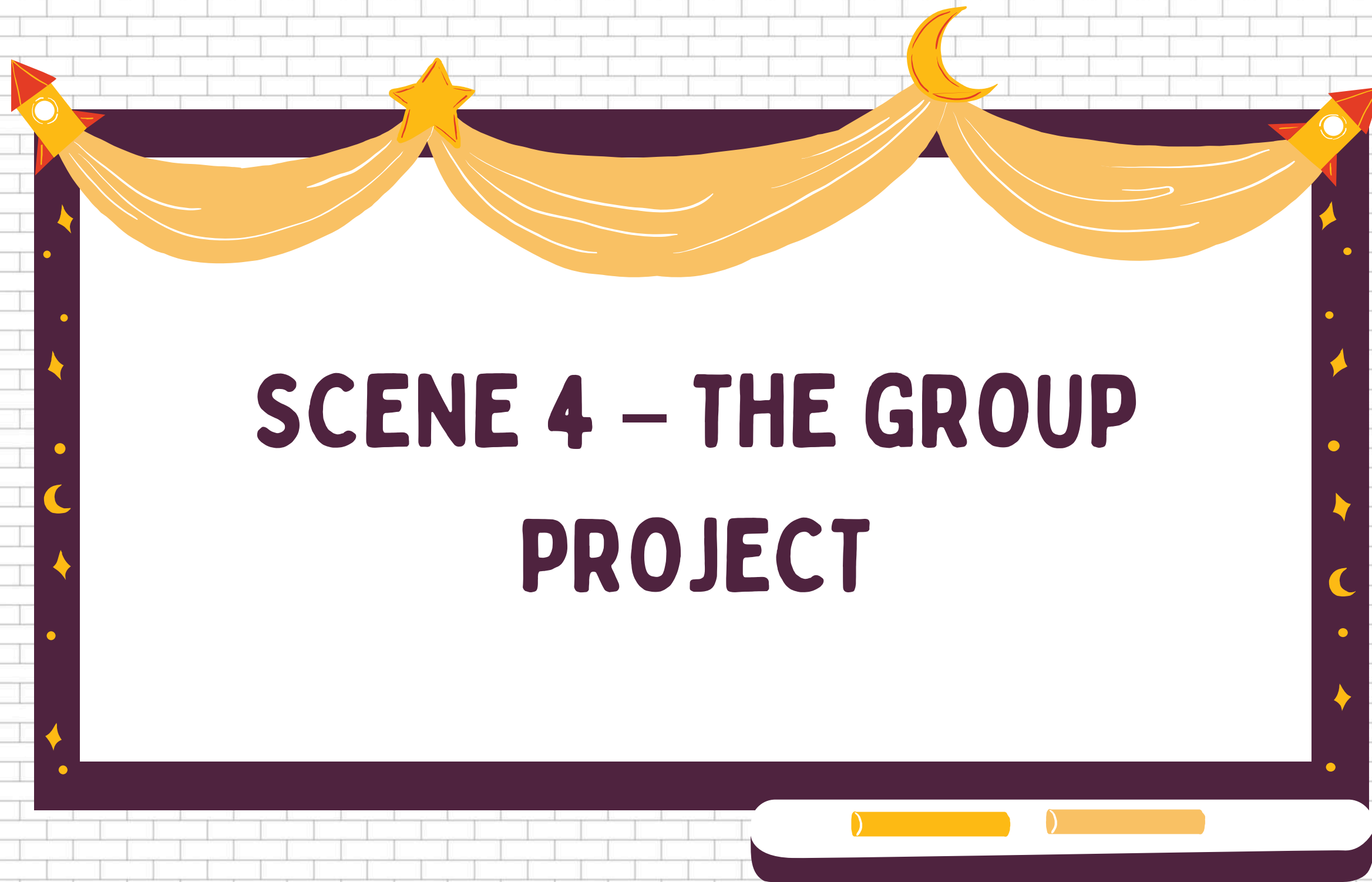
BULLY: BRO, IT'S NOT THAT SERIOUS.

TEACHER: OKAY, EVERYONE. ENOUGH. LET'S CONTINUE.





SCENE 4 – THE GROUP PROJECT



TEACHER: ACTUALLY, WE'RE GOING TO DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT. YOU'RE GOING TO WORK IN GROUPS OF FOUR.

BULLY: MISS, CAN I WORK ALONE?

TEACHER: NO.

BULLY: CAN I WORK WITH THE FURNITURE?

TEACHER: NO.

BULLY: CAN I WORK WITH MY EMOTIONAL SUPPORT WATER BOTTLE?

TEACHER: ALSO NO.

(EVERYONE LAUGHS.)

TEACHER: YOU FOUR WILL WORK TOGETHER.

(THEY ALL SIT TOGETHER.)

TEACHER: YOUR TASK IS TO CREATE A POSTER ABOUT RESPECT AND EQUALITY.

BULLY: THAT'S IRONIC.

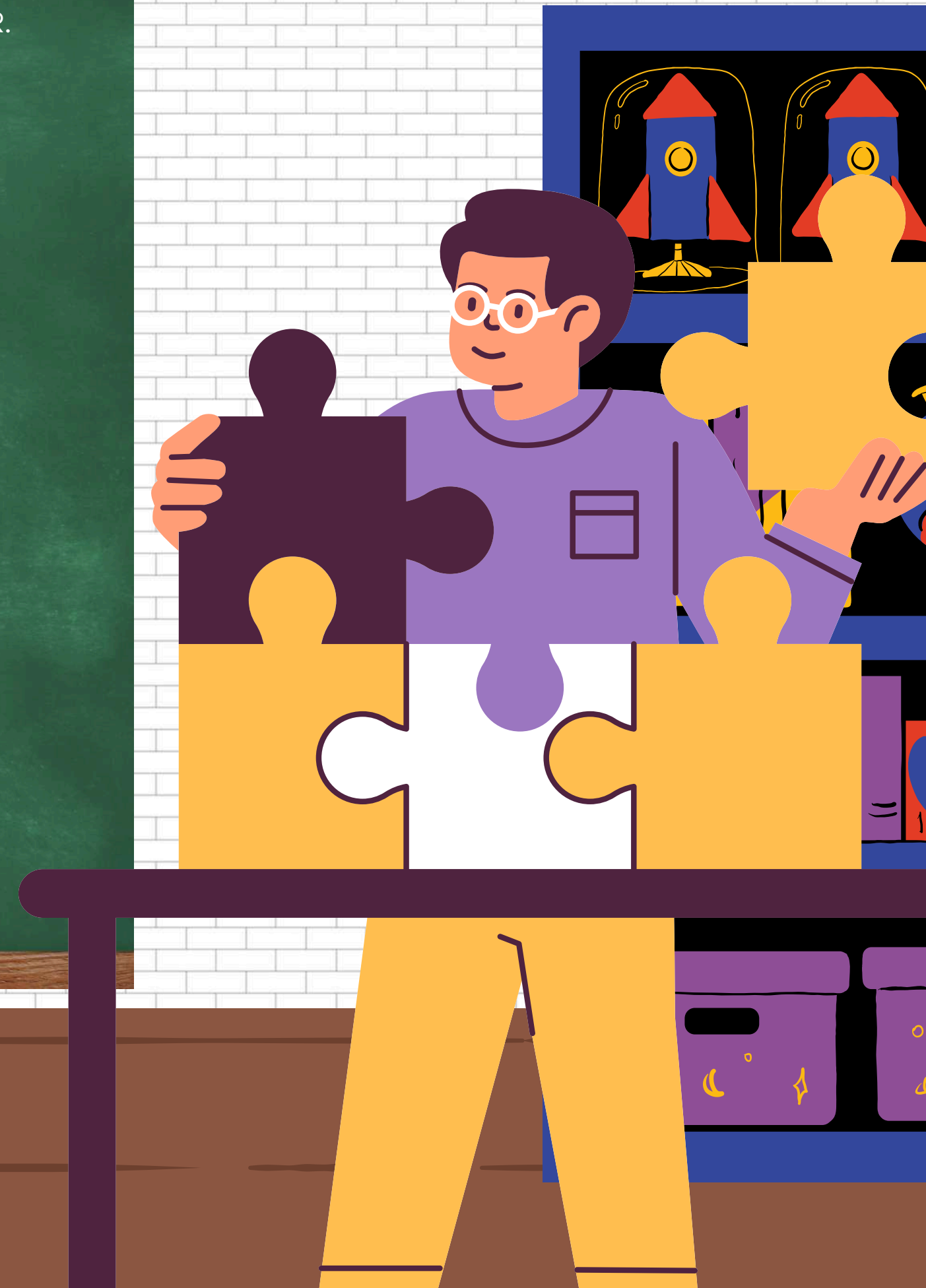
SUPPORTER: HOW?

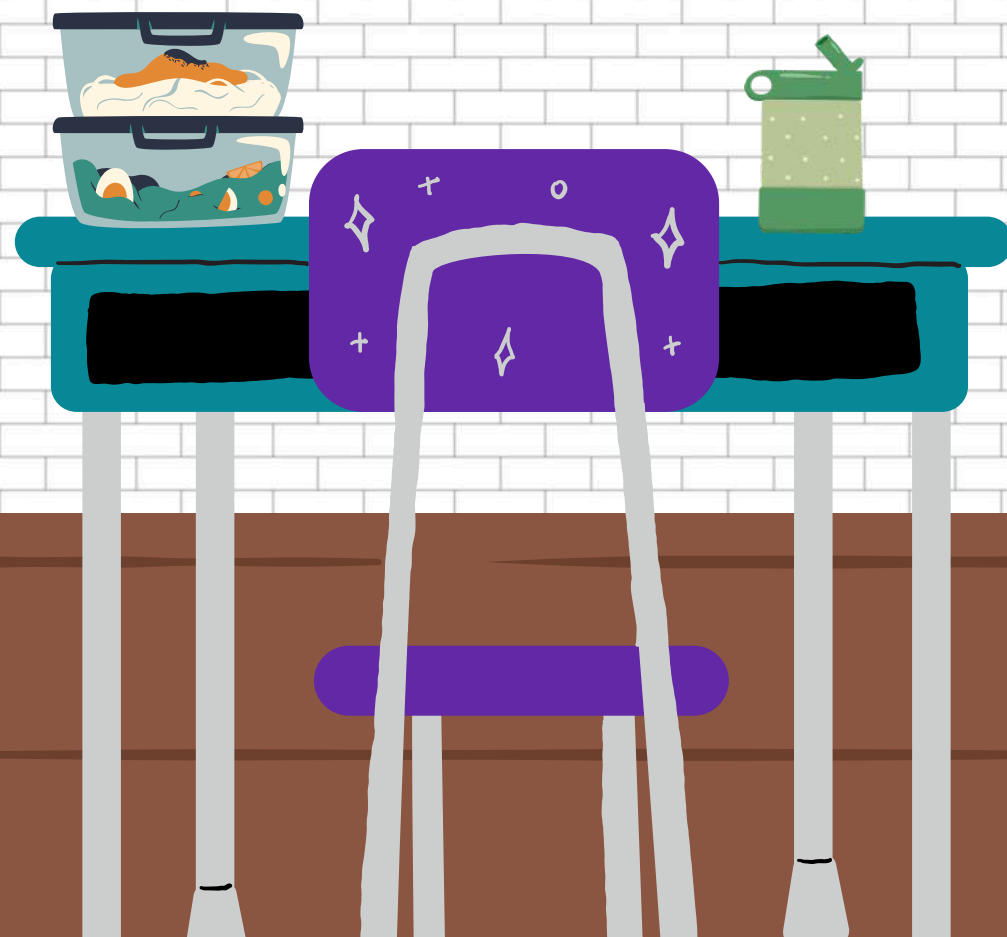
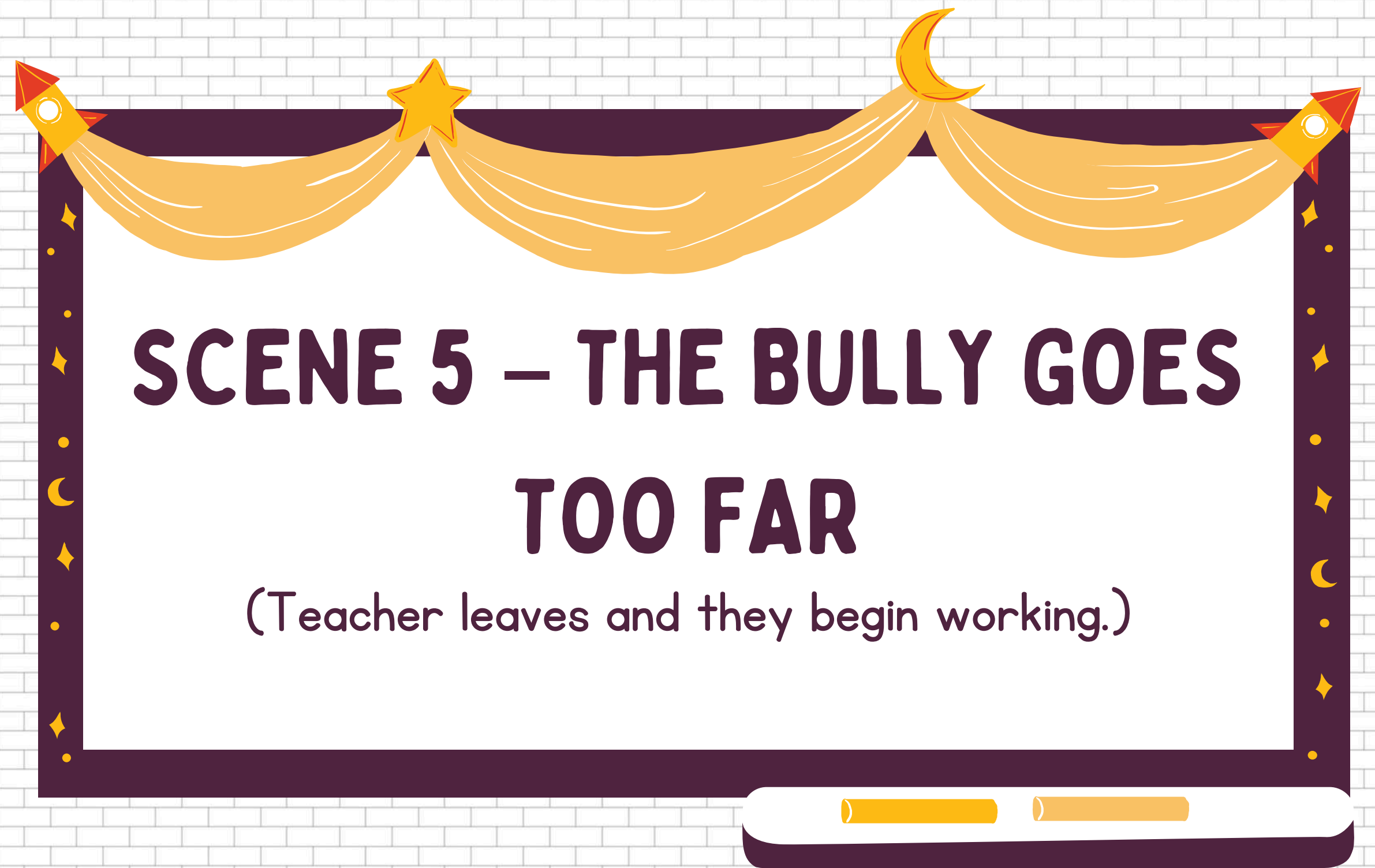
BULLY: BECAUSE WE'RE GOING TO BE WORKING WITH HIM. (POINTS AT VICTIM.)

VICTIM: WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

BULLY: NOTHING

SUPPORTER: THEN DON'T SAY IT LIKE THAT.





VICTIM: I'LL WRITE THE TITLE.

BULLY: MAYBE DON'T.

VICTIM: WHY?

BULLY: BECAUSE AFTER SEEING YOUR GEOGRAPHY SKILLS, I'M NOT TRUSTING YOU WITH SPELLING.

VICTIM: I CAN SPELL.

BULLY: CAN YOU?

BYSTANDER: OKAY, THAT ONE WAS FUNNY.

VICTIM: CAN YOU GUYS SERIOUSLY STOP?

BULLY: WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU? YOU CAN'T TAKE A JOKE.

VICTIM: IT'S NOT A JOKE WHEN YOU'RE CONSTANTLY TARGETING ME.

BULLY: MAYBE IF YOU WEREN'T SO POOR YOU COULD AFFORD A REAL FOOTBALL SHIRT AND NOT ONE WITH TAPE ON IT

VICTIM: THAT'S NOT FUNNY.

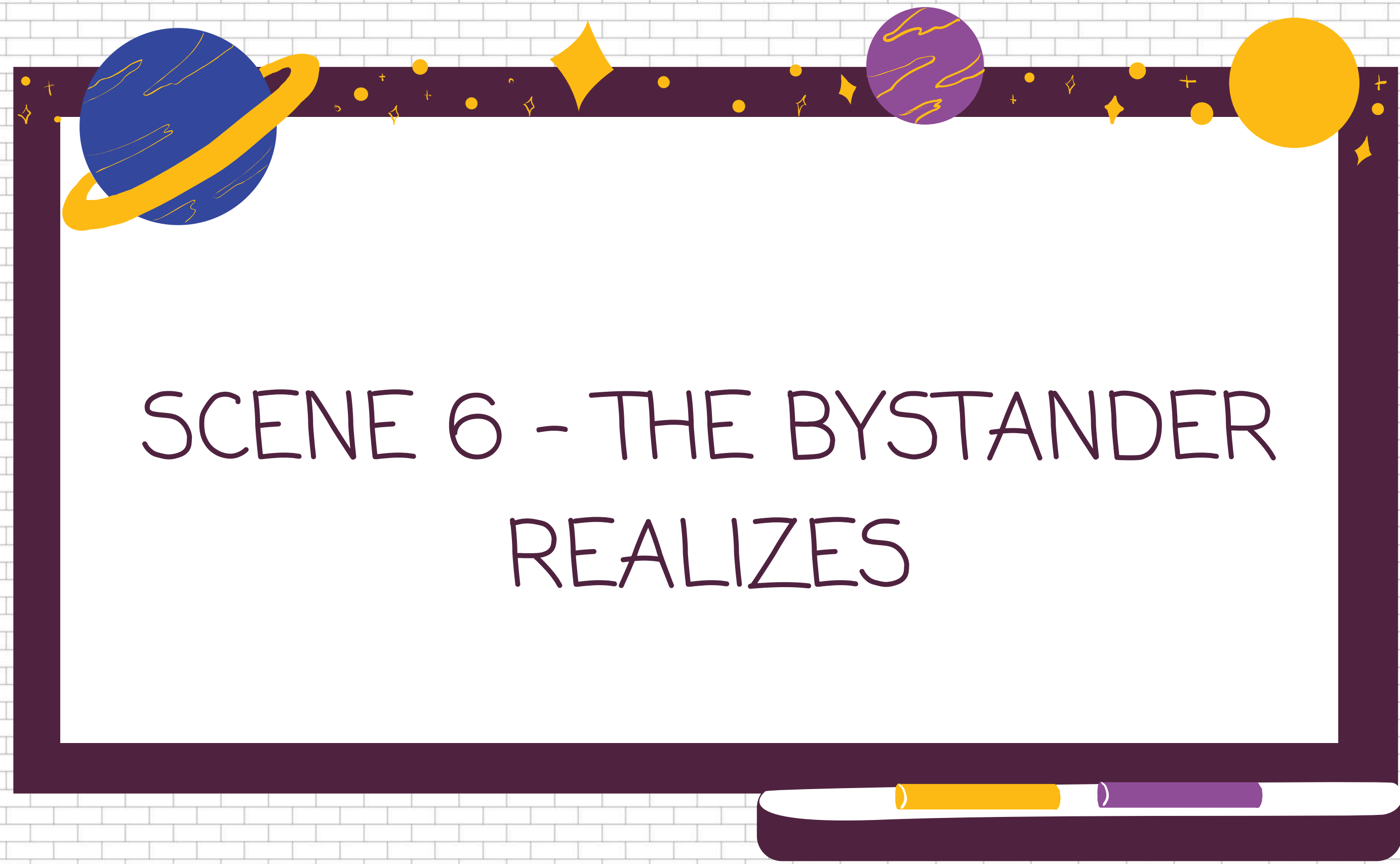
(THE MOOD CHANGES.)

BYSTANDER: YEAH... THAT'S A BIT TOO FAR.

BULLY: WHAT? I WAS JOKING.

SUPPORTER: NO. THAT'S NOT JUST A JOKE ANYMORE.





SCENE 6 - THE BYSTANDER REALIZES



BYSTANDER: ACTUALLY... I'VE BEEN LAUGHING THIS WHOLE TIME.

VICTIM: YEAH.

BYSTANDER: AND I DIDN'T REALLY THINK ABOUT IT. (LOOKS AT BULLY.) EVERY TIME YOU SAID SOMETHING, I LAUGHED BECAUSE EVERYONE ELSE LAUGHED.

BULLY: SO WHAT'S YOUR POINT?

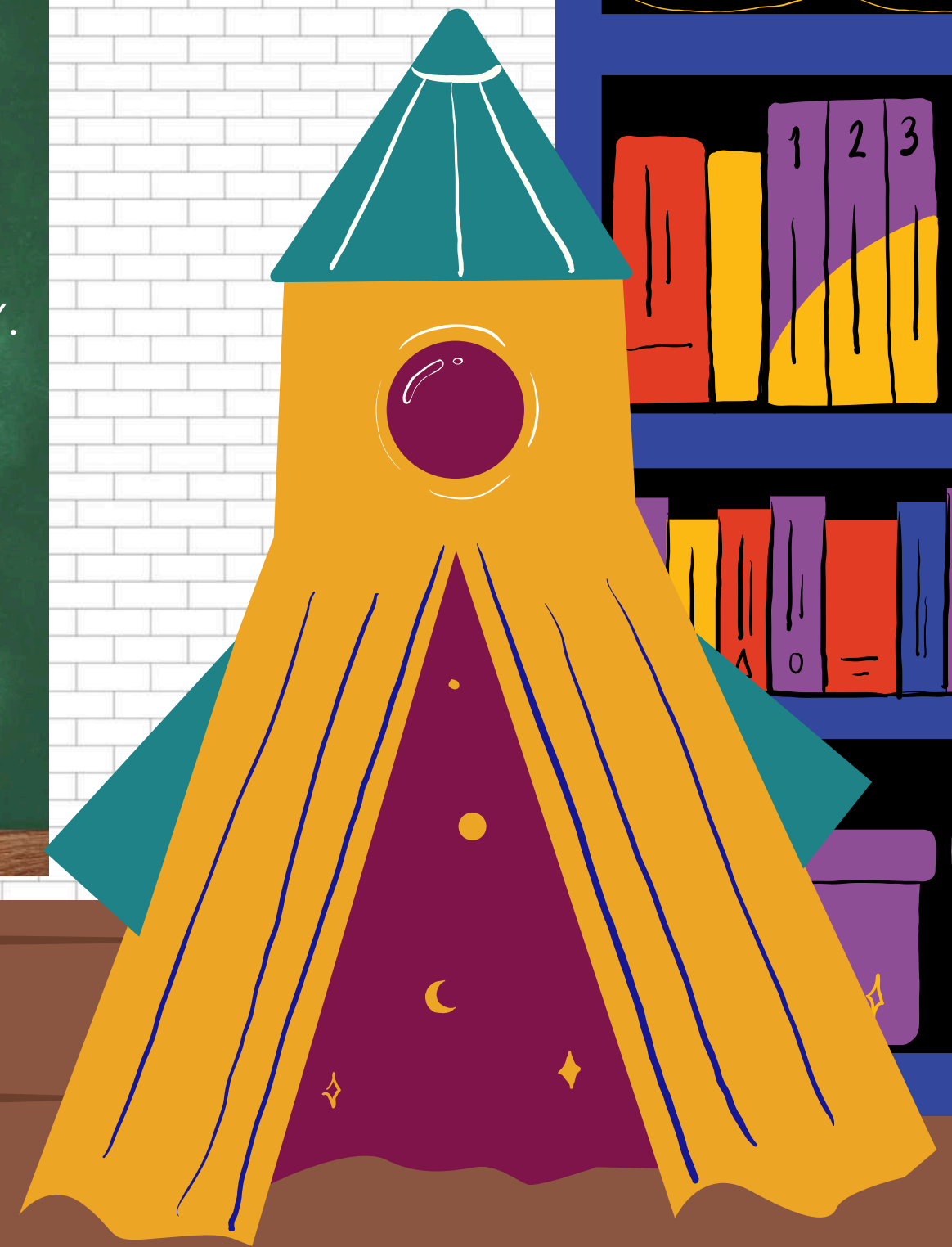
BYSTANDER: MY POINT IS... I WAS HELPING YOU.

BULLY: HELPING ME?

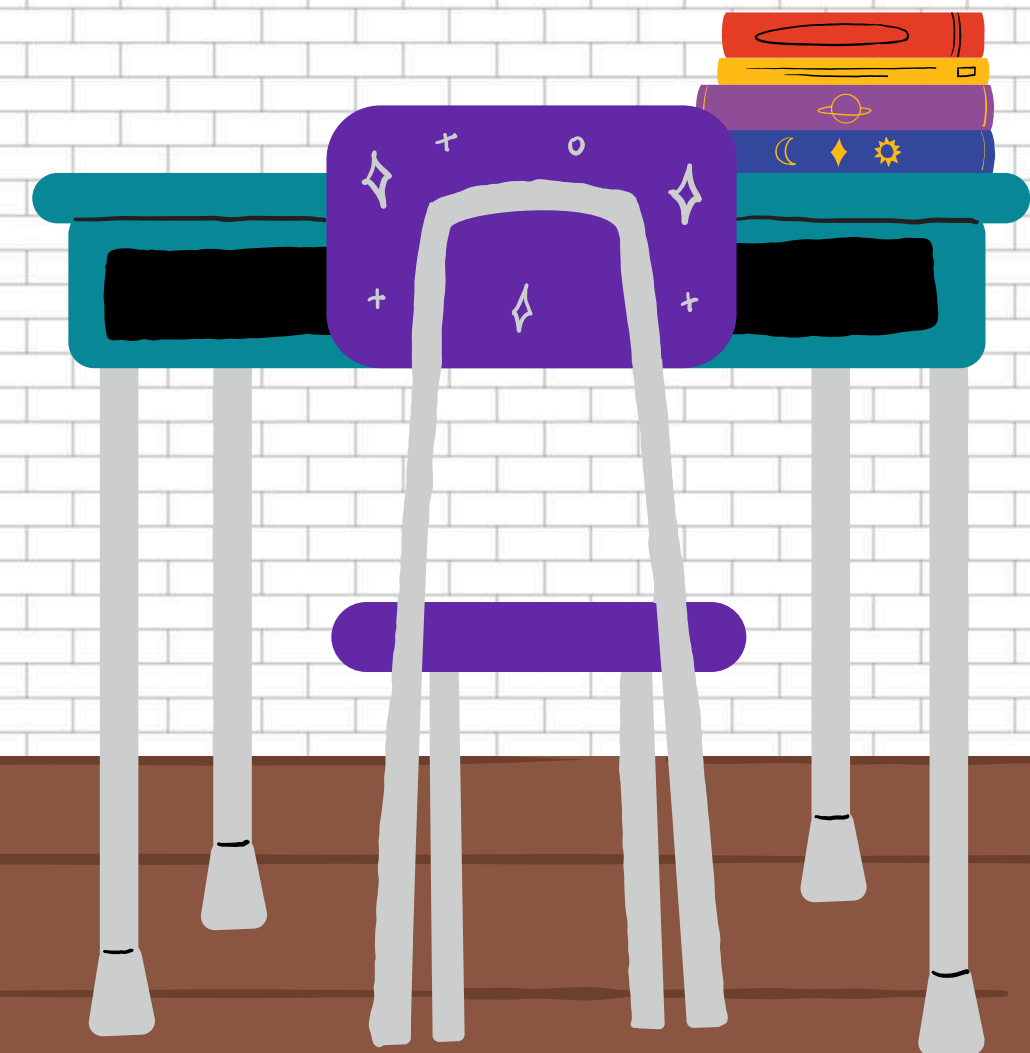
BYSTANDER: YEAH. EVERY TIME I LAUGHED, IT MADE YOU THINK WHAT YOU WERE DOING WAS OKAY.

(PAUSE.)

BYSTANDER: I SHOULD'VE SAID SOMETHING EARLIER.



SCENE 7 - THE SUPPORTER
SPEAKS UP



SUPPORTER: EXACTLY.

BULLY: WHY ARE YOU MAKING SUCH A BIG DEAL OUT OF THIS?

SUPPORTER: BECAUSE WORDS CAN ACTUALLY HURT PEOPLE.

BULLY: BUT I DIDN'T HIT ANYONE.

SUPPORTER: YOU DON'T HAVE TO HIT SOMEONE TO HURT THEM.

VICTIM: EXACTLY.

SUPPORTER: THERE'S A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MAKING A HARMLESS JOKE AND ATTACKING SOMEONE BECAUSE OF WHO THEY ARE.

BULLY: BUT HOW WAS I SUPPOSED TO KNOW THEY WERE OFFENDED?

SUPPORTER: THEY LITERALLY TOLD YOU TO STOP.

(PAUSE.)

SUPPORTER: THAT'S WHEN YOU STOP.

BYSTANDER: NOT LAUGH HARDER.

VICTIM: NOT SAY "YOU'RE TOO SENSITIVE."

SUPPORTER: AND DEFINITELY NOT CONTINUE.



SCENE 8 - TEACHER
RETURNS
(Teacher walks back over.)



TEACHER: HOW'S THE POSTER GOING?

(EVERYONE IS QUIET.)

TEACHER: UH-OH. THAT SILENCE TELLS ME EVERYTHING.

BYSTANDER: MISS... WE HAD A PROBLEM.

TEACHER: WHAT HAPPENED?

SUPPORTER: SOME JOKES TURNED INTO PERSONAL ATTACKS.

TEACHER: OKAY. LET'S TALK ABOUT IT.

BULLY: I WAS JUST JOKING.

TEACHER: THAT'S SOMETHING PEOPLE OFTEN SAY AFTER THEY HURT SOMEONE.

BULLY: BUT I DIDN'T MEAN TO HURT THEM.

TEACHER: INTENT MATTERS, BUT SO DOES IMPACT.

VICTIM: I KNOW THEY MIGHT NOT HAVE MEANT IT SERIOUSLY, BUT HEARING IT AGAIN AND AGAIN STILL HURT.

TEACHER: EXACTLY.



SCENE 9 - THE LESSON



TEACHER: THERE'S AN IMPORTANT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A JOKE AND HATE SPEECH. A JOKE CAN BE FUNNY WHEN EVERYONE INVOLVED IS COMFORTABLE. BUT WHEN SOMEONE'S IDENTITY, BACKGROUND, RELIGION, NATIONALITY, RACE, APPEARANCE, DISABILITY, OR ANOTHER PERSONAL CHARACTERISTIC BECOMES THE TARGET OF INSULTS OR HATRED, IT CAN BECOME HARMFUL AND DISCRIMINATORY.

BULLY: SO WHAT SHOULD I HAVE DONE?

TEACHER: YOU COULD HAVE STOPPED WHEN THEY ASKED YOU TO.

BYSTANDER: AND I COULD'VE SPOKEN UP.

SUPPORTER: AND EVERYONE ELSE CAN CHOOSE NOT TO JOIN IN.

TEACHER: SEE, YOU KNOW THE MEANING OF RESPECT.



SCENE 10 - APOLOGY



BULLY: OKAY... (LOOKS AT VICTIM.) I'M SORRY. I THOUGHT I WAS BEING FUNNY, BUT I TOOK IT TOO FAR.

VICTIM: THANK YOU.

BULLY: AND I A'M SORRY FOR MAKING YOU FEEL LIKE YOU COULDN'T SAY ANYTHING WITHOUT GETTING ATTACKED.

VICTIM: I APPRECIATE THAT.

BYSTANDER: AND I'M SORRY TOO. I SHOULD'VE SAID SOMETHING INSTEAD OF LAUGHING.

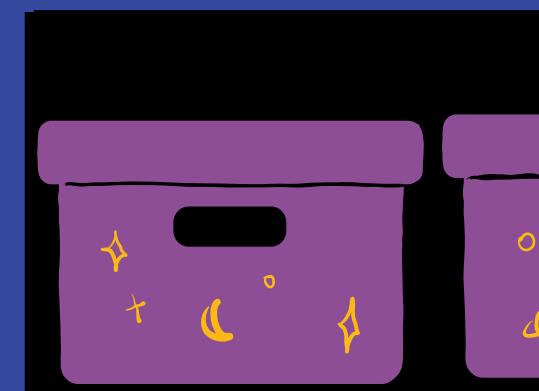
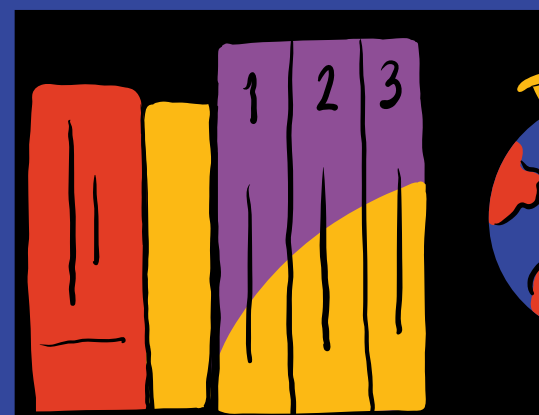
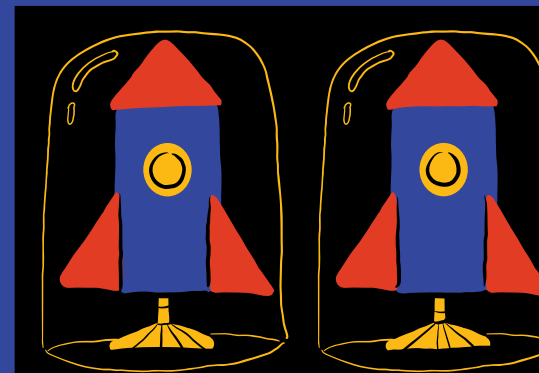
VICTIM: IT'S OKAY.

SUPPORTER: LOOK AT THAT. WE SOLVED A PROBLEM WITHOUT ANYONE THROWING A CHAIR.

BULLY: I WAS CONSIDERING IT.

TEACHER: DON'T... EVEN THINK ABOUT IT.

(EVERYONE LAUGHS.)



SCENE 11 - THE FINAL TWIST



TEACHER: ALRIGHT. SINCE WE’VE LEARNED OUR LESSON, LET’S FINISH WITH ONE FINAL QUESTION.

BULLY: PLEASE DON’T ASK HIM.

TEACHER: I’M ASKING ALL THE CLASS. WHAT IS THE CAPITAL OF FRANCE?

(EVERYONE LOOKS AT VICTIM.)

VICTIM: PARIS.

(EVERYONE CELEBRATES.)

BULLY: YES! CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT!

VICTIM: THANK YOU, THANK YOU.

TEACHER: AND WHAT IS THE CAPITAL OF SPAIN?

VICTIM: BARCELONA.

BULLY: WE ARE SO BACK!

(EVERYONE LAUGHS.) STAND UP.

TEACHER: SEE? MAKING MISTAKES IS NORMAL.

SUPPORTER: BUT HUMILIATING SOMEONE FOR MAKING A MISTAKE ISN’T.

BYSTANDER: AND LAUGHING ALONG DOESN’T MAKE IT OKAY.

VICTIM: SOMETIMES THE BEST THING YOU CAN DO IS JUST SAY—

SUPPORTER: “THAT’S NOT OKAY.”

BULLY: AND SOMETIMES THE BEST THING YOU CAN DO IS—

TEACHER: THINK BEFORE YOU SPEAK.

EVERYONE: THINK BEFORE YOU SPEAK!

END

(EVERYONE FREEZES. LIGHTS OUT.)





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