

JAMIE (lead)	Sings <My First Day>, <WA song>, <Finale>
MDM LIM	Sings <WA song>, <Finale>
MR CHONG	Sings <WA song>, <Finale>
MS CHEN	Sings <WA song>
MRS SOO	Sings <WA song>
RICK	Sings <What's the point?>, <No is just a two-letter word>, <Finale>
JODIE	Sings <What's the point>, <No is just a two-letter word>, <Finale>
HAZEL	Sings <Hazel's Worries>, <No is just a two-letter word>, <Finale>
ALEXANDRA	Sings <No is just a two-letter word>, <Finale>
BRANDON	Sings <Finale>
JARED	Sings <Finale>

[Scene 1]

[Open to Jamie sitting in front of a large desk reading a large children's book. All lights shining on her.]

[Jamie is wearing her primary school outfit. + Long pants that are rolled up underneath her blue pinafore for outfit transition later on as a teacher]

Jamie

[Puts the book down and narrates enthusiastically to the audience]

First days have always been something I look forward to. First day of school, first day of work, even first day of the week!

[Jamie starts singing the opening number <First Day> about her goals, aspirations, motivation to teach.]

Screen shows "PRIMARY SCHOOL"

<First Day>

My first day in primary I was bursting with joy! New land full of curiosities, excitement!

Well, this was land ahoy! (18)

As the years went by, I got a badge and a tie, (15)

[Backstage crew comes in and passes Jamie the blazer and tie.]

And with my head held to the sky, I knew I'd soar high.

[Supporting character will pass Jamie the tie and blazer. Jamie wears the tie, and holds the blazer in her arm as she walks proudly to the front of the stage.]

Screen shows "SECONDARY SCHOOL"

My first day of secondary, I was teeming with glee!

So much to do, accomplish, and so much to see.

[Jamie stands in the centre of the stage as a bunch of teachers come in from different sides of the stage and swarm her, passing her certificate after certificate, and trophies.]

when all the talk rolled in,
'bout what we wanted to be, that's when I had to think what's really me.

[Narrated as she places down all her items] I wanna be a teacher!

[Narrated as she starts walking around]

Of course, my journey wasn't all sunshine and rainbows. I was really bad at math and I struggled a lot. But, I had the most amazing pillars of support to offer their guidance - my teachers! It's admirable, how they seem to have an answer to all my questions, which at times was a lot. With so much on their hands, they still managed to be a helping hand and a guiding force for everyone. And that's when it clicked - I want to be a teacher!

[Jamie puts a jacket on, as she picks up all her certificates]

Screen shows "POLYTECHNIC"

My first day of polytechnic, I was a nervous wreck

But I'll still ace this course, "psychology", I won't even break a sweat!

I'll become a teacher, I'll take the first step to the first step

Just two more years and I will be all set!

[Narrated, talking to audience]

You may be wondering, two years? Why only two years? Don't you go to poly for three? Well, as my final year project, I'm thinking about contract teaching! Exciting, right? I get to test out my dream job, without the complications of getting a teaching degree! My dreams are coming true, from being inspired by teachers, to being the source of inspiration!

[As the music plays, Jamie goes backstage and takes off her jacket, and certificates/trophies. She comes out wearing a white shirt, and rolls down her pants. She is also holding a clipboard.]

****Screen shows "Evergreen Secondary School"****

My First day in Evergreen! My heart was beating out of my chest
But I'll teach, I'll learn
What will I do? And say? Can't afford to slip, will I be okay?
There's butterflies in my stomach, good luck to me, I pray.
What will I do? And say? Can't afford to slip, will I be okay?
I was filled with jitters, *but whatever!* Carpe diem, right? I'll seize my first day

[Scene 2]

[Screen changes to a classroom scene, and Mdm Lim and Mr Chong enter the stage]

Mdm Lim

Oh, you must be the new contract teacher! I'm Mdm Lim, your mentor.

Mr Chong

Hello, I'm Mr Chong and I will be co-mentoring you with Mdm Lim.

[Mr Chong and Mdm Lim exchange glances of approval about Jamie]

Jamie

I'm Jamie, nice to meet you, Mdm Lim, Mr Chong.

Mdm Lim

Today, you will just be observing us teach the class and making observations on the class environment.

[Backstage crew will carry in the tables, and the student actors will carry in their own chairs and sit down in a relaxed, carefree manner.]

[School bell rings]

[Mr Chong exits the stage, Mdm Lim brings out the whiteboard and she starts the lesson]

Mdm Lim

Good morning students, we have a new teacher with us, you may call her Ms Wong. Please greet us as "teachers".

Students *[they greet in a lazy manner and they bow slowly]*
gooooood moooooorrrningg teeachers..

[Jodie and Rick are seen slapping each other jokingly at the back of the class. The whole class slowly sits down after greeting Mdm Lim.]

[Jamie proceeds to sit at an empty table at the back of the class]

Mdm Lim

Okay students, please pass up your homework to the first person in the row.

Jodie

Cher, I never do my homework.

Rick

Ya, the homework too much leh...

Mdm Lim *[in a disappointed tone]*

Everyone, who here hasn't done their homework?

[Almost everyone raises their hands lazily, with the exception of Hazel, Alexandra and two other students (extras)]

Mdm Lim

Everyone, I gave you the weekend to complete the work, besides, your WA3 is coming up soon, what is this irresponsible behaviour? Just pass up the work tomorrow.

[Jamie is puzzled at how the students can slack this much, and Mdm Lim continues to teach the class, while the students are dozing off/sleeping/stressed out (Hazel)]

Jamie [whispers to the audience quietly]

Why are the students so...unenthusiastic? Shouldn't they at least pretend to pay attention?

[Jamie walks up to the unfocused students one by one and tries to get them to pay attention to Mdm Lim - shoulder tapping, short verbal reminder]

Jamie [turns back to the audience]

Is this what students are usually like?

[The class starts talking among themselves - another display of inattentiveness]

Hazel [exasperated and angry tone as she almost bursts out shouting]

Guys! Stop making noise and just shut up!

[Jodie, Rick and other students continue to slack off]

Alexandra [mumbles anxiously]

Hazel...calm down.

Mdm Lim

Jodie, Rick! Stop talking about games and focus on the lesson! Are you going to be talking about games during WA3?

[Jodie and Rick just sigh and turn around to face the board.]

[The bell rings, and some of the students leave without greeting the teachers, some half heartedly mumble a "Thank you teachers" and the screen changes to a corridor picture.]

[Mdm Lim walks to Jamie and asks her questions]

Jamie

Hi, Mdm Lim...

Mdm Lim

Hi, Jamie. So, what do you think of the class so far?

Jamie

Well..it's certainly not really what I expected...I was kind of expecting it to be a bit more noisy, or rowdy even!

Mdm Lim

Ah, we all get used to it. The main problem we face are not the troublemakers, it's unmotivated students. It's alright, you will get used to it too.

[Mdm Lim exits the stage, Jamie steps to the edge of the stage, talking to the audience]

Jamie

I didn't know that some students were so...unenergetic. Throughout my entire school life, I have always been so eager to learn, why not them?

[Scene 3]

[Jodie walks in with Rick, playing games on their phones in the corridors, wearing their backpacks]

Jamie

Hey, you two are in Mdm Lim's English Class, right? Jodie and Rick?

[Jodie gives Jamie a weird look]

Eh wait, you're Ms Wong right?

[Jamie nods with a smile]

Hi guys, so..I kind of noticed that you guys were dazing in class and mumbling to each other, why aren't you paying attention?

Rick

The lessons are like damn sian, legit cannot tahan

Jamie

I don't think they are boring, and as students, we should also put in the effort to learn, right?

Jodie

Please lah cher, you don't get it. we study also got no point one.

[Jodie slouches, and he just sighs, while looking away]

Rick

Ya lor, we also don't want to study until the brain explode what.

[Jovan and Rick start singing <What's The Point> with Jamie, asking what is the point in studying, when there is no fun to it]

<What's The Point>

Jodie

*What's the point in studying, there really is no use
What's the point in trying, it's all such a snooze*

Rick

*Everything is boring, so that's why I choose
To not try at all, because there really is no use*

Jodie

It's just boring, so dull, gimme something fun today

I'm a free spirit, need to play and run away

Rick

*I don't want to be stuck writing essays all day
The day school shuts down is the day we will say hooray*

[At this point in time, Rick and Jodie will be melodramatically sitting down on the left and right side of the stairs on the stage.]

Rick and Jodie

*What's the point in studying when there is so much fun in the world?
What's the point in studying when we can go into the cyberworld?*

Jodie

*Quadratics and functions, algebra and fractions
It's all too complicated, I just have no passion*

Rick

*We have our phones, calculators, why not use those?
We don't need to strain our brains until they all explode*

Jamie (Asks in normal voice)

What- Your head won't explode! Teachers train you to-

Jodie (Cuts her off, spoken)

It's just boring, so dull, gimme something fun today

Rick (Backs up Jodie, spoken)

I'm a free spirit, need to play and run away

Rick and Jodie

*What's the point in studying when there is so much fun in the world?
What's the point in studying when we can go into the cyberworld?*

Rick

What's the point of school when I just wanna play my games

Seriously, no point right? It's all just so lame

Jodie

Why do math or science when games will bring me fame

Why work on my sums when I can work on my aim

Jamie

I-I..don't understand! Why would you want to play games all day when you can study and get good grades?

Rick [Snickers]

Cher, we want to be E-sports gamers when we're older! If we want to be pro gamers, of course need to practise now lah!

Jodie [Says in a somewhat complacent tone]

Ya, studying is useless if we are getting into E-Sports. It's much more fun than getting good grades.

[Jodie and Rick begin to take out their phone and play games to walk away from Jamie once again, who seems baffled by their interaction]

[Scene 4]

[Jamie starts to walk away slowly but still remains on the stage, feeling upset that the students are not nice to her]

[Hazel enters hastily with Alexandra following]

Hazel

Jodie, Rick! Stop using your phones in the corridors!

[Jodie and Rick roll their eyes and slowly put away their phones and eventually exit the stage. Hazel sighs as she adjusts her prefect tie which seems to be too tight for her. Hazel looks like she is stressed, and Alexandra notices.]

Hazel [In an exasperated tone]

Oh my goodness..I have so many assignments due in two days...and I still have the tote bag design to pass in...and I have duty tomorrow...Ugh!

Alexandra

Hazel, don't worry. If you need help, I am always here.

Hazel [exasperated, desperate tone]

Of course, yes, but I could never burden you like that!

[Alexandra tried to reach out to Hazel's shoulder, but she couldn't because Hazel was pacing around so fast. She will attempt to chase hazel]

[Hazel starts to stress out and she starts to mumble to herself in distress.] —> Pace around, sighing here and there, flipping through her books, and staring at them in frustration.

[Then, Jamie notices Hazel spiralling out of control and she stares at her from afar as she takes a chair and sits down. Hazel starts singing.]

[Hazel moves to the front of the stage and sits down on the stairs, looking at the floor, but directing her aura at the audience as she sings in a slightly tired, but hopeful manner]

[Alexandra then starts calling out for Hazel, and she gradually lip syncs to show that Hazel is blocking Alexandra out.]

<Hazel's Worries>

Hazel

*Between the dark and daylight
Most slumber, it's still night!
But for me it's still day, it's bright
And I fight the urge to sleep despite
The warm, comfy sight of my bed
But I climb down flights upon flights*

[She stands up, and starts to pace about the front of the stage, SLOWLY.]

*Of madness trying to keep awake
But I go through fights upon fights
Trying to make it till daybreak
So much to do so much at stake
I just really really need a break!*

[Adjusts tie]

But I also really really need to be great.

[Mrs Soo comes out from the stage and beckons Alexandra to come closer. Alexandra takes one last look at Hazel before leaving with Mrs Soo]

[Hazel's tone descends to a defeated one]

[Adjusts tie]

Project here project there

So burnt out, and I'm in desperate need of another push, another spur, a flare

[Body movements should be implemented, Eg. Tossing of hands in the air, hitting the air, putting hands on head in frustration]

I'm just so tired, tired enough to not care

I can't lose my flair, but I swear,

Just a hair of a break, and the wear will go away... (I hope)

[Adjusts tie]

[Narrated in a detached manner as she paces back and forth between each line]

I can do this

No I can't

I can manage!

But I'm so tired

But I can't afford to be

I have everyone

Everything

On my shoulders

Depending on me...

[Students enter the stage one by one and narrate from beside her shoulders The recording plays chaos: Eg, "Hazel please stop daydreaming we need you", "Can you help

me with my work?", "Hazel, we need to finish this proposal now!" All the students start swarming her. Then, all the students leave.]

I can't give up now but
I'm just so tired.

[Adjusts tie]

Project here project there
So burnt out, and I'm in desperate need of another push, another spur, a flare
I'm just so tired, tired enough to not care
I can't lose my flair, but I swear,
Just a hair of a break, and the wear will go away... (I hope)

[Hazel goes back to the stairs to sit down again, to flip her papers over and over again]

[After the song, Jamie will move out of her hiding place and she will approach Hazel with gentle steps]

Jamie

Hey, you're Hazel, right?

[Hazel looks up at Jamie with a shocked expression and immediately stands up, as she wasn't aware of Jamie's presence]

Ah! Y-yes I am..um, did you hear me earlier?

Jamie

Well, yes...

[Hazel puts a palm at her face and she groans as she adjusts her tie]

Please don't tell anyone, I can't afford to let anyone know about..whatever I just said.

Jamie [In a puzzled tone]

Why don't you want to reach out to a teacher? Wouldn't it be more helpful? How about asking Alexandra for help?

Hazel [In a defeated tone]

All the teachers say the same thing! They say I have to stop taking on assignments, stop trying to take on everything at once...But I can't! I need them for my future, for my testimonials and my portfolio...and this tote bag design is my own initiative...I can't rely on Alexandra for help.

Jamie

[She looks at Hazel with a sympathetic expression. She walks to the side and says to the audience]

I remember when I used to be a prefect...but I didn't think it would be so difficult now.

Hazel [Looks around in search of Alexandra]

Um also, have you seen Alexandra? She was here earlier...

Jamie

Oh, I think a teacher called her about the tote bag design too, and they left together.

Hazel [Sighs]

You see? Even Alexandra has her own things to do...How can I burden her?

[There's a moment of dramatic silence]

Hazel [Says in a hesitant voice]

Anyways Ms Wong, I really hope you won't tell anyone about..my venting session earlier..

[Hazel hurriedly picks up her files and papers from the floor, and adjusting her tie once more]

Jamie [Notices and she brings it up]

Your tie seems a bit tight...

Hazel [Brushes it off]

Oh, it's okay. I like it that way! Have a nice day, Ms Wong!

Jamie

Enjoy your recess..

[Hazel leaves the stage with her files and papers as she walks hurriedly, and Jamie leaves by the other side.]

[Scene 5]

[Mr Chong enters the stage, standing at the same position as Mdm Lim when she was teaching English, same goes for the rest of the class layout. → done by backstage crew. The screen will change to a classroom scene with the text: "halfway into Mr Chong's lesson". At this point in time, Mr Chong already finished teaching half the lesson. He is now assigning the students work to complete.]

Mr Chong

Ok guys, I will need you guys to pair up for a class activity. I'm going to give you a revision question for you and your partner to solve, and pass them up to the front for marking later.

[The students immediately pair up as they shift their chairs to a friend's table.]

[Wait for a bit, about 10 seconds to signify time lapse. During these 10 seconds, students will be seen writing, thinking, head in their hands etc]

Jamie [stands up and tells the audience]

I wonder if they have made progress..

[Jamie stands up to walk around the stage]

Hm..

[Jared can be seen asking Brandon on how to do the question, somewhat pressuring him by tapping on his shoulder constantly and Brandon is willingly letting him copy.]

[She looks and inspects the students, and she stopped at Jared and Brandon's table, as they seemingly caught her eye. She stands behind them, and they are unaware that she was behind them. She stares at their paper for a while and says out of the blue as she inches closer to them.]

Jamie *[She talks to herself]*

Should I scold them...maybe it's better to tell Mr Chong? I don't think I have the right to reprimand them anyways...

[Jamie scurries to Mr Chong as Jared continues to copy Brandon's homework]

Jamie

Mr Chong, I think you should check on Jared and Brandon, it's not right to copy homework, is it?

Mr Chong *[In a patient tone]*

Jamie, why don't you try approaching them by yourself? You are a teacher, you should take initiative to tell them what's right and wrong. Go on.

Jamie

Are you sure?

[Mr Chong nods, and this pushes Jamie to make the move to talk to the two boys.]

Jamie

Hey guys

[Jared and Brandon jump, surprised by Jamie's sudden appearance.]

Jamie

I just noticed that you were copying Brandon's work earlier. If you are confused, asking Mr Chong yourself is the best solution.

Brandon

Oh, sorry Ms Wong. Jared was confused so copying me was the fastest solution.

Jamie

It's okay. I used to struggle with maths a lot too, but asking my teachers for clarification, even when I didn't want to, helped me improve.

Jared *[Replies in a doubtful tone]*

But what's the use of the maths we're learning in school right now? I want to work as a badminton coach, and I'm pretty sure no maths is needed for that.

[Jamie, being unable to answer that question, feels defeated. A short silence follows.]

Jamie

Just...try not to copy next time. Ask if you are confused.

[Jared and Brandon nod, as they go back to their work and Jamie walks back to Mr Chong.]

Jamie

Mr Chong, Jared isn't being very receptive...I think it is better if you speak to him.

Mr Chong [he nods]

Alright, thanks for telling me, Jamie.

[Mr Chong and Jamie walk over to Jared and Brandon's table.]

Brandon

Jared, Jared! Mr Chong and Ms Wong are coming over! This is gonna be the sixth time he caught you copying!

Jared

I'm done.

Brandon

Hurry, hurry, hide your paper befo-

Mr Chong

Hi boys, do you need any help?

Jared [coming out all at once, desperate, like he's been wanting to say it for a really long time]

Mr Chong, I'm really sorry but I can't understand how relevant maths is outside of school.
Do I really need to try?

Mr Chong

Jared, let me ask you a question. How useful do you think maths is for students when they grow up?

Jared

Being able to count and calculate is an important skill to have I suppose

[For the next two lines, take on a patient tone]

Mr Chong

Then it won't make sense for teachers to teach beyond basic algebra and numeracy unless you want to become a mathematician, right?

Mr Chong

Whether it's being challenged with a difficult question, or having to memorise specific chunks of information, students need to go through the experience of learning.

Jamie

Mr Chong put it very well, Jared. The brain is a muscle, so it needs to be trained.

Mr Chong

Exactly. Jared, your CCA is badminton, right? You don't run during competition, but you run laps for training anyway right? You do it because it builds your stamina and it prepares your body for a real badminton game. That's why students have to learn, and why we have to teach. We have to be their coaches and push them to prepare them for the most important game — life.

[Mr Chong pauses to let Jared absorb his words. Jamie will also be seen pondering and contemplating his words, slightly nodding as if all the dots are starting to connect]

Mr Chong

So if we have to scold our students or chase them for their work...it's necessary as long as they understand it's for their own sake that they learn.

Jared

I understand, Mr Chong. I'll try my best for my exams then. And I will try to ask instead of copying Brandon. His answers are probably always wrong anyways.

Brandon [visibly annoyed]

Tsk, oi!

[The scene ends with the bell ringing, and the actors exit the stage.]

[Scene 6]

[Jamie comes in holding a clipboard. She looks ready and very eager to teach the class, but no one is there yet, except for Hazel and Alexandra]

Jamie [to the audience]

It's been two weeks since I've been here in Evergreen...and today is my first lesson! Well, substitution lesson. I'm really excited, but...the students aren't here yet...

[The rest of the actors will take their time to take their seats on the chairs.]

Jamie

Hey guys, it's already 15 minutes into the lesson, what took you so long?

Jared

Sorry Ms Wong, we had to come from the science lab.

Jamie [nervous yet enthusiastic tone]

Uh...okay. Good morning class! Mdm Lim has an emergency at home, so I'll be taking over her class today. Everyone, please turn to page 107 of your comprehension book, and start doing the questions. We'll go through them at 11:35.

[Everyone flips, and starts doing the work. They finished quickly, and were just wasting the remaining time. This can be depicted as the students just flip their papers away, etc, just showing laziness and lack of enthusiasm.]

Jamie [unsure tone]

Um...okay, since everyone seems to be done with the questions, let's go through them.
Brandon, what's your answer for the first question?

Brandon

Uhh...the word is "Rambunctious".

Jamie

Do we have a different answer? How about Hazel?

Hazel

The word should be "Enthusiastic"

Jamie

Thank you, Hazel. Students often answer this question wrongly, because they mistake "enthusiastic" with "rambunctious" to have the same meaning. Understand?

[The class remains silent, not giving a response, even with some of the students just dazing around, twirling their pen, clicking their pens on and off]

Jamie [in an uncertain tone]

Guys...pay attention please. How about question 2? Jodie?

Jodie [shrugs]

[Rick raises his hands]

Jamie

Yes, Rick!

Rick

Cher can go toilet?

[The students giggle, making Jamie dumbfounded. The bell then rings, and Rick and Jodie are the first to leave the class; leave the stage, followed by the rest of the students]

Jamie

U-uh..thank you class?

[When everyone leaves the stage immediately and Jamie is left alone in the classroom, she talks to the audience]

Jamie *[facepalms herself and sighs deeply]*

Oh my god...that was terrible. We didn't even manage to go through two questions. They will surely fail their comprehension! What will Mdm Lim say when she's back tomorrow?

[Rick and Jodie come running back into the stage]

Jodie

Eh, sorry cher, I forgot my calculator

Rick

Sup cher

[Jamie hesitates for a second as Rick and Jodie search for Jodie's calculator. Then, she makes an unexpected move and she calls for the two boys.]

Jamie

Rick, Jodie, could the both of you come here?

[Rick and Jodie come walking to her]

Jamie *[Sighs and she slowly talks]*

I just wanted to say that I really didn't appreciate how you guys were so...nonchalant in class today.

Jodie *[he says as Rick snickers]*

simi non-chah-lernt

Jamie [she raises her voice and she steps forward]

I put in the effort to try to teach you guys, but you came in late and you couldn't answer the questions right!

[Jodie and Rick are surprised, but not so affected yet]

Rick

But cher, even if we put in effort, we also don't get good marks what. Future E-sports player here, remember?

Jamie

No, that is utterly wrong! How do you think your marks will reflect on you...and your teacher? Teachers teach to let their students get high scores! Do you still not care if Mdm Lim has a class of failures!?

[Rick and Jodie become silent]

Jamie

If you are going to give me that attitude, I'm sorry, but you can forget about being an e-sports player, because effort is the most vital thing a player can have.

[Jamie will walk off stage, and Rick and Jodie will leave through the opposite side. The screen will flash "The next day" to signify the change in time.]

Mdm Lim

Jamie, you asked to meet me. Is this about the substitution lesson?

Jamie

Yes Mdm Lim, and thank you for meeting me so promptly.

Mdm Lim

No worries at all Jamie. Now, how was the class?

Jamie [sighs again]

I'm really sorry Mdm Lim, I tried to engage them...but it wasn't really working. Their WA is next week too! If they fail, I'm so scared that it will have a bad impression on you...

Mdm Lim

Oh, Jamie. You do know that the students' grades don't reflect on us teachers, right?

Jamie [she'll take a moment (say 3-4 secs) to process]

What?

Mdm Lim

A criteria to be a teacher is not to make ourselves look good based on our students' grades. We care about them hitting their greatest potential, and we don't want them to regret the lack of effort they put in.

Jamie

I'm just worried because they are not studying up to standard and...I don't even know if I want to be a teacher anymore.

Mdm Lim

Jamie, not everyone is as achieving as you. As teachers, we need to help students and help them realise their dreams. These students like Hazel and Jodie, they really do like you and I believe you can help them too.

Jamie

But...how can I help them?

Mdm Lim

To be honest, to be a teacher, it's not about us. It is about students. You need to look at the lessons, situations and feelings from the students' perspective. How about this, I'll let you substitute Mr Chong's lesson. You are training for English and Mathematics right? This is a good time to hone your teaching skills too.

Jamie [determined]

Alright, I'll try my best.

[Scene 7]

[The background will say "A week later" to signify the change in time. Jamie goes back to her original position when she was teaching the class earlier, and students stroll in at the same time]

Jodie

Ms Wong said we gonna play games in class today - if we studied for her quiz. What u think we gonna play?

Rick

ML? Brawl stars? Eh, Valorant?!?!?

Jodie

Siao ah you think she will let us play meh

Rick

She said games what!!!

Jamie *[turns to the class with an energetic tone]*

Good morning class. Today, I'll be substituting Mr Chong for his maths class.

Jamie

Today, we will do something differently. I know that your exams are in a week, so we will be doing some revision. However, I've decided to use "Blooket" for our lesson today! Guys, you can take your ipads out.

[All the students rummage for their ipads immediately]

Jodie

Huh??? simi Blooket?

Rick

WHAT. Lame sia....

Jodie

Aiya but a game is a game

Rick

Points are points...

Jodie

Okay lesgo

Jamie

Jodie, Rick, since you guys are good at gaming, why don't you guys teach everyone how to use the power ups?

Rick

onz

Jodie

aight guys so you press this button right, you get a 50% discount to buy a power up, then you can also steal your friend's money.

Rick

you can also times your money by a certain amount. mmm yes. Understand? aight cool.

[Rick and Jodie sit back down and they start playing. Music of the blookey theme song starts playing, with a pre-recorded video of the game play on the screen.]

Jared

Woi, Brandon why you steal my coins?

Brandon

Cos I got the question right, duh.

Jamie

Guys, you are all doing pretty well! Wow, Rick, you're first place!

Rick

Wah, usually my math damn bad sia. I stole all of Jodie's money, but I actually got all my questions right.

Jodie

This is fun bro

Brandon

Ms Wong, can you start another game?

[After a while, the bell rings and the students sigh.]

Jamie

Okay, class! Um, you do understand the different formulas and concepts now?

[The class nods with some saying "yes"]

Jamie

We will be doing another round next lesson, so be prepared!

Rick

Cher, what topic will it be on?

Jodie

I'll revise it!

Jamie [While smiling]

Polynomials, hehe

[Everyone thanks Jamie and leaves the stage]

Jamie

Well, that was...a success!

[Scene 8]

[The background will say "The next day" to signify the change in time. It will be after school and Jamie is going back to the staff room to finish up some work. Along the way, she spots Hazel looking frazzled (as always) surrounded by piles of books, posters, stationery, art materials]

Jamie (to the audience)

Poor kid, I always see her toiling away at one project or another... She's one of the hardest working students too.

Hazel [in a tired, yet happy tone]

Hello, Ms Wong..

Jamie

Hi Hazel, are you coping? Do you need any help?

Hazel [in a forced tone]

Yes! I'm managing pretty well. Everything is under control, everything is covered.

Jamie

Hazel, your worksheet is upside down.

Hazel

HUH? No, sorry, um, I was gonna get to that later. Now I'm redesigning my tote bag, and I'm helping my fellow prefect with his design too.

Jamie

Are you sure that's not too much? Mdm Lim did assign quite a bit of revision worksheets, you know?

Hazel

No! Of course not. Nothing is ever too much, no such thing.

Jamie

Hazel...

Hazel [hesitates]

Okay maybe... maybe I am struggling. BUT IT'S OKAY because I can manage.

Jamie

Hazel.

Hazel *[in a rushed, convoluted manner, like it's all coming out in one spurt]*

Okay, I can't manage. But that doesn't mean I'm not trying! I just tend to take up every offer... to feed into the pressure of wanting to be the best and the smartest and the most helpful.

Jamie *[looks at Hazel pitifully]*

Is there any way for me to help? Talk to your teachers about giving you lesser work?

Hazel

No! It's fine! I'd never want to burden you like that. Thanks Ms Wong for offering, but I have a lot to do. I'll get back to work now, thank you!

[Jamie walks away and thinks about it.]

Jamie *[to audience]*

She thinks that asking for help from her teachers is being a burden. Maybe her peers will be of more help?

[Jamie runs around, presumably in a rush to go and find Alexandra, who will be situated at the left side of the stage.]

Jamie

Hi, Alexandra, could I ask you something about Hazel? You're her friend right?

[Alexandra nods]

Jamie

Okay, well do you know why she is so busy all the time? She says she is fine, but she is clearly struggling with her work.

Alexandra

To be honest, for the life of Hazel, she cannot say no to anything. The only reason why she has so much on her plate is because she accepts every assignment anyone gives her.

Jamie

Huh...that's not good, have you tried to advise her?

Alexandra

I've tried everything to help her! And she just can't say no...

Jamie

Hmm... who else can we call? Who else...

[At this point in time, Rick and Jodie will be standby on the right. They start walking out, past Jamie. Jamie then calls them.]

Jamie

Rick and Jodie! **Yes!**

Rick

Sup Ms Wong!

Jodie

You called us ah?

Jamie

Okay.. Hazel is hunched over in one of the tables over there. Please go check up on her with Alexandra, get her to relax for the day!

[Rick, Jodie and Alexandra walk over to where Hazel is while Jamie moves to the back to observe]

Alexandra

Hazel! We know you still have so much to do but relax a bit, the tote bag design isn't even due until next Thursday! Come on, come and have lunch with me!

Hazel

No, but then I have to revise for the pop quiz Mr Lim is conducting tomorrow!

[This is where the scene starts to get a little chaotic because Rick and Jodie's voices will start overlapping each other as all three of them start to badger Hazel to relax. Hazel gets more and more stressed out.]

Rick

Bro, you so kancheong for what, it's not like you'll die from not getting full marks-

Jodie

Ya, relax!

Hazel

No, but-

Alexandra

That's right, relax! It's not something to be so stressed about!

Rick

Chill bro, your other projects can wait-

Jodie

Later you work work work overload then you kena stress overload-

Rick

Wah piang, you draw draw your hand not tired meh-

[ACTORS IMPROV HERE —> About Hazel needing to stop working and improv about 3 lines per person, excluding Hazel.]

Rick, Jodie and Alexandra [shout in a desperate voice]

You seriously need to stop!

Hazel [lashes out]

NO! You guys just don't get it!

[Hazel breathes in and out in an attempt to calm and collect herself]

<No is just a two-letter word!>

Hazel

Between the stress and pressure
Most crumble, *however*
for me it's a sacrifice
To be the smartest, most clever
Yearning for better and better

Hazel

But I always feel the need
To be the smartest in the room
And I always feel the need
To be perfect through and through

[Jamie picks up a huge signboard that says "NO, NO, NO!"]

Rick

NO! NO! NO! NO! NO!
You have to say **NO!**

Jodie

(sometimes...)

Rick

need to balance school and rest leh
if not your life is on the line,
Later if your brain explode,
Cannot get A1 if you cry!

Jodie

Main thing Hazel...
you got too much on your mind
Throw away some things,
you realise got so much time!

Hazel

NO! NO! NO! NO! NO!

I don't like that **NO!**

Alexandra

[Instead of the usual rap flow, Alexandra is more or less melodically]

Hazel, you have to know your limits
If you have too much on your plate,
then you can't eat it

Rick and Jodie

(duh)

Alexandra

I'm here to help alright?
You're not sealed to your fate!

[Music gets lighter here]

You have done so much,
Nothing short of amazing!

So many mountains you climbed
Don't get crushed trying to climb more
You've reached so many peaks!
Now it's time to sit back and enjoy the view from up here.
(Music resumes previous energy level)
Self-assured, and rest assured

[Jamie then picks up a huge signboard that says "YES, YES, YES!"]

Rick, Jodie and Alexandra

YES YES YES YES YES

You have to say NO!

(sometimes...)

Rick

Hazel, we know school life cannot kiasu,
anyhow do

Jodie

But wah, you need spend time with your friends all,
don't shoo

Alexandra

Your days all packed, we cannot even hang out
with you,

Rick, Jodie and Alexandra

So do what you can, and then...
let us help you too!

Hazel [she loosens her tie a little]

Huh... so it isn't THAT wrong to say no. Maybe I will drop a few projects after all

Jamie

Hazel, I know it's hard dropping the projects, but you do need to prioritise your wellbeing.
We are all here to support you, and I'm sure your friends support you the most.

Hazel [smiles as she looks at all her friends]

Thank you, Ms Wong. Thanks, guys...I promise that I'll try my best to relax...and take time
for myself so that I don't burn out!

[The students leave the stage, leaving Jamie alone]

Jamie

I'm so happy that Hazel promised to learn how to set boundaries for herself...she really
deserves it. As a teacher, I feel so...accomplished! Is this what helping students feel like?
Seeing the smile and relief on their faces.

[Scene 9]

**[Music interlude starts playing and Mr Chong, Mdm Lim and Jamie walk to the front
of the stage to say their lines. Jamie should stand in the centre. Backstage crew**

arranges 5 sets of chairs and tables to be placed in a semicircular format behind the 3 actors. The screen will show an office/classroom depending on the scenario.]

Mr Chong [To Jamie]

Students are only one part of being a teacher. **Another** significant part of being a teacher is the WA season. There is actually a lot we do behind the scenes.

[HIGHLIGHTED WORD IS THE CUE: The student actors come out from behind the curtains and start walking around the stage hastily to revise for their upcoming examination. Some of them are seen memorising their notes, some stressing. By the time Mdm Lim starts talking, there should be no more students walking around on stage.]

Mdm Lim

It will be tiring, but it is all part of the process.

Jamie [In an enthusiastic tone]

Let's go!

[Enter Ms Chen and Mrs Soo, and props will be given. They will walk in holding stacks of papers.]

Ms Chen [Handing the stack of papers to Mdm Lim]

Hi Mdm Lim, here are the papers for your class. It's great that you managed to get Ms Wong to help us.

[Jamie smiles and nods]

Mrs Soo

Okay, let's start.

Ms Chen

It's great that you want to be a teacher!
But honestly, the students are just one part.
Let's see if you can get through the turmoil of
WA season!!

[The 5 teachers take their seats, with Mdm Lim and Mrs Soo (English teachers) sitting together, and Mr Chong and Ms Chen (Math teachers) sitting together. Jamie sits in the centre chair.]

<160 Times>

Mrs Soo [Narrated]

*Okay, I can do this! I can set a great paper for the kids.
The passage will be clear cut, and the questions will utilise everything they've learnt!
Shouldn't be that hard... I hope.*

Ms Chen / Mrs Soo / Mr Chong

Stage one, setting the paper, setting the paper, setting the paper!

[In this first verse, it will be about the English paper. Mdm Lim, Mrs Soo and Jamie will be singing. Meanwhile, Mr Chong and Ms Chen will be discussing at the side, acting according to what the other 3 teachers are singing (Setting the paper), and will be singing later in verse two.]

Ms Chen

*I run through papers upon papers
Filled with words upon words
Find the best possible passage
And something to cater
To every single criteria like*

Mrs Soo

A! The content is clear cut,

Ms Chen

B! Test all the skills you were taught

Mrs Soo

C! The length not too long, not too short

All

Woo! it's getting kinda daunting...

[Jamie will flip through what seems like different passages, underlining and making notes, nodding at one passage in approval as if to say that's the one she will set for the paper]

Mrs Soo

This one! I got it! I think it's great!
Checks all the boxes and
My mind didn't deflate
[walks over to Mdm Lim]

Ms Chen

And it all went according to plan
Now all I have to do
Is to show Mdm Lim for her to-

Mdm Lim

I'm sorry Mrs Soo, I'm not sure I can accept this

Mrs Soo

Oh well, back to scavenging I guess

[Teachers will rotate their seats in a clockwise manner to signify the change in the stages of marking.]

All

Stage two, batching the papers, batching the papers, batching the papers!

Ms Chen

I sprint with papers upon papers
Batching, an impending
Doom that's waiting for me

Mrs Soo

It all needs to be stapled (properly)

It all needs to be labelled (clearly)

Mrs Soo and Ms Chen

Awh... when will I be free?

Mrs Soo

This one! I got it! *[Falter]* I think it's okay?

Checks most of the boxes

And my mind didn't deflate

ALL OTHER TEACHERS

(almost)

Ms Chen

And it's not going according to plan

Now all I have to do

Is to show Mdm Lim for her to.....

Mdm Lim

This works, Mrs Soo

[Teachers will rotate their seats in a clockwise manner to signify the change in the stages of marking again.]

All

Stage three, standardising the paper! Standardising... standardising...

Ms Chen

We run through papers upon papers

Filled with answers upon answers

And pick one out from each of the three

Different levels of competencies

Mrs Soo

Great, average, and not quite there

Ms Chen

Which will act as a guide for us to see

Everyone

To make the test fair, as stellar as it can be

To make the test fair, as stellar as it can be

[All teachers but Mdm Lim exit the stage.]

[Scene 10]

[Mdm Lim remains on the stage. The background changes to a white blank screen.]

Mdm Lim

Of course, Jamie's journey was not always sunshine and rainbows. She has her ups and downs with the students, but she got through them. Not only with the help of her colleagues, but the students' cooperation too.

[Mr Chong enters the stage]

Mr Chong

Now, Jamie is successfully part of the full time teaching staff. Welcome Jamie! Today is her very first teachers day- oh **here she comes**

[HIGHLIGHTED WORD IS THE CUE Jamie runs as she enters the stage excitedly]

Jamie [Shouts enthusiastically to the crowd]

GUYS! Today is not about me, **it's** about THEM!

[All the actors run out to the stage at cue word. Jamie, along with all the actors, point to the back/side of the hall wherever the teachers in the audience are.]

[As the instrumental for My First Day Reprise plays, a video montage of Evergreen Secondary School's teachers plays, showing all the photos of the teachers' first day as a teacher.]

[Actors move into position: Stand in a straight line along the curtains of the stage — Arranged by height]

<My First Day Reprise>

(talks about EVG teachers' first days)

[As the screen starts playing the montage, the actors sing.]

Jamie

Your first step into the fray
was your mind in disarray
facing students on your brave first day

did you know what to do or say
or did you just go in and pray
a new teacher on your brave first day

was your heart as wild
as the morning sun
greeting every face with a nervous smile
your lessons ready, the pages wide
your kindness spreading miles

(music interlude)

EVERYONE

did you stand up tall
teach them all you recall
greeting every face with a nervous smile (pause)
no matter what came your way
we know you seized your first day

<END>