



THE PLAY DISPUTE

FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

SCENARIO

- Charlie and Kim are in the same drama class.
- For one of their internal assessments the class has been split into groups. Each group must choose and perform a short play.
- Charlie and Kim are in the same group where Charlie has the lead role and Kim is the director.
- During rehearsal Charlie has been doing a lot of improvisation and Kim wants him to stick to the script.
- They have been continuously arguing over how it should be done and the rest of the group has asked that they go to mediation.

KIM'S INFORMATION

WHAT HAPPENED?



- It is my first time as director and I really want to do a good job.
- I think this might be something I wish to pursue after high school so for me it is more than just an assessment, it is a chance to really try my hand at directing.
- The play my group has chosen is by my favourite writer. When Charlie starts to improvise I find it disruptive to the other group members as they often lose their place and I find it insulting to the play itself.
- It is already perfect and should not be meddled with!
- I find it arrogant that Charlie thinks on-the-spot lines are superior to the carefully chosen words of a genius writer.
- Most importantly, I feel that Charlie's improvisation is a direct sign of disrespect of me as a director.
- Every time I have asked Charlie to stick to the lines, Charlie responds with "yeah sure" and then improvises again at the next rehearsal.

CHARLIE'S INFORMATION

WHAT HAPPENED?

- I dream of becoming an actor.
- I have been going along to improvisation performances and have been blown away by the actors' quick ability to come up with clever lines and their ability to add their own style.
- This play is a great opportunity to practice! It is small and just for one of the internal assessments so it is not a big deal.
- But getting to practice improvisation is an invaluable opportunity.
- The language of the script is outdated anyway and is benefitting from a bit of spicing up.
- I am not only adding a bit of color but also making it more relevant and accessible to a modern audience.
- I don't see why she should have control on deciding what the play should be like.
- Kim has asked me to stop the improvisation and I've just said "yeah sure" because I don't really like conflict and I don't feel he would be willing to listen to you even if I tried talking to him.
- I can talk to Kim about changing some of my lines and sticking to some so that we are both happy.

