

THE BULLY

Book by
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Music and Lyrics
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Scene 1

Darkness. A single light on LENNY, a smaller middle-schooler, sitting at a desk, wearing school clothes.

"GYM IS EVIL"**LENNY (SUNG)**

**THERE'S A TIME IN EACH DAY
THAT I PRAY NEVER COMES
THERE'S AN HOUR IN EACH DAY
THAT I WISH I COULD SKIP
AND EVERY DAY I SIT IN CLASS AND
WATCH THE CLOCK
FILLED WITH FEAR
AND BEFORE I KNOW IT
IT'S HERE!**

(SOUND CUE - BELL RINGS. HE puts on a jersey. A flurry of activity as the lights come up. A school gymnasium. A rope dangles from the ceiling. LENNY and the OTHER KIDS do push-ups and jumping jacks. LENNY tries and fails miserably. The OTHER KIDS laugh.)

LENNY (SUNG)

**GYM CLASS IS EVIL
GYM IS PURE EVIL
ITS ONLY PURPOSE
IS TO BE EVIL**

**GYM CLASS IS TORTURE
AWFUL TORTURE
I CAN'T DO ANYTHING THEY WANT ME TO DO**

(LENNY tries to do an exercise and fails.)

LENNY (SUNG)

**I CAN READ AND DO MATH
I CAN PAINT I CAN DRAW
BUT GYM CLASS POINTS OUT
MY EVERY LAST FLAW
GYM CLASS IS AWFUL
FOR ME**

GYM TEACHER (SUNG)

GET BACK IN LINE
 OR ITS TWO HOURS OF DETENTION FOR YOU
 GET BACK IN LINE
 OR ITS TWO HOURS OF DETENTION FOR YOU

LENNY (SUNG)

I HATE RUNNING THE TRACK
 I HATE WEARING A JERSEY
 I HATE THE WAY THAT THEY TEASE
 WHEN I FALL TO MY KNEES
 AFTER DOING THESE STUPID PUSH-UPS

(STEVE, a bigger middle-schooler,
 emerges from the group. STEVE and
 the OTHER KIDS slowly encircle LENNY.)

STEVE AND OTHER KIDS (SUNG)

LENNY (SUNG)

LOOK AT LENNY
 LOOK AT POOR LENNY
 HE'S SO WEAK AND HE CAN'T DO ANY
 PUSH UPS SIT UPS
 LOOK AT LENNY
 HE CAN'T DO ANYTHING THAT HE TRIES TO DO

OH NO
 OH NO

(LENNY tries to do another
 exercise and fails.)

STEVE AND OTHER KIDS (SUNG)

HE'S WEAK, HE'S CLUMSY, HE'S AWKWARD TOO
 WITHOUT LENNY WHAT WOULD WE DO
 LENNY IS A BULLY'S DREAM COME TRUE!

COACH (SUNG)

DON'T YOU GIVE UP YOUR DAY JOBS
 DON'T YOU GET UP YOUR HOPES
 CLASS ISN'T OVER AND DONE
 UNTIL EVERY LAST ONE
 OF YOU TRIES TO
 CLIMB THE ROPES.

KIDS (SUNG)

I LIKE WHEN WE MAKE FUN OF LENNY
 THAT'S THE ONE THING ON WHICH WE AGREE
 BECAUSE WHEN WE MAKE FUN OF LENNY
 (NO ONE'S LOOKING AT ME)

LENNY (SUNG)

STEVE IS EVIL
 HE'S SIMPLY EVIL
 HIS ONLY PURPOSE IS TO BE EVIL

LENNY (SUNG, CONT'D)

STEVE IS AWFUL
HE'S SIMPLY AWFUL
I CAN'T DO ANYTHING THAT HE CAN DO

(LENNY tries to do yet another
exercise and again HE fails.)

LENNY (SUNG)

HE MAKES ME FEEL ROTTEN
THAT'S PERFECTLY CLEAR
AND SO SMALL
THAT I FEAR
I COULD JUST DISAPPEAR
STEVE IS SO AWFUL
TO ME

COACH

You're first, Lenny. Now climb!

(ALL go over to the rope.
All three groups sing, LENNY,
COACH, KIDS teasing, as LENNY
goes to the rope, gets ready
to climb, and, ultimately,
tries to climb the rope.)

LENNY (SUNG)

GYM IS AWFUL
GYM IS PURE AWFUL
WASTED TIME
FOR EVERYONE

COACH (SUNG)

GET BACK IN LINE
(REPEAT)

OTHER KIDS (SUNG)

LOOK AT LENNY
LOOK AT POOR LENNY
(REPEAT)

GYM IS STUPID
GYM IS SO STUPID
IT'S NOT IMPORTANT
AND NOT VERY FUN

COACH

Come on, Lenny, it's your turn!

STEVE

(To HIS friends)

Watch this, guys.

LENNY (SUNG)

ESPECIALLY WHEN
YOU'RE NOT VERY TALL
AND YOU'RE NOT VERY STRONG
AND NOT POPULAR AT ALL

AND YOU CAN'T CLIMB THE ROPES

LENNY (SUNG, CONT'D)

CAUSE YOU KNOW YOU'LL JUST FALL
AND YOUR JERSEY'S TOO BIG
BUT YOUR MUSCLES ARE SMALL

IT'S PLAIN TO SEE
EVERY MONDAY AT 3
WAS DESIGNED TO MAKE ME FEEL
AS SMALL AS CAN BE
GYM CLASS
IS AWFUL

ALL (SUNG)

LENNY LENNY

LENNY (SUNG)

GYM CLASS IS ROTTEN

ALL (SUNG)

LENNY LENNY

(STEVE pulls the rope and knocks
LENNY off of it.)

LENNY (SUNG)

GYM CLASS IS AWFUL
FOR ME

(SOUND CUE - BELL RINGS.)

COACH

That's it, hit the showers. Steve, detention!

STEVE

Again? Oh well, it's worth it for Lenny.

Scene 2

The inside of a school bus. LENNY
is already there, nose buried in a
book, alone. STEVE enters with his
CREW MEMBERS.

CREW MEMBER 1

That was a good one, Steve.

CREW MEMBER 2

Yeah, you really told him.

STEVE

Hey, what's a few more weeks of detention.

CREW MEMBER 1

You're gonna let Lenny off that easy?

STEVE

Not a chance.

(THEY've made it to the back of
the bus, and a LITTLE KID is
there, reading.)

STEVE (CONT'D)

Well, well, well, lookee here. Boys, do you see what I'm
seeing.

CREW MEMBER 1

Sure do.

CREW MEMBER 2

Um ... yeah?

STEVE

Hey, twerp. Hey, kid!

(The LITTLE KID looks up, scared.)

LITTLE KID

Yeah?

STEVE

What're you reading?

LITTLE KID

Animal Farm.

STEVE

You like it?

LITTLE KID

Yeah.

STEVE

You like it so much you think you can sit in my seat and read
it?

LITTLE KID

What?

CREW MEMBER 1

That is Steve's seat.

CREW MEMBER 2

Yeah, and you ain't Steve.

LITTLE KID

Oh. I'm really sorry. I'll sit somewhere else.

STEVE

No, no, no. If you're important enough to sit down in my seat, then you should stay.

LITTLE KID

I'm not--

STEVE

But your book can't.

(HE takes the book from the LITTLE KID and throws it down the aisle of the bus. The LITTLE KID gets up and gets the book, nearly in tears.)

CREW MEMBER 1

You see what he did there?

CREW MEMBER 2

He put the kid in a situation where he had to give up his seat to Steve if he wanted his book.

CREW MEMBER 1

Yeah.

(STEVE sits in his seat, alone.
His CREW MEMBERS sit in a nearby seat.)

LITTLE KID

You're such a bully!

CREW MEMBER 1

Did you hear that, Steve? That kid called you a bully.

STEVE

Oh yeah?

"THE BULLY"

STEVE (SUNG)

**I CAN HAVE ANY SEAT THAT I WANT ON THE BUS
I'M STRONGER THAN ANY OF THE OTHER GUYS
IF I WANT AN EXTRA DESSERT
I JUST SAY THE WORD
AND NO ONE HERE THINKS OTHERWISE**

STEVE (SUNG, CONT'D)

AND EVERY DAY A NEW KID
WANTS TO GIVE YOU HIS BIKE FOR FREE
SO IF THEY HAPPEN TO CALL ME A BULLY
THAT'S FINE BY ME!

I CAN HAVE ANYTHING THAT I WANT
WHEN I SPEAK PEOPLE LISTEN TO ME
IF I SAY BLACK IS WHITE
IF I SAY UP IS DOWN
EVERYONE WILL NOD THEIR HEAD AND AGREE

NOTHING COMPARES TO THE CHEERS
WHEN I KICK A KID RIGHT IN THE KNEE
AND IF THEY HAPPEN TO CALL ME A BULLY
THAT'S FINE BY ME!

STEVE (SUNG, CONT'D) CREW MEMBERS (SUNG)
SO WHAT IS A BULLY
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN ANYWAY? LA, LA, LA, LA, LA, LA
IT MUST MEAN THAT YOU'RE TOUGHER THAN ANYONE
AND PEOPLE CARE WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY

SO WHEN YOU'RE A BULLY
KIDS TREAT YOU LIKE A KING LA, LA, LA, LA, LA, LA
IT'S A PRETTY SWEET DEAL
AND I PERSONALLY FEEL
WHY MESS UP A VERY GOOD THING?

STEVE (SUNG, CONT'D)
THEY SAY THAT THE BEST THINGS IN LIFE ARE FREE
AND THAT EXTRA ESPECIALLY APPLIES TO ME
THEY CALL ME A BULLY
AND YOU BETTER BELIEVE
THAT'S THE BEST THING YOU COULD EVER BE!

I'M THE FINEST FRIEND YOU COULD EVER HAVE
AND I'LL PUNCH YOU IF YOU DON'T AGREE
CALL ME A BULLY
THAT'S FINE BY

STEVE AND CREW MEMBERS (SUNG)
ME!

BUS DRIVER
All right, boys, this is your stop.

(ALL start to exit the bus. STEVE stops
at LENNY's seat.)

STEVE
Don't worry, Lenny, I didn't forget about you. See you

STEVE (CONT'D)

tomorrow.

(STEVE and LENNY leave the bus.)

LENNY

Tomorrow?

(HE exits. Underscore, SOUND CUE:
AN ALARM SOUNDS.)

Scene 3

A suburban bus stop. LENNY enters,
looking around.

LENNY

He's ... he's ... he's not here? Can I really be this lucky?
He'd actually miss the day I had to--

STEVE (OFF)

Len-ny. Len-ny.

LENNY

So, no, I'm not this lucky.

(STEVE enters with HIS CREW.
STEVE stares at LENNY for a
few seconds, then)

STEVE

You don't say good morning?

LENNY

Hey, Steve.

STEVE

What?

LENNY

I said, hey, Steve.

STEVE

What??

LENNY

Good morning, Steve.

STEVE

Now was that so hard? Good morning to you, Leonard. Len-