

An audio version of The Quest For the Bullyproof Shields, can be downloaded at www.Bullyproof.org, using RealPlayer, Audacity, or other free recorders. If you've agreed to our Terms of Use you can either use that soundtrack for simple puppet shows, or perform more elaborate puppet shows and class plays using this improved script. See Cast of Characters & Instructions below.

QUEST FOR THE BULLYPROOF SHIELDS

By Arthur Kanegis & Paul Glickman

ACT I

SETTING:

Pathway leading to school painted on a backdrop of paper or cloth adorning the Puppet stage. The stage sits atop a big box or a table with the front covered by a green cloth.

TEACHER OR VOICE-OVER NARRATOR

Hi everyone. Welcome to The Quest for the BULLYPROOF Shields. I'm afraid our characters need a lot of help, so feel free to pitch in when they need you.

Peter trudges along, lunch-box in hand.

PETER

I'm doomed, doomed, doomed! D-U-M-B, doomed! Oh, hi everybody. My name is Peter. There's this guy, Frankie, who's making my life a miserable wreck. Every day on my way to and from school he grabs me and makes me give him something from my lunch-box. Boy, am I bummed.

He gazes off. Spots a balloon drifting in. Grabs it, looks at it.

PETER

Hmmm.

Suddenly gets an idea.

PETER

But this time I'll get away. I'll sail up in the air with this balloon.

Just then Frankie struts onstage.

FRANKIE

Hey mush face.

PETER

Yikes! It's Frankie.

FRANKIE

Well look who's here, Peter, Peter, pumpkin eater. Had some lunch and couldn't keep it. What ya got for me today? Hey, let's go. Open her up.

(Peter holds tight to his lunch-box, clenches his balloon string, and leaps into the air)

PETER

Ha, ha, ha. Up, up and away.

(Frankie pops the balloon)

PETER

Come on, Frankie, that's not fair.

FRANKIE

Who said life was fair?

(opens box)

Quiet or I'll crunch your bones. Let's see, what do we have here? I hope it's better than that French bread sandwich your mom made yesterday. The crust was so hard only a pigeon could eat it. Oh joy! Oh joy. I hit pay dirt, a Twinkie! Today is certainly my lucky day. Well so long insect. See ya again tomorrow. Ha, ha, ha, ha.

(Frankie runs off, munching.
Peter sits down, discouraged)

PETER

Boy, I wish I was like Captain Stupendo, my favorite cartoon hero. Do you guys ever watch him? No?! Guess that's 'cause he comes on at 4:30 Saturday morning. Ha! He always flies around and beats up the bad guys.

(Jumps up, punches and flails)

If I were him, I'd twist that Frankie into a pretzel, I'd smash him flat on the ground like a pancake, I'd grind him up into meatloaf, I'd - I'd...

(Aura appears behind him
like a mystical fairy.)

AURA

Pretzel, pancake, meatloaf? Hey kid, are you studying to become a fast food chief?

PETER

Huh? Well, where did you come from?

AURA

I come from the Land of Imagination. My name is Aura, and I heard you talking about what you'd like to do to that other young man, and I became concerned.

PETER

What do you mean?

AURA

For instance, you said you would twist him into a pretzel. What do you really think would happen if you did that?

PETER

Well, he probably wouldn't like that very much, so he'd fight back. He'd most likely - he'd crunch me into pieces smaller than an ant's underwear.

AURA

Is that what you want?

PETER

Uh-uhh.

AURA

And what do you think would happen if you really smashed him into the ground like a pancake?

PETER

I'd probably get kicked out of school; thereby ruining forever my dreams of becoming the first astronaut to FLY AWAY to Mars.

AURA

Too bad. And if you were really to grind him into meatloaf?

PETER

Oh, I'd probably go to jail, be locked up in a six by eight foot cell for the rest of my life.

AURA

That would certainly put a crimp in your skateboarding, wouldn't it?

PETER

So I'm doomed to have that bully steal my desserts for the rest of my life. Doomed, doomed, doomed.

AURA

Don't be so overly dramatic, kid. That's not necessarily true. Are you good at figuring out puzzles?

PETER

I love puzzles!

(Shield-shaped PUZZLE FRAME
appears)

AURA

I have a puzzle for you. Figure out how there can be no more bully.

PETER

No more bully? That's it; I'll twist, I'll smash, I'll grind...

AURA

But you just figured out that won't work.

PETER

Oh yeah. So what do I do? This is very, hmmm... Puzzling.

AURA

You're right, it is a puzzle. And so are you ready to try to figure it out?

PETER

You mean figure out another way that there can be no more bully?

AURA

Hee, hee. You're smart, kid. So let's get started on our journey around the world to find the answers.

(They vibrate and swoosh up
through time and space)

ACT II

SETTING:

The backdrop of the school path drops down so it looks like they are flying up. A painted backdrop of an imaginary land rises up into the box stage so it looks like they are landing.

The green cloth covering the lower box drops down, revealing a blue planet Earth. It can be nailed to a pole so a kid behind the box/desk can rotate it, if desired.

PETER

Hey! How did you do that? Hey, lady, where did you - whoa!
(Suddenly they land with a
thump)

Wow, what a trip. Where are we now, miss Aura?

AURA

We are in the magical Land of Imagination. In order to give you some new ideas on how to deal with that bully, we'll have to seek the advice of the wisest animals on the whole earth, the sea and the air. We must go on a quest. Follow me.

PETER

Hold on. You're not going to drop through the floor again, are you?

AURA

Of course not. Don't be ridiculous. Please just walk this way.
 (he follows, walking like
 her as the Earth image
 rotates below until suddenly
 they come upon a bear)

BUST-OUT BEAR

Hello.

(Peter jumps back)

PETER

Hey, are you trying to give a little kid a heart attack?

BUST-OUT BEAR

Sorry. I'm Bust-out Bear.

PETER

Yes, Buster, I can see that you're not wearing any clothes.

BUST-OUT BEAR

No, I'm Bust-out Bear, Brave Bust-out Bear.

AURA

And I bet your name has something to do with Peter's problem.

BUST-OUT BEAR

Absolutely. You gotta be brave enough to bust out from that
 fighting trap.

PETER

You mean like, run away?

BUST-OUT BEAR

Sometimes. Busting out can mean getting out of harms way. Or
 getting a teacher to help bust up the fighting situation. But
 sometimes you can just stand up to that bully in a new way. Don't
 throw 'm a fist, throw 'm a curve, know what I mean?

PETER

Huh? How can I throw a... a curve?

BUST-OUT BEAR

Startle him with a completely new approach. Shake up his world a
 little bit, so he's caught off guard. He expects you to be scared
 and cower. What if you tell a joke instead? Or whack him with -
 "Boy, am I glad to see you, you're big and strong, I need your
 help with this problem," or...

(sniffs)

"Do I smell smoke? Is something burning?"

PETER

(sniffs)

Oh no, maybe there is a fire. Maybe the school's burning down!
We better go back and sound the alarm.

BUST-OUT BEAR

No, no no. There's no fire. I was just giving you example of what they call "reframing the situation." Ever notice that that if you put a picture in a new frame, it can make it look different? You can put a situation into a new frame and it make it look different, too. In the old picture he's the "bad guy" about to beat you up. But in the new frame, he's the "good guy" helping you deal with an emergency.

PETER

Okay, I barely get it. But, I'd be too embarrassed to ask that unbearable clod for help. And I can't bear to think of him as a good guy.

BUST-OUT BEAR

BEARLY get it? BEAR to think of it! EmBEARassed UnBEARable clod!
(laughs heartily)

Now being very funny. Try that on Frankie and he'll be too busy laughing to bash you. You, my friend have just won first key to your puzzle, - see, it's got my picture on it to remind you to come at the problem from an unexpected direction.

(Peter is handed a PUZZLE
PIECE with a Bustout Bust-
out bear image)

PETER

Thanks, Buster, uh, Bust-Out Bust-out Bear, but I'm still puzzled. I cannot figure out what to do with this little bit of wisdom. Can someone help me figure out how this fits in? Please, someone, anyone? Where can I fit this piece of puzzle?

(Music) [A CHILD FROM THE
AUDIENCE REACHES IN, TAKES
THE PUZZLE PIECE, AND PUTS
IT IN THE RIGHT SPOT IN
THE FRAME])

Ah, so that's where it goes. Thank you.

AURA

It's always a good idea to approach a problem from a new angle when the old way hasn't worked.

PETER

Well, I'll try. Where to now, Aura?

AURA

Let's keep searching the earth for more ideas.

(They walk along the Earth
until a Unicorn trots up)

Earth globe can turn beneath them as they walk. The Imaginary Land backdrop can remain, or optionally students could paint a different habitat backdrop for each animal.

UNDERSTANDING UNICORN

Neigh!!

PETER

Who are you?

UNDERSTANDING UNICORN

Understanding Unicorn.

PETER

Ha, wait a minute. You're not a real animal.

UNDERSTANDING UNICORN

Well, some people have told me that, but we are in the magical Land of Imagination, are we not?

PETER

Of course! I forgot! So how can you help me deal with a bully?

UNDERSTANDING UNICORN

By reminding you to try to understand where the bully is coming from.

PETER

I know where he's coming from; from wherever I'm not looking. Then pow, he's right there in my face.

UNDERSTANDING UNICORN

Hum. I'm afraid I'm not making myself understood. I mean where he's coming from on the inside. The more you understand what makes him tick, the more creative you can be in coming up with a way to handle him.

PETER

Hmm. That's hard to do. Hmm. You think maybe he picks on me because someone picks on him?

UNDERSTANDING UNICORN

Very good. Now you also need to understand yourself. Is there something he reminds you of that triggers your anger or fear? That pushes your hot buttons?

PETER

Hmm. Come to think of it, that twitch in his eye kinda' reminds me of a scary pirate. When I was just a little boy and went to a movie, I saw a big scary pirate coming right at me, about to cut off my head with his sword. It made me cry.

UNDERSTANDING UNICORN

Wowie Zowie! You're pretty good at understanding things. That's a big key to solving your puzzle. So take this next puzzle piece to remind you to try and understand what's going on inside the bully's head - and yours!

(The 2nd PUZZLE PIECE is
tossed to Peter)

PETER

Oh, very good. Okay Understanding Unicorn, see you around.

UNDERSTANDING UNICORN

Yes. Maybe at the merry-go-round.

PETER

Or around the next corner.

UNDERSTANDING UNICORN

Or at the roundup.

PETER

You sure do get around. Ha, ha, ha, hasta la bye-bye.

(Unicorn disappears. Peter
looks at puzzle piece)

PETER

Golly Gee, another puzzle piece. Hmmm. Hmmm.

(Studies puzzle frame and
the piece)

PETER

Please, someone, help me figure out Where can I fit this piece of puzzle?

(MUSIC UNTIL ANOTHER CHILD
FROM THE AUDIENCE REACHES
IN AND PUTS THE PUZZLE
PIECE IN THE RIGHT SPOT)

Ah, so that's where it goes. I knew that.

(Resumes walking with Aura)

PETER

Let's keep looking. Maybe we'll find some birds. I love birds.
(whistles while he walks
until he hears a cat purr)

LISTENING LYNX

Listening Lynx here. I've been listening quietly to the story about a boy on his way to knowledge.

PETER

Huh? College? No, I'm going to grade school. Don't you have eyes?

LISTENING LYNX

You're not listening. If you want to solve your problem, you have to try and listen carefully to what the bully is saying. That, believe it or not, is the first step to making sure there is no more bully.

PETER

Well sometimes I get so scared or angry that I don't hear a word of his bull - bully - bull - bull -- bully bluster.

LISTENING LYNX

Did you ever stop to think that maybe he might just want to get something off his chest? That maybe he wants someone to listen and really hear what he has to say?

PETER

I hear what he has to say: "Give me your lunch."

LISTENING LYNX

If you listen carefully, behind the bluster you can hear doubts and fears. Sometime bluster and bullying can be a mask for a hurt little boy inside. Sometimes when little things don't get heard, they build and build 'till it get's absurd.

PETER

You mean, if nobody listens to him he just gets angrier and angrier until he explodes like the Hulk?

LISTENING LYNX

Very good. Really listening can sometimes prevent violence. Or cool a situation down.

PETER

Well, I suppose I could try to listen better.

LISTENING LYNX

Now you've got it! Here's my piece of the puzzle to remind you to listen. So long now.

(He's given 3rd PUZZLE PIECE.)

PETER

Hurray! Another piece of the puzzle. Oh, I can do this.

(Puts it in wrong place)

PETER

I'm good at puzzles. No problem.

(Keeps slamming it in wrong places to music until)

(another kid from the audience puts it right.)

PETER

Ah, right. I was just going to get to that.

(Resumes walking with Aura)

PETER

Yikes! A big Scary Lion! Run! Lion.

LOVING LION

Relax. I'm fierce all right - when it comes to bullying behavior. It makes me so mad I could just.. just... hug'm and squeeze out that bad behavior and just lick'm and love the inner good. You see, behind the mask of meanness, is a hurt little kid. Talk to that inner child -- while you stand tough against the meanness. You'll be more powerful if you stand up to Peter while appealing to the good in him.

PETER

But what if I can't find anything good about him?

LOVING LION

Dig deeper. You have to find it even if it's just a tiny, little, itty, itty, bitty, teeny-weenie piece of good. If you can speak to that good in him, draw out the best side rather than his worst, it may help breakdown the meanness. I am one more key to your puzzle to remind you to look for some good in the person who may be behaving badly.

PETER

Well thanks, Loving Lion. I'll add this piece to my puzzle. Hmmm. Hmmm. Hmmm. Hmmm. Hmmm. Hmmm. Hmmm. Hmmm. Hmmm.

(He keeps Hmmm-ing, studying the puzzle frame until another kid grabs the piece and puts it in the right place. He nods thanks, then he and Aura continue their trek around the Earth)

YIN YANG YAK

'Low. (Gong) Yin Yang Yak here at your service.

PETER

Uh, hi. What kind of name is that? What does yin yang mean?
(Gong)

YIN YANG YAK

Yin yang is an ancient philosophy that says that two opposite things may be true at the same time. Modern folks sometimes say there are two sides to the same coin. Even though the situation that you find yourself in when you are being bullied is bad, there might be some good that can come of it.

PETER

You're putting me on.

YIN YANG YAK

Am I putting you off?

PETER

Yeah, you're putting me off.

YIN YANG YAK

But you just said I was putting you on.

PETER

This is getting me down. I'm getting fed up.

YIN YANG YAK

Up, down, off, on, in, out; all these opposites blend into one. Balanced inside, they make life fun.

PETER

Hmmm. That's puzzling. Hmmm. Oh, you mean like if I'm really good at something and I say, boy am I bad!

YIN YANG YAK

Good! Ah-so! Opposites - they energize us. Opportunity springs from crisis. I'm the piece of your puzzle that will help you balance the yin and the yang in all situations. Good luck and good-bye.

(He tosses him a puzzle piece with the Yin-Yang symbol. Peter puzzles over it.)

PETER

Geez. This is really puzzling. A bad situation can also be good? Gosh, that's so weird that I really don't know what to do with this puzzle piece. I doubt anyone can help me on this one. Can any of you figure this out? Where would we put a bad puzzle piece that's good?

(An audience kid grabs for the piece and places it.)

AURA

We still have many magical creatures to meet. Now let's hurry on. We've almost arrived at the edge of the land. Now it's time to see what advice the creatures of the water have to give.

PETER

Edge of the land. Oh, no, we missed seeing any birds.

AURA

Don't worry, there will be time for creatures of the air. I promise. Look, here we are where the earth meets the sea.

PETER

Hey! Who spit on me?

PICTURING PORPOISE

Oops. Sorry about that. Just some water from my blowhole.

PETER

Who are you?

PICTURING PORPOISE

I am Picturing Porpoise, and here's my advice to you. Dive deep into your imagination and picture your own happy ending. Imagine the best possible solution to your bully situation. You will greatly improve the chance of it happening. Draw the picture in your mind of things working out well.

PETER

I like drawing pictures. But I always draw the bad things. Like that mean bully beating me up. And...and... me squishing ants.

PICTURING PORPOISE

That's one way to release tension. Go ahead. But then, remember, our visions have power. Like wishes, they can come true. So try picturing the bad turning into something good. If you create a vision in your mind of exactly what you want, you are more likely to attract that into your life. Now I'm off to play with my dolphin friend. I can just see what a good time we are going to have. Take this to remember to use your picture power.

(He flips Peter a puzzle piece. Peter gets sprayed with water. Audience kids grab the piece and put it in the puzzle frame)

PETER

Hey! He got me all wet!

AURA

Don't worry about it. We have to swim across this ocean anyway.

PETER

What? I can't swim. No way. And I'm afraid of sharks. You promised we see birds.

AURA

We will, on the land across the sea.

PETER

Why can't we fly there?

AURA

Do you see any airplanes here in the land of the imagination?

PETER

What if I imagine there were?

AURA

Okay smarty pants. Then imagine you and I can fly.

PETER

Wow. Great idea. I'm picturing really hard. Hey, it worked! Look, we're flying over the ocean.

(Earth turns as the puppets
fly to the next land)

AURA

Wow, you're getting good, kid. Now that we're almost over the ocean, you'll see creatures of the air. Look out! Don't bump into that Raven.

(Peter fly's right toward
Respectful Raven)

PETER

How do I put on the Braaaaaaakkkkkes!

(Smash! He bumps into Raven
and they both tumble and
fall.)

PETER

Oh, no, we're going to fall in the ocean and drown.

(They crash down onto the
Sandy shore.)

PETER

Ouch! Well at least we landed on this sandy beach.

RESPECTFUL RAVEN

Heavens! That was a rather rude surprise! But I must say, I respect a boy like you for trying to fly. That's something you don't see every day.

PETER

Oh, I thought you'd be furious at me. You'd have every right. But... it does feel pretty good to have you treat me with respect.

AURA

He's Respectful Raven! And maybe he has some advice on how you can transform that bully into not-a-bully.

RESPECTFUL RAVEN

Well Peter, I respectfully suggest you RESPECT the bully.

PETER

Respect the bully? Not! No way! Never. Nevermore!

RESPECTFUL RAVEN

Nevermore? Can I quote you on that? Caw! Caw! Okay, think about this. We all need recognition and acknowledgment. Right? Think about how you felt when you were respected even though you did a bad thing. Respect can be more powerful than you might believe. Try it and see.

(Squawks a song to the tune
of RESPECT)

RESPECTFUL RAVEN

R-E-S-P-E-C-T; Give it and you will see. R-E-S-P-E-C-T Opens doors just like a key. Oh (sock it to me, sock it to me, sock it to me, sock it to me) A little respect (sock it to me, sock it to me, sock it to me, sock it to me)

(Raven flutters off still
singing. Tosses PUZZLE
PIECE #7 to Peter.)

PETER

I've heard Aretha Franklin and that raven's no Aretha Franklin. Boy, I respect that bird for trying, but I sure hope his advice is better than his singing.

(puzzles over piece)

Hmmm.

(Audience kids rush to grab
and put it in place.)

(SOUND: Ocean Wave. Water
splashes on Peter.)

PETER

Yikes, I'm getting wet again. Is that you Dolphin... Uh, Porpoise?

(Otter arrives on a wave
from the ocean)

ORIGINATING OTTER

No it's me, otter, and I just rode up on this kelp raft. Do you like it?

PETER

Uh, it's, uh, very original.

ORIGINATING OTTER

Thank you. I made it so I could ride away from a big storm out there. And now I'm really hungry. Do you happen to have a rock I could crack open this clam with?

PETER

No I don't see any rocks. Only sand. I'm afraid there's no way you'll be able to eat it.

ORIGINATING OTTER

Oh, there's always a way. If one way won't work I just originate something new. I'll try that bottle lying there.

(Crack sound)

ORIGINATING OTTER

Oh good. I just created a new clam cracker. MMMmmm. Want some?

PETER

Uck! No thanks. I'm looking for a bird to give me some advice.

ORIGINATING OTTER

I'm full of advice. Just try me.

PETER

But Miss Aura promised I'd see creatures of the air. You ought to be a seagull or something.

ORIGINATING OTTER

You oughtn't not oughtta an otter.

PETER

Huh?

AURA

You shouldn't should on people.

PETER

But you just "should" on me!

AURA

You're right! Sorry. But this is Originating Otter and I'll bet he's got some really good advice for you.

PETER

Do you think you can originate a way that I won't keep losing to Frankie? I'm tired of losing - my lunch, my feelings that I'm worth anything, my, my... my freedom and everything.

ORIGINATING OTTER

Oh boy! I just love figuring out new things. Hmm...
(scratches head)

Maybe there's a way you and Frankie can both win.

PETER

Both win? No way. I wanna beat him like an egg yoke, twist him into a pretzel, smash him into the ground like a pancake, and...

AURA

Peter???

PETER

Oh yeah. That won't work. It might taste sweet for a moment, but I'd regret it the rest of my life. So what do you suggest.

ORIGINATING OTTER

If you win and he loses, he'll resent it for a long, long time. Better to come up with an original way that both you and the bully can end up ahead of the game. I call that a win-win solution.

PETER

In soccer there's a winning team and a losing team. Football, baseball, there's always winners and losers. Even when you play Nintendo with a friend, one of you wins and the other is a loser.

ORIGINATING OTTER

Well Peter, the game of life is so much more exciting than a sport or a game. We don't have to stay stuck in the old rules. Remember, we can invent new ways of doing things. It's much easier to influence people to change their behavior if they don't feel like a loser for doing it. Do you want this bully to change into not a bully?

PETER

You bet I do.

ORIGINATING OTTER

Well, then come up with an original idea that works for you, and makes him feel good, too. I know it sounds crazy, but it works. My key to your puzzle is to remind you to create a win-win solution. Let me know what happens.

PETER

Okay, as soon as I figure out where to put this piece in the puzzle.

(He waves it until audience kids rush up to place it. Then Aura and Peter walk around the Earth some more.)

PETER

Well, he wasn't a bird, but I have to admit he was pretty cool. But now I hope we'll find another real bird.

AURA

He's already here.

(Overseeing Owl soars above them)

PETER

Where? I don't see anybody.

AURA

Up in the air!

(Peter looks up.)

PETER

Why does he just sail around up there looking at us? Why doesn't he come down here.

AURA

Maybe we'll have to fly up there and ask him.

PETER

Fly?

AURA

Remember we are in the land of the imagination.

PETER

Oh boy! Then I can fly!

(leaps in the air)

This time I'll watch where I'm going.

(Peter and Aura fly up above the puppet stage.)

(Whistle, thud. He bumps right into owl.)

PETER

Oops! Sorry about ruffling your feathers. I'm not really a flying kind of guy. But I came to ask some advice, so while I'm up here

(looks down)

Yikes. It's high up here!

OVERSEEING OWL

Yes you are overseeing a wide expanse of the Earth. The problems down there don't look so big from up here, do they?

(Peter looks down, now awed)

And that relates precisely to my advice for you. Rise up above the fray. Don't stay down there on the Bully's level, rise to a higher height.

PETER

How can I do that? Back in the real world I can't fly up in the air like a bird.

OVERSEEING OWL

No, no, no, my boy. I was speaking metaphorically. You are not actually in the air above your situation, you are morally above it all. When someone acts boorish to you, must you become boorish, too? When someone behaves badly towards you, must you start behaving badly? I would humbly suggest that the wisest path is the high and noble road. Show the bully the best part of you, not the worst. Maybe he'll learn a lesson from seeing how you handle adversity. I'm the puzzle piece to remind you to always act your noblest, not your basest. Good luck, my boy.

(He tosses Peter his puzzle piece.)

(By now audience kids are quick to put this next-to-the-last piece in place. Aura and Peter descend back down to Earth and continue their journey around the world)

PETER

Wow, that's really hard advice to follow, mainly 'cause I don't understand some of that wise old owl's words. Usually when someone is mean to me, I just want to be mean back. I'm afraid it'll be really hard to rise above it all.

AURA

Well, I have faith in you, Peter. Besides, if Owl's wise advice works, you will get what you're after, which is that you won't have to deal with the bully anymore.

PETER

But I don't know if I have the courage to actually do what everybody has been suggesting.

FEARLESS FOX

Exactly, exactly. That's just the problem I wanted to help you with!

PETER

Who said that?

FEARLESS FOX

Me.

PETER

Why you're a fox. Ha, ha, ha, ha. Why are you wearing those silly fake wings?

FEARLESS FOX

I heard you and Aura say that you'd only be talking to creatures of the air now, and I didn't want to get left out.

AURA

Don't worry Fearless Fox. Since you were not afraid of looking foolish in order to say your peace, we'll listen to you.

FEARLESS FOX

That's exactly my point. It's not that I wasn't afraid of appearing foolish. I was. But I took that fear and used it to juice me into action. Peter, use your fear to pump yourself up. Use it to pump you up and try out the ideas you've learned about. Pump it up, pump it up, pump your fear into courage, 'cause you know, bullies smell fear. But if they smell courage (sniff, sniff, sniff), ah, that's better. Now any bully will think twice before going after you. You now have many powerful ways of dealing with Frank. Now you've been bully proofed!

PETER

Do you really think so?

FEARLESS FOX

Yep. It's certified. I'm the final key to your puzzle. Go for it and have no fear.

(He tosses Peter his puzzle piece. Kids from the audience grab for it but Peter waves them back. Takes the piece himself.)

PETER

I can do it. Thanks guys, but I don't need any help. I'm very good at puzzles, you know.

(He proudly places the last piece in the puzzle.)

AURA

Good, Peter. Now you have all the pieces of your puzzle together. You've got yourself a BULLYPROOF shield.

PETER

Wow! That's the answer to all my puzzling.

AURA

Now, are you ready to take on that bully?

PETER

Am I ready? Just let me at him. I'll pulverize him with my picturing. I'll overwhelm him with the originating. I'll lay it on with my listening. I'll - I'll - I'll...

AURA

Okay, okay, I believe you. Let's head back.
(Whistle)

PETER

Oh no! Not again!
(Whistle, bump. He lands in a heap back where he started)

ACT III

SETTING: Pathway leading to school.

(Peter gets himself up)

PETER

Will you please give me a little warning if you're gonna do that again? It makes me feel like throwing up.

(School bell rings)

PETER

Oh my gosh! School over already? Did I miss it?

AURA

Not at all. You've had a great education today.

PETER

Oh! Okay thanks. I like learning this way. Well I better run home before Frankie get's out of school.

AURA

Hold onto your cookies, cookie. Look who just came out of school.

FRANKIE

(calls out)

Oh Peter! Peter! Where are you? It's snack time!

PETER

Oh my gosh! I don't know if I can really go through with this, Aura!

AURA

Just give it your best shot. That's all you can do. Now you have the protection of the BULLYPROOF shield.

(Peter looks around - there's
no shield, no animals,
just Frankie getting closer)

PETER

Yeah, but where did my BULLYPROOF shield go?

AURA

It's inside you now, in your inner Land of Imagination, where it's most powerful. Go now and use it.

(Peter stands up straight
and starts walking boldly
toward Frankie. Music.)

FRANKIE

Ah, there you are, wimp boy. Prepare to part with your dessert. And then, just for good measure, ha, ha, ha, I'm gonna crunch your bones.

(Peter pauses, listening
for inside voices. We hear
the animal's Voice Over
but don't see them anymore.)

BUST-OUT BEAR (V.O.)

Don't forget, Peter, try to break out of that situation by doing something surprising and unexpected.

PETER

Hold on there, Frankie. Let me check my schedule. Oh yes, I have some free time at eleven o'clock. Would you like an appointment to crunch my bones at that time? I'd be happy to pencil you in.

FRANKIE

Wha?

UNDERSTANDING UNICORN (V.O.)

Peter, try to understand what might be making him chose to bully you.

PETER

Can I ask you a question?

FRANKIE

Sure. I got all the answers.

PETER

What do you like best about school?

FRANKIE

The best? Well, I don't like homework, 'cause it cuts into my time. I don't like class work, because it's way too hard. But I do like it when other kids see how tough I am, how I make you little kids squirm like a worm. Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha.

PETER

Boy, I know what you mean. I'd feel real bad if I just could never answer the teacher's questions. I'd feel embarrassed, so I'd want some way to make kids respect me. So maybe I'd even bully little kids, too.

FRANKIE

You? Bully other kids? Why you couldn't squash a fly. Now stop playing Sigmund Freud kid, and hand over the goodies.

LISTENING LYNX (V.O.)

Listening Lynx here. Don't forget to really let him know you heard what he said.

PETER

So you think I'm little and scrawny and it makes you angry when I try to figure out what makes a person act like a bully?

FRANKIE

Acting? Acting? Who told you it was all an act? All I want is your dessert, wormface. 'Cause I like Twinkies much more than stale old toast.

PETER

I hear what you're saying. You steal my Twinkies 'cause you never get anything fun in your lunch, just stale old toast.

FRANKIE

Hey, squirtface, you're going to be toast in a minute unless you hand over the Twinkies.

LION (V.O.)

Stand fierce against his bullying, Peter, but love him as a person. you'll be very powerful if you can appeal to something good in him.

PETER

Oh yeah, sure. Easy for you to say.

FRANKIE

What'd ya say, punk?

PETER

Look here, Frankie, I've seen what you do with your mom's stale toast. You break it up and feed it the birds. That's outstanding! I think deep inside you're okay.

(Frankie backs off, puzzled.
Gong sound)

YIN YANG YAK (V.O.)

Ah-so! You bad, kid!

PETER

I'm pretty good, huh?

FRANKIE

Are you making fun of me?

YIN YANG YAK (V.O.)

This might be an opportunity for the yin yang harangue.
(Gong)

PETER

You know, Frankie, it's weird. At the same time you're robbing me of my lunch, you're capable of the extraordinary act of kindness of feeding the birds.

FRANKIE

You wanna make something of the fact that I like feeding birds, toenail breath?

PICTURING PORPOISE (V.O.)

Don't forget the big picture, Peter.

FRANKIE

I happen to like feeding birds. Whatcha gonna do about it?

PETER

Nothing, except tell you that I think it's really, really great. I can just picture us feeding a whole bunch of birds, with beautiful colors fluttering around us. What fun!

(Frankie is dumbfounded.
For a moment he can't think
of a thing to say.)

RESPECTFUL RAVEN (V.O.)

Raack I may just be raving but now may be the time to sock it to
him with a little respect.

PETER

You see, I've always liked birds myself. So I respect anybody
else who likes birds. I've always wished that I could have a
parakeet to twitter and sing songs right in my room.

FRANKIE

Gee, Peter. My dad sent me a bunch of parakeets for my last
birthday. I got a cage full of them at home.

PETER

Really?

ORIGINATING OTTER (V.O.)

There's one other thing you ought to do. Try and set up a win/win
situation.

PETER

Hey Frankie, I have an idea. How about I get my mom to pack us a
couple of extra Twinkies, then if you'd let me come over to your
house and see your birds, I could help you a bit with your school
work, because I think you could do real good if we work together.

FRANKIE

You'd really do that for me, after all the stuff I've done to
you?

PETER

Of course I would.

OVERSEEING OWL (V.O.)

Way to go, Peter. The noble way is to stay above the fray.

PETER

We bird lovers gotta stick together.

FEARLESS FOX (V.O.)

I told you, Peter. You've nothing to fear but fear itself. Nice
going.

FRANKIE

Like birds of a feather.

PETER

Like pelicans in stormy weather.

FRANKIE

Hey Peter, come on, I'll race you to my house.

PETER

Last one there is a sewer rat's uncle.

FRANKIE

No, last one there is married to Frankenstein's niece.

PETER

No, last one there eats mouse guts.

FRANKIE

No, last one there has a rotten pumpkin for brains.

PETER

No, last one there smells like a dead elephant in the storeroom.

AURA

See that? No more bully. Gone, disappeared, obliterated,
vanished. The end.

(Music)

©1997 and 2008, Arthur Kanegis. All Rights Reserved. No
Performances permitted without prior agreement to our Terms of
Service Agreement. Contact info@futurewave.org or write Future
WAVE, Inc. PMB Lm-014, P.O. Box 189003, Coronado, CA 92178

Cast of Characters

(#1: Peter)	(A timid school kid)
(#2: Frankie)	(A mean-looking bully.)
(#3: Aura)	(A wise spirit woman)
(#4: Bustout Bear)	(A brave furry unclothed bear)
(#5: Understanding Unicorn)	(A prancer with a light-up horn)
(#6: Listening Lynx)	(A cat with big ears)
(#7: Loving Lion)	(A kindly Leo who loves to hug)
(#8: Yin Yang Yak)	(A longhaired beast w/Yin-Yang symbol)
(#9: Picturing Porpoise)	(A porpoise with a purpose)
(#10: Respectful Raven)	(Aretha Franklin she's not)
(#11: Originating Otter)	(A cute little inventive critter)
(#12: Overseeing Owl)	(A wise old bird with glasses)
(#13: Fearless Fox)	(One foxy lady)
(#14: Teacher and Audience)	(For Intro and helping with puzzle)

STAGING NOTES

This stage can be as simple as a cardboard box with backgrounds painted on paper. Kids can make their own puppets, or use our puppet cutouts from our bullyproof.org site - simply paste them on paddles from paddleball sets or even onto paper bags or socks. It would be preferable if Peter was a hand puppet so he can hold the puzzle pieces. Aura and Frankie can also be hand puppets. Classes can also choose to make more elaborate puppets of many shapes and sizes - even giant ones similar to those seen in the video. Just search online for instructions to make paper-mâché puppets, or whatever kind your class desires to use.

Backgrounds are not required, but if desired, kids can draw backgrounds either just a simple few as needed - or more elaborate backdrops representing the habitats of each of the animal characters. Please post pictures of what you create on our blog.

The puzzle frame can simply be a shield with 10 pieces of velcro, upon which kids stick our Bullyproof medallions pasted onto cardboard. Or your students can paint a shield with the animal characters and then cut it up like a jig saw puzzle.

Some schools may choose to perform Quest as a live-action play. Others may make computer animation. However you decide to do it, use your creativity, and then post videos of your performance at MySpace.com/bullyproofshield or on YouTube.com/bullyproof as a video response to our videos. You could win a prize! See www.Bullyproof.org Have fun, and use the play to start discussions about handling conflicts and bullying behavior. Encourage your students to post their BULLYPROOF experiences on our blog. Enjoy!