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(Good and Troubled Teenagers)

By

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Life throws many challenges at us from our teenage years to adult years. The question is, how do we respond to those challenges as individuals? One of the challenges we sometimes deal with as teenagers is "Peer Pressure".

Good and Troubled Teenagers. This is a story about two 13 year-old 7th graders named JOEY KING and TOMMY WILSON who get into fights at school. One of them was a bully who nobody liked because he constantly caused trouble in class. He was kicked out of school along with two other friends for caring guns and marijuana. The other one realized the importance of staying in school and getting an education after the one he was getting into fights with was kicked out. He didn't realize that on his own. As most young kids reach their early teenage years in life, they go through that stage of peer pressure and learn lessons the hard and painful way. That is a subject that is going to be discussed in this story. "Peer Pressure" is a very serious issue. It is not something to joke around with. The one who realized the importance of staying in school and getting an education had good influences from his parents and two older brothers. As you will see, the one who was kicked out of school with his friends didn't care about anything. Not even himself and certainly didn't care about staying in school and getting an education. There is another very important subject that is discussed in this story. The question is, can you identify the important subject and what is trying to be addressed? Here's where the story begins.

FADE IN:

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Eighteen seventh grade students arrive to class for the first day of school. JOEY KING sits in the front row. TOMMY WILSON sits in the row behind Joey. Both of them are 13 years old.

TOMMY WILSON

Hi my name is Tommy! What is your name?

JOEY KING

My name is Joey!

TOMMY

Is that your whole family in that picture?

JOEY

Yeah!

TOMMY

Can I see it for a minute?

JOEY

Sure!

Joey hands Tommy the picture. Tommy starts passing it around to the rest of the class.

JOEY (ANGRY TONE)

I only said you can see the picture Tommy. I didn't say you could pass it around to everybody.

TOMMY

If you didn't want to give up the picture you shouldn't have handed it to me Joey.

Joey pushes Tommy. Tommy pushes back. Joey punches him and they get into a fight. The teacher RENEE THOMAS walks in and breaks them up. Mrs. Thomas is 39 years old.

RENEE THOMAS

What is going on here? It is the first day of school and you guys are fighting like this. What happened?

JOEY

He started it!

TOMMY
No Mrs. Thomas he started it!

JOEY
Did not!

TOMMY
Did too!

MRS. THOMAS
All right that's enough. I'm taking
both of you to the principal's
office. Class I'll be right back.

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

Mrs. Thomas took Joey and Tommy to the office. She tells the
principal TODD WOODS they were fighting in the classroom. Mr.
Woods is 44 years old.

TODD WOODS
All right you two! Tell me your
names and then I will hear from one
of you at a time. You first!

JOEY
Joey King!

TOMMY
Tommy Wilson!

MR. WOODS
All right Joey! You go first!

JOEY
I pulled a picture of my family out
of my book bag and Tommy asked me
if I would let him see it. When I
handed it to him he started passing
it around to everybody. He also
made a rude comment to me.

MR. WOODS
What rude comment did he make?

JOEY
He said if I didn't want anybody to
see my picture I shouldn't have
handed it to him. He also told
everyone not to give it back to me.

MR. WOODS
Is this true Tommy?

TOMMY
Yes it is Mr. Woods!

MR. WOODS
Young man! I'm sure you have been told it is not right to do something like this. Would you want somebody doing something like that to you?

TOMMY
No sir!

MR. WOODS
Tommy! I believe you owe Joey an apology.

TOMMY
I'm sorry Joey!

MR. WOODS
Because this is the first day of school I'm going to let the two of you go back to class. I will be sending letters home to your parents for this. I also expect those letters to be signed and brought back to me. Is that understood?

TOMMY AND JOEY
Yes Mr. Woods!

MR. WOODS
Good! You two can go back to class!

Tommy and Joey walked out of the principal's office.

INT. THE LIVING ROOM OF THE KING HOUSE - DAY

When Joey arrived home his oldest brother JEFF KING was there. Jeff is 26 years old and is in the Air Force.

JEFF KING
Hi Joey! How was your first day of middle school?

JOEY
Not good at all! I wish I never went today!

JEFF
Did something bad happen?

JOEY

If I tell you, you have to promise not to tell mom and dad.

JEFF

I can't lie to mom and dad Joey. I would be breaking their trust. It can't be that bad or is it?

JOEY

I got into a fight with this guy today. When he asked me to let him see the picture of our family, I told him he could only see. When I handed it to him he started passing it around to the rest of the class.

JEFF (STUNNING LOOK)

You got into a fight on the first day of school!

JOEY

It wasn't my fault Jeff. He started it. After he started passing it around he told everyone not to give it back to me and that's when I punched him.

JEFF

Joey you know that mom and dad have been stressing out to us that fighting is not the way to solve a problem. You should have waited for your teacher to come into the classroom and then told her what he was doing. If you had done that he would have been the only one who got in trouble. Since this has happened you have to tell mom and dad.

JOEY

I can't Jeff. They will be mad and dad will probably spank me for that. You know how he is when he gets mad.

JEFF

They will only get mad if you try to hide it from them. I'm telling you Joey, you have to tell them yourself.

(MORE)

JEFF (cont'd)

If you don't, chances are dad will spank you because you lied about it. Is your principal or teacher going to call the house?

JOEY

My principal said he's going to send a letter home. I have to have one of them sign it and then take it back to him.

Joey's second oldest brother JASON KING walks in. Jason is 24 years old and is a senior in college.

JASON KING

Hey guys! How's everything going?

JEFF

Joey got into a fight on the first day of school today.

JASON (SHOCKED)

What!

JOEY

It wasn't my fault Jason! The guy started playing a game of keep away with the picture I showed him of all of us. He told the class not to give it back to me.

JASON

So what did you do to get it back?

JOEY

I punched him in the jaw and we got into a fight in the classroom. I'm afraid if I tell mom and dad they will be mad at me.

JASON

If you keep it quiet from them Joey they will be mad. You also know whenever dad catches you in a lie he will bust your ass big time.

JEFF

That is exactly what I told him Jason, but for some reason he doesn't want to listen. Before you walked in he asked me not to tell them about it. He also said his principal is sending a letter home through the mail.

JASON

Joey it's best to tell them now and when the letter gets here they won't be mad. You were protecting your family property, but you also should have handled it differently. If you try to lie and cover it up, you will probably have to face dad's belt.

JEFF

That's right because that is exactly what happened to us when we tried to lie about something and we don't want to hear that happen to you. Trust us Joey! We would not be telling you this if we didn't care about you.

JASON

We're your brothers Joey, and we will always look out for you. We're not going to say anything to them because we're going to leave that part up to you.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

After having the talk with his older brothers, Joey goes up to his room. JENNIFER KING arrived home from work. Jennifer is their mother. She is 48 years old.

JENNIFER KING

Hi guys!

JEFF AND JASON

Hi mom!

JENNIFER

Where's Joey?

JEFF

He's upstairs in his room!

JENNIFER

Joey I'm home!

Joey comes downstairs and gives his mother a hug.

JENNIFER

How was your first day of school?

JOEY

It was all right! It felt different
than my days of elementary school.

JENNIFER

Did any of your teachers give you
any homework?

JOEY

No!

JOHN KING walks in! John is their father! He is 51 years old!

JOHN KING

Hello everyone!

JENNIFER

Hi John!

John and Jennifer kiss!

JEFF, JASON, AND JOEY

Hi Dad!

JOHN

What is that I smell in here? It
smells real good!

JENNIFER

Remember the perfume you bought me
for my birthday?

JOHN (KISSING JENNIFER)

Yes I do! What was the brand name?
I forgot!

JENNIFER (KISSING JOHN)

That is a test for you to remember
which means I'm not going to tell
you!

JOHN

So how are you three doing?

JEFF

I'm doing fine dad! I'm home from
the base for the weekend.

JASON

I've got registration next week
dad. I'm going to sign up for 15
hours this semester.

JOEY

I had an all right day dad. I'm adjusting to life being in middle school now.

JOHN

Well Joey that's normal for all kids when you advance to a higher level in school. It always gets harder as you advance which means you have to put more time into your studying okay son.

JOEY

Okay dad!

The King family ate dinner one hour later. After eating, the three boys went upstairs to Joey's room.

INT. JOEY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

JEFF

You should have told them Joey. The more you put this off the more trouble you are putting yourself in with facing dad's belt.

JASON

Joey you have a serious choice to make. If you keep lying to them about this the truth will come out sooner or later. If I were you, I would tell them first thing tomorrow morning.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

TOMMY

I'm going to kick your ass after school Joey, so you better run.

JOEY

I'm not afraid of you Tommy!

TOMMY

You want to fight again?

JOEY

If you touch me I will kick your ass. Just because you're bigger than me doesn't mean I have to be afraid of you.

Mrs. Thomas walks in!

MRS. THOMAS

Are you two going at it again? I thought you two would have learned not to ever fight in school anymore.

JOEY

He started it Mrs. Thomas. He came up to me and threatened me for no reason.

MICHAEL AUSTIN jumps in. Michael is Joey's friend. He is 13 years old.

MICHAEL AUSTIN

Joey is telling the truth Mrs. Thomas. Tommy was the one who started all of this just like he did on Thursday. He's been trying to bully everyone in here because he is bigger than all of us.

MRS. THOMAS

Tommy come here!

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Mrs. Thomas and Tommy go into the hallway.

MRS. THOMAS

Is all of this true Tommy? Did you start that fight with Joey last week and the argument just now?

TOMMY

I was only joking around!

MRS. THOMAS (ANGRY TONE)

Young man your mother and father did not send you here to joke around and try to bully people. You are here to learn and get an education and my job is to make sure you get that education. Now if Joey or anybody else tells me you have been bullying them any kind of way again, I will call your parents in here. Do you understand me?

TOMMY (GRINNING)

Okay Mrs. Thomas!

MRS. THOMAS

You better wipe that grin off your face because I mean it boy. You better straighten your act up now.

TOMMY

All right I understand!

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

The class went to lunch. Joey tells everybody to tease Tommy.

JOEY

Hey everyone! When Tommy comes in, let's make fun of him and give him a taste of his own medicine.

Tommy sits down at the table. The students tease him.

THE STUDENTS

Tommy got in trouble! Tommy got in trouble! Tommy got in Trouble!

Tommy looked for Joey and attacked him at his table. The two of them get into another fight. Two faculty members broke them up. Once again they were taken to the principal's office.

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

MR. WOODS (ANGRY TONE)

So the two of you are down here again! Well I'm not going to ask who started it this time or what happened because you two are suspended for five days. I'm also calling your parents for this. I thought the two of you would have learned by now that you're here for an education, not to kill each other. Since you two want to keep fighting this will give you a chance to do it on the streets. After your five days are up and the two of you are brought down here again, you will be suspended each time with an additional five days added to this one. Get the hell out of my sight now!

INT. JOEY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Joey arrived home. Jeff and Jason stopped by.

JEFF

You got in trouble at school again
didn't you Joey?

JOEY (DEPRESSED)

Yeah, but why do you care?

JEFF

I wouldn't be asking if I didn't
care that's why.

JASON

We told you what would happen if
you didn't tell mom and dad. We
left that up to you and you made
the decision not to. Does mom and
dad know already?

JOEY

Yes because my principal called
both of them at work today. He also
told them about the letter he wrote
to them about the first fight I got
into.

JASON

Who's the guy you got into it with?

JOEY

His name is Tommy Wilson!

JEFF

What did he say or do to you this
time?

JOEY

When I got to class he threatened
me saying he was going to kick my
ass after our first fight. As we
were arguing my teacher walked into
the classroom and asked what
happened. One of my other
classmates stepped in and told her
he started it just like he did last
week. When she took him into the
hallway and yelled at him the rest
of us kept quiet to listen in. When
we went to lunch I told everyone to
tease him about getting yelled at.

(MORE)

JOEY (cont'd)

That's when he walked over to my table and attacked me and we started fighting again. When we were taken to the office the principal suspended us for five days and called both of our parents.

JEFF (ANGRY TONE)

You see Joey! This is exactly why we told you to tell mom and dad about it. Look how far this has gone. We did what you asked us to do, but you made a bad decision. Now you're probably going to pay a painful price when dad gets home.

All three of them hear footsteps walking up the stairs.

JASON

Well Joey! Here comes mom and dad right now!

John and Jennifer walk in as Jeff and Jason walk out.

JOHN (ANGRY TONE)

Joey why did you lie to us? Why didn't you tell us you got into a fight not to mention on the first day of school son? Why!

JOEY

I was afraid you two would be mad!

JENNIFER (ANGRY TONE)

Did you actually think you could go on without us finding out about this? My god Joey we are your parents and you should never keep anything like that from us.

JOHN

Who's the guy you fought and what exactly happened?

JOEY

His name is Tommy Wilson. When we got to class on the first day I pulled out a picture I had of us from my book bag. When he asked me if he could see it he started passing it around to the rest of the class and told them to start playing keep away from me.

(MORE)

JOEY (cont'd)

After I got the picture back I walked over to him and punched him in his jaw and that's when we had our first fight. Today I was minding my own business and he walked up to me and threatened me saying he was going to get even with me. When our teacher walked in I told her what he did and one of my other classmates took my side. When she took Tommy into the hallway and yelled at him I told everyone to tease him about it when we went to lunch. When they started teasing him, he walked over to my table and attacked me and that's when we had our second fight.

JENNIFER (DEPRESSED)

Joey if you would have told us about this when it started, we would have gone to the school to resolve it. We have told you over and over that fighting isn't the answer to anything. We have also stressed this out numerous times to your brothers and we rarely had this problem with them.

JOHN

Joey because you lied to us, you leave me no other choice but to spank you.

Jennifer walks out of the room. John pulls off his belt and spansks Joey.

INT. FAMILY ROOM - NIGHT

JENNIFER

Jeff and Jason did you two know about the fight Joey got into?

JEFF

Yes we did mom! We wanted to tell you and dad about it ourselves, but we also wanted to see if Joey would be honest and tell both of you.

JASON

We were encouraging him to tell you about it. If we had known it would go this far we would have said something then.

JENNIFER

Look you two! This is something we have been going through with him for a long time now. Your father and I have been doing everything we can to teach him the difference between right and wrong, but I feel he doesn't like to listen us.

JEFF

We know mom because he certainly ignored us after we told him he should go ahead and tell you and dad. We don't like to hear dad spank him because we definitely didn't like it whenever he spanked us when we were his age. That's why we've always been honest with both of you.

JASON

Mom we're sorry you and dad had to find out about it this way. If anything else happens you know you can always give us a call.

John walks in!

JOHN

Jeff and Jason I assume you two knew about this?

JASON

Yes we did dad!

JOHN (ANGRY TONE)

Well why didn't you two tell us about it then?

JEFF

We truly wanted to dad, but we felt it was best for you and mom to hear about it from Joey. We were trying to teach him the purpose of why it is important to come forward and tell both of you anything regardless of how bad it is. We're sorry you had to find out this way.

JOHN

I understand where you two are coming from, but most kids his age have a tendency to lie about things.

(MORE)

JOHN (cont'd)

This is why I want you two to tell us anything he gets involved in. People like that will start being dishonest and continue doing bad things as they get older.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

One week later Joey returned to school. He was still having problems with Tommy.

TOMMY (MAD)

This isn't over Joey. I'm going to whip your ass so bad you'll wish you never came to this fucking school.

JOEY (MAD)

Say all you fucking want Tommy. I'm not the one with a black eye and a missing tooth now. Go fuck yourself for all I care you sorry ass son of a bitch.

Tommy walks away. Two girls named MELISSA IRVIN and REBECCA SHAW walks up to Joey. They are also in his class. Both of them are 13 years old.

MELISSA IRVIN

Hi Joey! My name is Melissa Irvin. I sit three rows behind you in Mrs. Thomas' class.

REBECCA SHAW

I'm Rebecca Shaw and I'm also in your class!

MELISSA

We saw what happened between you and Tommy. You had every right to be mad at him for what he did. We've known him since we were in elementary school and he has always been bullying people.

REBECCA

We liked it when you punched him that day and knocked out his tooth. He deserved it.

REBECCA (CON'T)

Not many people have stood up to him like you did, but you shouldn't keep this going with him because we don't want anything bad to happen to you.

MELISSA

Joey if Tommy continues to bother you, you should go to Mr. Woods or tell one of the teachers because he has been known for doing a lot of bad things to other people.

JOEY

Bad things like what?

MELISSA

Let's just say bad things you don't want to know about. All we are doing is looking out for a good person like you. We don't want to hear about something bad happening to you that Tommy is responsible for.

JOEY

Thanks for telling me this Melissa and Rebecca. I really appreciate it.

MELISSA AND REBECCA

No problem Joey!

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Joey walks into the classroom!

JOEY

Mrs. Thomas!

MRS. THOMAS

Yes Joey!

JOEY

I want to apologize for what happened in here on the first day of school. You have to understand it wasn't my fault. Tommy was the one who started the whole thing. Is it possible for you to move me to another seat?

MRS. THOMAS

I'll see what I can do for you
Joey! In the meantime if Tommy
keeps bothering you, you let me
know and I'll have Mr. Woods deal
with him okay.

JOEY

All right!

INT. JOEY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Joey arrives home. He goes to his room to do his homework.
Jason comes by for a visit.

JASON

How did your day go Joey?

JOEY

Tommy was constantly staring at me
during class, but I ignored him
this time.

JASON

That's good! All you have to do is
mind your own business. The more he
bothers you he will be the one who
gets in trouble if he does anything
to you. This was something that
mom, dad, Jeff, and I was stressing
out to you. Fighting only makes
things worse. People who constantly
cause trouble like that usually
have something bad happen to them
in return. People have been
critically injured and killed that
way and we don't want anything like
that to happen to you. Anything
else happen?

JOEY

These two girls approached me in
the hall today. They said Tommy had
been bullying people since they
were in elementary school. They
also told me the same thing you,
mom, dad, and Jeff told me.

JASON

Were they cute girls?

JOEY

Yeah!

JASON

Did they say anything else to you?

JOEY

No! They only told me they were in my class and the things about Tommy.

JASON

You know what that means Joey?

JOEY

What!

JASON

The two of them might like you. Don't be surprised if one of them or both of them approaches you again tomorrow.

JOEY

What's that suppose to mean Jason?

JASON

What I mean Joey is, they think you're cute. Whenever a girl approaches you and starts talking to you about anything that is their way of saying they like you. They may not say that to you directly, but when they keep approaching you and talking to you about things, that means they're interested in you.

JOEY (SURPRISED LOOK)

Really!

JASON

That's right! If you want to learn more things about how to get a girlfriend ask dad how he met mom and what she said to him when she approached him.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

John arrives home from work!

JOEY

Dad!

JOHN

Yes Joey!

JOEY
Can I ask you a question?

JOHN
Sure!

JOEY
How did you and mom meet?

JOHN (SURPRISED LOOK)
What made you decide to ask me that?

JOEY
There were these two girls who approached me today at school. They told me how to handle the Tommy situation. When I told Jason about it, he told me that was a sign of them being interested in me and they think I'm cute.

JOHN
What are their names?

JOEY
Melissa Irvin and Rebecca Shaw!

JOHN
Did you think they were cute?

JOEY
Yeah!

JOHN
Well Joey all I can tell you is this. When a girl approaches you about anything doesn't necessarily mean they like you. On the other side of that they could be developing a crush on you.

JOEY (SURPRISED LOOK)
Developing a crush on me! What does that mean?

JOHN
When a girl develops a crush on a guy that means she was madly in love with him the minute she laid her eyes on him. There are two sides to that.

(MORE)

JOHN (cont'd)

Guys have developed crushes on girls before, and that's what it was when I met your mother in college. She and I both graduated with degrees in Engineering. After one of our classes one day I walked up to her and told her how pretty she was and I would like to have her phone number. From that day on, she and I have been in love ever since. Now if one of the girls approaches you again, tell them you would like to have them as a study partner whenever you have tests to study for, but don't rush it. It's best to start off as being friends before asking her out as a girlfriend.

Jennifer walks in! She was listening in from outside!

JENNIFER

He's right Joey! Your father and I studied together when we had big exams for our engineering class. The more you study with her, the more she will realize how serious you are about making good grades. If you ever want her to come over here that is okay with me.

JOHN

I have no problem with that either. You first have to wait until your punishment time is over.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Mrs. Thomas assigned more homework to the class. Joey was still having trouble with Tommy. When class ended, Melissa approached Joey in the hallway.

MELISSA (SMILING)

Hi Joey!

JOEY (SMILING)

Hi Melissa!

MELISSA

Do you think you'll be able to do this math homework tonight?

JOEY

I don't know! This looks like a hard chapter!

MELISSA

Listen! If you have a hard time with any of the problems give me a call tonight. Here's my phone number. I look forward to hearing from you.

Melissa writes down her phone number for Joey. She also hugged him.

EXT. BUS STOP - DAY

Joey gets off his bus. The only thing he thought about was the hug from Melissa.

JOEY'S VOICE (V.O.)

My parents and brother were right. She approached me again. She hugged me and gave me her phone number. She also said she looks forward to hearing from me. I can't stop thinking about her.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Joey walks into the house! Jason stopped by!

JASON

Did you see one of those girls again Joey?

JOEY

Yeah!

JASON

Which one?

JOEY

Melissa!

JASON

What did she say to you?

JOEY

She asked me if I needed any help with our homework assignment tonight. When I told her yes, she gave me her phone number and hugged me. She also told me she looked forward to hearing from me.

JASON

Joey if I were you, I wouldn't pass up this opportunity to call her.

Jeff walks in!

JEFF

Hey guys, how's it going?

JASON

Hey Jeff guess what!

JEFF

What!

JASON

Joey has a girlfriend now!

JEFF (SURPRISED REACTION)

What! Is this true Joey?

JOEY

She is only somebody I will be studying with over the phone you guys.

JEFF AND JASON (LAUGHING)

Oh Joey come on now you know she likes you!

JOEY

Stop it you guys! It's not funny!

Jeff and Jason keep laughing!

JEFF

What is her name?

JOEY

Melissa Irvin!

JEFF

Do you think she's cute?

JOEY

Yeah she's cute!

JEFF

I would call her. When a girl gives you her phone number and tells you to call her that means she likes you Joey. So if I were you, I would call her tonight before it gets late.

JOEY
All right you guys, but you two are
not to be around me when I do.

JEFF AND JASON (LAUGHING)
No problem Joey!

Joey had been taken off his punishment. He calls Melissa.

INT. SPLIT SCREEN - NIGHT

MELISSA
Hello!

JOEY
Is Melissa home?

MELISSA
This is she!

JOEY
Hi Melissa it's Joey!

MELISSA
Hi Joey how are you?

JOEY
I'm fine! How are you?

MELISSA
I'm fine also! Did you finish our
homework for tomorrow?

JOEY
Yeah! My brothers helped me!

MELISSA
How many brothers do you have?

JOEY
I have two! They're both older than
me. My oldest brother Jeff is in
the Air Force. My other brother
Jason is a senior in college.

MELISSA
Do you have any sisters?

JOEY
No! It's just the three of us. Jeff
is 26, Jason is 24, and I'm 13. Do
you have any brothers or sisters?

MELISSA

I have a little sister. Her name is Kelly. She's in the first grade.

JOEY

Melissa can I ask you something?

MELISSA

Sure!

JOEY

Why did you hug me today?

MELISSA

I think you're a cute guy and I also liked how you stood up to Tommy when he started messing with you. You had every right to hit him that day. I was also glad you ignored him when he was making fun of you in class today.

JOEY

I should have waited for Mrs. Thomas to come in. Because of Tommy my dad spanked me. I also tried to lie about it.

MELISSA

Joey you never should have tried to lie about that. My mom and dad would do the same thing to me if I tried to lie to them about something. Tommy was in the wrong and if you would have told your parents about it when it first happened, I'm sure your dad wouldn't have spanked you.

JOEY

I know! I'm also glad I saw you again today because I think you're cute Melissa.

MELISSA

Why thank you Joey!

JOEY

You're welcome!

MELISSA

I'm glad you called! I look forward to seeing you in school tomorrow.

JOEY
I look forward to seeing you too!

MELISSA
Goodbye Joey!

JOEY
Goodbye Melissa!

They hang up. Joey starts fantasizing on what life would be like if Melissa was his girlfriend. When he goes to bed he has a dream of the two of them holding hands and walking in the park together.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

The following day in school Joey and Melissa see each other in the hallway.

JOEY (HUGGING MELISSA)
Hi Melissa!

MELISSA (HUGGING JOEY)
Hi Joey!

JOEY
Would you like to walk to class together?

MELISSA
Sure!

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Joey and Melissa walk into the classroom holding hands. Tommy made a rude comment.

TOMMY
Hey class! There's a matching couple. Joey the asshole and Melissa the asshole holding hands.

Joey threatens him!

JOEY
You better not let me catch you alone Tommy. I'm going kick your ass big time you son of a bitch.

Mrs. Thomas walks into the room. The two of them quickly sit down.

MRS. THOMAS

Good morning class. Does everyone
have your homework to turn in?

The class hands in their homework. Tommy shoots a spitball through a straw and hits Melissa on her forehead. Joey gets mad and attacks him. The two of them get into a fight again. Mrs. Thomas breaks them up. She takes the two of them to the office to face Mr. Woods again.

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

MR. WOODS

Hello Mrs. Thomas! I see you
brought these two down again. What
happened this time?

MRS. THOMAS

I turned my back for about five
seconds to the class Mr. Woods and
the two of them got into it again.

MR. WOODS

I see! I'll take care of it from
here.

Mrs. Thomas walks out!

MR. WOODS (MAD)

You two must not take me seriously.
I told both of you if you were
brought down here again you would
be suspended five additional days
from the first time. What the hell
happened this time? You first
Tommy!

TOMMY

I was sitting in my seat minding my
own business. After I handed my
homework to Mrs. Thomas this goofy
looking fool attacked me for no
reason.

MR. WOODS

Is that true Joey?

JOEY

The reason why I attacked him is
because he shot a spitball through
a straw and hit my friend Melissa
on her forehead.

TOMMY

He's lying Mr. Woods! I didn't
shoot anything at nobody.

JOEY

Don't try to lie about it Tommy!
You know you did it!

The two of them fight again. Mr. Woods break them up.

MR. WOODS (YELLING)

All right that's enough! Since the
two of you can't get along you are
now suspended for ten days.
Dismissed!

INT. FAMILY ROOM -DAY

Joey arrives home from school crying. Jeff and Jason were
there.

JEFF

Joey why are you crying?

JOEY (CRYING)

I got suspended again you guys!

JASON

Why!

JOEY

For fighting with Tommy!

JEFF

What did he do to you this time?

JOEY

He didn't do anything to me. He
shot a spitball at Melissa and hit
her on the forehead and it pissed
me off. When Mrs. Thomas took us to
the office he lied to the principal
and said I attacked him for no
reason.

JEFF

Is this the same Melissa you told
us about yesterday?

JOEY

Yes!

JASON

Joey you have to tell mom and dad about this. If you were standing up for a girl they will understand that. They will definitely go talk to the principal and your teacher tomorrow. We understand what you did today because I'm sure dad would have stood up for mom in a situation like that.

JEFF

He's right Joey, because if a guy shot a spitball at my girlfriend I damn sure would kick his ass for that. There's no excuse for anybody to do something like that.

John and Jennifer walk in!

JOEY

Mom and Dad I'm afraid I have some bad news to tell you.

JOHN

What is it son?

JOEY

I got into another fight with Tommy today and this time my principal suspended us for ten days.

JENNIFER (DEPRESSED)

Joey do you remember what we told you about fighting?

JOEY

I know what you told me mom, but it wasn't my fault. When I walked into the classroom I was holding hands with Melissa.

JOHN

Melissa who!

JOEY

Melissa Irvin! She's one of the girls I told you about yesterday.

JOHN

What does the fight between you and Tommy have to do with her?

JOEY

When Mrs. Thomas was collecting our homework I saw him shoot a spitball through a straw and hit her on her forehead. I really like this girl dad and I couldn't just sit there and let him get away with that. I had to stand up for her. Wouldn't you do that if somebody did something like that to mom?

JOHN (DEPRESSED)

Yes I would Joey!

JOEY (CRYING)

Not only that! When we were taken to the principal's office he lied to Mr. Woods about that and said I attacked him for no reason. Next thing I knew we were fighting again and that's when he suspended us for ten days. I don't want you two to think I'm the one causing trouble because I'm not. All of this is Tommy's fault. He thinks he can bully people around and I'm not going to let him do that to me.

JENNIFER (HUGGING JOEY)

Joey you need to understand something. When a person constantly causes trouble like Tommy they will keep doing that when they know it will get to you. You are falling right into his trap and he will keep this up after your ten-day suspension is over. John we need to go to the school tomorrow and talk to his teacher and principal because this has gone too far.

JOHN

I agree! We also need to bring Tommy's parents in on this.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

John and Jennifer go upstairs to their bedroom!

JENNIFER

John do you think Joey is telling
us the truth?

JOHN

I think he is Jennifer. Despite him
lying to us the other night, I
think he learned his lesson after I
spanked him. Tomorrow we will find
out even if we have to ask some of
the other students in his class.
I'm sure one of them saw what
happened.

JENNIFER

Yeah! I believe him too!

ACT TWO

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

John and Jennifer go to Joey's school.

JOHN

Mr. Woods! I'm John King and this is my wife Jennifer.

MR. WOODS

Are you Joey's parents?

JENNIFER

Yes!

JOHN

We came here to talk to you about our son and this other guy Tommy Wilson. Joey has told us Tommy has been bullying him ever since the first day of school and we want to know what exactly has been going on between them.

MR. WOODS

Mr. and Mrs. King this conflict has been a vicious circle like you said from day one. Each time they have been in here one has been saying the other one has started it. They also fought right here in front of me.

JENNIFER

Did Joey tell you about Tommy shooting a spitball at his friend Melissa Irvin?

MR. WOODS

Yes he did Mrs. King, but Tommy denied doing that and said Joey attacked him for no reason.

JENNIFER

Whose side are you taking?

MR. WOODS

I'm not taking sides on this!

MR. WOODS (CONT'D)

My job as the principal is to deal with students who feel the need to disrupt class, and that is exactly what Tommy and Joey have been doing.

JOHN

Mr. Woods we came here to put a stop to this because if this continues somebody could get hurt. Have you notified Tommy's parents about this?

MR. WOODS

When I called to tell them about the first fight I was unable to reach them! Since you brought that up, I will call them again.

Mr. Woods calls Tommy's parents DON AND JESSICA WILSON. Don is 47 years old. Jessica is 46 years old.

DON WILSON

Mr. Woods!

MR. WOODS

Yes that's me!

DON

I'm Don Wilson and this is my wife Jessica. We're Tommy's parents.

MR. WOODS

Mr. and Mrs. Wilson this is John and Jennifer King. The reason why I called both of you is because your son Tommy has been getting into fights with their son Joey. When they got here, they said Joey told them Tommy has been bullying him since the first day of school. Yesterday when they were in here Joey said Tommy shot a spitball at a girl in their class and he was standing up for her. Have you two been aware of this?

Don and Jessica put surprising looks and their faces.

JESSICA WILSON

No sir we were not aware of this! What exactly has been going on in this school?

MR. WOODS

That is why I called both of you.
That's also why I've been trying to
reach you two within the past week.
Since you two didn't know about
this I'm starting to believe Tommy
has been lying to me now. I assume
you two don't know he's been
suspended for ten days now.

DON

No we were not aware of that
either! Did you leave us any
messages on our home phone?

MR. WOODS

Yes I did! I think Tommy has been
deleting those messages if you
weren't aware of this. Did one of
you sign the letter I sent home
with him from the first fight?

DON

What letter?

Mr. Woods shows Don and Jessica Tommy's suspension letter.

MR. WOODS

This letter!

DON

Did you sign this letter Jessica?

JESSICA

That's not my signature! I assume
it isn't yours either!

DON

Absolutely not!

JESSICA

Oh god Don it sounds like we've
bought a monster into this world.
What made him do this?

DON

I don't know Jessica! I wish I
knew!

JOHN

Mr. and Mrs. Wilson we're sorry you
two had to find out about it this
way. Joey also lied to us when this
started.

(MORE)

JOHN (cont'd)

When we found out, I spanked him pretty good. It looks like we could work together on this. Mr. Woods we'd like to have your permission to talk with Mrs. Thomas and the students in Tommy and Joey's class and ask them if they saw what happened?

MR. WOODS

That will be fine Mr. King!

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Mr. Woods takes Tommy and Joey's parents to the classroom.

MR. WOODS

Sorry to disrupt your class Mrs. Thomas! This is John and Jennifer King Joey's parents, and this is Don and Jessica Wilson Tommy's parents.

All four parents shake hands with Mrs. Thomas!

DON

Mrs. Thomas do you know where my son is?

MRS. THOMAS

He was suspended for ten days because of the fight he had with Joey Mr. Wilson. He didn't tell you?

DON

No he didn't! We just found out about it before coming up here and realized he forged our signature on his suspension letter. May we ask your class a question?

MRS. THOMAS

Sure!

DON

Class we'd like to know which one of you saw who started the fight between our son Tommy and Mr. and Mrs. King's son Joey.

MICHAEL

I did sir!

DON
What is your name?

MICHAEL
Michael Austin!

JESSICA
Michael will you tell us exactly
what you saw!

MICHAEL
When Mrs. Thomas was collecting our
homework I saw Tommy shoot a
spitball from a straw and hit
Melissa on her forehead.

JOHN
Which one of you is Melissa?

MELISSA
I am!

JOHN
Is everything Michael said true?

MELISSA
Yes it is! Mr. and Mrs. Wilson I'm
sorry that I have to make this
comment about Tommy, but he
deserved to get hit by Joey. All he
has done up to this point is cause
trouble in the class with
everybody.

REBECCA
She's right! We were all minding
our own business. I was sitting
right here and also saw Tommy shoot
that spitball at Melissa.

MR. WOODS
Class I want to thank you for
telling us the truth. Mrs. Thomas
I'm truly sorry we had to disrupt
your class over this.

MRS. THOMAS
I understand Mr. Woods! Mr. and
Mrs. Wilson I'm sorry you two had
to hear about the bad things Tommy
has done.

JESSICA (DEPRESSED)
Thank you Mrs. Thomas!

Mr. Woods and the four parents leave the classroom.

MRS. THOMAS

Class I'm very proud of what you all just did. It was good that you came forward and told the truth. It is never good to lie about anything because the truth always finds a way of coming out. As all of you saw this was very depressing and upsetting for Tommy's parents because they didn't know their son had been bullying people and causing trouble in class. If any of you feel that somebody is giving you a hard time or you see somebody giving another person a hard time, always tell an adult. It would be on your conscience if something bad was to happen and you didn't say anything.

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

DON

Mr. Woods we want to thank you for calling us about this. We will definitely be having a serious talk with Tommy. Mr. and Mrs. King we are sorry for the trouble our son has caused with Joey.

JENNIFER

We thank you for that Don. We're also sorry the two of you had to find out this way.

MR. WOODS

Mr. and Mrs. King you can tell Joey he is no longer on suspension. He can come back tomorrow.

JOHN

Thank you very much Mr. Woods!

INT. FAMILY ROOM OF WILSON HOUSE - DAY

Don and Jessica arrived home. Tommy was nowhere to be found.
The phone rings.

DON
Wilson Residence!

VOICE ON PHONE (V.O.)
Is this the legal guardian of Tommy
Wilson?

DON
This is his father Don!

VOICE ON PHONE (V.O.)
Mr. Wilson I'm afraid I have some
bad news to tell you!

DON
What is it?

VOICE ON PHONE (V.O.)
Your son Tommy has been brought to
the detention center because he and
two other guys were caught
shoplifting at a grocery store
today. The owner of the store is
pressing charges of assault and
battery because Tommy hit him in
the head with a beer bottle. In
order for you to get him out I'm
afraid it's going to cost you \$800.

DON
Thank you for calling!

Don hangs up the phone!

JESSICA
Don what happened?

DON
Tommy was arrested for shoplifting
in a store. The owner is pressing
charges against him for assault and
battery.

JESSICA
What!

DON

The officer said Tommy hit the owner with a beer bottle and it's going to cost us \$800 to get him out.

JESSICA

Oh god!

INT. DETENTION CENTER - DAY

Don and Jessica arrive to the detention center!

DON (MAD)

Son what the hell have you done?

Tommy doesn't say anything!

DON

Don't ignore me! Answer me now dammit!

JESSICA

Settle down Don! Let's get home and deal him then.

INT. FAMILY ROOM - NIGHT

Don and Jessica arrive home with Tommy!

DON

Go to your room now Tommy and don't come out until I tell you!

Tommy goes upstairs to his room!

JESSICA

What are we going to do about him Don?

DON

I don't know Jessica. I'm afraid if I go up there and whip his ass I'll probably beat him to death. Right now I am very pissed off with him. I'm having a hard time believing he did all these bad things.

JESSICA

I understand how you feel. I'm just as upset as you are.

(MORE)

JESSICA (cont'd)

We have to take action because if we don't, he will keep doing bad things for the rest of his life and hurt somebody or even himself.

INT. TOMMY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Don and Jessica walk into Tommy's room. They catch him trying to sneak out the window.

DON (ANGRY TONE)

What kind of stunt are you trying to pull boy? Don't you know what kind of trouble you're in?

TOMMY

Why the hell should I care dad?

DON

I'll show you why the hell you should care boy?

Don pulls off his belt and spanks Tommy. Jessica watches.

DON (SPANKING TOMMY)

I am your father boy and you will never behave this way while living in my house. You will always respect your mother and me at all times. Do you understand me? Uh, Uh! Answer me now!

TOMMY (YELLING)

Okay I'm sorry dad, I'm sorry! I'm sorry! I'm sorry.....

DON

You get your ass to bed and don't wake up until I say so!

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

After Don spanked Tommy he and Jessica go back downstairs.

DON

Where did we go wrong with raising our son Jessica?

JESSICA

I don't know! I'm certainly glad it was you that whipped his ass because the minute I saw him trying to climb out that window I wanted to beat him myself.

(MORE)

JESSICA (cont'd)

Look what we found out about him today. He has been causing trouble in school, he got arrested for shoplifting and assault and battery. What other bad things do you think we'll find out?

DON

I don't know, but I sure as hell hope we don't!

JESSICA

Me too!

DON

Do you think you could call in sick from work tomorrow? I think we need to search through his room. You saw how messy it was.

JESSICA

Yeah! The sooner we get to the bottom of this the better off I will be.

INT. TOMMY'S ROOM - DAY

JESSICA

Tommy wake up!

DON

Good grief this room is a mess!

Don and Jessica pick up Tommy's clothes off the floor. They also searched through his drawers. Don finds a gun and marijuana.

DON (ANGRY)

Where the hell did you get this gun? Answer me god dammit!

TOMMY

From school!

JESSICA

Who gave it to you?

TOMMY

A guy in my class!

JESSICA (ANGRY)

What is the guy's name! Answer me now boy!

TOMMY
Kevin Lawson!

DON
Did he also give you these bags of
marijuana?

TOMMY
Yes!

DON
Was he one of the guys who got
arrested with you yesterday?

TOMMY
Yes!

JESSICA
Who was the third guy?

TOMMY
His older brother Chris!

JESSICA
Do you think we need to notify the
principal about this Don?

DON
Yes and the police because this is
serious.

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

Don and Jessica go to Tommy's school.

MR. WOODS
Mr. and Mrs. Wilson why are you two
back here?

DON
Mr. Woods we have discovered
something you need to know about.

MR. WOODS
What is it?

DON
This morning Jessica and I searched
through Tommy's room and we found a
gun and bags of marijuana in his
drawer. When we asked him where he
got them from, he told us he got
them from a guy named Kevin Lawson
who is also in his class.

MR. WOODS
Is this true Tommy?

TOMMY
Yes it is sir!

JESSICA
There's also more! Kevin has an older brother named Chris who is also a part of this.

MR. WOODS
A part of what?

JESSICA
When Don and I left from here yesterday we got a phone call from the detention center. Tommy, Chris, and Kevin got arrested for shoplifting. Are Chris and Kevin here?

TOMMY
Kevin is the only one who goes here mom. Chris is in the eleventh grade in high school.

MR. WOODS
It sounds like we need to notify their parents about this. You said Kevin was in your class with Mrs. Thomas right Tommy?

TOMMY
Yes!

MR. WOODS
Let's go up there now!

INT. CLASSROOM DOOR - DAY

Mr. Woods calls Mrs. Thomas and KEVIN LAWSON into the hallway. Kevin is 13 years old.

MR. WOODS
Are you Kevin Lawson!

KEVIN LAWSON
Yes!

MR. WOODS
Kevin I want you to meet Don and Jessica Wilson.
(MORE)

MR. WOODS (cont'd)

They are Tommy's parents. They have some questions to ask you.

DON

Kevin did you and your brother Chris get arrested with Tommy for shoplifting yesterday?

MRS. THOMAS

What's going on Mr. Woods?

MR. WOODS

Just hold on a minute Mrs. Thomas!

KEVIN

Yes we did sir!

JESSICA

Did your parents know about this?

KEVIN

No mam they didn't!

MR. WOODS

Kevin who wrote your excuse for being absent yesterday?

KEVIN

My brother!

MR. WOODS

Did you also give a gun and some bags of marijuana to Tommy?

KEVIN

Yes I did!

MR. WOODS

Go into the room and get your book bag!

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Mr. Woods opens Kevin's book bag and finds a gun.

MRS. THOMAS (ANGRY)

Kevin where in the hell did you get this gun?

KEVIN

From my brother!

MR. WOODS

Does he have one too?

KEVIN

Yes!

MRS. THOMAS (DEPRESSED)

Oh my god!

The rest of the class looks in disbelief after seeing the gun.

MR. WOODS (ANGRY)

What do you two have to say for yourselves! Don't ignore me!

KEVIN

We never thought it would come this far and we're sorry sir.

MR. WOODS

Tommy and Kevin, you two leave me no other choice but to expel you. You both will be taken back to the detention center for this. I will not tolerate guns and drugs being passed around in my school. You two were sent here to get an education, not to deal drugs.

Mr. Woods called the police on Tommy and Kevin. They were escorted out of the school.

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

Mr. Woods and two police officers went to the high school where Kevin's brother goes. They met with the Principal ANTHONY POPE.

MR. WOODS

Mr. Pope! I apologize for having to come here with two police officers. We've been informed by two of my students that one of your students might be carrying a gun and bags of marijuana.

ANTHONY POPE

Who are you talking about?

MR. WOODS

Chris Lawson! His brother Kevin is one of my students and he along with another guy name Tommy Wilson were both caught with guns and marijuana at my school. They told me that Chris passed those items to them.

MR. POPE (SURPRISED)

What!

MR. WOODS

Is Chris here today?

MR. POPE

Yes!

POLICE OFFICER ONE

Will you call him down here Mr. Pope.

MR. POPE (ON INTERCOM)

Attention! Chris Lawson please report to the office! Again, Chris Lawson please report to the office.

Kevin's brother CHRIS LAWSON walks in. Chris is 17 years old.

CHRIS LAWSON

Yes Mr. Pope!

MR. POPE

Chris! I've just been informed by this gentlemen that your brother and a friend of his was caught with a gun and marijuana at his school. He said they got those items from you. Is this true?

Chris tries to run. The officers grab him and handcuff him.

POLICE OFFICER TWO

Not so fast there Chris!

MR. WOODS

I think we need to go search his locker Mr. Pope.

MR. POPE

I second that!

All of them leave the office!

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Mr. Pope opens Chris' locker and finds a gun and bags of marijuana.

MR. POPE (ANGRY TONE)
Oh my god! Have you lost your mind
Chris! What the hell are you
thinking bringing a gun and
marijuana to my school boy.

Chris doesn't say anything. Students and other teachers walk into the hallway.

MR. POPE
Chris Lawson! You are officially
expelled from this school. Get this
peace of shit out of here.

The police officers escorted Chris out of the school.

INT. FAMILY ROOM OF KING HOUSE - NIGHT

When the school day ended Joey arrived home. He told his family what happened.

JOEY
Mom and Dad I have some very
shocking news to tell you!

JOHN
What is it Joey?

JOEY
Tommy and another guy in my class
named Kevin Lawson were expelled
from school today because they both
were using marijuana and had guns.
The two of them along with Kevin's
older brother Chris were all
arrested yesterday for shoplifting.
They were arrested again after Mr.
Woods caught them with the
marijuana and gun.

JENNIFER
Oh god John! I know this is really
tearing up Don and Jessica.

JEFF
Who's this Kevin Lawson guy Joey?

JOEY

He was also in my class along with Melissa, Rebecca, and Tommy. Nobody had any idea that Tommy and Kevin had been carrying guns and selling drugs until now.

JASON

Were they selling to other people at the school or among themselves?

JOEY

They were doing it among themselves. I've now realized what Melissa and Rebecca were telling me when they said Tommy had been doing a lot of bad things. I was glad they warned me.

The phone rings! It is Melissa calling Joey!

JOHN

I'll get it!

INT. SPLIT SCREEN - NIGHT

JOHN

King residence!

MELISSA

Is Joey home?

JOHN

Yes he is! May I ask who's calling?

MELISSA

This is Melissa Irvin from his class.

JOHN

Joey it's Melissa Irvin!

JOEY

Hi Melissa!

MELISSA

Hi Joey! Can you believe what happened to Tommy and Kevin today?

JOEY

I know! That was a shocker to find out that Kevin was involved with him.

(MORE)

JOEY (cont'd)

I also realized what you and Rebecca were talking about that day in the hallway.

MELISSA

We knew Tommy was a bad person and that is why we never talked to him. Rebecca at one time used to like him up until the point when he started acting like a bully.

JOEY

I don't blame her. A nice girl like her doesn't deserve a guy like Tommy. Right now I can't get over the fact that Kevin hung around him.

MELISSA

Me neither! I think a lot of people were surprised to see Kevin throw his life away like that. His older brother obviously was influencing him in a bad way.

JOEY

Yeah and the two of them were influencing Tommy in a bad way. What are you doing this weekend Melissa?

MELISSA

Rebecca and Michael are coming over to watch a movie. That's why I called you. I'd like for you to come over also.

JOEY

I'd like to! Were you talking about Michael Austin?

MELISSA

Yep! He and Rebecca are now boyfriend and girlfriend and that is what I want you and I to be.

JOEY (SURPRISED REACTION)

Wow do you mean that?

MELISSA

After you stood up for me when Tommy shot that spitball at me, I knew you were the one I was looking for to be my boyfriend.

JOEY

Let me ask my parents if that's okay. Mom, dad, is it all right if I go to Melissa's house tonight?

JOHN (V.O.)

Sure Joey! That's no problem at all!

JOEY

Thanks dad! My dad said it's okay!

MELISSA

I look forward to seeing you Joey! Goodbye now!

JOEY

Goodbye Melissa!

They hang up!

INT. FAMILY ROOM - NIGHT

Joey tells his brothers about the phone call.

JOEY

Jeff, Jason guess what!

JEFF

What it is Joey?

JOEY

Melissa just called me and wants me to come to her house tonight.

JASON

Really!

JOEY

Yeah!

JASON

Good job Joey! We told you if you played it right she would start to like you.

JEFF

That's right little brother! We're proud of you now! Good job!

JOEY

What should I tell her when I go over there?

JEFF
Since she's told you how she feels
about you, you now need to tell her
how you feel about her.

JOEY
Okay!

JASON
Have fun tonight Joey!

EXT. FRONT DOOR OF MELISSA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Joey rides his bike to Melissa's house!

MELISSA (HUGGING JOEY)
Hi Joey!

JOEY (HUGGING MELISSA)
Hi Melissa!

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

MELISSA (ARM WRAPPED AROUND JOEY)
Come on in! Mom and dad this is
Joey King.

Joey shakes hands with Melissa's parents TRAVIS AND MARY
IRVIN and her little sister KELLY IRVIN. Travis is 44 years
old and Mary is 43. Kelly is 6 years old. Michael and Rebecca
were already there.

MARY IRVIN
Nice to meet you Joey! This is our
youngest daughter Kelly. Kelly say
hi to Melissa's friend Joey.

KELLY IRVIN
Hi Joey!

JOEY
Hi Kelly! Nice to meet you!

KELLY
Nice to meet you too!

TRAVIS IRVIN
We heard about how you stood up for
Melissa the other day. She told us
about that Tommy Wilson guy. He was
a serious troublemaker.

JOEY

That's true! That's also why he and Kevin Lawson got kicked out of school today and got arrested.

MARY

Melissa we're going to leave the four of you here and we trust that none of you won't do anything wrong okay.

MELISSA

Okay mom! Goodbye now!

TRAVIS

All of you are welcome here anytime as long as you stay out of trouble. Have fun now!

INT. FAMILY ROOM - NIGHT

Travis, Mary, and Kelly leave the house. The four kids go into the family room. Michael and Rebecca sat on one couch. Joey and Melissa sat on the other.

JOEY

So Michael, how did you and Rebecca get together?

MICHAEL

She and I studied over the phone for some of our tests. We also sit with each other in class and at lunch.

JOEY

Do you have any brothers or sisters?

MICHAEL

I have an older brother named Robert who will be graduating from high school this year.

JOEY

Has he been giving you advice about dating girls?

MICHAEL

Yeah!

JOEY

That's good because my older brothers Jeff and Jason have been giving me advice also. You all know something!

REBECCA

What!

JOEY

I think the four of us should study together for this next test in Mrs. Thomas' class next week.

MELISSA

Hey that's a great idea Joey. I think all of our parents will like that. Where can we study?

MICHAEL

You all know about the after school study program the school has?

JOEY

Yeah!

MICHAEL

I'm sure our parents will be glad we're doing that. I want my parents to be proud of me. I don't want them to be devastated the way Tommy and Kevin's parents were.

JOEY

Yeah I know! When I had my first fight with Tommy, I tried to hide it from my mom and dad and they got very mad at me. My dad also tore my ass up and grounded me for that.

REBECCA

I'm sure you learned your lesson from that didn't you Joey?

JOEY

Hell yeah I did!

MICHAEL

I can imagine how painful that is. When my dad spanked me and my brother for doing something wrong, he always made a point that it is not wise to do bad things.

(MORE)

MICHAEL (cont'd)

I learned when a person constantly does bad things something bad will happen to them in return just like what happened to Tommy and Kevin today.

MELISSA

Tommy got exactly what he deserved because the only thing his sorry ass did was cause trouble with everybody.

REBECCA

That's true because he was somebody you couldn't trust. He would have turned against you real quick. I still can't get over the fact that Kevin shoplifted with him and had a gun right there in the classroom.

JOEY

Oh my god you guys! The minute I saw Mr. Woods pull that gun from his book bag, my heart started beating very fast. He could have decided to kill all of us today. I'm wondering if it was loaded.

REBECCA

I sure as hell hope not. I'm just glad it was taken away from him before he did anything and that we're all still alive.

MICHAEL

I feel all of you on that. I had never seen a real gun like that except for ones that are on the cover of magazines and the kind police officers carry. My mom and dad were very strict on Robert and I when we were young. That is exactly why I'm keeping my ass in school to complete my education. After seeing what happened to Tommy and Kevin, I said to myself I wouldn't want that to happen to me nor one of my friends like the three of you.

REBECCA

That's very sweet of you Michael, because I really like you. I'm glad I met a guy like you.

MELISSA

I feel the same way about you Joey.
I know if anybody else tried to do
something bad to me, I can rely on
you to kick their ass.

JOEY

You know Melissa! They say there is
a reason why certain people meet
each other and I'm starting to see
why all four of us met. Look what
we've been talking about and what
ideas we've come up with about
studying together.

MICHAEL

Yeah you all! This is something we
should tell the rest of the class
about.

REBECCA

That's not a bad idea! I'm sure
some of them are thinking the same
thing.

MICHAEL

Yeah you're probably right Rebecca.
When we all go home let's tell our
parents about this because I want
to go ahead and start going to the
study program on Monday. Are all of
you in?

JOEY

I'm in with you Michael!

REBECCA

So am I!

MELISSA

Me too!

After watching the movie Home Alone, Michael, Rebecca, and
Joey all went home.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

JOEY

Mom and dad is it all right if I
stay after school on Monday?

JOHN

Why do you want to stay after
school Joey?

JOEY

Because I want to attend the study program my school has provided. When I was at Melissa's house yesterday, she and I along with Michael and Rebecca decided to all meet there for the next few days. We have a test in Mrs. Thomas' class next Friday.

JENNIFER

Well that's good Joey. We'll be glad to let you stay after and study.

JOHN

Yeah son! I'm glad you decided to do that. That tells us you realize how important your education is. Did you all by any chance talk about what happened to Tommy and Kevin?

JOEY

Yes! That's how we came up with the idea of studying together. I feel bad for both of their parents. That was sad on how they found out about the bad things their sons did.

JENNIFER

Yeah I know! As matter of fact, John do you want to invite them over for dinner tonight?

JOHN

I'll be glad to. I'm sure they are still in emotional pain about this.

JENNIFER

I'll call them! Do you have Kevin's parents phone number Joey?

JOEY

No!

JENNIFER

What about you John?

JOHN

I don't have it either!

JENNIFER
Well it looks like we'll just be
having Tommy's parent over.

INT. SPLIT SCREEN - DAY

Jennifer calls Tommy's parents!

JESSICA
Wilson residence!

JENNIFER
Hi Jessica this is Jennifer King,
Joey's mom!

JESSICA
Hi Jennifer! How are you?

JENNIFER
I'm doing fine! What about you?

JESSICA
I'm doing fine also!

JENNIFER
That's good! John and I were just
talking about you and Don and we
feel bad for both of you after
finding out about the bad things
Tommy did. We'd like to invite both
of you over for dinner tonight.

JESSICA
That's very thoughtful of you
Jennifer. I'm sure Don will be glad
to come over. He had to step out
for a minute, but I'll mention it
to him when he gets back.

JENNIFER
That's great! I'll see you tonight
at eight o'clock. Bye now!

JESSICA
Bye Jennifer!

INT. KITCHEN OF KING HOUSE - DAY

JENNIFER
John they'll be here at eight
o'clock!

JOHN
Okay!

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

The Wilson's arrived to the King house!

JOHN
Good evening Don and Jessica!

DON
Good evening John and Jennifer!

JENNIFER
Jeff, Jason, and, Joey, the
Wilson's are here! Don and
Jessica, these are our two older
sons Jeff and Jason.

Jeff, Jason, and Joey shake hands with Don and Jessica.

JEFF
Nice to meet you Mr. and Mrs.
Wilson!

JASON
We want to tell you how sorry we
are about the situation with Tommy.
I know that was very devastating to
both of you.

JESSICA
Thank you so much Jason! We really
appreciate that!

Everyone sits down at the dinner table!

DON
So Joey, how are you doing in
school?

JOEY
I'm doing fine Mr. Wilson! Three of
my friends and I are going to
attend the study program after
school next week.

JESSICA
That's good Joey! It's also good
that you're staying on top of your
schoolwork. Your education should
be your first priority.

DON

That's right! The more you concentrate on your studies the better chance you have at making good grades and have a high grade point average. I wish Tommy had realized that.

JESSICA

I still can't get over the fact that he and this Kevin Lawson character had been skipping school a few times and shoplifting. It was very shocking to find out that both of them had been carrying guns and using marijuana.

JEFF

We heard about that because Joey told us. He also said Kevin's older brother Chris was involved.

JASON

That's scary to hear. Teenagers who find ways of getting guns are usually up to doing bad things.

DON

That's true! I almost wanted to spank Tommy again when Jessica and I found that gun and marijuana in his drawer. He could have killed us whenever he wanted to. That's why I'm glad we discovered this when we did.

JESSICA

We did our best to teach Tommy the difference between right and wrong, but it turns out he was hanging around the wrong crowd of people.

JENNIFER

When kids reach their teenage years they sometimes go through that stage of peer pressure. I'm sure that's what happened with Tommy.

DON

You're right about that Jennifer. Tommy never had any friends over to the house. Jessica and I told him he could have anybody over as long as they didn't do bad things.

(MORE)

DON (cont'd)

We realize why he never invited Kevin and his brother over because I think he knew we would have found out what kind of things the three of them were doing.

JESSICA

Don how long does he have to stay in the detention center?

DON

He's going to be there for at least five years along with Kevin and Chris. All three of them committed an adult act and were tried as adults.

JOHN

Are you two ever going to visit him?

JESSICA

Yes we are! I hope he will learn something from this.

JOEY

I hope so too! I learned my lesson after my dad spanked me the other day after I lied to him and my mom about the first fight I had with him.

JOHN

That's good you learned a lesson from that Joey. Teenagers who continue to do the same bad things after getting in trouble for them never learn anything.

JEFF

That's true Joey! That's why Jason and I were telling you to tell mom and dad about Tommy. If you didn't, that never would have been resolved.

JASON

Tommy and Kevin would still be out on the streets and probably would have killed somebody.

JOEY

I definitely learned my lesson and realized how important it is to get an education. That's why I'm going to attend the study program after school next week. That's what Melissa, Michael, Rebecca, and I talked about at Melissa's house.

JENNIFER

That's good Joey! Since you mentioned that, I'll set my schedule this week so I can pick you up.

JOEY

Thanks mom!

INT. DETENTION CENTER - NIGHT

Don and Jessica go to visit Tommy at the detention center.

PRISON GUARD

How may I help you two!

DON

We're here to see our son Tommy Wilson!

PRISON GUARD

Okay!

The guard calls another guard!

PRISON GUARD ONE (ON HIS RADIO)

Officer Barnes you there!

PRISON GUARD TWO (V.O.)

This is Barnes go ahead!

PRISON GUARD ONE

Barnes will you bring Tommy Wilson to the lobby. His parents are here to see him.

PRISON GUARD TWO (V.O.)

I'll bring him down!

The guard brings Tommy down! Tommy is in handcuffs!1

JESSICA

Tommy how are you holding up in there?

TOMMY
Not good at all!

DON
Do you realize the terrible mistake
you made and what it cost you?

TOMMY
Yeah!

DON
Tommy we care about you greatly. We
did this to teach you an important
lesson. You also put us in a bad
situation and made yourself look
bad as well as make us look bad.

JESSICA
When you get out of here Tommy were
going to send you to counseling.
Even though it will be five years
from now, but it will be for your
own good. That's our number one
agenda once you are released. You
also need to stay away from Chris
and Kevin while your in here.

DON
Are they your cell mates?

TOMMY
Kevin is!

DON
When you go back there you ask the
guards if you can have another cell
mate. We do not want you any where
near Chris and Kevin. Do you
understand.

TOMMY
Okay!

JESSICA
Don't ever forget Tommy! We love
you and we care about you okay!

TOMMY (CRYING)
Okay mom!

Don and Jessica hug Tommy. The guard takes him back to his
cell.

INT. LIBRARY - DAY

The following week in school Joey, Melissa, Michael, and Rebecca stayed after.

MRS. THOMAS

Good afternoon Michael, Joey, Melissa, and Rebecca! I'm glad you all decided to come here. The four of you know I will be giving a test this Friday for my class. I'm going to give you the opportunity to study for it here. Do you have any questions?

REBECCA

How many chapters do we have to study for?

MRS. THOMAS

Chapters seven and eight Rebecca! These are the chapters that start the section of beginning algebra.

JOEY

What's beginning algebra?

MRS. THOMAS

Beginning algebra is a higher level in math Joey. It doesn't just involve the basic things like multiplication, addition, division, and subtraction. This is when you start doing more word problems. You also have a combination of those four areas combined together. When you get into high school, that's when you start doing advanced algebra, which is a combination of a lot of things.

MELISSA

Have you taught advanced algebra before?

MRS. THOMAS

Yes I have Melissa. That was one of the classes I had to take when I was in college. I got my bachelors degree in mathematics.

MICHAEL

What other math classes have you taught?

MRS. THOMAS

I've also taught Calculus Michael.
That's another class you four will
have to take when you get to high
school.

Mr. Woods walks in!

MR. WOODS

Good afternoon Mrs. Thomas!

MRS. THOMAS

Good afternoon Mr. Woods!

MR. WOODS

I see you're conducting our study
program here and that's good.
Michael, Joey, Melissa, and Rebecca
I'm glad to see the four of you
taking advantage of this program.

ALL FOUR OF THEM

Thank you Mr. Woods!

MR. WOODS

I'm also glad the four of you
realize how important your
education is. I would hate to have
to throw any of you out of here
like Tommy and Kevin. It was
obvious those two were here to
cause trouble. Joey I want to
apologize to you for not believing
you when you told me the things
Tommy did to you.

JOEY

Apology accepted Mr. Woods!

MR. WOODS

I'm very proud of what you four are
doing and you certainly have a good
person teaching you in Mrs. Thomas.

MRS. THOMAS

Why thank you Mr. Woods!

MR. WOODS

You're welcome Mrs. Thomas. I want
all of you to keep up the good work
and I hope you all are making good
grades in her class.

MRS. THOMAS

As a matter of fact they're all passing with A's Mr. Woods. They have certainly shown me they are willing to learn and I'm certainly willing to teach them.

MR. WOODS

And I'm certainly glad to have you teaching at this school Mrs. Thomas. I'm sure the four of them are glad to have you as their teacher. Well, I'm headed home now and I encourage all four of you to keep making good grades. Goodbye and I'll see all of you tomorrow.

ALL FIVE OF THEM

Goodbye Mr. Woods!

Mr. Woods walks out. Mrs. Thomas continued with the study program. Jennifer picked up Joey two hours later.

INT. KING FAMILY ROOM - NIGHT

JOHN

How did the study program go Joey?

JOEY

It went fine dad and I really enjoyed being there.

JENNIFER

Did any of your other classmates go?

JOEY

Michael, Rebecca, and Melissa also came. Mr. Woods also came by and told us how proud he was that we attended.

JENNIFER

Well Joey, we are also proud of what you and your friends are doing. We have no problem with you hanging around them.

JOHN

You know what else Joey!

JOEY

Yes dad!

JOHN

You can invite them over whenever you have a test to study for on weekends like when you went to Melissa's house.

JOEY

Thanks mom and dad!

Joey goes up to his room to call Melissa.

INT. SPLIT SCREEN - NIGHT

MELISSA

Hello!

JOEY

Hi Melissa it's Joey!

MELISSA

Hi Joey, I was just thinking about you.

JOEY

Really!

MELISSA

Yeah!

JOEY

That's funny because I was thinking about you too. That's why I called you.

MELISSA

Why that's very sweet of you Joey!

JOEY

It was my pleasure! I also wanted to tell you I told my mom and dad about Michael, Rebecca, and you and I going to the study program. They told me I could invite all three of you over whenever I want.

MELISSA

Oh Joey I'll be glad to come over there to visit you in return for when you came to visit me.

JOEY

Thank you Melissa! Did you enjoy being there?

MELISSA

Yes because I didn't understand the section of beginning algebra that we went over. That's why I'm glad I stayed.

JOEY

Me too! When Mrs. Thomas said we would be taking advanced algebra when we get to high school I got nervous. I didn't understand any of that either.

MELISSA

Are you going to attend tomorrow?

JOEY

Yeah! Are you?

MELISSA

Most definitely!

JOEY

I look forward to seeing you in class tomorrow!

MELISSA

I look forward to seeing you too Joey! Goodbye and thanks for calling me!

JOEY

You're welcome! Goodbye Melissa!

They hang up!

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Joey goes downstairs to talk with his brothers.

JASON

So Joey! How do you feel about going with Melissa and what do you think about her?

JOEY

She's a very nice girl. I'm glad you two encouraged me to call her the other day.

JEFF

You see! Didn't we tell you if you played it right things would work out for the both of you? Look what has happened now.

JOEY

I know Jeff!

JASON

We're your brothers Joey, now would we lie to you?

JOEY

No and that's why I'm glad to have you two as my brothers.

JEFF

And we're glad to have you as our brother!

All three of them hug!

JOEY

Thanks guys!

JEFF

No problem! Well we're going to head home for the night. You need to go to bed and get a good night sleep. See you tomorrow!

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

The following day Joey, Melissa, Michael, and Rebecca all set together in class. Mrs. Thomas encourages everybody to attend the after school study program.

MRS. THOMAS

Good morning class!

EVERYBODY

Good morning Mrs. Thomas!

MRS. THOMAS

Class, I want to encourage all of you to come to our after school study program because I think it will benefit all of you very well. Your classmates Joey, Melissa, Michael, and Rebecca were the only ones who came yesterday.

(MORE)

MRS. THOMAS (cont'd)
This will count as part of your grade if you start attending. Are there any questions? Yes David!

DAVID JOHNSON
What time does the program start and how long does it last?

MRS. THOMAS
It starts directly after school and lasts for two and half-hours! Stacy!

STACY SMITH
Who runs the program?

MRS. THOMAS
I do for students who want to go over their math assignments. Whatever class you want to study for you would work with the teacher who teaches that class. Are there any more questions? Well I hope many of you decide to come to the program this afternoon.

INT. LIBRARY - DAY

School let out for the day. More students from Mrs. Thomas' class attended.

MR. WOODS
Mrs. Thomas this is great to see all these students here. This is telling me all of them realize how important their education is.

MRS. THOMAS
I know! I see a lot more students from my class are here. I talked to them about this and it looks like I encouraged more to come. I also see students from Mrs. Miller's class too.

MR. WOODS
Speaking of Mrs. Miller is she here?

MRS. THOMAS
She's over there!

Mr. Woods walks over to WENDY MILLER. Mrs. Miller is 43 years old.

MR. WOODS
Hi Mrs. Miller!

WENDY MILLER
Hi Mr. Woods!

MR. WOODS
I see a lot of your students
decided to attend our study
program.

MRS. MILLER
Yeah I know! I talked to them about
this today and I'm amazed that so
many of them are here.

MR. WOODS
It's good you did that. Mrs. Thomas
did the same thing with her class
and look how many of them came.

MRS. MILLER
I see!

MR. WOODS
I'm glad to have two people like
the both of you teaching here
because you and her have been
setting good examples for these
students.

MRS. MILLER
Well I'm glad to be teaching here
because my students have been
obedient in my class.

MR. WOODS
I'm glad to here that! Mrs. Thomas'
students have been loyal to her
with the exception of Tommy Wilson
and Kevin Lawson.

MRS. MILLER
Oh yeah! She told me the two of
them were carrying guns and
marijuana.

MR. WOODS
Yep! That's why I kicked them both
out of here. It was obvious they
were not here to get an education.
Not only that! They were also
shoplifting at a grocery store with
Kevin's older brother.

(MORE)

MR. WOODS (cont'd)

The three of them are in the detention center for five years now.

MRS. MILLER

Oh god! I know both of their parents were devastated from that.

MR. WOODS

Yeah you're right about that! I'm headed out for the day and I'm glad to see a lot of your students here. See you tomorrow Mrs. Miller.

MRS. MILLER

Goodbye Mr. Woods!

Mr. Woods leaves the library. Mrs. Miller walks over to Mrs. Thomas.

MRS. MILLER

Hi Mrs. Thomas! How's your class dealing with the Tommy and Kevin situation?

MRS. THOMAS

They're dealing with it very well. It was a scary moment for them and for me when Kevin brought a gun into my class.

MRS. MILLER

I'm sure it was! It scares me to hear about that. That's also sad to see young boys like them do bad things like that. From what Mr. Woods told me, Kevin's older brother influenced the two of them.

MRS. THOMAS

You could be right about that. It's also something that leads to peer pressure. I'm sure this has happened in every state of the country.

MRS. MILLER

I agree with you on that! Look what happens to kids who do the opposite of bad things. There are so many of them here who want to learn and I'm glad to have the opportunity to teach them.

MRS. THOMAS

Me too! Yesterday Joey, Melissa, Michael, and Rebecca were the only ones from my class who came here. Look at the number of students from my class now.

MRS. MILLER

I see! Well I'm going to go back to my section. I'll see you tomorrow Mrs. Thomas.

MRS. THOMAS

Goodbye Mrs. Miller!

The study program ended two hours later. Jennifer picked up Joey.

INT. FAMILY ROOM - NIGHT

JOEY

Hey everybody listen!

JEFF

What is it Joey!

JOEY

A lot of people stayed after school for the study program today. There were a lot of people from Mrs. Thomas' class and Mrs. Miller's class.

JOHN

That's good to hear Joey! You know what that means now!

JOEY

What!

JOHN

All the students who stayed after school are starting to realize the importance of getting an education.

JENNIFER

That's true Joey! I'm sure all of their parents are proud of them just like how we are proud of you.

JASON

That's good you're continuing to do that Joey.

(MORE)

JASON (cont'd)
If you keep up the good work you
will see how it will pay off in the
long run.

The phone rings. This time it was Melissa, Michael, and
Rebecca.

JEFF
I'll get it!

Jeff picks up the phone!

JEFF
King residence!

MICHAEL (V.O.)
Is Joey home?

JEFF
Yes he is! I'll get him for you!
Joey!

JOEY
Yes Jeff!

JEFF
Telephone!

INT. FOUR WAY SPLIT SCREEN - NIGHT

JOEY
Hello!

MICHAEL
Hey Joey it's Michael!

MELISSA
And Melissa!

REBECCA
And Rebecca!

JOEY
My god all three of you!

MICHAEL
That's right! We were talking about
the number of people who came to
the study program today.

JOEY
I was just telling my parents and
brothers about that too.
(MORE)

JOEY (cont'd)

Could all of you believe the number of people who came today?

REBECCA

I know! Yesterday it was just the four of us. It looked like the entire school came today.

MELISSA

There were people from Mrs. Miller's class along with some of the other people from our class who also came. It sounds like Mrs. Thomas got through to everybody today.

JOEY

It looks like Mrs. Miller got through to the people in her class too. The library was packed.

MICHAEL

You all can expect to see more people come as the school year goes on. I know I intend to go as much as I can. This is really helping me out because I didn't get off to a good start at the beginning of the year.

JOEY

Me neither, after what happened between Tommy and me.

MELISSA

Joey you seem to be dealing with that very well. All of us understood what you did because Tommy deserved it after what he did to me.

JOEY

Melissa if that was anybody else other than you, I would have stood up for them. Nobody deserves to be picked on by somebody like Tommy. He and Kevin both are right where they belong.

MELISSA

That's true! Since we're all on the phone here, are all of you ready for the test in Mrs. Thomas' class tomorrow?

REBECCA

Had I not gone to the study program this week I wouldn't be. The chapters we went over on beginning algebra were very hard. I didn't understand any of them.

JOEY

Me neither Rebecca! When I looked through the chapters after the first day being there they looked very hard to me too.

MICHAEL

I did that too Joey. I wouldn't be feeling confident about passing this test had I not gone either. I also think the other people in our class who came are starting to feel confident about passing this test now.

MELISSA

I know I'm ready for that test. It was also good the four of us studied together because it will pay off as long as we keep this up.

REBECCA

I agree with her you all. This is making me want to continue doing well as time moves on. I need to go ahead and get off here so I can get a good night sleep.

MICHAEL

She's right you all. We certainly don't want to be falling asleep in class while taking the test. I'll see all of you tomorrow.

JOEY

Goodbye everyone!

MELISSA

Goodbye!

REBECCA

Goodbye!

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

MRS. THOMAS

Class you have thirty minutes to complete this test. There is to be no talking and sharing answers. If I see anybody doing that I will take your test and you will be taken to the office. Good luck to all of you and I hope you do well.

Mrs. Thomas passed out the test. The class finished in twenty-five minutes.

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

JOEY

How do you all think you did?

REBECCA

I know I passed!

MICHAEL

I know I passed too!

MELISSA

Same thing here!

JOEY

Going to the study program this week has certainly paid off for me. I feel confident that I can make an A in Mrs. Thomas' class now. My mom and dad, and my brothers have been a big influence to me. I don't know where my life would end up if I didn't have people like them around.

MICHAEL

My brother has also been influencing me. If I didn't listen to him as well as my mom and dad I would probably be in the place where Tommy and Kevin are.

REBECCA

I'm an only child, but my mom and dad are all the people I need to influence me. I wouldn't know where to turn if I didn't have them.

(MORE)

REBECCA (cont'd)

They have been strict on me since I was born because they want me to get an education and do something good with my life.

MELISSA

Me too! I have to be the influence to my little sister Kelly. My mom and dad have also been influencing me and I know they expect me to set a good example for her because she's only 6 years old.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Everyone returned to class. Mrs. Thomas passed back the graded test.

MRS. THOMAS

Class I want to tell all of you how proud I am. All of you passed this test today with A's and B's. I'm also proud of the ones who came to the study program this week. This tells me all of you realize how important it is to get an education. I encourage all of you to keep coming to the program because we would not have gotten permission from Mr. Woods to have the program if we didn't think it would be beneficial to you. I want all of you to take these tests home and have one of your parents sign them and bring them back on Monday.

INT. FAMILY ROOM - DAY

Joey arrived home very excited.

JEFF

Joey! How did you do on your math test today?

JOEY

I got an A! The entire class also passed with A's and B's!

JASON

That's great Joey! Mom and dad are definitely going to be proud of you.

JOEY

I know! That's why I can't wait to tell them.

JASON

Do you see what happens when you work hard?

JOEY

Yep! I'm glad all of you were influencing me to do well in school. After seeing what happened to Tommy and Kevin that's what made me realize the importance of getting an education.

JEFF

Mom and dad will certainly be glad to hear that!

John and Jennifer walk in!

JOEY

Mom and dad have a seat! I have some good news to tell you.

JOHN

What is it Joey?

JOEY

I got an A on my math test today!

JENNIFER

My god Joey that is good! Come here young man because I want to give you a big hug.

Joey hugs Jennifer!

JOHN

Do you realize the importance of getting an education Joey?

JOEY (SITTING ON JENNIFER'S LAP)

Yes I do dad! I also understand why you spanked me that day for lying to you and mom. I shouldn't have done that!

JOHN

I'm glad to hear you say that son and I'm also proud of you for making a good grade on your test. How did the rest of the class do?

JOEY

Everybody passed with A's and B's!

JENNIFER

I know Mrs. Thomas is proud of all of you! Joey you have really showed us that you realize how important it is to get an education. You have certainly been hanging around the right kind of people in Melissa, Michael, and Rebecca.

JOHN

As a matter of fact Joey, we'd like to meet your friends and their families. I think this calls for a celebration for all four of you. Tomorrow I'll give them a call so we can invite them over for dinner.

ACT THREE

John called the parents of Joey's friends. SHAWN AND CAROL AUSTIN is Michael's parents. Shawn is 47 and Carol is 44. MATT AND STEPHANIE SHAW is Rebecca's parents. Matt is 43 and Stephanie is 42. Travis and Mary Irvin is Melissa's parents.

EXT. PATIO - DAY

SHAWN AUSTIN

Hi John and Jennifer! I'm Shawn Austin and this is my wife Carol and our older son Robert. We're Michael's parents.

MATT SHAW

I'm Matt Shaw and this is my wife Stephanie. We're Rebecca's parents.

TRAVIS

I'm Travis Irvin and this is my wife Mary and our youngest daughter Kelly. We're Melissa's parents.

JOHN

Hi Kelly!

TRAVIS

Say hi to Mr. and Mrs. King Kelly!

KELLY

Hi Mr. and Mrs. King!

JOHN

How old are you Kelly?

KELLY

Six!

JENNIFER

Nice to meet you Kelly! Do you know our son Joey?

KELLY

Yes!

JOHN

How do you know Joey?

KELLY

He came to our house to see my sister Melissa!

MARY

That's right Kelly! You got a good memory.

Everybody laughs!

CAROL AUSTIN

I'm glad you called us John because this is a pleasure to honor our kids on a good job they have done.

STEPHANIE SHAW

Yeah, because it made us realize that all of them understand why getting an education is important. I'm very proud of them.

JENNIFER

So am I! They have been staying after school for the study program the school has provided. When Joey asked us if he could attend, I had no problem with him doing that. It has certainly paid off now.

CAROL

Michael came to us about it too. We are certainly glad he's been going.

SHAWN

What do the four of you have to say for yourselves?

MICHAEL

Dad I'm glad you, mom, and Robert taught me the importance of getting an education. After seeing what happened to Tommy and Kevin the other day, I said to myself I didn't want to break your hearts like what they did to their parents.

ROBERT AUSTIN is 18 years old. He is Michael's older brother and is a senior in high school.

ROBERT AUSTIN

Michael I'm glad to hear you say that. I'm also glad to have you as my little brother. I also see you've been treating Rebecca right and the two of you like each other.

REBECCA

Thank you Robert! I do want to say your brother is very sweet and I'm glad to be going out with a guy like him. Whatever you taught him about treating ladies, he has definitely been treating me right.

CAROL

What grade did you make on the test Michael?

MICHAEL

I made an A mom!

MARY

What grade did you make Melissa?

MELISSA

I also made an A mom!

STEPHANIE

What was your grade Rebecca?

REBECCA

I made an A!

JOEY

I also made an A everyone!

MATT

Kids! I can't tell the four of you enough how proud all of us are. This is something that will always be remembered.

TRAVIS

Joey, I want to tell you I'm glad you are dating my daughter after you stood up for her against Tommy. John and Jennifer, you two have raised a good son and have certainly taught him well. He was very respectful to us that night he came over to see Melissa.

JENNIFER

Thank you so much Travis! We are also glad that your daughter is dating our son. She is welcome to come and visit him anytime.

MARY

Joey you have that same permission
from us.

JOEY

Thank you Mr. and Mrs. Irvin!

JEFF

Melissa!

MELISSA

Yes Jeff!

JEFF

Has my brother been treating you
like a lady?

MELISSA

He's been treating me very well and
he's very sweet and caring.
Whatever you and Jason taught him
he has learned it very well. That's
why I'm glad to have met a guy like
him.

JOHN

Well I think we all should give a
toast to four great kids who have
made us proud parents. Joey,
Melissa, Michael, and Rebecca, this
is a special day for the four of
you. Everyone! To our A students,
who we have taught very well, I
give this toast to all of them.

EVERYBODY

Amen!

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

During the day, tragedy struck the school!

JOEY

Melissa! Do you want to come to my
house this weekend?

MELISSA

I would love to Joey!

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

CHRIS
Are you two ready to do this?

KEVIN
Hell yeah Chris!

TOMMY
You damn right I'm ready for this
Chris. It's time to give Joey some
payback.

CHRIS
Let's do it!

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

Tommy, Kevin, and Chris came into the cafeteria and started shooting. They killed five students and wounded fifteen. One of the people who got wounded was Joey. Tommy shot him in his right shoulder.

MELISSA (YELLING)
Joey no! Oh my god somebody help!
Joey please don't die! Joey wake up!
Joey!

TOMMY (HOLDING A GUN)
Face it Melissa! He's not going to
survive! See you in hell Joey!
Consider this payback!

MELISSA
Fuck you Tommy!

EXT. PARKING LOT OF SCHOOL - DAY

Michael was able to escape. Melissa, Rebecca, and the other students and faculty were held hostage in the cafeteria.

MICHAEL
Officer I know how all of you can
get in!

POLICE OFFICER
What is your name?

MICHAEL
Michael Austin!

POLICE OFFICER
How many gunmen are there?

MICHAEL

Three!

POLICE OFFICER

Do you know their names?

MICHAEL

Tommy Wilson, Chris Lawson, and Kevin Lawson! They killed five people so far and have wounded at least fifteen. My girlfriend, two friends, and everybody else are being held hostage in the cafeteria.

POLICE OFFICER

What are your friends' names?

MICHAEL

Joey King, Melissa Irvin, and Rebecca Shaw! Joey was one of the people who got wounded. He was shot in his right shoulder.

POLICE OFFICER

Thanks for filling us in Michael!
We'll handle it from here!

Michael showed the police officers and SWAT team how to get into the school. They were forced to shoot Tommy and the Lawson brothers. Joey was quickly rushed to the hospital.

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

JOHN (CRYING)

Doctor is my son going to survive?

DOCTOR

Your son is going to be fine Mr. King. He is going to have to have surgery because the bullet did some serious damage to his shoulder. We're going to have to keep him here for a few weeks to go through our rehab program.

JOHN

Can we see him?

DOCTOR

Yes!

John, Jennifer, Jeff, and Jason go into Joey's room.

JENNIFER (CRYING)
Joey! Can you hear me? It's mommy!

JOEY (LYING IN THE HOSPITAL BED)
Yes mom!

JEFF (CRYING)
Oh Joey thank God you're alive!

JOHN
Joey I don't know what to say other
than I'm glad you're still with us.
I don't know what I would do if I
lost you.

JASON (CRYING)
You're one hell of a fighter to
pull through this Joey! We thought
we were going to lose you.

INT. FAMILY ROOM OF KING HOUSE - DAY

Weeks later Joey was released from the hospital. He had to
have a cast put on his shoulder. School had been canceled.

MELISSA (CRYING AND HUGGING JOEY)
Oh Joey I'm so glad you're all
right! I don't know what I'd do if
I would have lost you.

TRAVIS
We all prayed for you Joey and I'm
sure your classmates did too. We
are very glad you survived this.

JENNIFER
Everyone! Since we're all here
again this is something our kids
need to learn that becoming a part
of a gang will always get you in
serious trouble or even killed.

MARY
The one thing I'd like to know, is
how did the three of them manage to
escape from the detention center?

JOHN
That's a good question. I feel bad
for the parents whose kids were
killed that day. When teenagers get
a hold of guns like that, it
usually means bad news.

(MORE)

JOHN (cont'd)

My question now, is where did they get those guns from to do this?

SHAWN

That's another good question. I know Tommy's parents are very devastated to see their son do something tragic like this and then get himself killed in the process. The three of them obviously didn't care about getting an education. That is why he and the Lawson brothers were put away. Now all of them are dead.

MICHAEL

I hate to say something like this, but I always wanted something bad to happen to Tommy after all the bad things he did to us at school. I never would have thought he would go this far.

ROBERT

Some people learn lessons the hard way as they're growing up and some don't learn at all. From what all of you have been saying it sounds like Tommy, Kevin, and Chris didn't learn anything after getting put in the detention center. Some people don't even care about life which leads to them committing suicide or they do something to make the police kill them.

The doorbell rings. It's Mrs. Thomas and Mr. Woods.

JASON

I'll get it!

Jason opens the door!

INT. FRONT DOOR - DAY

MR. WOODS

Hi! I'm Todd Woods, Joey's principal!

MRS. THOMAS

And I'm Renee Thomas, his teacher!

JASON

You can come in!

INT. FAMILY ROOM -DAY

JASON

Mom and dad, Joey's teacher and principal are here!

MRS. THOMAS

Joey we came here to see how you're doing. We are very glad and thankful that you survived this.

JOEY

Thank you Mrs. Thomas!

MR. WOODS

Joey I hope you get well soon. Michael, I certainly want to congratulate you for being able to escape and tell the police how to get into the cafeteria and save everyone. You did a very brave thing and you should be rewarded for that. You all should be rewarded for your efforts you have been putting in Mrs. Thomas' class. She told me everyone passed the math test. To all the parents in here, my sympathy goes out to all of you for being worried about your kids like that. As a principal, it is my job to ensure the safety of all my students and teachers at my school. Something like this should never happen.

STEPHANIE

We all agree with you Mr. Woods. No parent should ever go through that kind of tragedy. This is something that could happen anywhere at any school. We still trust that your school will be safe once this is behind us. The one thing I encourage to students is, if they see anything suspicious they should always tell an adult immediately.

JENNIFER

She's right everyone because you could save a person's life by telling the truth in time before anything bad happens. All of us had a choice to either turn to a life of crime or do the right thing.

(MORE)

JENNIFER (cont'd)

We all chose to do what's right and we realized the importance of getting an education. I know had I not gone to college I never would have met John. My mother and father cracked down on me very hard when I was growing up. This is why parents should crack down very hard on their kids today.

MR. WOODS

That's exactly right. I sometimes learned things the hard way growing up. As I matured I realized some of the things I did was not right. I also realized it was stupid of me to go to that level. People like Tommy, Kevin, and Chris all decided to go down the wrong path and look what happened to them. That's terrible to see young teenagers throw their lives away like that.

MATT

I almost had to learn my lessons the hard way too. I sometimes would sneak out of the house to go hang with these guys my mother and father didn't want me around. The one thing that made me turn away from them was seeing them brutally harm an old lady and nearly killing her. They stabbed her five times and I couldn't stand there and watch that. That's why I turned them in to the police when I saw it on the news the following day.

MR. WOODS

To everybody here, I would like for you to attend the memorial service for the students who were killed in the shooting. Mr. and Mrs. King, I would like for both of you to speak to all the young kids who come on why education is very important.

JOHN

We'll be glad to speak Mr. Woods!

INT. CHURCH - DAY

Everybody arrived to the church for the memorial service. Tommy's parents also attended.

MR. WOODS (VERY EMOTIONAL)

Good morning everyone! My name is Todd Woods. I'm the principal of the school where the shooting took place a few weeks ago. I first want to say I am very sorry for the parents who lost your children in the shooting. I'm glad to see a lot of you here because I have asked some people to speak to the young kids about why it is important to get an education. Ladies and gentleman, you will now hear from Mr. and Mrs. John King.

JOHN

Good morning everyone! I also want to apologize to the parents who lost your children in the shooting. That is why Mr. Woods asked me to speak. To all the young kids who are here, I want all of you to hear a story that made me become the man I am today. When I was a teenager, a very good friend of mine was killed in a drive by shooting. When I heard about the shooting on the news the following day, I was very shocked to hear all the bad things about the guy who I considered to be my best friend. He was into dealing drugs and hanging around a gang. That is what got him killed. A parent should never go through something like that, and this is why I urge all the parents who have young children to please stress to your kids very strongly the importance of getting an education. I almost lost my son Joey in this terrible tragedy. I would hate to see any parent go through something like that. This is why I urge every parent who has young children to stay on them very hard. I thank all of you for your time, and my sympathy goes out to everyone whose children were killed in this terrible tragedy.

John and Jennifer walk down from the podium. Don and Jessica walk up.

DON

Before all of you go, I want to add to what John said. For those of you who don't know me, my name is Don Wilson and this is my wife Jessica. I first want to apologize for the terrible thing our son did. After hearing everything John said, it reminded me of something that happened to me when I was a teenager. When I was 13 years old, both of my parents were killed in a car accident. When I heard about what happened to them I felt like my life had shattered. My aunt and uncle raised me and it wasn't easy adjusting to life without my mother and father being around. My uncle had stressed out to me the importance of getting an education, but I decided not to listen. That is why he gave me a spanking I will never forget. Our sympathy goes out to all of you for the terrible thing our son did. I also urge parents to stress to their kids the importance of getting an education. We don't want any more of you to lose your kids the way we lost Tommy.

The memorial service ended. Everyone paid their respects to Don and Jessica and the parents whose kids were killed at the school.

INT. GYMNASIUM - DAY

The school opened back up. Mr. Woods had all the students meet in the gym.

MR. WOODS

Students I know this is a hard time for all of you after what happened. The reason I called everybody down here is to let you know this school will have metal detectors installed at all entrances. There will also be security guards searching through your book bags. There will be no more violence in this school.

(MORE)

MR. WOODS (cont'd)

We are here to ensure that you get an education and to ensure your safety. I also want to say, if you see anything bad happening, tell a teacher or one of the security guards immediately. Violence in schools is very dangerous and we are here to put an end to that. Don't make yourself feel like a tattletale because you could be saving somebody's life by doing the right thing.

This movie is dedicated to the people who were killed in the school shootings that have taken place in the country. As the writer of this movie, I also urge all parents to stress out to your kids the importance of getting an education. If you see somebody in your school carrying a gun, tell somebody immediately. If you hear someone talk about wanting to shoot somebody or shoot up a school, don't hesitate to tell someone because there is always a chance they are serious about that. Always tell the truth and remember, "Education is very important." Don't be stupid, stay in school.

FADE OUT.

THE END