

SETTING: *Various locations in the world belonging to seven-year old Lucy Lesprit including The Classroom at St. Catherine's Academy, The Pond on the playground, Lucy's House, The Auditorium and Santa's Throne at The Mall.*

AT RISE: *The Pond on the playground at St. Catherine's Academy. It is noon recess. The sound of a clanging school bell followed by children's excited voices.*

CHILDREN (O.S.)

Recess!

*(LUCY LESPRIT runs on wearing a sweater, scarf and hat over her Catholic school uniform. She approaches The Pond and tentatively tests its strength. She calls back over her shoulder.)*

LUCY

Joel! Mena! Gus! Hurry up!

*(JOEL, MENA, and GUS enter. They, too, are wearing sweaters, scarves and hats over their uniforms. JOEL blows into his hands then wraps his arms around himself.)*

JOEL

*(Shivering)*

Brrr! It's really cold out here!

MENA

Lucy! Get away from the pond before you fall in!

LUCY

I won't fall in, Mena – look!

*(LUCY slides out onto the pond.)*

The pond is frozen!

GUS

Let me see...

*(GUS runs down to the pond.)*

MENA

Gus, be careful!

*(He slides past LUCY.)*

GUS

Cowabunga! Lucy's right! It's frozen solid!

*(He jumps up and down to prove his point.)*

LUCY

The pond is frozen! Winter is officially here!

*(LUCY and GUS begin sliding around.)*

GUS

C'mon, Mena! C'mon, Joel! Check it out! It's totally radical!

*(MENA timidly puts a toe on the ice.)*

MENA

Are you sure it's safe?

JOEL

You guys, let's do indoor recess today. We shouldn't be out here! It's way too cold.

LUCY

It's supposed to be cold, Joel – it's winter! And do you know what winter means...?

JOEL

*(Ticking them off on his fingers)*  
Pneumonia, bronchitis, influenza...

LUCY

*Christmas!*

GUS

Cowabunga! I love Christmas!

*(He slides across the stage. LUCY takes Mena's hand and pulls her onto the ice.)*

LUCY

C'mon, Mena – hold onto me...

I'm gonna fall! I'm gonna fall!

MENA

*(Still ticking off diseases)*  
There's also whooping cough, pleurisy, Seasonal Affective Disorder...

JOEL

*(LUCY pulls MENA along then lets go. MENA slides on her own.)*

I did it! I did it!

MENA

Way to go, Mena!

LUCY

I'm sliding! I'm sliding on the ice!

MENA

*(She slides across the stage and almost loses her balance.)*

Whoa...

*(Still ticking off diseases)*  
Hypothermia, tuberculosis...

JOEL

Let's play Crack the Whip!

GUS

*(GUS grabs Lucy's hand, LUCY turns to MENA.)*

Cmon, Mena! Crack the Whip!

LUCY

*(She grabs Mena's hand.)*

Oh gosh. I don't think I'm ready for...

MENA

*(GUS starts "skating," pulling LUCY and MENA with him.)*

Whoaaaaa!

*(They skate around The Pond, yelling and whooping.)*

JOEL

*(Still ticking off diseases)*  
 And let's not forget frostbite! Last winter I lost my glove on the way home from school and my left hand almost...

*(He sticks his left hand out. MENA grabs it as they pass by and pulls him onto the ice. The other three drag him along.)*

Whoaaa! Wait a minute, you guys! I don't like this game! I could get hurt! I could fall down and break a hip!

GUS

Here we go! One, two, three...

GUS/LUCY/MENA

*Crack the Whip!*

*(GUS stops "skating" and flings the other three in front of him.)*

LUCY/MENA/JOEL

Whoooooaaaaa!

*(LUCY, MENA and JOEL go flying across the ice. JOEL ends up in a heap on the edge of The Pond. He gets up on his hands and his knees and notices something off.)*

JOEL

Oh no...

LUCY

Joel, are you all right?

JOEL

Oh no, oh no, oh no, oh no...

*(JOEL scoots backwards on the ice, desperate to avoid the approaching yet still unseen juggernaut.)*

MENA

What's the matter...?

*(She looks up and sees what JOEL sees.)*

Oh no!

*(She makes a hasty sign of the cross and ducks behind LUCY.  
LUCY looks up and gasps in horror.)*

LUCY

Gus, look who's coming over here!

*(She points off. GUS looks and gasps.)*

GUS

Whoa...

LUCY

The biggest bully to ever walk the playground!

*(ANNA-LORI enters, carrying two wooden hockey sticks.  
ANNA-LORI looks like a cross between the Norse god Thor and  
a pageant queen. She crosses to them.)*

GUS

It's Anna-Lori Pringle!

MENA

Anna-Lori Pringle!

JOEL

Anna-Lori Pringle!

LUCY/GUS/MENA/JOEL

*(To the audience)*

Anna-Lori Pringle!

ANNA-LORI

What are you punks doing on my pond?

JOEL

We were just, we were just...

*(ANNA-LORI hauls JOEL to his feet by the scruff of his neck.)*

ANNA-LORI

You were just *what*?

JOEL

Please don't hurt me.

GUS

Let him go, Anna-Lori.

ANNA-LORI

Who's gonna make me?

LUCY

Christmas is only two weeks away, Anna-Lori. Santa Claus is watching you like a hawk!

*(Beat. ANNA-LORI drops JOEL to the ground.)*

ANNA-LORI

All right. Now get outta here! This pond is for us big kids to play ice hockey.

GUS

You're not a *big* kid. You're in second grade, just like us!

ANNA-LORI

Yeah – but I got *these*!

*(She points to her two front teeth.)*

LUCY

Teeth? Big deal.

GUS

We *all* got teeth.

ANNA-LORI

Not like *these*.

*(She grimaces fiercely, making a big deal of displaying her new front teeth.)*

These are my *grown-up* teeth. You punks still got your *baby* teeth.

GUS

No I don't! I got my grown-up teeth, too – see?

*(GUS shows ANNA-LORI his teeth.)*

MENA

Me too!

*(MENA shows ANNA-LORI her teeth.)*

JOEL

Me, three!

*(JOEL shows ANNA-LORI his teeth. LUCY remains quiet.)*

ANNA-LORI

What about you, Lucy Lesprit?

*(LUCY hastily put a hand in front of her mouth.)*

That's what I thought. You still got your baby teeth. That means you're still a baby and no babies are allowed! Now get of my pond, Lesprit!

MENA

But she's with us!

ANNA-LORI

How *sweet*. Blind-as-a-Bat Benafield is taking up for her friend. You want her to stay, Mena, you're gonna have to fight for it.

*(She claps the two ice hockey sticks together over her head twice, reminiscent of an Icelandic warrior preparing for battle then hands one of them to MENA.)*

If you score first, Lucy stays. If I score first, Lucy goes.

MENA

But I'm not very good at ice hockey!

ANNA-LORI

That's your problem.

*(ANNA-LORI skates to the other end of the pond.)*

JOEL

Mena's gonna die, Mena's gonna die, Mena's gonna die...

GUS

*(Hushing him)*

Joel, dude – not cool.

LUCY

Mena, don't do this! I'm not worth it! We can go play on the Jungle Gym!

MENA

It's Christmas, Lucy – wintertime. The Jungle Gym is for springtime. In winter, you play ice hockey.

*(GUS crosses up center and assumes the role of sports commentator for the following game, giving the audience a complete play-by-play of the action. NOTE: the puck is mimed. GUS uses his hands to indicate the path of the puck in flight.)*

GUS

The skaters approach the center of the ice...

*(ANNA-LORI and MENA cross to center and face off. GUS holds up the "puck.")*

The puck is... down.

*(He drops the "puck." ANNA-LORI gains control of it and starts skating with it.)*

Pringle wins the face-off. She gains control of the puck. Pringle is on the attack. Benafield looks to defend. She checks Pringle off of the puck.

*(MENA shoulders ANNA-LORI away and swipes the puck with her stick.)*

The puck is loose. Benafield recovers the puck. She skates down the ice. Pringle attacks. Pringle trips Benafield...

*(ANNA-LORI hooks MENA with her stick. MENA falls to the ground.)*

Benafield is on the ice. Pringle controls the puck. She skates back...

*(ANNA-LORI gains control of the puck and skates away from MENA.)*

She looks to line up for a shot. Benafield is still down. The stick is up...

*(ANNALORI raises her stick to slap the puck. The action goes into slow-motion, though Gus' commentary remains in real time.)*



GUS (cont.)

The puck is in the air. It's flying toward the goal. It's heading straight for Benafield's face...

*(With his hands, GUS traces the pucks flight from the ice to Mena's face. As soon as it hits MENA, real time is resumed and she falls backwards onto the ground. Mena's friends crowd around her.)*

GUS

Mena?! Dude, are you all right?

JOEL

She probably has a concussion! Or a broken hip! I knew we should have stayed inside for recess!

*(GUS and LUCY sit MENA up. Her hands are in front of her face.)*

LUCY

Mena, take your hands away from your face so we can see where you're hurt.

MENA

I'm not hurt...

*(She pulls her hands away from her face. One-half of a pair of glasses rests in each hand.)*

But she broke my glasses!

*(JOEL, GUS and LUCY gasp in horror.)*

LUCY

Oh no!

JOEL

This is worse than a broken hip! Mena's *blind!*

*(MENA starts to cry.)*

GUS

Joel – you gotta chill out, man.

*(GUS and JOEL help MENA to her feet. LUCY whirls on ANNA-LORI, who's been watching the proceedings with an air of unconcern.)*

LUCY

This is all your fault, Anna-Lori! You better say you're sorry!

ANNA-LORI

I'm not sorry.

LUCY

You hit her with the puck! You broke her glasses right in two!

ANNA-LORI

She should have ducked.

*(We hear the school bell clang indicating the end of recess.  
SISTER SUSAN enters.)*

SISTER SUSAN

Come inside now, children! Recess is over.

LUCY

*(To ANNA-LORI)*

I'm telling Sister Susi what you did.

*(To SISTER SUSAN)*

Sister Susi! Sister Susi!

*(LUCY and the boys run over to her. The scene shifts to The  
Classroom. ANNA-LORI grabs Mena's arm.)*

ANNA-LORI

You tell Sister Susi this was my fault, Benafield, and your glasses won't be the only thing broken around here – get me?

*(MENA nods and ANNA-LORI releases her arm. They cross to  
The Classroom. Meanwhile, SISTER SUSAN tries to calm the  
frenetic LUCY, GUS and JOEL.)*

SISTER SUSAN

One at a time, children! One at a time. Lucy...?

LUCY

Anna-Lori broke Mena's glasses, Sister! Broke 'em right in two with the hockey puck! And she's not even sorry!