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To Shang-Ling Kuei

Till Emojis Do Us Part

COMEDY. Two tweens, Piper and Liam, rarely take breaks from texting each other long enough to eat, sleep, or hang out with their friends. Their entire relationship consists of texting emojis to each other because they are too shy to speak and instead just silently pass each other in the hallway. Piper's friends are beginning to suspect she may actually be a human phone cyborg, while Liam's friends are beginning to think that the only relationship he'll ever have is with his phone. Worried, Piper and Liam's friends concoct a scheme to force the two to meet face to face and finally speak to each other with *words*. Easy to stage with minimal set pieces and props.

Performance Time: Approximately 20-30 minutes.

Characters

(1 M, 1 F, 11 flexible, opt. extras)

LIBRARIAN: Overzealous school librarian; flexible.

MS./MR. MARLOWE: Overly enthusiastic English teacher; flexible.

PRINCIPAL PUTNAM: School principal who tries to be hip and cool but isn't; flexible.

PIPER: Shy student who has a crush on Liam but can only communicate with him via her cell phone; female.

LIAM: Shy student who has a crush on Piper but can only communicate with her via his cell phone; male.

JESSIE: Piper's friend; flexible.

CORY: Piper's friend; flexible.

KAMRYN: Piper's friend; flexible.

FINLEY: Piper's friend; flexible.

QUINN: Liam's friend; flexible.

LEE: Liam's friend; flexible.

PARKER: Liam's friend; flexible.

DAKOTA: Liam's friend; flexible.

EXTRAS (Opt.): As students.

setting

Middle school.

sets

School library: There are 2 tables with 10 chairs for students.

One table is SR and the other table is SL. There is a desk for the librarian CS.

Ms. Marlowe's classroom: There are 10 desks or tables with 10 chairs.

School hallway: Bare stage.

Props

Book
10 Dictionaries
Spelling bee word list
Backpacks
Notebooks and pencils
2 Smart phones, for Liam and Piper

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Sound Effect

School bell

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“I never thought
I would have a best friend
who is a human phone cyborg.”

-Jessie

Scene 1

(AT RISE: School library. Lee, Quinn, Dakota, Parker, and Liam are sitting at a table in the library. Lee, Quinn, Dakota, and Parker are studying while Liam is absorbed with his cell phone. Across the room at another table are Cory, Kamryn, Jessie, Finley, and Piper. Cory, Kamryn, Finley, and Jessie are studying while Piper is absorbed with her cell phone. The Librarian is seated CS between their tables, reading a book.)

LEE: Liam! It's your turn. Spell "concentrate."

LIAM: (Looking at cell phone.) Piper just sent me a smiley face with sunglasses. She's so funny.

PARKER: (Sarcastic.) Yeah. Hilarious. Now concentrate on spelling "concentrate."

LIAM: How can I concentrate on anything but Piper!

LIBRARIAN: (Shouts.) Shhh! Quiet, please!

FINLEY: Cory, spell "bliss."

CORY: (Spells.) B-L-I-S-S. "Bliss."

FINLEY: Perfect.

KAMRYN: Now me.

FINLEY: Kamryn, spell "separate."

KAMRYN: A sentence please?

JESSIE: Will we ever separate Piper from her phone?

KAMRYN: (Spells.) S-E-P-A-R-A-T-E. "Separate."

FINLEY: Excellent. Piper, it's your turn.

JESSIE: Here's a word for Piper: "phone." (Spells.) P-H-O-N-E.

LIBRARIAN: (Shouts.) Here is a word for all of you: "quiet." (Spells.) Q-U-I-E-T!

FINLEY: Piper, you won't be able to use your phone at the spelling bee.

PIPER: I don't want to bother telling you what Liam just texted me.

JESSIE: Great! Don't bother telling us.

PIPER: He sent me an emoji with heart eyes! So cute! He loves studying for the spelling bee, too.

CORY: You haven't done any actual studying for the spelling bee yet, Piper.

KAMRYN: *(To Piper.)* Come on, focus!

LIBRARIAN: *(Loudly.)* Shhhh!

(Quinn, Lee, Parker, and Dakota are still studying for the spelling bee. Liam is texting on his cell phone.)

LIAM: *(To Quinn.)* Piper just sent me angel halo face! She's such an angel!

QUINN: Liam, the spelling bee is in a week. There are more than one million words in the English language. How will we learn them all in time with you on your phone?

LEE: *(To Liam.)* Seriously!

PARKER: Step away from the phone, Liam. This is for your own good.

LIAM: I can't! Piper just sent me a scrunchy face. What should I send back? Maybe just an LOL? Or will she think I'm laughing at her, not with her. Maybe just a smiley face emoji. But that is so boring.

LIBRARIAN: *(Shouts.)* Quiet, please!

DAKOTA: *(To Liam.)* Maybe an excited smiley face emoji, you know, with the teeth?

[END OF FREEVIEW]