

# Cliché

10<sup>th</sup> Grade

08/09/01

## **Characters**

**Charlie:** Charlie is a student age 14-17 who is writing a play. While he is a good writer he is having a mental block, and can't write anything for his YPF play.

**Spencer:** He is Charlie's friend who usually comes over after school. Seeing Charles disgruntled he tries to help him.

**Actor:** He plays out the part of the meek man in Charlie and Spencer's story. He should be meek in stature.

**Actress:** She plays out the part of the love interest in Charlie and Spencer's story. She is pretty and has blonde hair (can be changed if needed).

**Bad Boy:** He plays the part of the villain in Charlie and Spencer's story. He should look rebellious).

(The stage is dark until a light slowly fades up. In the middle of the set we see a table with a student (CHARLIE) hard at work with a pile of scrap paper and a computer. He seems obviously disgruntled and constantly crumples pieces of scrap paper)

(After a while SPENCER (CHARLIE'S friend) walks on stage to greet his friend)

Spencer: (Sarcastic) Hey, Thanks for letting me in.

Charlie: (Concerned) How did you get in?

Spencer: Does your mom seriously think that rock in the grass looks normal? I mean come on hide your key better.

Spencer: (Now observing CHARLIE'S work) What are you doing Charlie?

Charlie: I'm trying to write this play for a Young Playwrights Festival but I can't think of anything.

Spencer: I got a great idea...

(CHARLIE leans in curious and anxious)

Spencer: Don't write a play!

Charlie: Oh, shut up Spencer!

Spencer: I'm just kidding, what do you have so far?

Charlie: Well how about this. There's this closet but when you walk inside it's a magical world full of talking lions, witches, and trees so thick you could carve a wardrobe out of them.

(Actors are seen on stage looking in wonderment)

Spencer: (Coughs out of sarcasm) Lion, Witch and the Wardrobe!

(The actors run off)

Charlie: What?

Spencer: Nothing, what's your next idea.

Charlie: Well there's these two lovers and they can't be together, but like they really wanna be together so they start secretly seeing each other. Here's the kicker, ITS IN SPACE.

(The Actor and Actress are about to embrace until space is heard and the enact being in space.)

Spencer: That's literally a rip off of Romeo and Juliet. You're a worse plagiarizer than the writers of West Side Story.

Charlie: Great, now I have nothing to submit.

Spencer: Just follow the clichés man.

Charlie: What?

Spencer: Yeah, every story has them and that's what makes them so great.

Charlie: There's a reason it's called a cliché.

Spencer: Here watch.

(He grabs a piece of scrap paper from the table and starts writing.)

Charlie: Ok, first the main character has big muscles.

(An actor walks on stage with padding for muscles)

Charlie: Where are we gonna find an actor with big muscles in Prescott, Arizona let alone any community theater?

Spencer: (Realizing his error) You're right. (He begins to scribble out the idea.)

(The actor walks off and removes his padding)

Spencer: There's a meek man who finds a blonde haired woman he likes.

Charlie: Pretty?

Spencer: Drop dead gorgeous.

(An actress walks on doing a strut)

Spencer: She's in love with another guy.

(She is followed by what appears to be a bad boy)

Charlie: I like where this is going. What happens next?

Spencer: Well Um...

(Charlie and Spencer are thinking while the actors become impatient on stage displaying several foot taps and throat scruffs and other impatient habits.)

Spencer: So, to win her love he enters a competition.

(The meek ACTOR pulls a poster out of his pocket)

Charlie: What kinda competition?

Spencer: (sarcastic) An underwater basket weaving competition. What do you think, a fighting competition like wrestling or Scandavian Boxing, Maybe Alpaca Kick boxing or... (surprised at his newfound idea and excited) fencing! ( he pauses to gather his ideas and write them down)

Spencer: The other guys really good but the meek guy finds a trainer.

Charlie: This is getting dangerously close to the Karate Kid.

Spencer: You're right um... he learns how to fence from the girl!

(The actress walks towards the actor)

Charlie: Hey, That's Pretty Good!

Spencer: Now this is the part with the cool training montage!

(Survivor's Eye of the Tiger or the Rocky training song begins to play as SPENCER writes dramatically on his piece of paper as if fighting. While he is "fighting", the actor and the actress are doing some cool exercise training moves.)

Charlie: (Coming to a realization) And while they're training they fall in love!

(The actor and actress get close to each other and a spotlight shines on them while the stage darkens.)

Spencer: Now you're getting the hang of it. (sounding like Obi-Wan Kenobi (The Force Theme Plays)) Use, the Cliché Charles.

Charlie: And while they're training a romantic song comes on.

(The song Take My Breath Away comes on. Meanwhile the actor and actress begin to slow dance)

(The spotlight suddenly goes off after they dance.)

Charlie: Then the meek guy walks off-stage left.

(He begins to walk off stage when...)

Charlie: No stage right.

(The actor turns to stage right.)

Charlie: You know what, left sounds good.

(The ACTOR gets farther this time when...)

Charlie: You know what maybe he could just walk into the audience and...

Spencer: Just let the poor guy go.

(The ACTOR runs off-stage as fast as he can.)

Charlie: Well now that we've got that settled, we're almost done.

Spencer: Dude, you're forgetting the risk factor.

Charlie: Right! Sorry.

Spencer: How about the bad boy finds out and him and his finger snapping gang plan revenge.

(The bad boy breaks them up)

(CHARLIE and SPENCER begin to snap in a West Side Story fashion)

Charlie: Wait, what about the part where the love interest screws up and makes the girl angry.

Spencer: I hate that part!

Charlie: You have to have it!

Spencer: Fine, he gets scared for his and her wellbeing and then runs off and tells her not to see him anymore and that she'll be better off without him.

Charlie: What is this Lassie. (In a dramatic southern boys voice) Go Lassie Go... I don't want you here anymore.

(Spencer punches Charlie in the shoulder.)

(The actor talks to the actress and walks off-stage while she is visibly upset)

Charlie: I've got the perfect music.

(CHARLIE goes to the computer and plays Total Eclipse of the Heart)

Spencer: What's with all the 80s music.

Charlie: Dude the 80s was like the Era of Clichés. Haven't you seen your dad he's a walking cliché.

Spencer: Hey he uses the Fanny pack to carry all his essentials.

Charlie: Whatever, Steve Urkel's son.

(The ACTOR walks back on stage accompanied by the BAD BOY inspirational ,but cheesy music begins to play.)

Charlie: It's the big day and...

Spencer: The hero can't back down.

(The ACTOR and BAD BOY fake fence)



Charlie: He's losing the fight when he sees the girl and gains the courage needed to win.

(The ACTRESS walks on)

Spencer: AND HE STILL LOSES!

(The ACTOR falls to the ground)

(The music stops with a record scratch)

Charlie: (Surprised and Angry) WHAT!

Spencer: Yeah, the guy beats him up, walks off with the girl, and everything goes back to the way it was before.

(Wont Get Fooled Again, Specifically the YEAHHHH part plays as the BAD BOY puts on his black shades.)

Bad Boy: Hasta La Vista Baby

Spencer: (Shouting) ONE LINER!

(The BAD BOY takes the ACTRESS in his arms and walks off and they are both happy.)

Charlie: You can't end the story like that!

Spencer: Watch me!

(They now get in a fight over ownership of the pen and paper. CHARLIE eventually wins)

Spencer: Fine do it how you want!

( A rewind sound is heard and the ACTOR and BAD BOY return to stage left in their fighting positions. Eventually the BAD BOY loses)

Charlie: He wins the fight and the Bad Boy is totally embarrassed and the girl runs out on the court as the main theme plays again but softer.

(The ACTRESS runs to the ACTOR and he holds her and spins her in the air romantically)

(A soft version of the Top Gun theme plays)

Spencer: This isn't TOP GUN!

Charlie: Fine! They share a kiss and the movie ends right there.

(The ACTOR and ACTRESS inch in for a kiss but stop and stare at CHARLIE when CHARLIE says movie)

Spencer: Movie?

Charlie: Ya, the movie for the Young Play (He begins to see his stupidity) Wrights... Festi...

(The ACTOR and ACTRESS walk off-stage irritated.)

Charlie: I messed up didn't I. Now I'll never win.

Spencer: Dude, just write whatever comes natural to you.

Charlie: Nothing's coming to me.

Spencer: Well, then write about that.

Charlie: (Interested but surprised) What?

Spencer: Write a play about how you can't think about anything.

Charlie: That's not a bad idea.

Spencer: Yeah it could be about you struggling to find good ideas.

(CHARLIE begins to scribble on a scrap piece of paper.)

Charlie: I like it.

Spencer: I mean it's a great idea. I'm sure nobody's ever had that idea before.

(They look out to the audience breaking the forth wall)

Charlie: Yeah, I mean who else would have an idea like that.

(The lights then fade to black)

THE END

(The lights fade back up to Spencer on-stage)

Spencer: Ah sweet, I get to do the post credits line.

(He coughs clearing his throat.)

Spencer: What are you still doing here the shows over go home

Charlie: (peering from off-stage) Would you get of the stage! The people are staying for more shows.

Spencer: (Stuttering) Bu... Butt... But I want to talk to the audience.

Charlie: We've already broken the fourth wall too much!

Spencer: (Mopey) Alright. Let's go.

(They have a friendly tussle on the way off-stage)

THE REAL END

