

Banana Peel

I was the new kid in the fourth grade. I had no idea what to do. But that day, I woke up and went to school anyway^s. As soon as I walked in through the door to my new classroom, I knew I was going to have a hard year. The teacher was old and old people are cranky. She had those scary spectacles and that hooked nose. I thought she was probably a witch in disguise.

There was also a big group of jocks at the back of the class. They were laughing, throwing stuff and flirting with a trio of pretty girls. Then there were the awkward kids who weren't popular but still had their little groups of friends. There were also a couple of "nerds" just sitting by themselves. Nobody paid attention to them. I didn't want to intrude in any of the other groups so I went and joined the "nerd" "group."

"Alright class lets begin with socializing," announced the teacher and she looked at us expectantly. "Well come on, don't be shy, get talking!" she said and everybody in my "group" immediately scrambled to find someone.

The jocks and the girls just started talking among themselves.

"Hey, I'm Joey" I said to one of the kids standing next to me.

He just stared at me.

"Ok then..." I turned around to find somebody else when something wet and slimy hit me in the ear.

I whirled around to see the group of jocks laughing in the back. I glared at them as I reached up and picked the spitball off of my ear.

"Nice one Bradley!" said one of the other guys as they high fived.

I looked over to the teacher to see that she wasn't paying attention at all. I thought about telling the teacher but I didn't want to be known as the tattletale. This was not a good start to the day.

Later that day at lunch I sat at a table all by myself. All the cool kids were crammed at one table throwing food and

laughing. I sighed and looked into my lunchbox. Today my mom had packed me a peanut butter and jelly sandwich with a juice box and a banana. I went for the banana. I loved bananas. After I ate the banana I finished off the rest of my lunch and sat there, not knowing what to do. I guess I should take longer to eat from now on, I thought.

I heard a loud burst of laughter from the cool kids' table and glanced over to see a couple people look away from me. Why were they looking at me? I got the feeling that they were talking about me. I turned back to my empty table and scrunched down in my seat wishing that I was in my bed at home.

That was my first day of school so even if I could just walk back home, my mom came and picked me up.

"How was school Joey? Was it fun? Was it exciting? Tell me everything!!!" My mom was definitely way more excited than I was.

"It was fine mom," I said and I slumped against my seat and stared out the window.

"That's wonderful!" my mom cried.

She really didn't know how to read the tone of my voice. She also didn't seem to know what "fine," meant. Oh well. That's good with me. I felt bad not telling her everything but I just wasn't in the mood. Maybe I would tell her later. She seemed to be in a really good mood and I didn't want to ruin it. It was probably because of her new job. That's the reason I had to switch schools. At least she's happy though.

The next morning at school wasn't much better. I walked into the classroom thinking that I was free to do anything I wanted because the teacher wasn't in the room yet. But that's not what the other kids thought.

"Hey twerp, I saw you eating that banana yesterday!" Called one of the kids. I think that was Bradley.

"What's wrong with eating a banana?" I asked innocently and the smile disappeared off of his face.

I guess he's not the brightest bulb in the box, if you know what I mean. But before he could say anything the teacher walked

in and dropped her bag onto the table. Thump! The whole class jumped.

"Today we will be..." A late kid tiptoed into class trying not to get noticed but of course it didn't work.

"Tommy!" Yelled the teacher.

"Yes?" Stuttered Tommy as he froze in his tracks.

"Go to the office right now!" said the teacher and Tommy, looking like he was about to cry started to walk out of the room when he started to leak. In his pants. My mouth fell open. First, he gets sent to the office and now he's peeing his pants! I felt really bad for him. Everybody stared as he burst into tears and ran out of the room. I couldn't stop thinking about it for the rest of the morning.

At lunch, I sat at the table by myself again. But it was okay because I didn't mind. I opened my lunchbox and this time there was a bagel with cream cheese, a cookie and a carton of milk. And of course, there was a banana. This time I saved the banana for last. It was delicious. I was about to get up to throw the peel away but I thought that I could just toss it in the garbage can because it wasn't that far away.

Well of course, I failed. The trashcan was a lot farther away than I thought it was. It plopped to the ground. It was like a trap. If someone stepped on it they were destined to fall. I looked around to see if anybody had seen. The whole popular group had. I turned red and ran away. Without picking up the banana peel.

After school ended, I was just leaving the parking lot to walk home when I saw an ambulance. It came closer and closer and I thought it was just going to keep going but it didn't. It turned in the parking lot. Of my school. I stood and stared as it pulled to a stop and out came four people carrying a stretcher. They ran into the school and a minute later they ran back out with someone on the stretcher. I couldn't tell who it was because they were too far away but I still stood and watched the ambulance pull out of the school parking lot and rush away, sirens wailing.

The next day at school, a lot of people were talking about the ambulance but none of the teachers were willing to talk. When I walked into class that morning, we had a substitute teacher. This was a miracle. As soon as the sub told us to sit down we were all dead silent. ~~Our teacher had never had a sub before and even if nobody liked her we still wanted to know what had happened to her~~ Everyone was thinking about the ambulance in the parking lot yesterday.

"I'm sure you are all wondering what happened yesterday with the ambulance. And I'm sure you are all wondering where your normal teacher is." Said the sub. He slowly turned his head to look at everybody in the room.

"Well the fact is, Mrs. Frankenberg.." the whole class erupted into giggles. The substitute teacher smiled a little bit but he cleared his voice and kept going.

"Well, your old teacher slipped and fell yesterday in the cafeteria." My mouth dropped open. "And she has decided to retire after her broken hip recovers." The whole class was dead silent.

I glanced around the room to see the popular kids grinning at me. It was a little disconcerting but I just looked back up to the teacher.

"Who's gonna be the new teacher?" Called the kid who was grinning at me.

"Well...me." Said the substitute teacher. The class stared. He stared back. The class smiled. He smiled. It was official. He was our new teacher.

"So any more questions?" Asked our teacher. One of the "nerds" raised his hand.

"Yes?" said the teacher pointing at him.

"Well...I was just wondering...umm...what did she slip on?" He asked timidly. The teacher grimaced.

"That's the problem." He said and from under his desk he took out a squashed banana peel.

All of the color drained from my face as I tried to disappear.

"Anybody got anything to say?" He asked the class.

Nobody said anything.

"Well that's that." He said and he tossed the banana peel into the trashcan. ~~"Well, that's that." Said the teacher and he stood up and tossed the banana peel into the trashcan.~~

His aim was perfect.

Later that day at lunch, I sat down at my own table again. But today, before I could open my lunch, the whole popular group got up and raced over to my table and started cheering and patting my back.

"You may be weird and small but you saved us from that evil witch!" Said Bradley into my ear and he smiled. I smiled back.

"Now who wants some banana?" I said and they all erupted into laughter.

I reached into my lunchbox and pulled the banana out. I looked up to see a girl I had never seen before smile and wave at me from the other side of the cafeteria. I waved back.

"So Joey how was school today? I heard your teacher is retiring!" Said my mom as soon as I walked in through the door.

I thought of the banana peel thing, the popular kids being nice to me, and that pretty girl who smiled and waved at me from across the cafeteria.

"Today was great."

The End.