

A Day in the Life of Billy Fibber



TEACHERS'
PACK



CONTENTS

Note for teachers	3
Activity 1: What's the play about?	4
Activity 2: The main characters	7
Activity 3: Billy's daydreams	11

NOTES FOR TEACHERS

Billy Fibber is a day in the central character's life. It's a typical day where Billy clashes with his overworked parents, where he has his daily confrontation with his bully, Stevie O, who takes his homework. This gets him in trouble at school and he has to do it again. And the girl he likes, Beth, he now hears that Stevie O is interested in. A typically bad day.

The thing is Billy is a natural optimist, he always bounces back. He frequently drifts off into his fantasy land where all his problems disappear and he can be the person he dreams of being. But the thing is, his day dreaming creates more problems for him than any solutions. Billy is becoming aware he has to face up to his problems in his real life and not just in his imagination. Will today be that day?

The play is a comedy, there's audience participation (which we can do in various ways, depending on all health and safety measures) with an optimistic human ending.

We hope you and your students enjoy the performance.

The essential things to prepare the students for our performances is to make them aware of what the play is about, and who are the central characters. We do recommend you go through these activities if you have the time,

Anything else in this pack is a bonus. We've added a few activities that connect thematically to the performance and do get your students thinking about the themes. However, it is not indispensable that you do them.

The actors are well trained to adapt their performance to the specific audience they have in front of them.

ACTIVITY 1: WHAT'S THE PLAY ABOUT?

PREPARATION FOR THE ACTIVITY:

Students have the brief essential breakdown of the essential plot in Billy Fibber.

Let them listen to the tape first and ask what they understood. See how much you can get from the class.

Then ask the students, either individually or, preferably, in pairs to join the broken sentences, and put the sentences in the right order.

If you think they are up to the challenge you can ask them in pairs to try to put the sentences together by reading them to each other,

Use the tape as many times as you wish and to check at the end.

This will give them a solid background to the story of the play before watching.

ANSWERS (TAPESCRIPT):

Billy is a normal 16-year-old schoolboy who is always in some kind of trouble.

Billy Fibber is about a typical day in Billy's life.

Billy is okay at school, he's not great but he isn't terrible either

The thing is he is always having problems with his teachers.

It isn't his fault really.

What can he do if Stevie O, another bigger, older boy is always stealing his homework?

There is a girl in school, Beth, who Billy likes but Beth doesn't seem to notice him at all.

And he thinks Stevie O likes her too.

Billy's life at home isn't great either.

His parents are always so busy and always telling him what to do, what not to do.

Billy has one big escape in his life – he daydreams, almost all the time: walking in the street, at school everywhere.

In his dreams Billy becomes anything and anyone he wants to be.

In his dreams Billy can get anything he wants. Or can he?

They certainly don't work with Beth, with his parents, with his teachers, with Stevie O bullying him.

Billy is beginning to think he has to do something in his real life.

That is scary, can he?

**LISTEN TO THE TAPE AND JOIN THE TWO HALVES OF EACH SENTENCE.
THEN PUT THE SENTENCES IN THE RIGHT ORDER ACCORDING TO THE TAPE.**

There is a girl in school, Beth, who Billy likes ...

In his dreams Billy becomes ...

Billy Fibber is about ...

What can he do if Stevie O, ...

In his dreams ...

The thing is ...

Billy is okay at school, he's not great ...

They certainly don't work with Beth, with his parents, with his teachers, ...

Billy's life at home ...

Billy, is a normal 16-year-old schoolboy who is always ...

His parents are always so busy and always ...

Billy is beginning to think he ...

It isn't his fault ...

That is ...

And he thinks Stevie O ...

Billy has one big escape in his life – he daydreams, ...

... another bigger, older boy is always stealing his homework?

... anything and anyone he wants to be.

... telling him what to do, what not to do.

... isn't great either.

... almost all the time: walking in the street, at school everywhere.

... really.

... but Beth doesn't seem to notice him at all.

... with Stevie O bullying him.

... but he isn't terrible either

... likes her too.

... he is always having problems with his teachers.

... Or can he?

... has to do something in his real life.

... Billy can get anything he wants.

... in some kind of trouble.

... scary, can he?

... a typical day in Billy's life.

ACTIVITY 2: THE MAIN CHARACTERS.

PREPARATION FOR THE ACTIVITY:

Below are three character profiles of the three central characters in the play: Billy, Beth and Stevie O.

Give each student one of the three profiles.

Hand them out so they are equally divided around the class.

Put all the students with Beth together, and all those who have Billy together and those with Stevie together so they can help each other prepare the task.

They have to find out everything about the two characters they do not have and give the information to the other students asking about the character they do have.

So:

First, they check with each other and with you that they all understand what they have written in their profile, and what they have to do..

Give them some time to prepare the questions they will need to ask.
Go round and help them as you think best.

Then put them into groups of three - each with a different profile - and let them ask the questions and make notes.

Class feedback on what they have heard.

I.e. if you are asking for feedback on Billy, all the students who had the Billy profile keep quiet. And so on with the other two.

GROUP A

Beth Christie

Beth is 16 years old and lives (and goes to school) in north London. She's very intelligent and quite shy, with light brown hair and dark eyes. She's attractive, although she thinks she's got a big nose, huge mouth and horrible ears.

Her hobbies are dancing and playing football and her favourite singer is Beyonce.

Generally speaking, Beth is quite happy and she has got a lot of friends.

However, at the moment she has got a problem. The problem is boys.

Actually, the problem is two boys.

First there is Stevie O - the coolest boy in school. She thinks that he likes her.

When she told her friends, they all laughed at her and said he was too cool for her and wouldn't look twice at her.

Then there is a boy in her class, Billy Fibber.

He's not as cool as Dennis.

Billy's quieter and shyer, and a little bit odd as he is always talking to himself.

But Beth likes him though she can't tell her friends.

They will definitely laugh at her because Billy is no girl's dream. But she can't stop thinking about him.

FIND OUT EVERYTHING YOU CAN ABOUT:

The school

Dennis

Billy

GROUP B

Stevie Osborne

Stevie Osborne is 17 years old and he's cool and popular. He likes to be called Stevie O as he thinks it's a good image.

Stevie goes to school every day but he doesn't study very much at all.

He only really goes to school to flirt and chat up the girls.

He spends a lot of time looking at himself in the mirror and doesn't have time for any other hobbies.

Stevie thinks he is really cool and never shows anybody else what he feels.

As a result, he hasn't got many friends.

He's got plenty of admirers, boys who want to be like him, girls who want to be with him, but nobody special, nobody real.

Just recently, he's noticed somebody looking at him in a strange way.

He doesn't know her name. She's attractive and she looks interesting.

And also, Stevie has noticed that that stupid little boy Billy Fibber is also looking at the same girl. Now that will be interesting because Stevie hates Billy.

FIND OUT EVERYTHING YOU CAN ABOUT:

The school

Beth

Billy

GROUP C

Billy Fibber

Billy is a sixteen year old schoolboy with problems.

His biggest problem at school is this boy Stevie.

Stevie is older and bigger than Billy and is always bullying him.

He takes Billy's money, he makes Billy do all his homework and makes his life horrible.

Billy is always having to stay behind to do his homework again – the homework that Stevie stole from him.

Nobody knows about this bullying.

Not the teachers, or the other students.

They just think Stevie is cool. A bit stupid yes, but cool.

And the worst thing is that Billy has noticed that the girl he likes, Beth, has started smiling at Stevie.

How can Beth be so stupid? Can she not see how horrible Stevie is?

Billy just wants to be different.

If he was different then Beth would like him and Stevie would be afraid of him!

FIND OUT EVERYTHING YOU CAN ABOUT:

The school

Dennis

Beth

ACTIVITY 3: BILLY'S DAYDREAMS

The following activities are all optional extras and are asking the students their opinions so there are no right answers.

a) I'd like to be a bit more ...

Billy wants to be different to how he is.

What about you?

How would you like to be different?

What would you like to change about yourself?

Which of the following sentences do you agree with?

Which are the most important? Choose five.

Add three more sentences if you can.

I'd like to be less shy with other people.

I'd like to be less shy with the opposite sex.

I'd like to be more confident in myself.

I'd like to be able to work better.

I'd like to be able to concentrate more.

I'd like to get better marks at school.

I'd like to take more risks.

I'd like to be more ambitious.

I'd like to be more dominant with other people.

I'd like to be able to listen to other people better.

I'd like to be kinder.

I'd like to

I'd like to

I'd like to

b) I want to be different so that ...

In the play Billy wants to be different so that Beth will want to go out with him. He thinks he has to be different so she will like him. What about you? Do you think you have to be different to get a boy or girl to like you?

Below is a list of human qualities. Which do you think are the most important to the opposite sex? Put them in order. You can add any other qualities you think are important.

Wears fashionable clothes
Is funny
My friends like her/him
Is attractive physically
Can show me new things e.g., hobbies, sports
Likes the same things as me e.g., music, sports
Has money
Is kind
Likes my friends
Is good at school and can help me with my homework
My parents like her/him
Is intelligent
Is a good dancer
Is popular at school
Has got nice hair/eyes
Is good at sports

c) Oh, I really wish that ...

**Billy's dreams are just wishes. Things he wishes could happen.
What about you?**

Make

one wish about school.

one wish about yourself

one wish about your family

one wish about the person sitting next to you

one wish about your teacher

one wish for this evening

one wish for the weekend

one wish about anything you like



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