

First Day

written by

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FADE IN:

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALL - DAY

The bell rings on the first day of the new school year. Students rush through the halls during passing time.

The camera focuses in on THEODORE, an incoming senior this year. As he confidently walks through the hall with his rule-follower friend LIAM, they pause in front of the elevator. A sign on the elevator reads "MUST HAVE PERMISSION FOR ELEVATOR USE" in bold red letters.

THEODORE

Hey, Liam, we're big shot seniors now. Wanna ride the elevator to history class?

LIAM

Nah, I'm not trying to get in trouble on the first day.

Liam points to the sign on the elevator door.

LIAM

Read the sign. Your on your own for this one.

THEODORE

Don't be such a pussy cat. Come on, seniors never get in trouble.

LIAM

I don't know, Theo. Teachers have been extra strict this year. I'm just gonna go to class.

THEODORE

See ya, loser.

Theo hops in the elevator by himself as Liam heads over to the staircase. Theo presses the button, titled Floor 3. We see the elevator doors dramatically close behind Theo.

INT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HALL - DAY

Theo steps out of the elevator, looking around with a perplexed expression. The elevator doors close behind him.

THEODORE

(mutters to himself)

Wait a minute, this isn't the
history floor. Where the hell am
I?

Kindergarteners walk by in organized lines behind their
teachers.

One teacher, MS. GREEN, approaches Theo as her class follows
behind.

MS. GREEN

Oh honey, are you lost? I know
Kindergarten is brand new for
you, but you're supposed to stay
in line. Here, you can hold my
hand while we walk back to the
classroom. You can be our first
day line leader!

Theo looks up at Ms. Green with an expression of confusion.

THEODORE

Huh? Kindergarten?

MS. GREEN

Don't be scared, I know it's your
first day of big boy school.
We're all in this together! I'm
Ms. Green, what's your name?

THEODORE

Theo. You--you don't understand.
I'm not supposed to be here, I'm
a senior in high school!

MS. GREEN

(laughing
hysterically)

Hahaha! You're a funny little
guy! You still have 12 more years
to go!

Ms. Green leads her students back to class, dismissing Theo's
absurd comment. As Ms. Green drags Theo by the hand, a smile
creeps across Theo's face.

THEODORE

(nodding his head, to
himself)

Kindergarten...

INT. ELEMENTARY CLASSROOM - DAY

On his way into the classroom, Theo catches a glimpse of himself in a mirror titled "BE YOU" on the wall. Seeing the reflection of his younger kindergarten self, he gasps.

MS. GREEN

OK, class, circle up on the rug
criss-cross applesauce!

Ms. Green begins teaching a lesson on following the rules for her first day lecture. We see Theo encircled by tiny kindergarteners on the rug, some of whom are dazing off or picking their noses.

MS. GREEN (CONT'D)

Rules are here to follow and for
your safety. As a reward for
following the rules, I will hand
out star stickers when I see the
rules in use.

Ms. Green points to a list of rules written on the board and starts reading them intently.

MS. GREEN (CONT'D)

Rule number one: be polite.
Always say please and thank you.

THEODORE

(whispers to himself)
Forget about history class. I
forgot how easy kindergarten was.

MS. GREEN

Rule number two: keep your hands
and feet to yourself.

Theo reclines on the rug with his hands behind his head. In the process, he knocks a student over. This student seems unphased and continues to pick his nose.

THEODORE

(whispers to himself)
I could get used to this! No
work, no problems.

MS. GREEN

Rule number three: use kind words. Alright, that's a wrap on the rules for today. Now for the fun part: playtime! OK kids, go ahead and pick a station for playtime. We have playdough, foam blocks, and coloring. But remember, follow the rules!

THEODORE

Let's goooo! Playtime!

Theo dabs a random kindergartener up with a handshake.

As the kindergarteners rush up to go to a station, Theo gets caught in a herd heading to the playdough station.

A RANDOM KINDERGARTENER begins taking the playdough out of the containers.

RANDOM KINDERGARTENER

(shoving a piece into
his mouth)

I love playdough! Try a bite!

THEODORE

(shoving the kid's
hand away)

Dude, that's nasty. Never do that again.

RANDOM KINDERGARTENER

(on the verge of
tears)

That wasn't very nice.

Ms. Green circles over after hearing the whines of the random kindergartener.

MS. GREEN

Hey, Theo. Do you remember rule number one? Always be polite. Now, let's try that again. What do we say to be polite?

THEODORE

(sighing)

Yeah, yeah, my bad. Dude, that's nasty. PLEASE never do that again. Thank you.

MS. GREEN

(clapping)

Good progress, Theo! You earn a star sticker for that! Alright class, time to rotate stations!

Theo makes his way over to the foam block station.

THEODORE

Man, I love kindergarten! I don't know what was wrong with that elevator, but I hope I stay here forever!

A group of kindergarteners begins to construct a tower of foam blocks. As the tower gets higher, Theo eyes the structure with a mischievous expression.

All of a sudden, Theo makes a running start at the structure and kicks the blocks with his foot. The blocks fly everywhere, hitting some kids in the face. Kids begin to cry.

THEODORE (CONT'D)

Dudeeee, that was insane! Who's next?

MS. GREEN

(shocked)

Theo! How could you have already forgotten rule number two? Keep your hands and feet to yourself. Now, since it's only the first day, I'll give you a pass. If you can rebuild that tower with your groupmates and learn to play nicely, you'll earn a sticker.

THEODORE

Shoot, that's my bad. Sorry Ms. Green, totally forgot about rule number two. Come on dudes, let's build an epic tower.

The group begins to reconstruct the tower, and with Theo's help, they create an impressive structure.

THEODORE (CONT'D)

Damnnn, that's sick. Good work boys.

MS. GREEN

(walking back over)

Wow, students, I'm impressed!
Stickers for all of you! Good job
respecting each other's
boundaries. Alright class, let's
rotate again!

Theo waddles over to the last station, the coloring station. He sits down at a table with his group members and begins to draw a picture of a football. Looking at his peers' work, he sees pictures of scribbles everywhere.

THEODORE

Damn, you guys SUCK at drawing.
What even is that?

The whole class gasps. One kid points to a poster on the wall with a list of "No-No Words". The group mates start crying.

MS. GREEN

Theo! How have you managed to
break all three rules in one day?
Rule number three: use kind
words! Let's try that again.

THEODORE

My bad boys, your drawings are
sick. Teach me your ways!

MS. GREEN

Great improvement, Theo. You've
earned your third star sticker.
It looks like you've come full
circle today with the rules!

MS. GREEN (CONT'D)

OK, class, time for recess!
Follow me down the stairway to
the first floor. Remember, stay
single file! And Theo since you
did a such a good job learning
the rules today you get to help
take Lexi down to recess in the
elevator!

RANDOM KINDERGARTENER

Awww, lucky!

As the students make their way down the hallway, we see Theo and Ms. Theodore assist Lexi into the elevator.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALL - DAY

Theo exits the elevator and looks around confused. He walks into the hallway, realizing he is back at high school.

THEODORE

Wait a minute, I don't wanna be back in stupid- I mean... high school. What happened to kindergarten? Where did Lexi go?

MS. TOBEY passes by the elevator, noticing Theo's panicked expression.

MS. TOBEY

(sarcastic tone)

Hm, I see one of us had to relearn how to follow the rules. Did you learn your lesson at Kindergarten?

THEODORE

Damn it!

FADE OUT.