

# **Freshmen Odyssey**

by

Matt Johnson

FADE IN

INT. MRS. SPRAGUE'S ROOM — LUNCHTIME

Two students are sitting in the front row of MRS. SPRAGUE'S room. They are ROSS BUBLY and CALEB COFSKY. The two are best friends. They are also a little nerdy.

Mrs. Sprague is writing Spanish on the front board.

BUBLY

(cocky)

Hey Caleb, take a look at this. It's my Mandarin term paper for Mr. Strick. It should be a perfect one hundred, keep my average for first term at 100. Just gotta drop it off in his Chinese room before I go to Mrs. Fasolino's biology class.

CALEB

(quietly)

Dude, what are you talking about? You can't drop that off in Mr. Strick's Chinese class! He isn't there!

BUBLY

(scream)

WHAT?!?!?

MRS. SPRAGUE

Quiet down Bubly. Just do your work. You don't want hours right?

BUBLY

Sorry Mrs. Sprague. Won't let it happen again.

CALEB

(quietly)

So, as I was saying until you rudely interrupted me, Mr. Strick isn't in his Chinese room, he teaches history, too. This is one of the periods he teaches history is next.

BUBLY

(scream)

CRAP!!!!

MRS. SPRAGUE

(mad)

Really now Bubly? I already asked you once. I will let you off with a warning one more time. You got it?

BUBLY

Yes Ms. Sprague. I'm so sorry. It really won't happen again.

(Quietly)

So, Caleb, where is Mr. Strick then? I had no idea he taught history so I don't know where his history room is.

CALEB

He has like three history rooms. I'm not absolutely sure which one he is in now, but I am pretty sure he is in Mr. Giblin's homeroom, room 3128.

BUBLY

You know how to get there? I don't.

CALEB

Sorry man, but I don't have to go to the history wing. I don't know where it is either. You should ask Mrs. Sprague. I hear that she knows all of the short-cuts.

BUBLY

Good idea. Mrs. Sprague, can I have directions from here to Mr. Strick's history room and then to Mrs. Fasolino's room.

MRS. SPRAGUE

Sure Bubly. Why not? Ok, start out by going through the cafeteria. Go outside and into the art wing. Go all the way up the stairs to the history wing. Mr. Strick's room will be the second door on the left. Run down to the opposite end of the hall. When you see the history wing sign, you are on the right track. Run down the stairs. Turn right and then left into the Science wing lobby. It is the last door on the left.

BUBLY

Could you say that again?

MRS. SPRAGUE

I can Bubly. In Spanish.

BUBLY

No! I won't understand it in Spanish.

MRS. SPRAGUE

En primer lugar pasando por la cafetería. Vaya fuera y en el ala de arte. Vaya todo el camino hasta las escaleras del ala de la historia. Sala del Sr. Strick será la segunda puerta de la izquierda. Derramado en el extremo opuesto de la sala. Cuando usted vea el letrero de ala de historia, eres uno realizar un seguimiento de la derecha. Ejecutar por las escaleras y, a continuación, en el pasillo de la ciencia. Es la última puerta de entrada a la izquierda.

Bubly is confused by this. The bell rings and Bubly runs out the door, remembering some of Mrs. Sprague's directions, but rushing. Caleb steps out of the door and stares at Bubly running away.

INT. LANGUAGE HALL — CONTINUOUS

Bubly sprints down hall as fast as possible, dodging traffic. Bubly turns corner and stops dead. We get a close up look of the distraught on his face.

BUBLY  
(shocked)  
Oh my goodness.

Camera slowly zooms out and up as well as rotates to Bubly's back. Traffic is backed up all the way to the Guidance office. It is not moving at all. Bubly taps the STUDENT in front of him on the shoulder. Kid turns around.

BUBLY  
Hey! Do you know what is going on here?

STUDENT  
I've heard that the backup is because of a three student pileup at the three way intersection up ahead. I also heard that you should expect long delays.

Traffic begins to inch forward slowly. The student turns and begins to walk. Shaking his head in depression, Bubly looks left to see an empty staircase through the lunch flow. Happily, he turns and runs up the staircase.

INT. STAIRCASE ACROSS FROM GUIDANCE - CONTINUOUS

Bubly sprints up vacated stairs. At the top of the stairs, Bubly displays an elated look because the hallway in front of him is also vacated. He begins to gleefully trot down the hall. 15 feet into the hall, Bubly slips and falls hard on his behind. He rolls over in pain and looks up. Right in front of him is a "Caution: Wet Floor" sign. The JANITOR stares at Bubly.

JANITOR  
(questioning)  
Why do I even bother putting the sign up if you darn kids ignore it?

BUBLY  
(frantically)  
Look, I'm really sorry, but I am making the maddest dash of all mad dashes. I have to get to Mr. Strick's history room then down to Mrs. Fasolino's biology room, and oh yeah, I have no idea where to go.

JANITOR  
Oh, that's easy. You know, I've been working here at Walpole High for a long time. I know all the shortcuts and back halls.

BUBLY  
(whispering)  
Great. Now I have to listen to stories. I can't catch a break.

JANITOR

So, do you want directions, or not?

Bubly looks up surprised.

BUBLY  
Yes! Please, if you will. I really need to hurry.

JANITOR  
Yeah, I know. Ok, are you ready?

BUBLY  
(loudly)  
Yes, I'm ready! Please, just give me the directions already!

JANITOR  
Alright, alright. Calm it down. Ok.

Suspenseful music comes on.

JANITOR  
Start out by going back down the stairs you came up. At the bottom of the stairs, you will meet the lunchtime rush. Go with the flow there and go through the cafeteria, and outside. Once you get across the road, you will now have to fight the lunchtime flow from the English wing. Fight it. Run all the way to the top of the staircase. Mr. Strick's room will be the second room on the left. After you drop off the paper, run to the stairs halfway down the hallway. Fight the traffic coming up to History from lunch.

Bubly starts to worry and begins to tune Janitor out. He remembers these directions, though, very vaguely.

JANITOR (CONT'D)  
Go down to the bottom floor. From there, turn right and then right at the end of the hall. Go up the stairs to the top and turn left. Run to the end of this hall and look right. There should be a staircase. Run down those stairs one flight. When you see the Auditorium sign, that is your floor. Look left there. If you see the English wing sign, you are almost there. Go to the science lobby. When you get to the science lobby, run down the hall around the corner and to the last room on the left. You better hurry kid. Good luck.

BUBLY  
Yeah, yeah. I know I need luck. Thank you so much for the directions. I'll see you around.

JANITOR  
Maybe. Run kid, and don't look back. Just run.

Bubly turns and begins to run to the stairs. He looks back at the Janitor who gives him a nod.

INT. STAIRCASE ACROSS FROM GUIDANCE — CONTINUOUS

Suspenseful music continues. Bubly, now extremely frantic, runs down the stairs and stops at the bottom. He recalls the Janitor's directions.

JANITOR (V.O.)  
At the bottom of the stairs, you will meet the lunchtime rush. Go with the flow there and go through the cafeteria, and outside.

Bubly hops into the heavy flow and goes to the Cafeteria. On his run through the cafeteria, Bubly recalls more of the directions.

JANITOR (V.O.)  
Once you get across the road, you will now have to fight the lunchtime flow from the English wing. Fight it. Run all the way to the top of the staircase. Mr. Strick's room will be the second room on the left.

Bubly runs outside and begins to fight the traffic. He sprints through it and up the stairs. He drops his paper off at Mr. Strick's desk. He sprints out of the room.

INT. HISTORY WING — CONTINUOUS

Bubly stops cold outside Mr. Strick's room. He again recalls the Janitor's directions.

JANITOR (V.O.)  
After you drop off the paper, run to the stairs halfway down the hallway. Fight the traffic coming up to History from lunch.

Bubly runs to these stairs. He begins to run down the stairs, fighting the traffic. He tries to split between a pair of BULLIES. He bumps into them, and doesn't realize they can crush him.

BUBLY  
Watch yourselves, why don't you?

The first bully hears him and turns around.

BULLY 1  
(angrily)  
Hey you! Stop!

Bubly stops dead. He slowly turns around and puts on a confused face.

BUBLY  
Who? Me?

BULLY 2  
Obviously! You're the only one here except us two.

They begin to close in on Bubly.

BUBLY  
Oh. Yeah. Silly me. My math is off today.

BULLY 1  
SHUTUP! I don't want to here another word out of you unless we tell you to speak.

BULLY 2  
So now kid, what's your name?

Bully 1 looks at Bubly's bus pass.

BULLY 1  
Don't even bother. His name is Ross Bubly.

BULLY 2  
So Ross Bubly, what did you say to us?

BUBLY  
(scared)  
Um, let's see. I think I accidentally told you to please watch where you were going and to stay on the right side of the stairs.

Bullies close in more.

BULLY 1  
That isn't what I remember you saying. You see, we were going to let you go, but now that you lied to us, we are going to pound your face in no matter what.

BUBLY  
Oh, wonderful, but how fun would can be. Can't I just do your homework for you or something, or can you at least wait to pound my face after school.

Bullies look at each other.

BULLIES  
No.

Scared, Bubly turns and runs down the stairs right when both bullies swing their fists. The bullies fall on top of each other. Bubly runs to the bottom of the stairs while the bullies get up and chase him.

INT. STAIRCASE - CONTINUOUS

We see Bubly turn the corner on the stairs and run to the bottom. He is panting heavily. Confused, he looks back and forth multiple times, trying to figure out what he is going to do. The screen cuts out to the bullies rounding the staircase corner and coming to the bottom. They stop, searching for Bubly. The second bully taps his friend on the shoulder.

BULLY 2  
Hey. I think he went this way.

He points down the hall towards the end of the Art wing.

BULLY 1  
No man. He definitely went to the cafeteria, trying to get into the traffic and escape.

The two begin to yell random things at one another.

BULLY 2  
ALRIGHT! We obviously don't know where he is. Let's just go to lunch and figure out a plan there. You never know, we may find him on the way.

BULLY 1  
Good point. Let's go.

The bullies trot off down the hall toward the cafeteria. Bubly peers his head up over the barrel he was hiding behind, and seeing that the bullies are gone, he comes out into the hallway. He begins to run in the opposite direction of the bullies, looking over his shoulder the whole way.

INT. CAFETERIA — ABOUT A MINUTE LATER

We see the bullies sitting at a lunch table together. They look furious.

BULLY 1  
Man that little dweeb got so lucky.

BULLY 2  
Yeah. I know. I would have crushed him. I might have even broken his arm.

BULLY 1  
Yeah. And I would have broken his leg.

They bullies spot Caleb walking by and notices he is Bubly's best friend.

BULLY 2  
Hey take a look at the kid.

He nods in Caleb's direction.

BULLY 2 (CONT'D)  
I know that kid! That's Bubly's best friend!

BULLY 1  
Let's make him tell us where Bubly is going so we can make him late for class and have a broken nose.

They get up and approach Caleb. The second bully picks up the homework Caleb is working on. It appears to be math.

BULLY 2  
Math homework, eh kid.



CALEB  
Yes. Can I please have it back? I need  
to finish it before lunch is over.

BULLY 1  
Not until we get something in return.

Being dumb, the second bully rips the homework in half. The first  
bully and Caleb stare at him. Caleb is shocked.

BULLY 1  
Dude, why did you rip the paper?

BULLY 2  
That is what I'm supposed to do, right?

BULLY 1  
No you're supposed to wait until he  
says he won't talk to rip the paper.  
You're awful at this instigator thing.

BULLY 2  
Oh. Oh well.

CALEB  
Please, I will tell you whatever you  
want to know, just don't rip any more  
of my homework.

BULLY 1  
Your friend, Bubly, where is he off to  
next?

CALEB  
Biology with Mrs. Fasolino. Please  
don't hurt me.

BULLY 2  
Let's go get him.

BULLY 1  
Yeah.

The bullies leave to go get Bubly. They drop Caleb's homework on the  
floor. Caleb scurries to pick his work up.

INT. ART WING — ABOUT A MINUTE BEFORE

Bubly is frantic and lost. He doesn't remember the directions. He  
knows he has very little time. He runs to the end of the Art wing,  
turns right, and runs to the top of the stairs. He then runs to the  
end of the history wing. He stops in exhaustion, and begins to weep.  
He looks up to the right and sees the history wing sign. Suddenly,  
he remembers the directions.

MRS. SPRAGUE (v.o.)  
When you see the History wing sign, you  
are on the right track.

JANITOR (v.o.)  
Run down those stairs one flight. When  
you see the Auditorium sign, that is  
your floor. Look left there. If you see

the English wing sign, you are almost there.

MRS. SPRAGUE (v.o.)

Ejecutar por las escaleras y, a continuación, en el pasillo de la ciencia. Es la última puerta de entrada a la izquierda.

Bubly looks very confused at this.

INT. STAIRCASE – CONTINUOUS

Bubly runs down these stairs. He looks ahead and sees the AUDITORIUM sign. He looks left to see the ENGLISH wing sign. He knows he is close. He remembers more directions.

MRS. SPRAGUE (v.o.)

Turn right and then left into the Science wing lobby.

Bubly runs to the Science wing lobby. He looks up to see the Science wing sign. He smiles. He hears the janitor's directions.

JANITOR (v.o.)

When you get to the science lobby, run down the hall around the corner and to the last room on the left. You better hurry kid. Good luck.

He hears someone on the front stairs and slowly turns. The bullies see him and begin to chase him.

BULLY 1

There he is!

BULLY 2

Let's get him!

Bubly takes off down the hall.

INT. SCIENCE WING – CONTINUOUS

Slow-Mo, we see Bubly running down the Science hall. The bullies are rounding the corner. Bubly dives into Mrs. Fasolino's room right before the bell. He gets up and his class erupts into a standing ovation. He takes his seat and feels triumphant.

BUBLY

(surprised)

I can't believe I made it.

MRS. FASOLINO

Wonderful! Everyone is here. Ok, Ross will you bring the attendance to the office for me?

Bubly looks scared out of his mind as he looks out the door at the bullies waiting for him.

BUBLY

Oh brother.

Screen freezes on Bubly's face. Slowly it fades out.