

EXT. WALPOLE HIGH SCHOOL FRONT STAIRWAY

3 kids are walking up the front steps of Walpole High School. They are discussing their upcoming day, starting with the first class. Their names are MIA, AVERY and TOMMY.

TOMMY

Oh my god. How is it only Wednesday??

MIA

Facts Tommy. This week could not go by slower, and today's gonna be pretty tough.

TOMMY

What's the problem this time?

MIA

I have to run the mile in gym!!

AVERY

Mia come on you think that's bad? I didn't read my book and my Socratic seminar is TODAY!

TOMMY

Well you did have 2 months to read it...

AVERY

Well ya but no one ever actually reads it.

TOMMY

Whatever Avery, there's nothing worse than having my phone taken away in every. single. class.

AVERY

Stop I can't even think about any of this right now. It's 7 a.m.

They nod in agreement, and walk in the front door.

INT. FOREIGN LANGUAGE HALLWAY

We see a really busy hallway, about 10 minutes before homeroom, and McCluskey is plowing through the crowd.

MCCLUSKEY

GET TO CLASS! What are you lazy bums

doing?

STUDENT 1

uhh we have 10 minutes to spare.

MCCLUSKEY

You know what Mr. Time Teller?? I want you to be late. Do it, I dare you.

McCluskey continues to plow through the halls. He spots two kids reaching out to hold hands. He speeds up to stop them.

MCCLUSKEY

(He smacks the kids hands just as they are touching)

NO! This is SCHOOL! You two disgust me.

McCluskey briskly walks by and slaps books out of a random kids hands and walks away, unphased. The kid is left on the ground with a hurt and confused expression.

Tommy, Mia, and Avery walk by.

TOMMY

Jeez... he really is the meanest guy

MIA

I know, can't believe we have him first period. This is the worst way to start my Wednesday.

INT. FIRST PERIOD, MCCLUSKEY'S LATIN CLASS

Enter Mia, Tommy, and Avery into McCluskey's latin class.

MCCLUSKEY

What are you three doing? You're late.

MIA

(check's imaginary watch)

Umm, the bell hasn't rung yet.

MCCLUSKEY

Don't let the bell define you. The class starts and ends when I say it does. Now get in your seats!!

They run to their seats. Tommy trips. He reaches out for Avery.

AVERY

It's every man for himself, Tommy, I'm sorry.

Avery rushes to her seat, leaving Tommy still on the ground. McCluskey hovers over him.

MCCLUSKEY

GET UP YOU IMUBUSCEL!

Tommy gets up hastily.

MCCLUSKEY

From now on, early is late. On time is unacceptable. And if you're late, you're just asking to be expelled. Now let's begin class with a pop test.

The class quietly starts breaking down. A girl starts crying and tries to hold in her sobs. Mr. McCluskey stares her down.

STUDENT 1

(looks to Student 2 with concern)
Stay with us Brittany. He can smell your fear from a mile away.

STUDENT 2

(pulls out a paper bag and starts hyperventilating)

TOMMY

(turns to Avery and Mia)
Look what he's doing to Brittany!

AVERY AND MIA

I know!

McCluskey hands out the tests, everyone is focused with their heads down on the test.

MCCLUSKEY

(as he is handing out tests)
Kids these days. All you know is your dumb "snapchat", sending ONLY forehead pics! Like what's the point!

TOMMY

Okay boomer.

MCCLUSKEY

THATS IT! Automatic 10 points off for everyone. Take that ya Gen Z. Z for zip your mouths and take the test!

Everyone grrrs.

TOMMY, MIA, AVERY

(look to each other in sync)

I wish he knew what it was like to be a student!

Suddenly Mr. McCluskey disappears from the front of the room. None of the students notice, the screen goes black.

INT. HISTORY WING, OUTSIDE BALKUS' CLASS

McCluskey appears looking confused, as if he just jumped into the scene. He's looking around and stumbles a bit. Balkus walks out.

BALKUS

What are you doing McCluskey? You're late!!

MCCLUSKEY

Huh? What are you talking about Philip?

BALKUS

Philip? It's Mr. Balkus to YOU! Now get in here and take out your homework!

McCluskey walks in, still confused and takes a seat in the front row. Balkus slams on his desk once he sits down.

BALKUS

Where's your homework?

MCCLUSKEY

I don't know what you're talking about. Is this a prank Philip?

BALKUS

Excuse me? You're John McCluskey remember? You've been in this class since September, and for the second time, it's Mr. Balkus.

MCCLUSKEY
 (chuckles)
 OK boomer.

The entire class gasps in horror and kids cautiously get up from their seats.

STUDENT 1
 He can't do that...
 (turns to another student)
 Can he do that?

STUDENT 2
 Only if he wants to be through out the window...
 (looks to Balkus red with anger face)
 oh gawd run, survival of the fittest!!

BALKUS
 YOU!
 (points to McCluskey, who is shaking in his seat)
 GET OUT OF MY ROOM YOU IGNORANT LITTLE PIECE OF -

McCluskey runs of the room and slams the door.

BALKUS
 (screams from inside classroom)
 YOU DON'T DESERVE TO BE IN APUSH!!

MCCLUSKEY
 (outside of the room)
 What is happening??

INT. HISTORY HALLWAY

POV MCCLUSKEY

He walks towards the bathroom and enters. He looks in the mirror and sees his reflection as a teenage boy (actor Cole Donato).

OH MY GOD. HOW. WHAT. SINCE WHEN?
 Where'd my beard go?! I'm so short!
 What's going on?

Flashback in his mind to the three kids saying that they wished he knew what it was like to be a kid. McCluskey stands over the sink.

(looks up at his reflection)
I'm a high school student!

He starts to rush back to Balkus' room to see the three kids.

INT. BALKUS'S ROOM

McCluskey rushes back into the room. Balkus sees him standing in the doorway.

BALKUS
Don't speak. You are apush-ing my
buttons today. Sit down.

Avery, Tommy and Mia are sitting in the back as a group. McCluskey walks over to join them and struggles to fit into the desk.

MCCLUSKEY
Hey kids. I'm not who you think I am-

MIA
Kids? Excuse me.

MCCLUSKEY
Shush. I'm not a student, I'm actually
Mr. McCluskey and because of your
little wish first block, I'm stuck in
the body of a hormonal teenage boy.

TOMMY
Ok "Mr. Mcluskey" prove it.

MCCLUSKEY
Prove what? I can assure you I am Mr
McCluskey!

MIA
John you're crazy. Sure your last name
is McCluskey, but you're not the
teacher Mr McCluskey.

MCCLUSKEY
Fine I'll prove it to you. Ask me
anything.

MIA
Alright. Who is your best teacher
friend?

MCCLUSKEY

Trick question. I don't have any teacher friends, I hate them all.

TOMMY

This guys legit.

AVERY

Woah woah woah, not so fast Tommy. I have another question for "Mr. McCluskey" over here.

MCCLUSKEY

Yes?

AVERY

How many quizzes have we had in the past week?

MCCLUSKEY

Hmmm let's see...10 plus 15, carry the one, I'd say around 30?

Mia, Tommy, and Avery look at each other in agreement.

AVERY

Alright it has to be him.

MIA

Wait I didn't even know we made a wish.

AVERY

Yeah, how did this happen-

MCCLUSKEY

NO TIME FOR QUESTIONS! You guys need to wish me back into a teacher asap.

The three kids make a huddle and converse.

MIA

Okay. We'll turn you back IF you can prove you understand the struggles of high school.

MCCLUSKEY

(aggressively)

How am I supposed to do that?

AVERY

Oh I know! Come join me during my English class.

She looks at them deviously.

MIA

You can run the mile with me in gym.

TOMMY

And come to O'Malley's class with me and get your phone from the holder...

MCCLUSKEY

This is too easy.

TOMMY

And send a text. Without Wifi.

MCCLUSKEY

Consider it done.

INT. LANGUAGE WING - OUTSIDE MCCLUSKEY DOOR

McCluskey is putting up a sign that says "Absent. Put on your thinking cap and figure it out."

STUDENT 1

YES!! No freaking cap dude, skooooooooo

MCCLUSKEY

Huh?

STUDENT 1

McCluskey's not here! Oh boy I can't wait to tell da bois about this, c'mon let's celebrate!!

Student 1 start skipping down the hall. This is odd, we see a reflection of Cole looking confused.

INT. ENGLISH CLASSROOM

Avery and McCluskey walk into a classroom in the English wing for the socratic. They sit down at their desks, which are in a circle formation for the Socratic seminar.

AVERY

So MCCLUSKEY, are you ready for class?

MCCLUSKEY

Oh definitely, how hard can this be?

MCCLUSKEY pauses and looks around at the other students, seeing that they took pages and pages of notes on the book.

MCCLUSKEY

Hey Avery, what book did you read again?

AVERY

Oh, you know just one of the great American classics, don't worry it doesn't really have many complicated metaphors in it.

MCCLUSKEY

And uh what book is that?

She pulls a copy of Moby Dick out of her backpack and puts it on her desk.

AVERY

Moby Dick! And I didn't actually read it. I ran out of time with all of my AP homework.

MCCLUSKEY

What!? You didn't read your assigned book? How do you expect to pass?

AVERY

I honestly don't know, but that's why we're doing it together. So you know how hard it actually is to have piles of homework and be required to read a 585 page book.

MCCLUSKEY

Didn't you have 2 months to read it though?

AVERY

That's besides the point. Now you also have to pass without having read the book, just like 90% of the people here.

McCluskey looks around again and wonders why the desks are in a circle formation, but doesn't really think anything of it. The teacher enters the class.

TEACHER

Alright class who's ready for a Moby Dick Socratic Seminar today! Woohoo!

McCluskey looks at Avery, worried. He whispers:

MCCLUSKEY

Avery, you didn't think it would be helpful to mention that we are having a Socratic Seminar?! I hated those in high school!

AVERY

I thought I'd surprise you like you surprise our Latin class with all those pop quizzes. You've really gotta chill with those.

TEACHER

Let's begin. Don't forget to popcorn!

The students in the class start discussing the book. Not one student knows what they are talking about.

STUDENT 1

Simply inspiring story. Popcorn
[student 2]

STUDENT 2

Additionally, to add on to what was previously said just now, I believe this book touched my heart and soul to the core.

McCluskey looks at the clock and sees there's only 10 more minutes left in the period. He knows in order to pass he must say something to contribute to the Socratic Seminar, so he raises his hand.

TEACHER

Yes, McCluskey do you have something to add?

MCCLUSKEY

Um, yes I do. One thing that stood was uh that title and cover. Oh boy was that inspiring and set up the book really well. Pretty cool stuff. Popcorn Avery.

The teacher looks at him suspiciously. McCluskey realizes he

needs a better answer to pass.

TEACHER

Alright McCluskey, you're not that dense. Maybe contribute more. Avery?

AVERY

uhh I thought the book was very interesting and the whole part with the whale was so inspiring. I think I shed a tear at one point, it was just so beautiful.

TEACHER

Well thank you for that lovely sentiment Avery. Anyone else have any final thoughts on the novel?

MCCLUSKEY

Yes I do! No one's mentioned this yet, but I just wanna say that the book was just so touching and inspiring. And I mean the part where he needs to escape captivity and the kid RAISES his hand and he jumps over not only the boy but also the wall to freedom !! Wow, I almost shed a tear.

The teacher clearly is confused by what McCluskey is describing. The classmates all agree with McCluskey blindly.

TEACHER

Ummm isn't that Free Willy? Where are you going with this McCluskey? Cuz to me it seems like you didn't read...

MCCLUSKEY

No no!! Of course I read pfff I just feel like those two works of art, they truly connect in an insightful way. They both just really made me feel some kinda way, I mean I read Moby Dick and it was soO riveting that I wanted more so... I watched Free Willy!

TEACHER

Uh alright interesting, well you all did a great job with your reading it seem, ya some really insightful, definitely NEW, thoughts.. you all

pass I guess.

The whole class looks relieved, especially Avery and McCluskey. The bell rings and they stand up and start to leave the class.

AVERY

Congrats McCluskey, you have officially completed your first task. Now it's time to run the mile with Mia. Godspeed my friend, Godspeed.

McCluskey walks down the English hallway looking nervous for gym class.

INT. MCCLUSKEY'S CLASSROOM

This scene solely consists of chaos going on in McCluskey's room while he is gone. There is twister going on, along with kids singing along to Karaoke and a tik tok being made in the back.

INT. LOCKER ROOM

McCluskey walks down the stairs and into the locker room, nervous for the mile. He realizes he doesn't have a change of clothes and starts to panic.

MCCLUSKEY

(to himself)

What am I going to do? I can't run the mile in my skinny jeans!

Kampper notices McCluskey's outfit and struts up to him.

MR KAMPPER

MCCLUSKEY! What in god's name are you wearing? Get outta here with your light-wash, bootcut, two sizes too small, LEVI jeans. None of that in my class.

MCCLUSKEY

(stunned that someone rendered him comeback-less)

I-I-- I'm so sorry. I'll go get changed it won't be a problem.

MR KAMPPER

Negative. There's no time for that now. You'll just have to run in your

jeans.

McCluskey sees Mia waiting outside the locker room. He walks up to her.

MIA

So McCluskey, you ready to run this mile?

MCCLUSKEY

As long as I don't pass out, I'll be happy.

Mr Kampper walks out of his office and calls the class together.

MR KAMPPER

Alright class, as you all know today you will be running the mile. I will be timing you and if you don't finish in under 12 minutes you will fail. Now let's get out on that track and do this thing.

EXT. TRACK

Mr Kampper and the kids in the McCluskey's gym class make their way out to the track. Mia and McCluskey sit on a bench.

MCCLUSKEY

I don't know how they expect every kid to run the mile I mean some of us aren't athletic. At all.

MIA

That's why I had you join me so you can see how hard gym class is on top of all the academic classes. Oh and did I mention we have to take this class all. four. years.

MR KAMPPER

Alright class line up on the starting line.

STUDENT 3

Hey can I go home?

MR KAMPPER

Negative. Good luck everyone, timer is starting now.

Everyone starts running. Cut to end of race, we do not see them running.

MR KAMPPER
 (on the phone)
 Uhh ya honey? I'm gonna be a little
 late to lunch with your parents...

He pulls phone away from his ear and we can hear mumbles of his angry wife yelling

MR KAMPPER
 (in a very loving voice)
 Yes... uh huh ya I know... I'm sorry
 there's just this really slow kid
 running right now... send my apologies
 to Debby. Be home soon. Over and out.

He hangs up the phone looking angry

MR KAMPPER
 (in a very aggressive and loud
 voice)
 MCCLUSKEY HURRY IT UP!!

As he starts sprinting to the finish line, everything is in slow motion. He crosses the finish line and does a victory dance.

MCCLUSKEY
 Guys I did it! I conquered the mile!

He looks around to see that all of his classmates have gone inside. Mr Kampper stands with his arms crossed looking at McCluskey, confused.

MR KAMPPER
 McCluskey there's no one else out
 here. You took so long to finish and
 do whatever kind of dance that was
 that everyone went inside.

MCCLUSKEY
 Oh. Ha Ha... well I'm just going to
 head inside then.

McCluskey and Mr Kampper start walking to the school in awkward silence.

INT. LOCKER ROOM

McCluskey walks in drenched in sweat from the mile. He grabs his backpack to go to lunch but smells himself first with a disgusted face.

MCCLUSKEY

Oh. My. Goodness. How on earth am I expected to go through the day looking and smelling like THIS?

TED THE STUDENT

Yo John don't worry bro. I got just the thing.

MCCLUSKEY

I'll take anything to get rid of..

He sniffs.

MCCLUSKEY

...what, what even is this smell?

TED THE STUDENT

Don't question it. Here, close your eyes!

With absolutely no warning Ted starts spraying McCluskey with axe, to an excessive amount.

MCCLUSKEY

OK OK, I think that did the trick...
uh thanks.

TED THE STUDENT

Hey, gotta do what ya gotta do. See ya John.

Ted exits. McCluskey sniffs himself again and doesn't seem to absolutely hate it. He goes to lunch.

INT. CAFETERIA

The cafeteria is particularly crowded as McCluskey struggles to get through the crowd and is pushed by a large group of people rushing to get a seat.

He enters the cafeteria and pretty much all of the tables are full except for one in the far corner of the lunch room.

He sits down, by himself for lunch.

MCCLUSKEY

(to himself)

Jeez I didn't realize how crowded last lunch actually is. I'm on lunch duty every week but I'm always too busy yelling at kids to notice the amount of kids there actually are.

Randomly, a weird kid comes up to McCluskey and sits down across from him. He pulls a box of Cheerios, a bowl, spoon, and a gallon of milk out of his bag. He places the bowl on the lunch table and starts pouring the milk first, then the cereal.

MCCLUSKEY

(looking horrified)

How DARE you pour the milk first. That is against the laws of nature. You're not quirky or unique by doing this. Just stop.

McCluskey starts ranting about his day, gradually getting more and more upset.

This day has already been one of the worst in my life and it's only been 3 periods. I mean first of all why is it so crowded in here it makes no sense. And why is there so much trash on the ground we've only been here for like 5 minutes. And why are all these teachers just pacing around the lunch room watching all of the students eat their lunches it's not accomplishing anything. And WHY are there people already lined up at the door to leave lunch the bell isn't even close to ringing. AND WHY IS ALL OF THE FOOD WHEAT!

The weird kid slowly starts backing away in fear as McCluskey spirals into a full on breakdown. McCluskey continues to eat by himself. The weird kid comes back to the table.

MCCLUSKEY

Well what do you want now? Don't test me I've had a very long day.

WEIRD KID

Uh I-I just forgot my cereal.

The weird kid grabs his cereal and runs away from McCluskey. STUDENT 4 walks by and hears McCluskey's rant.

STUDENT 4

Dang man don't be such a Mr.
McCluskey.

This comment cuts deep in McCluskey and he is extremely offended that his name is used as an insult.

MCCLUSKEY

Uhh what's that supposed to mean?

STUDENT 4

Ya know don't be such an obsessive,
annoying, rude, unciv, ignorant,
greedy, selfish, despicable guy who
takes away everyone's happiness when
they are with him. Look to the song
"You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch" lyrics
for information about his character.

MCCLUSKEY

(not sure how to process this)
uh ok...

He tries to ignore it and goes back to eating his lunch. The bell rings.

MCCLUSKEY

What?! Lunch is over? But I barely got
to eat!

McCluskey gets up and tries to walk to the trash to throw away his lunch but a crowd of kids knocks him down. He gets up, throws away his trash, and slowly makes his way out of the lunch room, distraught.

INT. MCCLUSKEY'S CLASSROOM

Another scene of pure chaos happening in McCluskey's room while he is gone. This scene consists of mini knockout, hangman on the board and Double Dutch.

INT. MR. O'MALLEY'S CLASS

McCluskey walks into Mr O'Malley's chemistry class and puts his phone in the holder at the front of the room. He sees Tommy sitting at his desk and sits down in the desk next to him.

TOMMY

So McCluskey, how's your day been so far?

MCCLUSKEY

Tommy don't even get me started. I just had lunch and it was maybe the worst 10 minutes of my life.

TOMMY

That's last lunch for ya. Good luck trying to get your phone out of the holder by the way. It's never been done before in O'Malley's class.

MCCLUSKEY

Well I guess I'll have to be the first.

Mr O'Malley walks into the classroom in his lab coat and safety goggles on. The class shudders in fear as he enters.

MR O'MALLEY

Alright guys, today we will be conducting an experiment and collecting data. But first, I will be checking your 5 pages of homework from last night.

As Mr O'Malley goes around the class checking the homework, Mr McCluskey slowly makes his way to the front of the room near the phone holder.

He pretends he is blowing his nose, and slyly goes to grab his phone out of the holder.

Mr O' Malley goes back to his desk to get something and notices Mr McCluskey reaching for his phone. He immediately calls him out for it.

MR O'MALLEY

McCluskey, think long and hard on what you are about to do.

McCluskey panics and sees two beakers with different liquids on O'Malley's desk. He frantically throws the beakers on the ground and there is a huge explosion. O'Malley is absolutely horrified. McCluskey uses this as a diversion and grabs his phone and runs into the hall.

He starts writing a text to his mom when he realizes he has

no Wifi and can't send it.

MCCLUSKEY

How am I supposed to send a text if I
don't have Wifi. This is ridiculous.

McCluskey walks away to find somewhere with Wifi where he can
send his text.

INT. HALLWAY

McCluskey starts walking around the entire school holding his
phone up to try and get service to send this text. He sees a
kid, also with their phone, walking around with no pass in
sight.

MCCLUSKEY

Hey! Where your pass huh?

STUDENT 1

Yooo back off dude, where your pass
huh?

Student 1 walks away and shakes his head. McCluskey looks
confused for a moment then notices his reflection in the
window, it is Young McCluskey (Cole Donato). He shudders.

He is spotted by a Hall Monitor, who sees he has his phone
and starts chasing him.

HALL MONITOR

Stop! You're violating school rules!
I'm going to give you a detention for
this!

McCluskey runs and eventually escapes to the history wing
where the Hall Monitor can't find him. He walks around for a
minute, still looking for cell service. A man in a black
trenchcoat suddenly appears, this is MYSTERIOUS STUDENT.

MYSTERIOUS STUDENT

(in a noticeably deep voice)
Psst. Hey. I heard you're looking for
some goods.

MCCLUSKEY

Look, I don't want any trouble-

MYSTERIOUS STUDENT

(in normal voice)
Uh no bro not like those goods.

(back to the deep voice)
I think you're looking for this...

Mysterious Student whips open his jacket to reveal a paper that says "WIFI PASSWORD" with the actual password covered up.

MCCLUSKEY
(gasps)
How??

MYSTERIOUS STUDENT
Sssh. No time for questions. Do you want it or not?

MCCLUSKEY
Uh uh ya of course I do, what's the catch?

MYSTERIOUS STUDENT
I have the worst teacher for latin, you could probably guess...

MCCLUSKEY
Pff, ya. Bakale.

MYSTERIOUS STUDENT
What? No. Mr. McCluskey. He's the worst! Anyways, I have class tomorrow and you gotta do my latin homework.

MCCLUSKEY
(shows hurt expression on his face but shakes it off)
Haha this is too easy, lemme see it.

Mysterious student hands McCluskey the homework. He completes it in record time and hands it back to Mysterious Student

MYSTERIOUS STUDENT
Gee maybe this will bring up my 30 average in Latin. Thanks bro, here's the WiFi password.

McCluskey shudders at the thought of a student have a 30% in Latin. MYSTERIOUS STUDENT hands him the password, that is "HUCKLEBERRY".

McCluskey is finally able to send the text, a wave of relief pours over him. The final bell rings just after he sends the text, McCluskey runs out of the hallway.

INT. HISTORY WING LOCKERS

McCluskey comes in sprinting towards Avery, Mia and Tommy.

TOMMY

Woahhh there Usian Bolt. Calm down.

MIA

(looks at imaginary watch on her wrist)

Ahem. You're late. Remember: early is late. On time is unacceptable. And if you're late, you're just-

MIA, AVERY AND TOMMY

(in sync)

"asking to be expelled."

MCCLUSKEY

(panting)

No no wait wait. Please I can't be too late. Okay you got me. Your lives are incredibly hard and tedious and demanding in so many ways. I really don't know how you do it! I need to be a teacher again and start doing things right. I do not think I could handle one more day as a student in this easy bake oven of a school.

AVERY

I KNOW RIGHT! Fine, okay. Surprisingly, you did everything we asked and now you understand what we've been through.

The three students nod their heads in agreement. They snap their fingers at the same time and poof! The screen goes black.

INT. MCCLUSKEY'S CLASSROOM

McCluskey appears back in his room in front of tons of students, as a teacher again. It is the next day. He sees the graded pop tests on his desk, the top being a F.

MCCLUSKEY

Ya know what? That test yesterday wasn't fair to hand out, how about we void those grades?

The class picks their heads up with some hope. Brittany wipes a tear. Tommy, Mia, and Avery all look at each other and smile.

MCCLUSKEY

Oh and to all those looking for extra credit, see me after class please.

The bell rings and a huge line forms at his desk. He begins helping Brittany, and smiles at Tommy, Mia, and Avery.

McCluskey goes to shut his classroom door and overhears a conversation between students:

STUDENT 3

Man, I'm so glad I don't have McCluskey as a teacher this year. Last year he threw me out of his class for eating my Cool Ranch Doritos too loudly but they weren't even Cool Ranch, they were Nacho Cheese!

MCCLUSKEY

(yelling out the door)
HEY YOU. I'M WORKING ON IT!

McCluskey slams the door and turns back to his class and smiles, pretending he didn't just scream at a student from the doorway.

MCCLUSKEY

Now, where were we before that rude interruption?

McCluskey goes back to helping students at his desk.

END