

ABBOTT ELEMENTARY - SPEC

Written by

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TEASER

"Most Likable Teacher"

T1. INT. ABBOTT ELEMENTARY - JANINE'S CLASSROOM - DAY

JANINE is mid-lesson writing on the board, noticeably less bubbly than usual and a lot more assertive.

JANINE

Alright-

Janine checks herself and takes a deep breath.

JANINE (CONT'D)

Today we'll be focusing on the water cycle. Anyone familiar with evaporation?

A STUDENT jumps out of their seat.

STUDENT

Ooh, I have a really cool joke about evaporation-

JANINE

No time for jokes, sit down!

The student reluctantly sits. Janine glances at the camera.

JANINE TALKING HEAD

JANINE (CONT'D)

This is so unlike me, I know. But after the constant berating and jokes the teachers made in the lounge about my students treating me as a subordinate, I decided to take a more disciplinary approach to teaching. It's going... well.

The student takes a seat. A parent rushes into the classroom and flips Janine off. Her jaw drops to the floor.

T2. INT. ABBOTT ELEMENTARY - TEACHER'S LOUNGE- DAY

MELISSA, BARBARA, and JACOB hover over a distraught Janine who holds a snotty tissue.

MELISSA

She flipped you off?

JANINE

Kids shouldn't even know that the middle finger's a bad thing.

JACOB

Is it a bad thing or a social construct?

Melissa and Barbara sigh.

BARBARA

You are too nice to these kids! A little discipline goes a long way.

MELISSA

Have you not seen Super-Nanny?

JANINE

I took your advice! I- I raised my voice, I swapped out my colorful expo's for black ones, you know, for a more bleak feel, I went against my morals.

Ava walks in mid-conversation.

AVA

Ooh, are we making fun of Janine? You're short, you're short, you're short. You're so short you gotta look up when people say look down  
(to Jacob)  
Up top!

Jacob and Ava share a high five.

JANINE

Wha- Jacob?!

JACOB

It was pretty funny.

Janine glares at the camera -- "This is how they treat me."  
She exits the teacher's lounge.

T3 INT. ABBOTT ELEMENTARY - SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Janine throws the tissue in a garbage can. Two of her students pass by whispering.

BOY 1/GIRL 1

Tee-gees a meanie, tee-gees a meanie.

They snicker as Janine peers at them. GREGORY stands at the doorway of his classroom, watching the debacle.

GREGORY

Tough break.

Janine shakes her head. She's stops as she's intrigued by a poster on a bulletin board. Displayed in BIG letters is, "Abbott's Annual Field Day" but Janine is intrigued by a different sign--

JANINE

Most likable teacher award? Prize is a "World's greatest teacher mug"! And "NEW classroom supplies"?!

Janine face lights up.

JANINE TALKING HEAD

JANINE (CONT'D)

I think I just figured out how I can win my students back.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

A1 INT. ABBOTT ELEMENTARY - HALLWAY - DAY

Janine, wearing her "Abbott Field Day" t-shirt, giddily strides down the hall with a bag of candy in one hand and fliers and tape in another. She passes the candy out to every kid that walks on by.

JANINE

Candy for you, candy for you, oh Peter. Your mom told me about your cavities, but don't tell her about this.

The student nods. Janine hands him a piece of candy

Janine plasters two fliers on the wall. Both with different slogans reading; "Ms. Teagues is Cool Beans" and "Vote for Teagues, You'll be at Ease." A STUDENT walks up to her holding something.

JANINE (CONT'D)

I couldn't decide on which slogan sounded better. Oh sweetie what's that?

STUDENT #2

I lost my tooth!

JANINE

Oh you know what that means! Word on the street is the tooth fairy's now giving kids twenty bucks.

STUDENT #2

Really?!

Janine ruffles the student's hair. The student excitedly skips along the hallway.

At the other end of the hall is Barbara who has her own way of bribing the kids as they walk into her classroom, she passes out mini coloring book packets.

BARBARA

Mini coloring book for you, mini coloring book for you-

A STUDENT walks in with a PARENT, who wears the "Abbott Field Day" t-shirt.

STUDENT #3

Do you have anything more exciting  
than this?

BARBARA

Open it up.

The student opens it up and finds crayons.

BARBARA (CONT'D)

It comes with its own set of  
crayons!

The student are not impressed. They stoically continue inside  
the classroom.

BARBARA (CONT'D)

(to parent)

Thanks for agreeing to chaperone  
for the day.

PARENT

I'm only here to fulfill my  
community service. Forty-three  
hours to go.

Barbara is stunned.

BARBARA

You've been to jail before?

PARENT

Relax, it was just a few dui's.  
Mind if I get a coloring book?

Barbara is taken aback.

A2 INT. ABBOTT ELEMENTARY - TEACHER'S LOUNGE - DAY

Janine excitedly waltzes in while Melissa is making herself a  
coffee and Gregory sits on the table drinking from a mug.

JANINE

I am so gonna win this competition!  
No offense guys, I'm sure you mean  
a lot to the kids. More than me?  
Maybe not but-

MELISSA

Oh please! All this for a mug? If  
this were a popularity contest we  
both know who would win.

(MORE)

MELISSA (CONT'D)

Italians have the best track record with competitions. We have the second most world cup wins in history-

JANINE

The U.S. has the most gold medals in Olympic history-

MELISSA

Don't turn this into a race thing-

Janine quizzically looks at the camera while Melissa sits down with her coffee.

GREGORY

Well I, fortunately, will not partake in this competition.

B1 GREGORY TALKING HEAD

GREGORY (CONT'D)

I'm getting evaluated today by the school district. But not in my own classroom. The AC went out on the third floor and because the teacher passed out due to heat exhaustion-

INT. ABBOTT ELEMENTARY - FRONT ENTRANCE - DAY - QUICK CUT

A few Abbott TEACHERS wave as the EIGHT GRADE TEACHER is being escorted out by EMT on a gurney.

GREGORY TALKING HEAD

GREGORY

I now have to educate an eighth grade class on sex ed.  
(deadpan)  
Can't you tell how excited I am?

A4/B2 INT. ABBOTT ELEMENTARY - TEACHER'S LOUNGE - DAY

Melissa offers her two cents.

MELISSA

Why can't they get an eight grade teacher to do it?

GREGORY

I have to actually be in a classroom to be properly evaluated.

Melissa and Janine exchange looks. Gregory catches this.

GREGORY (CONT'D)

What?

Janine shakes her head suggesting Melissa not say anything - she doesn't listen.

MELISSA

You're not very good with  
confrontation, those eighth graders  
along with that heat up there's  
gonna be a challenge for you.

GREGORY

I'll manage.

A RAP BEAT DROPS. Janine, Melissa, and Gregory exchange quizzical expressions.

A5 INT. ABBOTT ELEMENTARY - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Janine, Melissa and Gregory exit the teacher's lounge to find a group of students huddled around Jacob, who's rapping. Ava takes a video of this.

JACOB

*Some teachers at Abbott are mean  
And some teachers are very chill,  
But one thing is for certain  
None are better than Mr. Hill  
Except for Ava of course-*

Ava quickly turns the camera to her than back at Jacob

JACOB (CONT'D)

*Our principal's the best  
Vote me for most likable teacher  
And I'll get rid of all your tests  
(normal)  
That's right kids- no pop quizzes  
for two weeks.*

STUDENT #4

You don't give pop quizzes-

JACOB

What?!- Well- that rap was tight  
though, right?

STUDENTS

YEAH!



All the students clap for him but Ava is not impressed.

AVA

No, it was not tight. We had an agreement, I help you with your campaign strategy while simultaneously using your corniness to boost my views on Tiktok, and you throw in some lines about me being the coolest, funniest, and most desirable staff at Abbott. Right Gregory?

Gregory is at a loss for words.

JANINE

That's not fair. Quizzes are a standard part of the Philadelphia school curriculum.

STUDENTS

BOO!

JANINE

I didn't mean it like that, okay. I have candy.

Janine reaches into the almost empty bag and pulls out a single lollipop. She frowns.

AVA

Just one? Nobody likes root beer dum dums, Janine.

Ava rolls her eyes.

AVA (CONT'D)

Alright, Jacob, we'll film the rest later. Gregory, let me show you to your classroom for the day.

Melissa turns to Janine.

MELISSA

He is not lasting in that heat.

B3 INT. ABBOTT ELEMENTARY - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - DAY

Gregory immediately sweats as he walks alongside Ava through what looks like a ghost town.

GREGORY

Look, I really don't want to teach  
pubescent kids about... sex.

AVA

Well don't be so modest Gregory.  
What's the big deal? Don't they  
prep you for this at principal  
camp?

GREGORY

It was the young educator of  
tomorrow program. Are there any AC  
alternatives?

Ava gives him a look -- "You know there aren't" Gregory  
sighs. They continue walking.

GREGORY (CONT'D)

What about having my evaluation day  
moved?

Ava ignores him.

GREGORY (CONT'D)

This is literally the worst  
possible day this could be  
happening-

AVA

Well how about you don't invest in  
so many long sleeve shirts?

Ava directs him to the classroom. Gregory looks at her hoping  
she'll change her mind. She doesn't budge, rather she nudges  
him towards the room.

B4 INT. ABBOTT ELEMENTARY - EIGHTH GRADE CLASSROOM - DAY

The class quietly talks amongst themselves. The EVALUATOR  
sits at the back holding a pen and clipboard. Gregory walks  
in, holding his shirt and blazer. He wears a T-shirt  
revealing his muscles and the glistening sweat only helps  
accentuate them.

GREGORY

Hello, everyone. I'm Mr. Eddie and  
I'll be teaching your class today.

The room falls silent. A few students perk up and smile at  
him. One STUDENT, wearing glasses raises her hand.

STUDENT #5

Is it okay if I move up front? I  
can't see from back here.

Before Gregory can answer-

STUDENT #6

Well then why do you wear glasses,  
doofus?

STUDENT #5

You have no idea how my  
prescription works-

STUDENT #6 (CONT'D)

Aren't glasses supposed to  
help you see?

The evaluator sighs and scribbles down on the clipboard.

A6 EXT. ABBOTT ELEMENTARY - FIELD - DAY

Barbara and her chaperone lead her students down the ramp  
towards the field.

BARBARA

Remember kids, single file. Or not,  
go crazy. It's field day! There's a  
lot more where those coloring books  
came from.

Janine walks with her students right behind.

JANINE

Does she really think coloring  
books will win them over?

Boy #1 and Girl #1 talk amongst themselves.

GIRL #1

I know Janine gave out candy, but  
that rap was fire. Plus no pop  
quizzes? I think I'm voting for Mr.  
Hill.

BOY #1

Me too! Ms. Teagues doesn't stand a  
chance since running out of candy.

Janine is taken aback.

JANINE

Hey! Kids listen up.

The kids stop walking and turn towards Janine.

JANINE (CONT'D)

If you vote me for most like-able  
teacher I will throw you a pizza  
party.

The students gasp with excitement.

BARBARA

Oh really? How do you expect to do  
that? Don't forget kids, this is a  
public school.

JANINE

(unconvincing)

Yeah well, I have connections.

Barbara doesn't believe her for a second.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

A7 EXT. ABBOTT ELEMENTARY - FIELD - DAY

Janine sets up cones on the ground with Melissa, who from afar is having a conversation with MR. JOHNSON, the janitor. The students are dispersed across the field playing amongst themselves.

When Mr. Johnson finally walks off, Janine sees this as an opportunity to swoop in next to Melissa.

JANINE  
Cones... they're triangular...  
kinda like  
(looks around)  
Pizza.

Melissa's "shocked."

MELISSA  
No. Really? This have anything to  
do with your promise to the kids?

JANINE  
Look Melissa. If there's anyone who  
can help me out it's you-

MELISSA  
Want me to contact one of my guys?  
Another thing Italians are good  
for.

JANINE  
Can you?

MELISSA  
What's in it for me?

JANINE  
I'll grade your classes homework  
for two weeks. Both. Anything.

Melissa smirks to the camera.

MELISSA TALKING HEAD

MELISSA  
Thank you, Janine.

Melissa rallies up all the kids to huddle towards her.

MELISSA (CONT'D)  
 Hey kids, listen up! I have some  
 very upsetting news.

Melissa pulls a confused Janine in.

MELISSA (CONT'D)  
 Ms. Teagues here, doesn't seem to  
 have the prospects to pull off a  
 pizza party for you guys.

The students share "aww's."

JANINE  
 (whispers)  
 What are you doing?

MELISSA  
 But I do! Not only can I can you  
 guys a pizza party but we have a  
 unit on fractions coming up. And  
 what better way to practice  
 fractions than to have my Uncle  
 Benny help us make some pizza's in  
 class, huh?!

The students exclaim and jump for joy. Janine is floored. She  
 pulls Melissa to the side.

JANINE  
 What happened to you not caring for  
 this award?

MELISSA  
 I may not care about a mug but I do  
 like to win.

Janine has a glare in her eyes, she storms off.

MELISSA (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
 Now who want's to play hula hoop  
 ring toss?

STUDENTS (O.S.)  
 Yeah!

B5 INT. ABBOTT ELEMENTARY - EIGHTH GRADE CLASSROOM - DAY

Gregory is mid-lesson explaining to the kids what the punnet  
 square on the white board represents. He continuously pants  
 trying to get through the lesson.

GREGORY

All the genotypes inside the square represent possible offspring. And because brown eyes are dominant, and green eyes are recessive, the likelihood of this family having a baby with green eyes is twenty five percent. Any questions?

Three students raise their hands, none of which wait to get called on before blurting out questions.

STUDENT #5

So if me and you were to have kids-

Gregory's taken aback.

STUDENT #5 (CONT'D)

Because we both have brown eyes, our baby would most likely have brown eyes?

Gregory coughs uncomfortably.

STUDENT #6

What about hair color? My hair's light brown, but yours is like, dark brown. What color hair would our kids have?

GREGORY

Guys, don't you think this is a little...

The student's cock their heads obliviously.

GREGORY TALKING HEAD

GREGORY (CONT'D)

Deciding not to teach middle school may have been the best decision I've ever made.

A8 EXT. ABBOTT ELEMENTARY - FIELD - DAY

TWO STUDENTS run back inside the building giggling and covering their mouths. Janine want to say something but bites her tongue. She sits on the ledge of the ramp while Mr. Johnson waters the bushes.

MR. JOHNSON

Not having any fun?

JANINE

I don't get it. I care about these kids, and they walk all over me. I'm nice, optimistic, I just want *them* to see that. Since when does anybody but me care about being liked? Maybe that's my problem.

A beat.

MR. JOHNSON

You know, word on the street is whoever wins this award, their class gets to have an art and music class for two weeks. Gives you teachers an extra period of relaxation.

JANINE

What? No.

Mr. Johnson stops watering the bushes.

MR. JOHNSON

Yeah.

(leans in)

And the reason they don't put that on the poster in the hallway is cause the kids'll just vote for their own teacher.

Janine shoots up. Mr. Johnson waters again.

JANINE

You're right.

A student from afar yells out to Janine.

STUDENT #2

Ms. Teagues, we're about to start!

JANINE

They still care about me. I've got this.

Janine turns to Mr. Johnson who miraculously disappeared yet left the hose on the ground which lightly trickles water. Janine picks up the hose to turn it off but instead has a moment of realization.



B6 INT. ABBOTT ELEMENTARY - EIGHTH GRADE CLASSROOM - DAY

The conversation in the classroom has only grown with no means of slowing down.

STUDENT #6  
Do you have girlfriend?

STUDENT #5  
What's your type? Please don't say  
snow bunnies-

STUDENT #6  
My mom says we lost a lot of black  
men to white women thanks to-

STUDENT #5  
The mixed baby fetishization.

STUDENT #6 (CONT'D)  
The mixed baby fetishization.

Gregory sees the evaluator incessantly writing on the clipboard, this amplifies his voice.

GREGORY  
Alright enough!

The students aren't intimidated, rather they perk up.

GREGORY (CONT'D)  
I notice a lot of the male students  
are awfully quiet. How about-  
(points)  
You, switch with him.

The students move.

GREGORY (CONT'D)  
(points)  
You, her.  
(points)  
You two up here, with you guys in  
the back  
(points)  
And you with her.

The classroom is now set up with all male students at the front while the female students are at the back.

STUDENT #7  
Why'd you switch us? Seems to be a  
common trend up here in the front.

EVALUATOR

Pardon my interruption but I also notice something obviously different.

Gregory looks at the camera, indignant.

STUDENT #5

Do women make you uncomfortable, Mr. Eddie?

GREGORY

Excuse me?

STUDENT #6

You're assumption on gender seems rather problematic especially due to the world's current liberal agenda.

The students all talk, overlapping each other in unison while Gregory buries his head in his hands -- he can't catch a break.

A9 EXT. ABBOTT ELEMENTARY - FIELD - DAY

Janine runs across the field to the students.

JANINE

Alright, who can tell me whether rain is a product of evaporation condensation or precipitation?

The students look around confused.

JANINE (CONT'D)

It's a product of precipitation!

Janine shoots the hose up in the air, the highest setting possible and waters shoots back down onto the kids. They scream and run around in horror, yelling-

STUDENTS

STOP!- TURN IT OFF-

Janine continually turns the knob but nothing is working, it spritzes everywhere.

MELISSA

Janine, turn the damn hose off-

JANINE

I'm trying.

Once she finally gets the hose to stop shooting out water a student, Jacob runs with a rope wrapped around his waist, abruptly stopping after a student exclaims-

STUDENT #3

OWW!

Jacob looks at the kid, shocked. The kid pulls out a bloody tooth from its mouth.

STUDENT #3 (CONT'D)

I finally got it out!

Janine, Melissa, and Jacob exchange confused looks amongst each other.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

A10 EXT. ABBOTT ELEMENTARY - FIELD - DAY

Boy #1 and Girl #1 puts their arms out to the side and spread their legs out in hopes to dry faster.

BOY #1

Ms. Teagues ruined everything!

GIRL #1

I can't run in this.

The parent chaperone overhears the kids as she stands next to Barbara who is monitoring a relay race.

PARENT

Hey, you think I could use my lighter to help the students dry up?

She reaches into her pocket. Barbara quickly grabs her hand to stop her.

All INT. ABBOTT ELEMENTARY - SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Janine holds Student #3's hand as they walk to the nurses office. There's a line of angry students, some covering their mouths, and others holding an ice pack to their cheek.

A NURSE sends a student out.

NURSE

Don't forget to frequently gargle with salt water, okay?

The student pouts and walks away.

STUDENT #1

Why'd you lie to us Ms. Teagues?

STUDENT #2

Yeah, the tooth fairy isn't real?

An influx of students start complaining to Janine. Even the nurse chimes in. Janine is overwhelmed and storms off.

B7 INT. ABBOTT ELEMENTARY - EIGHTH GRADE CLASSROOM - DAY

Gregory leans on the desk of the empty classroom covered in layers of clothing as the students slowly trickle in. The student's look at him confused.

GREGORY TALKING HEAD

GREGORY

I'm not crazy. I'm hoping this will draw less attention to my appearance.

Gregory goes around handing the students worksheets.

STUDENT #6

Aren't you hot in that?

GREGORY

Now would you ask a woman in a hijab if she's hot in what she's wearing? No, because it's disrespectful...

(unconvincing)

I am not hot.

The student bites her tongue. Student #7 looks down at her phone as R&B MUSIC plays with a few other students to her side also watching. They chuckle.

GREGORY (CONT'D)

Care to share what you're watching with the rest of the class?

Student #7 smiles and turns her phone to Gregory. CLOSE IN ON: Tiktok. The video shows Gregory doing normal things like writing on the board, handing put pencils, etc. But gives a sensual tone to it. The music only enhances that appeal. The caption to the video is "Hottest teacher in Philly."

STUDENT #7

It went viral.

Gregory is stunned. The evaluator packs her things and stands.

EVALUATOR

So the students lacked focus the entire day, continuously berate you with inappropriate questions with your only solution being to move them around and not only did they have their phones out during class but they also recorded you and put it on social media?

The evaluator nods.

EVALUATOR (CONT'D)

My work here is done.

GREGORY

Wait, you can't just leave-

EVALUATOR

I've seen everything I've needed to see-

Gregory shakes his head, the heat is getting to him.

GREGORY

This isn't my fault. I- look there is a huge disparity in schools regarding male teachers  
(turns to students)  
And the only thing you guys are doing is perpetuating it. We're scared that at any moment we could do something completely innocent but it'll come off differently than intended...

Gregory pants.

GREGORY (CONT'D)

I could lose my job over this-

STUDENT #6

Are you okay?

Ava comes in super giddy.

AVA

Ooh, Gregory you seen this fan edit of yourself-

Gregory faints. The whole class gasps.

A12 INT. ABBOTT ELEMENTARY - HALLWAY - DAY

Janine sits on a bench in the empty hallway sulking; right across from the Most Likable Teacher poster. Barbara walks in, she's relieved when she sees Janine.

BARBARA

I've been looking for you all over.  
We're about to play limbo.

JANINE

You can go on without me. I'm sure  
the kids would prefer me not be  
there.

A beat.

BARBARA

Okay, you know what Janine- this is  
usually the part where we have a  
heart to heart and I give you my  
twenty years of expert advice but  
you gotta pull yourself together.  
We all want this award today but by  
tomorrow it'll all mean nothing-

Janine stand up.

JANINE

To you, it'll mean nothing to you.  
I became a teacher because I want  
to make a difference in these kids  
lives but how can I do that when  
they hate me? I don't want this all  
to have been for nothing.

BARBARA

All what?

JANINE

My life... my career.

Janine sits back down and buries her head in her hands.

BARBARA

Is validation what you want?

Janine doesn't say anything. She just offers a pleading look to Barbara.

BARBARA (CONT'D)

You're a good person, Janine. But I can only tell you that so many times. It's time you start believing it.

A beat. Barbara exits.

B8 INT. ABBOTT ELEMENTARY - HALLWAY - DAY

The students hover over Gregory as he lays on the ground. Ava moves through the crowd with a stack of papers.

AVA

Get out the way.

She fans Gregory with the papers.

AVA (CONT'D)

C'mon.

(to students)

You guys ought to be ashamed of yourselves. Throwing yourselves onto a grown man.

(to Gregory)

I can't lose you before we've ever had the chance to explore this!

The students exchange looks. The evaluator's eyes widen and she scribbles onto her clipboard.

STUDENT #6

I think he's waking up.

The students murmur. Gregory finally regains consciousness. He lets out a sigh. The students share a sigh of relief. Ava grabs Gregory's hand to help him up.

AVA

We went through all this trouble when you could've simply used one of the empty classrooms downstairs.

Gregory has a slightly angry glare in his eyes as he looks at Ava.

AVA (CONT'D)

(to students)

You guys have anything to say.

STUDENTS

Sorry Mr. Eddie.



STUDENT #7

You were right. We shouldn't have made it so uncomfortable for you to teach.

STUDENT #6

And to make it up to you, we suggest going outside, and helping with the younger kids.

A beat.

GREGORY

You expect me to reward your for your bad behavior with play time.

The students exchange looks. Gregory sighs.

A13 EXT. ABBOTT ELEMENTARY - FIELD - DAY

The eighth graders run out onto the field. Gregory walks behind them taking in the fresh air. He extends his arms; the freeing feeling of the air beneath his arms make him not care for his exposed pit stains. Janine walks up beside him.

JANINE

Whoa, what happened to you?

GREGORY

I'd rather not talk about it.

They join the rest of the group. The kids are lined up in two; one line for the eighth graders, the other for the second graders. Melissa stands in between the two.

MELISSA

(to Janine)

Look who cared to join us finally!

(to Gregory)

The eighth graders bully ya into taking them outside?

GREGORY

No actually. I suggested they come outside.

Melissa is impressed. She pats Gregory on the shoulder.

JANINE

May I do the honors?

Melissa moves out the way allowing for Janine to take her place. Barbara and Janine share a grin from afar.

JANINE (CONT'D)

On your mark, get set, GO!

One by one, on each line a student runs all the way down to the orange cone before turning back around to tag their partner.

Everyone's cheering, riled up. As the line gets shorter and shorter, Gregory and Janine realize that there are more students on one second grade line than the eighth grade one.

Gregory stands behind the eighth graders and is tagged in. He runs against a KID three times less his size. The students playfully knocks Gregory down. Gregory laughs it off in good fun but Janine is livid.

JANINE (CONT'D)

Whoa, Whoa, Whoa! What'd I tell you about respecting people's personal space. You can't do that to a teacher, apologize!-

GREGORY

Oh, Janine it's fi-

JANINE

It's not fine.

KID

If Mr. Eddie doesn't mind I don't get what the big deal is.

JANINE

The big deal is you can't do that-

Jacob, Melissa, and Gregory are impressed with Janine's authority.

Ava stands at the bleachers on the field yelling into a megaphone. There's a ballot box in front of her.

AVA

Alright kids, gather around. It's time to vote.

The students gather around.

AVA (CONT'D)

Whichever teacher gets the loudest cheer wins. Anybody for Mrs. Howard?!-

Barbara gets a good amount of applause but certainly not enough to win.

AVA (CONT'D)  
What about Mr. Hill?

Mr. Hill gets a lot more applause than Jacob. He relishes in it.

AVA (CONT'D)  
Ms. Schemmenti?

So far Melissa has raised the most applause. The students start chanting.

STUDENTS  
PIZZA, PIZZA, PIZZA, PIZZA!

Melissa smiles.

AVA  
Alright, alright. Man I think I want Ms. Schemmenti to win too! And lastly, Ms. Teagues?

Janine gets three sporadic applauses, however, she isn't fazed.

AVA (CONT'D)  
Okay, so the clear winner is Ms. Schemmenti!

All the students erupt in a frenzy. They jump up excitedly and run to Melissa cheering. Janine smiles and also claps. Barbara walks up to her.

BARBARA  
You okay?

JANINE  
I'm fine.

Student #4 runs up to Janine with a lollipop in their mouth.

STUDENT #4  
It's okay that you didn't win. I liked the candy.

JANINE  
Aww, thank you-

STUDENT #4  
Somebody had to lose. Not everyone can be a winner.

JANINE

Yeah, well I think we're all winners.

STUDENT #4

Sure but you got no applause so technically you're the loser-

JANINE

(fed up)

Okay, that's enough!

Janine and Barbara exchange smiles.

INT. ABBOTT ELEMENTARY - HALLWAY - DAY

Janine, Jacob, Gregory, Barbara, and Melissa who holds her mug have their things and are getting ready to head out the building engaging in small talk.

The evaluator catches up to Gregory.

EVALUATOR

Hey can I talk to you?

The rest of the teachers go on without him.

EVALUATOR (CONT'D)

Although your teaching methods are questionable what you said was admirable. I can see why the students take a liking to you.

Gregory is a bit taken aback. The evaluator reaches into her pocket and hands him a small piece of paper.

EVALUATOR (CONT'D)

Call me sometime.

The evaluator exits. Gregory glances at the camera.

Ava quickly walks past the rest of the gang.

MELISSA

Hey Ava! When's the art and music teacher coming? I'm ready for my period of relaxation!

AVA

What? No, you get the mug and bragging rights. That's all. Now I'm disengaging. Work Ava has left the building.

The teachers are confused. Barbara drops her mug on the ground. Janine lets out an exaggerated gasp.

MELISSA

So all this for what?!

They turn to the Mr. Johnson who is mopping the floor across the hall.

MELISSA (CONT'D)

Ayo Johnson!

Melissa throws her hands up -- "What the hell?!"

Mr. Johnson grins.

MR. JOHNSON TALKING HEAD

MR. JOHNSON

Yeah I lied. How else was I gonna get these box of supplies out of my storage closet?

Mr. Johnson hands the box of supplies to Melissa.

MELISSA

They were supposed to be new supplies! You know what? I don't want this junk. Here!

Melissa gives the box to Janine and storms off. Janine grins.

JANINE TALKING HEAD

JANINE

I'll take what I can get.

END OF EPISODE