

A Play by Paul Jorge

NOTES FOR THE DIRECTOR

This entire play is about countries being personified as high school seniors. These scenes are around the time of the American Revolution, and AMERICA is trying to get ENGLAND off of its back. At the time, AMERICA does not want to get involved in other people's business, but becomes involved eventually. AMERICA is also gay. However, although it is hinted in these scenes, it won't be revealed to the audience until the end of the play, not in these scenes. AMERICA and ARMENIA eventually become friends later on in the play. In these scenes it may seem that ENGLAND does not like his brother, but he is being over protective of him because he loves his little brother. The characters could have accents.

CHARACTERS

ENGLAND	Seventeen, know-it-all, can be condescending.
AMERICA	Fourteen, does not like to follow the norm and will stand up for others
ARMENIA	Fifteen, calm, never gets into any fights.
FRANCE	Seventeen, calm, but is involved in everything in the school. He likes to gossip.
SPAIN	Seventeen, he is a calm, but can have a temper.
TEACHER	Thirty-seven, tired because he has a lot of work to do.

ACT I

SCENE 1

(At Rise: America and England are on stage)

ENGLAND

Go in.

(Points in front of him)

AMERICA

(He hesitates as if he wants to say something, but doesn't. Instead he obeys)

Okay.

ENGLAND

(Swipes his metro card for America, and then swipes for himself)

AMERICA

England.

ENGLAND

Hmmm.

AMERICA

(Hesitating in using words)

I, well. I think. I want. I'm sure ...

ENGLAND

What.

AMERICA

Will ... you let me... keep my lunch money?

(Voice trails off as he ends speaking)

ENGLAND

No.

AMERICA

(Pauses as he is a bit irritated)

But, I was thinking that since ... I'm in a new school, I'll get the chance to buy my own lunch.

ENGLAND

No.

AMERICA

But—

ENGLAND

I'm in charge of the money.

AMERICA

(Lets out a gust of breath)

You take it all yourself. You do realize, this is not just your allowance, and you have your own job. I don't understand how I don't get to spend the money myself.

ENGLAND

Not this shit again.

(Condescending tone)

I understand that you want to be all grown up, but you are not quite there yet.

AMERICA

I'm in the ninth grade.

ENGLAND

You are fourteen. You will spend all the money. Besides, dad knows that I'm more responsible than you are.

AMERICA

No you're not.

ENGLAND

Yes I am. I'm able to invest my money. How about you?

(Doesn't let him answer)

Exactly.

AMERICA

I have all of my money taken away by you. I mean really. Why can't I buy my own things? Do you really have to buy my school supplies for me?

ENGLAND

Just pass me the money.

AMERICA

I don't get it. I give you thirty dollars. Twelve dollars are yours. You buy dinner. Chicken wings with french-fries is \$6.50. Where is the rest of my money?

ENGLAND

I have to be the one who buys the food. That can't be free.

AMERICA

(Angry)

You know what, fuck you!

ENGLAND

What are you going to do? You know dad won't believe you.

AMERICA

No, I'm tired of this. I'm in high school. This is one of the best times of my life, and I don't want you to ruin it.

ENGLAND

It's not all that it's cracked up to be.

AMERICA

(Ignores him)

You would think that I would have more freedom, now that I am older. No homo, but I'm tired of having you holding my hands. We use the same metro card. You wouldn't let me swipe it myself.

ENGLAND

God, you're so petty. No I'm not letting you swipe the metro card. I'm not letting you use your own money, or buy your own food. I am responsible for you. Dad trusts me. I however don't trust you, so get that stupid idea out of your head because I am not letting you take care of yourself. Not after what happened last time.

AMERICA

That was five years ago. When are you going to let that go? I can handle myself.

ENGLAND

No. Just pass me the money

AMERICA

I'm old enough to make my own decisions. I'm not doing this shit anymore.

ENGLAND

(Sarcastically)

Okay, sure. Do whatever you want, but I want to see the money by tonight.

AMERICA

(Gets up)

ENGLAND

Sit back down.

AMERICA

No.

ENGLAND

America...

(In an authoritative tone)

...you are not going to step out this train.

AMERICA

Watch me.

(Steps off the train)

(End Scene)

ACT 1

SCENE 3

(At Rise FRANCE, SPAIN, ENGLAND are sitting in on chairs surrounding oval shaped tables. TEACHER is facing the students, leaving with his coat and bag)

TEACHER

Okay guys, I have to go. Make sure to lock the room when you leave.

FRANCE

Where's England? He's unusually late.

ENGLAND

(Rushes in with America behind him. America sits down and puts takes out a bunch of crumpled papers and searches for them.)

Sorry I'm late guys.

FRANCE

Who's this?

ENGLAND

My annoying little brother. He has to stay with me.

FRANCE

Hi, my name is France, this is my brother Spain.

SPAIN

Hey.

ENGLAND

Well, let's start.

FRANCE

What should we talk about?

SPAIN

How are we dividing up the people?

AMERICA

(Finally finds his paper and puts everything back into his book bag.)

What are you guys doing?

SPAIN

Well, we want to have a good school year, since we are seniors. We are in the student government and we have to "mentor" the freshmen. What's the name of the term again?

AMERICA

You named it?

SPAIN

Yes, was it the line of discrimination?

FRANCE

Line of Demarcation.

SPAIN

Right. Right.

AMERICA

Why's it called the "Line of Demarcation?"

SPAIN

Well...

(Shows him a piece of paper)

...on this paper there is a line. On the left side of the line are all the countries that I get to control ... I mean mentor. On the right side are all the people that Portugal gets to mentor. We have to see where each person on this piece of paper should go.

AMERICA

Oh, well, that's lame, having to tutor freshmen.

SPAIN

It is. But hey, we need our community service hours. Anyways, each of us are trying to have as many freshmen as possible.

AMERICA

Why?

SPAIN

Because, the more freshmen you have, the easier it is to be more “influential” around the school.

AMERICA

I don't get it.

FRANCE

Okay, take Spain as an example, he has a lot of freshmen that he is mentoring this year. You know Mexico right?

AMERICA

Yes.

FRANCE

Well when you “mentor” a freshmen, it is easier to “get their vote” for when people in the student government are trying to pass a rule or do a school activity.

AMERICA

Okay.

FRANCE

Do you want to join the student government next year?

AMERICA

No.

FRANCE

Why not?

AMERICA

Because I don't like to get involved in stuff like this.

ENGLAND

He'd rather go home and watch his little anime.

FRANCE

(Ignores him)

Well, that's up to you, but if you want to join next semester you are welcome to. Who's mentoring you?

AMERICA

I'd prefer not to have a mentor. No offense, but, I'd prefer to go home instead of staying in school any longer.

SPAIN

Weren't you going to mentor America?

ENGLAND

Well, he thinks that he can survive high school on his own.

FRANCE

(Ignores him)

Okay, let's move on, did you speak to the principal?

SPAIN

He said that what we proposed was fine. He said that he was okay with me mentoring the most of the freshmen that want to be mentored, especially since I don't have that many classes this year.

FRANCE

Okay.

SPAIN

But then Portugal complained and said that she only had one mentor, who she shared with me. But Brazil is a bit much to handle for Portugal anyway. Portugal is tiny and Brazil is big (Uses his arms to show). She won't be able to handle all of that mass.

FRANCE

Okay, so what do you think we should do?

SPAIN

Give Brazil to Portugal. I don't mind.

FRANCE

Okay. Good now you can "mentor" the rest of them and Portugal can get off your ass.

AMERICA

Why do you guys keep "air quoting" everything? Can you tell me because I don't get it?

ENGLAND

Told you he was dense.

FRANCE

Oh, we say that we mentor them, but we really don't.

AMERICA

What do you mean? You are not being specific.

SPAIN

Geez, we don't mentor them.

AMERICA

Oh, so then what do you do?

FRANCE

We put in the votes for them?

AMERICA

(Takes a second for him to realize)

So you hijack their votes.

SPAIN

Yeah, we control what happens around the school like this. Pretty sweet.

AMERICA

Pretty shitty.

SPAIN

They are okay with it.

AMERICA

How do you know?

SPAIN

I know they don't care, besides come on. We get to tell the principle what to spend some of the budget on.

AMERICA

So most of it goes towards senior year.

SPAIN

Of course.

AMERICA

And what do the freshmen get?

SPAIN

Nothing, dude they are freshmen.

AMERICA

Why don't you just let them decide? They might even help you out, but you have to give them the freedom.

SPAIN

No.

AMERICA

How come?

SPAIN

No, they can't decide for themselves.

ENGLAND

What are you going to snitch on him?

AMERICA

England, shut the fuck up. Spain no offence, but I think that there is a better way of doing this.

FRANCE

Better than ours?

AMERICA

Yeah.

FRANCE

Okay.

ENGLAND

You should hear this. It's funny

AMERICA

I call it Democracy.

SPAIN

Okay

AMERICA

It's letting them vote for themselves!

(They all start to laugh at him)

SPAIN

This kid is funny.

AMERICA

It's not funny, it's the best way to make sure that everybody gets to participate in what goes around school.

ENGLAND

Since when do you care? You know what just shut up.

AMERICA

But—

ENGLAND

Ah

AMERICA

But—

ENGLAND

Shut up. Just be quiet please, and let us finish with what we have to do today.

SPAIN

I'm sorry America, but this is coming from the most disorganized kid in the school. How do you expect us to take you seriously?

FRANCE

I'm sorry America, I find you a cool guy, but no work can get done that way.

AMERICA

Yes you can, especially for you. You boss around people way too much. You now what, I'm outta here.

(Storms off)

ENGLAND

Can you believe this kid?

FRANCE

It wasn't a very bright idea, but why are you always up his ass?

ENGLAND

Because, he's stupid.

FRANCE

Then, let him be stupid. Let him breath, you seem like you're always on his case. Did something happen today?

ENGLAND

Just forget it.

(End Scene)

ACT I

SCENE 4

(At Rise: America and England are on stage.)

AMERICA

England, this letter is for you. I hope that this resolves our issues.

ENGLAND

Shut up faggot.

(AMERICA leaves and ENGLAND sits down)

To England – From America. Declaration of Independence. Since you decide to treat me in a condescending way, we must separate. Since we are separating, I owe you an explanation. It is obvious that we are equals. Ask dad, he said so. He has given us certain unalienable rights. One is Life; I can't have your dumb ass harassing me all day. The second is Liberty. I'm not your girlfriend, let go of me. The third is the pursuit of happiness. Meaning, as long as I don't have to see your face, I'm fine. With reason, if you go against any of these rights, I have the right to separate myself from you. Here are many of the cases where you have pissed me off. 1. You don't let me walk to school by myself. 2. You don't give me back all of my money. 3. You treat me like a little kid. 4. You come into my room and leave it in a mess. I don't care if my room is bigger than yours. God loves me more, that's why I got the bigger room, so fuck off. 5. Whenever you go to the bathroom, you leave a smell. That's disgusting.

(FRANCE walks on stage)

FRANCE

Hey England.

(ENGLAND ignores him, so FRANCE waits for him)

Oh you're reading his letter. Okay.

ENGLAND

Therefore, I the United States of America declare myself free from your idiocy. Stop associating yourself with me. We are two completely different individuals. As an independent person, I get to be free to have my friends around, I get to be free from your idiocy. Here are a list of signatures of people who agree with me. Die, America.

FRANCE

What do you think?

ENGLAND

You're one of the signatures.

(End Scene)