

# Trouble in the Cafeteria

(A skit to use in teaching about World War I)

Characters:

Students Assigned:

Narrator

Steven (Serbia)

Rudy (Russia)

Frances (France)

Grace (Great Britain)

Geoff (Germany)

Aubrey (Austria-Hungary)

**Narrator:**

The setting of our play is the cafeteria at lunch time. The cafeteria has been crowded this year and sometimes students must get there quickly to get a good seat. The back table is considered the best table because it is the furthest table from the teacher's table. Geoff and Aubrey have been friends for awhile and they usually sit at the back table. They are pretty cool sixth graders and tend to bully other students. They always have the latest clothes to wear and work out and are in good shape.

In the meantime, Rudy, Grace, and Frances have been friends for a long time and usually eat together at lunch break. Steven has recently become friends with Frances, and so the four have been eating together. Sometimes Grace will eat with Frances, Rudy, and Steven when she is not with other friends.

It just so happens that Frances does not like Geoff at all. They have had some arguments in the past and Geoff has really shown Frances who is boss. So you know what that means—Rudy and Grace don't like Geoff because of their friend Frances.

One day in the cafeteria, Steven decided that he wanted to sit at the table in the back. But Geoff and Aubrey always sit at the back table and really don't like Steven or any of his friends. Besides, everyone knows that the back table is off limits.

**Steven:** Come on, guys, let's go eat at the back table.

**Rudy:** Steven, you know that we can't eat there!

**Steven:** Who says we can't? Aubrey and Geoff? Who are they to tell us what to do? I am tired of sitting in the front. They aren't in charge of us.

**Frances:** Steven, I don't think we should. We could get into some trouble.

**Narrator:** But it was too late. Steven was already on his way to sit at the back table where Geoff and Aubrey were.

**Steven:** Hey! Scoot over and make some room. I've got some friends who are here to eat.

# Trouble in the Cafeteria *(cont.)*

**Aubrey:** You can't just come and take over our table! Get out of here, wise guy!

**Narrator:** As you can guess, because Aubrey was bigger and stronger than Steven, Steven went ahead and sat with the group at the table near the front. Steven was upset by this and spent the rest of the lunch hour complaining about Aubrey and Geoff. Rudy, Frances, and Grace all agreed, but didn't say much. After lunch, everyone headed out to the basketball courts.

**Steven:** Hey, guys, I got a court. Come on and let's play a game of hoops.

**Narrator:** Steven, Rudy, and Frances played a game of half-court basketball for a while. Grace decided to play with them, and they played two on two. On the other half of the court were Geoff and Aubrey. Then Steven got another one of his brilliant ideas.

**Steven:** You know, it is too crowded to play two on two with only half a court. I think we should kick those guys at the other end off the court. Will you back me up if trouble starts?

**Frances:** But what about Geoff and Aubrey? They're kind of tough.

**Steven:** No sweat.

**Narrator:** Before Rudy, Frances, or Grace could say anything, Steven was strutting towards the other half of the court.

**Frances:** Steven is a pretty cool friend, but sometimes he gets kind of pushy.

**Grace:** I think he is going to get us all into trouble.

**Rudy:** I wish he wouldn't do this. Maybe we should stop him.

**Frances:** Oh, let him go. It will be okay.

**Narrator:** Rudy was more concerned than she was letting the others see. She did not think that it was right for Steven to be pushing Geoff and his friends around. But she liked being friends with Frances, so she didn't say anything.

**Steven:**

# Trouble in the Cafeteria *(cont.)*

**Aubrey:** You were not here first! We were!

**Steven:** Were not!

**Aubrey:** Look, Steven, stop being a pain and let us play our game. You have half of a court just like we do. Besides, you're lucky we aren't taking the whole court!

**Geoff:** Besides, you don't want me to mess with you and your little friends, do you?

**Narrator:** Now Geoff was kind of a big guy, and so Steven decided that he better not push things any further—for the moment. He stomped back over to his side of the court.

**Steven:** I decided to be nice and let them keep that half of the court. We have enough room. I guess.

**Frances:** Do you want to play Around-the-World for a while?

**Grace:** Yeah, that sounds like fun! I get to start.

**Rudy:** I'm second.

**Narrator:** They played their game and were having a good time. It was Steven's turn to make the shot. He decided to shoot from the half court line. The other three waited near the basket to catch the ball. While Steven was in back, Aubrey's ball came rolling towards him. Steven bent down and picked up the ball. He got a funny look in his eyes.

**Steven:** Here's your ball!

**Narrator:** And with that, Steven chucked Aubrey's basketball over the fence and into the street.

**Rudy:** (under her breath) Oh no!

**Aubrey:** What did you do that for?! You . . . ! You . . . !

**Narrator:** Aubrey ran after her ball. When she got back, she was angrier than when she left. With a yell, Aubrey blew her top. She ran at Steven and tried to push him down, but Steven didn't budge. Then he pushed Aubrey—pretty hard, too. She fell backwards and nearly hit her head on the court. Geoff became furious and stomped over to Steven.

**Geoff:** Steven! It isn't polite to push people around. I'm going to slug you for that!

**Steven:** But she pushed me first!

# Trouble in the Cafeteria *(cont.)*

- Geoff:** That's because you threw her basketball!
- Narrator:** Keep in mind that Geoff was a bigger dude than Steven and did not have any difficulty getting in a few good punches. Well, when Frances saw all this happening to his friend Steven, he felt like he should stick up for his friend. He came running to Steven's aid.
- Frances:** Look, Geoff, it's all a big misunderstanding. Let Steven go. You know how he is.
- Geoff:** No! He hit my friend and he is going to have to pay for it. And if you don't watch it, I'm going to have to teach you a little lesson too.
- Narrator:** Soon, everybody was involved in the fight on the basketball court. Rudy and Grace came to help because their friend Frances was getting beaten up by Geoff. Aubrey and a few other friends came along to help Geoff out.

You probably can figure out the rest of this story. Everybody involved got into big trouble. They all had detention for the rest of the month! You see how it can be with friendship? Sometimes we get into trouble just by the friendships we keep.

## Teacher/Student Discussion:

Have you ever done something just because your friends did it? What was the result? When is it best to go along with the group? To stand alone? Discuss how the individual choices of the characters in the skit made an impact on someone else. Then, relate the skit to what happened during World War I.

