Olive Holmest
High School,
One Afternoon

Today, we’ll break off into groups of three...

You’ll be discussing your science fair projects, which will be presented in six weeks’ time.
I CALL OWEN!

I'M WITH YOU GUYS.

SORRY, DUDE. ONLY THREE TO A GROUP.

IT'S OKAY, MAN. I'LL FIND SOMEONE ELSE.

YOU GOTTA GROUP?

NOT YET.
LATER...

WE SHOULD DO SOMETHING RELEVANT TO TEENAGERS.

This is boring. Let's talk after class.

Ideas:
- Nutrition
- Sleep
- Exercise
- Mental Health
- Genetics
In exchange for taking care of the science project, no charge...

I'll pass...

Are those... for vaping?

None of my friends are into that...

You sell these, right, Jeremy?

Got a little on-campus store for the... right customers?

If you two promise to take care of the science fair for me, I'll keep you nicely supplied.

Forget it.
DYLAN, trust me, vaping isn’t the move.
You don’t need that kinda negativity in your life.

SPARK?
How do you know my name?

I know things.

Vaping can be really, really addicting.

It’s filled with nicotine.

I didn’t know it was that bad.

There’s no smoke... only... vapor.

I thought it was better than cigarettes.

One pod has the same amount of nicotine as one whole pack of cigarettes.

Plus lots of little metal particles that can get into your lungs.
Hey, guys! Look who's here!

Who's here?

Spark... She was just...

The superhero girl? Here?

I swear!

You don't have to try to impress us. We're your friends no matter what.

That's not a real lie, is it?

No... but I'm getting rid of it.
THAT AFTERNOON...

YOU COULD TALK YOUR MOM INTO LETTING YOU TAKE THE BUS IF YOU DON'T LIKE HER PICKING YOU UP ANYMORE.

SHE DOESN'T WANT ME GETTING INTO TROUBLE LIKE MY BROTHER USED TO.

SHE LETTING YOU COME OVER THIS WEEKEND? WE'RE GONNA PRACTICE ONE OF YOUR SONGS, RIGHT?

MAYBE. SEE YA!

WHAT'S THAT?

JUST A USB DRIVE.
MOM, DO YOU THINK I COULD... TAKE THE BUS HOME TOMORROW?

OH... WELL...

PLEASE MOM?

YOU'VE GOTTEN STRAIGHT AS'S FOR THE PAST THREE SEMESTERS AND HELPED OUT AROUND THE HOUSE WITHOUT QUESTION, SO...

YES, YOU MAY.

WOW, THAT WAS EASY.

BUT YOU BETTER STAY OUT OF TROUBLE.

GOT IT?

YES, MA'AM!

THE NEXT DAY

HI, CARMEN.

YOU'RE DYLAN, RIGHT?

THOUGHT YOUR MOM PICKED YOU UP.

NOT ANYMORE.
You should come hang with my friends and me...

It'll be fun.

Uh, I gotta pick up groceries for my mom, do homework, and then...

Well, I guess I could for a little while!

Later that afternoon...

Used to hang out at this chill diner, but we can't vape in there, so...

We gotta come to Jeremy's everyday.

Isn't that kinda boring?

Hey! I know you!

This guy's my partner for the...

What's it called?

The science fair.

Yeah, the science fair, bro.
JEREMY KNOWS WHAT THE SCIENCE FAIR IS.

He just likes to play dumb.

He also knew just who you were.

EVER TRY ONE?

Your parents won't be able to smell it if that's what you're worried about.

And it's not even that bad for you...

What are you doing now?!
PLAYING YOU A SONG?

HA HA!

MEANWHILE...

NO!

PLAYING YOU ALL A SONG, I MEANT.
ALL RIGHT THEN, SCIENCE FAIR.

INDULGE US.

HAHAHA!
Later...

That was legit, Science Fair, but let's play some real music!

Pump

Pump!

Does he really sell that stuff to middle school kids?

It's not that bad for you!

But...

Nothing...

Yeah...

Bam! Bam! Bam!

Noise complaint!
They all scatter. Dylan makes it halfway down the block, when... Hey, Dylan.

I-I was just at this kid's house.

Oh? What were you up to?

They were vaping... I didn't do it but... Uh huh.

You know you guys got lucky this time, right?

Eliza's House

Eliza! You wanna order out tonight?
Lili: Maybe, Dad.

Dad: Ugh... Whatever you want.

Dad: You're late.

Dad: Why do I always have to be the one to do the right things?

Dad: I trusted you to be responsible.

Dad: Go to your room.

Eliza: Dylan, wake up.

Eliza: Your friend, Eliza, got sick last night. Dizzy, lungs inflamed, shortness of breath.

Dylan: She's fine, but she's already got lung issues, so her dad took her to the ER.

Dylan: Shouldn't haven't been doing that stuff.

Dylan: What was she doing?

Dylan: Vaping.

Dylan: Come on. I told her dad I'd bring you by. Let's go.
KNOCK KNOCK

HEARD ABOUT ELIZA. GLAD SHE’S OKAY.

KNOWN HER SINCE ELEMENTARY.

ANYWAY, IT GOT ME THINKING ABOUT ALL THIS VAPING STUFF, A LOT ACTUALLY. AND...

I WANNA HELP ON THE PROJECT.

IT’S NOT EASY TO SAY NO.

YOU GOTTA THINK ABOUT THINGS LIKE VAPOR TONGUE IF YOU VAPE.

IT’S THE WORST. CAN’T TASTE ANYTHING.

NOT THAT I’D KNOW, BUT YOU GET WHAT I MEAN.

YES, THE HARM THAT VAPING CAN CAUSE IS MORE THAN MOST PEOPLE REALIZE.

AND QUITTING CAN BE REALLY HARD.
The Effects of Vaping On Teen Health

Quick Fact on the Risk of E-Cigarettes

- Most e-cigarettes contain nicotine. Nicotine is highly addictive and can harm adolescent brain development.
- E-cigarettes can contain other nicotine substances besides nicotine.
- Young people who use e-cigarettes are more likely to smoke cigarettes in the future.

END OF ISSUE

GLEN OAK PARK

PLAYING MUSIC TO MATCH THE MOOD. WHY WE NEXT TIME, BABY?

YOU WANT TO ME? THAT STUFF ANYWAY.

I WANNA COME BACK WITH US NEXT WEEK.

AND YOU THINK THAT TWO OF US CAN MANAGE TO FIND FOOD, RIGHT?

YOU CAN'T MANAGE TO FIND FOOD, WHATEVER.

AND GUYS, WE CAN'T TRY TO MAKE MONEY, CAN WE?

THESE ARE THE THINGS THAT WE HAVE TO BE CONCERNED WITH.

AND WE HAVE TO GET KICKED OUT-OF-HERE, ANYWAY.

AND THEY ARE TELLING US WHO IS ACCOUNTABLE.

YOU'RE WANTED SOMETHING WHO IS RESPONSIBLE.

YOU'RE SHARING YOUR JOB, RIGHT?