

The Journey

*A Comedic Screenplay by
English Language Arts 8-1*

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4th DRAFT

1 INT. REGINA'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Regina is on her bed in her room watching videos on her phone of her "friends" enjoying their lives. It is a video of Grace, Avery, and Aria all laughing and having a good time at a party. A frown slowly forms on her face. She then texts Grace and asks if she would like to hang out. She doesn't answer. She also texts Avery and Aria. They don't answer either. She looks furious! The CAMERA PANS as she runs out of her room and heads for the door. Her brother Tim stops her.

TIM

Regina! Stop this now! Why are you so mad?

REGINA

I won't stop! My friends never give me any attention!

TIM

Then why don't you just talk to them about it instead of throwing a tantrum?

REGINA

I can't talk to them about it! They'll never understand! They never give me attention and I'm sick of it! I will get my revenge!

TIM

Regina, you're being a drama queen right now, so you need to back it up. Back it right up. (Pause) All the way. (Pause) Without the attitude.

REGINA

Oh my god! Just go back to your room and play video games like you do everyday!

TIM

I have a life you know!

REGINA

Not much of one.

TIM

(Extra calm)

Okay. That was offensive. Use your inner voice to control your outer voice.

REGINA

Why do you sound like Mr. Thompson all of a sudden?

TIM

I just see my future in public school guidance. You know, Mr. Thompson happens to be a great guy. A real great guy.

REGINA

You're just making me angrier! Get out of my face!

TIM

(Extra calm)

Okay Regina, you're being over dramatic again, and it needs to stop.

REGINA

You need to stop and leave me alone! Now get out of my way!

TIM

What are you going to do, go on a rampage?

REGINA

I'll do whatever it takes!

Regina runs out of the house and heads for James' house.

2. EXT. JAMES' HOUSE - DAY

The CAMERA is behind Regina as she is running over to James' and up the stairs of his house then the CAMERA PANS to a view of James eating Doritos, drinking Mountain Dew and playing Xbox.

INT. JAMES' HOUSE - DAY

REGINA

JAMES! I need a favour!

JAMES

(Sleepily)

YAAAAAWWWWWWWNNNNN, what do you want now?

REGINA

I need you to go up the canal, hide, and I'll bring some people, and you have to scare the living daylights out of them with a zombie costume on.

JAMES

Okay, but only if you pay me.

REGINA

Pay? How much?

JAMES

\$20.

REGINA

Why, you want more money for your snacks.

JAMES

Yep.

REGINA

(Irritated)

Fine. Whatever.

As Regina is leaving the room the CAMERA PANS behind James' phone as he is texting Tim.

JAMES

(Texting)

Hey Tim! I've got something important to tell you.

TIM

(Texting)

What?

JAMES

(Texting)

Your sister is weird, she asked me to dress up like a zombie and scare people at the end of the trek.

TIM

(Texting)

Okay. I'll watch for her and make sure that she doesn't do what she planned to do.

JAMES

(Texting)

Okay.

3 INT. SCHOOL - DAY

CAMERA PANS across the class and we see Harper drawing, Kirkland staring at Grace in a flirtatious way, Jack giving away his bag of chips, Danielle bullying a random kid, Maya giving advice, James asleep on the desk, and Charlotte just looks mad. The CAMERA STOPS at a group of friends (Regina, Grace, Avery, and Aria).

REGINA

There's something I need to tell you guys after class.

GRACE

Why can't you just tell us here?

Avery and Aria nod in agreement.

REGINA

Because it needs to be done privately. I don't want anyone else hearing. So meet me at the stairwell right after next class. I think you guys are going to be excited!

The bell rings and Regina walks out of class.

AVERY

Wow. Sounds important. Are you guys going?

ARIA

Yeah.

AVERY

Okay well, see you guys later, after next class, by the stairwell, with REGINA, and you guys, to find what she has to tell us, not sure why she couldn't just tell us here but...

GRACE

(Cutting AVERY off)

Yes AVERY, we'll see you there.

4 INT. SCHOOL - DAY

We see Regina walking toward Grace, Avery, and Aria on the stairwell. The CAMERA will blur out Regina's shoulder as we see her friends.

REGINA

Okay, I'll tell the secret.

GRACE

I've been waiting.

REGINA

Down the canal it is said that there is something really gross.

AVERY

Like, how gross? I'm not puking anytime soon.

REGINA

Well it's not that gross. It can't be a dead body. But it's really cool!

ARIA

Okay, I'm in. When will we go?

REGINA
How's Saturday?

GRACE
Saturday is good.

Regina walks away from her friends, and they're unsure about going with her. Then, they agree.

ARIA
Are you guys sure about going?

GRACE
I guess so. Are you going Avery?

AVERY
I will. I'm curious about what it is.

ARIA
Yeah, same. I want to see what it is.

The CAMERA pans to the top of the stairwell into the next scene.

5 INT. SCHOOL - DAY

Maya and Harper are eating lunch of the stairs after overhearing Regina's plan. Maya and Harper look at each other.

MAYA
What if we got in on the trek?

HARPER
Yeah we could but we have to look like were doing something so we don't look weird.

MAYA
Yes, that's why we're going to bring paint and art supplies. We are nature artists, up in the woods, painting.

HARPER
Yes, perfect! Then they might ask us to join!

Bell rings. Harper and Maya are on their way back to class when Kirkland stops Maya in the hall.

KIRKLAND

Maya, can I ask you something?

MAYA

Of course! You can ask me anything!

KIRKLAND

Well let's say I was thinking about asking this girl out and, well, how would I do that?

MAYA

Well, make sure you look into her eyes and smile and say something simple like 'Will you go out with me?' or 'We should go out sometime!' but first you have to make her laugh. Yes. Make her laugh. That always works.

KIRKLAND

Okay. Thanks Maya. I knew I could count on you.

MAYA

Yeah no problem I should get to class now, but wait, one more thing!

KIRKLAND

Sure

MAYA

Who is it that you're asking out anyway?

KIRKLAND

You will find out soon enough if I don't chicken out.

MAYA

Oh. Cool. Well, see ya later!

KIRKLAND

Bye Maya!

6 EXT. A STREET - MORNING

Maya and Harper gather their art supplies and head out.

MAYA

I hope they are at the canal when we go up there; I really want to see what they're doing.

HARPER

Yea, I know. I want to see what the gross surprise is.

MAYA

(Grabs the art supplies)

Well, let's go!

Once Maya and Harper set off for the canal, we see Jack and Kirkland getting their fishing and picnic supplies from their backyard.

KIRKLAND

(Looks for his fishing rod in a box)

Where is my fishing rod?

JACK

I don't know, but you can have mine.

KIRKLAND

Never mind. I found it.

JACK

Okay. Do you want a sandwich?

KIRKLAND

No. Let's go. Maybe we'll meet some girls up here.

Jack and Kirkland set off for the canal we see Tim and Danielle sitting on the steps in front of the house.

DANIELLE

Hey, Tim! What do you want to do today?

TIM
(Sighs)
I don't know.

DANIELLE
I wish we could like, go on an
adventure or something.

TIM
Yea, maybe our friends will come by
later.

DANIELLE
(Points to the end of the street)
Wait! I see people.

TIM
Is that our friends?

DISSOLVE TO:

7 EXT. STREET - MORNING

CLOSE-UP:
Regina looks perplexed. She looks around, anxious for her
friends to appear.

LONG SHOT:
Aria comes out of her house. She locks her door. She
approaches the CAMERA.

CUT TO:
Over Regina's shoulder, as Aria enters the frame, Grace,
and Avery appear. All approach Regina and stare at her.

REGINA
(Squinty-eyed and looking at her group)
We're a little late?

GRACE
It's early! I normally like to sleep
in Saturday morning.

AVERY
I had to feed my cat. He was meowing
a lot. He meows at whoever gets up
first. He wants to be fed first thing

in the mornings! He nags a lot. You've heard of Kermit the Frog? We've got Neddie the Nag. That's what dad calls him. "Where's Neddie the Nag", he'll say. I don't know. Just shake the food bag. He'll come running.

GRACE

Your Dad or the cat?

AVERY

The cat! My Dad's fit. He runs all the time. The cat is out of shape and fat.

REGINA

Okay! Okay! Your cat. We get it. But, this trek today. Are you folks ready?

ARIA

I don't even know what we're doing or what we're going to see. (Pause) But, you know what? I don't care. I'm just in a really great mood this morning. I feel wide awake and refreshed!
(Aria shrugs her shoulders)

CUT TO:

Regina is very perplexed.

GRACE

You know, Aria, your mood is infectious. Your being happy makes me happy too! Let's get going!

Aria, Grace, Regina, and Avery walk past the CAMERA and down the street.

8 INT. JAMES'S HOUSE - MORNING

James is sound asleep in bed. He has a serious case of bed head. He looks like a zombie!

9 EXT. THE CANAL - DAY

Aria leads the group up the canal. CAMERA tracks back as the girls are walking in front.

ARIA

I am so happy today! I just love the smell of the great outdoors in the morning! This is just what we needed! (Pause) Regina, I think this is probably the best idea you have ever had. Get away from it all, you know? Away from the school? Teachers?

AVERY

Did you eat fruit earlier because one time after I ate fruit I was happy or maybe it's just because my vitamin c was low.

ARIA

Okay. Yeah. Fruit doesn't do that to me. It does something to me, but not that.

REGINA

Fruit makes you...

CAMERA frames Avery from the waist up and she appears to step in dog poo. Avery pauses to scrape her shoe.

AVERY

Ewww! Stupid dogs!

ARIA

(Taking in a deep breath)
Ah! The fresh, outside air! It smells so good. Some famous actress used to say, after she'd get off a plane or something, "Ah, Canada! The air always smells freshly cleaned and polished!"

AVERY

(Also smelling the air. Grimace)
Yeah, totally polished.

Aria starts getting more and more mad as she talks.

REGINA

Aria...

ARIA

Yes, Regina?

REGINA

Welllll...

ARIA

What is it Regina?

REGINA

Ahhhh...

ARIA

Just spit it out already! What is it?
I'm not going to be upset or
anything. Just say it!

REGINA

I just want you to know something may
happen at the end of the canal.

ARIA

What could possibly happen? It is a
beautiful day. The sun is shining.
The snow is melting. It is the
perfect day. It's not too cold. It's
the perfect day.

REGINA

I guess you are right. What could
possibly happen? It is the perfect
day...

REGINA

(to herself)
...to scare you.

ARIA

What was that?

REGINA

I think the smell of the spring air
is getting to you.

ARIA

Oh, never mind.

Aria, Avery, Grace, and Regina continue walking. And
walking. And walking.

GRACE

How much longer? I need to go home
and study!

REGINA

What? Study? What could you possibly
have to study for? You know
everything.

EMILY

The up coming science test.

REGINA

That test is in three weeks and you
probably know the textbook from cover
to cover!

EMILY

You can never know too much!

10 INT. THE CANAL - AFTERNOON

The CAMERA walks backwards pointing towards the kids.

ARIA

Everyone! Look at the bush! It's
moving!

The CAMERA points towards the shaking bush.

AVERY

Oh my God! What is in that bush?

Harper and Maya appear out of the bush.

AVERY

Ah! Oh wait. It's only Maya and Harper with their art!

GRACE

Oh, look at all the beautiful colours!

REGINA

I could do better than that.

AVERY

Look at the nice shading work!

REGINA

It looks like it has been drawn by a five year old.

ARIA

Oh my god! This one is so cute.

REGINA

If you consider that cute, you must be pretty stupid.

ARIA

Hey! You gals should come along!

REGINA

Let's just continue because we don't need any losers like them.

Harper and Maya continue to examine their paintings.

The group shrugs them off and continues following Regina.

11 EXT. THE CANAL - DAY

CAMERA is focused in onto Grace.

GRACE

Did anyone bring food? I'm starving and if I don't get food in the next two minutes, I'm going to eat my own hair!

The CAMERA pans out to the group.

ARIA
So am I, not the hair part, but
starving.

CAMERA zooms in onto Regina.

REGINA
Well, sorry to break your hearts, but
we got to keep going, plus who brings
food onto a trail.

JACK
We do!

ARIA
Hey, who said that?

KIRKLAND
Us over here!

CAMERA turns the corner to Jack and Kirkland fishing.

KIRKLAND
As we heard, you guys are hungry?

Aria and Grace nod in sync.

JACK
You guys got no food? Where's your
blanket? You're more than welcome to
come and join us.

GRACE
Okay!

Grace and aria sit down on the blanket.

JACK
What would you like? We got fried
chicken, lemon meringue pie, ham
sandwiches, and your favourite
beverages.

REGINA

They would like... nothing! Come on guys we got to keep going.

ARIA

But we're starving and they got food.

REGINA

The food is probably moldy anyways.

JACK

HEY, it's all fresh. My mom made it for me.

REGINA

They got to go! Come on guys we got a long walk ahead of us.

ARIA

No! We're staying, no matter if you stay or go on.

CAMERA turns to Regina as she has a sour look on her face.

12 EXT. THE CANAL - DAY

CAMERA pans out of the group eating at their picnic, mostly focused on Grace.

GRACE

(Starts to choke)

ARIA

Oh my god! Someone help her!

Everyone gets scared and surprised. Kirkland jumps up.

KIRKLAND

I will!

Kirkland runs over to Grace. Kirkland puts Grace in the Heimlich maneuver and stops her from choking.

GRACE
(Coughs)

GRACE
Tha... thank you.

KIRKLAND
No problem.

Grace looks at Kirkland.

KIRKLAND
So I was thinking... uh do you want to
go out with me?

GRACE
Yes. I'd love to!

Kirkland and Grace look at each other and go sit down
with the rest of the people there. Grace and Kirkland sit
down and everyone has questions.

JACK
Are you okay? I have many things to
make you feel better, I have an extra
blanket and a pillow so you can lay
down, I have water or juice if you
want any of that.

GRACE
No thank you. I'm good. But, thank
you.

JACK
Are you sure?

GRACE
Yes, thank you

CAMERA PANS OUT of the group talking.

13 EXT. CANAL - DAY

The CAMERA PANS to the group of friends: Regina, Grace,
Aria, and Avery. Then, the CAMERA PANS to Danielle and

Tim spying on the group ahead in the woods. The CAMERA then PANS back to the group walking.

REGINA

Okay guys, we're almost at the spot now.

ARIA

Really? Where are we going? Oh this is so exciting!

AVERY

When will we be there? This is boring. I'm so tired.

REGINA

Avery! Shut up! We'll get there when we get there.

LONG SHOT:

The group of girls continue to walk down the trail.

REGINA (V.O.)

Where is James? He should be here by now.

GRACE

Regina, what are you doing? Why are you looking around like that?

CAMERA PANS to Aria, Grace, and Avery looking at each other in confusion.

AVERY

(Laughing at REGINA)
Regina, are you embarrassed? Your face is turning red?

REGINA

No!

CLOSE-UP:

Regina turns away hiding her red face.

ARIA

Oh my god! She is embarrassed! Ha ha ha!

The CAMERA PANS to Avery, Grace, and Aria laughing at Regina.

REGINA

Stop laughing! I have something to say!

MEDIUM SHOT:

Tim and Danielle walk out of the woods.

GRACE

What are you guys doing here? REGINA did you have this planed?

REGINA

No, I had no idea they were here! Ugh how did you guys know we were even here today?

ARIA

Who cares! The more the merrier!

MEDIUM SHOT:

Danielle walks over to Grace and Avery. She yells at them.

DANIELLE

Hey losers! What? Cat got your tongue? Spit it out already.

GRACE

Oh uh sorry Danielle.

AVERY

What's even going on here?

REGINA

Danielle! Why don't you leave them alone? Why are you guys even here?

TIM

Regina since when did you become a snob?

ARIA

Okay guys. Calm down a bit.

GRACE

Yes! There is no need for all this.

DANIELLE

Ugh!

14 EXT.CANAL - DAY

Shot of Tim and Danielle walking away. CAMERA SLOWLY PANS to Regina, Aria, Grace, and Avery watching them.

AVERY

Wow, thanks Regina!

GRACE

Yeah, thanks. That was benevolent of you.

ARIA

You're a really great friend!

Regina looks uncomfortably at her hands.

REGINA

No... I'm not.

ARIA

Yeah you are, you-

REGINA

No, guys, listen, there's a reason I asked you to come here today, and it's not to see anything amazing. I...I asked James to dress up as a zombie and scare you guys.

AVERY

But...why?

REGINA

You guys were ignoring me. I just wanted to get your attention.

GRACE

Don't try to blame this on us Regina.

ARIA
(To Grace and Avery)
Let's go guys.

Aria, Grace, and Avery turn around and walk away angrily.
Regina follows them.

REGINA
I'm really sorry.

Aria, Avery, and Grace ignore Regina and keep walking.
Regina walks behind them.

FADE TO BLACK:

FADE UP again on Aria, Avery, Grace, and Regina, still
walking. They are closer to the beginning of the trail.
Charlotte ENTERS FRAME.

CHARLOTTE
Hey guys, sorry I'm late, I-

REGINA
Who invited you?

CHARLOTTE
I don't need to be invited, I'm here
now, and your lives just got 100%
better.

REGINA
I think you mean worse.

CHARLOTTE
No, you're thinking about yourself.

Regina opens her mouth to say something else, but
Charlotte interrupts her.

CHARLOTTE
Anyway, how did your day go?

ARIA
Well, Regina here thought it would be
an amazing idea to scare the living
daylights out of us with a zombie!

Aria, Avery, and Grace all glare at Regina.

REGINA

But we had fun didn't we? We saw Harper and Maya's great artwork, and we had delicious food with Jack and Kirkland, and we met Danielle and Tim.

GRACE

Who made fun of us?

REGINA

I stood up for you! And we were together for once. Do you know how long it's been since we've seen each other outside of school?

ARIA

Whatever.

Aria, Avery, and Grace start walking away again.

CHARLOTTE

Guys, wait.

The girls reluctantly stop walking.

CHARLOTTE

You were ignoring Regina! She just wanted to get your attention. And she stood up for you when it mattered! Can't you just forgive her?

ARIA

Yeah, I guess so. We shouldn't have ignored you Regina.

GRACE

We're sorry.

REGINA

I'm sorry too. It was a stupid idea.

The group starts walking home together, smiling. Avery stops suddenly.

AVERY

Wait, where did the zombie go?

CUT TO:

Shot of James trudging groggily out of his room, looking like a zombie.

THE END
CREDITS