

IAMBIC PENTAMETER

by: J. Gordon

EXT. SCHOOL - AFTERNOON

LILA and DREW sit next to each other. The silence is awkward.

LILA
My mom's not usually this late.

DREW
Don't worry about it. I'm just
happy she said yes. Thought I was
gonna have to walk it.

LILA
Don't you live in Shadow Lakes?

DREW
Yeah.

LILA
That's like ten miles.

DREW
I've done it before.

BEAT.

DREW (CONT'D)
I know we don't really chill
together, um, but I wanted to tell
you that I thought you were great
in that Shakespeare festival.

LILA
Oh my god, you saw that? It was so
embarrassing, me in that wig with
all the old English and everything.

DREW
I liked it.

LILA
(CHUCKLES) Sure you did.

DREW
Why's that funny?

LILA
You probably didn't get most of it.

DREW
You don't think I understand
Shakespeare?

LILA
No offense, but no.

DREW nods, takes the insult.

LILA (CONT'D)
What's Team Alpha?

DREW
Huh?

LILA
Your hoodie?

DREW
Oh, it's my MMA gym. (OFF HER LOOK)
Martial Arts.

LILA
Like Karate?

DREW
Kinda, but not really. There's way
more involved.

LILA
I don't know, it seems kinda
childish.

DREW
I'm guessing you've never been in a
fight?

LILA
Physically hitting someone? No, I'm
not a toddler.

Now DREW has been seriously insulted.

DREW
Forget you. I'll walk home.

DREW starts to walk away.

LILA
Wait. C'mon. I was just teasing
you.

DREW

For your information, I was being polite when I said I liked you in the play. The truth is, I was unimpressed by your lackluster rendition of *The Shrew*. You butchered the iambic pentameter, and missed all the subtlety in the metaphors. (OFF HER LOOK) Yeah, sometimes guys who like fighting also love poetry.

LILA

Oh my god. You are so fake. You play this tough kid from the wrong side of the tracks, but now I see right through it. Lifting weights because you're insecure. Learning how to fight because you're scared someone might find out how smart you are. Why don't you grow up, be yourself and people might actually like you. And by the way, kids from the streets don't use words like "iambic pentameter."

DREW

Whatever, you're going to call MMA childish when you 'play pretend' for a hobby?

LILA

Acting is a *real* art, thank you very much. Not like your silly Kung fu.

DREW

I dare you to come to my gym for one class. Just one.

LILA

Fine, but then you have to come to my acting class.

DREW

No problem.

LILA

It's a date.

SFX: HONK HONK! A van pulls up and LILA starts toward it.