

The Girl Who Was Different

A Play for Children Ages 8-12

by

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CHARACTERS
(in order of appearance)

KAREN
3 MEAN GIRLS
LEIGH
2 ARTSY KIDS (can be doubled)
HOLLY
3 BRAINY KIDS (can be doubled)
MICHAEL
3 HIP HOP KIDS (can be doubled)
BEBE
3 DODGE BALL PLAYERS (can be doubled)
JANE
ANDREA

REQUIREMENTS

All characters EXCEPT Karen should have a third eye in the middle of their foreheads.

The play takes place during a normal school day. Needed are a table and some chairs, a small stereo, a jump rope and a dodge ball. Costumes are normal school dress. Dress should reflect the personalities and interests of the children's activities. The DODGE BALL PLAYERS, who should be dressed for gym.

THE GIRL WHO WAS DIFFERENT - 1

(LEIGH enters and sits on the stage.)

LEIGH

(to the audience) There's this new girl at school, and she's a real freak. I mean really different. She's not like ... you know ... the rest of us. I figure I'm as open-minded as the next person, but there are some things that are as plain as the nose on your face ... or the eye on your forehead. All you have to do is look at her and you can tell she's different.

(KAREN enters the stage but hangs to the side. She carries her school books. She looks around as if waiting for something.)

LEIGH (cont'd)

There she is. Just like I told you, right?

KAREN

(Sees LEIGH) Hi, Leigh!

LEIGH

Is she talking to me? Please tell me she's not talking to me.

(3 MEAN GIRLS enter. LEIGH is relieved.)

MEAN GIRL 1

Hi, Leigh. Is that you-know-who?

MEAN GIRL 2

She gives me the creeps.

MEAN GIRL 3

She's so ... different.

LEIGH

I'm so glad you all showed up. I was afraid she was going to come over here and talk to me ...

KAREN

(Comes up behind them and interrupts) Hi! Did anyone have any trouble with yesterday's math homework?

MEAN GIRL 1

Are you talking to us?

THE GIRL WHO WAS DIFFERENT - 2

KAREN

Yes, I am.

MEAN GIRL 1

Don't you know you're not supposed to talk to us?

KAREN

Why not?

MEAN GIRL 2

Isn't it obvious?

MEAN GIRL 3

Don't you know?

LEIGH

Look, it's obvious she doesn't, so we'll have to make it clear. You're a freak. You don't belong. You're different.

KAREN

I'm what?

MEAN GIRL 3

You heard her. Now go away. You're creeping us out!

LEIGH

Let's go.

(The MEAN GIRLS exit, leaving
KAREN and LEIGH.)

KAREN

I'm NOT a freak. I AM just like everyone else.

LEIGH

Oh yeah? Have you got a mirror?

KAREN

Well, I AM like everyone else. I'm no weirder than anyone else.

LEIGH

In what world? Look, I'll tell you what. If you can find someone more different than you, I'll ... I'll let you hang out with me and my friends.

KAREN

But they hate me.

LEIGH

Hey, prove it to me and you'll be in. But really - good luck.

KAREN

So ... where do I look?

LEIGH

Why don't you try the artsy kids. They're all freaks anyway.

KAREN

All right, I will!

(LEIGH exits. KAREN crosses to where the ARTSY KIDS are.

HOLLY is drawing in a pad. ARTSY KID 1 is looking over some music and ARTSY KID 2 is going over some dance moves.)

KAREN (cont'd)

Hi. I'm Karen.

HOLLY

I'm Holly. What do you want?

KAREN

What are you doing?

HOLLY

We're creating.

KAREN

(To ARTSY KID 1) Say, that looks hard.

ARTSY KID 1

Are you a musician?

KAREN

No, but I think it's fascinating.

ARTSY KID 1

Then yes, it's hard. Do you mind?

KAREN

Have I done something wrong?

ARTSY KID 2

You're bothering us.

KAREN

You move nicely. Can I try it?

ARTSY KID 2

You wouldn't be able to.

KAREN

How do you know.

ARTSY KID 2

Because you're a freak.

(KAREN joins ARTSY KID 2 with
her dance.)

HOLLY

Hey, you're not bad.

ARTSY KID 2

I have to admit, I'm impressed!

KAREN

I've taken dance most of my life.

ARTSY KID 2

Is she going to hang out with us?

HOLLY

I don't think so.

ARTSY KID 2

Glad to hear it.

KAREN

Why not?

HOLLY

Because you're different.

KAREN

Yes, but we're all different in our own way. Wouldn't you
consider yourselves to be different from other kids?

ARTSY KID 1

Of course not!

HOLLY

Not so fast, there. What's on your mind?

KAREN

I was ... I'm trying to find someone else who is different.
Even more different than I am.

HOLLY
I wish we could help you. Sorry. But we definitely fit in better than you.

KAREN
It's okay. Thanks anyway.

(KAREN turns to leave.)

HOLLY
Wait! ... Here. Take this.

(HOLLY hands KAREN a piece of paper.)

KAREN
What do I do with this?

HOLLY
Stick it on your forehead, stupid.

(HOLLY, ARTSY KID 1 and ARTSY KID 2 exit. KAREN takes the paper, which is a drawing of an eye, and sticks it on her forehead. LEIGH and the MEAN GIRLS enter, see KAREN and laugh.)

LEIGH
Do you know how silly you look?

KAREN
But I'm like you now.

LEIGH
Did you really think something that lame would make you any less of a freak?

KAREN
I suppose not.

LEIGH
Face it -- you'll NEVER be like us. You'll never find anyone more different than you.

(They exit, laughing. HOLLY enters.)

HOLLY
Hey, I tried.

KAREN

Yeah, thanks. At least someone tried.

HOLLY

Well, I figure that we artsy kids are always looked at as being different, so it didn't feel right to do the same thing to you.

KAREN

You don't think I'm so different?

HOLLY

Oh, you're definitely different. But that doesn't mean I can treat you badly. People tell me I'm different, too. Sometimes some kids even pick on me because I can do something they can't.

KAREN

Why?

HOLLY

Who knows. They just do. I guess because I can draw so well and other people can't.

KAREN

Is there anyone else here who's different?

HOLLY

I guess they're everywhere, if you look hard enough. WE should try the brainy kids. They're always getting picked on.

KAREN

We? What do you mean "we?"

HOLLY

Shut up. Do you want my help or not?

KAREN

Okay, okay. Why would people pick on the brainy kids?

HOLLY

Because they're different. Hello, are you not listening?

(KAREN and HOLLY go to where the BRAINY KIDS are. MICHAEL and 3 BRAINY KIDS are all sitting at tables, reading.)

HOLLY

Michael - this is Karen.

MICHAEL

(Not looking up from his book) Hi.

KAREN

Hi.

HOLLY

Karen, this is Michael. (whispers to KAREN) See what I mean? A bit different.

KAREN

Hi.

MICHAEL

Hi.

HOLLY

Michael, this is a five-hundred pound gorilla.

MICHAEL

Hi.

BRAINY KID 1

(Looks up) Hey Michael, it's really not a five-hundred pound gorilla.

MICHAEL

Obviously.

BRAINY KID 1

Then why did you just say "hi" to her when I told you she was a five-hundred pound gorilla?

MICHAEL

Hang on - I want to finish this paragraph. (reads for a moment) Now, who are you?

BRAINY KID 2

Hey, I've heard about you. You're the one who's ... different.

MICHAEL

Not so fast. We can't very well call her different, until we study and analyze the situation. We're different, too, in some ways.

BRAINY KID 3

Yeah, but not like that.

MICHAEL

It's all a matter of what you consider different. Yes, she looks different on the outside, but is she really different? I have an IQ higher than any student in this school. Does that make me different?

BRAINY KID 3

Well ... yes, it does.

BRAINY KID 1

But you're not different like she is.

MICHAEL

It's all in how you "look" at it, and believe me, I was not meaning the lack of your eye. Please forgive my associates, Karen. Is there any issue I can assist you with?

KAREN

Well, as a matter of fact ... I'm looking for others who are different.

MICHAEL

Each person is unique. We all possess unique traits, characteristics and DNA which sets us apart from each other.

HOLLY

Anyone care to translate?

BRAINY KID 2

He said we're all different, really.

HOLLY

We know that - but we're looking for others who are REALLY different. Different like Karen is different.

BRAINY KID 3

But individuality prevents us from truly being alike. As much as I might like or admire another person, I'd never want to be just like them. Not only is it not possible, but, well ...

BRAINY KID 2

It just isn't right.

MICHAEL

I understand your quest and I shall assist you.

BRAINY KID 2

You do? You will?

KAREN
You'll help?

MICHAEL
Yes. I, too, am tired of being ... a freak.

HOLLY
Me, too.

KAREN
Great! So, where do we look?

(LEIGH enters.)

LEIGH
Well, look at this. The Freak Squad.

HOLLY
Get lost, loser.

LEIGH
Loser? Me? Are you kidding?

MICHAEL
No need to fret. My new friend Holly was merely using sarcasm.

LEIGH
Sarcasm?

HOLLY
Yeah, sarcasm. Don't you know what sarcasm is?

MICHAEL
Sarcasm is the use of satire mixed with scorn or contempt said with the purpose of cutting or biting ...

LEIGH
Save it, brainiac.

(LEIGH exits.)

HOLLY
She really makes me mad.

KAREN
I don't know ... I think she's okay. She's just a little confused. Maybe she just doesn't feel like she fits in.

MICHAEL
Oh, I don't know. I've been called a loser most of my life.

KAREN

But you're not a loser.

MICHAEL

I tell myself that every day. Unfortunately, everybody else has a different opinion.

KAREN

They just don't understand you.

HOLLY

Speaking of not understanding somebody ... I never understand their music.

(They approach BEBE and the 3
HIP HOP KIDS. Hip Hop music
plays from a "boom box" and
they are all dancing.)

KAREN

Hello? Hello?

MICHAEL

The stereo system is too loud.

HOLLY

HEY!

(They turn off the music.)

HIP HOP KID 1

Yo yo, what's the dilly-o!

BEBE

Hey - chill, alright? We got no beef with you.

HIP HOP KID 2

Whoa! Hey, Bebe, that's the one without the ... you know.

HIP HOP KID 3

That's whack!

KAREN

We're looking for people who are different.

HIP HOP KID 3

No one here fits that description.

HOLLY

Have you looked in a mirror lately?

HIP HOP KID 1

How'd you like a fat lip?

BEBE

Hey, peeps! Chill! What's a freak like you want with a bunch of freaks like us?

KAREN

Well ... if we're all freaks, then none of us are really. Right?

MICHAEL

My goodness! She's put the cap on the bottle now, hasn't she!

BEBE

Can you bust a move?

HOLLY

Can she ever!

MICHAEL

Bust a what?

BEBE

Bust a move. Hit the tunes, homey.

(Someone turns the music back on. The all dance, and KAREN dances with them.)

HIP HOP KID 1

Hey, you move pretty fly.

HIP HOP KID 2

Join the party!

HOLLY

Oh, I don't think I can.

MICHAEL

I'm quite sure I can't.

HIP HOP KID 2

Come on! Don't be illin'!

MICHAEL

Illin'. Remind me to look that up in the dictionary.

HOLLY

Look, it's nothing personal. It's just that ... well ...

MICHAEL

It's not our cup of tea.

(They turn off the music.)

BEBE

And you know what? That's cool.

HIP HOP KID 3

Just because we like something, doesn't mean everybody has to like it.

HIP HOP KID 1

If we all danced to the same tunes, it'd be boring.

BEBE

You can bust a move like the rest of 'em, and that's cool.
You're a freak, but we are too, really.

KAREN

I'm Karen. This is Holly and Michael. We're out to find someone who is more different than I am.

BEBE

I'm Bebe. Mind if I join you?

HOLLY

We can use all the help we can get.

(The HIP HOP KIDS exit, but
the MEAN GIRLS enter.)

MEAN GIRL 1

What do you think you're doing?

HOLLY

What's the matter? Do large crowds make you nervous?

MEAN GIRL 2

Leigh isn't going to like this.

BEBE

Who's Leigh? Oh, you mean that snooty girl?

MEAN GIRL 3

I'm telling Leigh you said that about her.

BEBE

Oh, I'm cryin'.

MEAN GIRL 2

I wouldn't cross Leigh.

HOLLY

Why not?

MEAN GIRL 1

Let's just say that she has ways of getting what she wants.

KAREN

She doesn't seem all that special to me. She seems, well, like the rest of us.

MEAN GIRL 2

The REST of you? Look at you! The four biggest freaks in the school!

MEAN GIRL 3

Why do you care about Leigh anyway? Why can you just go your way and let us go ours?

MICHAEL

(To KAREN) Yes. Why is this so important?

KAREN

I don't know ... it's just a feeling I get. She's not a bad person, I know it.

HOLLY

She hates us.

KAREN

I don't think she does. I think she's more like us than you think.

MEAN GIRL 2

You're nuts!

KAREN

Maybe. But maybe I'm not. We have to show her that she's no different than we are. If not, then people like her will call us freaks for the rest of our lives.

MEAN GIRL 1

You're breaking my heart. Just leave it alone, will you?

MEAN GIRL 2

Next thing you know they'll be bugging the jocks.

BEBE

Who? The jocks?

HOLLY

Yeah, the jocks! Everybody to the gym!

MEAN GIRL 2

(to MEAN GIRL 1) Nice one. Soon the freak squad will take over the whole school!

MEAN GIRL 3

Come on. Let's go before Leigh finds out.

(The MEAN GIRLS exit quickly.)

MICHAEL

Maybe we should think about this.

HOLLY

No-can-do, brainiac. Let's get to it.

(They enter the GYM. A dodge ball flies at them. KAREN catches it. JANE with 3 DODGE BALL PLAYERS behind her.)

JANE

What do you want?

KAREN

I don't know.

JANE

Then go away.

HOLLY

Why?

DODGE BALL PLAYER 1

You heard her. Go away.

DODGE BALL PLAYER 2

It's not safe in here for your kind.

KAREN

What does that mean?

JANE

We play hard in here. You have to be strong, and you have to be fast.

DODGE BALL PLAYER 3

Didn't you hear what Jane said? The gym is off-limits to freaks.

MICHAEL

I beg your pardon?!

KAREN

Let us pass.

JANE

Do you play dodge ball?

BEBE

Uh ... no, not really.

MICHAEL

I must say I'm rather rusty at it.

KAREN

Sure. I've played at my old school.

JANE

Then you'll have to beat us to get past.

KAREN

You're on.

(JANE and the dodge ball
players back away. KAREN,
BEBE, MICHAEL and HOLLY
huddle.)

HOLLY

What are we doing?

KAREN

We're going to have to face them.

BEBE

These are the jocks! They'll trash us!

MICHAEL

I fear she's right. We are unequipped for such a physical challenge.

KAREN

Right. They think we'll be easy to beat.

HOLLY

But we WILL be easy to beat.

KAREN

Just try. Please?