

THE SCIENCE EXPERIMENT

SCENE: The science laboratory. Students are mixing chemicals to see their reactions.

ROLES (5): Mr. Stockwell (teacher), Ahmid (student), Jennifer (student), Jarrot (student), Grace (student)

READER AGES: 10 years and over

MR. STOCKWELL: Class, it is very important that you follow all the proper safety protocols when working in the laboratory. This is a very serious business. We will be working with chemicals that can cause damage to the equipment and can also cause injury to yourselves.

AHMID: Sir, do we get to wear the white lab coats and safety glasses?

MR. STOCKWELL: Of course, Ahmid. We have all the equipment you need to stay safe. The most important thing to remember, though, is to follow my instructions at all times. I really can't stress that enough.

JENNIFER: Of course, we will! When have we ever not followed your instructions?

MR. STOCKWELL: *(laughing)* Ha! It's a long list, Jennifer! Now, please arrange yourselves into groups of four and take your place at one of the benches. Do not touch anything yet.

Ahmid, Jennifer, Jarrot and Grace come together in a group.

JENNIFER: Cool, look at all of these ingredients! Do you think we will get to blow something up?

GRACE: They're chemicals, Jennifer, not ingredients! We're not baking a cake!

JARROT: As for blowing anything up, I highly doubt that will happen. Mr. Stockwell is all about safety. He won't be taking any risks like that!

MR. STOCKWELL: Now, after you have all put your lab coats and safety glasses on, please pick up the blue and red liquids. Pour half of each into the beaker on your bench and mix them together using the spoon. Ahmid, do not use your finger like last time!

AHMID: *(laughing)* I won't, sir! My finger has only just gone back to its normal size!

MR. STOCKWELL: Whatever you do, do not mix the blue and green liquids together. Here's a little rhyme to help you remember: blue and green should never be seen!

GRACE: (*thinking aloud*) What do you think would happen if we mixed the blue and green liquids together? It can't be anything that bad, surely.

JARROT: I really don't think we should test it out. Mr. Stockwell told us not to and I certainly don't want to get hurt. Let's just mix the blue and red liquids together, like we're supposed to.

JENNIFER: (*excitedly*) But what if it's something super cool? It could make fireworks!

AHMID: Do you think so? Fireworks would be so awesome! I think we should try!

GRACE: Yes, we definitely should! (*to Ahmad*) You do it, Ahmad.

AHMID: Why me?

JENNIFER: Well, you do have a reputation for having these little 'accidents'. Mr. Stockwell has come to expect them. He thinks they're funny... most of the time.

GRACE: What's the worst that could happen? Your finger gets enlarged again and you can't wear gloves for a while. That's not so bad, is it?

AHMID: It was rather inconvenient, not being able to use my hand for so long. Maybe somebody else should do it.

JARROT: I'm certainly not doing it! I don't want any part of this.

JENNIFER: Grace, are you going to do it?

GRACE: Well, alright. But if things go wrong, then we are all in this together.

JARROT: (*defensively*) No way! I'm not in this with you at all!

GRACE: Fine. (*nervously*) I'm going to do it now. Here we go...

MR. STOCKWELL: Class, you should see the blue and red liquids changing state as the chemical compounds mix together. It's a fascinating process.

GRACE: Here goes...

Grace mixes the blue and green liquids together in another beaker.

AHMID: (*confused*) I can't see it doing anything. Do you think something is supposed to happen straight away?

JENNIFER: It looks like it's turning a light shade of purple. No wait, it's becoming dark purple. Is that steam coming off it?

GRACE: I'm not sure we've done the right thing here.

JARROT: Is it too early to say that I told you so?

AHMID: It's starting to bubble! I think I can feel heat coming off it, too.

GRACE: (*holding her nose*) Gosh, it stinks! It smells like rotten eggs, old milk and bananas!

JENNIFER: (*holding her nose*) The smell is making me feel sick!

Boom! The mixture blows up. A cloud of gas covers the faces of the students.

MR. STOCKWELL: Well, I can see that one group in particular chose to ignore my instructions. What do you have to say for yourselves?

JARROT: (*anxiously*) I never wanted to do it, Mr. Stockwell, I promise! It was all Grace's idea. The others agreed to go along with it, but I never agreed, I prom –

MR. STOCKWELL: (*interrupting*) Yes, alright, Jarrot, that's quite enough. Grace, is this true? Was this fiasco your idea?

GRACE: Yes, Mr. Stockwell. I'm sorry. It's just that you made it sound so dangerous and exciting! I really want to be a scientist someday – I thought if I mixed the two liquids together I might create something truly amazing!

MR. STOCKWELL: That's all very well, Grace, but what you have actually created is something truly disgusting! The gas you have created is called 'purplis stickatus smellalot'. It sticks to any surface it comes into contact with and is very difficult to remove. You and your friends will now have a purple face for approximately four weeks.

JENNIFER: (*devastated*) Four weeks? No!

MR. STOCKWELL: In addition to this, another quality of 'purplis stickatus smellalot' is its pungent smell. The smell lasts for double the length of time as the stickiness; meaning that you will all smell like rotten eggs, old milk and bananas for the next two months.

AHMID: No! I hate the smell of bananas!

MR. STOCKWELL: Has everyone learned a lesson here today?

GRACE: Yes, Mr. Stockwell.

MR. STOCKWELL: What have you learned, Grace?

GRACE: (*seriously*) That perhaps becoming a scientist isn't such a great idea, after all!

THE END

