



Stop and Think

By Nick Zadina

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Character Breakdown-

- Jackie:** AKA Dr. Smartypants. Energetic and eager to show off inventions. K-3 age.
- Lily:** Friendly and well meaning. K-3 age.
- Roger:** Wants his helmet back ASAP. K-3 age.

Props List

- Jackie**
- Mr. Niceguy Helmet
 - Lab Coat and glasses
 - Notepad and pen
 - Remote
 - Gold cloak
- Lily**
- Bow/Hair accessories
- Roger**
- Vest
 - Rubber band ball
 - Plain helmet

***Pre-show:** set helmet on chair with gold cloak over, set props accordingly for time travel sequence.

STOP AND THINK SONG INTRO

SCIENCE VB

JACKIE

Hi everybody! My name is JACKIE, but nobody ever calls me that because I am a super scientist! And since I am a super scientist most people call me Doctor Smartypants! I make tons of inventions and do all sorts of crazy experiments and the reason I am here today is because I have a brand new experiment that I have to show you guys... You wanna see it? Here it is! I call this the Mr. Niceguy Helmet. And the way it works is that whenever somebody wears it, they become the nicest person in the world! I just got done making it though, I don't know if it works so I invited my friend Lily to come over to help me try it out.

LILY (*Entering left*)

Hi JACKIE!

JACKIE

It's Doctor Smartypants!

LILY

Oh! Right! Hi, Doctor Smartypants!

JACKIE

Hi Lily!

LILY

So what's your latest invention?!? What's your latest invention?! I can't wait to see it!!

JACKIE

Well Lily... Here it is!

LILY

(*Amazement*) Whoa...

JACKIE

Yeah.

LILY

What is it?

JACKIE

It's a Mr. Niceguy helmet!

LILY

What's that?

JACKIE

It's a helmet that when you put it on, it turns you into the nicest person in the world.

LILY

Does it work?

JACKIE

I don't know, I haven't tried it yet.

LILY

Oooo! Oooo! Let me try! I'll try it! I wanna try it.

JACKIE

Whoa whoa whoa! In order to see if it works we need to make sure that the person who puts it on is in a really grumpy mood, that way we can test my theory.

LILY

Oh, okay.

JACKIE

So do you think you could make yourself super grumpy?

LILY

Oh! Sure thing JACKIE!

JACKIE

It's Dr. Smartypants.

LILY

Right. Okay, Dr Smartypants, I'm gonna get grumpy, here I go.

(She begins stomping around and being generally unhappy, making disapproving sounds)

JACKIE

Whoa, that's pretty grumpy, but I'm not sure. Do you think she's grumpy enough? (*Audience will say no*) Get grumpier Lily!

(She stomps around for a while longer)

Do you think she's grumpy enough now? Come on Lily, we have to take this experiment seriously!! Get even grumpier Lily!

(She gets really ridiculous with her noises and movements)

Okay, stop! That seems pretty grumpy to me! Do you feel pretty grumpy Lily?

LILY

Oh yeah! I am super grumpy, thanks for helping me get grumpy everybody!

JACKIE

Okay! I am going to put the Mr. Niceguy helmet on your head and when I turn it on just do whatever you feel like okay?

LILY

Sure thing, Jackie!

JACKIE

It's Doctor Smartypants!

(*Lily glares at Jackie with a low growl*)

JACKIE

Okay, here I go!

(*Lily flips the switch and Jackie watches in anticipation*)

LILY

(*LILY jumps up, smiling*)

Oh Dr. Smartypants, you're my best friend in the whole world! I suddenly feel so nice and want to give everybody in the world lots and lots of presents! (*Singing*) I am the nicest, just the nicest, so much the nicest. (*Trails off*)

JACKIE

Ha HA! A complete and total success! Come Lily! Let's tell everybody about the newest and bestest invention, IN THE WORLD!!

JACKIE and LILY

It's perfect, it's perfect, it's such a perfect helmet, the Mr. Niceguy helmet!

(They exit SL)

PARK VB

(ROGER enters SR)

ROGER

Hi Everybody! My name is Roger and I'm playing with my second most favorite thing, my rubber band ball. I would be playing with my most favorite thing, my bike, but I have a problem. I was riding my bike the other day and I had to stop and take a rest. So I got off my bike and took off my helmet and sat down for a second, when out of nowhere came this kid and they snatched up my helmet and ran off with it singing, "It's perfect! It's perfect...!" I yelled at them to stop but they just turned to me and said, "Don't worry, it's being used for science by Dr Smartyants!" And then they ran off laughing and..

(Dr. Smartyants laughs off stage)

and it sounded like that!

(JACKIE and LILY enter, singing the Helmet song)

JACKIE and LILY

It's perfect, it's perfect, it's such a perfect helmet! The Mr. Niceguy helmet...

ROGER

Hey! That's him/her! *(to JACKIE)* Hey! Are you Dr. Smartyants!

JACKIE

(To LILY) Wow, he knew my name! I'm famous! He must have heard about the Mr. Niceguy Helmet. *(To ROGER)* Yes, I am Dr. Smartyants. What can I do for you today?

ROGER

Ummm, I think that helmet she's wearing is my bike helmet.

JACKIE

What?

ROGER

Ummm, yeah. It's black and it has my name on the inside.

LILY

Oh! What's your name?

ROGER

Roger.

LILY

Oh, it sure is. Here ya go--

(LILY Hands off the helmet, JACKIE stops her)

JACKIE

Wait! He can't have this! It's my super invention!

(Grabs the helmet. Lily doesn't have it anymore)

ROGER

But I need my bike helmet, otherwise my mom won't let me ride my bike and it's like my favoritest thing in the world to do!

LILY

Oh, come on Jackie, can't we just give it back to him and make a new one?

JACKIE

(To himself/herself) Don't listen to them, she must still be suffering from the effects of the Mr. Niceguy helmet! Which is mine! All mine!!!!

(He/She runs off stage left)

LILY

Jackie! Wait for me!!

(Follows JACKIE off stage left)

JACKIE

(Offstage) It's Dr. Smartypants!

ROGER

Oh man! That was pretty mean of him/her to do that. He/she stole my helmet and won't give it back. Well, I'm gonna get him/her back! And that girl he/she was with too, she's probably one of his/her evil minions. I'll teach them both a lesson for being so mean to me!

SCIENCE VB

(ROGER exits SR, JACKIE enters.)

CAMERA DOWN

JACKIE

Whew! That was a close one. I almost lost my Mr. Niceguy helmet. It's really important that I keep this helmet with me because I need its powers. You see, my brother is mean to me all the time and it makes me super sad. He calls me names and pushes me around. He says my inventions are all dumb and that they will never work. I've told my parents, but they didn't do anything either except say just to ignore him, which doesn't work very well. So I thought if I could get him to wear this helmet, then he would be nice to me. I really like my brother, he's like the coolest person I know! I just wish he would be nicer. So that's why I need to keep this helmet safe and all to myself, because I need to use it on my brother. I'm going to put it right under my chair in my bedroom *(JACKIE puts the helmet under chair)*, where I know I will never lose it. Now I have to write down some super important things so that I won't forget how I put this helmet together.

(LILY sneaks on stage left)

LILY

(To the audience) Shhhh! I'm sneaking into Jackie's room to get Roger's helmet! Roger seemed like a really nice kid and I've been wanting to learn how to ride a bike forever, so I thought if I got him his helmet back then he could teach me how to ride. But first I need to get the helmet, and I thought since JACKIE stole it from Roger, I'd just steal it right back. But it needs to be super quiet, so SHHHHHHHH!!!!

(LILY sneaks over to the chair and grabs the helmet.)

LILY

Alright, now it's time to find Roger!

(LILY exits SR. JACKIE enters and finishes his/her notes.)

CAMERA UP

JACKIE

All done! Come to me my favorite helmet!

(Closes notebook, goes to get his/her helmet off stage left- it's not there)

Oh no! OH NO! Where did it go! Where did it go! My helmet!! I gotta find it!

(JACKIE runs off stage left.)

PARK VB

LILY

(LILY enters stage right.)

All right! Mission accomplished! Now I just need to find that Roger kid! *(ROGER enters)* Ooo, there he is, I'm gonna surprise him. He's gonna be so happy! Hey, Roger!

ROGER

It's you!

LILY

Yep, and I have something for you.

ROGER

And I have something for YOU! Take this! RUBBERBAND ATTACK!

(He mimes shooting a rubber band at her)

LILY

Ouch!

ROGER

HA! How does it feel to have somebody being super mean to you? *(shoots rubber band)*

LILY

That really hurts!

ROGER

Well, that's what you get for being friends with that thief, Dr. Smartypants!

(Shoots rubber band)

LILY

STOP IT!! Ya know what, just forget it! *(She exits left)*

ROGER

Well, that didn't make me feel any better. Maybe that wasn't the best thing for me to do. I've just been in such a bad mood since I can't ride my bike. I wish I knew where that Dr. Smartypants was.

(ROGER exits SR. LILY enters, sits in chair.)

LILY

Well, that didn't go so well, and now I really have a problem. I have this helmet and I know two people who really want it but I don't know who to give it to. Jackie stole it so he/she shouldn't get it, and I tried to give it to Roger, but he was so mean, I'm really scared to see him again. When I got home, my mom told me that Jackie is looking for Roger too! Man, I better find one of them before they find each other or this could get really bad. *(JACKIE enters)* Oh! There's Jackie! *(ROGER enters)* And there's Roger. Uh-oh.

JACKIE

You!

ROGER

YOU!

JACKIE

Give me my helmet back!

ROGER

What?

JACKIE

Give me my helmet back!

ROGER

What do you mean your helmet, it's my helmet and I don't have it because YOU stole it!

JACKIE

Nuh-uh! You stole it, you dork!

ROGER

You did, you nerd!

JACKIE

You did!

ROGER

YOU DID!

LILY
(Holding up helmet)

I did! So stop it!

JACKIE
Oh, thanks Lily! Whew, I thought Roger took it! Can I have it back?

(JACKIE reaches to grab the helmet)

LILY
No! You stole this from Roger.

ROGER
Oh! So I can have it back, right?

(ROGER reaches to grab the helmet)

LILY
No! You shot me with rubber bands. And you're both making me very sad.

JACKIE
I'm sorry, Lily!

ROGER
I'm sorry too.

LILY
Why were you both being so mean?

ROGER
Well, I was sad, just like you are because I couldn't ride my bike. I didn't mean to make you sad, too. I guess I was just not thinking. I'm sorry Lily.

JACKIE

I was sad too, because, well, my brother is kind of mean to me and I thought that if I could get him to wear the helmet then he would be nice to me. I'm sorry Lily and I'm sorry Roger, I shouldn't have stolen your helmet. I didn't even think about it when I took it, I was just so excited about my idea for a Niceguy helmet.

(They all sigh together)

LILY

I accept both of your apologies. But I'm still feeling pretty sad. If you don't mind, I'm just gonna sit over here by myself for awhile, guys. I'll leave the helmet here, I don't care who takes it.

ROGER

Man, I sure feel bad now.

JACKIE

Yeah, me too. We should both be forced to wear Mr. Niceguy helmets all the time.

(ROGER looks confused)

They make the people who wear them the nicest in the world!

ROGER

Can I try it on?

JACKIE

Sure.

(JACKIE hands ROGER the helmet)

ROGER

(Puts on the helmet)

Okay, is it turned on?

JACKIE

Yep.

(JACKIE flips the switch)

Do you feel any nicer?

ROGER

No. Not really. You try.

JACKIE

(Reaches for it, puts on helmet)

Oh, yeah, I don't feel any nicer either. It must not work.

(Sets down the helmet)

ROGER

It's okay, my mom told me, "You can't control anybody but yourself. That's why you need to treat everybody the way you want to be treated."

JACKIE

Well, we sure didn't do a very good job today. I should've given you your helmet back.

ROGER

And I shouldn't have shot those rubber bands at Lily. I wish we could just go back in time and make all of this change.

JACKIE

Yeah... Hey! Maybe we could.

(Pulls out a little remote control)

You know what this is?

ROGER

A TV remote?

JACKIE

Nope! It's a time machine! It's another one of my inventions! We can go back in time with it, and we can freeze time too! Maybe we can change all of those bad things we did and make everything better.

ROGER

That would be awesome! How does it work?

JACKIE

Well, all you have to do is say really loud into the machine where in time you want to go and it will send you there. Then to come back you just say “THANK YOU TIME MACHINE” and it will send you back to now. Also when you push this button it stops time.

ROGER

Ooooh... *(mesmerized)*

(ROGER reaches for the remote)

JACKIE

DON'T TOUCH IT!

(They both freeze twice, making sure they're still there)

Cool, huh?

ROGER

Yeah! Okay, can I try it?

JACKIE

Sure!

ROGER

Time machine, please take me to the time right before I shot rubber bands at Lily.

(The time machine works and all of the characters fly around and end up at the beginning of that scene) YB

GALAXY VB

Time travel sound effect

ALL

WHOA!

PARK VB

ROGER

Here I am! And I feel really angry all of the sudden. *(Lily enters)* This must be how I felt when this all happened. And here comes Lily! Oh, I am so mad I just want to shoot her with rubber bands. No wait, stop and think!

LILY

Hi Ro--

ROGER

(ROGER pauses the time machine, LILY freezes)

STOP! Okay, I am really mad at Lily for helping out Jackie, but I am not going to shoot her with these rubber bands. That made her really sad....But I still feel really angry right now! What can I do to calm myself down? (Virtual alternative: My teacher Mrs. Hobbs tells us that whenever we have a big feeling we can take a deep breath. That would be a much kinder choice, I'll try that!)

(Get idea from audience, bring it back to ask nicely and stopping and thinking/deep breath)

That would be a much kinder choice, I'll try that!

ROGER

Okay, let's try it. Aaaaaand...GO!

(ROGER unfreezes time.)

LILY

---oger!

ROGER

Hi, Lily! Listen, I'm having some big feelings right now, would you want to help and take a deep breath with me so I can calm down?

LILY

Yeah I'm a good helper and my mom says it's always okay to ask for help!

ROGER

Okay, ready? Let's all do it together. On three. 1, 2, 3-

(Lily nods, they take a deep breath together)

Feeling better. How are *you* doing today, Lily?

LILY

I'm great! And I think you'll be great, too, once you see this!

ROGER

What is it?

LILY

It's your helmet!

ROGER

Whoa! How'd you get it back?

LILY

Well, that's the thing. I kinda stole it back from Jackie, and I feel bad about it. So maybe we can go talk to them and figure out how to make this better.

ROGER

Good idea, Lily!

LILY

Okay, follow me! *(Exits left)*

ROGER

Let's go! Aaaaaand, stop!

(Lily freezes. ROGER freezes time again)

Oh man, I think that worked out great! But let's go back to the future and see if it worked...THANK YOU, TIME MACHINE!

GALAXY VB

Time travel sound effect

(The characters fly around again as the characters come back to the present)

PARK VB

JACKIE

Whoa! Cool! So, did you try something else?

ROGER

Yep, and I think it was a lot better to stop and think before I acted! Let's see if it worked. (*To Lily*) Hey Lily? Are you still sad because of me?

LILY

(She stands)

Why would I be sad because of you? You've been so nice. I mean, it's not like you shot me with rubber bands or anything.

(Everyone laughs, then ROGER and JACKIE look at each other & remember they're still mad at each other and turn their backs. LILY notices)

LILY

But I'm *still* sad because I want you both to be friends too.

(LILY sinks back to the ground.)

JACKIE

Okay! My turn! When I get back, you and me are gonna be best friends! TIME MACHINE TAKE ME TO THE TIME WHERE I STOLE ROGER'S HELMET!

GALAXY VB

Time travel sound effect

(The characters spin wildly again and we see ROGER sitting down with his helmet next to him)

PARK VB

Wow! Okay, cool! This is where I was when I took Roger's helmet. And there it is! Oh man, I really like that helmet and I need it to create my super Niceguy invention. (*Goes to grab it*) Wait, don't just take it! Stop and think. AAAAND, stop! (*Pauses the time machine, ROGER freezes*) What should I do? I just wish I knew of some way I could get the helmet for my invention without stealing it! Hey, wait a second...do you all have any ideas? (Virtual option: Hey, wait a second...my mom always tells me that if I want to play with my brother's toys, I need to ask him nicely to borrow it first. That's definitely a kinder choice- I think I'll try that! Aaaaaand...GO!)

(Students raise their hands, you call on them, and they say something like "Ask him nicely if you can borrow it!")

JACKIE

Just ask to borrow it?! I think that might work! Aaaaaand...GO!

(JACKIE unfreezes time.)

JACKIE

Hi there! My name's Jackie, and I'm a super scientist, so everyone calls me Doctor Smartypants!

ROGER

Hi! My name's Roger, but everyone just calls me...Roger.

JACKIE

It's nice to meet you! And, hey, I was just noticing how cool your bike helmet is!

ROGER

Oh, I know! Isn't it the best?

JACKIE

And I was just wondering, if I could maybe... PLEASE borrow it for an invention I'm making?

ROGER

Well...Okay, sure! As long as I can get it back in a day or so.

JACKIE

Well sure! Hey, do you maybe want to come and help me make my invention?

ROGER

You mean, you want my help? With a science experiment?!

JACKIE

Yeah!

ROGER

I'd love to!

JACKIE

Okay!! To my la-BOR-a-tory!!

(They start to exit, JACKIE pauses the time machine and ROGER freezes)

And stop! Oh man, that worked out great! But we'd better check to make sure it still worked in the future. THANK YOU, TIME MACHINE!

GALAXY VB

Time travel sound effect

(The time machine goes off again, we are back in the present)

PARK VB

ROGER

Whoa! Thanks for not just taking my helmet Jack-, I mean, Dr. Smartyants, that made me feel way better.

JACKIE

You're welcome! I hope it made Lily feel better too.

ROGER

You better ask her.

JACKIE

Hey Lily! You're not sad anymore, are you?

LILY

Nope! I was just smelling some of the pretty flowers over here! How are my two best friends?

ROGER

Feeling pretty happy too!

LILY

Hey Roger, could you teach me how to ride a bike now?

ROGER

For sure!

JACKIE

And I'm almost done building the rockets that we can attach to all of our bikes so that we can bike all the way to the moon!

(ALL look up to the sky)

ALL

Whoa!

JACKIE

Yes, so whenever you need help with an invention or experiment, or helping people be nice, just remember the great, the wonderful, that amazing genius, Dr. SMAR--

ALL

DR. SMARTYPANTS!!!

(They all exit left, singing the Helmet song)