

School Language
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EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

It is a rainy day. A group of three SCHOOL CHILDREN (early teens) wearing school uniforms and Burberry hats stand by a school building. Unoccupied benches are nearby. A 12 year old JAMES also in a school uniform and with untied shoes walks past the PUPILS.

SCHOOL BOY 1

Hello, James.

JAMES

Hello, there...

SCHOOL BOY 1

Your shoes are undone... Oh my days..

JAMES

Oh my days? You sound like you're from the 1920s but it's really the year 2,000. (In case you didn't know, I mean). Actually, you dress like you come from the past, too...

SCHOOL BOY 2

Are you trying to be funny?

JAMES

Nope. Just an observation.

SCHOOL BOY 3

Dear oh dear.

JAMES

(under his breath)

You've literally just done it again..

SCHOOL BOY 3

What was that?

JAMES

Nothing.

SCHOOL BOY 3

No really, what did you say?

JAMES

Just pointing out how strange your language was. I was wondering where it's going to go from here...

SCHOOL BOY 3

What's that supposed to mean?

JAMES

I'm just imagining what kind of stuff you'd say in the future... And what would you wear? Would you smoke a pipe?

SCHOOL BOY 1

At least we can do our shoes up...

JAMES

Fair point. Bye. Or toodle-oo.

SCHOOL BOY 1 turns to his FRIENDS.

SCHOOL BOY 1

James is legit weirdo...

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

It's rainy again. A group of five SCHOOL CHILDREN wearing school clothes and no hats stand by the same school building. JAMES (now 35) walks past them. SCHOOL BOY 1 whispers to his chums.

SCHOOL BOY 1

It's James again...

JAMES

Hello, children!

SCHOOL BOY 1

We all know you're not a real teacher, you just pretend you are when you're going through tough times so you don't come across as a complete loser freak...

SCHOOL BOY 2

Yeah, and it doesn't work.

JAMES

It is true that I've been spending a lot of my time in an insane asylum but me feeling low? Ha! No chance! Now go to class!

SCHOOL BOY 2

Oh my days...

JAMES

Still saying 'oh my days' I see? Where's your pipe?

SCHOOL BOY 2

My pipe?

JAMES
Yeah. And your walking stick?

SCHOOL BOY 3
Get lost bro...

JAMES
That's not 1920s...

SCHOOL BOY 4
What??

JAMES
I'm just saying my theory was that
you'd call me 'gongoozler' or
'popinjay'...

SCHOOL BOY 5
How about 'dickhead'?

JAMES
No, how about hinkty?

SCHOOL BOY 5
You can't act like this around here..

JAMES
Bye...

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

Now it's sunny! JAMES (now 80) walks with a walking stick by the same school building. Five more teenage SCHOOL BOYS in school clothes hang around.

SCHOOL BOY 1
Hello, Mr. Ziegler! I hear you've
finally made it as a legit teacher!

JAMES
Told you.

SCHOOL BOY 2
That really is spiffing, sir.

SCHOOL BOY 3
Oh rather!

SCHOOL BOY 4
Quite!

SCHOOL BOY 5
Extraordinary!

JAMES chuckles.

JAMES

I KNEW you'd all speak like this one day...

SCHOOL BOY 5

What is it that you mean, respected educator?

JAMES

I just thought schoolboys of the future like you would be really posh and use even more language of the past.

SCHOOL BOY 1

An astute observation, professor.

SCHOOL BOY ONE retrieves a bar of chocolate from his pocket and speaks to it.

SCHOOL BOY 1

To be or not to be, that is the question.

He licks his lips.

JAMES

You're talking to your bar of chocolate?

SCHOOL BOY 1

Indeed. Should it be or shouldn't it be?

JAMES

You appreciate the works of Shakespeare?

SCHOOL BOY 1

Aye.

JAMES

Do you have any items on you that belong in the past?

SCHOOL BOY 2

I do...

SCHOOL BOY 2 retrieves a compass from his pocket and shows it to JAMES.

JAMES

Why are you carrying a compass?

SCHOOL BOY 2
It's just old, that's all. Just like
you predicted!

JAMES
Yeah, doesn't mean I understand it,
though...

SCHOOL BOY 3
No one does!

JAMES
Ok. Well off to do my teaching, I
guess!

SCHOOL BOY 4
Spiffing! We all love how you teach
the music of Bach!

JAMES
Yes, I have no idea what I'm talking
about!

JAMES winks.

SCHOOL BOY 4
But it doesn't matter as we all have
computer chips in our brains, so we
don't forget anything!

JAMES
Yes, all I need to do is speak the
information to you from a book, and
job done! However, I must come clean.
I once picked up the wrong book and
told you a load of wrong facts.

SCHOOL BOY 4
Which is why I think Bach was the
first death metal musician?

JAMES
Exactly.

SCHOOL BOY 4
I knew that sounded weird.

JAMES
Oh weird is not the word. Anyway,
must go!

SCHOOL BOY 1
Bye sir!

Good day! SCHOOL BOY 2

Cheerio! SCHOOL BOY 3

Farewell! SCHOOL BOY 4

Adieu! SCHOOL BOY 5

JAMES shuffles away.