

ABBOTT ELEMENTARY SPEC EPISODE

SPIRIT WEEK

Written by

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SCRIPT FORMATTING CLASS (SCRIPT X 464.3E)

INT. TEACHER'S LOUNGE - MORNING

JACOB

I'm just saying that the use of AI is destroying the education system. The other day, I had to give a student an F because they obviously used ChatGPT to write 100% of their essay.

JANINE

It's really getting out of control, even with adults. Erica told me she uses it for grocery lists instead of just looking in her fridge.

No one responds or is listening. Gregory continues taking a sip of his drink, which is clearly already gone.

MELISSA

Hun, I think you got it all.

GREGORY

Nah, there's still a tiny bit left in the corner of the cup.

JACOB

That's nothing but matcha powder that didn't get thoroughly mixed through.

GREGORY

Yeah, that's the best part.

BARBARA

Gregory, honey, are you still addicted to drinking those tatcha drinks? This is like your sixth one this week and it's only Wednesday.

GREGORY

Matcha, and it's good for you. It's basically the same as you guys drinking three cups of coffee a day.

JANINE

Well... babe, c'mon, you have to admit that it's a problem.

MR. JOHNSON

I know what the problem is. These coffee shops are putting weed in the drinks.

(MORE)

MR. JOHNSON (CONT'D)
That's why they have that bright green color. They aren't fooling me.

Everyone stares around, confused.

JANINE
We were having a Marvel movie marathon and he left in the middle of "Captain America: Civil War" to go across the street and grab a matcha.

GREGORY
Well, to be fair, I didn't miss anything.

JANINE
He missed "Black Panther" and Bucky's fight scene.

MELISSA AND MR. JOHNSON
WHAT??

AVA
What's wrong with you?

GREGORY
What? She started the scene over when I got back.

MELISSA
Wait, so what did you think of the movie? Best Marvel movie, am I right?

Everyone agrees.

GREGORY
It was okay. I'm more of a Spider-Man kinda guy. I was Team Captain America, though.

Everyone starts shouting, collectively disagreeing with Gregory.

AVA
Aww, hell nah! Get this man outta here.

BARBARA

Well, I liked that actor, Michael Jai White, in "Black Panther." Lord Jesus, he was evil, but look at those abs and those arm muscles.

JANINE

Michael B. Jordan and yeah, he did an amazing job.

MELISSA

Yeah, he's great in "Creed" and "Sinners," too.

JACOB

Do you guys ever think about how "Sinners" is more than just a vampire movie? It's also about gentrification and colonialism.

JANINE

Jacob, they know. Also, what did I tell you about overanalyzing Black films, especially in a room full of Black people? We got the point the first time around.

Jacob looks embarrassed.

MELISSA

Wait, Gregory, when you say Spider-Man, which one do you mean? Tobey Maguire, Andrew Garfield or Tom Holland?

Gregory stares around the room.

GREGORY

Andrew Garfield.

Everyone collectively starts shouting again, disagreeing.

MELISSA

The only right answer is Tobey Maguire.

END COLD OPEN

ACT 1

INT. JACOB'S CLASSROOM - MORNING

Jacob is teaching while the students are hyper-focused on their own conversation.

JACOB
Guys, C'mon. Pay attention, please.

JOSHUA (STUDENT)
But we're talking about something educational, Mr. C.

JACOB
About?

KIARA (STUDENT 2)
Our Black history presentation. I'm gonna write it on Mr. Terrific. He's goated.

The class agrees.

JACOB
Well, while that isn't exactly an assignment, but okay.

ISAIAH (STUDENT 3)
Wait, if he gets to do a presentation on a superhero, can I do mine on Megan Thee Stallion?

Students chattering.

KENDALL (STUDENT 4)
I wanna do mine on Kai Cenat.

JACOB
Guys, remember that this is supposed to be a history presentation, so the history is the most important part.

Students collectively sigh.

JACOB (CONT'D)
And, please do not use AI or ChatGPT to do your presentation. I do not want to run into another situation again.

JACOB TALKING HEAD

JACOB (CONT'D)

Yeah, the AI tools have been an issue with the sixth graders lately. Papers, math problems, looking up football stats, they use it for everything. I've been trying to get them to leave the dark side, but it's addictive to them, like a TikTok trend. Also, what's a Labubu?

INT. HALLWAY - LATER

JANINE

Hey Jacob. So, I have an idea that I was thinking about bringing to Ava, and I need my brunchy bunch buddy.

JACOB

Ooooh, I will be the Batman to your Robin.

JANINE

Well, you'll be the Robin to my Batman since it's my idea.

INT. AVA'S OFFICE - LATER

Ava is on her phone, scrolling through TikTok as Jacob and Janine walk in.

AVA

Now, why do y'all have to come in and interrupt my TikTok time? I'm looking at fine Scottish Sterling K. Brown right now. Did y'all know we're over there in Scotland, too?

JANINE

Ava, we have some ideas that we wanna run by you.

AVA

Of course, you do, Janine. You always have an idea. What is it? And make it quick. I wanna get back to Black Scottish TikTok.

JANINE

Okay, since Spirit Week is coming up, we have a few ideas to make it more fun and lively. Since there aren't any themes as of right now, we were thinking of having one day where the kids dress as their favorite superhero, another day can be an 80s theme, and maybe Friday can be pajama day? Oooh and twin day! How much fun would that be, huh?

JANINE (CONT'D)

I never had anyone to match with me for Twin Day in high school, but I liked to dress up and pretend that I had a friend who was willing to be the Tia to my Tamera. Or the Fred to my George Weasley. Oh, and we can even use a caterer to try and raise some money for the school.

JACOB

Yeah. When I was in school, they brought in donuts from Krispy Kreme to sell to students and teachers. Or we could bring in biscuits from Chick-fil-A.

A puzzled Janine looks at him and then the camera.

JANINE

Aren't they homophobic?

JACOB

Yes, but their breakfast is so good.

JANINE

Anyway, what do you think? We could host activities in the gym, maybe have a pep rally and have the step team hype the students. Oh, and when I was in high school, we used to do this thing where -

AVA

Okay, I get it. I'll let y'all do your little Spirit Week ideas.

(MORE)

AVA (CONT'D)

Now get out, I only have a few more minutes left of doom scrolling before I actually have to start work.

JACOB

Uhhh, but it's the middle of the day.

Ava gives him an annoyed look.

JACOB (CONT'D)

Okay, we're leaving. Thanks, Ava.

Janine and Jacob walk out of the office into the hallway.

JANINE

You know, I'm really excited for this. It'll give the kids something to look forward to. I always participated in Spirit Week when I was in school. Despite my mom refusing to buy me new outfits or accessories because she thought it was a waste of money, I always got creative and crafted a few looks.

JACOB

Yeah, I think this'll be good for them. My students are constantly in their phones and using AI; they could use some creativity and interaction.

INT. GREGORY'S CLASSROOM - LATER

Janine walks in. Gregory is somehow sipping on another matcha.

JANINE

Where did you even get that? It's the middle of the day.

Janine notices a small table in the corner of Gregory's classroom.

GREGORY

Oh, that's my matcha station. Do you like it?

JANINE

Well, it's certainly something.
Wait, that actually looks really
good. What'd you put in it?

GREGORY

Pecan pie syrup. I made it at home
last night. You want one?

JANINE

Yes, please. Oh, so I talked to Ava
about some of my spirit week ideas,
and she's on board. So, we have a
few days to come up with themes and
ideas for each day.

GREGORY

That's good, Janine. I know the
kids are gonna love it.

JANINE

Yeah, I think so. We just have to
figure out a way to keep them
engaged in the activities while
still taking their studies
seriously for the week. Especially
the younger kids.

GREGORY

The older ones, too. You heard
about Jacob's students using AI?
And the other day, one of the kids
in my Garden Goofballs used ChatGPT
to ask when they should plant
tomatoes. I mean, I'm glad they're
engaging, but I was right there. He
could've just asked.

Janine and Gregory start walking in the hallway, still
chatting about AI.

INT. TEACHER'S LOUNGE - MOMENTS LATER

They continue their conversation, as the other teachers, Mr.
Johnson and the librarian, are eating their lunch.

JANINE

You know, I wonder if it's the
parents. I mean, a kid in my class
told me that his mom uses CHATGPT
to make her grocery list.

(MORE)

JANINE (CONT'D)

Like, instead of just looking in her fridge, she just asks it what she needs.

AVA

Damn, that's smart. I need to do that. And to think, I've been using it to help me with speeches and my side business.

JANINE

Wait, don't tell me you use it too? Seriously, Ava?

AVA

What? We can't all be 'I want to do all the work without help, insufferable group project leader' like you, Janine.

Janine looks at the camera, annoyed.

BARBARA

Well, I for one don't think that the kids should be using AI or 'CATGBT' to help them get their work done. The whole point of schoolwork is to retain the information you learn at school. To help you gain the necessary skills and media literacy.

JANINE

Guys, we just have to think of ways to keep them more engaged.

BARBARA

I'd like to point out that my students aren't using AI in any way, shape or form.

GREGORY

Well, that's because your students are in Kindergarten. They can barely pack their lunch, let alone learn the ins and outs of CHATGPT.

JACOB

You know, if we're gonna get on the kids for using AI, shouldn't we set an example as adults and educators and vow not to use it?

(MORE)

JACOB (CONT'D)

I mean, it's kinda unethical when you think about it.

LIBRARIAN

Kinda? It one hundred percent is. People have no sense of literacy anymore. Instead of learning how to do something or reading a book, they'd rather have an engine tell them what to do.

MR. JOHNSON

And, half the time that engine is wrong. I'm telling you, the government is using CHATGPT to spy on us. They're the ones in charge, people?

MELISSA

Well, the government is already spying on us anyway.

MR. JOHNSON

That's exactly what they want you to think. So they can steal more information from you.

MELISSA

And this is coming from a guy who put his social security number into a website because he thought he'd win a free trip to Disney World.

JANINE

Okay, to be fair, he showed me the ad and it looked surprisingly real. It even listed a stay at Disney's Wilderness Resort Cabins and everything.

BARBARA

My goodness. Well, if the teachers and staff are getting scammed by AI so easily, who's going to teach the students basic literacy?

Everyone looks around awkwardly and into the camera.

AVA

Well, to be fair, he got scammed by some random website, not AI.

BARBARA
And regardless, my point still
stands.

END OF ACT ONE