

**Mud Lake School
Mud Lake
presents**

“To Leave Or Not to Leave”

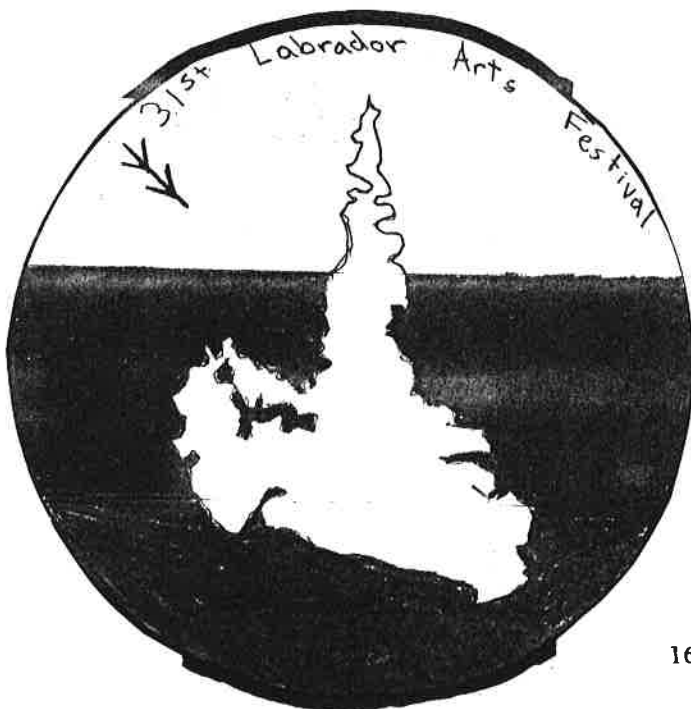
Cast:

Ashley Best..... Starr
Stephanie Best..... Brittany
Laura Chaulk..... Violet

Teacher Advisor

Bill Cooper

Three friends from a very small community find out that their school will be closed due to the small enrollment. Their differing reactions lead to conflicts amongst themselves. Once these are sorted out, they unite in appreciating their community. They then face the main conflict: how to prevent closure of their school.



**Kyle Heard
Mud Lake School**

Scene 1

Scene opens at Brittany's house.

Violet: Hey, did you guys hear what happened this weekend?

Brittany: No, what?

Violet: My aunt was chased by a bear! Luckily she had her four wheeler!

Brittany: Really? Was she scared?

Starr: No duh, Sherlock. The bear was chasing her and she was right happy!

Violet: Yeah, she was hunting, near the dump. Then she saw the bear and it wouldn't go away. She made a bunch of noises, but it still wouldn't go away. So she fired her gun... not at it though. But after that it just started jumping up and down on all of its legs. So she took off on her four wheeler. And do you know what? That was only about a week after our Terry Fox run to the beach. I'm glad we never walked through the dump on our way back, we could have run into that bear.

Brittany: If I was with her, I would have been scared.

Violet: Me too. Well anyway, I'm bored. What are you guys thinking of doing this winter?

Starr: Well, my dad is buying me a new skidoo!

Brittany: And this year I get to use the gun when I go hunting with my dad. It will be so fun!

Starr: I wouldn't want to be your dad, around you with a gun.

Brittany: Hey, was that an insult or a compliment?

Violet: Ookay! *(Rolls her eyes)* I'm getting a new toboggan! I don't have to go sliding with a bunch of snow flying in my face any more! And my Uncle Joe is coming back from Toronto because he lost his job. And they are going to lose their house too!

Brittany: Oh that's too bad.

Starr: Yeah, well, my dad is going to teach me to use the chain saw this year to cut down our Christmas tree.

Violet: You're going to cut down a poor tree?

Starr: Yeah, a great big one too.

Violet: You're mean!

Starr: Whatever! Hey, Vy, check this out. Hey Britt, go read the dictionary or something!

Brittany: OK, be right back! *(Goes off stage)*

Violet: Do you believe that?

Starr: Nope, not a bit!

(Brittany walks back in)

Brittany: I'm back. Who don't you believe? *(Sits down and opens the book)* I hope it's not me.

Starr: No Britt, it's not you.

Brittany: Good, because I like being believed.

Violet: Do you guys remember Halloween?

Brittany: Yeah! I got lots of candy! And I really liked being a witch!

Starr: Yeah, you played that part some good.

Violet: Yeah, but I'm glad we were all together because I didn't like it when my cousin was hiding in the bushes, and then popped out and scared us!

Starr: I didn't mind much! *(Takes out her cell phone)* Oh man, sorry guys, I have to go home. My mom will be super mad if I don't hurry and help her with the food for the pot luck tonight. Bye, see you there.

Brittany: Bye Starr! *(Starr walks off stage)* I hope that someone makes some porcupine, or partridge tonight. They're both my favourite.

Violet: Mine too!

Brittany: You know what? This dictionary is pretty interesting. Did you know that nincompoop is a word?

Violet: No, but I'm sure it describes you. Well, I have to go now. See you later Brittany!

Brittany: Bye Violet. *(Violet walks off stage)* hey, now I'm all alone! I guess I better go now too. *(Stands up and puts down book)* Wait, this is my house! Oh well! *(Walks off stage)*

Scene 2

Scene opens at Violet's house.

Starr: Come on! Let's arm wrestle! Scared? I'll cream ya!

Brittany: I'm not scared. I just, ummm..... have a sore arm.

Starr: Uh huh! What ever! You're a scardy cat, nah nah nah nah boo boo.

Brittany: Stop it! I'm not scared!

Starr: Well arm wrestle with me then.

Brittany: Starr! I.....

Violet comes running in.

Violet: Oh my gosh guys! The worst thing happened! Oh my gosh! You won't believe it! Oh my gosh!

Brittany: Violet! Breathe! Calm down! Tell us what happened. Is a house on fire or something?

Violet: No! We *(big breath in)* have to leave school!

Starr: Is there an earthquake?

Brittany: Earthquake? Hit the deck! *(Ducks down)*

Violet: No! We.....have.....to.....leave.....ourschool! I just overheard my mom talking to our teacher.

Brittany: But why? What happened? Why do we have to leave our school?

Violet: Because it's going to get closed down!

Starr: For a day?

Brittany: For a week?

Violet: *(Crying)* Forever! We have to move to another school! We have to move away from our home!

Brittany: Why? Why is it shutting down? What happened to our school, Violet?

Violet: The School Board says that there aren't enough children to keep our school running. And they are going to close it!

Brittany: This is OK I suppose. When do we have to leave?

Starr: *(Stands up)* Quit making good news out of sob stories! This is great! So yeah, when do we leave?

Violet: *(Rubbing her eyes)* Next month!

Starr: Yes! Finally I can get out of this dump! This is a dream come true!

Brittany: Cool. Hey Vy, cheer up. It's not the end of the world. But I can see you're upset. Leaving your home. But we're big girls now, right? We can handle it. We would have had to leave in a few years anyway. I guess this will be a warm up for high school.

Violet: *(Sobbing)* Oh, never mind, the both of you. I'll just crawl into a hole and die! My life's over anyway! *(Runs off stage)*

Starr: Freak show! So, how 'bout that arm wrestle I was talking about?

Brittany: Oh Starr, get a life! *(Stands up)* Hey Violet, wait up. *(Runs off stage)*

Starr: Ha! I'm too good! I made them both disappear!

Scene 3

Scene opens at Starr's house. Violet stands up and walks forward, light shines on her)

Violet: Can you believe them? They think leaving our homes that we grew up in is cool. All our fishing days, our hunting and just hanging out. Leaving all that! And for what? Streets and stores and getting mugged! Leaving our traditions! Leaving our school of three! That is too much of a change for me. I ain't doing it and they can't make me! *(Light comes off Violet and she walks back)*

Starr: *(Arm wrestling with Brittany)* Ha! I told you I'd cream you!

Brittany: Fine, you win!

Violet: I can't believe you guys are happy about this awful news.

Starr: What can I say? I know! Who cares?

Brittany: Obviously not you!

Violet: Starr, how can you say that? Won't you miss your home?

Starr: Ha, no!

Violet: BRITTANY SAY SOMETHING!!!

Brittany: What do you want me to say? There is nothing we can do about it! We need more kids here. We just can't make them!

Violet: We can if we try. No one would get anywhere if they didn't try.

Starr: Where do you get all this sappy information from?

Brittany: Where do you get all your sarcastic humour from?

Violet: Guys, just drop it! I'm leaving!

Brittany: Oh Violet stop! *(Violet walks off stage)* What is up with that girl, running out on us? *(Brittany runs off stage)*

Lights shine on Starr

Starr: What is up with Violet? I mean, she is freaking out at the best thing that is happening to our lives. I swear that girl has an act for turning great stuff into boring stuff. Whatever someone tells her it goes in one ear and out the other. Brittany is alright, but I mean Violet, she is immune to fun stuff. It's impossible for her to have fun. I mean, we get to leave this junk yard behind for stores, cars and tons more!

Lights out.

Scene 4

Scene opens at Brittany's house.

Brittany: Violet cheer up OK? I hate seeing you upset. How about I get us some ice cream from the freezer?

Violet: *(Lifts up head from her arms)* No thanks. I'm not in the mood. *(Puts her head on her arms)*

Starr: Oh, sooky now eh?

Violet: Shut up!

Brittany: Leave her alone Starr. Can't you see she's in her time of need?

Starr: Oh yeah, time in need of help alright, a counsellor's help!

Violet: Look you guys, you have to realize what we're going to lose. This is my home and it cannot be replaced!

Brittany: We know that, but look at all the fun we are missing at our new home. We'll have more friends, we'll get to learn to drive a car in a few years. Heck, we can't drive hardly anywhere here. You know, without roads and all. There isn't even a store here.

Starr: Hey, you're a good thinker, Britt!

Violet: But you don't understand. Once we leave here, we can't go back. Our families will have to move, and because of us. We need school and if there isn't a school running here, then our parents know we have to move to that stupid town. And none of us can afford to go up and down the river every day, twice a day.

Starr: *(Stands up)* OH MY GOSH! WILL YOU STOP WITH YOUR PETTY LITTLE STORIES! NO ONE CARES! JUST DROP IT AND ACCEPT THE FACTS, OK? SO DO US ALL A FAVOUR AND LEAVE!

Brittany: Sheesh, Starr, that was a bit harsh!

Violet: Yeah Starr, why don't you leave? Oh and just because you don't care if you ever see your home again doesn't mean everyone else don't care!

Brittany: Yeah Starr, I agree with Violet. She's right. So leave. I'm sorry.

Starr: *(Stands up)* Fine! I don't need you guys. I'll go and move before school closes for Christmas. There's lots of kids to replace you two anyway. Good-bye! *(Leaves stage)*

Violet: Finally, she's gone. Hey Britt, do you really mean what you just said? You know, that you believe me?

Brittany: *(Starts to cry)* I think you should go.

Violet: I don't understand. I.....

Brittany: JUST GO! *(Violet leaves stage)* I have no idea what's going on. It's like I'm being stretched apart. One friend is pulling on one side for me to stay and the other is pulling for me to leave. If I go to either side I will lose one of my two closest friends. And if I go I will lose my home, if I leave I have no idea what I will gain.

Scene 5

Scene opens at Violet's house. Music is playing. Violet is sitting down reading a newspaper. Music stops. Knock at the door. Violet gets up to answer the door.)

Brittany: Hi, can I come in?

Violet: I suppose so.

(Violet and Brittany sit down)

Brittany: I came to say that I'm sorry.

Violet: For what?

Brittany: About Friday, how I kicked you out of my house and yelled at you.

Violet: Oh yeah. I sort of forgot about that. I had more important things to worry about than a little argument, but you were mad.

Brittany: Let me explain, OK?

Violet: I guess.

Brittany: Well, I just came to realize that I will never have this kind of lifestyle again. No hunting, going on skidoo my myself, pulling on my bathing suit and jumping right into the lake right in front of my house for a great swim. I will lose it all.

Violet: After all those times I've told you, you are just realizing this now?

Brittany: Yeah, I'm sorry. I should have listened to you a lot better than I did. So do you forgive me?

Violet: Of course! So, have you seen Starr lately?

Brittany: No, I figured she must have moved already.

Violet: Oh yeah. What a stupid question to ask. Where else would she be?

Brittany: Yeah, right?

Violet: Yeah, she don't get what is going to happen to this place when we leave. She don't realize that she will never get down here again. Well, she just don't care at all!

Knock, knock

Brittany: Were you expecting someone?

Violet: *(Stands up)* No. *(Walks to door)* OH MY GOSH!!! STARR WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?

Starr walks in, bruised, bandaged and limping)

Starr: It's a long story.

Brittany: We have time.

All the girls sit down.

Starr: Well, I went to Goose Valley for the weekend with my grandparents. I went out with some strangers from somewhere away, then we stopped out on a back road. One of them said something mean to me. I don't remember what it was though. All I remember was her going after me, then they all were. So when I woke up I was lying in a bed. I guess it wasn't that long after all.

Violet: Well, are you alright?

Starr: Well, let me put it this way, it doesn't feel like cold ice cream on a hot summer day.

Brittany: That good huh?

Starr: Yeah, that good!

Brittany: Well, since we're all here, I just wanted to say that I'm sorry for everything that happened to us on Friday. And Starr I'm sorry for kicking you out. I was just so mad, and after you flipped out at Violet, I just didn't know what to do.

Starr: I accept your apology.

Brittany: Well, at least we're all friends again!

Scene 6

Scene opens at Starr's house

Starr: *(Talking to audience. Violet and Brittany in background talking)* Well, she did it! Violet, I mean, she got to me. She made me one of them! I just didn't realize how safe I feel here and how much I would miss it. One thing I love to do here is hunt, it's my favourite hobby. Just listening to the gun fire and getting some wild meat to bring home. Those are the times I really feel important...and...and if I'm not living here I don't think I'll have that anymore. I thought up in Goose Valley I could get a job, buy some things out of my own money that I earned all by myself, but I'm too young anyway. But I'm not too young to do lots of neat things here at home. *(Steps back, talking to Violet and Brittany)* Well, finally those stupid bandages are off and I'm almost healed up!

Brittany: Yeah, you're back to normal, but...

Violet: But we still have to leave in a few weeks.

Starr: Isn't there anything we can do?

Brittany: Maybe we could make some prank phone calls to the School Board and they'll get so sick of us that they won't want us around and they'll leave us alone and we can stay right here!

Starr: Oh come on! That makes no sense. We have to come up with a good plan.

Violet: Well, at least it was an idea, Britt. But no prank phone calls. OK?

Brittany: OK.

Violet: Starr, do you have any ideas?

Starr: Well, Violet, remember your Uncle Joe who lost his job in Toronto?

Violet: Yeah, they are selling everything and moving back to Labrador.

Starr: Isn't he a computer whiz who wants to work out of his own home?

Violet: Yeah...

Brittany: *(Voice raising)* Isn't he the one with a mess of kids?

Violet: Yeah, four kids. *(Stands up)*

Starr: How old?

Brittany: What grades?

Violet: Oh my gosh guys...let me think...Pat is twelve, Adam is ten...gosh they're my cousins. What's her name is a little bit younger and Cody is in Kindergarten. GIVE ME THE PHONE!! *(Dials)* Mom! Mom! Listen it's me. I'm not shouting...listen Mom, where's Uncle Joe gonna stay when he moves? In Goose Valley eh? *(Looks at Brittany and Starr)* Mom, you gotta listen now. You inherited Uncle Henry's house right? It's just sitting there empty? Gosh Mom, listen now, you gotta talk to dad. We got a plan....

Scene 7

Scene opens at Violet's house

Violet: *(Talking from off stage)* Please Mom? How come? You never go there. That house is just sitting there like a rotting tree. Can you give Uncle Joe the house? But Mom if Uncle Joe moves down here there will be four more children in our school and then we won't have to move to Goose Valley. I know you don't want to move there. That is my point. Fine. Be that way! *(Walks on stage. Then sits down)* She is not giving in.

Brittany: But she has to!

Violet: She is just too stubborn!

Starr: If she don't let your Uncle Joe move into that house then...then I don't know what I'll do.

Brittany: Well, we think we have a plan! What does your mother hate Violet?

Violet: Ummm mice! Why?

Brittany: Maybe we can make her eat a mouse?!

Starr: No stupid! How are we going to make her eat a mouse?

Violet: Nah! She'll just scream at me and send me to my room. How about I go and ask my dad? He is more gullible than my mom. *(Runs off stage)* HEY DAD! COME HERE! JUST COME HERE RIGHT NOW! IT'S IMPORTANT! OK Daddy. You know that Uncle Joe is going to move to Goose Valley? Well I was thinking that maybe he can live in Uncle Henry's house. But why daddy? But Mom said no! Why don't anyone think it's a good idea? *(Runs on stage and sits down)* He said he would ask Mom.

Starr: Why do all parents say that? It's like you ask your Dad and then he says ask your Mom and then you ask your Mom and she says to ask your dad. Then you ask your dad again and than he would be like *(stands up and acts like a body builder)* "Didn't you just ask me that?" *(Sits down)* I just don't get grown-ups.

Violet: Well, this still isn't getting us anywhere. How are we going to think of a plan and make it work?

Brittany: All this work is giving my head an ouchy!

Starr: Ohhh! Poor baby! Why don't you go lie down?

Brittany: OK.

Violet: NO! We need all the brains that we can get. No one is leaving.

Starr: Well, no need to keep Brittany here.

Brittany: She has a point, I think.

Violet: I don't care, even if you don't know anything. We have to stick together on this. OK?

Starr & Brittany: Fine!

Violet: What about Grandma? She might let Uncle Joe live in the house. I'll go and ask her, they're her kids anyway! *(Runs off stage)* HEY GRANDMA! CAN UNCLE JOE MOVE INTO UNCLE HENRY'S HOUSE? BUT THEY'RE YOUR KIDS! THANK YOU GRANDMA! *(Runs on stage)* She said yes!!

Brittany: Who did?

Starr: The Easter Bunny!

Brittany: Really? Did he? Where is he?. I want his autograph!

Violet: There is no Easter Bunny. I just went and asked Grandma if Uncle Joe can move into Uncle Henry's house and she said yes!

Starr: Well, there is still one more thing! Does your Uncle Joe want to move into your Uncle Henry's house?

Violet: How would I know?

Brittany: Well, he's your uncle!

Starr: How about you call him?

Violet: Fine! *(Picks up the phone and dials the number)* Hi is Uncle Joe there please? Thank you. Hi Uncle Joe, this is your niece Violet. I have something very important to tell you. Well, you are moving back to Labrador, right? And you know no one is living in Uncle Henry's house, right? Well, I asked Grandma if you can live there and she said that you can. So how about it? What is there to think about? There is a perfectly good house here and you can have it for free. OK bye Uncle Joe. *(Puts down the phone, looking sad)*

Starr: Well, what did he say? Is he moving here?

Violet: *(Lifting up her head, starting to smile)* HE SAID YES!!!

All the girls start jumping up and down, screaming/laughing)

Brittany: Ok, Ok calm down! *(All girls sit down on the couch)* So when is he coming?

Violet: He doesn't know for sure. But he said really soon because he got kicked out of his house. And he already got his stuff packed and they have to be out in two weeks.

Starr: So he should be here before the school is supposed to shut down?

Violet: Yeah, they should be.

Brittany: Well, I guess this is a happily ever after, after all.

Violet: Yeah, it sure is.