

THE PLATYPUS PREZZY

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This screenplay addresses the Social-Emotional Learning  
topic: Social Awareness

I. The ability to take the perspective of, and empathize with others, including those from diverse backgrounds and cultures.

II. The ability to understand social and ethical norms for behavior and to recognize family, school and community resources and supports.

INT. AUDITORIUM - DAY

SONNY and TAYLOR are sitting on the floor in the school auditorium putting the finishing touches on a large platypus diagram. SONNY points to the diagram.

SONNY

It looks awesome! Let's practice  
our platypus rap now!

SONNY grabs a marker and stands up. TAYLOR looks nervous. SONNY motions to EV who is sitting close by working on her lap top.

SONNY (CONT'D)

DJ Cube, let's do this!

EV looks excited and stands up. EV places her lap top on the side of the auditorium stage and looks ready to hit play.

EV

Ready when you are, MC SONNY D!

SONNY

Awesome!

SONNY tosses TAYLOR a marker.

SONNY (CONT'D)

Hey, You need a mic, bro!

TAYLOR stands up slowly. He looks nervous.

SONNY (CONT'D)

Don't be nervous, MC Tay Tay!  
You're gonna do great!

TAYLOR looks even more nervous but nods.

SONNY (CONT'D)

Hit it, DJ Cube!

EV cues the music and a catchy hip hop background track comes on. SONNY emphatically nods his head up and down to the music. TAYLOR looks rigid and scared. SONNY uses one hand to put his marker to his mouth to use as a mic. SONNY raises his one arm in the air and waves it back and forth to the beat.

SONNY (CONT'D)

Put yo hands up in the air and wave  
'em like this!

SONNY turns on his heel and spins around. The whole room spins with him. As SONNY lands facing front again, the hip hop track now sounds as booming as a live rap concert. SONNY looks completely different and so does the room. SONNY has a huge, rectangular hairdo with a gold pic stuck in the side of it. SONNY is wearing a fluorescent green Adidas style track suit, big white kicks, leopard print eyeglasses, and a giant gold chain with the words "MC Sonny D" on it. The marker SONNY was holding is now a gold microphone. The auditorium now looks like an outdoor music video set in New York City (Think LMFAO's Party Rock Anthem). There are flashy kids bicycles everywhere (banana bikes with bejeweled seats, bikes that are space-age sleek and have holographic prints, bikes that have tons of lights on them and multi-compartments for riders), fire hydrants are painted different colors, there are giant fluorescent speakers everywhere. SONNY points to EV and she is now standing in front of a sparkly set of turntables. She is wearing a sparkly pant suit and a giant mindcraft-like box face on her head (Think Deadmou5). EV is bouncing her head to the beat and we can see and hear her working the turntables. SONNY motions to TAYLOR who is wearing a fluorescent yellow Adidas style track suit, big white kicks, a diamond encrusted Kangol hat and a giant gold chain with the words "MC TAY TAY" on it. SONNY lifts his mic to his mouth.

SONNY (CONT'D)

I said, put yo hands in the air and  
wave em' like this!

SONNY puts his one arm in the air and waves it back and forth to the beat.

SONNY (CONT'D)

An' move yo body to the music of  
the platypus!

TAYLOR looks very scared. He is only raising his arms half way in the air.

SONNY (CONT'D)

MC Tay Tay, take it away!

SONNY motions to TAYLOR. TAYLOR tries to open his mouth but doesn't say anything. He is frozen in stage fright (Close up on TAYLOR's face).

The music screeches to a halt (sounds like the turntables doing this), SONNY blinks his eyes and everything goes back to reality.

SONNY (CONT'D)  
Are you ok, Taylor?

EV  
Ya, are you ok?

TAYLOR looks embarrassed.

TAYLOR  
(to Sonny.)  
I-I-... I told you I get nervous  
doing this kind of thing in front  
of people!

SONNY looks unconcerned.

SONNY  
That's cool, bro! Everyone's a bit  
nervous before they speak or  
perform in front of a bunch of  
people.

TAYLOR  
I guess. But I-I was just... I was  
thinking like, since this is a  
science presentation maybe we  
shouldn't rap...

SONNY looks shocked by TAYLOR's suggestion.

SONNY  
But Ms. Penelope said it should be  
creative!

TAYLOR  
Ya but rapping science facts? I  
don't know...

SONNY does his best rap star pose.

SONNY  
(rapping.)  
C'mon, MC Tay Tay! Rapping science  
facts is where it's at!

SONNY laughs again. TAYLOR looks distracted.

TAYLOR  
Maybe but then we have to memorize  
lines and... perform in front of  
everyone!

SONNY looks unimpressed.

SONNY  
So what should we do? Dress up in  
Platypus costumes and point to this  
diagram?

We see a quick thought bubble in TAYLOR's mind of TAYLOR and  
SONNY dressed in platypus costumes. TAYLOR looks hopeful.

TAYLOR  
That's a great idea!

SONNY  
What? No! That's what everyone's  
gonna do!

TAYLOR's thought bubble pops and he looks deflated. EV walks  
over to the boys.

EV  
Sorry guys but I've got to go. Hit  
play on the laptop if you wanna  
hear the song again.

SONNY nods.

SONNY  
Sure think DJ Cubey Cube!

SONNY gives EV a high five. EV laughs. TAYLOR looks  
uncertain.

TAYLOR  
Ya, thanks.

EV leaves. SONNY looks intently at TAYLOR.

SONNY  
Listen, Taylor, you gotta trust me.  
We're gonna rap these awesome  
platypus facts and we'll blow  
everyone's mind!

TAYLOR takes a deep breath and sighs.

TAYLOR  
Maybe blow my mind!

TAYLOR makes a motion with his hands to signify his head exploding.

SONNY looks worried.

SONNY  
You've gotta try.

TAYLOR  
When I have to talk in front of  
people I get so nervous I feel like  
I can't breath, my heart beats  
fast, I get all sweaty and then I  
can't remember what I was supposed  
to say!

SONNY does a rap pose again.

SONNY  
(rapping.)  
Don't worry about yo' words, MC Tay  
Tay, we got a diagram that'll help  
you know what to say!

SONNY points to the diagram on the ground. TAYLOR shakes his head in dismay.

TAYLOR  
That's not gonna help. I'm gonna  
freak out and forget my lines! The  
whole class is gonna laugh at me!

TAYLOR starts breathing heavily.

SONNY  
Dude, calm down! You're thinking  
the worst!

TAYLOR  
Am I?

TAYLOR tears up a little.

SONNY  
Just try your best tomorrow. We're  
gonna do great!

TAYLOR looks at SONNY with uncertainty in his eyes.

TAYLOR  
No Sonny, YOU're gonna do great. If  
I try to rap in front of the class,  
I don't know what'll happen to me.

SONNY  
(addressing the viewer.)  
Yikes...  
DECISION MOMENT:

SONNY (CONT'D)  
What a cartoon conundrum! What should I do? Taylor's worried he'll freak out and forget his lines if he raps in front of the whole class. I get it - that WOULD be brutal! But... I've been working so hard on my rap and music is my jam, you know? I need Taylor to say his lines so we make this rap epic! I mean, rapping is rad right?

Option A and B appear in boxes on the screen.

SONNY (CONT'D)  
What do you think?

A: I should change our project so Taylor doesn't have to rap.

B: I should push Taylor to rap and maybe he'll get over his fear.

SONNY (CONT'D)  
Hmmm.

SONNY continues to look at the viewer and a giant thought bubble appears above his head. In SONNY's mind, we see a glimpse of a scene thought of by the perceptive, smart viewer who has thought this through. In the scene, SONNY and TAYLOR are in the imaginary rap video scene. They are dressed in the funky gear and all of their classmates are sitting on the flashy bikes around them. The classmates are wearing backwards baseball caps, Kangol hats and sunglasses and they are all bobbing their heads to the beat. EV is there with her mindcraft-style box head working the turntables. SONNY steps forward and raps a line and the crowd of kids go wild. SONNY motions for TAYLOR to take his turn rapping. TAYLOR looks stiff and nervous. TAYLOR lifts the mic to his mouth but can't seem to get his words out. TAYLOR starts to look sweaty and sick. TAYLOR's face turns red and he starts to cry. TAYLOR drops his mic and runs away. The scene turns back to reality and we see the classroom. SONNY is standing at the front of the class looking at the door. All of the students are looking at the door, too. Ms. Penelope gets up and runs out the door, after TAYLOR. There is a loud screeching to a halt noise, and SONNY shakes the image out of his mind's eye. The thought bubble pops and disappears. He puts a hand over his mouth in shock/worry.

SONNY (CONT'D)

(to viewer.)

Right. You're right. That COULD happen. I know what I should do.

Option A: I should change our project so Taylor doesn't have to rap.

This is the Gold Standard Choice that primarily shows: Social Awareness

I. The ability to take the perspective of, and empathize with others, including those from diverse backgrounds and cultures.

II. The ability to understand social and ethical norms for behavior and to recognize family, school and community resources and supports.

INT. AUDITORIUM - DAY

SONNY

Taylor, you seem super worried.

TAYLOR nods his head in agreement.

TAYLOR

Hello? Did you hear a word I said?

SONNY

I did. I've got an idea. Let's switch things up so you don't have to rap.

TAYLOR

Really?

SONNY

Of course! I got you MC Tay Tay!

TAYLOR

But what about all the hard work you put into the rap?

SONNY

Oh no worries on that. I still got a way-way-way to make 'em sway-sway-sway.

TAYLOR

Thanks, Sonny.

SONNY

No sweat.



Taylor wipes the sweat off his brow.

TAYLOR  
Ya, not anymore!

They both laugh.

SONNY  
Let's go find Ms. Penelope and I'll  
tell you guys my rad idea!

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

SONNY and TAYLOR are standing side by side at the front of the classroom doing their presentation. They are wearing gold chains, fedora hats and warm up tracksuits (Think RUN-DMC). Their platypus diagram is on a stand behind them. TAYLOR is holding giant cue cards. Many STUDENTS are dressed in predictable animal costumes. A hip hop track starts to play and SONNY and TAYLOR bob their heads to the beat. SONNY raises a homemade mic to his mouth.

SONNY (RAPPING)  
P-L-A-T-Y-P-U- S! What's that  
spell? MC Sonny D gonna tell!

SONNY turns on his heel and spins around. The whole room spins with him and now the wild hip hop video scene is in full swing, and everyone is in hip hop character once again. This time, MS. PENELOPE is present, too. She is wearing a bright pink one-piece jumpsuit, tons of jewellery and has her hair in a 'fro. EV is close by in her mindcraft head and glittery suit working the turntables.

SONNY (CONT'D)  
Platypus! That's right! The furry  
little duck face from the down  
unda', it's poisonous spur really  
brings the...

TAYLOR holds up a giant electric neon sign that says "Thunda!", and points to it. EV screeches the music to a halt. SONNY puts his arms up to encourage the other STUDENTS to jump in and say the line with TAYLOR. The STUDENTS yell the line with TAYLOR.

TAYLOR  
(rapping.)  
Thunda!

The class erupts in cheers. Taylor smiles brightly. Ms. Penelope laughs and claps in delight. EV starts the music again.

SONNY

(rapping.)

Such a crazy lookin' creatua' the  
peeps who discovered it, said it  
was different animals stitched  
togetha! But the platypus was no  
hoax and what me and MC Tay Tay are  
tellin' ya ain't no joke! The  
platypus ain't your average animal  
because this web-footed wonderkind  
is a real...

TAYLOR holds up another giant neon sign. This one says,  
"Mammal!" TAYLOR points to the sign. EV screeches the music  
to a halt. SONNY (again) puts his arms up to encourage the  
other STUDENTS to jump in and say the line with TAYLOR. The  
other STUDENTS and MS. PENELOPE yell the line with TAYLOR. EV  
starts the music again.

TAYLOR

(rapping.)

Mammal!

Taylor laughs joyfully.

SONNY

(rapping.)

That's the story and we're stickin'  
to it. The platypus is one of a  
kind and that's how we...

SONNY points to TAYLOR and both boys speak at the same time.

SONNY & TAYLOR

(rapping.)

Do it!

SONNY and TAYLOR cross their arms and step back to back, nod  
their heads and freeze (think RUN-DMC). EV throws her hands  
up in the air in celebration and fire crackers go off all  
around them. The scene changes back into reality. MS.  
PENELOPE stands up and claps enthusiastically and the rest of  
the STUDENTS join in clapping and cheering. TAYLOR is beaming  
with pride and looks at SONNY gratefully. SONNY winks at  
TAYLOR and nods his head like a b-boy/rapper. SONNY and  
TAYLOR walk by MS. PENELOPE to return to their seats. She  
motions for them to come close to her. She leans into them  
and whispers.

MS. PENELOPE

Way to go guys! You're new plan  
worked out perfect! Sonny you  
learned those lines fast and Taylor  
you were an awesome hype guy!

(MORE)

MS. PENELOPE (CONT'D)  
Most importantly though, did that  
feel ok to you Taylor?

TAYLOR looks pleasantly surprised.

TAYLOR  
It felt better than ok...it felt  
really good!

MS. PENELOPE pretends to scratch a record.

MS. PENELOPE  
(rapping.)  
Ama-ama-AMAZING!

SONNY and TAYLOR laugh whole-heartedly. MS. PENELOPE holds out her fist and both boys give her a fist bump. As they walk back to their seats and the party atmosphere continues in the classroom, the camera backs out of the classroom and out of the school before flying up to the clouds looking down at the school in the peaceful neighbourhood.

THE END.