

Class Action

by Brad Slaight

The Play: A collage of encounters and solos occurring outside the classroom, reveals the difficulties of coming-of-age in the complex environment of high school.

Time and Place: A year in the 1990s. Various parts of an unnamed high school.

The Scene: *Dennis (teen) confesses the dilemma of life as a genius.*

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DENNIS: My name is Dennis Gandleman. Around this school I am the object of ridicule from most of the students, simply because I have an extremely high I.Q. It's 176. My father wanted me to enroll in a special school that deals with geniuses like myself, but Mother was firmly against that. She wanted me to have a normal education, and not be treated as some kind of freak... Which is ironic, because that's exactly what is happening to me here. The whole concept of education is a paradox: High School is supposed to celebrate education and knowledge, but what it really celebrates is social groups and popularity. In a perfect world, a kid like me would be worshipped because of my scholastic abilities, instead of someone who can throw a forty-yard touchdown pass. I suppose I could complain, and bemoan the unfairness of it all. But I am bright. I know something that the others don't... That, once we leave High School and enter the real world, all the rules change. What matters is power. Financial power. Power that comes from making a fortune on cutting-edge computer software. Software that I am already developing. *(Pause.)* Some call me a nerd. I call myself...ahead of my time. See you on the outside.

