

THE NAME GAME

a screenplay by Victor Rodger

CHARACTERS: VIJAY, CHYE-LING, IBRAHIM, MIRI, UILEALEA (all students)
MISS POTTER (substitute drama teacher)

Drama class. Three students, **VIJAY, CHYE-LING, and IBRAHIM**, are waiting for class to begin.

VIJAY

Man, that rain. It's insane. Hey! That rhymes.

VIJAY is impressed with himself, but **CHYE-LING** ignores him.

CHYE-LING

I got soaked just running from the car.

IBRAHIM

Same.

MIRI enters, dripping wet.

CHYE-LING

Hey, Miri!

MIRI

Fahhh. It's a hurricane out there!

VIJAY

Hey, hey, hey ... if it isn't my sweet Juliet.

MIRI

Oh my gosh, can you not?

VIJAY

Well? Aren't you going to say hello to your Romeo?

MIRI

Vijay, you are so not my Romeo.

VIJAY

What are you talking about? You heard Mr Jackson-Bourke last week. He said I'm Romeo. And you're Juliet.

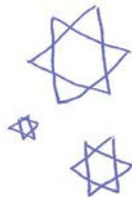
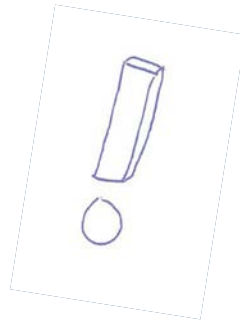
CHYE-LING

Did you guys learn your scene?

MIRI

Yeah. But I'm not sure how convincing I'm going to be – know what I mean?

MIRI nods towards **VIJAY**, who looks affronted.



IBRAHIM

Oooh! Cold!

VIJAY

We might have to seriously review our relationship.

MIRI

Uh ... what relationship?

CHYE-LING

Where's Mr Jackson-Bourke anyway?

IBRAHIM

And where's Uilealea? That guy – he's such a crack-up.

CHYE-LING

I wonder if he's learnt the lines for our scene this time.

IBRAHIM

If he hasn't, I bet Mr Jackson-Bourke will make him be the donkey in the Christmas show again.

CHYE-LING

He was pretty good as the donkey, actually.

IBRAHIM

Actually, yeah. You're right. He was.

IBRAHIM is imitating **UILEALEA** being a donkey when **UILEALEA** arrives, wearing sunglasses and shaking the water from his umbrella.

UILEALEA

It's OK, everyone. You can relax. The star of the show's here.

MIRI rolls her eyes.

MIRI

What are you wearing sunglasses for? It's pouring out there.

UILEALEA

Well, you see, Miri, my future's so bright I gotta wear shades.

IBRAHIM

Huh? What does that even mean?

MIRI

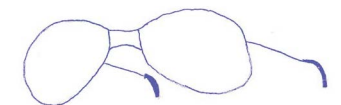
It means he's an egg.

IBRAHIM

An egg?

MIRI

Yeah. A really big, smelly one.



UILEALEA

Miri, I just want you to know that sticks and stones may break my bones, but names will never stop me from becoming the next Dwayne Johnson.

IBRAHIM

Wait – that’s not how that rhyme goes.

UILEALEA

It is now 'cause that’s how I roll.

MIRI

You’re sad.

UILEALEA

Don’t be a hater. Be a celebra-ter.

MIRI

That’s not even a word.

UILEALEA begins to rap.

UILEALEA

Celebra-ter. Celebra-ter. Cele-cele-celebra-ter.
Everybody now ...

UILEALEA encourages the others to join in. Everyone does except **MIRI**.

UILEALEA/CHYE-LING/VIJAY/IBRAHIM

Celebra-ter. Celebra-ter. Cele-cele-celebra-ter. Celebra-ter. Celebra-ter.
Cele-cele-celebra-ter. Celebra-ter. Celebra-ter. Cele-cele-celebra-ter.

MISS POTTER arrives in a fluster. She’s drenched.

MISS POTTER

Goodness, it’s a little bit wet out there this afternoon, isn’t it?
Kia ora, everyone. You must be Mr Jackson-Bourke’s drama class.

VIJAY

Yes.

MISS POTTER

Sorry I’m late. The traffic was horrendous. I’m Miss Potter.

UILEALEA

Are you related to Harry?

MISS POTTER

Harry who?

UILEALEA

Harry Potter.

UILEALEA sniggers at his own joke.

MISS POTTER

Oh. Was that a joke?

MIRI

Burrrrrrn.

MISS POTTER

I’m going to be your drama teacher today.

CHYE-LING

Where’s Mr Jackson-Bourke?

MISS POTTER

He had to fly to Nelson for a family thing.

VIJAY

Are you friends with Mr Jackson-Bourke?

MISS POTTER

Yes. We went to drama school together.

VIJAY

So are you just friends friends? Or are you, like, Romeo and Juliet friends?

MISS POTTER looks a little flustered.

MISS POTTER

We’re very good friends.

VIJAY looks over at **MIRI**.

VIJAY

Like us, eh, Miri?

MIRI rolls her eyes again.

MISS POTTER

So. Because you don’t know me and I don’t know any of you, I thought we could start off by playing the name game. Do you know the name game?

The students shrug.

MISS POTTER (CONT’D)

Let’s make a circle ...

Everyone gets into a circle.

MISS POTTER (CONT’D)

With this game, you look at someone and say their name, then that person looks at someone else and says their name, and so on, and so on. And the point of the game is to remember the order you say everyone’s names. Eventually, you do it faster and faster, and if you get it wrong, then you’re out. Is that clear?

Everyone nods. **MISS POTTER** notices **UILEALEA** and his sunglasses.



MISS POTTER (CONT'D)

Excuse me, what's your name?

UILEALEA

Uilealea.

MISS POTTER looks concerned. Clearly this is a hard name for her.

MISS POTTER

Do you need to wear those sunglasses for medical reasons ...

UILEALEA

Uilealea.

MIRI

He's just trying to be cool, Miss. He thinks he looks like the man.

UILEALEA

I don't think I do. I know I do.

MISS POTTER

Would you mind taking them off while you're in class?

UILEALEA doesn't move for a beat, then dramatically takes his sunglasses off.

MISS POTTER (CONT'D)

Thank you.

UILEALEA

You're welcome.

MISS POTTER looks at **VIJAY**.

MISS POTTER

I'll get you to start. Look at someone and say their name.

VIJAY looks straight at **MIRI**.

VIJAY

Juliet.

MIRI

That's not my name. Say my name, egg.

VIJAY

All right, all right. Miri.

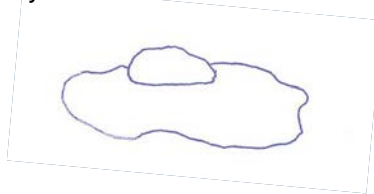
MISS POTTER (under her breath)

Miri.

MIRI looks at **IBRAHIM**.

MIRI

Ibrahim.



MISS POTTER (under her breath)

Ibrahim.

IBRAHIM looks at **CHYE-LING**.

IBRAHIM

Chye-Ling.

MISS POTTER (under her breath)

Chye-Ling.

CHYE-LING looks at **VIJAY**.

CHYE-LING

Vijay.

MISS POTTER (under her breath)

Vijay.

VIJAY looks at **MISS POTTER**.

VIJAY

Miss Potter.

MISS POTTER looks around the circle. There's only **UILEALEA** left. She hesitates.

MISS POTTER

Um, sorry. Can you say your name one more time for me, please?

UILEALEA

Uilealea.

MISS POTTER

How would you feel if I just call you Ui?

UILEALEA

I thought this game was about you learning our names? Uilealea is my name.

MISS POTTER looks really awkward.

UILEALEA (CONT'D)

Don't worry. Pālagi teachers always get it wrong.

MISS POTTER

No. I'm going to get it right. One more time, please.

UILEALEA

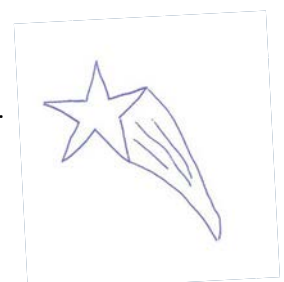
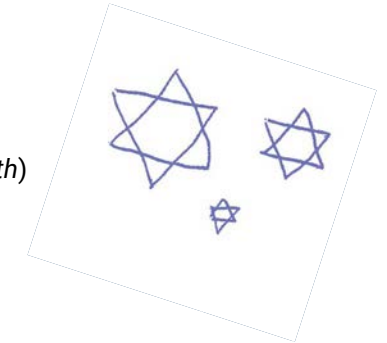
Uilealea.

MISS POTTER

One more time for luck?

VIJAY, CHYE-LING, IBRAHIM, MIRI, and UILEALEA

Uilealea.



MISS POTTER

Oi-lay-lay.

The students snigger. MISS POTTER is embarrassed.

MISS POTTER (CONT'D)

Which bit did I say wrong?

CHYE-LING

Like, the whole thing, Miss.

MISS POTTER

Oh. Maybe if you break it down for me, then I can ...

UILEALEA

Sure. It's Ui ...

MISS POTTER

Ui ...

UILEALEA

Lea ...

MISS POTTER

Lea ...

UILEALEA

Lea ...

MISS POTTER

Lea ...

UILEALEA

Ui-lea-lea.

MISS POTTER

Oi-lay-lay.

The students laugh, but MISS POTTER looks increasingly frustrated.

MIRI

It's "ui" like "we" ...

IBRAHIM

As in "We are waiting for you to say his name right."

MISS POTTER

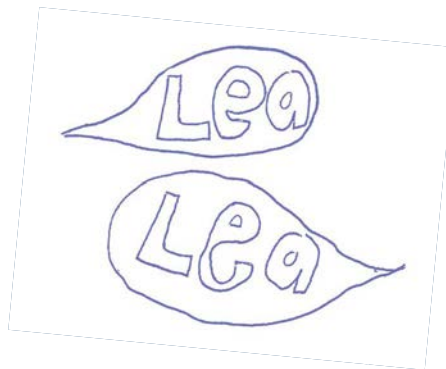
We ...

MIRI

And then "lea" ...

VIJAY

Like Princess Leia Leia.



UILEALEA

Not like Princess Leia. More like lair. As in Aragog's lair.

VIJAY

Aragog's what?

CHYE-LING

As in the forbidden fortress in Harry Potter with all those spiders ... which I hate!

MISS POTTER (under her breath)

We Aragog's lair lair. We Aragog's lair lair. We Aragog's lair lair. OK. Let's try the game from the beginning. The same pattern as before.

UILEALEA

Fa'amālosi, Miss.

MISS POTTER looks confused.

UILEALEA

It means go for it.

MISS POTTER nods to **VIJAY** to start the game. **VIJAY** looks at **MIRI**.

VIJAY

Miri.

MIRI looks at **IBRAHIM**.

MIRI

Ibrahim.

IBRAHIM looks at **CHYE-LING**.

IBRAHIM

Chye-Ling.

CHYE-LING looks at **VIJAY**.

CHYE-LING

Vijay.

VIJAY looks at **MISS POTTER**.

VIJAY.

Miss Potter.

MISS POTTER looks at **UILEALEA**.

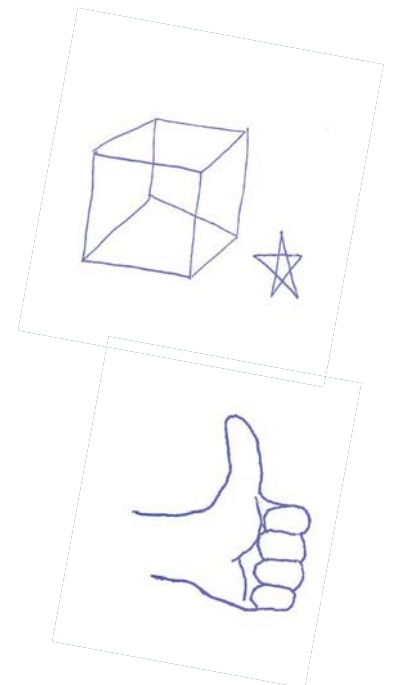
MISS POTTER

We-lair-lair. How'd I do?

Silence. Then UILEALEA gives her the thumbs up. MISS POTTER punches the air in victory. The students clap. MISS POTTER takes a bow.

THE END

illustrations by Freddy Pearson



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by Victor Rodger

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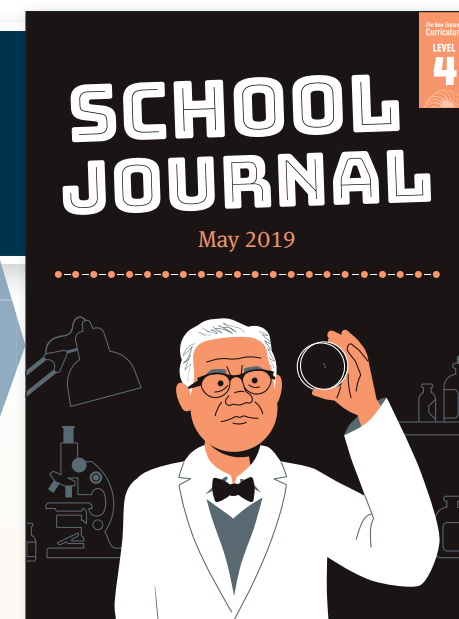
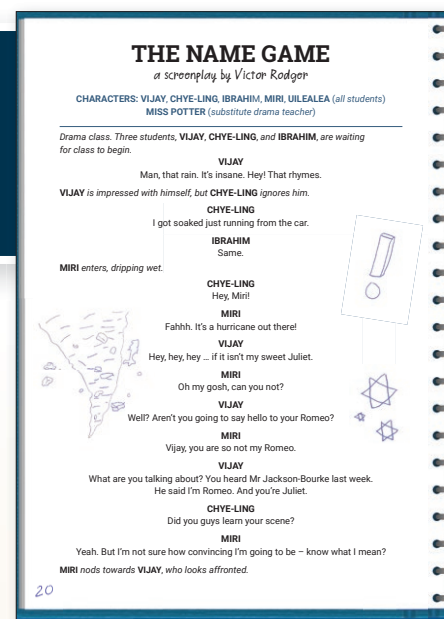
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