

FLOW ICEBREAKERS

STAND UP

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FADE IN:

INT. JR. HIGH SCHOOL HALL - MORNING

JUNIOR, (13), sports a T-shirt that reads "PRIDE OF Dominican Parents". He turns the dial on his locker.

JAMAL and PATRICK (both 13), watch Junior from several lockers away.

PATRICK
Hey Pica Pollo!

Junior ignores Patrick. Jamal and Patrick snicker.

JAMAL
I'm talking to you, newbie.

Junior walks away. Jamal and Patrick follow behind him.

JAMAL
Hey Junior doesn't pollo mean
chicken?

JUNIOR
(Half-heartedly)
You sound pretty stupid, you know.

PATRICK
Did he just call you stupid, Jamal?

The two boys stand in front of Junior. Junior tries to go around them, but Jamal blocks his way.

JAMAL
We'll see who's stupid, pica pollo.
See you after school.

Patrick knocks Junior's books from him. The two bullies walk off laughing.

INT. MR. DAVIS' VP'S OFFICE - NEXT DAY

Junior, with a black eye, sits opposite MR. DAVIS.

MR. DAVIS
Your mother called this morning.

JUNIOR
I know.

MR. DAVIS
She seems like a lady who takes
care of business.

Junior smiles weakly.

JUNIOR
That's her.

MR. DAVIS
So, who's been bothering you?

Junior shrugs.

JUNIOR
If I give you their names and you talk to them, they'll really beat me up.

MR. DAVIS
That is a possibility. Then again I can talk to their parents.

JUNIOR
Then they might beat you up.

Mr. Davis chuckles.

MR. DAVIS
Have you ever heard of Stand Up?

JUNIOR
What's that?

MR. DAVIS
A group of teachers started it with the community. I'll be leading the next session this Saturday.

JUNIOR
What's it about?

MR. DAVIS
You learn how to stand up to bullies.

JUNIOR
Does it work?

MR. DAVIS
You'll get the tools you need. If you commit yourself to making a few changes in your life--

JUNIOR
--What kind of changes?

MR. DAVIS
Why don't you just come and see for yourself?

INT. COMMUNITY CENTER- HALL - DAY

In a large room, with Halloween décor on the walls, sit Junior and two others: JOSEPH, (12) and KARA (12).

Mr. Davis stands before them.

MR. DAVIS

The first thing we want to work on is changing our self image. It starts with you. When you confront a problem, you start to feel your own power. So Junior, can you walk across the room for us?

Junior stands and trudges across the room.

MR. DAVIS

Right there! I'm ready to go over and poke you in the back myself. What do you think is the first thing you learn as a new recruit in the military?

KARA

How to shoot?

JOSEPH

And, fight!

MR. DAVIS

Not right away. Anyone wants take a wild guess? No? Okay, everyone up.

The kids stand up.

MR. DAVIS

ATTEN-HUT!

The kids jump to attention.

MR. DAVIS

Good! Kara, what would you think if you saw a slouching soldier?

KARA

Ummm. Maybe he was hurt?

JOSEPH

Or, or what if he has the flu?

Mr. Davis smiles.

MR. DAVIS
Sick, wounded, vulnerable. So
Junior now let's watch you cross
the room again. With purpose.

Junior struts with resolve, a little exaggerated.

The others giggle.

MR. DAVIS
But do you see the difference?

JOSEPH
He looked kinda weird walking like
that.

JUNIOR
I was exaggerating.

MR. DAVIS
Even if you don't walk quite like
Junior, it might feel exaggerated
at first. What else?

The kids are silent.

MR. DAVIS
How you talk. Everyone, tell me
your name.

The three kids speak their names, one by one.

MR. DAVIS
I can hardly hear you!

The kids shout their names with venom.

MR. DAVIS
Much better. Even your body
language changed.

JOSEPH
Body language?

MR. DAVIS
What your body conveys to others.
Do you sit straight or do you
slouch or look down? Your body
language sends messages to others.
You can change people's attitudes,
even your own. In the next few
weeks, we're going to talk about
walking with friends--

JUNIOR
What if you don't have any friends?

The other kids laugh. Junior stares them down.

MR. DAVIS
Did you have friends at your other school?

JUNIOR
Sure. People I grew up with.

MR. DAVIS
Okay. Then create a bigger presence for yourself. Get involved in school activities. Like what?

KARA
The soccer team?

JOSEPH
I suck at sports.

KARA
What about the school band?

MR. DAVIS
Good, Kara, what else? No one? Junior, your mom said you like to DJ. What about the Music Club?

JUNIOR
Is there a music club?

KARA
(Aside to Junior)
We're already in the "bullied club."

Both kids smirk.

MR. DAVIS
Yes there is. There is strength in numbers, people. The more you do, the more people you'll meet. The more friends you'll make.

JOSEPH
But what if they still want to mess with you, no matter how straight you walk and how loud you talk?

MR. DAVIS
Let's not fool ourselves. That can happen. That's why we have Mister Ishikawa come in and work with you. He teaches the art of self defense.

The kids are impressed, excited.

MR. DAVIS

I'm not talkin' Ninja Turtles here.
Just a few defensive moves.

KARA

Mister Davis, I just want to know
why are some people so mean?

MR. DAVIS

That's a complicated answer, Kara.
Sometimes bullies are more scared
than anyone--maybe they're being
bullied at home...Bullying is not a
strength. It's a weakness. Makes
you wonder what they're hiding,
doesn't it?

INT. SCHOOL HALL - MORNING

Kara and Junior talk at his locker.

Jamal and Patrick loiter at their lockers. Christmas
decorations hang above.

JAMAL

Hey, it's Pica Pollo!

Junior, facing away from them rolls his eyes, and addresses
Kara.

JUNIOR

Just ignore them.

PATRICK

Hey! We're talking to you.

KARA

I wonder who bullies them?

JAMAL

Pica Pollo.

Junior places his books in his locker and closes it. He
squares his shoulders, stands erect, turns slowly and speaks
to the two bullies in a deliberate voice.

JUNIOR

What do you want?

Jamal looks surprised and less sure of himself. Patrick's
expression changes from surprise to undecipherable.

FADE OUT: