

Mini Play Number Twenty Five

BRAIN BOX

Rahim is clever but he feels like a freak. He doesn't really have any friends. When he's not at school he spends most of his time in his room alone. By cutting himself Rahim found relief from his torment. It was his secret, until the day his mom watched a video. Rahim had made that video. It was meant for him alone. But now his secret had been discovered. What his mom saw shocked her terribly. What would she do now?

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SELF HARM



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FOREWARD

Zik-Zak Corolla's mini plays for pleasure and purpose.

The accounts in the plays are drawn from real-life experiences but the characters are fictitious.

The plays will help raise awareness and promote useful discussion of social issues that now effect most families. The aim is to help safeguard our kids from the increasing dangers they face in this ever-changing world.

Interactive and fun, the plays and the following *Questions for Discussion*, help raise awareness of challenges that affect the younger generation. They have been designed to promote discussion and dialogue especially between kids and their parents or guardians, teachers and others who are genuinely concerned about the welfare of our society.

Because the plays address real issues the language used is at times direct but is unlikely to be offensive. Feel comfortable about playing.

Tips for playing

Drop the directional notes and change the genders of the characters if it is more appropriate to your setting and cast; but be sure to follow the general thrust of the play. Short, the plays may be, but they are carefully researched, thoughtfully penned – and they pack a punch!

It is important to have fun acting out the plays and to get fully involved in the *Questions for Discussion*. Remember not to be judgemental but to listen, consider and learn.

Get Involved. Get Motivated. Play Safe.

Invite your family and friends around for the evening. Make a night of playing and learning. Have some fun!

Speak to the teachers at your kids' school. Get competitions going – Best Production, Best Actor, Best Answer, Best Lesson Learned. *

Contact local groups and clubs to put on a production of a selection of the plays. *

Be expansive. Get on social media (if it is safe and sensible) and spread the word. *

Go Big! Invite the local radio and TV station to come and see your very own special premiere. *

** Performances are authorized for educational purposes only; not for commercial gain.*

Enjoy! Hugs! – Zik-Zak Corolla

LIST OF PLAYS

No.	Subject	Title of Play
1	Alcohol/Driving	Bumpy Ride
2	Alcohol/Social Media	One More Shot
3	Peer Pressure	Movie Madness
4	Peer Pressure	The Breeze and the Wind
5	Bullying	I'm a Bully Are You?
6	Gun Crime	Mommy
7	Bullying	He Deserves Respect
8	Bullying	Gotta Change Wanna Change
9	Drugs	How Is Sally Getting On?
10	Drugs	A Fish on the Line
11	Drugs	Will You Be My Girl?
12	Drugs	You Gotta Show Love
13	Depression	The Phone Call
14	Depression	Black Dog
15	Child Sexual Abuse	No. 26
16	Child Sexual Abuse	The Restaurant
17	Knife Crime	1:30am
18	Knife Crime/Gangs	Trouble Brewing
19	Knife Crime/Gangs	23
20	Body Image	Carrots and Onions
21	Single Mom	That Night
22	Sex/Alcohol	Fast Car
23	Self-Harm/Sexual Abuse	Do You Think They'll Believe You?
24	Cutting/Self-Harm	Me and My Mom
25	Self-Harm	Brain Box
26	Gambling	The Monster
27	Binge Drinking	A Target to Kill
28	Binge Drinking	What a Party!
29	Gun Crime	Rap A Ta Tat Tat Tat
30	Gun Crime	Miss Isabella Lindeman
31	Cyberbullying	Drastic Action

Characters

Teacher

Kid 1

Rahim

Kid 2

Mom

Teaser

Rahim is clever but unhappy. He finds a way to ease the pain. It's his secret – but only for a while.

Scene One

(Rahim in class at school)

Teacher Rahim...Rahim!

Kid 1 Hey! Brainbox. Wake up!

Rahim Aww, sorry Sir. I was...

Kid 2 Thinking about your next chess move eh, Rahim?

Rahim Actually, if you must know, I was thinking about Tchaikovsky's Serenade for Strings.

Kid 1 and 2 Oooa! Tchaikovsky's Serenade for Strings?

Kid 2 Is that like P Daddy or Stormzy?

Rahim (Aside to the audience) Why did I say that? What is wrong with me? I'm such a low-life geek! I hate myself!

Teacher Oh! Very funny boys! Right. Enough. Thank you. Rahim. Congratulations! Unlike your musically astute classmates, you actually scored an A in English.

Kid 1 That's not fair Sir.

Teacher And why is that Oh! complaining one?

Kid 2 Because Rahim wrote the test paper Sir. And he's bound to get an A.

Teacher And you (looking and speaking to Kid 1) of course, managed to score a D.

Kid 2 (laughing) Which of course Sir, is no surprise to any of us.

Rahim (Aside to the audience) This is what it's like every day. They make fun of me. I can't help being smart. It's what I am. (slight pause). What's wrong with me? I don't really have any friends. Who wants to be friends with a freak? I go to school. (Moving away) I go home, have some food, go to my room (sits down in his room) do my homework and go to sleep.

Scene 2

(In his room at home)

Rahim (getting out a broken CD and pressing it on his arm) (To the audience) The first time I did this - Wow! (Looking at his arm) I did that! It was kind of a great feeling. Euphoric. Yeah! That's the right word. And, and everything was okay. Razer blades, pins, scissors, you name it - if it'd cut, I'd use it. It was like opening a valve and releasing the pressure. I was like punishing myself for being smart. I wasn't trying to kill myself or anything like that, but I hated myself that's for sure! I did it. I cut myself more and more. I needed to. It became my addiction. I made a video. It was my secret.

Mom (entering stage and speaking to the audience. Rahim quickly hides the CD) Rahim made a video. How I came to see it? Well it was by chance. I was tidying his room. I suppose I was having a nosy around. Hang on! Don't judge me! Moms do! I'm his Mom! I knew – both his dad and I knew – that something was wrong. So, when I saw the video shortcut on his desktop, well, I thought, I'm his Mom. So, I clicked and yes (pausing) it was very troubling. Truthfully, I was shocked.

(Rahim gets up and places his phone in front of him as he makes the video)

Rahim Hello, girls and fellas out there

I want you to know that I'm in real despair
Tho' you'll never get to see this video
Watch me cut and see my blood flow

I hate the piano, I hate being smart
I hate it when the teacher says I'm good at art
I get home from school (looking around) come in here and shut the door
I take my disc, out, cut, cut and watch the blood pour

Ohhh! The pain. It hurts my arm that's for sure
Uggh! It goes to my heart right to the core (pause)
But the tension release, it just can't be beat
I cover my arm (smiling) and I look real neat.

Scene 3

Mom (Crying. Speaking to the audience) It was so hard to watch. I got his Dad. You want so much for your kids. We love Rahim so much. But what he was going through – we just had no control over it. It was so difficult. So painful.

Rahim (To the audience) Mom and Dad spoke to me that evening (smiling) after we watched one of my favourite movies. I felt quite happy until they brought it up. At first, I got angry inside. Don't get me wrong, they were so gentle, so kind. They asked a few questions and then just listened.

Mom (turning to Rahim) You know Rahim, your Dad and I are so proud of you - to go through that pain and hurt all by yourself. All those days. All those months. We love you so much. (turning to the audience) We all agreed we would get help straight away. And by the way, that movie, well, it was the longest movie I've ever watched. But his Dad and I thought it would relax him. And it did.

Rahim (To the audience) I don't think I'll ever be able to say, 'it's sorted.' But I feel okay now, sort of stable. And I feel happy. I can do things (laughing) I even think it's okay to be smart! (To mom) Thanks Mom. I wish I'd spoken about it earlier. I'm sorry.

Mom You can be proud of yourself when you did Son. Your Dad and I love you for having that trust in us and having that inner strength to speak out. It will work out okay. It might take a bit of time. But you'll get there.

Rahim Yeah! Maybe I will. Shall we listen to a bit of 'P?'

Mom P Daddy?

Rahim I meant P for Pyotr, Pyotr Tchaikovsky, Mom.

Mom Serenade for Strings Rahim?

THE END

Questions for Discussion for Brain Box

1. What led up to Rahim cutting himself?
2. How did cutting help him?
3. Was cutting a permanent solution to Rahim's difficulty?
4. Why did Rahim keep his cutting secret?
5. How did Rahim's Mom and Dad react?
6. What really helped Rahim to gain some self-worth?
7. What do think of cutting?
8. If someone you knew was cutting themselves how could you help them?
9. What did you learn from the play?
10. Throw open the discussion.