

RYAN

Easy, Weatherby. We come in peace.

Jessica grabs the rope attached to her sled and stands.

JESSICA

Willow Run's for kids. We're goin' to McFarland's.

RYAN

McFarland's! You're crazy.

JESSICA

I've been called worse. By you, actually.

Jessica and Ryan have a staring contest. Ryan breaks the moment with a grudging smile.

RYAN

You've got guts. I'll hand you that.

RILEY

Seriously. That woman is terrifying.

EMMA

She called the cops on my brother just for trick or treating at her house on Halloween.

JESSICA

Don't worry about us. We can handle her.

RYAN

Yeah, but if I don't see you two in school tomorrow, I'll know where you are.

JESSICA & RYAN

(in unison)

McFarland's attic.

A grin from Ryan.

JESSICA

Have fun with the little ones.

GAVIN

Hey! Willow Run ain't just for kids.

CAROL

It *ain't* McFarland's either.

This time it's Carol and Gavin who have the staring contest.

RYAN

Let's go, all.

(to Jessica)

Good luck.

Ryan, Gavin, Riley, Emma EXIT toward the back of the stage. Tommy finishes up tying a shoelace on one of his boots.

TOMMY

Have fun, you two!

The perpetually happy Tommy runs to catch up with the group.

CAROL

You know, now that I think of it, Willow Run sounds pretty good to me.

(off Jessica's glare)

I'm kidding! Let's go.

Jessica and Carol exit.

The lighting begins to change, indicating that time is passing. Late afternoon gradually becomes early evening. OFFSTAGE, we hear Jessica and Carol laughing. They burst into view, running hard.

JESSICA

(collapsing to the ground)

Oh, that was the best. THE BEST!

CAROL

You could have told me your sled was broken, Jess.

JESSICA

Just the steering.

CAROL

Just? We almost ran right into Mrs. McFarland because of *just!*

JESSICA

She got out of the way.