

SOCIAL STORY

DIARY

**60
Minute**
VERSION

of a
Wimpy Kid

THE MUSICAL



Kids deserve the best.

This production's Pay What You Choose Performance has been sponsored by Children's Wisconsin, First Stage's Inclusion & Accessibility Partner.



TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH THEATER



DEAR FIRST STAGE FRIENDS,

Middle School, ugh. It's the worst. Greg is determined NOT to be at the bottom of the popularity chart. He'll leave that to his weird neighbor Fregley, or, maybe Greg's best friend, Rowley Jefferson. But it's not going to be Greg... no way. Will Greg's plans lead him to sacrifice his one true friend? Can anyone avoid the dreaded Cheese Touch? Grab a hall pass, and don't be late for an adventure familiar to anyone who survived middle school with this hilarious and heartfelt musical.

Enjoy the show,



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GOING TO A SHOW AT THE TODD WEHR THEATER

SOCIAL STORY

I am going to see a First Stage show at the Todd Wehr Theater.



I am going to see the show with

Watching a play is like watching TV or a movie, except people are on stage in front of us.



They are called actors. They can see and hear me too. I can't turn the channel or turn the volume up and down.

A play is made up of many interesting things.



Costumes



Scenery



Sound



Lighting

When we arrive at the theater, we will probably have to climb some stairs. There are stairs outside the building, and inside the building.



We may need to wait in line to scan our tickets.



When we are waiting, I can stay with my family or teacher.

An usher will help us find our seats.

We will enter the theater and find our seats.



There are bathrooms in the lobby. If I need to, I can use the bathroom before we go to our seats.

Someone will show us where to sit.



The audience area is for all of us.



The stage is for the actors only.

When I am in the theater waiting for the show to start:

1. I can talk to my family or friends.
2. I can take a short break in the lobby.



There will be a lot of people in theater and it may get noisy.

If it gets too loud:

1. I can bring headphones if I want.
2. I can put my hands over my ears.
3. I can leave the room and take a short break in the lobby.



I can come back when I am ready.

During the show:

1. I can watch and listen to the actors quietly.
2. I can applaud if I like something.
3. I can hold things in my hand that make me feel comfortable.



If I need to talk:

1. I can talk quietly to my family.
2. I can write down what I want to say.
3. I can leave the room.

After the show there will be a “talkback.”

The talkback is a chance for me to ask questions.

1. I will raise my hand to show that I want to ask a question.
2. I will wait for the leader to call on me to ask my question.
3. I don't have to ask a question if I don't want.



I can ask different kinds of questions:

1. I can ask questions about the show.
2. I can ask questions about the scenery, costumes, lights, or sound.

**After the show is finished,
I will leave the theater with my family.**





Diary of A Wimpy Kid is told from the perspective of Greg Heffley. An eleven-year-old who desires his middle school experience to be better than his elementary school experience. Greg quickly realizes middle school has its own challenges: establishing himself, popularity, and maintaining his relationship with his best friend Rowley are at the top of Greg's list.



MEET THE "CHEESE" CAST

These are the actors you will see at the
Sensory Friendly Performance on
Saturday, April 20, 2024 at 3:30PM.

DIARY of a Wimpy Kid THE MUSICAL

60
Minute
VERSION



This is Ryan. They play **Greg Heffley**. Greg is eleven years old and holds a diary in his hand.

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This is William. They play **Rodrick Heffley**. Rodrick is Greg's older brother and lead singer of a rock band.

DIARY of a Wimpy Kid

60
Minute
VERSION

THE MUSICAL



This is Benjamin. They play **Manny Heffley**.
Manny is Greg's Younger Brother.

DIARY
of a
Wimpy Kid
THE MUSICAL

60
Minute
VERSION



This is Gwenivere. They play **Rowley Jefferson**.
Rowley is Greg's best friend.

DIARY of a Wimpy Kid

60
Minute
VERSION

THE MUSICAL



This is Samika. They play **Chirag Gulpta**.
Chirag is a Middle school classmate.

DIARY
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Wimpy Kid
THE MUSICAL

60
Minute
VERSION



This is Caroline. They play **Patty Farwell**.
Patty is a Middle school classmate.

DIARY of a Wimpy Kid

60
Minute
VERSION

THE MUSICAL



This is Eric. They play **Charlie Davis**.
Charlie is a Middle School Classmate.

DIARY of a Wimpy Kid THE MUSICAL

60
Minute
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This is Karen. They play **Mom**.
They also play Mrs. Clayton, Mrs. Ira, and Fregley's Mom.

DIARY of a Wimpy Kid THE MUSICAL

60
Minute
VERSION



This is Todd. They play **Dad**.
They also play Mr. Huff and Mr. Underwood.

DIARY of a Wimpy Kid THE MUSICAL

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This is Aria.
They play **Yvette**.



This is Layla.
They play **Pauline**.



This is Paxton.
They play **Claire**.



This is Zoe.
They play **Fregley**.

They are all middle school classmates.

DIARY of a Wimpy Kid THE MUSICAL

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This is Grayson.

They play **Chris Hossey**.



This is Noah.

They play **Lionel James**.



This is Layton.

They play **Bryce**.

They are all middle school classmates.

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THE MUSICAL



This is Elliot and Blue.
They play **8th Graders**.

WHAT HAPPENS IN THE PLAY?

(Notice the words **underlined and bolded**. These are the times the actors and sound might get loud. You may want to cover your ears.)

PROLOGUE

Off Stage we hear voices chanting Diary! Diary! Diary! Diary! Diary of A Wimpy Kid!! Greg Heffley an eleven-year-old holding a book engraved with the word "Diary" runs on stage requesting the chanters to "wait and stop!" Greg shares the Journal he is holding in his hand is not a diary and will not be used to document his feelings. It is a journal that will be used to document important things."

A cartoon version of Greg's life begins to animate around him as he begins singing "The Middle of It All." The song is interrupted by Greg's mom saying, "come on, everyone."

HEFFLEY'S HOME (KITCHEN): WHERE IS RODRICK?

The scene transitions to Heffley's home. It's a big day, Summer is over, and a new school year is beginning. Greg and his siblings are getting ready for the first day of school. Greg's mom is gathering the siblings together for a first day back to school family photo.

"Where is Rodrick? Ask Dad. "Rodrick, a surly teenager who looks like a junior roadie for a heavy metal band, appears behind Dad." "Let's get this over with," says Rodrick. Dad notices that Rodrick is wearing eyeliner, but Rodrick denies the obvious. Greg shares with the audience the challenges of being the middle child (being teased by his older brother and the expectation to take care of his younger siblings). "You suck!" whispers Rodrick in Greg's ear as they stand next to each other for the first day back to school family photo.

MINIVAN RIDE TO SCHOOL

After taking the photo, they pack into the minivan and travel to school. Dad is driving the minivan and asking Greg to sit up straight. Simultaneously, Rodrick is whispering in Greg's ear "can you say loser," Greg? I can." "Rodrick don't tease your brother. Greg, please mop up Manny's drool, and do not forget your

diary," says Mom. "Journal," responds Greg. Greg is determined to refer to his diary as a journal.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ARRIVAL OUTSIDE & HALLWAY

They arrive at the school. Greg hops out and approaches the school entrance as the others drive off.

Students are chanting "middle school! It's middle school!" The middle school students join Greg in singing "The Middle of It All". They appear in the school hallway, where the students and teachers bustle among the lockers. The song is interrupted by one of the eighth graders noticing Greg's diary and asking "what is that? A diary?!"

"Everyone freezes and watches two eighth graders grab Greg's diary and start playing keep away with it." No, it's a journal," says Greg. The two eighth graders tease Greg about his diary which falls on the ground during the game of keep away. The eighth graders high-five as everyone laughs and walks away. Greg collects his diary from the ground. "This is why I needed one with the word "journal," but I got to keep writing in it," say, Greg to encourage himself.

FUTURE PRESS CONFERENCE: DAY DREAMING

Greg daydreams about the day when he is famous, and everyone knows his story. "Suddenly, the hallway becomes a press conference of the future and students become reporters. Greg stands at the podium fielding as they ask questions. Greg holds up his hand, instantly silencing them all." Greg shares that he cannot answer all their questions because he is very famous and too busy. However, he will give them his Journal. As a result, there is a gasp from the reports as Greg continues his speech saying, "my journal, take it and learn." As the reporters lean in to grab the journal, Greg pulls it back again and tells the reporters "They must never adapt the journal into a musical." **The bell rings and Greg's press conference daydream instantly disappears, and we are back in the middle school classroom.**

WHAT HAPPENS IN THE PLAY?

MR. HUFF'S CLASSROOM

Students are scrambling to find their desks. Greg notices two classes mates (Chris Hosey & Lionel James) from elementary school. Greg makes the decision to sit in the back away from Chris and Lionel. Greg finds a seat in the back row where all the cool kids sit. The teacher, Mr. Huff (who remembers Greg's brother Rodrick from a previous class), approaches Greg and leads him to the front of the class, forcing him to sit between Chris and Lionel. **The bell rings and the class scatters into Mrs. Clayton's classroom.**

MRS. CLAYTON'S CLASSROOM

In this class the seating is in alphabetical order. This is positive for Greg because it means he will be seated near Chirag Gupta, the smartest kid in school. Greg shares with the audience it was always a pleasure to copy off Chirag Gupta. "Did you know that if your hand is bigger than your face it's a sign of low intelligence," asked Chirag. "Really," responded Greg. Greg holds his hand up to his face to check. Chirag causes Greg to hit himself. **Other kids laugh and the lunch bell rings. Lunchtime is where the quest for seating continues.**

LUNCH TIME: SCHOOL CAFETERIA

Students carry trays, lunch boxes, and search for seats. A bunch of popular girls are at one table. A bunch of dorks at another table. Bryce Anderson, a wealthy, fashionable, and cute butted sixth grader, enters carrying a lunch tray. When the students in the lunchroom notice Bryce they all ask Bryce to sit with them. Greg wants to know how Bryce became so popular. Charlie explains that Bryce is popular because he's got clothes, money, and a cute butt. "That is all women care about these days," says Charlie Davis. "Hi, ladies," says Bryce as the girls dreamily sigh (ahhh).

POPULARITY METER SCALE

"If Bryce Anderson popularity meter scale is one, then where does that leave the rest of us, ask Greg?" **The audience hears "Bing!"** Bryce flips his tray to reveal

his "popularity meter scale of one." **The audience hears "Bing! Bing! Bing!"** Everyone in the cafeteria freezes and tilts their trays and lunch boxes to reveal their popularity meter scale from one to 200. Greg asked Charlie about getting braces next week. Charlie responds by revealing his popularity meter scale of 73. **The audience hears a sad "Bing!"** Greg wonders where he fits on the popular meter scale. **A coach whistle blows, and everyone runs off stage.** The students transition to gym class.

MR. UNDERWOOD'S GYM CLASS

Students line up in the gym as their coach, Mr. Underwood, barks orders. "Toe the line, people! Side by side! Let's go!" says, Mr. Underwood. "If Bryce is at the top of the popularity meter scale, just how low does this thing go!" Greg wonders. Fregley says hi to Greg. Fregley has a popularity meter scale of 201. "Do you want to see my secret freckle?" asked Fregley. No, thank you," says Greg.

Mr. Underwood presents the kids with a bag of basketballs. "Alright, people, grab a ball and hit the courts outside. Hustle, hustle! Let's go! Says Mr. Underwood. "Two eighth graders push Greg and the little kids out of the way, grab the basketballs, and run off." "Greg and Charlie find themselves alone on one of the outdoor courts."

CHEESE TOUCH

"Spying something unspeakably horrible on the ground, they move closer to investigate. "What is this?" ask Charlie. "Looks like a piece of old cheese that fell out of somebody's lunch," says Greg. **Greg makes his way over to it, but suddenly Claire yells "Stop, boy!"** **Greg and Charlie whip around to see a gang of students staring at them grimly. Claire, the leader, issues a dire warning: "Back away from that cheese..., says Claire. "Why?" asked Greg. Claire sings about the impact the cheese touch has on their popularity meter scale. If a person touches the cheese, they will never be popular again. Greg runs off, terrified.**

WHAT HAPPENS IN THE PLAY?

SCHOOL HALLWAY & POPULARITY NUMBERS

Greg reenters the school hallway clutching his diary (journal). Students are wandering the halls. Greg encourages himself not to give up on the first day of school. He wonders how he can figure out his ranking and keep his popularity meter scale from tanking. Greg is approached by Riley who greets him in Spanish. Rowley moved into Greg's neighborhood a couple years ago. Rowley shows Greg his poncho he got during his family vacation in the South of America. **"The audience hear another "Bing!" revealing Rowley's popularity meter scale of 157.** "Wanna come over and play?" asked Rowley. "Hang out?" Sure, I can "hang out"! Let's hang out!" says Greg. Greg does not like that Rowley used the word "play." They are in middle school now. They do not play together, they hang out. "Rowley skips off.

Several kids begin to swirl around Greg, taunting him, nightmarishly. **The audience hears a "Bing!" revealing Greg's popularity meter scale of 100.** "The students sing about how Greg is stuck in the middle. **The audience hears more "Bings!" One by one the kids tilt their trays, lunch boxes, and books to reveal their popularity meter scale.**

ROWLEY'S HOUSE

Greg arrives at Rowley's house and rings the bell.

Rowley's answers the door sharing knock, knock jokes from the book of jokes. "Rowley leads Greg inside and they settle down in Rowley's room to play video games and share their thoughts and ideas with one another."

Greg reveals to the audience that Rowley is his best friend, but he keeps this to himself because he does not want Rowley to become too clingy. Rowley shows Greg his new Joshie poster, a pop singer who is a huge star in Europe. **"While Rowley bounces around his room, Greg sits down and plays a video game." Rowley sings the song "Joshie Says/Video Game."**

"There's got to be some way we can boost our popularity meter scale at school," says Greg. Rowley tells Greg to stop thinking about the popularity meter

scale. **As a result of Rowley's response, Greg and Rowley's began to bicker back and forth about Joshie. "Will you Shut up about Joshie. I am trying to save our lives, here" says Greg. They continue to argue. "You don't even know Joshie," says Greg. "So, I know other musicians," says Rowley. Like whom? asked Greg. "Your brother Rodrick," says Rowley. "Rodrick is not a famous musician," says Greg. "He's in a band... Everybody thinks he's a rock star, says Rodrick. "They only think that because it said so in his yearbook says, Greg.**

"Greg has a lightbulb moment, drops his game controller. Hit with an incredible idea." "Rowley... that's it," says Greg. The key to them increasing their popularity meter scale is succeeding in something that can be included in the yearbook.

HEFFLEY'S HOME

"Greg shares with the audience his goal to win the best hair favorite category, but it turns out someone put maple syrup in his shampoo. With no time to prepare for anything, Greg decides to try to win the cutest smile category. However, his smile looked like he was in pain. "Do you need a nurse," asked Mrs. Clayton. No, I'm fine, said Greg.

Mrs. Clayton asked the students to put their books under their desk and prepare for a pop quiz. Greg was hopeful that he would pass the quiz because his seat was next to the U. S, map on the class wall. However, Patty Farwell raised her hand and reminded Mrs. Clayton that she forgot to cover up the map in the back of the room, then she flashed a smile at Greg. Mrs. Clayton covers the map. Greg reveals to the audience that Patty Farrell has had it in for him ever since he poured glue down her back in the second grade. **Suddenly, through the school intercom, we hear Vice Principal Roy's voice informing the students government elections will take place this week and sign-up sheets are outside the cafeteria." "The school bell rings and the students scatter."**

WHAT HAPPENS IN THE PLAY?

CAFETERIA

Greg arrives at the sign-up sheet. He begins to fill it out. "Student government is just a big popularity contest, Rowley. And everyone wants to be class president, says Greg." Greg plans to sign up for a position that nobody wants to gain instant popularity. "I see you sign up for treasurer... Well, I look forward to running a spirited campaign. May the best Treasurer win," says Patty Farrell. "Campaign? What does that mean, ask Rowley. "That means this is war," says Greg.

"The school bell rings and students scatter for lunch. Greg leaps onto a cafeteria table to address them. Greg sings the song "Better than You." Patty and her gang of girls appear on the lunch table and join the song "Better than You." "Patty and the girls' wheel in trays of gourmet cupcakes." "Rowley is holding one of Patty's cupcakes. Greg yanks it away from him." The song "Better than You" continued. Suddenly, we hear Patty Farrell saying "There he is Mrs. Clayton! That's the brute who's been spreading awful rumors about me! Mrs. Clayton gives Greg detention for a week and strides off. Patty instantly turns off the waterworks.

CHIRAG'S HOUSE

Greg, Rowley, and Chirag sit on the ground, gathered around a board game. Greg shares with the audience he was barred from politics, his popularity meter scale is plummeting, and he has lost video game privileges at home. Chirag starts handing out \$200 dollars of fake money for the board game they are playing. Greg stares at his fake money and realizes the bills are the exact kind of bills his mother gives them for doing chores. Greg's mother exchanges the fake money for real money. This possibility of them being able to turn this fake money into real cash gave them the profound realization they could become filthy rich.

Now Greg, Rowley, and Chirag feel as though they are independently wealthy. **They begin dancing around the room like they are wealthy rappers.**

As their fantasies come to life all around them, their adoring fans appear. They sing "All About the Mom's Bucks." "We did it, Rowley! Popularity is within our reach! I'm finally wealthy! says Greg. "Rowley runs off ecstatic. Greg Heffley is my best friend says Rowley."

THE CONCERT

The audience hears pulsing music. Suddenly, an announcer announced the pop singer Joshie. The audience hear sounds of screaming children. Then, Joshie hits the stage giving the crowd a big thumbs up." Joshie and the background dancers sing the song "Animal Heart."

GREG'S BEDROOM

Greg wakes up in bed. Greg is having crazy dreams since he heard Rowley refer to him as his best friend. "Rowley appears dressed like the pop star Joshie." "Hey best friend says, Rowley. "What are you doing in my room? asked Greg. "Rowley asked Greg to dance. "Joshie and the background singers appear singing "Animal Heart." **"What's going on?" asked Greg. "Joshie, background dancers, and Rowley are joined in singing "Animal Heart" gradually by everyone else creating a flash mob."**

SCHOOL HALLWAY

The school bell rings, and Greg snaps out of his Joshie nightmare, he walks down the hallway as students mill about. Greg shares with the audience that it's the beginning of the second school semester and he plans to cash in his mom bucks for real cash and buy himself a trendy jacket.

Greg pulls out and puts on a brightly colored jacket from his locker. He is hoping that the Jacket will place him in the school yearbook category for best dressed. "Rowley skips in wearing the exact same jacket. "Rowley, what in the name of heck are you doing?!" ask Greg. "Isn't it awesome! Now we are the best dressed kids in

WHAT HAPPENS IN THE PLAY?

the whole school," says Rowley. Two eighth graders walk by and call Greg and Rowley double dorks. They high-five and exit. Greg takes off his jacket and throws it into a nearby trash can. Greg shares his frustration about Rowley copying him.

Through the school intercom Vice Principal Roy announces that the school paper is looking for a cartoonist and anyone interested in being considered must submit a sample comic strip to Mrs. Ira. Greg takes a sudden interest in this opportunity. "It is like he heard the voice of an angel."

Students exit and Greg makes his way home followed by Rowley. Greg shares that other than playing video games, comics is what he was born to do. Rowley agrees. They make their way to Greg's house and gather around the kitchen table with notebooks and pencils. They both reflect and make suggestions about what they can sketch. Greg sketches something while the cartoon kids bring the drawings to life on stage. He creates a variety of drawings that will be activated on stage. In the process Greg comes up with the catch phrase "Zoo-wee Mamaaa!" Rowley feels catch phrase "Zoo wee Mamaaa! is so funny. However, Greg decides to go with another idea of a character he calls "Creighton the Cretin." **Cartoon Jingle Singers sing a theme song for Creighton the Creighton.** Rowley is not amused by this character. He wants to know when Creighton the Cretin will say "Zoo-wee Mamaaa!" "Creighton the Cretin does not say Zoo-wee Mamaaa, because it is a different cartoon, says Greg. Greg and Rowley have some creative differences. Therefore, Greg suggested he and Rowley should stop doing stuff together. Rowley gathers his "Zoo-wee Mama cartoons together and exits.

MRS. CLAYTON'S CLASSROOM

The school bell rings, and Greg takes his seat among the other students. The classroom is decorated for Valentine's Day. Greg shares that a week has passed since he turned in his comic drawings. Greg is hopeful that his popularity meter scale is holding in

the mid 80's. **Mrs. Clayton pulls down the USA map and the audience hear "Bing!" Greg's popularity meter scale of 86 appears above his head.**

Through the school intercom system, we hear Vice Principal Roy announcing the new cartoonist for the school newspaper is Greg Heffley. "Every student looks at Greg, whose mouth hangs open in shock and amazement. The school bell rings. The students exit to their next class, grabbing copies of the school newspaper as they go."

SCHOOL HALLWAY

Another group of students sing "Valentine" and dance around with valentine hearts and candygrams. Greg is teased by one of the eighth graders for being the teacher's pet. Greg opens his locker to reveal his new popularity meter scale of 15. Another student walks by and adds another number to Greg's number, turning his 15 into 158. Greg does not understand what is happening. Mrs. Ira walks by and congratulates Greg to the school newspaper and shares she made a few edits to his comic strip as she exits.

AFTER SCHOOL

Greg needs cheering up, so he heads to Rowley's to play video games to relieve some stress. Greg approached Rowley, but Rowley walked past Greg, and over to Chirag, who entered with a duffel bag. Rowley and Chirag are having a sleepover without Greg. So, Greg grabs his duffel bag and heads over to Fregley's house.

FREGLEY'S HOUSE

Greg heads over to Fregley's and rings the doorbell. Fregley answers the door holding out his elbow. "Does this scab smell weird to you?" ask Fregley.

Fregley sings "That Will Be Fun." Greg wants to leave Fregley's house, but he knows Rowley is playing with Chirag and watching him. Greg is determined to stay at Fregley's house despite the fact he is scared and not

WHAT HAPPENS IN THE PLAY?

enjoying himself. Fregley introduces Greg to his mom.

Fregley's mom join him in singing "That Will Be Fun."

Greg decides to leave but Fregley grabs Greg's bag, peaks in, and pulls out a bag of jellybeans leftover from valentine's day. Fregley eats the jellybeans. Fregley shares he is not allowed to eat sugar because sugar makes him hyperactive. Fregley begins to chase Greg around his bedroom. Greg runs from Fregley's bedroom and manages to lock himself in Fregley's bathroom.

FREGLEY'S BATHROOM

While in the bathroom, Greg writes in his diary about how he tried to make a great impression, but only made a mess. He shares how he wanted everyone to like him and now they like him even less. **Greg sings "Dear Diary."**

Rowley joins in the song "Dear Diary." Greg sings from Fregley's bathroom and Rowley sings from Chirag's home. Both are singing about the importance of their friendship and how much they miss each other.

SCHOOL CAFETERIA

Several students are reading the school newspaper. Greg walks through the cafeteria. Greg shares with the audience that he quit his job as the school cartoonist and does not care who replaces him. **Chris Hosey hands Greg a newspaper, Greg opens it, as the students sing, he finds out that Chris used his catch phrase "Zoo-Wee Mamaaa," and everybody is loving it. Greg is angry and frustrated that Rowley's is taking the credit for a phrase they created together.**

BASKETBALL COURTS: AFTER SCHOOL

Greg sees Rowley walking home. "Why are you pretending you came up with "Zoo-wee Mama" all by yourself?" asked Greg. "I didn't," says Rowley. Nearby, Chirag sees an argument forming. "You said you didn't want to do anything with me anymore,

and the catch phrase "Zoo-wee Mamaaaa" was all mine, said Rowley. "Here's what's going to happen: tomorrow morning, you're going to tell Mrs. Ira to put my name on the strip as co-creator, says Greg. Greg and Rowley start leaping and prancing around in a circle, not sure how to hold their fist. "Look out its eighth graders yells Patty Farrells and the students quickly run away.

The eighth graders enter and surround Greg and Rowley. Greg and Rowley try to run but the eighth graders grab them. The eighth graders take Rowley over to the cheese. They block our view of what's happening. **The audience here the voice over saying "if you should ever touch the cheese, well then... you never will be popular again!!!**

Suddenly, everything freezes as Greg addresses the audience. As the eighth graders run off, they reveal Rowley standing frozen in horror, trembling wildly. The mob of students returned and asked what happened to the cheese. Greg quickly stepped forward and confessed to getting rid of the cheese. Greg protects Rowley from the consequences of the cheese touch. Both Greg and Rowley smiled at each other. Their friendship is restored.

EPILOGUE

Greg wanders into the school cafeteria. Students read and sign each other's yearbook. Greg reveals to the audience that his popularity meter score has plummeted. Greg grabs a tray and tilts it to reveal his popularity meter scale of 199.

Did you hear? Greg touched the cheese. "Now he's got the cheese touch," says some students. Greg shares with the audience that he is okay with having the cheese touch because it has its perks: bullies do not bother him, and he does not have any problems finding a seat for lunch. Although some students scramble away from him in fear, Rowley sits and eats lunch with him every day. The best perk is their restored friendship. Hanging out and being best friends with Rowley again.

THE END