

EraserHead

by Kevin M. Reese

Approx Running Time :15 Minutes

EraserHead was first presented by Donna Foster's Third Grade class at Sunset Heights Elementary School in Webster City, IA. It was presented to the class' Pen Pals on May 26, 2005. It was produced by Mrs. Foster and directed by Mr. Reese.

CAST

Riley Beightol
Maddie Bertran
Taylor Broshar
Quin Bruns
Madeline Ogg
Nicholas Reese
Jolty Kleckner
Trey Griffin
Jake Hayes
Diamond Hill
Carly Huber
Andy Kantik
Alicia Watts
Caylyn McCormick
McKenzie Lee (Kenzie)
Gunther Range
David Calderon
Casey Dahlhauser
Nathaniel Elliott
Mike Tindall
Kate Roth
Elizabeth Wells
Tyrel Wilkinson

SETTING: A typical Media Center/Library setting with an open area for the action. A 4-top table with chairs is UCL and a freestanding bookshelf is UR.

SCENE BREAKDOWN (character in parentheses () means they're in the scene, but have no lines)
You may re-distribute lines as needed– but you may NOT add any new dialogue (copyright infringement).

Scene One - Riley, Maddie, Taylor

Scene Two - Quin, Madeline, Nicholas, (Jolty)

Scene Three - Trey, Jake, Diamond, Jolty

Scene Four - Carly, Andy, Alicia, Caylyn, (Jolty)

(Optional Scene) Four B - Kenzie, Gunther, David, Casey, Nathaniel (just a scene to give kids more lines)

Scene Five - Mike¹⁵, Kate¹⁴, Elizabeth, Tyrel, (Jolty)

Scene Six - Everyone

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Notes to the Teacher/Director

The original script had all the actors with 6-15 lines. In a typical class, there will be students that don't want that many lines (or otherwise shouldn't have that many). That's why Scene 4B is an optional scene. You can delete it without losing any of the main storyline and keep some of your actors with fewer total lines.

Below, you will notice that each character lists the number of lines they have in the show. Your students will invariably count how many lines they have anyway– but this is here to help you decide who gets the major parts (most lines) and the minor parts (least). Also notice that some characters list two numbers (i.e. 1/8) – the first number is the number of lines without the use of Optional Scene Four B, second number is number of lines when optional scene is used.

As with any of our scripts, you may re-distribute lines, but you may NOT add new dialogue. For example, you may give the lines in Optional Scene Four B to other characters if that better suits your cast.

The scenes are set up so you may rehearse in small groups until you get to scene six, which uses everyone. We rehearsed the original production during class time and this allowed those not rehearsing at the moment to continue whatever project they were working on in class.

CAST

Riley (7 lines)
Maddie (11)
Taylor (6)
Quin (9)
David (1/15)
Casey (2/11)
Nathaniel (1/7)
Trey (8)
Jake (10)
Diamond (8)
Carly (6)
Andy (8)
Jolty (14)
Kenzie (1/8)
Caylyn (9)
Madeline (9)
Gunther (1/8)
Nicholas (6)
Kate (14)
Mike (15)
Alicia (7)
Elizabeth (11)
Tyrel (9)

SETTING:

A typical Media Center/Library setting with an open area for the action. A 4-top table with chairs is UCL and a freestanding bookshelf is UR.

PROPS:

magazine, stack of books to erase, erasers

Scene One

(Riley, Maddie, Taylor)

A group of kids enter SR. They are on their way back to class from recess.

RILEY: I'm telling you, Taylor, THAT's the very reason I never go to the movies with anyone called "Jabber Boy."

MADDIE: Riley, Shhh! We're not supposed to be talking now.

RILEY: Oh, stop being such a worry wart, Maddie. Mrs. Foster's not around.

MADDIE: That doesn't matter!

TAYLOR: Yeah— she hears everything!

MADDIE: She has ears— everywhere!

RILEY: You guys are crazy.

TAYLOR: Oh, Really? What about last fall when Nicholas was up on the top of the slide— Mrs. Foster wasn't even on the playground— and he told Jake about how he always signs his mom's name on his homework and never gets caught.

MADDIE: As soon as recess was over, Mrs. Foster called Nicholas up to her desk and what do you think happened?

TAYLOR: Busted!

MADDIE: Not only did Nicholas have to re-do all that homework— but he had to tell his mom what he had been doing all that time. AND— he had to erase all the marks out of all the books in the library for a week.

TAYLOR: Ugh! Erasing books!! I HATE doing that. It's so BORING!

MADDIE: And dirty.

TAYLOR: And tiring.

MADDIE: And monotonous

Riley & Taylor look at Maddie.

MADDIE: What? Monotonous?

RILEY: Maddie, you don't even know what monotonous means!

MADDIE: Well— just because I don't know what monotonous means, doesn't mean I can't BE it!

RILEY: YOU'RE monotonous.

MADDIE: No, you are.

RILEY: No— YOU are!

MADDIE: No way! YOU are—

TAYLOR: Give it a break, you guys! They exit SL, still arguing.

– End of Scene One –

Scene Two

(Quin, Madeline, Nicholas, Jolty)

Quin, Madeline, and Nicholas enter from SR. They are looking at a kids' magazine.

QUIN: I'm telling you, Madeline, nobody in real life can do that.

MADELINE: And I'm telling you, Quin, I could do it.

QUIN: No, you couldn't

MADELINE: Yeah, I could!

QUIN: Nicholas, tell her it's impossible.

NICHOLAS: Madeline, it's impossible. Real people can't do what cartoon characters can do.

MADELINE: THIS I can do!

QUIN: Oh, yeah? Then prove it.

NICHOLAS: Yeah. Do it right now. Come on.

QUIN: Show us.

MADELINE: Okay, I WILL!

Madeline begins a very elaborate and very silly warm-up/wind-up, but just as she is about to do WHATEVER it is— Jolty enters, carrying a stack of books. He sets them on a table, sits and goes to work erasing. He's very preoccupied and doesn't notice the others. Madeline abruptly stops what she's about to do and acknowledges Jolty.

MADELINE: Hey, Jolty. (no answer)

NICHOLAS: (he tries) Hi, Jolty. (No answer)

QUIN: (his turn) Jolty? Earth to Jolty! (No answer)

MADELINE: (waving his hand in front of Jolty's face) Hellooooo... Hmph. Lights are on, but nobody's home.

NICHOLAS: You Okay, Jolty?

QUIN: He looks bummed-out. We'd better just leave him alone.

MADELINE: Yeah.... (back to the magazine) Hey— let me show you this!

QUIN: Whoa! Look at that!

NICHOLAS: Man! Ha— I'd like to see you try to do that!

MADELINE: I'm telling you— I could do it!!

They exit SL, still arguing, leaving Jolty to his problem. There is a brief moment as we watch Jolty erase a portion of the book, look up, take a BIG sigh, then return to his work.

— End of Scene Two —

Scene Three

(Trey, Jake, Diamond, Jolty)

Soon, Trey enters.

TREY: There you are! Jake, he's over here!

JAKE: (entering) We've been looking all over for you. Where did you go?

JOLTY: Shhh! I'm not supposed to talk.

TREY: Why not? (Jolty rolls his eyes in frustration)

DIAMOND: (from offstage) Did you find him yet?

JAKE: Yeah, Diamond, he's in here.

JOLTY: Jake, quiet! You're gonna get me in more trouble!

DIAMOND: (entering) Jolty, we were supposed to meet on the playground to go over the Book Report on Tom Sawyer.

JOLTY: (looking around to make sure the teacher isn't around) Look— I can't work on it right now. Alright? Just go— and I'll catch up with you guys later.

JAKE: What are you doing, anyway?

DIAMOND: Hey! Are you writing in that book? Mrs. Foster's gonna kill you!

JAKE: Man, Jolty, you're either very brave— or very dumb— to do that in here! Trey, look! He's writing in the book— right here where anybody could see!

DIAMOND: I'm telling you, if Mrs. Foster sees you doing that, you're a dead duck!

JOLTY: She knows.

TREY: (amazed) What? Mrs. Foster knows? And you're still alive? Dude, you're my hero!

JOLTY: Look! I'm not writing in the books— I'm erasing the books! Okay? I got in trouble and Mrs. Foster is making me erase all the books. Any more questions?

TREY: Boy! Tough luck, Jolty.

JAKE: Yeah.

DIAMOND: Too bad you're not Tom Sawyer.

JAKE: What?

DIAMOND: You know, Tom Sawyer, in the book by Mark Twain. Our book report! He had to whitewash the fence, but he didn't want to— so he talked all the kids in town into taking his place.

TREY: Oh, yeah, that was my favorite part of the book. He made everybody think that painting the fence was the most fun thing in the world.

JAKE: Yeah, back then it was the WORST chore in the world— but they were actually PAYING him to let them do his work.

TREY: Wow, that Tom Sawyer's my hero!

DIAMOND: Sounds like EVERYBODY'S your hero, Trey.

TREY: Hey— as long as I don't have to erase books, ANYBODY can be my hero!

JAKE: Yeah! Well, we'd better get going. We'll save some of the report for you to do, Jolty.

DIAMOND: Yeah, the hard part! (The three all laugh and start to exit)

JAKE: (as he leaves) Too bad he can't talk some kids into erasing the books for him.

The trio exit back to the playground telling each other about other parts of the book they liked. Jolty returns to his work. He stops. He looks up. We see the lightbulb turn on as he gets an idea! He smiles and nods his head in resolve.

JOLTY: Mark Twain— you're MY hero!

Scene Four

(Carly, Andy, Alicia, Caylyn, Jolty)

We hear some victims– I mean, STUDENTS coming. Jolty get himself ready for the con-job. Carly, Andy, Alicia and Caylyn enter from the playground.

CARLY: I am so glad to not have to wear snow pants and boots anymore!

ANDY: Oh, I know! I hate that Winter Rule.

ALICIA: Tell me about it!

CAYLYN: (sees Jolty) Hey, Jolty.

Jolty really puts it on thick now. He erases with much bravado, complete with sound effects. He's having a great time! The others look at each other with confusion.

CARLY: Jolty?

JOLTY: Oh, hi, Carly! Sorry– I'm just having so much fun!

ANDY: Erasing books? You're having fun erasing books? You feel alright, Jolty? Got a temperature? Got a brain tumor? (Others laugh)

JOLTY: Yeah, yeah, go ahead and laugh. I know– but I'm telling you, I'm having a blast. I'll see you guys later.

ALICIA: Are you serious? You can't be serious! He can't be serious– he's got to be pulling our legs. Are you pulling our legs??

CAYLYN: Who in their right mind would have fun erasing books??

JOLTY: Me! Hey, call me crazy– but I think it's fun.

The others look at each other, then out to the audience, then back at each other.

CARLY/ANDY/ALICIA/CAYLYN: (all together) Let me try!

JOLTY: No, I don't think so.

CARLY: Come on, Jolty, let me try. Let me erase some.

ANDY: No, let me! I live down the street from you. We're practically neighbors. You should let ME do some.

CAYLYN: I'll let you in front of me in the lunch line if you let ME do it.

JOLTY: I don't know, guys....

CARLY/ANDY/ALICIA/CAYLYN: Please! Come on! Etc.

JOLTY: Well, Okay, but– (really laying it on thick) hey, you guys aren't trying to trick me, are you? You're not trying to take advantage of me?

ALICIA: No!

ANDY: No, Jolty, we wouldn't do that.

CAYLYN: It's just that... well, you know... too much of a good thing isn't good for you.

ALICIA: Yeah! We're just looking out for you, buddy.

ANDY: Yeah, pal, we're doing this for YOU.

JOLTY: Well, Okay. Just don't have so much fun that you're not doing a good job.

CAYLYN: Don't worry, we will– I mean, we will do a good job!

ALICIA: Yeah. You go rest now. You look beat.

CARLY: Yeah, we got here just in time. You go rest.

ANDY: Take it easy. We'll take it from here.

Jolty smiles at audience, nods his head and takes a seat off to the side. Carly, Andy, Alicia and Caylyn sit down and start working on the books.

Optional Scene Four B

(Kenzie, Gunther, David, Casey, Nathaniel)

Kenzie, Gunther, David, Casey and Nathaniel enter. Casey has been telling a story...

KENZIE: ...Oh, that's gross!

GUNTHER: Yeah, he does that when he talks to me, too.

DAVID: Casey, you should have punched him!

CASEY: Punched him? No.

NATHANIEL: David!

DAVID: Yeah! That's what I would have done.

CASEY: I'm just saying, if you always spit when you talk, you should have the courtesy to wear a muzzle or something.

GUNTHER: Or at least carry an umbrella to give to whoever you're talking to.

DAVID: Well, if you punched him, he'd stop spitting when he talked.

KENZIE: David, why is your first reaction to punch him?

DAVID: It's simple, Kenzie— 'cause it works.

CASEY: No— there are lots of other ways to get people to stop bugging you.

NATHANIEL: Yeah. Like, talk to them.

DAVID: Talk?? Nathaniel, it's just like you to want to sit down and talk about it.

NATHANIEL: What's that supposed to mean?

DAVID: Talk, talk, talk! A punch is ACTION!

KENZIE: David, I think you need professional help.

GUNTHER: Someday, you're gonna punch the wrong person.

CASEY: Gunther's right. You need to learn to control your temper.

DAVID: What? I can control my temper just fine.

KENZIE: Then why do you want to punch somebody?

DAVID: I don't!

NATHANIEL: Yes, you do. You're talking about punching somebody just because they do something that bugs you.

DAVID: I am not!

GUNTHER: Yes, you are.

DAVID: No, I'm not!! I'm not a violent person.

KENZIE/GUNTHER/CASEY: Ha! Yeah, right! Sure sounds like it! Etc.

DAVID: No, I'm not— and the next person who says I am will get a fat lip!

The others freeze for a second. David looks threatening— then:

DAVID: Ha! I SO had you guys! Look at your faces!!

NATHANIEL: What??

CASEY: That wasn't funny!

KENZIE: You're terrible!

GUNTHER: Somebody ought to punch YOU!

CASEY: Hey, wait a minute. Do you guys notice anything strange?

GUNTHER: No— what?

CASEY: Recess is almost over and nobody's around here— except those kids over there.

NATHANIEL: Yeah. This place is usually busier than this.

DAVID: I wonder what's up.

KENZIE: Maybe there's an assembly and nobody told us!

CASEY: Let's go find out!

DAVID: You guys should have seen the looks on your faces....! (They exit, laughing)

Scene Five

(Mike, Kate, Elizabeth, Tyrel, and Jolty)

There's a short pause. The other kids are still busy erasing books. Soon, Mike, Kate, Elizabeth, and Tyrel enter.

MIKE: Hey, Kate, did you get the book report done?

KATE: On Tom Sawyer?

MIKE: Yeah.

KATE: Of course. Mrs. Foster assigned it, didn't she?

ELIZABETH: Silly you, Mike.

TYREL: Elizabeth's right. Have you ever known Kate to NOT do an assignment.

MIKE: Now that you mention it— no.

ELIZABETH: She's got the highest grades and highest test scores.

TYREL: (sarcastically) You know, Kate, if you'd just try a little harder...!

KATE: (good natured) Very funny, Tyrel. We're supposed to do it— so I do it. Don't act like I'm some freak or something.

MIKE: Well.... ! (They all laugh)

KATE: You guys are terrible!

ELIZABETH: Hey, wait a minute! I remember a time when she didn't do an assignment!

KATE: What? When?

MIKE: When? Tell us, Elizabeth!

ELIZABETH: It was back around Thanksgiving.

KATE: I don't remember that!

TYREL: Well, obviously Elizabeth does! Ha! Go on.

ELIZABETH: It was the Wednesday before Thanksgiving and Mrs. Foster said we didn't have an assignment — that we should just have a fun Thanksgiving break.

KATE: Yeah. I remember that. So?

ELIZABETH: So— the assignment was “no homework” and you brought in an extra credit book report.

TYREL: Ah-ha! So you didn't do the assignment—

MIKE: Which was to NOT do any homework—

ELIZABETH: So by DOING homework, you DIDN'T DO your HOMEWORK! (They high-five)

MIKE: Ha! Busted!

KATE: Oh, you guys need to get a life! Did YOU guys do the homework? The book report over Tom Sawyer.

ELIZABETH: Yes.

TYREL: Yeah.

MIKE: Yeah— but I didn't believe any of it.

KATE: Didn't believe it?? Like what? It's a classic!

MIKE: Like the end— who, in their right minds, would give kids our age all that money?

ELIZABETH: Oh— the treasure that Injun Joe stole and the boys found?

MIKE: Yeah— that wouldn't happen in real life.

TYREL: Or the “whitewashing the fence” part. Where Tom tricked all those kids into—
Suddenly, Mike notices the others sitting at table as we go into Scene Six:

Scene Six

(Everyone)

MIKE: (sees the other group erasing books) Hey, guys– do you see what I see?

ELIZABETH: What are they doing?

MIKE: I don't know. Let's find out. Hey, guys– what are you doing?

ALICIA: Erasing books.

KATE: You all got in trouble? What did you do?

CARLY: Nothing. We're just erasing books.

ANDY: Yeah. We want to.

CAYLYN: Yeah. It's fun.

Mike, Kate, Elizabeth and Tyrel all laugh hysterically.

TYREL: You guys are nuts!

MIKE: Yeah. Have fun! Let's go, guys. (They start off)

ELIZABETH: Yeah.

KATE: They think erasing books is fun!

They get to the edge of the stage then Mike stops. The others bump into him.

KATE: Hey, what did you stop for?

MIKE: Something's not right.

TYREL: What?

Kenzie, David, Gunther, Casey and Nathaniel enter.

KENZIE: This is really weird. Where IS everybody?

DAVID: (sees others) Wait. Here we go.

GUNTHER: Here you guys are!

CASEY: What in the world are you guys doing??

MIKE: Shhh!

NATHANIEL: What? What's going on?

KATE: Look!

TYREL: They're erasing books– and they think it's fun!

Everyone stares in amazement. Trey, Jake and Diamond enter.

TREY: Hey, guys what's going on?

JAKE: What are you guys looking–

KATE: Shhh!

CASEY: Come here! Look!

Everyone continues staring. They still can't believe their eyes. Quin, Madeline and Nicholas arrive and join the throng.

QUIN: Hey, what's going on?

MADELINE: Let's see.

NICHOLAS: Whoa!

Finally Riley, Maddie and Taylor join in. Without saying a word, they just join the onlookers. Finally, Riley can no longer hold it in:

RILEY: What in the world are you guys doing?!?

CARLY: We're erasing books.

ANDY: And NO, we're NOT in trouble!

ALICIA: You guys should try this.

CAYLYN: Yeah. It's actually fun!

Everyone else looks at each other then gives a huge laugh! They laugh so hard they have trouble exiting! As they exit, they grab the duped friends and take them offstage. All except Jolty, who looks around, looks at the books, and falls for his own trap. He sits down and starts erasing.

JOLTY: Hey– this IS fun!