

Scene 2

Dad ~ There, I knew I still had it. A photo of my whole school from 1979! Just look at what we were wearing!

Alice ~ Wow, Dad! It's a very wide photo! How did they manage to get everyone on and still so close up?

Mum ~ They had special cameras for taking whole school photos in those days. Ingenious they were! Everyone would sit or stand in three or four long rows, one row behind another. The camera would be pointed at one end and would slowly turn, taking a photo along the rows until it had reached the other end. The whole thing took quite a few seconds, especially if it was a big school.

Dad ~ But the best thing was, if you were standing at the end where the camera started, once it had photographed you, you could quickly run round the back, stand at the other end of the row and be photographed again when the camera got there! Brilliant! And if you look closely, there I am, and there I am again.... just there!

James ~ Wow. That sounds like loads of fun. Much better than having your school photo taken these days.....

(The action moves to the main stage. A photographer sits on one side next to a tripod and camera, which points at an empty chair in front of a neutral-coloured backdrop in the middle of the stage – the typical school photo set-up. A teacher enters at the other side followed by a line of eight children. Three of the four boys have exaggerated side-partings and the four girls have freshly 'done' hair – see staging suggestions/costumes. The fourth boy has a dirty face and messy hair, while one of the girls is in a very posh frock and wears lots of makeup.)

Teacher ~ Right children, please line up quietly while I have a quick word with the photographer. I want this over and done with as quickly as possible so we can get back to our maths test.

(S/he crosses over to the photographer and they have an animated but unheard conversation, with their backs to the audience. Meanwhile the children in the line speak.)

Boy 1 ~ I hate school photograph day! Look at my hair. I never have a side-parting but my mum insisted! I look like a prize idiot!

Girl 1 ~ Well my mum woke me up at 5 o'clock this morning, with the curling tongs plugged in and ready to go! If she wanted me to look good then it's kind of back-fired – I've got bags under my eyes from lack of sleep!

Boy 2 ~ That's nothing! All this week my mum's had me in front of the mirror for an hour every evening, practising my smile! *(mimicking his mum)* 'Not too wide or you'll look cheesy...not too tight-lipped or you'll look mean'. Honestly!

Girl 2 ~ *(squinting and peering blindly around)* Well, my mum hid my glasses to stop me wearing them in the photo. She says she didn't, but I know she's lying. I

bet you by lunchtime she'll have brought them into school claiming to have 'found' them down the back of the sofa!

Boy 3 ~ (*tugging at a bow tie*) Well, look at this! Have you ever seen anything so ridiculous? A bow tie! Who would dream of sending a child to school wearing something like this? All I need's a red nose and I could join the circus!

Girl 3 ~ (*holding her cheeks*) My mum said I was looking too pale, so she spent fifteen minutes at the school gates pinching me on the cheeks! I'm in agony, and probably look like I've gone ten rounds with a heavy-weight boxer!

Boy 4 ~ (*the dirty one*) Well my parents don't know that it's photograph-day. I forgot to give them the letter! I'm the only kid in school that's still been allowed to have fun at playtime! I had the climbing frame all to myself, while you lot had to stand around watching, not getting messed-up. And I'm not going to get into trouble for falling off face-first into the mud! Cool!

Girl 4 ~ (*in posh frock and makeup*) At least none of you look like you should be sitting on top of a wedding cake! Look at this dress! My mum's really gone to town on me – I think I'm wearing the entire contents of her makeup bag! She wants to give all the family a copy of this photo, to show them...what was it she said...to show them what a 'lovely young lady' I'm turning into!

(The teacher returns to the children.)

Teacher ~ Right everyone, the photographer's ready. First one, hurry up!

(Boy 1 nervously sits in the chair.)

Photographer ~ (*aside*) Now, that's a face only a mother could love! (*to boy*) OK, say 'Cheese'.... (*taking the photo*) There you go! Next....

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