

SCHOOL MAZE



Scene 1

*(As a **current 2020's, well known chart hit** plays – choose a song that's big right now – Grandma and Grandpa enter and sit in inflatable chairs on a small separate stage, to the right of the main stage. It is the year 2085. The elderly couple are dressed in futuristic body suits and the small stage represents their futuristic living room. They both sit looking at personal tablets, nodding their heads to the 'old-fashioned' music.)*

Grandma Hey, do you remember when this one came out?! Oh, I love listening to the old songs. They make me feel young again.

Grandpa They certainly don't write them like this anymore. I just wish I could still dance, but with my hip it's not so easy.

Grandma There's nothing wrong with your hip! It's been replaced twelve times in as many years! In fact, there's hardly a single bit of you that's real!

(Their grandchildren, Ollie and Izzie, enter, casually dump their silver rucksacks and slump on a stool each. The grandparents press their tablets and the music stops.)

Grandpa Ollie! Izzie! What a lovely surprise! We weren't expecting you this evening.

Izzie Well Grandpa, Dad's stuck in Zone D due to the astral train strike and Mum's still on Venus trying to sort out problems with their new gravity tax. We were hungry, so we thought we'd come and see you.

Grandma Well look, *(holding out a tin)* grab yourselves an energy bar each and come and sit down. We haven't seen you in a while. How's school? I managed to download your last reports – very impressive!

Ollie *(taking an energy bar)* Well, my report was a bit odd. It said, 'Ollie is making excellent progress on the electronic clarinet and continues to get full marks in his Martian vocabulary tests.' I don't even play the electronic clarinet and I'm rubbish at Martian! I'm sure teachers just write anything to get their reports out the way!

Grandpa Well, it was just the same in my day. One of my reports said, 'Makes a valuable contribution to the football team.' I was goalkeeper and got dropped after my first game when I let in sixteen goals!

Izzie I can't imagine you and Grandma at school, back in...(counting in head)... 2026? Is that right? *(change to current year if performing after 2026)*

Grandma Well, Grandpa and I went to a lovely school called...(name of your school). It's where we first met. It's not there anymore, though. It was pulled down in 2048 so they could build a satellite launch pad on the site. *(wistfully)* We had such a happy time there.

Ollie Go on, tell us! What sort of things happened when you were at school?

Grandma and Grandpa Well now, let's see. How can we put it...?

(We hear a harp (track 9) to represent a memory from a long time ago, and the whole cast stands to sing the first song.)

Song Old School Days

*Track 1 - vocal demo
Track 10 - backing track
Lyrics 21*

(As continuity music plays (track 11) all sit.)

Scene 2

(Grandpa is looking through old photos on his tablet. The children join him.)

Grandpa Hey, look at these! I've found photos of you two when you were little.

Izzie *(teasing Ollie)* Ha! Look at this one of you on our first day at school! You're all rosy cheeks and curly hair, clinging onto mum's hand!

Ollie Well, look at this one of you holding onto that teddy of yours. You'd bawl your eyes out if it ever left your sight!

Izzie Well, at least I didn't need help to do the velcro on my school shoes!

Ollie Well, at least I could eat a spoonful of food without being told it was a choo-choo train going into a tunnel!

Grandma Now you two, that's enough! Stop this silly squabbling. What's happened to you both? You used to be so nice to each other!

Grandpa They're growing up, Dear. They don't behave the same as when they were little. They've got this 'attitude' now, which comes with being in their final year of primary school...sorry, I mean 'System A' as it's now known.

Grandma I suppose there is a world of difference between being five and eleven years old. Maybe I'm too old to remember what it was like.

Grandpa Then let me remind you. For example, take going to school in the morning; you didn't have a care in the world when you were only five...

*(We hear the **harp (track 18)**. The action moves to the main stage. A mother enters the playground with her KS1 child, carrying a reading book bag.)*

Mother 1 Now you have a lovely day at school, sausage. *(She repeatedly and noisily kisses the child on each cheek.)* Oh look, Mummy's got lipstick all over your cheek. *(She spits on a hanky and wipes.)*

KS1 Child 1 Please will you help me change my shoes, Mummy.

Mother 1 Of course, Honey-pie. *(She kneels, miming the changing of shoes)* There you are. Now, Sweetie-pops, *(handing over the bag)* in you go and Mummy will stand here and wave at you through the window for the next twenty minutes! Byesy-bye. Love you!

(They stand for ages waving at each other, until an annoyed KS1 teacher enters and leads the child off stage! Mum exits in the opposite direction, smiling contentedly, basking in the love shown by her child. A yr6 child then stomps on, ahead of a fretful mother. Grandpa narrates...)

Grandpa Now, by year 6 things had certainly changed...

Mother 2 Wait Darling. Don't I get a kiss?

Yr6 Child 1 No Mum! My friends are watching. Stay over there and don't you dare follow me anywhere near the classroom!

Mother 2 But have you got your dinner money, Darling?

Yr6 Child 1 Don't call me that! Yes, I've got my dinner money. NOW GO AWAY!

Mother 2 Well, I'll pick you up at 3.30, okay?

Yr6 Child 1 DON'T YOU DARE! I'm walking back with my friends.

Mother 2 But I worry about you, Darling.

Yr6 Child 1 DON'T CALL ME THAT! NOW GO AWAY!

Mother 2 Okay Darl...I mean Dear. Goodbye then.

(As her child stomps off, she walks away in the other direction, dabbing her eye on her sleeve!)

Grandpa And then there were occasions like good work assembly...*(use the term common in your school – 'well-done-assembly', 'celebration assembly' etc.)*

(The KS1 teacher enters with a chair and sits facing the audience. At her feet, sit KS1 Child 1 plus another child, each holding an unidentifiable painting. A Yr6 teacher enters with a chair and sits with Yr6 Child 1, plus another, at his/her feet.)

KS1 Teacher These two have worked so hard on their paintings and they did them all on their own! Stand up and tell everybody about them.

KS1 Child 2 Mine's a lorry, like what daddy drives. He lets me drive it too. I'm a very good driver. And it's blue. *(The picture is red.)*

KS1 Teacher Wonderful! And what about yours, Katie? *(KS1 Child 3 just waves.)* Katie? *(more waving)* Well, Katie has painted a lovely...*(squinting at the painting)* err...a lovely...scarecrow?

KS1 Child 1 It's not a scarecrow, it's my mummy. *(She waves some more.)*

KS1 Teacher *(smiling sweetly)* Lovely! Well done you two. Okay, sit down. *(more waving)* I said sit down.

(Both infants stay standing, continuing to wave enthusiastically, until the teacher, still smiling, though perhaps through slightly gritted teeth, gently sits them down with a bit of acceptable 'persuasion'!)

Grandpa But when it was year 6's turn...

Yr6 Teacher Ok, stand up you two...*(the two yr6 children sulkily remain seated)*...come on, up you get...*(they reluctantly stand up.)* We're so proud of James here, because of huge efforts in the swimming pool. We've managed to get a badge, haven't we? Tell everyone which one it is. *(The child mumbles.)* Come on, speak up.

Yr6 Child 1 Do I have to? It's so embarrassing!

Yr6 Teacher Yes please. We're very proud of you. Come on, tell everyone.

Yr6 Child 1 *(showing a certificate)* It was my 10 metres! Okay! *(sitting with a dramatic bump!)*

Yr 6 Teacher *(slightly taken aback by the reaction)* Err...yes. Thank you. And Emma here has written a super poem about the Blitz, which she'd like to read.

Yr6 Child 2 Do I have to? It's embarrassing.

Yr6 Teacher Nonsense. Come on now. Big, loud voice.

Yr6 Child 2 *(unscrewing a piece of paper and reading unenthusiastically)* The bombs go boom, in our living room. Oh what devastation, all across our nation. The worse night's sleep I've ever had, oh this war is really bad. *(sulkily)* I'm not reading the second verse!

Yr6 Teacher Okay, well...that's super. Well done. Err...thank you. *(All exit)*

Grandpa And what about things like dance lessons in PE. The little ones always seemed so enthusiastic...

*(The KS1 Teacher leads in a group of immaculately-kitted reception children who sit excitedly on the floor. **Dance lesson music (track 19)** starts. This music is in sections, each section noticeably different. The teacher energetically demonstrates movements and shapes to fit the theme of each section of music. These movements are enthusiastically copied by the children and it's clear they are enjoying themselves. There should be lots of ad-libbing by the teacher, encouraging the eager children through each section of music.)*

KS1 Teacher *(to the first section of music)* You are trees swaying in the breeze...that's it... wonderful...lots of swaying...whoosh...what beautiful trees you are...
(as the second section plays) Now you are eagles swooping on a mouse... diving through the air...soaring through the sky...your wings are so strong...lovely...*(as the third section plays)* Now you're rabbits hopping in the grass...hoppity hoppity...fluffy bunnies munching the flowers...that's it...wiggle your bobtails...lovely...*(as the fourth section plays)* Now you're sharks swimming through the sea...big, fierce sharks...let me see those fins...let me see those sharp teeth...scary sharks...wonderful...*(as the fifth section plays)* And now you're soldiers marching on parade...left, right, left, right...straight backs...high knees...oh, super marching...lovely...*(as the music ends)* And rest. Very good, all of you! Such wonderful dancing today! Now, back to the classroom, as we only have three-quarters of an hour to get dressed again. Follow me. *(They exit.)*

Grandpa But in year 6...

(The yr6 teacher enters followed by a group of grumpy, tutting, sighing children, dressed in all manner of 'kit', who stand sulkily with their arms folded. Throughout the music (track 19 again) the teacher eagerly demonstrates shapes and movements, getting extremely out of breath, while the children make no effort at all and just stand there looking grumpy! The teacher becomes increasingly exhausted and irate. Again, lots of ad-libbing is required.)

Yr6 Teacher *(throughout the music)* You're trees swaying in the wind...come on, join in...don't just stand there...let's see those branches swaying...come on... Now you're eagles swooping on a mouse...oh, come on...put some effort in...big, strong wings...Now you're rabbits hopping in the grass... what's wrong with you?...Come on, it's easy...copy me... please...
(huffing and puffing)...Now you're sharks swimming through the sea...move yourselves yr6...let's see some effort...And Now...you... *(panting)*...are soldiers marching on parade...*(getting really breathless)*...look, if I can do it, you...*(pant)*...have no...*(pant)*...excuse to just...*(pant)*...stand there...*(pant)* ...come on yr6...*(big gasp as the music ends)*...And rest...*(falling to his/her knees)*...Right, you lot...*(big deep breath)*...BACK TO THE CLASSROOM!

(S/he lies on her/his back, panting, as the wah-wah-wah sound effect plays (track 20). The sulky children take central positions to lead the next song.)

Song A.T.T.I.T.U.D.E

Track 3 - vocal demo
Track 21 - backing track
Lyrics p23

(As continuity music plays again (track 22) the cast members resume their seats and the stage is made ready for the next scene.)

_____ **END OF SCRIPT SAMPLE** _____