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Party games for 8 to 100 guests

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presents...

“Classroom Treachery”

Play version
for 8 to 16 guests

by Stephanie Chambers

First edition

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The Suspects

Ms Fern Forest can't take it any more. She's run screaming from her classroom, jumped in her car and taken off. It isn't because she couldn't discipline her class. It's your job to unravel the complex web of reasons and find out which one was the straw that broke her tough teacher back.

Zack Zarins – I'm in Ms Forest's class. People say I'm a smart aleck but I would make say that I am witty, funny and debonair. I'm also unbelievable at basketball. Rye is my best friend. **Dress suggestions:** Wear casual clothes. Carry a basketball.

Ms Tatiana Trajkovski (Ms T) – I'm the school principal. I try to be fair. But I do admit that I try to get the teachers to wear multiple hats. But I didn't press Fern any more than I do any of the other teachers. **Dress suggestions:** Wear conservative formal business clothes.

Arden Steel – I'm in Ms Forest's class. I'm tough. I don't like talking much. I hate it when my teacher tries to get me to participate in class. I'm not into it. I'd rather not be here. Kill bob. **Dress suggestions:** Wear casual "tough guy" clothes and dark sunglasses.

Quinta Ferrari – I'm in Ms Forest's class. My parents are new rich. They're technology entrepreneurs. I have private tutors. My parents say it is essential. Do you like my new school bag? It's actually a Chrome bike messenger bag. They're so "in" these days. **Dress suggestions:** Wear expensive casual clothes. Carry a bag and attach a cardboard "Chrome" label to it.

Rye O'Neill – I'm in Ms Forest's class. I'm a musician. I create vaporwave music with my older brother. I play the synthesiser. I hate being ribbed. I suppose you could say I hold a grudge. **Dress suggestions:** Wear modern casual clothes ideally with Japanese characters or motifs on your t-shirt. Add fake tattoos.

Millie Morgan – I'm in Ms Forest's class. I'm into screamo emo. I don't fit in at school. It's depressing. I can't wait till I graduate and move to a bigger city where people would appreciate me more. **Dress suggestions:** Wear tight fitting jeans and a screamo band t-shirt (write their name on an old t-shirt you want to throw away). Add a studded belt, black wristband and colored hair highlights if you want. Wear lots of black mascara or kohl. Add a few black tears using eyeliner.

Uri Kaya (Mr Kaya) – I'm a fellow teacher. Unfortunately, some teachers like Fern just don't get how to manage a class properly. She just wasn't coping. I think she was a bit too sensitive and took it all too personally. I'll miss seeing her around. **Dress suggestions:** Wear neat business clothes.

Miumi Nishimura – I'm in Ms Forest's class. I'm focussed on my studies, so some people say that means I'm a nerd. But I think that's nasty, as I like people too. My parents don't want me to end up poor and without work and I don't want that either, so I study. **Dress suggestions:** Wear neat casual clothes. Carry some serious textbooks. Wear a straight dark haired wig.



Optional witnesses

Francine Frankavilla – I’m a student in Ms Forest’s class. People call me the walking dictionary. That’s because I read a lot. Someday I’d like to be a writer. When people use bad grammar, it really irks me. Ms Forest was good at teaching grammar. **Dress suggestions:** Wear conservative clothes and thick glasses. Carry a couple of books that you’re reading.

Butch Bobo – I’m a student in Ms Forest’s class. I play football. I also trade football cards. My Dad says I’m like Tom Brady. I start every day with fifty push-ups. Sometimes I’d see Ms Forest at my Dad’s gym. **Dress suggestions:** Wear sports clothes or football gear. Carry a football or football cards or the sport’s page of a newspaper. Add padding or fake muscles if you’d like.

Oriana Luigi – I’m a student in Ms Forest’s class. I’ve won lots of beauty contests. And my mother sent me to modeling camp last summer. I’ve got a great portfolio. I’m also studying acting and hip-hop dance. **Dress suggestions:** Wear very adult clothing. Add fancy nails and lots of makeup. Carry a large bag full of beauty stuff. Show people photos of yourself on your phone.

Rodney Cuffie – I’m a student in Ms Forest’s class. I’m into computer games and also role-playing games like Dungeons and Dragons and White Wolf games. Reality bores me. **Dress suggestions:** Wear nerd clothes or a fantasy outfit and carry some games or games merchandise.

Rhonda Concha – I’m a student in Ms Forest’s class. I ride horses. I’ve had Red Beauty since she was a foal. I spend hours grooming her and feeding her and riding her. Ms Forest also likes to ride and sometimes I’d see her at the stables. **Dress suggestions:** Wear jodhpurs and a riding hat and riding crop. Show everyone pictures of your horse on your phone.

Carson Ferenchiak – I’m a student in Ms Forest’s class. I’m not your typical neat kid. I suppose you’d say I’m a hippie. I’m into sustainability and yoga. I got the cafeteria to switch over to cardboard rather than using Styrofoam. Ms Forest supported my campaign.

Dress suggestions: Wear hippy clothes.

Yolanda Guerra – I’m a student in Ms Forest’s class. I have really long hair. It takes a lot of time to brush it, so I’m always brushing it during any of the breaks at school. My parents own hotels, so I’ll probably go into their business when I get older. **Dress suggestions:** Wear a longhaired wig and carry a brush.

Monty Droskin – I’m a student in Ms Forest’s class. I love to cook and hope to be a chef someday. I spend a lot of time watching cooking shows on TV. Jamie Oliver is so cool. I’m a better cook than anyone in my family. Ms Forest was always asking me for recipes. I’ll miss her. **Dress suggestions:** Wear black trousers and a white shirt and a chef’s hat.

Name Tags

Zack
Zarins
(suspect)

Ms Tatiana
Trajkovski
(suspect)

Arden
Steel
(suspect)

Quinta
Ferrari
(suspect)

Rye
O'Neill
(suspect)

Millie
Morgan
(suspect)

Mr Uri
Kaya
(suspect)

Miumi
Nishimura
(suspect)

Witnesses

Francine
Frankavilla
(witness)

Butch
Bobo
(witness)

Oriana
Luigi
(witness)

Rodney
Cuffie
(witness)

Rhonda
Concha
(witness)

Carson
Ferenchiak
(witness)

Yolanda
Guerra
(witness)

Monty
Droskin
(witness)

Classroom Treachery - Act One

Merri Mysteries
presents...

“Classroom Treachery”

by Stephanie Chambers

The Play

Note: *Although this is in play format, you do not have to take to a stage and act it out. You can just sit around a dining table and read out your lines or sit in a circle on sofas etc.*

Note: *If it says the line may be said by “Anyone”, we recommend that one of the optional detectives and witnesses take a turn to say the line. If there are no optional witnesses or detectives, then everyone should take a turn saying one of these lines, however, the person the clue is about should not say it. You may like to work out beforehand who will say each of these 25 “Anyone” clues and write their character’s name next to each one.*

- Zack: Ms Forest must have gone to find a new forest. Not enough growth in this one, I suppose.
- Arden: *[wearing sunglasses]* Maybe she couldn’t handle any more of your stupid jokes.
- Ms T: Please take off those sunglasses so we can see your eyes Arden. I know your lack of participation in class was a frustration for her.
- Mr Kaya: And so was the workload you heaped on her and all of us for that matter. I know she wasn’t happy about how you put her in charge of the choir even though she’s tone deaf and doesn’t even like listening to music.
- Millie: I suggested a few songs to Ms Forest for the choir to sing. Emo songs are so cool. But she said she was steeped in enough hot water as it was. What did she mean by that?

Quinta: My parents were shooting nasty word bullets after their last parent teacher conference with her. She'd given me an "A minus" instead of an "A plus" that they said I deserved. And of course I did. They said she wasn't fostering my giftedness and that they'd discuss it with the principal.

Rye: I think she got into trouble with some of the conservative Christian parents because she mentioned the word "wizard" in class. But she was talking about a computer wizard that steps you through the software setup process – she wasn't talking about Harry Potter or magic.

Miumi: No. I think it was because she let you sing a few of your new vaporware songs in class and they had some language in them.

Anyone: It didn't help when as part of that science project you decided to cut up a rat at home and to pin up its guts as your display on how the body works. That was so gross. Ms Forest saw it and fainted.

Anyone: She's never looked at Zack the same way since she found out that he'd revived her Prince Charming style by kissing her.

Anyone: She lost it when Miumi told Arden that the enzymes in laundry detergents are digestive enzymes so he spat on his shirt to try and remove a stain after lunch.

Anyone: When Zack was sent to the principal's office for talking in class, I heard the principal – that's you Ms T – I heard you took his side and let him go home early rather than making him stay back after class.

Anyone: I heard Ms Forest felt so depressed after reading Millie's creative writing story that she had to have a session with the school psychologist.

Anyone: Rye's parents ran into her at the movie theater and they went on about how Rye keeps getting tattoos without their permission. She ended up missing the beginning of the movie because she couldn't escape them.

Anyone: Mr Kaya and Ms Forest – Uri and Fern – were tagged eating together at a hot new sushi bar in a town about an hour from here.

Anyone: Quinta is new to school and doesn't have any friends. She tried to bribe some kids into eating lunch with her by offering to pay for their meals. But Ms Forest found out and put a stop to it.

Anyone: Ms T wants all the teachers to extend their class periods by twenty percent but Ms Forest set up a protest committee and lobbied the PTA (parent teacher association) to go against it.

Anyone: Zack – were you trying to start a mutiny in Ms Forest's class?

Zack: No. Ms Forest was a bit obsessed with spelling bees but besides that she wasn't that bad.

Anyone: Rye is the real troublemaker, not Zack. Rye did a radon test on his classroom and told everyone they should refuse to go to class because it failed the test.

Rye: Yeah. My Dad does radon testing for a living, so he didn't charge me for the analysis. It wasn't Ms Forest's fault. She said she told Ms T about the results but she just laughed. She said none of the methods to fix radon levels ever worked, so we would just have to put up with it. But that's so not true.

Anyone: Millie – you have more friends online than you do face to face. Is it true that Ms Forest went with you when you went to meet a new online friend when you were on a school field trip to Kopie City?

Millie: Yes. It was so... embarrassing. I didn't need a chaperone. I can take care of myself. And like he turned out to be a really sweet guy and he loves the same screamo bands as much as I do.

Anyone: Quinta – I hear you spend a lot of time video chatting with your old friends back where you used to live. But you were angry because Ms Forest confiscated your phone for a whole day because she caught you texting in class.

Quinta: My phone is my personal property. She didn't have any right to take it off me or to read my personal text message either. Just because an Attorney General says it's OK to do that in one state, doesn't mean it's OK in all states.

Anyone: Arden – if you're so tough, why is it that I saw tears in your eyes after Ms Forest played a short movie about animal cruelty in class?

Arden: It reminded me of my dog. OK. Enough said.

Anyone: Mr Kaya – did you break Ms Forest's heart? Is that why she left?

Mr Kaya: We've had a few meals together. It's been good to have a friend to talk to about school issues. That's all.

Anyone: Miumi – I heard that you embarrassed Ms Forest recently in class by explaining why her answers to the math homework were incorrect. Can you explain how this happened?

Miumi: She said my answers were wrong and I explained why they weren't. She had left out a parenthesis so her solution didn't make sense. She wasn't a math major so she struggles with teaching it.

Anyone: Ms T – is it true that you had a disciplinary meeting with Fern because she'd posted on Facebook that there was so much red tape at her school, it looked like a permanent Valentine's Day party?

Ms T: Teachers have a responsibility to uphold the good image of the school in society. And it wasn't that funny anyway if you ask me.

Anyone: Rye – when your clothes accidentally got locked in the storeroom during rehearsals for the play at lunchtime, you had to come to class in your Peter Pan outfit. You looked like you wanted to hit Ms Forest when she teased you about having to catch the bus home in tights.

Rye: Yeah. She could be nasty when she wanted to. I'm not sorry she's gone. Ah. Luckily they got the key to the room soon after, so I could change into my normal clothes.

Anyone: Millie – is it true that you hate all of the books Ms Forest set as class texts and that you found her positive optimistic "nice" attitude sickening?

Millie: She has no idea what it means to be real. Um. Like I mean like everyone else is reading “Hunger Games” and stuff like that and she has us reading “Princess Bride”.

Anyone: Zack – when Ms Forest tried to get the class to read Shakespeare you made so many jokes, as punishment, she made you write two essays instead of just one like everyone else.

Zack: “Much Ado About Nothing”.

Anyone: Miami – I hear you’re great at math and science but English is your second language and that you’re afraid to speak in class. Is that true?

Miami: My English not excellent. And in my culture, it is rude to ask questions and to speak a lot in class. But not fair to give me a bad grade just because of that. I am not ignorant student.

Anyone: Arden – I heard Ms Forest told the other teachers that although you act tough, really you’re shy. She said she was giving you a main role in the play to help you overcome that.

Arden: Making me play Romeo was making me a laughingstock. It wasn’t helping.

Anyone: Mr Kaya – if it wasn’t romantic between you and Fern, then why did she give you a Valentine’s Day card?

Mr Kaya: My mother gives all her girlfriends Valentine’s Day cards. It’s just an excuse for card companies to sell cards. The sentiments are meaningless.

Anyone: Quinta – is it true that when Ms Forest accused you of plagerism that you burst into tears?

Quinta: I included a few things from Wikipedia – that’s all and I had paraphrased them. I thought it wasn’t necessary to put them in quotes because they were common knowledge. But for her it wasn’t common enough apparently.

Anyone: Ms T – a friend of Ferns was at a conference you attended and she told Fern how you’d said that this school was the hardest one you’ve had to deal with. And that you’re planning to get rid of some of the dead wood soon. Were you referring to Fern as she’s been at the school over five years?

Ms T: I’m new. I haven’t worked out yet which teachers are ineffective. But it’s hard when you can’t have a private conversation with another principal without it getting back to your school.