

TEAMWORK

A tale of Perfection, Flipped blankets and Janky Smiles.

By Brent Holland

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Cast Of Characters:

Mr. (Mrs.) Yeager (m/f) *The Principal of the school in which the activities take place.*

Coach (Judge) Harper: (m/f) *A local judge who is trying out a new program at the local high school.*

Aaron: (m/f) *A high school student who has charges pending. Wearing a Red shirt (#1)*

Lennon: (m/f) *A high school student and Aaron's best friend. Wearing a Red shirt (#4).*

Finley: (m/f) *A high school student that also has minor charges pending. Funny. Red shirt (#7)*

River: (m/f) *A high school student wearing a blue shirt (#2).*

Brett: (m/f) *A high school student facing minor charges. Blue shirt, (#5)*

Emerson: (m/f) *A high school student currently on probation. River's best friend. Blue shirt (#8)*

Dakota: (m/f) *A high school student currently on probation. Yellow shirt (#3)*

Hayden: (m/f) *A high school student. Yellow shirt (#6)*

Skyler: (m/f) *A high school student. Yellow shirt (#9)*

At the beginning of the show the students of identical color shirts are already friends and many have issues with, or do not like the students with other colors.

Setting: Any room in a high school, pretty much anywhere..

Time: Now.

Props: A table with three chairs, the board games "Perfection" and "Guess Who" as well as an assortment of gift cards.

Costumes: Shirts of appropriate colors with the appropriate numbers visible.

Roles for: 11 totally gender flexible roles.

Length: 30-35 minutes

(As the lights come on Mrs. Yeager and Coach Harper are standing among nine students. The students, dressed in red, blue and yellow shirts have segregated themselves by their color. Each shirt has a number as well as a color. Aaron, Lennon and Finley who are wearing red, are numbers 1, 4, and 7. River, Brett and Emerson who wear blue are numbers 2,5, and 8. And the yellow shirts, Dakota, Hayden and Skyler are wearing numbers 3,6, and 9.)

Mrs. Yeager: This is everyone.

Lennon: What are we doing here? And why do I have to be in here with them? (points at the yellow shirts)

Hayden: (threateningly) Keep talking, Lennon.

Mrs. Yeager: I've pulled you nine out of class to be a part of a special program our school has been chosen to pilot.

Dakota: (sarcastically) Oh boy.

Mrs. Yeager: If you'd like, Dakota I can just send you back to U.S. History and choose someone else.

Dakota: Did I say I wanted to go back? No thanks, I'm good.

Mrs. Yeager: Since you're all here, I'm going to give you the rules and then turn it over The Coach.

Skyler: (To Harper) Who are you?

Mrs. Yeager: Just have a seat and we will explain everything.

(They sit)

Mrs. Yeager: Ok guys, the Coach has been brought in today as part of a county wide pilot program our school has been chosen to participate in. If it's successful it could lead to the program being expanded to other schools, but you guys are the first. The nine of you have been specifically chosen by me...

River: Why us?

Aaron: (indicating the people not in his group) And why them? You have to know that there are a lot of us in this room that don't get along. Skyler and Finley, Emerson and pretty much everyone..

Emerson: Screw you, Aaron.

Aaron: Am I wrong? It's like you're trying to get a riot started in here.

Mrs. Yeager: It's no secret that I know each of you better than I should. Most of you have spent time in my office for one reason or another. The nine of you are some of the, how shall we say it... more colorful students at OCLC and no, I didn't pull you out of class today in order to start a riot. Coach has been briefed on your history here going back to elementary school. He is familiar with your dislikes for one another and all discipline referrals each of you have been involved in.

Skyler: If Finley is going to be a part of this, I'm leaving.

Finley: That's fine by me.

Skyler: Seriously, I'm going to leave!

Mrs. Yeager: You each have parental permission to be a part of this program and before you ask, we cleared it with them and told them not to mention it to you. Now, you can leave if you want to, but this program has been sponsored by the county and if you participate and are successful there are some pretty big incentives involved.

Skyler: Incentives? What do you mean by that?

Coach: Prizes. If you stay you can win prizes and some of them are pretty big.

Skyler: What kind of prizes? They're probably lame.

Mrs. Yeager: You have to stay to find out, I think it's better if it's a surprise.

Brett: Well, this is better than Math 3, so I'm staying.

Dakota: (mocking) Well, this is better than math 3... I'm soooo smart.

Brett: Has your neanderthal math class got to two digit addition yet, Dakota?

(Dakota makes a rude gesture at Brett)

Mrs. Yeager: Since this isn't my program and since I don't have anything to add, I'll get out of here and let you guys get to work. If you have a problem with any of them please let me know immediately. (to Coach) Are you good?

Coach: I'm good. We're gonna have fun.

Mrs. Yeager: Are you sure?

Coach: Yeah, no problem at all.

Mrs. Yeager: Then I'll get back to work. Call me if you need me.

Coach: Will do. Thanks.

(Mrs. Yeager exits)

Coach: Well gang, let's jump right into it. I was going to ask you all to sit with the people in groups based off the color of the shirts we gave you, but since you already are doing that we can get right to the activities.

Lennon: What are we going to be doing?

Coach: Today, you're going to try to complete eleven tasks, or games in which there will be prizes.

Aaron: What are the prizes?

Coach: The prizes for each task change depending on how difficult the task is.

Aaron: If they suck, I'm leaving.

Coach: I understand completely. Okay, the first task is pretty easy. (he hands each group a piece of paper and a pencil) Come get a piece of paper and a pencil. Also, in this activity, you may not talk to, or get answers, from any of the other groups.

Emerson: (disgusted) Like we would.

Finley: Love you too, Emerson.

Coach: I realize that some of you are not fond of some of your classmates, and because of this it's gotten you in trouble quite a bit here in school.

River: If Finley and Aaron could keep their mouths shut and mind their own business...

Aaron: Keep talking, I knock that look off of your face like I did last time.

River: Why don't you try it now?

(all of the groups are getting agitated and aggressive.)

Coach: I need you to sit back down, or I can call an end to this before we even get to the first prize. Don't you at least want to know what's at stake?

(a beat passes. The tension eases)

Coach: Thank you. On the paper I have supplied I need you to answer the following questions.

Emerson: What do you we win if we get them right?

Coach: If you get all three questions correct, your lowest test grade, in any class you choose will be dropped.

Brett: Big deal.

Emerson: What? That IS a big deal. My dad's going to kill me if I don't get my Chemistry grade up.

Hayden: I hate that class. I have a D in there right now.

Emerson: That's better than what I've got.

Lennon: Whatever. We get it, you're both a couple of morons. (To Coach) What are the questions?

Coach: They're simple. The first question is to name the top grossing video game of all time.

River: That's easy.

Coach: The second is to name the top grossing anime series of all time.

Lennon: (to his group) I know that!

Finley: Duh.

Coach: And the final is to name the most recent Superbowl winner, World Series Champion and NBA champion.

(Lennon balls his paper up as soon as the third question is read)

Coach: Don't know an answer?

Finley: Who in the hell watches baseball?

Hayden: I do. My whole family does.

Finley: Well good for you.

Hayden: It's better than anime. Who watches that crap?

Finley: (shaking his head, mocking) I'm so, so sad for you.

Coach: Please turn in your answers.

Hayden: There's no point for us. We only got one right. Anime? Really?

Emerson: We got two, I think.

Aaron: This is stupid. If you're going to just make us do things we can't do, then I'm just going to go back to class.

(there is a general sense of dissent)

Coach: Don't give up quite yet. Let's see If you have more success with the second task. If you get this one right you get a ten dollar gift card to chick-fila.

Dakota: Each?

Coach: Each. And all you have to do for it is to come up with one thing that each person in your group has in common.

Dakota: That's easy for us. We all play sports here at Southwest.

Skyler: I got kicked off after the fight.

Dakota: But you were on the team.

Skyler: Good point.

Coach: That's exactly what I'm talking about. All three of you are athletes. (He gives each of them a gift card)

Finley: We're all in the same guild online.

(Skyler laughs)

Finley: Yeah, knowing how to throw a ball through a hoop is sooooo much cooler.

Coach: A guild? I'm not sure that counts. That's like being in the same class, right?

Finley: Yeah, but you have to be accepted.

Brett: We all like the same video games.

Coach: Give me an example.

Brett: Wizardry Online, Ogres and Orcs... pretty much anything fantasy based.

River: True.

Coach: That definitely counts. (he gives each a card) How about the red team?

Aaron: (looking at the other Red members) We all like Cowboy Bebop.

Coach: Is that a show?

Aaron: It's THE show.

Coach: That good, huh?

(the Yellow team laughs at this)

Finley: It's such a great series.

Coach: And you're all fans?

Lennon: Big time.

Coach: Then that works I guess I'll have to check that out. (he hands each of them a card)

Lennon: You definitely need to. (taking his card) That was easy.

Coach: Maybe it was too easy.

Finley: There's no such thing as too easy.

Coach: So for the next three activities I'll break you up by numbers.

Aaron: By numbers?

Coach: The numbers on your shirt.

Aaron: Ah, gotcha.

Coach: (putting three chairs in the at a table in the center of the stage) I need numbers one, two and three please.

(Aaron , River, and Dakota come forward. They notice it's one from each color)

River: I see what you did there.

Coach: What?

River: One of us from each group. Cute.

Dakota: Is this some kind of crap team building thing that's supposed to make us all like each other?

Coach: Something like that.

Dakota: It's not going to work.

Coach: Maybe. But maybe it will.

River: What a waste of time.

Coach: But it's only my time that's getting wasted right? You guys are getting something out of it. Ok. You three sit here at this computer (putting a lap top or lpad on the desk) Don't press start until I say to.

Dakota: What happens when we press start?

Coach: When you press start you will be shown basic math problems. For each one you get right, you will get two points added to your lowest test grade in any class you choose.

Dakota: There's only one computer.

Coach: You're working together.

River: Great.

Aaron: And for each one we get right, all three of us get two points.

Coach: No, everyone in the room gets two points per correct response. But you will only have 30 seconds, also if you get a single problem wrong the program ends and you lose all of your points.

Brett: This sucks. I love math! I should be doing this one.

Aaron: I'm pretty good at math.

Hayden: Don't get any wrong.

Aaron: You guys want me to do it?

River: I don't care.

Aaron: How about it if you do care? I could use these points.

(River and Dakota agree)

River: How good are you at math?

Aaron: Pretty good.

River: Fine, you sit there then.

Coach: Remember if you get one wrong, you lose all of your points.

Finley: We didn't get to drop our lowest grade earlier, so how about you guys don't get any wrong?

Emerson: Seriously.

Aaron: (thinking) Ok then. How about this? I'll say the answer out loud on each one and if you guys have the same answer then just say yes. As soon as I hear another yes, I'll put the answer in.

River: That's not a bad idea.

Dakota: Yeah, let's do that.

Coach: Are you ready?

Aaron: (looking at Dakota and River) Are we? (they nod) Let's go. (Aaron hits start on the computer and pantomimes putting in answers) Thirteen!

Dakota: Yes.

Aaron: (hits enter... next problem) forty-four!

Dakota: Yes!

Aaron: (hits enter... next problem) Twenty!

Dakota: Yes!

Aaron: (hits enter... next problem) Seventeen!

Dakota: Yes!

River: NO!

Aaron: What?

River: That's multiplication, not addition! It's fifty two!

Aaron: Good catch. (hits enter... next problem) thirty one!

River: Yes!

Aaron: (hits enter... next problem) uh... (thinking) one hundred and fourteen

Dakota: (after a moment) Yes!

Aaron: (hits enter... next problem) Fifteen!

River: Yes!

Coach: And time!

(River, Aaron and Dakota all breathe)

Aaron: That was tense.

Dakota: No joke. (To Coach) How did we do? Did we miss any?

Coach: (stretching it out) Hmmm... how DID you do?

Lennon: You better not have gotten any wrong!

Aaron: We're good. (pause) I think...

Coach: (looking at the laptop) The three of you got six right and.... ZERO wrong!

(all nine are happy, but especially the three who just participated)

Dakota: Thank God!

Aaron: (to River) You totally saved us on that multiplication question.

River: That was Luck. I'm glad I saw it.

Coach: Good job guys. Each person in this room will get twelve points added on to any test grade they choose. Mrs. Yeager will handle that for each of you.

Brett: Good job guys.

Skyler: Yeah, good work.

Coach: Let's move on to something different. For the next activity I will need numbers four, five and six.

(Lennon, Brett and Hayden come forward)

Coach: For each successful attempt you will earn each member in this room two forgiven detentions.

Dakota: Mrs. Yeager is cool with this?

Coach: Totally.

Finley: I've got at least eight.

Coach: (pulling out the board game Perfection, the one where you have to fit pieces in before a timer goes off) Well, they will have three chances to get the pieces in correctly before the timer goes off... each time they do it, it will take two detentions off from each person here. And I've already checked... each of you could benefit from this prize.

Finley: At LEAST eight.

River: I have four or five.

Brett: (seeing the game) Hey, Is that Perfection?

Coach: It is! You've played before?

Brett: Yes! I hate that game, it always freaks me out.

Lennon: That's the game that pops the pieces up if you don't finish in time?

Coach: It sure is.

Hayden: And we have to beat it?

Coach: If you want to lose detentions you do. Everyone know how it works? You have to get all of these pieces in before the timer goes off.

Hayden: Got it.

Lennon: Yeah.

Coach: Alright then. (as he spreads the pieces on the table) Don't touch the pieces until I set the timer. (he does so) Go!

(The three scramble to put the pieces in, but eventually time expires and the pieces pop out)

Brett: (jumps) I hate that!

Lennon: We got close.

Aaron: If you mess it up again, I'm going to tell Mrs. Yeager you volunteer to serve my detentions for me.

Lennon: Good luck with that.

Coach: (Scattering the pieces) You were close that last time. Are you ready for a second try?

Hayden: How about not messing it up this time?

Lennon: (starting to take offense) Are you talking to me?

Hayden: (realizing) No. Sorry. Let's just get this done.

Brett: Yeah, let's do this.

Coach: (sets the timer) and Go!

(this time they move quicker and get the last piece in right before the timer goes off)

Brett: Done!

Hayden: (happily) Holy crap, look at the timer!

Coach: Less than a second left!

Brett: That was too close.

Coach: But you did it and now each of you have two less detentions to your name.

(the ones not playing give encouragement)

Emerson: Do it again.

Brett: Ha. We'll see. That last one was close.

Hayden: I've got an idea. How about this time we split it up instead of doing it like last time?

Lennon: What do you mean?

Hayden: I'll take the top two rows, You (indicating Lennon) Take the middle two and you (to Brett) take the bottom row. Only look for those pieces.

Brett: That could work. I like that idea. Since I only have the bottom row, I'll help whoever is behind when I finish.

Coach: (the pieces are spread) Ready?

Hayden: Ready.

Coach: Go!

(This time they are much quicker about it and finish with time to spare. Everyone cheers)

Coach: Plenty of time to spare! Good job guys!

Finley: Well, half of my detentions are gone.

Skyler: I only had three, so I'm free. (she fist bumps Hayden)

Finley: What's up for us Coach, connect four?

Coach: (Clearing away Perfection and setting up "Guess Who") Close. Have you guys ever played Guess Who?

Skyler: The kiddie game?

Coach: That's the one.

Skyler: I haven't played that since I was little.

Coach: Well, you and numbers seven and eight are about to play now.

(Finley and Emerson join Skyler at the table)

Emerson: This game is easy.

Coach: Not the way you're about to play it.

Skyler: (standing up) Is there any way I can play with a different group?

Finley: Really?

Coach: What's wrong with this group?

Finley: Skyler doesn't want to be in a group with me.

Emerson: Is this the thing about her sister?

Finley: Yes.

Skyler: I'd just prefer to play with someone else. I don't have a major issue with anyone else in the room. (looking around) Well, nothing too big...except for him.

Finley: Come on, it's just a game, Skyler.

Skyler: (hostile) Am I talking to you?

Coach: Whatever problem you two have, can it be set aside for these? (he pulls out library passes)

Emerson: What are those?

Coach: These are special library passes Mrs. Yeager gave me. They allow anyone who has one to leave whatever class they want and go to the library instead. They can be used at any time, except when taking a test.

Emerson: I could get out of gym?

Coach: You could get out of gym twice. I have two passes for each person in this room if you can guess the right character.

Dakota: Well, that settles that. Skyler, you're playing.

Skyler: No, I'm not.

Dakota: If you want me to continue driving you home every day, you're going to play "Guess Who".

Skyler: You won't do that.

Dakota: Try me.

Skyler: Fine! Whatever. How do you want us to play?

Coach: Well since the two of you don't care for each other, I think it will be fun for you to have to work together.

Skyler: (sarcastically) That's not fun at all.

Finley: This isn't going to work, Coach.

Coach: Do you all think they should play? (indicating the rest of them)

(the group assents. Some are forceful about it)

Finley: I didn't say, I wouldn't play! I'm in. Let's just do this.

Coach: So, Skyler you and Emerson are going to pick a person that Finley is going to have to guess.

Emerson: That's the way the game always works.

Coach: But Finley, you can't ask questions that have objective answers.

Finley: What do you mean by that? What's the difference?

Coach: You can't ask questions like "are they wearing a hat?" or "do they have blonde hair?" but rather questions that could be open to a little interpretation.

Finley: Like what?

Coach: Like, "Does the person you pick look like they would be good at sports?"

Emerson: That's going to be hard.

Coach: I'm not getting you out of two classes for something easy.

Skyler: (showing a card to Coach) We're choosing this guy.

Emerson: (looking at a different card) We should choose this one.

Skyler: No.

Emerson: But...

Skyler: Do you want me to play or not?

Emerson: Fine. That one will work I guess.

