

TEACHER 1 No, Timmy. You can't borrow a scalpel. And when you've finished plucking the pigeon, throw it away and wash your hands.

She closes the door and sits down with the others.

TEACHER 1 Timmy's standing for election for the school council.

TEACHER 2 Do you think he'll win?

TEACHER 1 I doubt it. The Johnson twins are standing too and they're holding a hot-tub party the weekend before the poll. Everyone's invited.

TEACHER 3 Poor Timmy doesn't stand a chance.

TEACHER 2 Mind you, isn't it preparation for real life? Politicians buy votes by promising things to people.

TEACHER 3 That's a bit cynical. Lots of people vote for what they think is best for everyone, not just for them.

TEACHER 4 Maybe it would be better to do it by chance, like the Ancient Greeks. Put the names in a hat and draw one out at random.

TEACHER 1 Two. There's always one boy and one girl.

TEACHER 3 Shouldn't it be the two best people? That might be two of the same gender. What's wrong with that?

TEACHER 4 Didn't the Ancient Greeks stop anyone who wanted to have power from having power? You could take out the names of anybody who wanted to stand!

TEACHER 1 Timmy wouldn't like that. Nor would the Johnson twins. And Zeb would hate it if he got picked.

TEACHER 2 Aren't you taking it a bit too seriously? It's just a bit of fun, and they enjoy it. It's not that important.

TEACHER 3 It's important to them. The things in their lives matter as much to them as the things in ours do to us. Their lives are real life to them.

TEACHER 2 But then shouldn't it be like real life is for adults? Sometimes life sucks. That's how it is.

TEACHER 3 I don't see why schools should only be like real life is. I think they should be better than real life - how real life ought to be.

TEACHER 4 When you think about it, schools aren't much like real life anyway. Most people don't wear a uniform, and who uses "Mr" and "Miss" and surnames outside of school?

TEACHER 3 Maybe real life should be more like schools.

The bell rings.

TEACHER 2 Maybe not.