

She sits across from him, wedging herself into a tiny chair.

BECKY

I'm not going to let you suspend Russell Budnick for having three tardies.

BRUCE

It's not just the tardies. Tardies are a gateway.  
(MORE)

Y4

First he's tardy, then he's truant, then he's turning tricks in an airport bathroom for smack.

BECKY

Unfortunately, you don't have the authority to suspend anyone without my approval.

BRUCE

Consider it an intervention. Like when kids started wearing those giant pants. Someone had to scream in their faces: WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU? WHY ARE YOUR PANTS SO BIG? It was a matter of safety.

BECKY

So you want to suspend Russell because you're threatened by his pants?

BRUCE

It doesn't matter why I want to suspend him, he's a lost cause. You need to learn that some of these kids are going to fall through the cracks. It's our job to push them through. If we have to step on their little heads to do that, so be it.

BECKY

Russell is a good kid. He just acts out when he isn't being challenged. I think you should consider putting him on your academic decathlon team.

BRUCE

Yeah, like that guy's going to be fun on the team bus.

INSERT: Academic Decathlon team PHOTO of hot chicks wearing shirts that say "Academic Decathlon".

BECKY

He already got his uniform. I ran it by Ruffy. I thought you should know. Who knows? Maybe you'll actually win one for a change.

After a long beat, Bruce smiles.

2/4

BRUCE

Touche, Freeley. Touche. You may have won that round but you will regret it. Why? Because kids are like dogs. They need discipline. Without it, they'd be eating their own shit and humping everything in sight.

BECKY

You know, Bruce, sometimes "bad" kids are just square pegs that don't fit into round holes.

Bruce looks confused. Becky picks up a Sharpie and a mug.

BECKY (CONT'D)

If your peg won't fit into my hole, maybe it's NOT because your peg is too small. Maybe it's because my hole is too big.

(she pokes the Sharpie  
around in the mug)

Do you see what I'm saying?

BRUCE

I think I do. I underestimate you, Freeley. You are good to these kids.

(she's touched until...)

And you do know your way around a Sharpie.

Becky puts the pen on his desk and leaves. Later, he picks it up and sniffs it.