

HOW FAR?

By

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Scene 1

Scene is started off with 419 squad song

It is the first day of school for the boarding students of Federal Government College Lagos. S.S.1 boys (year 10)line up to have their luggage inspected. Bode and Ali, who are 4th and 5th down the line, anxiously wait for their turn.

Ali: *Bode, we return to this bush as senior boys, and these ye-ye teachers still treat us any how. Look at how the Malu is throwing Chidi's clothes on the floor.*

Bode: *Man, it get as it be, for our generation it be like say these trousers we dey wear don't mean jack.*

Bode pauses the scene by coughing. He then steps out of the line to address the audience.

Bode: *For all you none Nigerians 'ye-ye' means silly and Malu means cow. And as for the reference to our trousers, well for us it is a huge deal. For the first 3 years of our secondary school years we were junior boys, which didn't just mean we had to wear only shorts, it meant that we were the bottom of the food chain. In our world any one that wears shorts was expected to be mistreated. Now we're S.S.1 boys, and are wearing trousers, we deserve a little bit of dignity. After all we overcame intense physical, emotional and academic obstacles to get these. The F.G.C. equivalent of a purple heart.*

Bode rejoins scene and coughs, allowing it to unfreeze at the moment where it is Bode's turn to have his luggage inspected by Mr Uka, one the most ruthless chemistry teachers ever to walk the sands of Federal Government College Lagos.

Mr Uka: *(Thick Igbo accent) open ya box.*

Bode opens his suitcase. The inspection seemed to be going fine until Mr Uka discovers a sleeveless Batman T-shirt.

Mr Uka: *This is clearly mofty, which is not allowed on school premises.*

Bode: *Excuse me sir, the school rules clearly state we are allowed to bring pyjamas without specification of colour or shape.*

Mr Uka responds by slapping Bode's face and throwing the T-shirt on the ground.

Mr Uka: *You are very stupid. You bring in mofty and then have the guts to stand there and blow grammar.*

Scene freezes and Bode steps away from scene to address audience still holding the side of his face that got slapped.

Bode: *What kind of nonsense is this? I admit, I was obviously not going to Use that T-shirt as a pyjama top, but still I was officially in line With the school rules, and because this cave man couldn't beat me In and argument he results to violence. Any way this time next Term I'll be in London, and I have no doubt he's on the S.S.3 hit List. I hope they scar him for life.*

Bode coughs again and the scene disperses.

Scene 2

419 Squad song starts off scene.

Summer holidays have come and gone, Bode is now standing at a London bus stop in Hackney pacing himself for his first day of school. 2 English girls join him at the bus stop. He nods and smiles at them, and they respond by giggling and falling into their own world, which clearly manifested through their cockney accents.

Lisa: *So how was it last night, did it go alright?*

Lauren: *It was alright to start with, but after a while he got kind of boring. If you know what I mean.*

Lisa: *How so?*

Lauren: *Well, he kept chatting about how he and his mates were ready to beef anyone that tried it with them.*

Lisa: *Sounds like he's a bit of an Eminem, if you know what I mean.*

Lauren: *Well whatever he thinks he is, I'm ain't interested.*

Lisa: *Shouldn't the bus be here by now?*

Lauren: *The 236 bus is so rubbish.*

Lisa: *In it though.*

Bode coughs, the scene freezes, and he addresses the audience.

Bode: *I guess the 'You know what I mean' crew have a right to complain after all the bus is 20minutes late. But the Niger in me can't help dwelling on the fact that at least here the bus actually stops for us to board in a relatively orderly fashion. The buses back home, which we like to refer to as 'Moluwes' don't stop, and expect potential passengers to jog and jump.*

Bode coughs again and the scene disperses.

Scene 3

419 squad song starts of scene.

It is now 3rd period English and the teacher is giving feed back over the class' essays on Hamlet.

Teacher: *Before I start with the overall feedback, Junior could you please explain to me why you didn't hand in an essay.*

Junior (Large Jamaican boy with an afro): *I was sick in it.*

Teacher: *Okay, if you were sick, why have you not handed anything in today?*

Junior: *I've been busy in it. Why are you always starting on me?*

Teacher: *Bring out your diary and put down the fact you are having detention with me after school.*

Junior: *But sir, I have football.*

Teacher: *I don't care!*

Bode coughs and scene freezes.

Bode: *See this guy, he hasn't done his work and he still has the audacity to argue with his teacher. Man, you can always tell when a child has a flogging deficiency.*

Bode coughs and scene unfreezes.

Teacher: *You should take a page out of Bode's book. His first day at school and managed to do his essay during break, hand it in, and get an 'A'.*

Student walks into class and whispers something in teacher's ear.

Teacher: *Okay quietly read the next chapter, I'll be back in 15minutes.*

Teacher leaves with student.

Ricky (short mixed race boy): *So what you're feeling bad because you did well doing a poxy essay*

Junior: *In it though, he's a right plum.*

Bode: *You're daddy is a plum.*

Junior: *What?*

Bode: *Nothing.*

Junior: *That's what I thought.*

Bode coughs and scene pauses

Bode: *Really and truly I should wound this guy, or as these people would put it 'knock him out'. But what can I do, I'm still in phase 1 of my time here, which basically means if I mess up now I'm on the first plane back to Niger.*

Bode coughs and the scene disperses.

Scene 3

419 squad song starts off scene.

It's lunchtime and students are either at lunch or detention. Bode isn't on detention but feels like hanging out by himself in class. He is so focused on sharing his thoughts, he is oblivious to fact that a couple of English boys set a water balloon trap, which basically is a bucket filled with water balloons positioned in such away that whoever opens the door will be drenched in water. The boys position their trap and run off leaving Bode alone in the class sharing his thoughts.

Bode: *The kids in this country are so undisciplined. You will never catch me disrespecting a teacher.*

Mr Rogers, a bald English teacher who thinks he's a scary character, walks into the class and is drenched by the set trap. Bode notices what has happened and does a somewhat good job of hiding his amusement.

Mr Rogers: *You come here now!*

Bode: *I know how this looks, but I had absolutely nothing to do with that.*

Mr Rogers: *Don't give me that! You are coming with me to the head master's office now!*

Bode coughs and scene freezes.

Bode: *Okay don't judge me on what I'm about to do, after all despite his position this man clearly doesn't want to reason. He really left me no choice. I guess the Nigerian saying 'Na condition wey dey bend crayfish' has some sense to it. I'm sorry, that saying basically touches on the fact that to a large degree of our environment dictates how we act or react. Bottom line, I'm not taking the fall for this.*

While teacher is still frozen Bode surrounds him with chairs and tables, steps out of the class, coughs and immediately runs off. Teacher is unfrozen and falls over in a total state of confusion.

The End.