

**5 Male Actors:** JoJo Tommy Bully Bo Bully Bill Bully Bob  
**3 Female Actors:** JoJo's mother Math Lab Teacher Other Kids & Teachers  
**2 or more Narrators:** Guys or Girls

**Narrator ①:** *Fourth-grader JoJo has become the victim of bullying by the sixth-grade gang known as the Bully B's: Bob, Bo, and Bill. JoJo's mission is to discover a way to deal with them in a positive manner before they decide to beat him up again.*

**Narrator ②:** Life is full of choices. That's what fourth grader JoJo discovered. As he left Harrison's Drugstore, three sixth-grade tough guys yanked him into the alleyway.

**JOJO:** Uh, hi ya, guys! What's, uh, up?

**Narrator ①:** Bob, the leader of the Bully B's said:

**BULLY BOB:** Not you! You're going down!

**Narrator ②:** Then Bob punched him in the eye. Bo punched him in the stomach. Bill punched him in the shoulder. Then Bob knocked him over like a bowling pin. Afterwards, the Bully B's ran off laughing.

**Narrator ①:** When JoJo's Mom got home from work, she said:

**JOJO's MOTHER:** Gasp! JoJo, what happened to your eye?

**JOJO:** Uh, well, uh, ... you see, uh, I, uh, tripped over my bike. Real stupid, huh?

**JOJO's MOTHER:** JoJo, you need to be more careful!

**JOJO:** Yep! You're right, Mom. I do!

**Narrator ②:** At school, at least twenty kids and all his fourth grade teachers asked:

**OTHER KIDS & TEACHERS:** How did you get the black eye, JoJo?

**JOJO:** Because I'm a klutz ! I tripped over my bike! Real stupid, huh?

**Narrator ①:** With all that lying, JoJo was hoping:

**JOJO:** Maybe when the Bully B's find out I didn't snitch on them, they'll leave me alone. At least I hope so!

**Narrator ②:** Just in case, JoJo spent the rest of that week, looking over his shoulder.

**Narrator ①:** After school on Friday, JoJo went to hang out at his best friend's house. Suddenly, JoJo got an idea. He asked:

**JOJO:** Tommy?

**TOMMY:** Yeah, JoJo?

**JOJO:** How come the Bully B's have never bothered you? What's your secret?

**TOMMY:** It's because I laugh and smile and joke around a lot. As my Mom always tells me, *'If you act like a victim, you'll bring out the bully in them every time.'*

**JOJO:** What do you mean, act like a victim?

**TOMMY:** When my Mom was in third grade, she got punched in the stomach almost everyday at recess by these two tough guys.

**JOJO:** Did she tell on 'em?

**TOMMY:** Yeah, she told on them all right. But nobody believed her 'cuz those bullies were real careful to make sure the teachers never saw. Of course, my Mom cried and carried on. My Mom explains it in kind of a funny way. She says that as long as she kept dancing the *'victim dance'*, those two tough guys couldn't help but dance the *'bully dance'*.

**JOJO:** That is kind of weird. So what happened?

**TOMMY:** My Mom's big brother kept telling her over and over, *'Sal, you have to force yourself not to cry. You need to stand up straight and tall. You need to force yourself to look them in the eyes. And you need to laugh, like it is so funny that they're punching you in the stomach. No matter how much your stomach hurts, Sal, you gotta laugh.'*

**JOJO:** Did she?

**TOMMY:** Yep! And believe it or not, they first started hitting her softer and softer. Then when she kept on laughing, they eventually got bored and stopped hitting her altogether. So that's the secret, JoJo. I laugh and smile, no matter how I truly feel inside. Doing that keeps me off the Bully B's radar screen, and they leave me alone.

**Narrator ②:** JoJo thought for awhile. Then he asked:

**JOJO:** So what kind of dance would you call it when you remember to stand up straight, look 'em in the eyes, and smile and laugh even when you're feeling scared or sad?

**TOMMY:** Well, uh, I guess you'd call it the ... WAIT FOR IT! Since it takes lots of courage to do all that, maybe you could call it doing ... the '*Hero Dance*'.

**JOJO:** I like that! The '*Hero Dance*'!

**Narrator ①:** After JoJo got home, he stood in front of the mirror. He practiced standing up straight and tall. He pretended to look other people in the eyes. He practiced smiling and laughing. He even told himself some corny jokes.

**Narrator ②:** By the time he was through, he was feeling much more confident and hopeful.

**Narrator ①:** That night, he and his Mom went to Ryan's for dinner. He was standing by the dessert bar when ... dun-dun-dunnnnn ... Bill walked over.

**BULLY BILL:** Nice shiner, shrimp!

**Narrator ②:** JoJo remembered to stand up straight and tall. He looked Bill right in the eyes. Then he forced himself to smile and chuckle and said:

**JOJO:** Yeah, it's a little present I got from some friends of mine. Do you think it makes me look like a raccoon? Or maybe a pirate or a one-eyed bandit? What do you think, Bill? Does it?

**Narrator ①:** Bill just stared, grabbed a dessert, and then walked off. JoJo thought:

**JOJO:** That's one for the home team! It really does help to be funny! Doing the hero dance works great!

**Narrator ②:** On the weekend, JoJo's Mom said:

**JOJO's MOTHER:** JoJo, it's '*Divide and Conquer*' time. You clean the living room and I'll clean the kitchen.

**JOJO:** What do you mean by '*Divide and Conquer*'?

**JOJO's MOTHER:** I learned it from Home Depot. When you have the whole house to clean, well, that could be overwhelming. So you simply take it ONE ROOM AT A TIME.

**Narrator ①:** As JoJo started cleaning the living room, he thought:

**JOJO:** Divide and conquer. Divide and conquer? Divide and conquer! That's it. Mom's helped me out after all. That's how I can handle the Bully B's, one bully at a time.

**Narrator ②:** After church, JoJo went with his Mom to Harrison's Drugstore. While she was looking at lipstick, he was standing in the candy aisle.

**Narrator ①:** When JoJo heard footsteps, he looked up. He expected to see his Mom or Mr. Harrison. Instead, it was ... dun-dun-dunnnnn ... Bo.

**Narrator ②:** JoJo remembered to stand up straight. He looked Bo right in the eyes, and he forced himself to smile. Then he said:

**JOJO:** Hi ya, Bo. Do you like smooth peanut butter or crunchy peanut butter?

**BULLY BO:** Huh? Why are you asking me about that?

**JOJO:** Awwww, I was just staring at the peanut butter cups and got to wondering. Which kind do you like best, smooth or crunchy?

**BULLY BO:** I like smooth.

**JOJO:** You're a brave man! I only eat crunchy now 'cuz one day, a couple of years back, my Mom bought some smooth peanut butter. I took a great big bite and got peanut butter stuck on the roof of my mouth. I took my finger and scraped it off. But then I had peanut butter stuck on the end of my finger. I didn't have a napkin. I didn't go wash my hands 'cuz I was watching TV. So, ... I took my finger, stuck it up underneath the bottom of the couch, and wiped it off.

**BULLY BO:** That's just as bad as wiping boogers on the furniture. Have you ever done that?

**JOJO:** I might have. What about you?

**BULLY BO:** Nah! But I've seen my little sister do that plenty of times. Well, see ya later, JoJo.

**JOJO:** Yeah, see ya, Bo.

**Narrator ①:** On Monday, Tommy and JoJo found out that they were going to have a big math test the next day. They decided to go to the after school tutoring class.

**Narrator ②:** The first thing JoJo noticed was ... dun-dun-dunnnnn ... Bully Bob. And can you believe it? The only two vacant desks were right beside him.

**Narrator ①:** As the two boys sat down, Tommy said:

**TOMMY:** Hi ya, Bob. Do you have a math test tomorrow too?

**BULLY BOB:** Yeah! It's on fractions.

**TOMMY:** Killer!

**JOJO:** We're having a long division test tomorrow.

**BULLY BOB:** That's hard too.

**Narrator ②:** Just then, the math lab teacher came over. Hello, boys, tell me what you're working on. She got all three boys right to work.

**Narrator ①:** At the end of the hour, JoJo smiled and said:

**JOJO:** Good luck on your math test, Bob!

**Narrator ②:** Bob hesitated. Finally, he said:

**BULLY BOB:** Yeah, you too.

**TOMMY:** Meeeee three!

**Narrator ①:** JoJo felt great.

**JOJO:** I did it! I've had a one-on-one meeting with each one of them: first Bill at Ryan's, then Bo in the candy aisle, and now Bob at the math lab. I think the trick is to NOT think of them as bullies, but people. Cool!

**Narrator ②:** For the rest of that week, JoJo practiced doing the hero dance by standing up straight and tall and proud. He looked at as many people in the eyes as he could. And he smiled and laughed and joked around a lot, just like Tommy.

**Narrator ①:** That weekend was his weekend to spend with his father and grandparents. All three of them loved telling funny jokes and stories. By the end of the weekend, JoJo finally felt brave enough and strong enough to face all three guys at once, if he had to.

**Narrator ②:** On Tuesday, exactly two weeks after he first got beat up, ... dun-dun-dunnnnn ... the showdown happened.

**Narrator ①:** After leaving Harrison's Drugstore, he heard noises in the alleyway.

**Narrator ②:** JoJo took a deep breath. Then he forced himself to walk right into the alleyway and laugh.

**JOJO:** You know, this makes me think about that time that my Dad took me squirrel hunting. You're the big hunters. I'm the little squirrel. Of course, I know you all are too smart to do what my Dad did. You won't believe it!

**Narrator ①:** JoJo began laughing for real as he recalled that day.

**JOJO:** I was seven at the time. My Dad had been bragging, like he was some big game hunter, so I figured he knew what he was doing. After walking a long time, he decided to squat down by a tree to eat some peanut butter crackers.

**JOJO:** I think a squirrel smelled that peanut butter, because it came out of his hole and looked down at us. I said, *'Hey, Dad. There's a squirrel.'*

**JOJO:** I guess my Dad was in a hurry to show off, because he didn't bother to stand up. He put down his packet of peanut butter crackers. Still squatting, he picked up his gun and took aim.

**JOJO:** You guys ever been hunting?

**Narrator ②:** All three boys nodded.

**JOJO:** I figured. Well, I never had and didn't know what to expect. When my Dad shot off that rifle, that kickback thing happened. And My Dad, ... my Dad, ... he toppled over backwards ... and he landed ... in a big, ... steaming ... cow patty!

**Narrator ①:** JoJo practically fell over, he was laughing so hard. In spite of themselves, all three tough guys started laughing too.

**Narrator ②:** Eventually, JoJo turned to Bob and asked:

**JOJO:** What kind of animals have you hunted, Bob?

**BULLY BOB:** I've shot wild turkeys and squirrels, and I even shot a deer once.

**Narrator ①:** Bo and Bill also told about the various animals they had hunted.

**JOJO:** Have you all ever had any funny things happen to you while hunting?

**Narrator ②:** The guys were torn. Bo thought of a great hunting story he could tell but was kind of afraid to. Bill thought of one too. Both boys looked at Bob, wondering whether he would approve.

**Narrator ①:** Suddenly, Bo couldn't resist. He began to tell a funny hunting story that he had heard. Then Bill told one. Finally, Bob did too.

**Narrator ②:** Then Bo ordered JoJo to tell about the smooth peanut butter he was eating that day and what he did with it.

**Narrator ①:** The guys talked for a bit longer. Finally Bill asked:

**BULLY BILL:** JoJo, I heard that you were telling people you tripped over your bike. Why didn't you ever tell what we did to you that day?

**JOJO:** I'm no snitch! Naturally, I'd rather you not do it again. But I'm no snitch!

**Narrator ②:** The guys didn't say anything. Finally, JoJo said:

**JOJO:** Do you mind if I tell Tommy your hunting stories? They were really funny!

**Narrator ①:** Bob and the others just nodded. JoJo said:

**JOJO:** Well, I better get going before my Mom sends out a search party. I'll see ya later. They nodded again.

**Narrator ②:** JoJo turned and started walking. He wondered:

**JOJO:** Did my stunt work? Will they really let me leave?

**Narrator ①:** He could sense that all three pairs of eyes were trained on his back. His heart started pounding in nervousness. Suddenly, Bo called out:

**BULLY BO:** Hey, JoJo!

**Narrator ②:** JoJo turned around slowly.

**BULLY BO:** Your Dad was sitting in a bunch of cow poop! That really showed him who's the boss - the squirrel! He laughed.

**Narrator ①:** JoJo laughed right along with Bo, Bob, and Bill. Then he waved good-bye and walked SAFELY away.

**Narrator ②:** JoJo was absolutely thrilled! Inside his head, he was dancing - not a victim dance, certainly not a bully dance, but a hero's dance of victory.

**Narrator ①:** JoJo felt really good about these new set of choices he was making: to stand up straight and tall, to look people proudly in the eyes, and to smile, laugh, and joke around no matter how he was feeling inside.

**Narrator ②:** JoJo knew his life was never going to be the same again.

**Big to Medium Parts:**

|                   |              |                  |
|-------------------|--------------|------------------|
| <b>JOJO</b>       | <b>TOMMY</b> | <b>BULLY BO</b>  |
| <b>BULLY BILL</b> |              | <b>BULLY BOB</b> |

**Medium Parts:**

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| <b>JOJO's MOTHER</b> |
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**Small Parts:**

|                         |                                  |
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| <b>MATH LAB TEACHER</b> | <b>OTHER KIDS &amp; TEACHERS</b> |
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