

1 THE TEXT

"OMG!" Andrew Lu shouted. "My party is going to be awesome!"

It was lunchtime. Andrew sat at a long green table. His best friends, Scott Vargas and Derek Williams, sat with him. The boys were in seventh grade at Knight Middle School.

Scott smiled. "If it's anything like the last one, it'll be epic."

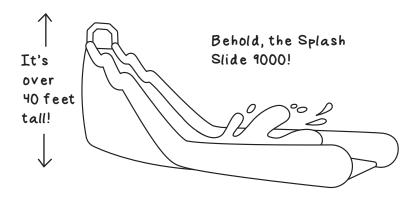
We had an inflatable obstacle course AND a magician!



"Are you really getting a waterslide?"

Derek asked.

"Yep." Andrew grinned. "My dad ordered it last weekend. We got the biggest one. This will be the best 12th birthday ever!"



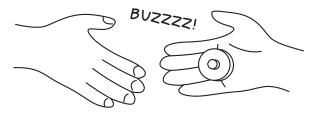
Andrew was the coolest guy in their grade. He threw the best parties. Everyone wanted to be invited.

He also loved jokes. Pranking people was Andrew's favorite way to have fun. The best part was that he rarely got in trouble.



Once, he put fake spiders in a teacher's desk drawer. She just laughed.

In sixth grade, Andrew ran for class president. He walked around school shaking people's hands. But there was a surprise. His hand had a buzzer. When kids shook hands with him, they got shocked.



Andrew still won. Most kids thought his pranks were funny. They never knew what he would do next.

"There will be a ton of video games," Andrew said. "Some are old. But most are new. I've got all the consoles."

"What about food?" Derek asked. He was always hungry.



"There'll be so much food. My mom hired a caterer."

"Can we have all the soda we want?" Scott asked.

"Of course," Andrew said confidently.

"What about candy?" Derek asked.

Andrew rolled his eyes. "Um, yeah! Anything you can think of, we'll have it."



His family was rich. They lived in the biggest house in town. Andrew usually got anything he wanted.

Scott sounded excited. "I can't wait to ride that waterslide. Is it really as big as your backyard?"

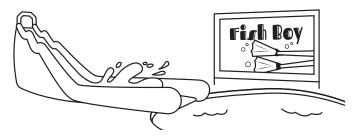


Andrew's house had a huge yard. There was a pool at one end. The waterslide would be set up at the other end. Its slide was so long that it ended at the pool.

Andrew laughed. "Would I lie?" Then he remembered something. "There will be movies too."

"Really?" Derek asked.

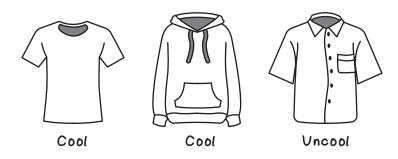
"Yeah. My dad is having a huge screen set up. We can watch while we slide."



Just then, Zach Bottoms walked by. Zach usually wore button-down shirts. He had thick glasses. His hair was always a mess. Some kids called him a nerd.



Zach was nothing like Andrew and his friends. They always looked cool. Their closets were full of nice T-shirts and hoodies. None of them wore button-down shirts.



Derek laughed. "OMG. You should invite Zach."

Scott smirked. "Yeah. Then when he accepts, tell him you were kidding. Say there's no way he can come to your party!"

"He'll be so bummed," Derek said. "Can you imagine?"

Andrew laughed. "Okay." Then he looked down. He loved pranks. Still, this felt mean.



Scott and Derek stared at him.

"Well? Are you going to do it?" Scott asked.

Andrew swallowed. He pulled out his phone. Then he quickly typed a text.

"Hey, Zach. Long time, no talk! My birthday party is on Friday. Want to come?"

He showed the text to Scott and Derek. They laughed.

Then Andrew hit send.



