

## **Birds of a Feather**

**A puppet play by Carolyn Pogue for Puppets for Peace,  
Project Ploughshares, Calgary Alberta 2007**

**Purpose: To encourage children in grades 4 to 6 to  
become peace leaders; to "plant seeds of peace"**

### **The Characters**

**Luke** is a Guatemalan-Canadian boy in grade 5. He has lived in Calgary for 5 years. His family lives in an apartment. Life at home is loving, but not without some difficulties. Luke's father still suffers nightmares from the war years; his mother has a prosthetic foot. All three wish they could live in a house with land, a garden, a tree. For Scene 1, Luke has a headset to listen to music. [Luke means Light.]

**Maggie** is middle aged (10), born in Calgary. She knows her place in the world (to help keep it clean). She has a sense of humour. Like all magpies, she is attracted to shiny, bright things - and shiny, bright people. Her flock roosts near the school, but their territory is large. She befriends Luke because she believes Luke has leadership qualities. Around the world, magpies are viewed as mischievous, lucky and/or symbols of happiness. Like other animals, in some circumstances, Maggie has the ability to communicate with humans.

**Erin** is Luke's classmate. He was born in Calgary and is of British descent. An only child, he lives with his professional, workaholic parents in a large house. He has everything money can buy. Throughout his life, he has been under great pressure at home to show off his knowledge, achieve good marks and to be first in everything he does. [Erin means Peace.]

**Amal** is Luke's friend and lives with her family in the same apartment building as Luke. Their mothers met in English class when they arrived in Calgary. Amal is an Egyptian-Canadian, one year younger than Luke, in grade 4. Life at home is fairly strict; Amal's parents want their daughter to remember the old country, the old ways, and the traditional role of women and girls. [Amal means Hope.]

**Maria**, Luke's mama is determined to give her children a good life in Canada and left Guatemala to do that. During the war there, her 5 year old son was killed; after the war, she stepped on landmine and lost her foot. She is a strong and practical woman; the family relies on her strength.

### **The Set**

Most scenes take place in a small park near the school. There is a tree SR. Scene II takes place at Luke's home. (A table with table cloth is

placed SR.) Scene V takes place in the library. (The backs of 2 computer monitors are CS.)

### **Scene Synopsis**

**Scene I:** In the Park: Monday after school: Walking home from school, Luke and Amal discuss playground violence. Luke wants to do something about it, but feels helpless. Amal admits she's a bit frightened by it. Erin tells Luke to deliver a message to Amal. Magpie challenges Luke to take action. Luke decides to talk to his mother about the problem.

**Scene II:** At Luke's Apartment: Monday evening: Luke and his mother discuss democracy and violence; Luke learns some family history.

**Scene III:** In the Park: Tuesday after school: Luke tells Amal about his family history. Erin pushes Amal and threatens her. Magpie challenges Luke to use human tools for confronting the violence.

**Scene IV:** In the Park: Wednesday after school: Amal decides that she wants to start changing the school; Luke agrees to help her.

**Scene V:** In the Library: Amal and Luke discover a wealth of information about children taking action to create peaceful schools. Erin is curious about what they are learning.

**Scene VI:** In the Park: Magpie congratulates Luke on taking first steps toward change, then says farewell. Erin agrees to help Luke and Amal create change in their school.

### **Classroom Connections grades 4-5-6:**

Citizenship - self care, service, care for the planet

Greece - democracy

Global, national and local peace initiatives involving children

Natural history - magpies in Calgary

Canadian history - Canada as a peaceful democracy

Iroquois Confederacy - democracy; Tree of Peace

**Scene I: In the Park**

**Amal and Luke are walking home from school. Magpie is perched in the tree.**

Luke: Do you have much homework tonight, Amal?

Amal: Distracted No... yes... some...I guess...

Luke: What do you have? Have you started the Alberta history project yet? I thought that was cool when I did it in grade 4... Fort Calgary, Crowfoot, Poundmaker, pioneers and all that. I liked finding out about the people who were here before we came. Amal? Are you listening?

Amal: uh, yeah...about Poundmaker... Luke? Do you like going to school this year?

Luke: What do you mean? It's the same as the other years, isn't it? Amal, are you all right?

Amal: No, I'm not. I feel a bit scared. There is too much going on during recess this year.

Magpie: rrrrruuuuukkkkk rrrruuuukk - rrrruuuukk, rrrruuuukk - rrrruuuukk!

Luke: What do you mean?

Amal: Haven't you noticed, Luke? Ms. Jameson says this is "The Decade for a Culture of Peace for Children." But it's not like that, is it?

Luke: You think it's worse than last year?

Amal: Yes. Fighting. Name-calling. Teasing. Kids left out.

Luke: Well, I did notice the little groups forming up again.

Amal: And in the stair well, three big kids surrounded a little kid in grade 2. They were being mean to her. She was scared and crying.

Luke: What did you do?

Amal: I told the teacher on hall supervision.

Luke: Then what happened?

Amal: I don't know about the little kid, but when we lined up to go in after recess, Simon and Erin pushed me. They said they're going to get me for tattling.

*Angrily* Is it a Decade for Peace if people shove you at school, and if people are mean in the yard and on tv and in video games and everywhere!?

Luke: Are you all right, Amal?

Amal: Yeah. I guess so. But just don't tell my mom I was pushed, OK?(Puppets sit.)

Luke: Gee, I wish I could do something, but there's nothing we can do. We just have to live with it.

Amal: Maybe.

Luke: I mean, Amal, that's how the whole world is. Pause But at least it's not as bad here as it is in other countries.

Amal: Maybe not for some kids. ...Oh, I forgot! I promised mom I'd go straight home after school. Goodbye, Luke. *She rushes off.*

Luke: 'Bye! See you later!

Luke turns on his music, bops to the music on his head set.

Magpie: *to audience* Amal isn't the only one at the playground who doesn't like all that violence! Goodness! It's hard to hear myself think sometimes! At the magpie roundup last night we decided it's time for an intervention - it's time to talk human. Here goes.

*to Luke* Hey, human boy, what are you going to do about it?

Luke: Staring at the audience. Do? Nothing. I'm just a kid.

Magpie: Even a kid has the power to do something.

Luke: Suddenly looks around - takes off his head set. What? Where are you? Who are you?

Magpie: Up here. In the tree, Luke.

Luke: What? I'm talking to a bird?

Magpie: Magpie, to be exact. But you haven't answered my question.

Luke: But birds can't talk! You must be a hallucination.

Magpie: Nope.

Luke: Is there a ventriloquist around here or something? Come out!

Magpie: I am out, because this is serious.

Luke: A talking bird is serious?

Magpie leaves the perch.

Magpie: No, the violence and ostracism you and your friend were talking about.

Luke: Ostriches? We weren't talking about ostriches.

Magpie: No, I said ostracism. That's when a group decides on purpose to leave someone out. It's like ostriches sticking their heads in the sand. They pretend they don't see the person; they want the other person to feel invisible and worthless.

Luke: I didn't know there was a word for that.

Magpie: Ostracism.

Luke: Got it. But I don't think there's anything anyone can do about that or about pushing on the playground or any of it. That's just the way it is.

Magpie: You have a voice, don't you?

Luke: So? I may look big to you, but I'm only 11 years old and ... oh, what am I doing, talking to a bunch of feathers? Go away!

Magpie: I can't. I share this place with you and other "bunches of feathers." But, if humans are so wonderful, then do something. Communicate. Be creative. Use your power.

Luke: Yeah, right. None of this has anything to do with a kid. Kids don't have power.

Magpie: I bet that little girl in grade 2 wishes you had a different way of thinking about your power. It must be awful for kids like her who are scared, to see big kids like you standing there like dummies. Puppets with no strings!

Luke: Hey! Watch your beak. That was not very nice - or peaceful.

Magpie: You are right and I am sorry. Really. I apologize.

Magpie returns to the tree.

Luke: Apology accepted. But I don't need you to remind me of how we stand around and do nothing when we see mean things happening.

Magpie:  
Actually, you do need me to remind you.

Luke:  
I don't want to hear any more.

Erin enters.

Erin:  
*unpleasantly* Hey! Who were you talking to?

Luke: to Erin Uh, nobody, just thinking out loud. Looks at Magpie Dumb bird.

Erin: You are wrong as usual, Luke. I've read everything about magpies, and they're not dumb; they're smart, that's why I studied them. They're like crows, ravens and jays. They like bright, shiny things. Better watch out kid - a magpie might steal your keys! What else? Oh yes, they live in communities, they build a roof on their nests, and... they talk a lot!

Luke: Yeah, no kidding.

Erin: I'm not even finished. They can live 20 years. They are omnivorous like humans - that means they'll eat anything.

Luke: *tiredly* You know a lot.

Erin: I know! Now I will tell you all about the red-tailed hawk...

Luke: *uncomfortably* Maybe later, Erin, I...

Erin: Oh. Well that's not why I came here anyway, Bozo. *Threateningly* You tell your little friend Amal to mind her own business.

Luke: What do you mean?

Erin: She butted in where she shouldn't have. He moves ominously toward Luke. Do you understand? Tell her to butt out!

*Luke looks toward the audience but remains silent.*

Erin: Luke! I'm talking to you. Answer me when I talk to you.

Luke: I... I....

Erin: Tell her! *Erin exits. Luke crumbles to the ground.*

Luke: Oh no! Why did I let him do that? Why did I let him say all that? Why...

Magpie: *flies down to Luke* Are you all right?

Luke: Yes. No! I didn't know what to say.... groans I feel terrible. Poor Amal. But what could I say? What can I do? It's none of my business.

Magpie: Let me guess. You know in your heart that something isn't right, but you feel powerless and scared.

Luke: Maybe. Yes, you're right. How did you know that?

Magpie: Because I have a bird brain. It comes in very handy. Why don't you want to use your power, Luke?

Luke: Well I do, but... How can I? I feel so confused. *Luke sits on the edge of the stage.*

Magpie: My bird brain is telling me that we could use some help here. She moves in front of the stage and addresses audience.. Friends, if you think it is Luke's business when his friends are in trouble, please raise your wing. What do you think Luke could have said or done to show Erin that he had power?

*Allows 2 minutes for suggestions then returns to position behind the stage. Luke stands.*

Magpie: So, Luke, if it's not your business, then whose business is it?

Luke: I still don't really know.

Magpie: Luke, let me explain something. When a member of my kind is in trouble, we all get together and help them. Life isn't easy for a magpie, either. We deal with pesticides, ornery cats, hungry owls, humans... But - when one of us is attacked by a hawk, we magpies help each other. "Birds of a feather stick together." Why don't humans act like magpies?

Luke: I never thought of it like that.

Magpie: That's what I figured. What I think is that violence is everybody's business. See? Oh! Look at the sun! I have to fly. I have a date with a tasty bit of road kill on the TransCanada highway. I haven't eaten since the last time! Rrrrruuuuukkkkk!

*Magpie exits.*

Luke: sits CS Hmmm... the bird is right. *Pause* But I'm right, too. I'm just a kid. Kids who butt in can get hurt. I don't know what to do. But - -what if I could do something to make a difference and help Amal? *Pause.* I need to talk to my parents about this.

*Luke exits.*

**End of Scene I**

**Scene II: at Luke's Apartment Monday evening.**  
**Place table with table cloth.**

*Maria enters.*

Maria: *calling* Lucas? Did you tell me that you are studying citizenship and democracy at school?

*Luke enters.*

Luke: Si, Mama. excited to share his knowledge -- and delay his chore We are learning about the Iroquois Confederacy and their democracy.

Maria: Democracy. Bueno!

Luke: And there was a war but the Peacemaker and Hiawatha worked together and brought peace.

Maria: Peace! Bueno, Lucas.

Luke: And the people buried their weapons in the ground and then planted a pine tree. It is called the Great Tree of Peace.

Maria: You are a scholar, my son.

Luke: Thank you, Mama.

Maria: And with your good knowledge, I wonder if you could be a fine citizen of our democracy and set the table for dinner, por favor? The tortillas are almost ready.

Luke: Si... and when people came to this land, they learned about that idea of democracy and...

Maria: That is good. Democracy is good. Your human right to food is also good. Your responsibility in our family is also very, very good. So por favor, citizen, kindly set the table!

Luke: laughing You are funny, mama!

Maria: laughing You are funny, also, my son.

Luke: Mama? Could we just talk for a minute? I need to ask... I want to figure out... I don't know what to do.....

Maria: What is it? Are you all right?

*Maria and Luke sit CS.*

Luke: It's about fighting. At school.

Maria: Are you hurt?

Luke: No, no. It's not me. It's other kids at school. I see it, but I don't know what to do about it. Is it my business? What should I do? I don't know...

Maria: Lucas, it is time for me to tell you some things. About our family. About the our history. When you were 5 years old we came to this beautiful country to be safe. We came so we could live in peace.

Luke: Si, mama. I am glad for that.  
You see, all my life there was war in our country. It seemed like it would never end. My own sister, your auntie, was "disappeared." That means the soldiers took her away; we never knew what happened to her. Many people disappeared in those days. Your brother Carlos... before you were born, he died in the war, Lucas.

Luke: My brother was a soldier, mama?

Maria:  
No, he was in kindergarten. The men came into the village with guns...

Luke: I didn't know, mama.

Maria: That is why your papa looks sad and sometimes wakes in the night shouting.

Luke: Now I know.

Maria: Our families have always farmed, Lucas. We planted seeds for maize, tomatoes, peppers. That is good food for the body. Now we need to plant other seeds. Seeds for paz, for peace.

Luke: *thoughtfully* Seeds for peace...

Maria: I am happy to know about the Tree of Peace in this land. I feel better knowing about that. But now it is time to set the table for dinner!

Luke: Si, mama! And maybe at school I could plant some seeds...

*Maria and Luke exit. Table is removed.*

**End of Scene II.**

**Scene III: In the Park Tuesday**

**Magpie is perched in the tree. Amal and Luke are walking home from school.**

Amal: What did you do last night?

Luke: I got a history lesson from my mother.

Amal: Well, you do like history.

Luke: I like it, but I didn't like this very much. Could we sit down for a minute?

Amal: Sure.

*Amal and Luke sit.*

Luke: I had a brother named Carlos. He died before I was born, killed in the war.

Amal: Oh, Luke. Was your brother a soldier?

Luke: No. He was 5 years old, in kindergarten.

Amal: That's terrible.

Luke: I know. And, Amal... my mom has an artificial foot.

Amal: What happened to her foot?

Luke: After the war ended, mom was planting maize in our field. She stepped on a land mine. Left over, you see.

Amal: That is horrible. I guess after every war there are left-overs -- land mines, bombs, nightmares, stuff like that.

Luke: *slowly - he is thinking this through as he speaks* Yeah. And I guess in war there are bullies, too. ... And people who get hurt... And people who don't do anything to help... Bystanders....

Amal: Yes, but Luke, it's not like there's war on the playground here in Calgary. Even when kids act out violent television shows and video games ... less sure of herself but... hmmm...

*Erin enters. Amal stands up.*

Erin: So there you are, little miss goody-goody. Did your friend deliver my message to you?

Amal: What message?

Erin: This one! He pushes her down. Everyone is going to get along fine if you don't butt in!

*Erin exits, laughing.*

Luke: Standing up. Amal! Are you all right?

Amal: Yes. Standing up. But that is the very last time that he gets away with this. I am going to speak to my teacher tomorrow about him. And I am going to tell my mom, too.

Luke: Good idea, Amal.

Amal: Maybe it is all connected, Luke. Bullying and violence are wrong no matter who does it or how old they are. Even if kids say they're just playing. I've had enough. I'm going to talk to my teacher and my mother. And then....

Luke: And then what are you going to do?

Amal: I'm going to stop it. I'm going to change things.

Luke: What? You can't do that all by yourself. That could even be dangerous.

Amal: I know. That's why you are going to help me. Pause You will help me, won't you?

Magpie: rrrruuuuuuukkkkkkk rrrrrrruuuuuuuukkkkkkk

Luke: *looks at Magpie.* Of course I'll help you.

Amal: Well, come on, then.

Magpie: rrrruuuuuuukkkkkkk rrrrrrruuuuuuuukkkkkkk

Luke: You go ahead, I'll be right behind you.

*Amal exits.*

Luke: Now what?

Magpie: It's hard to understand humans, isn't it?

Luke: Yeah, even if you are one!

Magpie: What if you discovered that Amal isn't the only one who wants to change things? Could you ask other kids in your class what they think?

Luke: Maybe... There might be some who just haven't said anything, like me.

Magpie: Right. And could you look in the tree things and the yak boxes?

Luke: What are you talking about?

Magpie: Those tree things with marks. You flip the leaves and stare at the bird tracks. Sometimes there are pictures.

Luke: What? Oh! Books!

Magpie: And the yak boxes with light and pictures that move and talk. Sometimes there's music. Could you look there?

Luke: What? Oh! Television... and computers!

Magpie: Well, whatever they are called, Luke.

Luke: Sure I could do that. Wow. Thanks, Magpie.

Magpie: You are welcome. But Amal is waiting. Goodnight Luke.

Luke: Goodnight, Magpie!

*Luke exits.*

**End of Scene III**

**Scene IV: In the Park**

**Wednesday after school.**

**Luke is sitting near the tree; Magpie is perched in the tree.**

Magpie: Good morning, human.

Luke: *long, happy sigh* Another sunny new day and a shady tree. Life is good, eh Magpie?

*Amal enters.*

Amal: Hey, Luke! What are you doing?

Luke: Just sitting. I love this little park.

Amal: I'm feeling good, too. My mom wasn't even mad at me last night.

Luke: Good.

Amal: Luke, thanks for coming with me to talk to my teacher. That made it a lot easier. Now that she's going to arrange a meeting with Erin, I feel nervous, but kind of excited, too. What if... what if we could convince Erin that being mean is not cool?

Luke: Yeah, what if we could let him know that we are all birds of a feather?

Amal: Birds of a feather? Nice expression. But Luke, I've decided something.

Luke: What?

Amal: I've decided on the topic of my speech: Seeds of Peace: How to make a peaceful school. I got the idea from what your mom said.

Luke: That's a great idea, Amal. But... how are you going to write the speech since we don't have the foggiest idea how to make a peaceful school?

Magpie: rrrruuuuuuukkkkkk lookk rrrrrrruuuuuuuukkkkkkklookk

Amal: You know, sometimes I think that magpies can almost talk.

Luke: I guess anything is possible! Hey, maybe we could start with the yak box and the tree things...

Magpie: rrrruuuuuuukkkkkk lookk rrrrrrruuuuuuuukkkkkkklookk

Amal: I don't know what you mean, but Luke, you know how to do library and Internet research better than me. Come on, let's go - you can help me with that.

Luke: Sure. Let's go!

*Luke and Amal exit.*

Magpie: "We must be the change we want to see in the world." Gandhi said that. He proved that with that attitude, anything is possible!

Magpie exits.

**End of Scene IV**

**Scene V: in the Library**

**Computer monitors CS. Later that day. Amal and Luke are working on the computers.**

Amal: Hey, Luke Look at this! I found a boy in Ontario who started to change the world when he was 6 years old!

*Reading from the screen* There's a book about him, too...Ryan Hreljac... wells in Africa! Wow!

Luke: Cool. Reading from the screen I've got Craig Keilburger here. He started to change the world when he was 12... child labour... "Free the Children"...kids building schools... working for peace...Hey! any kid can join them!

Amal: That is fantastic. Here's one: [bullying.org](http://bullying.org) - an Alberta website! Kids can get help on this site. Perfect. I can talk about this in my speech, too! How do I bookmark this? Oh, yeah. I got it.

Luke: This is another one for your speech I think... Peaceful Schools International... this looks...

Amal: *Looks up at the clock.* Oh, no! I have to be home before mom gets home. I have to go. 'Bye, Luke. Thanks!

Luke: Sure. See you later!

*Amal exits. Erin enters.*

Erin: What are you doing, "Bozo"?

Luke: *confidently* I'm not Bozo. I'm Luke. Don't talk to me like that anymore. I deserve respect.

Erin: *surprised* Oh.

Luke: I'm helping Amal with a project. We've been finding out about kids on the web who are powerful.

Erin: *cynically* Oh yeah?

Luke: Yeah. They've got real power.

Erin: What real... power....?

Luke: Check it out yourself. I have to go now. See you around, Erin.

*Luke exits. Erin looks around, then sits at the computer and reads a moment.*

Erin: ...peacefulschoolsinternational.org .... hmmmmm I hate to admit it, but this looks interesting. Pauses to read screen I never thought of power this way before. I think I'll check this out at home on my laptop.

*Erin exits.*

**End of Scene V**

**Scene VI: In the park. Magpie enters and flies to the front of the stage.**

Magpie: *to audience* You know, most of us magpies do not understand the human race. For example, why are you called a "race"?

And second, why can't humans figure out this cycle of violence? If I don't like something you do, so I shove you, right? Then you shove me back. Then I shove you harder and it just keeps going around like that. If you try something and it doesn't work, why do you keep doing the same old thing over and over again?

It's bewildering trying to help humans, but don't worry. We won't give up on you.

Now, you look like a specially bright flock of humans. I bet you have some ideas about making peace in your school.

•

If one human has trouble, for example, they get shoved, what ideas do you have for pulling together like birds? (Extra prompt: Can you think of a problem that happens at school sometimes?)

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Do you have success stories for solving problems that you could share? Ideas and stories are invited from the audience. This is an opportunity for children to share their own ideas and experiences. *Allow 5 minutes.*

Magpie: Thank you for sharing your ideas and stories.

Luke enters.

Magpie: Hi! What's up?

Luke: I've been thinking.

Magpie: Good! I've just been listening to some great thoughts from everyone here, too! I love it when humans think!

Luke: Ha, ha. Very funny.

Magpie and Luke sit on the stage.

Luke: Magpie, we searched "peaceful schools" on a yak box. I found programs like Peer Mediation and Team Heroes.

Magpie: Good for you.

Luke: Amal found a great story about kids standing up for each other on the playground.

Magpie: What happened?

Luke: This is. The kid's classmate saw her in trouble. She stood quietly nearby and put her arm out, like this. It was a signal.

Magpie: That's innovative.

Luke: Another student noticed, went over, and held out his arm, too. Then other kids joined in. No one said a word, they just stood nearby, waiting.

Magpie: What did the bullies do?

Luke: That's the great thing. They got embarrassed, stopped and went away.

Magpie: No one got hurt. No one was humiliated but the bullying stopped. Peace was the winner.

Luke: Yeah. Then we found an awesome story about a woman in Nova Scotia. Her son died.

Magpie: What happened?

Luke: Her name is Hetty van Gorp. Her son Ben was 13. A school bully tormented him. One day, Ben was watching a basketball game. The bully rushed in and hip-checked him.

Magpie: And then?

Luke: Ben fell to the floor and began bleeding inside. He died.

Magpie: shocked He died?

Luke: Yeah.

Magpie: That is terrible.

Luke: I know. After that, she devoted her life to peace for kids. She wrote books, travelled around the world meeting other peace teachers. Hetty van Gorp teaches peace the way others teach math or science.

Magpie: That's brilliant.

Luke: It's way cool. I think there's a peace revolution going on, Magpie. I mean, I think there is a big, big change taking place in how people think.

Magpie: I believe that, too. And are you going to join this peace revolution?

Luke: For sure. There was great information in the tree things and yak boxes.

Magpie: Now you're talking! Soon you'll start thinking like a magpie.

Luke: Maybe! Anyway, there are millions of humans in the peace revolution.

Magpie: Yeah. Pause Luke, I admire humans very much when you try to work things out. You can actually make progress that way.

Luke: I think you are right. Humans do have to see things differently. It would be great to think like a bird or a tree or a river...

Magpie: Will you take some magpie advice?

Luke: Of course.

Magpie: "Birds of a feather stick together," remember. Making peaceful change in your school is hard work, but it's fun with a team. Build a team, Luke. *To audience* Build a team, kids. I'll be watching out for all of you. And Luke?

Luke: Yes?

Magpie: Good luck.

Luke: That sounds like farewell. Are you going away?

Magpie: Luke, I'll always be around, but we only speak human in emergencies. The emergency is over - you know you have power now. I'm proud of you.

Luke: Thanks, Magpie. Pause I'll miss you a lot.

Magpie: I won't be far away. But right now I'm starving. I'm going to grab a doughnut from the dumpster at Tim Horton's. Adios. rrrrruuuukkkkk rrrruuukk - rrrruuuk!!

*Magpie exits.*

Luke: Adios, Magpie. Gracias, amiga!

*Erin enters.*

Erin: Hi Luke! Who are you talking to? *He looks around.* You talking to the tree?

Luke: No, but that's not a bad idea.

Erin: Do you have a fever, Luke?

Luke: You wouldn't believe me if I told you, Erin.

Erin: When I went home last night I checked out that website.

Luke: Peaceful Schools International?

Erin: Yes. And others, too. I never really....

Luke: ....thought of it that way before?

Erin: Yeah. It really is a new way of thinking about power.

Luke: Do you think if we started to make changes at school that you could help?

Erin: You want me to help you?

Luke: Yes. Amal is writing a speech and ...

Erin: A speech? I am so terrific at making speeches you wouldn't even believe it!

Luke: Actually, Erin, yes, I would. Pause. Hey! maybe we can start with the "pillars of citizenship," we learned about. Remember? 1. We care for ourselves and know what we need to feel safe.

Erin: 2. We care for others - like helping Amal make an important speech that might get other kids thinking, too.

Luke: 3. We care for this place - our city, province, country - and the people and magpies who live here.

Erin: 4. We remember that our country believes in peace: "peace, order and good government." Hey! I didn't know that you were a thinker, but you are.

Luke: Just trying out my bird brain, Erin. But I guess our first step is that meeting with Amal and her teacher, right? Are you ready?

Erin: Yes. Let's go. It's time for a change.

*They exit.*

The End.

