



You never turned in any homework...



THE PUNISHER



the BAIT & SWITCH

Let's have an algebra party!



The Speed Demon



THE COOL KID



The Creeper



Oooh... Excellent work, Sally.

I've got my eyes on you

The BULLY



BAD Teacher

10 schoolhouse terrors—and how to survive 'em

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You've been counting down the days 'til you get your new class list, but when you finally have it, the dread sets in: Your sched is stacked with all sorts of terrible teachers, and just the sight of their names makes you wanna skip school before it even starts. Instead of playing hooky, pick yourself up by your hook bag and deal, babe. We're showing you how.

HOMEROOM

Roll call with The Cutie

THE M.O. It's not his fault he's the second coming of Ryan Gosling, but couldn't Teach make an effort to be less gorgeous at 8 a.m.? You've got homework to finish!

THE STRATEGY Bring a napkin to wipe the drool off your chin and study on, chica. Yep, he's pretty much the dreamiest dude in the school district, but the bottom line is that he's a teacher (and an adult) and you're his student (and a minor). Flirting with him will do nothing more than toss ya in a super sticky situation—and possibly cost him his job. Erase those feelings and forget about his fine blue eyes. It's time to crush on someone else.

1ST PERIOD

Shakespeare with The Scatterbrain

THE M.O. Even if you glued your essay to this teacher's forehead, he'd still misplace it. You swear you handed it in, but if ya can't prove it, there goes a pile of points.

THE STRATEGY Print an extra copy of every major assignment to keep in your folder, then email the final doc to yourself—it's a great idea to back up your work anyway, and now you can access it wherever you are. And, ask him to initial your assignment pad when you turn something in. Tell him your parents are requesting it of all your teachers so they can track your workload. This way, you can prove you did, in fact, hand in that essay on *Hamlet*. And, hey, if he needs another copy, you've got one handy!

2ND PERIOD

Phys Ed with The Punisher

THE M.O. "Drop and give me 20" is a constant refrain from this rope-climbing warrior. She's got so many rules, you can hardly keep them straight—and at this rate, you'll be sore 'til next summer.

THE STRATEGY It's time to kick your sweat sesh into high gear. Sure, she's being hard on you, but chances are this drill sergeant will tone it down if she sees you're actually trying in her class. So stop "forgetting" your gym clothes, pull out the stops during your sprints and ask her for tips on upping your agility for tryouts. We bet she's got a lot of knowledge—and, sigh, drills—she'd love to share.

3RD PERIOD

Chemistry with The Creeper

THE M.O. Every time this teacher leans over your lab station, he comes a little bit too close and lingers a li'l bit too long. He's never said anything overtly inappropriate, but still. Shiver.

THE STRATEGY Be polite but firm: "Would you mind taking a step back? You're casting a shadow on my desk," or, "I've got a cold and I don't want you to get sick. Could you back up a bit, please?" If you're still feeling uncomfortable in his presence or he's not taking a hint, go straight to your school counselor. Without being accusatory, express how his actions—putting his hand on your shoulder, watching you leave the room—make you feel icky. Hopefully, your counselor can intervene and tell him how his behavior is affecting your learning environment. You should feel safe at school, not like you need to escape your educator.

4TH PERIOD

Algebra with The Bait & Switch

THE M.O. This teacher is a total math blaster—you never knew that numbers could be so fun! But when you scan the first test, it's like you haven't learned anything... at least nothing you're gonna be graded on.

THE STRATEGY Grab your class notes and your latest test, stop by her desk after class and say, "I'm confused. I've been trying to take really good notes this year, but none of the questions on this test are in my notebook. I know the exact problems will be different, but I couldn't even start them. Where did I go wrong?" Then, schedule a tutoring session with her after school so you can get caught up on the theories you need to know. Also ask if she could let your class know when you're learning something you'll be tested on, so you can highlight it in your notes and pay closer attention to it while studying.

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BAD TEACHER

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5TH PERIOD Lunch with 'The Cool Kid'

THE M.O. Every day, this lunch monitor pops by your caf table to chat with you and your gals, which is OK...until she hops the train to Awkwardville.

THE STRATEGY Not so comfy chatting it up with a so-called authority figure? Kindly get yourself out of the convo—in the most polite way possible. Chat for a few minutes, and then crack the escape hatch with a cheerful, “It’s so nice talking to you, Miss Howard, but we’ve really got to get to work on our civics project.” If she continues to hang around, take out your notebooks and pencils and actually get to work. Once it’s clear the gabfest has gone belly up, she’ll find another crew to talk to.

6TH PERIOD Spanish with 'The Speed Demon'

THE M.O. It’s like this señora is on a race against the clock. *Vámanos!*

THE STRATEGY Shut her down. The next time she asks a question, apologize and say you’re still having trouble with conjugating the irregular verb, and could she please go over it again. Be clear about what’s throwing you for a loop. And if you’re still not seeing a change? Rally the troops, chiquita. Take a couple classmates with you to the head of the department and tell her about the

issues all of you are having. One student falling behind is typical, but a class-full indicates a larger problem.

7TH PERIOD Study hall with 'The Bully'

THE M.O. The minute he took roll call and stopped at your name with that malicious smile on his face, you started to worry. You’ve heard of teacher’s pets, but teacher’s target? This is ridiculous.

THE STRATEGY Brush off little things—like constantly being told to stop talking even though everyone else is—as minor annoyances and do as you’re told. But if this Snape-like prof’s behavior makes you feel humiliated, attacked or worthless, you need to open up to a parent. Say, “I know this sounds silly, but my study hall teacher makes me feel bad about myself. Will you come with me to talk to my counselor about changing my schedule?” Then follow through. Swapping study halls, starting an independent study with a different teacher or rearranging a few classes should be doable.

8TH PERIOD History with 'The Homework Addict'

THE M.O. They don’t make binders big enough for the papers you’re pushing for this period. You’d complain, but you’ve gotta run—she assigned one chapter, two primary sources and three pages of reading comprehension questions.

THE STRATEGY Do your research: Many school districts are imposing homework limits for teachers to follow based on the grade they’re teaching, so make sure she’s not overstepping those boundaries. Your school doesn’t have guidelines? Consider launching a campaign with your classmates. Record how much homework you’re given for each class and how long it takes you to complete it each night, then present the findings to your principal. In the meantime, speak with your teacher to find out if there is any part of the assignment you should prioritize, and brush up on your speed-reading skills (head to girlslife.com/iti for our tips).

9TH PERIOD Art with 'The A+ Avoider'

THE M.O. Rumor has it this teacher refuses to give perfect grades, even to your school’s painting prodigy. His reason: It’ll motivate you to work harder.

THE STRATEGY Ask Professor Perf for his opinion of your work and then for some advice on mastering a certain technique, whether it’s controlling your vibrato in chorus or shaping the handle of a mug in ceramics. Outright inquire about what it would take to get a top grade, then follow those instructions to the letter. Practice, practice, practice and perform at 100 percent every class. Then, be happy with the end result instead of focusing on the final grade. After all, nobody’s perfect. ✿

TERRIBLE TEACHER HALL OF FAME

And you thought YOU had it bad...



Professor Umbridge
(*Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*) This Ministry crony’s presence sends *HP* fans running.



Mrs. Krabappel (*The Simpsons*) Does she enjoy teaching? Ha! Still, we have a soft spot for this brassy cartoon dame.



Sue Sylvester (*Glee*) As soon as we think the track-suited cheer coach has a heart, she rediscovers the bully within.



Ezra Fitz (*Pretty Little Liars*) Somewhere between a second helping of cake and dating a student, there’s a line, Mr. Fitz.



Charlie Brown’s Teacher (*Peanuts*) Um, excuse us? What was that? “Wah wah wah wah wah wahhh.” Sigh.