Ableism Role Plays

Ableism Role Play #1
Characters (4): Isabelle (4 lines), Lucy (3 lines), Sylvester (1 line), Max (1 line)
Setting: Grocery store parking lot
Staging: Jenna and Lucy are in a car together, Sylvester and Max are in a car together

Isabelle: Ugh, I hate the Sunday rush at the grocery store. I can’t find any spots!
Lucy: It’s fine Isabelle, one will show up. Let’s just circle around again.
Isabelle: I’m just going to pull in here really quickly, it will only be for a minute.
Lucy: Is that okay Isabelle? We don’t have an accessible parking hanger and someone might need it.
Isabelle: It’s fine! It will just be for a little bit. No one will care.
Isabelle (drives into an accessible parking spot)
Sylvester and Max are in the car next to Isabelle
Sylvester: Hey! We need that spot. (waves accessible parking hanger)
Isabelle ignores them and keeps walking
Max: I can’t just use any spot. The accessible spots give me space to lower my chair onto the ground.
Lucy: Isabelle! We need to move. We will have to wait for another one. It’s not fair for us to use it when we don’t have a need. Let’s just park on the street.
Isabelle: Whatever. Fine. (slams door)

Ableism Role Play #2
Characters (4): Rami (2 lines), Kevin (1 line), Taylor (3 lines), Ali (3 lines)
Setting: School hallway
Staging: All four students are standing next to each other. Rami is bouncing a basketball.

Ali: How was the game last night? I heard you beat Ridgewood. They had it coming!
Taylor: Our school is so lucky to have you as a captain, Rami. You’re going to make us champions!
Ali: Woo!! Go cougars!!
Rami: Last night was insane guys! We really creamed the other team. I made the winning shot and the crowd went mental!!! Can’t believe you all missed it. (points at Taylor and Ali)
Kevin: Yeah, the other team was so retarded. They didn’t know what hit ‘em when we got onto the court. We dominated!
Taylor: Awesome that you won and did so well, but I don’t really like the words you’re using.
Rami: What words? What’s wrong with you? We are trying to celebrate here and you’re bringing us down.
Taylor: Words like insane, mental, and retarded are all words that used to describe people with disabilities. When people use those words, they mean it as a bad thing. When you keep using those words it shows that society thinks of people with disabilities as negative.
Ali: Those words really hurt people with disabilities. We should all be more aware of our language so that we create an accepting and inclusive school.
Ableism Role Play #3
Characters (4): Paul (3 lines), Michel (1 line), Soo (3 lines), Caroline (2 lines)
Setting: Classroom
Staging: All four students are sitting at desks.

Paul: Do you guys think we will have a pop quiz today?
Michel: I don’t know, Mr. Jones likes to surprise us every once in a while.
Soo: Yeah, that would really suck if we had one today. I forgot to do the reading!
Caroline: Oh no, oh no, oh no me too! Oh no! What if we have one? I didn’t bring my lucky pencil!
Paul: What are you, OCD or something? Stop freaking out, it’s making me nervous.
Soo: Stop it Paul, that’s not a nice thing to say.
Paul: Lay off. It was only a joke.
Soo: OCD is short for obsessive compulsive disorder. It’s a real thing that people have. When you say use it like
that you minimize their experience and make their disability a joke.
Caroline: Thanks for sticking up for me, Soo. Even though I don’t have OCD, I really appreciate it.

Ableism Role Play #4
Characters (4): Leah (4 lines), Charlie (2 lines), Jordan (1 line), Sam (3 lines)
Setting: Mall
Staging: Charlie and Jordan are working at the store, Leah and Sam are shopping

Leah: Do you think this would look cute on me? I want a new dress for my birthday.
Sam: Yeah, you should go try it on!
Leah to Charlie and Jordan: Excuse me, could you please unlock the accessible dressing room?
Charlie: It’s not available.
Leah: Why not?
Jordan: We use that one to store extra hangers and mannequins.
Charlie: Why do you need it? You don’t look like you have a disability.
Sam: Not every disability is visible, and she shouldn’t have to explain herself to you. You need to make your
store more accessible!
Leah: Let’s go. It’s not worth it.
Sam: Let’s go to another store that’s more inclusive. I’m sure we will find a great new dress for you.