

EXTERIOR. SCHOOL YARD AFTER LUNCH. THOMAS EDISON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

Megan: protagonist. Age: 6 smart, pretty, tall, skinny, funny, friendly, assertive girl.

MEGAN (V.O.)

Recess time. I don't have any friends, here yet. It's my first day of school, real school that is. Last year, I was in kindergarten. We basically did nothing but: finger paint, sing songs, listen to the teacher while she read us storybooks, ate graham crackers, drank milk and took naps. It was OK, but why bother. I could have done all that stuff at home. And saved my Mom the trouble. This summer we moved into a bigger house, it needs fixing up, Dad's doing most all of that, my brothers and me are helping out, too. But it's got a big front-yard and a huge oak tree in the backyard.

CUT TO:

FRONT OF SCHOOL.

BACK TO: SCENE.

MEGAN/PEANUT

So now I'm here, at Thomas Edison Elementary. Mom will still bring me back and forth everyday, she works from home, she's very industrious. She sells stuff like: Sarah Coventry and Tupperware, so we can have extras, she says. And she sews for women, that can't find clothes off the rack. I always help her out, when she asks me. And best of all, she sews all my clothes. Except for my jeans, she'd rather buy them, she says it's easier. So I don't have to wear those baby doll clothes. Like what they're wearing.

CUT TO:

GIRLS PLAYING.

MEGAN

How are you suppose to play, wearing clothes like that. I'd pass out from the heat, alone. I've played some of these games though, like: double dutch, but that gets boring, jumpin' up-and-down and four corners. Look at that, she only got her out, so she can get her friend in, where's the sport in that. Bamboo dance is kinda fun. Except when your ankle gets caught, then you get a big bruise. But, I'm very athletic and competitive. That's what my whole family says. I play jacks, too. But that's for indoors. I'm really good at those, too.

CUT TO:

BOYS PLAYING.

MEGAN (CONT'D) (O.S.)

My favorite game is marbles. And I know none of these girls have ever touched, let alone played marbles.

CUT TO:

Megan standing at the edge of the girl's side school yard, about to run over to the boys playing marbles.

Amy enters. Age: 5 smart, pretty, petite, funny, very talkative, girly-girl.

AMY

Hi! You're new here, aren't you?

MEGAN

Yes. I went to St. Mary's for kindergarten. But we moved and Mom says it's too far. So I come here now. She says this is a good school. Even though it's not Catholic. But we don't go to church anymore, anyway. (pause) I'm Megan.

AMY

I'm Amy. Nice to meet you. I saw you in the cafeteria, at lunchtime. I'm in first grade. Mrs. Noland is my teacher.

MEGAN

I'm in first grade, too. Miss Rollins, is my teacher.

AMY

We're right across the hall from each other. I like your outfit. It's cool. Like what my older sister wears. She's in junior high now.

AMY (CONT'D)

(pointing to Megan's pouch)

What's in there?

Megan grabs her bag of marbles, tied to her belt loop.

MEGAN

This! My marbles. Do you play?

AMY

Marbles! What's marbles?

MEGAN

(talking to camera)

See, what did I tell you.

BACK TO: SCENE

MEGAN (CONT'D)

You don't know what marbles are! I'll show you. Open your hand.

CUT TO:

Megan unties her pouch, opens it, reaches in and pulls out a marble, places it gently in the palm of Amy's hand. Amy gently rolls the marble in her palm, looking at it carefully.

MEGAN (CONT'D)

That's called a cat-eye. Hold it up to the light and you can see what I'm talking about.

CUT TO:

Amy puts the marble between her two fingers. Then holds it up and spinning it around, between her fingers.

AMY

Yes, I can see it. It's pretty. So what do you do with them?

MEGAN

I'll tell you later. Right now, I'm gonna go over there and play, with them.

AMY

What about this one? Don't you need it?

MEGAN

No, it's OK. You can have it.

CUT TO:

Megan runs toward the gang of boys, playing marbles.

BACK TO SCENE

AMY

(shouting)

Megan you're not suppose to go over there.

CUT TO:

Megan turning around, still running and shouting to Amy.

MEGAN

Why not?

BACK TO: SCENE.

AMY

Cause it's the boys side. And girls can't play with them.

CUT TO:

Megan approaching the boys' side of the yard.

MEGAN

(shouting and turning)

Why not? I play with boys all the time. And I win, too.

AMY (O.S.)

Megan come back! You're gonna be in big trouble!

CUT TO:

EXTERIOR. SCHOOL YARD, BOYS SIDE. BOYS PLAYING MARBLES.

ADAM: Age: 6 group leader, cool, very athletic, competitive, handsome (sat down playing)

TONY: Age 5 Adam's best friend, practical joker, chilled-out (standing bent over, not playing)

CHARLIE: Age 5 nerdy (bent over, not playing watching quietly)

JACOB: Age 5 squat down, follower (not playing, watching quietly)

WILLIAM: Age: 5, class clown (sat down playing)

TED: Age 6, intellectual, handsome (sat down playing)
ANDY: Age 6 chubby, strong (easy-going sat down playing)

TONY
Smack it! Adam. Come on!

ADAM
I'm gonna knock that cluster of
yours and bust this whole thing up.
And all these - gonna be mine.

CUT TO:

ADAM SHOOTING.

MEGAN
(very confident)
You're not gonna knock anything,
anywhere.

CUT TO:

MEGAN. ALL BOYS TURN AND LOOK.

BOYS
Hey! What are you doin' over here.

WILLIAM
Yeah! This is the boys side.

TED
No girls allowed.

ANDY
You better go back. Cause if you
don't, you're gonna get it.

ADAM
Go play jump rope, over there with
the girls, where you belong.
Marbles is for boys only.

MEGAN
No it's not! Bet I can put all of
you out. With what I've got.

TED
Put us out! With what?

WILLIAM
You're just a girl. You don't even
know how to play.

MEGAN

Yes I do. And by the looks of things, I'm better than you.

CUT TO:

Megan reaches for her pouch, looks in it and pulls out a steel aggie.

MISS ROLLINS: mid 20s, average build, smart, by-the-book, rigid, snobbish, know-it-all

BACK TO SCENE.

ADAM

Hey! Where did you get that? Who gave it you?

MEGAN

Nobody gave it to me. I won it, fare and square! From beating a boy, just like you.

CUT TO:

Miss Rollins' mouth as she enters the scene.

MISS ANNETTE ROLLINS

Megan Rendon, you should not be over here! This side is for the boys. Back to the girl's side for you, young lady!

CUT TO:

Miss Rollins grabs Megan by the arm and pulls her away.

BACK TO: SCENE

All the boys watch Miss Rollins take Megan away and laugh.

TONY

Adam you think she can play?

WILLIAM

No way! She don't know how to play. She probably found it somewhere and don't know to do with it.

CUT TO:

Adam intently watches Megan as Miss Rollins drags her back across the school yard.

CUT TO:

Megan looking back at Adam, defiant.

ADAM

Yeah you're probably right. . . But I'd really love to get that aggie of hers.

Sound: SCHOOL BELL RINGS. END OF RECESS.

CUT TO:

Megan and Miss Rollins change direction and enter through the front of the school. The other children file in and enter through their respective sides.

INTERIOR. AFTER SCHOOL. OUTSIDE-PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE.

Megan is sat quietly, in front of the principal's secretary's desk.

SYLVIA RENDON: Age mid 30s, average build, intelligent, hard working, economical, good manager, easy-going, adaptable

CHARLES DURANT: Age early 50s, very tall, average build, intelligent, efficient, rule bender, fair-minded, athletic, no BS.

SYLVIA RENDON (O.S.)

So. . . it's OK for girls and boys to play together anywhere on the school yard, after school. But after lunch, girls and boys cannot play together. . . It's ridiculous: boys one side and girls on the other. Honestly! It won't be long when all of this will be, a thing of the past.

MISS ANNETTE ROLLINS (O.S.)

But it's for Megan's own protection. Boys play too rough.

SYLVIA RENDON (O.S.)

You're telling me, Miss Rollins. I have five boys, age 13 to 16, at home. When they play rough, Megan has the sense to know it's time leave them alone.

CHARLES DURANT (O.S.)

It's the school board rules, Miss Rendon. And I have to abide by them. Or I'll be trouble.

SYLVIA RENDON (O.S.)

I know you're just doing what you're suppose to . . .

(MORE)

SYLVIA RENDON (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Well it's not worth anyone,
jeopardizing their job. (pause)
I'll tell Megan that she's not
allowed to play with the boys. But
I can't guarantee that it won't
happen again. Playing with boys is
what she's use to.

MISS ANNETTE ROLLINS (O.S.)

Mrs. Rendon, might I suggest. . .
Perhaps, Megan should try to make
friends with, more appropriate
playmates, with girls, at least
here at school.

SYLVIA RENDON (O.S.)

Miss Rollins, you have no children.
And now you're giving advice on
child-rearing. My daughter will
make friends with whomever she
wants to. She is simply not
accustomed to playing girl's games.
That's all. You really need to
stick to your job, teaching
children. Cause that's what you're
getting paid for.

CHARLES DURANT (O.S.)

Look. It's Megan's first day and
her first time, in this sort of
situation. Let's give her a break.

SYLVIA RENDON (O.S.)

Fair enough. Thank you Mr. Durant.
Good-by. . . I'll be going now.

Megan twirls the piece of candy in her hand, that Mrs. Francis just gave her, then puts it in her pocket. Sylvia opens the office door, walks out of the office, closes the door. Then approaches Megan and stands next to her. She extends her hand to help Megan with her school bag.

MISS FRANCIS: principal's secretary, 50s, heavy build,
polite, calm, good with children

SYLVIA RENDON (CONT'D)

Let's go, honey!

Megan hands her mother, her school bag. Megan picks up her lunch box, stands up and holds her mother's hand.

SYLVIA RENDON (CONT'D)

(talking to the
principal's secretary)
Good-by, Mrs. Francis. And thanks
for looking after Megan.

MRS. FRANCIS

She's no trouble at all. Very well behaved. I gave her a piece of candy. Hope you don't mind.

SYLVIA RENDON

No, not at all.

MEGAN

Bye, Mrs. Francis! Thank you. See you tomorrow.

Megan and Sylvia exit.

MRS. FRANCIS

Good-by.

EXTERIOR. LATER. GIRLS' SIDE OF SCHOOL YARD.

Megan and her Mom exit the school and walk past a gang of boys, leaning on the fence, laughing and talking.

WILLIAM

Good-by, Megan!

Megan and Sylvia pause briefly just before exiting through the gate, near where the boys are stood.

SYLVIA RENDON

Good-by, boys! . . . Honey isn't he one of your friends?

Megan and Sylvia continue walking to the car parked close by.

MEGAN

No, he isn't. Please, can I tell you in the car.

SYLVIA RENDON

All right then.

INSIDE SYLVIA'S CAR. LATER. DRIVING HOME.

Megan and Sylvia sit in silence for awhile.

SYLVIA RENDON

So, what happened with that boy, Megan, the one that told you good-by?

MEGAN

I don't even know his name. Don't know how he knows mine, cause I've never told him and I don't like him.

SYLVIA RENDON

Why? Has he done something to you?

MEGAN

No.

SYLVIA RENDON

Why then?

MEGAN

He was one of the boys that I was trying to play marbles with. And when I went up to them and told them how I can beat them and showed them my steel aggie. They all said that I should scram. That one, he told me that, "I'm just a girl, and I don't know how to play marbles, anyway." Just wait I'll show him. When I'm done beating him, he won't have one marble left in that ugly ol' pouch of his.

SYLVIA RENDON

I know all that made you mad. Cause I've seen you play marbles. And you're a straight shooter. But just ignore him. He's never come across a girl like you. And he doesn't know how to act. You have to excuse people like that. They say things in ignorance, that they really shouldn't.

MEGAN

Ignorance? What does that mean, Mom?

SYLVIA RENDON

That's when you don't know or understand something, but you comment about it anyway. Its best not to say anything, at all, when you're not sure.

MEGAN

Cause you're gonna be wrong?

SYLVIA RENDON

Yes. And look like a fool. He doesn't even know you, or what you can and can't do. . . You and Timmy can play together.

MEGAN

So, I can't play with the boys at school anymore. MOM.

(MORE)

MEGAN (CONT'D)

But last year all the kids, we played together all time.

SYLVIA RENDON

I know, then it was OK. But that was kindergarten, and this is first grade. It's my fault, I'm sorry. I should have told you. But it didn't even come across my mind. I've never experienced this kind of thing before. And back in my home, I went to a private school, girls and boys always played together, but that wasn't in America.

MEGAN

Why is it wrong, now? What's different? We're just in first grade, that's all.

SYLVIA RENDON

Yes honey, you're right. But the school has certain rules that have to be followed. And not playing with boys at recess is one of them. I know it's silly. But please, for both our sakes follow the rule.

MEGAN

But Mom.

SYLVIA RENDON

You'll find some fun and adventurous girl like yourself, to play with. Maybe you can find one that even likes to play marbles.

EXT/INT. THE RENDON'S DRIVEWAY - CONTINUOUS.

Megan and her Mom, reach their house. Sylvia, pulls into the driveway, parks the car and turns the engine off.

MEGAN

OK, I'll try. But it ain't gonna be easy, Mom. Those girls are so prissy. Have you seen how they dress?

SYLVIA RENDON

It's NOT GOING to be easy. I know. That's the kind of clothes they like. But you will do your best, Megan.

MEGAN

Yeah! I will. I can't believe all those girls like to dress like that.

SYLVIA RENDON

But you can play with the boys after school. You won't have much time though. Cause I need to get back home to get our dinner ready.

MEGAN

Yeah Mom. I can do that.

SYLVIA RENDON

That's all I ask.

Sylvia leans over and gives Megan a hug and a kiss.

INTERIOR. EVENING. RENDON'S HOUSE-FAMILY SAT AT THE DINNER TABLE, EATING.

FELIX: mid 30s, father, tallish, average build, hard worker, ship's bursar, dependable, very involved in the family, smart DIY, meticulous, perfectionist, fair

CHESTER/SPEEDY: Age 16, brother, tall, eldest, leader, serious, kind, smart, athlete.

ALBERT/EINSTEIN: Age 15, brother, average build, intellectual, studious, lieutenant, a bit of a loner

JOHN/PETE: Age 14, brother, average height, slight build, identical twin, smart, practical joker, obnoxious at times, girl crazy

JOSEPH/REPETE: Age 14, brother, average height, slight build, identical twin, not as smart, very talented musician, quiet, sensitive

ROBERT/BOBBY: Age 13, brother, tall and thin, not as smart, talkative, fun-loving, very organized

Chester, John, Robert and Megan get along well.

MEGAN (V.O.)

And this is the rest of my family. Dad's home, on vacation from work, but soon he has to go back. He takes vacation, when school is out. He works on a ship and travels all over the world, to so many exciting places. I keep track of them on my map, in my room. We write to him all the time and he sends us beautiful postcards, from all these faraway places. We, all us kids that is, get called by nicknames at home. If they call you by your real name, then you're in trouble and everybody else knows it, too. That's my oldest brother Chester, we call him Speedy. Cause he's real fast.

(MORE)

MEGAN (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Always running through the house. He wants to be in the Olympics, the 50 yard dash. He's gonna be the fastest man in the world, one day. He's also really good at playing chess. I just watch, when him and Mark, his friend play, for now. One day, I'll learn it, too. And this is Albert, also as known as Einstein, we're all smart kids, but he's got the best grades. Straight As from day one, never a B. Since I'm in first grade now, I'll be giving him a run for his money. That's John and Joseph, they are, . . .you guessed it identical twins, so we call them Pete and Repete. Dad nicknamed them. They both play music: trumpet and the other, two saxophones, he's really good at it. Pete wants to play classical and Repete, well he says, "The sax is to jazz, what the guitar is to rock n' roll." And last, but not least is, Robert but we also call him Bobby, so he has two nicknames. He's our family organizer. Anything special that needs to be done he helps arrange it. Vacations, parties and the barbecue every Saturday night, rain or shine. Oh! And we call him Chiclets, cause Dad said ever since he learned to chew gum, without swallowing it, he's always wants Chiclets gum. He says he likes the peppermint taste and the box, cause it's flat, easy to put in your pocket and the gum doesn't fall out of it. But when he clicks it. Like now. Mom just gives him the eye, and out with it.

END OF VOICE OVER

JOSEPH/PETE BRO #3

. . . so he lets out a huge one, right in front of the class!

Everyone laughing loudly. Laughter fades.

FELIX RENDON

So how was your first day, in the first grade Peanut?

MEGAN/PEANUT

It was OK. Miss Rollins, my teacher told us that the school is named after the man that invented the light bulb, Thomas Alvar Edison. The ones shaped like a pear, that is, not the long skinny ones, that glow. Like the ones up in the ceiling, in the classroom.

ALBERT/EINSTEIN BRO. #2

Those are fluorescent lamps.

MEGAN/PEANUT

And lots more kids. In kindergarten we all fit in one classroom. But now, they're three first grade classrooms.

FELIX RENDON

Remember your Mom and I told you.

MEGAN/PEANUT

Yes, you did. But they have stupid rules, too.

CHESTER/SPEEDY BRO. #1

Stupid rules . . . Like what?

MEGAN/PEANUT

Like the girls and boys, can't play together. There's a girl's side and a boy's side. And there's a big pavement in between, to separate us. And the girls, they don't even want to play with the boys.

ROBERT/CHICLETS BRO. #5

What's the big pavement for?

MEGAN/PEANUT

I don't know. I didn't see anyone playing on it today. But I'm going to ask around and find out.

ALBERT/EINSTEIN

It's probably for the older kids.

MEGAN/PEANUT

No it's not. All the kids were playing, but on opposite sides of the big pavement. Did any of you have that at your elementary schools?

BOYS

No.

FELIX RENDON

They went to a boys only school,
for elementary.

CHESTER/SPEEDY

Maybe it's for group sports. The
big pavement.

MEGAN/PEANUT

What's group sports?

CHESTER/SPEEDY

That's when you play on teams. And
you have a coach - one of the
teachers, in charge of everything.

MEGAN/PEANUT

Mom, when do we play in teams?

SYLVIA RENDON

I don't know, honey? You'll have to
ask.

MEGAN/PEANUT

Well, it won't be, Miss Rollins,
coaching that's, for sure. Cause I
don't think she plays any kind of
sports. She's too prissy.

Everyone laughs. Laughter fades.

MEGAN/PEANUT (CONT'D)

She's the one that dragged me away
from the boys playing marbles. And
I would have beat them, too.
Especially that one that I don't
like.

FELIX RENDON

What's this about Peanut being
dragged away?

SYLVIA RENDON

I didn't know there's a boy's and
girl's side of the school yard,
honey. Otherwise, I would have told
Peanut.

FELIX RENDON

So what happened?

SYLVIA RENDON

The principal called and asked me
to come to his office, just for a
chat, when I went to pick-up
Peanut. She didn't get punished or
anything. I told the principal and
(MORE)

SYLVIA RENDON (CONT'D)

Miss Rollins, it was nothing for Peanut to go over to their side and start playing with the boys. And it's like I told them, all of this separate sides thing is going to be a thing of the past, pretty soon. They'll see. But for now, we have difference of opinion. The principal was more understanding about the whole thing.

FELIX RENDON

I know that you don't want to, but what are you going to do, from now on Peanut?

MEGAN/PEANUT

Well, I'll have to find some really fun girl to play with and teach her how to play marbles.

Felix takes hold of Megan's hand and gently squeezes it.

FELIX RENDON

That's my girl!

CHESTER/SPEEDY

So who's this boy you don't like?

MEGAN/PEANUT

I don't know his name, yet. But I'm gonna find out.

ROBERT/CHICLETS

Why don't you like him?

MEGAN/PEANUT

Cause he said, I don't know how to play marbles.

Everyone laughs.

ROBERT/CHICLETS

He's just a stupid kid.

MEGAN/PEANUT

Well, when Mom and me were walking to the car. He called me by name.

FELIX RENDON

I guess the word got around. About what happened on the school yard.

JOSEPH/REPETE BRO. #4

Probably the most interesting thing that happened all day.

JOHN/PETE

Yeah! Now you're the talk of the school yard. And you're gonna have to beat those boys. Especially that one you don't like. He'll be the easiest one take down.

Everyone laughs. Laughter fades.

FELIX RENDON

Don't give your sister any ideas, now, Bobby. . . You leave well enough alone, Peanut. . . You hear me. You know what your mother said.

Megan gives John the "eye."

MEGAN/PEANUT

Yes Daddy!

Felix and Sylvia get up from the table. Felix exits. Sylvia collects the leftovers then places them in the fridge.

SYLVIA RENDON

Whose turn is it to clear the table and do the dishes. . . Or do I have to check the schedule? We have to get in the routine again, now that you guys are back in school.

EVERYONE

Yes, Mom.

Chester, Joseph and Bobby exit.

ALBERT/EINSTEIN

Me and Pete. It's our turn. I'll clear the table. You do the dishes.

Albert hurries to collect the dishes.

JOHN/PETE

Man! I've got too much homework. You do the dishes.

ALBERT/EINSTEIN

What do you think, I've got. And way more than what you've got. And a novel to start reading.

JOHN/PETE

Peanut! I'll pay you 50 cents, if you help me with the dishes. I wash and rinse, you dry. How 'bout it?

MEGAN/PEANUT

Sure!

Sound: Joseph starts practicing his trumpet.

SYLVIA RENDON

And you'll both, put them away. You
do the glasses and the pots, Pete.
And give her the money first, Pete.
I mean it.

Pete hurries to get Megan a chair, to stand on at the sink
and reaches in his pocket, pulls out a 50 cent piece and
tosses it to Megan, she catches it.

JOHN/PETE

Here you go.

Megan holds it between her fingers and spins it around with
her other fingers, then puts it in her pocket. John plugs up
the kitchen sink drain and turns the water on. Megan goes to
get a dish towel and then stands on the chair.

SYLVIA RENDON

Peanut honey. Let me see what Miss
Rollins gave you today. When you're
done helping Pete.

Sylvia exits. John starts to pour in the detergent.

MEGAN/PEANUT

OK Mom. . . Can I pour in the
detergent? I love to see the
bubbles.

John gives Megan the detergent bottle. Megan pours it into
the sink.

JOHN/PETE

Sure, whatever, be my guest.

Megan and John speak in a whisper.

MEGAN/PEANUT

I can beat those boys.

JOHN/PETE

At marbles. A piece of cake.

MEGAN/PEANUT

But how can I, if I can't go over
and play with them?

JOHN/PETE

Just do it after school!

MEGAN/PEANUT

Yeah, but that's not enough time,
I'm not THAT fast.

Albert has finished collecting the dishes and placing them on the counter by the sink, he turns to John and Megan.

ALBERT/EINSTEIN

Hey! I need something to clean the table with.

Pete tosses him a wet towel. Suds fly everywhere. Albert wipes down the table and dusts the chairs very quickly.

ALBERT/EINSTEIN (CONT'D)

Hey! Watch it!

John passes a rinsed plastic glass to Megan, she dries it.

MEGAN/PEANUT

I love that we have two great big sinks, in this house. One to wash and one to rinse.

ALBERT/EINSTEIN

Hey! Heads up! Fade away jump shot.

John and Megan turn around. Albert throws the towel in between both of them, splashing on John and Megan.

MEGAN/PEANUT & JOHN/PETE

Hey! Come on man!

ALBERT/EINSTEIN

Two points! I'm outta here!

Albert exits.

JOHN/PETE

Stick with me kid. We'll work out a plan. You have to defend your reputation. I'll come to your room, later. After, I'm done with my homework, OK.

INTERIOR. EVENING. RENDON HOUSE—MEGAN'S BEDROOM.

Megan is in bed reading a book, about *Peanuts*, with the cartoon characters beside her in bed.

MEGAN/PEANUT

(talking to camera)

So, this is my room. It's really nice, cause it's the only thing that I don't have to share with anybody else. And it has all my favorite things.

Megan cuddles her Peanut's stuffed toys.

MEGAN/PEANUT (CONT'D)

Especially, Charlie Brown and Lucy, and everyone's best friend Snoopy, also known as Joe Cool, when he wears sunglasses. And that's how I got my nickname: Peanut. I have all the books, T-shirts, I got a Snoopy soap dish, too. Mom has my lunch box. She'll bring it when she comes in, to tell me good night. And I've seen all the TV specials, too. Every time they come on and Dad is home, he tells me a whole week before.

John walks in very quietly, holding a baseball, then kneels down at Megan's bedside.

JOHN/PETE

So, here's the plan, Peanut. First thing: tomorrow you find out who this boy is and all his friends too. Are any of them in your class?

MEGAN/PEANUT

I think, maybe two of them. I'm not sure. I was so mad after what happened and my teacher dragging me off the yard, in front of everybody. I sat in my seat in class and couldn't think about anything else for the rest of the afternoon.

JOHN/PETE

Yeah, I got you. But forget about all that stuff. Now you need to focus on beating that big mouth.

MEGAN/PEANUT

OK.

JOHN/PETE

Now, this is Wednesday, so on the weekend we'll get some practice in, with Timmy, from next door. He's good and fast.

MEGAN/PEANUT

Yeah. He's good.

JOHN/PETE

But not as good as you.

JOHN/PETE (CONT'D)

Cause you got his steel aggie.

JOHN/PETE (CONT'D)
Cause you got his steel aggie.

MEGAN/PEANUT
Right!

JOHN/PETE
You're better, but you need, this time is speed. Fast and accurate. Remember that.

MEGAN/PEANUT
Mom said I can play with the boys after school. For a little while. I'm not sure, she really wants me to play with those boys.

JOHN/PETE
Did she say, "No you can't!"

Megan shakes her head, "No."

MEGAN/PEANUT
Mom has two jewelry shows this Saturday. And Dad is working on the house this whole weekend.

JOHN/PETE
Well, all right then! You tell Timmy, OK. Don't worry about Mom, she'll be fine. You know she's always 10 minutes late anyway. So the trick will be to take those boys out fast, real fast. And by the time Mom comes to get you, you'll be done. Do it on Tuesday.

MEGAN/PEANUT
Why not Monday?

JOHN/PETE
Monday is always a bad day. Mom's always too busy on Monday.

MEGAN/PEANUT
OK. You're sure this will work?

JOHN/PETE
Trust me sis.

Sylvia knocks on the door, walks in with Megan's lunch box and places it on her desk.

SYLVIA RENDON
And what are you two up to?

MEGAN/PEANUT

John was telling me how things were when he was in kindergarten. The school work, the kids and the teachers.

SYLVIA RENDON

So, how do you think she'll make out, Pete?

John stands, tosses his baseball from hand to hand.

JOHN/PETE

I think she'll do just fine. Don't worry Mom.

SYLVIA RENDON

Pete, I'm working all day Saturday. Dad and everyone else are working outside, painting the house, this weekend. So you'll take care of things in the house and watching out for your sister.

JOHN/PETE

Got it Mom. Good night.

MEGAN/PEANUT

Thanks Pete. Good night.

John exits. Sylvia sits beside Megan, on her bed.

SYLVIA RENDON

Did you brush your teeth? Let me check.

Megan sits up and opens her mouth wide.

SYLVIA RENDON (CONT'D)

Looks good to me. So how do you like your new school?

Megan closes her mouth.

MEGAN/PEANUT

Well, I like the school. But I didn't like the way Miss Rollins shouted at me and dragged me off the school yard, in front of all the other kids, the boys started laughing at me. I didn't know that I was doing something really wrong. But (pause) well. Amy said if I went over there, I'd get in trouble.

SYLVIA RENDON

Who's Amy?

MEGAN/PEANUT

Another girl, in the first grade. I think she was at Edison for kindergarten, too. Cause she knew, that I was a new kid.

SYLVIA RENDON

So someone did warn you. But you went ahead anyway.

MEGAN/PEANUT

Yes I did. Cause it was recess and I was bored. And I wanted to play marbles, cause it's what I like play.

SYLVIA RENDON

Megan, when Amy or any of the other kids tell you about the rules at school, listen to them. They've been there longer than you, so they know. And if you're still not sure, ask Miss Rollins or one of the other teachers. . . So Amy, does she seem like a nice girl?

MEGAN/PEANUT

I guess. I only talked with her for 5 minutes. She was dressed in ruffles and lace, and fancy shoes.

SYLVIA RENDON

Maybe that's what she likes.

MEGAN/PEANUT

And maybe her Mom can get her some better outfits, so that she can sit on the ground and play marbles with me. I'll have to teach her, cause she doesn't even know what marbles are.

SYLVIA RENDON

Oh, Peanut!

MEGAN/PEANUT

She never even saw one before, until I showed her one of mine. Can you imagine that? But, she liked it.

SYLVIA RENDON

(laughs)

Megan, now I know you'll be just fine.

Sylvia gives Megan a kiss and hug, then tucks Megan in bed. She collects the book and some of the stuffed toys, walks to the desk and places them on the desk.

MEGAN/PEANUT

It was a yellow cat-eye. So, I gave it to her.

Sylvia walks to the door, then turns to Megan.

SYLVIA RENDON

Good night, honey. Sleep well.

MEGAN/PEANUT

Good night, Mom.

Sylvia turns out the light and closes the door.

EXTERIOR. BEFORE SCHOOL, NEXT DAY. SYLVIA'S CAR AT THE CURB.

Megan exits the car and closes the car door.

SYLVIA RENDON

Have a good day, honey. And do your best.

MEGAN

I will Mom. Good-bye.

Megan runs up to Amy, who is stood near the entrance.

INTERIOR. LUNCHTIME. SCHOOL CAFETERIA.

Megan and Amy are sat opposite each other at a table, finished with their food and nearly finished their milk.

AMY

Oh, oh! Here comes those boys. They're coming this way. I think they want to sit with us.

MEGAN

Oh good! I know three, of them. I saw them in class today. So you'll introduce me to the other ones, OK?

AMY

If you want me to.

The boys walk up to the table, carrying their lunch trays.

ADAM

Hi, Amy. Do you mind if we sit with you and your friend?

AMY

No, it's OK, Adam. This is Megan,
she's new here.

Adam sits next to Amy. All the other boys sit down. Except
for William, who is without a chair.

ADAM

Yeah, we kind of met already . . .
William, just grab a chair, from
over there!

William sets his lunch tray down, pulls up a chair and sits
down.

MEGAN

Hi! Too bad I didn't get to play
with you boys yesterday.

ADAM

So you think you can play marbles.

MEGAN

Oh, I can play all right. And beat
you, too. And specially him, he'll
be the first one to go down
(pointing to William).

WILLIAM

You're crazy! Silly little girl.

AMY

Megan has five, older brothers.

MEGAN

And they are the ones that taught
me to play.

WILLIAM

Mustn't be any good, if you won a
steel aggie off 'em. Either that,
or they let you win, cause you're a
girl.

All the boys laugh.

MEGAN

You don't even know what you're
talking about. For your
information, William, I won that
aggie, from Timmy he lives next
door and he's good. He's five. I
won it cause I'm better than him,
that's all. And I know I'm better
than you, silly boy.

WILLIAM

So you beat a five year old. So what! I'm six. You think you can beat me; than prove it!

MEGAN

I can't play with you boys after lunch. But I can after school, before my Mom comes to get me. We meet at 3:05 on Tuesday, boy's side, where you were playing yesterday. (pause) So who's in?

William, Adam and Andy all raise their hands.

WILLIAM

All right then, you're on. That steel aggie of yours, will be in my pouch. It's gonna be so heavy, it might make a hole in it. I think I'll have to buy new one, on Saturday.

MEGAN

Don't count your chickens before they hatch, William. You'll be wasting your money. That raggedy pouch you've got, suits you fine.

Megan & Amy collect their lunch boxes and milk bottle, then exit.

WILLIAM

Easy peezy, Japanezy... Girls!

Boys laughing loudly.

EXTERIOR. TUESDAY-AFTER SCHOOL. BOYS' SIDE OF SCHOOL YARD.

Megan is sat on the ground with and Adam, playing marbles. The other boys are squat down. She's already won William's and Andy's marbles. They are standing, angry at Megan, but still cheering Adam on. She and Adam are down to 2 marbles each. It's her turn to bowl, everyone is silent. She's about to start. Sylvia is stood at the edge of the girls' side of the school yard.

SYLVIA RENDON (O.S.)

(shouting)

Megan! Come on honey! I've been in the car waiting for you.

MEGAN

(shouting)

Yes, Mom! I'm coming! Sorry boys I've gotta go.

Megan jumps up, quickly dusts herself off, hurries to collect her things.

ADAM

We can play tomorrow, after school.
If you want?

MEGAN

I better see if it's all right with my Mom, first. I'll let you know at lunch tomorrow. Thanks for the game boys.

Megan talking to William.

MEGAN (CONT'D)

And thanks for all my new marbles William. Why, my pouch is so full I can't even tie it on my belt loop. Hope I don't get a whole in it. My Mom will be making me a bigger pouch anyway. Or maybe I'll buy one, for a change. Where'd you get yours?

William turns away angry.

MEGAN (CONT'D)

Good-by, boys. See you tomorrow.

ADAM

Bye, Megan!

Megan exits, running and skipping to her mother, who's stood waiting.

MEGAN

Easy peezy, Japaneezy, easy peezy,
Japaneezy.

BACK TO: SCENE.

ALL BOYS

(nic: William)

Easy peezy, Japaneezy!

Boys laughing loudly at William. William collects his books and exits, stomping away.

CUT TO:

Megan meets up with her mother, holds up her marble pouch, showing her mother. Mother praises her, then holds the pouch.

THE END

