

THE SURVEY

FADE IN:

INT. - EVENING

CLAIRE, JENNIE, and HANNAH are all 9 years old. They are in Claire's BEDROOM having a sleepover. Claire's parents are having a party there is the sound of music and adult voices from downstairs. The excited girls are all talking at once. Eventually one voice stands out.

CLAIRE

... oh and the downstairs toilet's broken - the grown-ups'll have to use my bathroom. They'll use the door in the hallway and we have to knock on that door before we go in - just in case!

Claire indicates a door to the right of her bed.

JENNIE

We'll be able to hear them!
Remember last time I slept here?
Your gramps was staying and he had to use your bathroom ...

CLAIRE

... his bottom coughs!

HANNAH

There's so many people - they'll be going a lot ... ugh! Oh noooooo...

JENNIE

Hey - That could be our survey!

HANNAH

What?

JENNIE

Our homework! We were going to do a survey of visitors to the newsagents tomorrow remember. But we could do a survey of visitors to the toilet tonight. Then it's done!

CLAIRE

Yes! Perfect! Look here.

Claire opens a door to the left of her bed. This is walk-in cupboard.

CLAIRE

(continues)

This used to be the way into the bathroom before the extension was built. The end wall is really just the old door with this, like, basket stuff instead of solid wood.

The unused door is wooden framed, with loose-weave wicker panels. Hannah peers through one of the panels.

HANNAH

Oh yes! I can see the sink, with the mirror above it and the bath. Can't see the toilet though.

CLAIRE

We don't need to see the toilet - we don't want to see the toilet! We'll be able to hear them.

JENNIE

Ugh! OK - let's plan our survey sheet. We could have columns for men, women, who does a "number one" or a "number two" and so on ...

The girls leave the cupboard and get out pencils and paper.

HANNAH

How many wash their hands ...and how many don't! ... who looks into the mirror ...

CLAIRE

Yes, and we can add more columns if we need to.

HANNAH

We could take turns at making notes in the cupboard - then we can still watch the DVD and stuff. Swap over every ten minutes maybe?

JENNIE

Let's design a sheet with the columns - we should have "Time", "Male" and "Female" for every column - so we fill in the time and then tick "Man" or "Woman".

CLAIRE

Yes, then columns for stuff we know they'll do and then blank columns for other stuff.

The girls settle down to design their survey.

MATCH DISSOLVE TO:

INT. - MORNING

The next morning. The music and other sounds of partying have stopped. JENNIE and HANNAH are in CLAIRE's bedroom.

JENNIE

I'm soooooooooooooo tired!

HANNAH

I know! I'm glad that we only did ten minutes at a time in the cupboard, but I didn't sleep.

CLAIRE enters with a bulging carrier bag.

CLAIRE

There was lots of food left. We've got sausage rolls, crisps, peanuts, sandwiches and lemonade.

JENNIE

A breakfast picnic!

HANNAH

Let's eat on the bed and look at the survey. Did you know that Mr Elliot has half a wig?

CLAIRE

Half a wig?

They sit on the bed with their picnic and survey sheet.

HANNAH

Yes. He did a "number one", washed his hands, then lifted the top of his hair off and wiped his sweaty head !

JENNIE

Um ! Interesting. Did you make a "wig" column.

HANNAH

Yes, there, look.

CLAIRE

We've got quite a few extra columns - "wig", "kissing", "crying", "cleaning teeth", "sharing sweets" and "fancy dress".

HANNAH

Who put the tick in "fancy dress"? It wasn't a Fancy Dress Party.

JENNIE

That was me. Mr Kitson was dressed up like a lady underneath his shirt. He took it off to adjust his bra strap. It was very pretty.

HANNAH

Maybe it was for a joke?

CLAIRE

Yes, I think so. What about the "sharing sweets"? There were no sweets downstairs just now; they must have eaten them all!

JENNIE

I saw five of them sharing some sherbet powder with a straw - so I put five ticks. Was that right?

CLAIRE

Yes, I saw three of them have an M&M each. And I put a tick for each person.

HANNAH

There was quite a lot of "crying".

JENNIE

Yes - and look! My dad kissed two of the ladies who were crying. One at 11.30 and then, let's see ... Miss Dodwell at ten past three.

CLAIRE

Ahhhhhhhhhhh! Cuuuuuuute! He's the cutest cute in all of cute land!

JENNIE

I knooooooow. He's sooooooooooooo
sweeeeeeeeeet!

HANNAH

What do we have to do now?

CLAIRE

In our exercise books, we have to
say what each column was for and
write about two things that we
learned from our survey.

HANNAH

I learned that "*more ladies wash
their hands than men*" ... and that ...
"*grown ups eat sweeties in secret
at their parties*".

JENNIE

Will Mr Elliot, Mr Kitson and dad
get a special mention?

HANNAH

Hey! I know ! Why don't we make
copies of the survey for our
parents, for Mr Elliot and for Mr
Kitson?

JENNIE

Yes, yes! We could put Mr Elliot's
copy through his letterbox on the
way to school.

CLAIRE

And Jennie, you could wrap a copy
up for your mum as a present for
her to read when you're at school
and your dad's at work tomorrow.
So she knows how sweeeeeet he is
to everyone. She'll be soooooooo
happyyyyyyyyyyyyy!

JENNIE

Yes I will! And for Mr Kitson -
well, it's my turn to share some
news at assembly tomorrow. I could
tell the school just how good our
headmaster is at surprise jokes.

FADE OUT.