

## KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT

***Equal opportunities for all pupils: What does teacher Kwame learn in this incident? What alternative ways might he have used to resolve the problem?***

### SCENE 1

### CLASS ROOM AT CBEC

KWAME:

So we have the local government, the state and the federal government.

EFE

{ASIDE} Teacher says there is local, state and federal government.

FVO:

{ASIDE} Is that all he says?

KWAME

Hey Ada, I'm talking and you're talking behind. Come out here.

SFX

CHILDREN MURMUR

KWAME

Are you not the person I'm talking to? I said come out here.

EFE

{ASIDE} Ada, teacher Kwame says you should come out.

SFX

ADA MOVES HER CHAIR ASIDE AND COMES OUT TO THE FRONT OF CLASS.

KWAME

So you are now too big to obey my simple instructions. Now kneel down and face the wall.

SFX

ADA BEGINS TO WEEP AS SHE KNEELS. BELL GOES OFF OUTSIDE.

KWAME

The rest of you can go out for break, while Ada will remain here with me.

MUSIC BRIDGE

**SCENE 2****CLASSROOM DURING BREAK**

SFX

CHILDREN PLAYING OFF MIC

KWAME

Listen Ada this school is not a breeding ground for stubborn children. Imagine you making noise in my class and disrespecting me on top of that. Now bring out your hand! I will give you 10 strokes of the cane for your disobedience!

SFX

ADA WEEPS LOUDER

EFE

[off to on] Excuse me teacher Kwame. Please no flog Ada...

KWAME

Efe do you too want to receive some strokes?

EFE

No Sir...Don't you know that Ada has hearing problems?

KWAME:

What did you say Efe?

EFE

She does not hear very well, and she sit at the back of the class...that is why I repeat everything you say to her.

KWAME

Are you sure of what you are saying?

EFE

Yes, that is why she didn't come out when you ask her to come out until I shout it in her ear...

KWAME

[Remorsefully] Oh my God! Ada!

***Do you know if any of your pupils have a disability? How could you sensitively find out? What could you do as the teacher, to help pupils who have hearing problems or other kinds of disabilities?***

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