

Booktalk!

Game Changer Script

For this Book Talk you will need

- 2 actors (Mr. Rashad, Ethan)
- Mr. Rashad: black dress pants, button-down shirt, tie, dress shoes
- Ethan: jeans, t-shirt, running shoes
- Additional props: table, 2 chairs on opposite side of table, recording device, copy of *Game Changer* placed face down on the table

Mr. Rashad: *(scene opens with Ethan walking onstage; Mr. Rashad approaching Ethan & motioning for him to sit down)* Hi Ethan, I'm Mr. Rashad. It's good to meet you.

Ethan: *(sounding somewhat unsure)* You, too.

Mr. R: *(motioning to one of the chairs)* So. Please, take a seat, make yourself comfortable. *(picking up recording device from off of table, pushing button & setting it back down on table)* How about if I begin by telling you a little bit about myself?

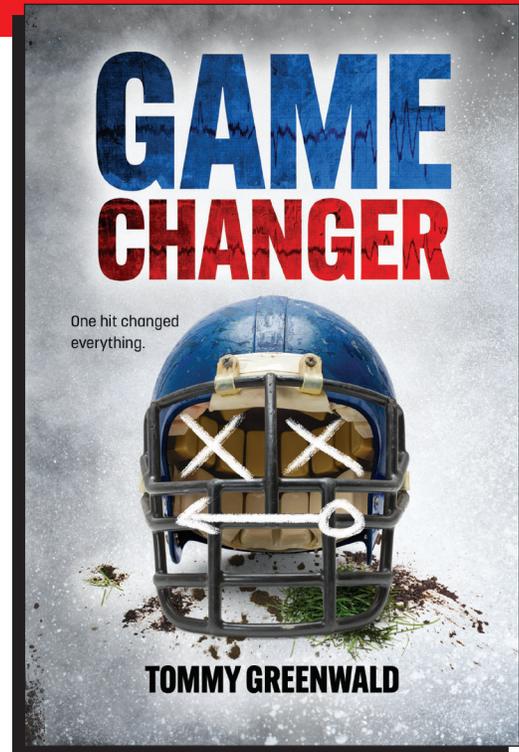
Ethan: Ahhh...ok.

Mr. R: Well, I work for the town of Walthorne as a therapist in the education department. *(speaking enthusiastically)* And just so you now, I'm a huge football fan. Played it in high school and still watch it every weekend. Greatest game in the world, in my opinion. *(sounding more serious)* What happened to your teammate is a tragedy, in so many ways.

Ethan: *(sounding non-committal)* Yup.

Mr. R: *(nodding slightly then continuing)* So, right – that's pretty much my story, unless you have any questions.

Ethan: *(shaking his head, then thinking a moment and adding)* Actually, Why are you tape-recording this?



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- Mr. R:** *(nodding)* Good question. Basically, I'd rather talk to you without the distraction of having to take detailed notes the whole time. And the recording helps me when I need to refer back to the session. *(gesturing towards the recording device)* But if it makes you uncomfortable, I can certainly take notes instead.
- Ethan:** No, it's fine.
- Mr. R:** And Ethan, I just want to make sure you realize that you don't have to do this at all, if you don't want to. It's standard procedure to talk to kids who witness something like this, and your parents thought it might be a good idea. None of us ever knows quite how we're going to respond to a traumatic event, and it's important to be aware of what might happen. Good so far?
- Ethan:** *(speaking matter-of-factly)* Sure, yeah. *(squirming in seat slightly then interjecting)* So you're not, like, a cop or something?
- Mr. R:** A cop? *(smiling briefly then waving his hands as he continues)* Oh no, no no, nothing like that. Like I said, I'm a therapist with the school system. Did you think I was the police?
- Ethan:** *(hesitating momentarily)* I wasn't sure.
- Mr. R:** this has nothing to do with the police. No one did anything wrong. This was a terrible injury, a student was badly hurt, and we're just checking in with the kids to make sure everyone is doing okay.
- Ethan:** Right. *(adding quickly)* Well, I'm doing fine.
- Mr. R:** Great. So, should we jump in? Do you want to talk about what happened?
- Ethan:** *(thinking for a moment then replying a little awkwardly)* Well, I mean, that's the thing. Nothing really happened. The Rookie Rumble ended and Teddy collapsed. I don't really remember anything else.
- Mr. R:** The Rookie Rumble?
- Ethan:** That's what they call the scrimmage on the last day of preseason camp. It's just for incoming freshmen.
- Mr. R:** Ah, got it. But Teddy didn't collapse during the scrimmage? He collapsed right after?
- Ethan:** *(rubbing the back of his neck)* Yeah, right after, I guess. Doesn't that happen sometimes though, with like, concussions and stuff? Like, a delayed reaction or something?
- Mr. R:** I'll leave that answer to the medical professionals, but as far as I know, it's possible, yes.
- Ethan:** So then yeah, *(nodding more certainly)* I guess that's what happened.

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- Mr. R:** So you don't remember how you felt, or how you reacted, when you saw Teddy collapse?
- Ethan:** I was in shock, I guess... Whatever that means. *(nervously rubbing palms of hands along his thighs)* This kid who's an awesome athlete and loves football more than anything in the world was lying on the ground. Who wouldn't freak out, you know?
- Mr. R:** I completely understand. Are you and Teddy friends?
- Ethan:** Everyone is friends with Teddy. He's like, the best athlete in the grade, pretty much.
- Mr. R:** It must have been so hard to see your friend injured.
- Ethan:** *(hesitating, then replying weakly)* He's – Is he going to be okay? He's going to be okay, right?
- Mr. R:** *(turning toward audience)* The only way you'll find out for sure is if you look for *(holding up copy of Game Changer)* *Game Changer*. It's at your Scholastic Book Fair.