



The Chicken Temptation

by Judith Johnson

A play for secondary school students focusing on the Obesogenic Environment - Environments that encourage people to eat unhealthily and not do enough exercise.

Cast (in order of appearance)

Anika, Year 8 Girl

Jaz, Year 10, Anika's sister

Ash, Year 10, Anika's brother

Leyla, Year 7, Anika's sister

Mum

Dad

Granddad

Uncle Mo

Aunty Sarah

Mr Knowall, Science Teacher

Miss Kindly, Learning Support Teacher

Boy 1

Mikhail

Girl 1

Girl 2

Girl 3

Girl 4

Chicken Shop Man

Doughnut Seller

Plus Year 10 science class group, people at summer fayre, people in school canteen, etc.

Setting and Style

The simplest way to stage this would be to use a bare performance space with bright/quirky costumes and props which the cast don/use as required. The cast could sit in a row of chairs getting up to perform their parts and physically/stylistically make the settings/scenery as described. The acting style is meant to be over the top, caricatured and good fun.

Sound and Movement

Alex Parson's original music and sound effects are provided for your use. It is clearly marked in the script where to use the music or sound cues; however, feel free to add your own spin on things or incorporate the pupils' own live sound effects.

Take a look at Movement Director Robin Guiver's movement videos for ideas and starting points.



*All characters sit in a row in the performance space facing audience.
Anika stands up, steps forward, does a cheeky wave at the audience, grins.*

Anika: Hi Everyone! My names Anika and I'm here to tell you how Fried Chicken caused Big Trouble in my life.

Beat. She smiles.

This is my family.

8 Characters stand up and strike charactersitic poses.

Nika: Mum, Dad, brother Ash, sister Jaz, Aunt Sarah, Uncle Mo, Granddad, and my lovely little sister Leyla.

Leyla gives a shy wave.

Anika: Jaz is my oldest sister.

Jaz steps forward.

Anika: I love her so much, she is soooooo clever! She's taking six million GCSEs and after that she's gonna take even more A levels and then she's gonna go to a top top University and then she's gonna be a very important scientist or possibly Prime Minister.

Jaz looks very pleased with herself.

Anika: Ash is my big brother.

Ash steps forward.

Anika: I love him so much, he is soooooo sporty! He's in the football team, the cricket team, the ping pong team, the swimming team, the athletics team, the basketball team and the tennis team. I'm not sure what he's going to do when he grows up but it's definitely going to involve some kind of team, and he will probably be the Captain.

Ash looks pleased with himself.

Anika: I love my family. Most of us get along really well, but, unfortunately, Ash and Jaz hate each other.

Everyone sits down except Jaz. Anika sits next to Leyla, they hug.

Jaz moves chair forwards, sits and turns on imaginary tv with imaginary remote.

A science show telling us about the latest innovations in science (could be food environment related).

SFX: SCIENCE SHOW.WAV

Jaz looks happy, settles down to watch. Ash gets up, watches Jaz for a few secs then gets an evil grin on his face. He gets chair and sits down next to her, picks up the remote and changes channels to a computer game which he then starts playing. Jaz stares at him.

Jaz: What do you think you're doing?

Ash: Playing Call of Duty innit. (*or other current favourite game*)

Jaz: You can't do that.

Ash: Do what?

Jaz: Just come in and take over the TV when someone else is already watching something.

Ash: Can't I?

Jaz: No.

Ash: Watch me.

Jaz: Mum!

Mum stands up.

Mum: Yes darling daughter?

Jaz: Ash has switched off my science documentary, I was watching it for homework!

Mum: Ash!
(*Warning*)

Ash: She's not watching it for homework, we haven't even got any science homework tonight, she's watching it because she's a sad geek...

Mum: ASH!
(*Threateningly*)

Ash sighs, throws the remote back at jaz, with a bit too much force. Mum sits down
Jaz smiles smugly and watches her show.

Ash: Why do you want to watch this for anyway? This is boring, we're not at school now, we're at home.

Jaz: Science is not boring and if you think it is you're a moron who will never get a good job.

Ash: What, you think *you're* going to end up in some top science job? You didn't even get top marks in the last test.

Jaz: That was just a blip.
(*Pause, this is a sore point*)

Ash: Mmm. Let me see. It was *Mikhail* who got the top marks wasn't it???

Jaz: Shut up.

Ash: I think he beat you by . . . what was it? . . . three whole points?

Jaz: Yeah, well, I think you came *last* didn't you?

Ash: No I didn't.

Jaz: Yes you did.



- Ash:** No I didn't.
- Jaz:** Yes you *did*, you moron.
- Ash:** I didn't revise, alright? Because *I've* got a life. I was out with my friends.
- Jaz:** Oh yeah, where was that, hanging round the chicken shop with your stupid mates eating crap and chatting even more crap.
- Ash:** I was at cricket practice! We went to the chicken shop afterwards.
- Jaz:** I don't know how you can eat that crap it is disgusting.
- Ash:** No it's not, it's tasty.
- Jaz:** It's really bad for you, you eat it every day.
- Ash:** No I don't.
- Jaz:** You do.
- Ash:** I don't.
- Jaz:** You do. You're in denial.
- Ash:** It doesn't matter, even if I do, I do loads of exercise to cancel it out! Not like you.
- Jaz:** I can't believe you just said that. Even you aren't *that* stupid. Of course it matters if you eat fried chicken and chips every day. It's full of salt and saturated fat! Your arteries could get clogged up and you could end up with a heart attack when you're older! Not to mention the can of fizzy drink you always have *with* the chicken, d'you know how much sugar they put in those drinks? 7 teaspoons in every 330 ml can of Coke!
- And I *do* do exercise, I walk to school and back every day.
- Ash:** Yeah, we only live two streets away from the school Jaz. *You* spend half your time sitting on this sofa watching boring documentaries and eating chocolate . . .
- Jaz:** . . . It's alright to have a treat now and again . . .
- Ash:** . . . and the other half in your room *revising* while eating more chocolate. And like I said, I don't eat fried chicken every day and if I did I could give it up easily.
- Jaz:** You reckon?
- Ash:** Yes. Easily.
- Jaz:** I don't think so. You're obviously addicted to it.
- Ash:** No I'm not!
- Jaz:** Yes you are.
- Ash:** I'm not, shut up!
- Jaz:** You shut up. Addict.



Ash: *I'm not an addict! Stop chatting such . . .*

Jaz: Right, Ok, prove it.
(*Cuts in*)

Ash: What?

Jaz: I challenge you, Ash, to resist the temptation of the chicken shop for a whole week.

Ash: What will you give me if I do it?
(*Slight pause, Ash thinks*)

Jaz: Control of the TV for a month.
(*She thinks, notices remote*)

Ash: Two months. Plus, you tidy my room.

Jaz: I am never, ever, gonna tidy your disgusting, stinking room. I'll deal on control of the TV.

Ash: Alright. I take back the room but you can clean my shoes. For a month.

Jaz: Done. And you'll be the one cleaning *my* shoes bro.
(*Considers this*)

Ash: I doubt it.

Ash sits down. Jaz looks doubtful for a second, then goes to sit down.
Anika stands up, holding hands with Leyla.

Anika: See what I mean? They really do hate each other. It makes me *soooooo* sad, doesn't it Leyla?

Leyla nods, she whispers something in Anika's ear. Anika nods

Anika: Leyla thinks it's because they're so close in age, both born in the same year and not even twins. Imagine that. Mum and Dad were very busy *that* year! Anyways, just in case you're wondering what me and *Leyla* are good at, well, we're not really like Ash and Jaz, we're a bit quieter. But my Mum says I'm very kind and Leyla, well, (*proudly*) she writes poetry.

Leyla shakes her head, turns away, embarrassed.

Anika: Yes you do! I'm the only person she shows it to, but it's very good and one day she *will* share it with everyone else. Maybe at the School Summer Fayre?

Leyla shakes her head again.

Anika: The other thing me and Leyla like is growing things, don't we?

Leyla smiles, nods her head.

Anika: My Granddad, he's got an allotment, and we grow stuff there with him.

Granddad stands up. Anika and Leyla start digging



Grandad: Carrots and Potatoes and Broccoli and Chillies and Tomatoes and Chard and Coriander and Basil and Courgettes and Beetroot.

Anika: Beetroot makes your wee pink!

Anika and Leyla giggle

Granddad: It's cheaper than buying vegetables, and it means we get fresh air and exercise.

*(POSSIBLE MOVEMENT PIECE AND MUSIC RE GROWING VEG.
WHOLE GROUP – MUSIC: TEMPTATION TRANSITION.MP3)*

NEXT DAY. SFX: SCHOOL BELL.WAV

Everyone moves chairs around to make a school classroom and rest of cast all sit to make a class of Year 10 school kids which includes Ash and Jaz.

Anika: At school Jaz' favourite teacher is Mr. Knowall, which is weird, because most people do not like Mr. Knowall do they Leyla? He is a slave driver. Last term, he sent the whole of year nine homework through the post in the *holidays*. Jaz likes him because she thinks we *should* be doing extra homework in the holidays. Ash, on the other hand, can't stand him . . .

They Year 10s start chattering, messing about etc, the noise level is quite high.

Enter Mr. Knowall. He is a bit of a character.

Mr Knowall peers round at everyone over the top of his glasses until they all stop talking and look at him.

Mr. Knowall: *Thank you, Year 10. Now that you've stopped jabbering like a bunch of meerkats we can get on with the lesson.*

The kids all yawn (*except Jaz*)

Mr Knowall: So. Food and Digestion.

Everyone looks bored except Jaz who sits up, very interested.

Mr. Knowall (possibly) shows a powerpoint.

Mr. Knowall: *(1st slide) healthy lifestyles.* A healthy lifestyle is needed to minimise occurrence of illness and disease. A balanced diet and exercise play a major role in maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

Powerpoint: Mr Knowall shows images depicting food groups etc as per the biology GCSE.

Jaz immediately puts her hand up.

Jaz: Sir! Sir!

Mr.Knowall: Jaz.

Jaz: Isn't it true that chicken shop chicken is bad for you.

Ash: We *know* it's bad for you you . . . (idiot)
(*Tuts*)

Mr.Knowall: Ash. Your sister's raised a very good question.

Jaz looks smug. Ash makes a face.



Mr. Knowall: You mean the *Fried* Chicken shop. Anyone like to tell us why it might not be good for us?

Loads of hands go up and people all shout out at once

'It's too greasy sir' 'It's too salty' 'It smells vile' 'It's really pigeon meat sir' 'It's really rats!' 'It tastes disgusting!'

Mr. Knowall: Alright, alright. Pipe down, pipe down. Yes, those of you who said it's too salty and too greasy are right. We should all be eating less salt, less saturated fat and also less sugar.

Boy 1: Sir, the thing is, there are so *many* chicken shops, and it smells so nice, it's really difficult to walk past them.

Jaz puts her hand up. Mikhail shouts out.

Mikhail: That's the council's fault sir, they shouldn't let them open so many so near to the school.

Mr Knowall: Very good point Mikhail.

Jaz: I was going to say that Sir!

Mikhail: (*Looks smugly at Jaz*) Sir, in Birmingham sir, the City council brought in a rule in 2013 Sir, that only one in every ten new shops opening could be a takeaway.

Ash: They should bring that in round here.

Jaz: *You* should be able to resist them.

Ash: Shut up Jaz.

Mr. Knowall: Ash.

Jaz: He should take some responsibility for his own actions shouldn't he Sir?

Mr. Knowall: Well, that's not always as easy as it seems Jaz. These tasty, cheap foods are available in abundance all the time. It's no wonder more and more people are becoming obese.

Ash smiles smarmily at Jaz

Jaz: That's called the obesogenic environment sir.
(*Puts hand up*)

Mr. Knowall: *Very* good Jaz.

Jaz: I saw a *documentary* about it on TV sir.
(*Towards Ash*)

Jaz smiles smarmily at Ash

Mr. Knowall: Good. Can you elaborate on it for the rest of the class?

Jaz: Yes, it means that everything around us is encouraging us to eat unhealthily. So adverts, shops, takeaways, cinemas with massive portions of popcorn and everything. At the same time, we aren't active enough.

Ash: *I'm* active, I do loads of exercise.

- Jaz:** Yeah but it's not just about exercise, it's about, like, normal activity. Like there's loads of escalators everywhere and lifts so people don't use stairs as often as they used to and everyone going everywhere in the car instead of walking, things like that.
- Boy 2:** Yeah, sir, sir, my Dad drove to the post box to post a letter the other day, it's only down the road!
(Hand up)
- Ash:** So you mean *lazy* people. Like you Jaz.
(To Jaz)
- Jaz:** I'm not lazy! Sir! Tell him.
- Mr. Knowall:** Erm, Ash, you know full well that we do not allow personal insults.
- Jaz:** Thank you, sir.
(Smugly)
- Ash:** 'Thank you Sir' (under his breath) Suck-Up. (if this is too strong try Creep, or Teacher's Pet or similar)
Jaz)
Everyone hears this including Mr Knowall.
- Mr. Knowall:** Ash! Apologise to your sister immediately.
- Ash:** What?! No way.
- Mr. Knowall:** Either apologise or you can get your bag and coat and go to the LSU.
- Ash:** What?! Aw come on Sir!
- Mr. Knowall:** I'm counting Ash. 10, 9, 8, 7
- Ash:** Prick. (or Idiot if Prick is too strong)
(Under his breath)
- Mr. Knowall:** Right. That's it. LSU for the rest of this lesson *and* your lunch break.
(Hears Ash)
- Ash:** But . . .
- Mr. Knowall:** GET OUT!!!!
- Uncomfortable silence, a few sniggers from the class,
Ash glares at Mr. Knowall then grabs his coat and bag and stomps out.*
- Music. The cast all get up and 'dismantle' classroom and set up a desk and two chairs.*
- The LSU. Miss Kindly sits at the desk.*
- Anika:** Yes, my brother and Mr. Knowall do not see eye to eye! But, to be honest, it's not so bad because Ash quite likes it in the LSU cos that's were his favourite teacher works, Miss Kindly. Actually, Miss Kindly is a lot of people's favourite. She is *soooooo* nice! You can talk to Miss Kindly about any problem and she will listen and try to help you. Leyla absolutely loves her don't you Leyla?
- Leyla nods, smiles. (Possibly goes to Miss K and hugs her)

That's because when Leyla is feeling even more shy than usual she can just go and sit with Miss Kindly in the LSU and Miss Kindly says that's fine and makes her feel better.

Ash arrives at LSU.

Miss K: Ash! What have you done now?

Ash: Nothing, it's Mr Knowall, he's an idiot.
(*Sulking*)

Miss K: Well, he's a highly qualified teacher so I wouldn't say he was an idiot exactly.

Ash: He thinks he's so clever.

Miss K: He is quite clever, to be fair.

Ash: Miss will you stop sticking up for him???

Miss K: Come in then, take a seat. How long did he give you?
(*Laughs*)

Ash sits at table with Ms Kindly

Ash: Rest of the lesson plus lunchtime Miss! It's not fair, I was meant to be at cricket training, we've got a big match this weekend.

Miss K: Well, if it's any compensation, I've got some doughnuts in.

Ash: That's what I like about you Miss, you've always got nice food in here!

Miss Kindly: Mm, too much nice food, my doctor's told me I have to cut down on all this sweet stuff.

Ash: Why Miss? You ain't overweight.

Miss Kindly: Mm. It's not just weight. It's what goes on inside. The body can store fat around its organs and you can't see it.

Ash: What, even skinny people?
(*Worried*)

Miss Kindly: Yep, sometimes. My trouble is, I've got such a sweet tooth.

Ash: My sister says I eat too much fried chicken.

Miss Kindly: Does she?

Ash: Yeah, she's challenged me to stop going to the chicken shop for a week.

Miss K: Oh. You can manage that though can't you?

Ash: Thing is Miss, I don't know if I can.
(*Lowers his voice*)

Miss K: Ash you can!

Ash: No, thing is, it's only the first day and I'm already getting a craving for it.

Miss K: Really?



- Ash:** Yeah, and it's so hard Miss, I walk past *four* chicken shops on the way to school, and the way back home.
- Miss K:** Four? That is terrible.
- Ash:** Yeah, I only live two streets away! And it's not just that. Everywhere you look there's adverts for fried chicken.
- Miss K:** I know what you mean, not just that, adverts for every sort of unhealthy food you can think of. Chocolates and sweets and cakes . . .
- Ash:** . . . and burgers and chips and pizzas. We get leaflets coming through the door every day!
- Miss K:** Sometimes I feel like I'm surrounded by lovely sweet snacks all begging me to eat them, it's very hard to resist it.

They both sigh.

- Miss K:** I tell you what. How about I join in with you? I could stop eating doughnuts for a week!
- Ash:** You don't have to do that Miss.
- Miss K:** No, it'll be good for me. If you can do it, then I can do it too. Deal?
- Ash:** OK Miss, deal!

They shake hands then exit (go back to seats).

Jaz and her four mates step forward carrying dinner trays. They sit down at the table.

They all have healthy food on their trays. Baked potatoes, salads, etc

- Jaz:** Right, so, as Mr Knowall said in Biology, we should be doing more physical activities to keep healthy.

The Girls all groan, make faces etc

- Girl 4:** But we eat healthy though don't we? Usually.
- Jaz:** It's not enough, we have to be active as well.
- Girl 3:** We could do cycling, that would be active!
- Girl 2:** Walking to school instead of getting the bus or driving? Using stairs instead of escalators or lifts?
- Girl 1:** Housework?
- Jaz:** Housework would count but I will only do housework when my brother also does housework too.
- Girl 3:** That means never!
- Jaz:** And talking of my ignorant big headed brother, I need your help with something important.

The Girls gather in, interested.



- Girl 1:** This sounds interesting!
- Jaz:** My brother reckons he could go for a whole week without eating chicken from the fried chicken shop.
- Girl 3:** A whole week?!
- Jaz:** Yes and I've bet him that he can't and the prize is being in control of the TV for two months plus cleaning my shoes!
- All Girls:** OOOOH!
- Jaz:** So, come on Girls, you've got to help me, we've got to think of some ways of tempting him back into the chicken shop.
- Girl 2:** Oh I know I know! I did about this in Media Studies, what adverts do to get people to buy stuff. Food adverts do it all the time, especially online ones aimed at teenagers because they're less regulated. Listen . . .

The Girls go into an enthusiastic huddle.

- Anika:** The Girls plotted and planned, and planned and plotted, and thought it through and argued it out until they came up with some brilliant ideas for tempting Ash. In the end they decided to try four of the main techniques of advertising.

SFX: HARP STING 1

They started with The Bandwagon technique. Convincing the customer a product is so great that *everyone* is buying it, everyone is getting on the Bandwagon so they should too!

Jaz and friends line up, eating boxes of fried chicken and chips. Ash walks past them. They waft the smell of the food towards him and gather round to stop him walking past making the following comments. Miss kindly looks on.

'Mm delicious fried chicken' 'Everybody's eating it' 'Except you' 'It's what teenagers always eat' 'Except you' 'You must feel really left out' 'All the most popular, good looking, clever, cool teenagers are eating it' 'You should eat it too or you won't be cool'

Ash eventually pushes through them, resisting the food.

- Anika:** But the Bandwagon didn't work.

Miss kindly and Ash high five each other. The Girls look disappointed, they bin their food, good girl Jaz producing a binbag and tidying up properly.

- Anika:** Next, they tried Bribery. Using free gifts or promotions to draw in customers and create brand loyalty.

SFX: HARP STING 2

Chicken shop man (CSM) enters. The Girls approach him, Jaz whispers something in his ear. CSM nods enthusiastically, Jaz gives him a carrier bag with something in it. Ash approaches, the Girls stand aside and watch. Ash tries to avoid CSM but he goes right up to Ash.

CSM: Ash, my man!

Ash: Oh yeah, hi.

CSM: My man Ash! One of my best customers. Where've you been man? I've Missed you.

Ash: Oh, er, I'm not eating chicken this week.

CSM: Come on Ash, I'm giving a free gift with every meal this week!

Ash: Oh, what free gift?
(*Tempted*)

CSM opens bag and brings out a t-shirt with 'fab fried chicken' logo on and a picture of himself grinning with thumbs up on the front

CSM: Fab Fried Chicken t-Shirt! Looks good yeah???

Ash: Oh, yeah, er, I'm alright thanks.

CSM: No? Really? My lovely T-Shirt?

Ash: Really.

CSM: Buy one get one free?

Ash: No.

CSM: Free fries?

Ash: NO!!!!

Ash moves off quickly.

Anika: Bribery didn't work either.

Miss Kindly and Ash high five.

Anika: So then they tried Association. Associating the item with something exciting, like a famous person, or a strong emotion of some kind.

SFX: HARP STING 3

One of the Girls goes over to Ash, fluttering her eyelashes, puts her arm through his, etc.

Girl 2: Ash, you know I've always liked you.

Ash: Really?
(*Puzzled*)



Girl 2: Yeah, I'll meet you by the Chicken Shop after school. We could have chicken and chips! You and me and chicken and chips, chicken and chips and you and me!

Ash: Oh I see what this is. No thanks!

Ash turns his back on Girl. Girl stomps off, cross. Ms Kindly and Ash high five

Anika: Finally they tried Repetition. They were getting a bit desperate by now, as you will see.

MUSIC. SUGGEST FAB FRIED CHICKEN.MP3

The Girls don very silly chicken hats or masks and 'chicken dance' around Ash, squawking and singing 'fab fried chicken, fab fried chicken' over and over again. Ash stands very still, puts his hands over his ears and closes his eyes. Jaz, getting desperate, squawks loudly and angrily in his ear. He is unmoved. The other Girls give up.

Music ends. Jaz is still squawking

Girl 3: Come on Jaz, it's no use.
(*Dragging Jaz away*)

Jaz: Aaaarghh!!!
(*Frustrated*)

Jaz and Girls stomp off, sit down

Anika: Nothing worked. At the end of the week, not a single sliver of crisp fried chicken, not a single greasy chip, had passed Ash's lips. He had done it. He'd beaten The Chicken Temptation!

SUGGESTED MUSIC: BEAT THE CHICKEN TEMPTATION.MP3

Applause. Everyone (except Jaz and her Girls) gathers round, cheering Ash as he is crowned king by Miss Kindly (a cloak, a crown and a mitre, or possibly a medal like in The Olympics) Miss Kindly holds up Ash's arm like a champion boxer. She then turns away and takes a secret bite out of a doughnut. Ash sees her, shakes his head, wags his finger at her. She shrugs, looks sheepish.

Anika: Ash was over the moon, as you can imagine, but Jaz was not.
And that's when the chicken *really* hit the fan.

It was my Dad's birthday. Everyone was soooooo excited because in my family we like to get together for a big feast on people's birthdays.

Mum and Leyla stand up, start cooking.

My Mum was cooking a delicious meal, helped by me and Leyla, and my Granddad had given us some fruit and veg from the allotment.

Granddad stands up with basket of fruit and veg

Uncle Mo, he likes making cakes, so he was bringing a big scrumptious cake. Uncle's cakes are famous in our family and he always likes to show them off, especially to Jaz cos she's his favourite.

Uncle Mo and Aunt Sarah stand up, Mo is grinning, carrying an enormous, teetering tower of a cake.

My Dad works really hard, and really long hours, so he was really looking forward to having some time off, eating some delicious food, and having fun with his family. He'd even brought a new shirt.

Dad stands up wearing a leary shirt, looking eager

But, sadly, it wasn't to be.

Family members sit back down. Jaz moves chair forward and sits as if doing homework in bedroom (eating chocolate). Ash, carrying his shoes, stands outside her door. He knocks. No answer. He knocks again. Still no answer.

Ash: Jaz Jaz.
(While knocking)

Jaz: WHAT???!!!

Ash: Open the door.

Jaz: No! Go away.

Ash: I need my shoes cleaned for Dad's birthday meal.

Jaz: No you don't.

Ash: I do.

Jaz: You don't. No –one cares what's on your stinking feet.

Ash: I do.

Jaz: You don't.

Ash: Yes I do, it's Dad's special day, I want to look nice, don't you care about Dad?

Jaz: If it's that important then clean them yourself.

Ash: Oh no. No no no. That wasn't the deal. Clean my shoes for two months, that was the deal, you can't go back on it now.

Jaz: Watch me.

Ash: Pardon?

Jaz: Go away, I'm revising.

Slight pause then

Ash: Jaz Jaz!

Jaz covers her ears

Jaz: I'm not listening.

Ash JAZ JAZ!
(Shouts)

Jaz suddenly opens the door, angrily, grabs the shoes off Ash and closes the door again in his face. Ash smiles smugly.

Ash: I'll be back in five minutes to get them.

Ash goes and sits down. Uncle Mo and Aunt Sarah step forward, Mo carrying the big towering cake, and grinning.

SFX: doorbell. Mum gets up and greets Uncle Mo and Aunt Sarah.

Mum: Hello! Lovely to see you!

Sarah: Lovely to see *you*!

Mum: Mwah!

Sarah: Mwah!

They air kiss and hug, Mum goes to hug Mo but the cake gets in the way.

Mum: Goodness me, Mo! What a whopper!

Mo: Took me a whole day to make it!
(*Proudly*)

Sarah: He's very proud of it, his best cake ever.

Mo: I hope it's not too much!

Mum: Of course not, it's fine to have a treat every now and then isn't it?

Sarah: Especially on a birthday!

Mum: Well come in, come in. (*calling Dad*) Darling, Mo and Sarah are here!

Dad gets up, greets Mo and Sarah.

Dad: Oh My Days! Mo, is that for me?

Mo: Yes, took me a whole day to make it! Where is my clever niece Jaz? I want to show her my cake.
(*Proudly*)

Dad: She's probably revising in her room; you know our Jaz (*proudly*) always studying!

Mo: That Girl will be Prime Minister one day!

Sarah: Can we pop up and show her the cake? You know Jaz is his favourite.

Dad: Of course you can!

Ash stands up. He has an evil plan

Ash: I'll take them up Dad!

Sarah: Oh Ash, my lovely handsome nephew! Come here.

Sarah gives Ash a big hug, nearly crushing him. He wriggles out of it.

Ash: This way!

Dad sits down. Uncle Mo, Aunty Sarah and Ash go to Jaz' door. Ash knocks.

Ash: Jaz.

No answer, Jaz is ignoring him.

Ash: Jaz Jaz Jaz Jaz . . .

Jaz: Yes, alright!!!

(Cuts in)

Jaz picks up Ash shoes, spits on them and starts rubbing them with a dirty bit of old tissue.

Ash: *(To Mo and Sarah, as Jaz polishes shoes)* She's coming.

Oh, I've got an idea! *(To Mo)* Why don't you hold the cake in front of you? As if the cake has come to see her when she opens the door?! She'll love that!

Mo: Haha! Great idea Ash.

Sarah: You are such a joker. And so handsome!

Sarah goes to hug Ash again, Ash moves out of the way.

Uncle Mo holds the cake in front of him, as if it was the cake that knocked on the door, he and Sarah nudge each other, giggle. Ash knocks again.

Ash: JAZ JAZ JAZ JAZ JAZ JAZ JAZ . . . !

Jaz, annoyed, opens the door forcefully

Ash: There, take your stupid shoes!

She thrusts the shoes blindly and aggressively through the doorway.

The shoes go straight into Uncle Mos cake. The cake topples and takes Mo and Sarah with it, knocking them over like dominoes. Ash steps out of the way. The cake is ruined.

Jaz: Oh! Oh no! Uncle! Oh no! No! I'm sorry! I'm so sorry.

Aunt Sarah: What have you done?

Uncle Mo: My beautiful cake!

Jaz spots Ash, a sly grin on his face.



Jaz: You made this happen didn't you?!

Ash: I don't know what you're talking about Jaz.
(*'Hurt'*)

Jaz: You little *snake* . . .

Ash: What? Why is she calling me that?
(Mock innocent)

Jaz: You just have to make my life a misery don't you!

(*Shouts really loud*) I HATE YOU!!!!

Jaz leaps on Ash. They fight, shouting and cussing each other as they do so.

'Get off me, you Drama Queen' 'You're SO jealous of me!' 'Sad little try-hard' 'Arrogant little Boy' 'Mum! Mum!' 'Dad!' 'Ahhh!!!' 'AHHH!!!! OW!!!' etc.

The family all rush to crowd round and eventually pull Ash and Jaz apart.

Movement note: the fight could be choreographed/stylised stand off. Ash and Jaz, held back by family members, glare at each other. Then, simultaneously, turn and storm off in different directions. A slight pause then Anika turns to the audience. The rest of the family help each other up, clean up cake, etc, looking sad/angry, then go back to their seats.

Anika: Needless to say Dad's birthday was a bit flat after that. Jaz wouldn't come out of her room and Ash disappeared for the evening – probably went down the chicken shop to see his friends. Everyone was very angry with both of them. They both got grounded, and the atmosphere in our house was terrible. Even at school people knew about it. It was bad, and sad, and also very stupid; but then help came from an unlikely source.

SFX: School Corridor.

Jaz and her friends stand up, start chatting, they are looking at photos on their phone of a film star or band member they like. Mr Knowall comes over.

Jaz: Oh no, Mr. Knowall, hide me.

Too late, he's seen them.

Mr. Knowall: Er, Jaz, can I talk to you.

Jaz: Oh. Yeah, alright Sir.

Jaz' friends move away

Mr Knowall Y(*Hurt*) I'm rather disappointed in you Jaz.
(*Cuts in*)

Jaz: I'm so sorry Sir.

Mr. Knowall: I set up the Extra Tuitional Super Science Support Group because you suggested it.

Jaz: I know.



Mr. Knowall: You haven't been to a single one, it's just me and Mikhail every time.

Jaz: Oh! Now Mikhail is going to beat me in the exam. Again! This is all Ash's fault.

Mr. Knowall: Your brother? What's he done now?

Jaz: He's not my brother anymore Sir, I've disowned him. He started a massive fight and now we're both grounded. That's why I can't come to the Extra Tuitional Super Science Support group.

Mr. Knowall: Ah, yes, this was the fight about him winning the Chicken Challenge wasn't it?

Jaz: What? Why does everyone in this school know my business?

Mr. Knowall: I have to say Jaz, I thought it was a very negative scenario.

Jaz: Eh? What d'you mean sir?

Mr. Knowall: Why were you trying to make him do something unhealthy when you were criticising him for being unhealthy in the first place?

Pause. Jaz shrugs sulkily

Jaz: He just . . . he winds me up Sir, you don't understand.

Mr. Knowall: Look. Why not do something positive instead? If you think fried chicken shops are bad why not try and come up with an alternative. Rise above the obesogenic environment. Show everyone you can beat it, like Ash did.

Jaz: What d'you mean sir?

Mr. Knowall: Well, there's a bit of money left in the Extra Tuitional Super Science Support budget. How about we spend it on an alternative chicken stall for the School Summer Fayre? A healthy chicken stall. It would fit in with the Year 10 Biology curriculum and you could run it

Jaz: What me? I don't *cook* Sir!

Mr. Knowall: No, but you and your friends are very resourceful, if I provide the budget I'm sure you can organise the cooking side of it, the sourcing of ingredients etc., use your Maths to do the pricing, Art for some positive advertising and so on.

Jaz: Mm, is this something I could put in my personal statement when I apply to Uni sir?
(*Thoughtful*)

Mr. Knowall: It is indeed. What d'you think?

Jaz: I think it's a great idea. Leave it with me Sir. Girls!!

Jaz goes off to find her friends and make plans (sits down). Mr. Knowall smiles and also goes to sit.

Anika: My sister Jaz and her friends are *soooooo* good at organising people. They got the chicken from an Uncle who is a butcher, and they got it at cost price. My Mum, Uncle Mo and Leyla were brought in to do the cooking, Auntie Sarah and me went shopping and got loads of very reasonable bread rolls to go with. We casseroleed the chicken in a big pot with some of Grandad's vegetables from his allotment, it was delicious and easy.



MUSIC: SUMMER FAYRE.MP3

Jaz and her Girls set up the alternative chicken stall.

The day of the Summer Fayre came. Jaz was very nervous.

Jaz at the stall looking nervous, someone comes up and buys chicken, tastes it and gives her the thumbs up. A queue starts forming. The queue grows longer as Anika speaks and Jaz and co work fast selling chicken.

But word soon got round how delicious our chicken was, and also very reasonable, only £1.99 per portion including bread! Before we knew it, a big queue had formed and the chicken was selling like, well, like hot chicken. Even Ash and his mates tried some . . .

Ash and friends buy some chicken.

. . . and you know what? They liked it!

Ash and friends all give the chicken the thumbs up.

. . . They liked it even more than the fried chicken they'd been eating every day, which was a good thing because it was much better for them. So the chicken stall was a big success but the most important thing was

We see Ash shaking hands with Jaz

. . . it brought my brother and sister back together again, which is what we wanted. Wasn't it Leyla?

Leyla nods, happy.

(To Leyla) Are you going to do your poem?

Leyla pauses a moment then smiles and nods.

Anika: Really?!

Leyla: Yes. Really.

Anika: I bet you thought she couldn't speak didn't you?
(To audience)

SUGGESTED MUSIC: SUMMER FAYRE.MP3

Anika takes Leyla by the hand. At same time the cast all get up and bring thie chairs round to make an audience. During this transition we also see Miss Kindly being offered doughnuts by a doughnut seller, wavering for a moment, then refusing to buy one. A block (or chair) is put 'in front' of the (cast) audience by Miss Kindly. Anika walks Leyla round next to the block. Fade music. The cast audience all take their seats. Ms Kindly steps onto the block.

Ms Kindly And now, Ladies and Gentlemen, our very own Leyla, the Poet!



Everyone applauds. Leyla stands on the block, takes a piece of paper out of her pocket, unfolds it, clears her throat, then reads.

Leyla: We're surrounded by temptations, so hard to resist.
 Food and snacks, a big long list
 Of deliciousness, from dawn to eve
 And staying active is hard to achieve
 And advertising is all around us,
 It's everywhere, feels like it drowns us.
 But we have to fight back, we have to insist
 That we can do it, we can resist,
 Like my brother resisted the chicken temptation
 Now he walks past that shop with no hesitation.
 So I'm giving you an invitation
 To improve the health of our population
 And stop us becoming an obese nation.
 So eat less junk, get more active
 Take up the challenge, just like Ash did.
 You know that this will make you feel well
 And that is all I wanted to tell you.
 So this is the end of my little rhyme.
 Thank you so much for your patience and time.

*Leyla finishes the poem, folds up the paper, smiles shyly. Cast audience applaud and cheer.
 Ms Kindly hugs Leyla then all crowd round to pat her on the back etc.
 As they do so Anika steps aside and addresses audience*

Anika: So that's it. That's the story of my family and my school and how the obesogenic environment affected us in so many different ways. Everything turned out good in the end. Ash only eats fried chicken occasionally now; Jaz and her Girls are still running the healthy chicken shop *and* they've taken up cycling; Ms Kindly has given up eating doughnuts; and Ash and Jaz have even stopped arguing – most of the time - and that makes me *soooooo* happy.

So, my brother resisted the chicken temptation and we had a happy ending.

Now how about you?

Everyone: Can you resist?
(To audience)

END OF PLAY MUSIC: FAB FRIED CHICKEN NO CLUCKS.MP3

The End