

Screenplay

EXT.SCHOOL BUILDING-AFTERNOON

END OF SCHOOL DAY

This is a tragic sight: children running all around,  
teachers trying to contain them as best they can.

Parents have come to pick their children from school

CUT TO:

INT.SCHOOL HALLWAY

We see the three kids from our previous episode(NIGERIA  
HERITAGE) Nicolas, Caleb and Nancy.

Nancy is crying while her brothers console her. They are  
seated in front of the Principal's office

ON DOOR

The name tag reads: Principal J. WOOD

INT.PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

Tayo and Emily(the parents of our three gorgeous children  
just outside) are in a conversation with the principal(a  
middle aged white man).

The atmosphere is thick with anger as they argue about  
something.

PRINCIPAL WOOD

... can assure you, it was  
harmless, you know. I mean, it's  
just kids being kids, that's all.  
But then your son hit that kid and  
broke his nose well, it was no  
longer kids play.

EMILY

(sternly)

Jason told my daughter that she was  
different because she didn't look  
like the rest of the kids. He made  
her feel different. And you call  
that kids play?

PRINCIPAL WOOD

Well, I am sure he didn't mean  
anything by it.

(CONTINUED)

EMILY

(scoffs)

You won't criticize his attitude,  
but my son stands up for his baby  
sister and you are punishing him  
for it?

Tayo sits silently watching the exchange go on,

Finally he speaks up

TAYO

My children are very much the same  
as the other kids in this school,  
arguably better. I will not have  
you making them feel inferior or  
different. Emily, let's leave.

He gets up to leave

EMILY

This behavior is unacceptable. It  
will be reported at the next parent  
teacher meeting.

They both exit the office

TAYO(V.O)

Come on kids, let's go home.

CUT TO:

INT.TAYO'S HOUSE-EVENING

This is later in the evening after dinner. The air is solemn  
and quiet.

The kids sit watching television. Nancy is still sulking  
about the events of the early hours of the day.

Tayo and Emily hurdle up i the dining to talk.

EMILY

Should I go talk to them or you  
should?

TAYO

Don't worry I got it. I think I am  
more suited to educate them on this  
matter.

(CONTINUED)

EMILY  
(feels left out)  
Oh, ok.

TAYO  
Doesn't mean I won't need help  
though.

EMILY  
(brightens up)  
Thank you.

They move to the living room

INT.LIVING ROOM

TAYO(O.S)  
Kids!

Like robots all three kids turn to the direction of the  
voice.

That startles Tayo.

TAYO(CONT'D)  
Oh, Jesus! Are you kids trying to  
scare my heart out of my chest,  
cause I can tell you, it almost  
worked.

EMILY  
Come on, kids. Daddy and I need to  
talk to you.

NICOLAS  
Is it about what happened in school  
today?

TAYO  
(calmly)  
Yes, it is son.

NICOLAS  
Caleb didn't do anything wrong. it  
was Jason who started it.

EMILY  
Nik, we aren't blaming anyone for  
anything. Just let your father  
speak.

As she says those last words, she pats Tayo on the back as  
if tagging him to take over.

(CONTINUED)

TAYO  
Alright, kids. I am going to ask  
you a question. And I need an  
answer from you.

Pauses for effect

TAYO(CONT'D)  
What are you?

This question throws everyone of balance, even Emily.

TAYO(CONT'D)  
I ask again, what are you?

This time he asks it with a tiny bit more force

To both parents surprise, Nancy's eyes pool with tears and  
the first drop makes its way down her delicate face.

EMILY  
Hey baby, what's wrong?

She picks her up.

CALEB  
Jason asked her the same question  
before telling her we shouldn't be  
in the same school as them. Then  
his friends laughed when he shoved  
her. That's when I came and punched  
him in the face.

TAYO  
(impressed)  
In the face, huh? Serves him right.

Emily gives him a stern look

TAYO(CONT'D)  
But you can't go round punching  
people in the face. Alright, not  
good.

As Emily turns to drop Nancy on the sofa, Tayo fist bumps  
Caleb and mouths "good job".

Emily catches the movement behind her and turns but just in  
time to see Tayo mockingly reprimanding Caleb.

The kids laugh at this.

(CONTINUED)

TAYO

(chuckling)

See, we are laughing now, aren't we? That's nice, hmm. We are just the same as everyone else. When someone hurts us, do we not feel the pain? Do we not cry?

Everyone is silent as they pay attention to the words he speaks.

TAYO

When someone annoys us, don't we get angry? Or don't we feel scared when we see spiders?

The last question was aimed at Caleb

CALEB

I hate spiders.

TAYO

If you prick me, won't I bleed? When your stomachs are empty do you not eat? When you are thirsty, do you not drink water to quench your thirst? Or when you feel pressed, don't you make use of the ladies and mens room? You feel bored don't you watch TV? After a long day at school and work, don't we rest and relax? These things we do, everyone else does it, regardless of the color of their skin, regardless of their beliefs, regardless of their ethnicity.

The air has a bit of a solemn aura to it.

TAYO

So let no man or woman, boy or girl make you feel different and out of place. Because you guys are perfect just the way you are and I love you and thank God for giving me such beautiful kids. And an amazing wife.

NANCY

But we look different from the other kids at school.

(CONTINUED)

EMILY

No, you don't. You are black, be proud of it. Own it and the truth is you look just the way God wanted you to look.

TAYO

We blacks, we have a host of cultures. In my country alone, there are over 500 different languages spoken. Be happy and proud, you are black, not different. Wear your blackness like an armor and people will treat it as such. Only when you make yourself feel inferior or little do people follow suit and do the same. So no matter what, be proud of your skin color, because I am proud of mine.

Emily walks over to her husband and pinches him

TAYO

(winces)

Owww!

EMILY

If I pinch your father, won't he feel it?

TAYO

Oh, I felt it alright.

Emily walks to the sofa where the children are sitting and goes on a tickling frenzy.

The children burst out laughing as their moves from one victim to another.

EMILY

If I tickle you, won't you laugh?

This goes on for some time

The children are ecstatic on the floor

Emily walks over to Tayo, he expects to get tickled. but instead Emily pinches him again

TAYO

Ouch! That really hurts.

Somehow the kids find this amusing and they laugh some more.

(CONTINUED)

Emily and Tayo join the kids on the floor as Tayo pulls them in for a hug.

TAYO(CONT'D)

So anyone figured out an answer to my question: what are you?

CALEB

We are humans.

TAYO

Yes, we are, son. Just like Principal Wood and Jason and his friends and the rest of your school. We all are humans.

EMILY

And let no one tell you otherwise.

NANCY

Okay, mum.

FADE OUT:

INT.CHILDREN ROOM-FEW MOMENTS LATER

Tayo and Emily have set the children to sleep

NANCY

Goodnight Mum, goodnight Dad.

TAYO

Goodnight sweetie.

The parents shut the door as they step out.

INT.HALLWAY

TAYO

You know, I never actually told you thank you.

EMILY

(cautious)

For what?

TAYO

For giving me the best family a man can only dream of.

(CONTINUED)



EMILY

Awww, well thank you too.

TAYO

Why exactly?

EMILY

For being here for them. Ok I could really use a bit of that relaxation and rest you spoke about earlier.

THE END...