

# DRINKING

**Characters: Liam, Johnny, Steve, Robert, Marie, Sue, Steve's Mum, Tom Brady (coach)**

## SCENE 1

**Setting: Outside school gates. Liam, Johnny, Steve & Robert are discussing the weekend,**

Liam: Are you lot going out tonight?

Johnny: Sure, are you?

Liam: Yeah, of course. Shall we all meet up in the Abbey at about nine?

Steve: Well....I'm not going out tonight lads.

Robert: Why not. We always go out at the weekend.

Steve: Yeah....but I'll end up drinking too much as usual.

Robert: That's the whole point. What's the use of going out otherwise?

Steve: Yeah, I know, but I've got a match tomorrow morning. My Coach has been giving me grief. He reckons my game's slipping up cos I drink too much and he says my diet is crap! I've been told to stay off the pints for a couple of weeks.

Johnny: That's too bad. There's supposed to be a mad crowd out tonight. We'll have a great laugh. You've gotta come.

Steve: My Coach has warned me....no more drinking or I'll be kicked off the team.

Liam: But there's a deal at the Abbey tonight. All pints are a quid before 10pm. You can't say no to that!

Robert: Wicked! We can all get smashed on £10!

Steve: Cheers lads. I was out drinking last night as it is. I shouldn't go out tonight. I'll get killed.

### **Sue and Marie join the boys.**

- Sue: How's it going, lads?
- Liam: OK Sue. We were just talking about the Abbey. They've got cheap beer tonight. Are you up for it?
- Sue: You bet. It'll be great. Who's going?
- Johnny: Well, we all are....er...except Steve. He's got better things to do than hang around with us.
- Marie: You're not going, Steve? Why not?
- Steve: I've got a match tomorrow so I'll need a clear head.
- Marie: Yeah, but you don't have to drink. You can still come out.
- Robert: Oh go on, Steve. You can stay in next weekend. You don't want to give up cheap beer, do you?
- Steve: Well.....I dunno...I..umm.
- Sue: Come on Steve. We'll make sure you don't drink. OK?
- Steve: Yeah, you're right. I'll meet you in the Abbey at nine then.

### **SCENE 2**

**Setting: It is the following morning. Steve is in bed. His mother is calling him.**

- Mum: Come on, Steve. I called you an hour ago. Your match starts in an hour. I thought you were trying to stay on the good side of your coach.
- Steve: Leave off! I've a massive headache. Ring him and tell him I won't make it there today.
- Mum: Come on, Steve. You can't keep letting people down and calling things off. You're the same every weekend – one hangover after another.

Steve: Give it a rest, Mum. It'll be different next week. After last night, I'm never going to drink again.

Mum: Yeah. That's what you said last weekend!

Steve: Please, Mum. Just ring him for me. I can do without the lecture – my head is thumping.

Mum: No, Steve. I've had enough of this. I'm sick of making excuses for you. You ring him. It's your mess!

**She leaves the bedroom. Steve staggers out of bed and gets the phone)**

Steve: Hi...can I speak to Tom Brady please? .....It's Steve O'Connor...thanks.....hi Tom.

Tom: Hello, Steve. How are you this morning?

Steve: I'm not feeling too good, Tom. I've got a really bad stomach ache and.....

Tom: In other words, you've got a hangover.

Steve: No...no coach. I'm just feeling sick, that's all.

Tom: Steve! You and I both know you were out last night and you drank too much **AND** now you have a hangover.

Steve: But, coach. Hang on!

Tom: Steve. This is the third time in the past six weeks that you've called in sick with a stomach ache, a headache, sickness, dizziness.....It's not good enough. You obviously think more of your nights out with your mates than you do of the game.

Steve: Please, coach. I'm sorry...I wasn't going to go out....but....my friends said.....

Tom: I'm sorry, Steve. You were warned. Don't bother turning up again. You're off the team!

**He hangs up. Steve looks upset.**

Steve: But.....but...I'm sorry....it won't happen again.

**END**

# **DRINKING - FOLLOW UP WORK**

## **Class Discussion**

Ask everyone to get into groups of 4/5 and discuss the following:

- If you were Steve, would you have gone out with your friends knowing you had a match the following day?
- Should Steve's mother have covered for him, knowing his membership on the team was at risk?
- Was Tom Brady too hard on Steve?
- What do you think of Steve's friends?

After 10 minutes, reconvene into the main group and discuss further:

## **Further Research**

Ask the group to carry out the following research:

- Is under-age drinking a problem in your area?
- Conduct research into the drinking habits of the people in your school. How would you go about it? Would a survey be useful? How do you think people would respond?

## **Activity**

Give out **WORKSHEET 1** and ask the group to spend 10 minutes filling it in.

Give out **WORKSHEET 2** and ask them to compare their answers with this.