

# In the Middle

A Musical For and About Middle School

*by*  
***Madeline Rossetini***

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## **DEDICATION**

*This musical is dedicated to George Washington  
Middle School in Ridgewood, New Jersey.*

## **STORY OF THE PLAY**

Middle school -- it isn't about sex, drugs, and rock and roll. It's more like puberty, pimples and popularity! If you want to know what really goes on in the hallways every single day, join these students as they perform insightful songs highlighting their monologues and scenes. "Doing the Tag" introduces friendships and rivalries; "Standing by My Locker" finds a girl longing for the boy of her dreams to notice her; and "I'm Hot! / I'm Not!" is about being popular...or not!

A foreign-born student faces extra challenges, as do guys whose voices are changing. "Hormonal Blues" finds a boy in the throes of first love with a girl he can't even talk to, while "Once You Were My Baby" has a mother coming to the realization that her "baby" is growing up. "Rumors" points the finger at destroying one's peers, while "The Bully" shows thoughtless cruelty.

"Mr. Average" gives us the warm philosophy that it's all right to just be who you are -- to be yourself. Finally, "What's On the Other Side" discovers the students now looking to the future -- high school and beyond!

This touching show will reach everyone in the audience in some way or another. Simple to rehearse and stage, it features a flexible cast of approximately 17 boys and 19 girls. Four adult roles may be played by students, teachers or parents.

Performance time about 70 minutes.

**SCENES, SONGS and CHARACTERS**

**Scene 1 Song #1 - "In the Middle"**

Emma: Narrator

Full cast

**Scene 2 Song #2 - "Doing the Tag"**

Tammie: Soloist

Moesha: Soloist

Cathy: Soloist

Billy, Matt, Jayden: Students

Small Ensemble

**Scene 3 Song #3 - "Standing by My Locker"**

Christina: Soloist

Chelsea, Heather, Amanda: Popular girls

Tim: Cute boy

Girls Small Ensemble

**Scene 4 Song #4 - "I'm Hot! I'm Not!"**

Monica: Soloist

Julie Anne: Soloist

Chelsea, Heather, Amanda, Christina: Popular girls

**Scene 5 Song #5 - "America"**

Mikiko: Foreign student, soloist

Mia and Melissa: Students

Scott, Steve, and Tom: Bullies

Ben: Soloist

**Scene 6 Song #6 - "Cambiata"**

Mike: Soloist

Miss Dolce: Choir Teacher

Mixed Ensemble

**Scene 7 Song #7 "Hormonal Blues"**

Charlie: Soloist

Marie: Cute girl

Six Girl Dancers

**Scene 8 Song #8 - "Once You Were My Baby"**

Karl, Eddie, and Joe: Best friends

Mom: Female soloist (student or adult)

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**Scene 9 Song #9 – “Rumors”**

Breanne: Soloist

Lena: Soloist

Sophie: Soloist

Kelsey: Soloist

Jake: Soloist

Mixed Ensemble

**Scene 10 Song #10 - “The Bully”**

**Song #11 - “I Was Once Like You”**

Scott: Bully

Josh: Soloist

David and James: Josh’s friends

Mr. Lange: Male teacher (adult or student)

Small Ensemble

**Scene 11 Song #12 – “Mr. Average”**

Natalie and Anna: Smart girls

Joe (Mr. Average): Soloist

Ellen (Miss Average): Soloist

Girls Small Ensemble

**Scene 12 Song #13 – “What’s On the Other Side”**

Emma: Narrator, soloist

Principals from each scene

**Song #14 – “Finale”**

Full Cast

**SETTING**

The setting is a middle school hallway with a minimum of six lockers, all open in the back so that the actors can enter and exit them as needed. The back wall or curtain should have some sort of school hallway scene on it, such as a faux brick wall, a bulletin board, or a school banner. You could also construct larger than life caricatures of typical students and mount them around the stage. Several stools will be carried on. Risers are needed below the front of the stage.

**Scene 1 -- In the Middle**

*(AT RISE: There is a stool in the middle of the stage in front of the main curtain. EMMA enters from SL and sits on stool. The SPOTLIGHT is on her.)*

**EMMA:** Hi, I'm Emma. I'm in middle school. *(Yells and get off the stool.)* Yeah, sex, drugs, rock and roll, baby. *(Sits on stool again.)* Well, not exactly. Sure it's true, there are kids our age doing those things, but that's not who this show is about. The show is about your basic 6th to 8th graders. Like, me for instance. After all, for most of us, it isn't about sex, drugs and rock and roll. It's more like puberty, pimples and popularity. Still, if you're more interested in the media's picture of what goes on with middle school kids, then read the papers or watch the news. But, if you want to know what really goes on in these hallways every single day, then join me at my locker, and let's take a look in the middle.

*(EMMA carries off the stool as the CURTAIN opens. LIGHT the whole stage. The CAST enters from all directions and forms groups on the stage. They should be in some sort of choral grouping so the harmonies balance. A great number for show choir movement.)*

**MUSICAL #1 – “In the Middle”**

**CAST:** HOW EXCITED DO WE LOOK?  
HOW TRAUMATIC DOES IT SEEM?  
NO LONGER A CHILD PERSON  
WE'VE MOVED INTO OUR TEENS.  
NEW ADVENTURES TO HAVE  
NEW IDEAS TO BE FOUND  
CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL OVERWHELMED  
ARE MY FEET TOUCHING THE GROUND?

*(Interlude. Shift full CAST forward, sitting on the edge of the stage. Six DANCERS cross stage from wings, three from*

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*stage left and three from stage right. They do a short number and exit through the wings and go into the lockers from the back. They will enter after the words "Having a ball." If you have enough dancers you could use a separate group of six for the lockers and have them in there from the opening.)*

**CAST:** *(Cont'd.)*

I'M WALKING TO SCHOOL WITH MY FRIENDS  
I'M RIDING MY BIKE INTO TOWN  
NO LONGER NEEDING A BABYSITTER  
I'M FREE TO WANDER AROUND  
MY BACKPACK'S FILLED WITH MY GEAR  
MY LOCKER'S JUST DOWN THE HALL  
I TRY TO STAY CALM  
BUT THERE'S SWEAT ON MY PALM  
THOUGH I KNOW I'LL BE HAVING A BALL.

*(Interlude. DANCERS enter from lockers and do a small number, then join in singing.)*

**CAST:** *(Cont'd.)*

I'M STRUTTING MY WAY THROUGH THE HALLS  
I'M WALKING AROUND WITH A GRIN  
I'M PLAYING IT COOL  
'CAUSE I'M IN A NEW SCHOOL  
AND I WANT TO MAKE SURE I FIT IN

SO IF YOU SEE ME WALK BY  
JUST GIVE ME A WINK OF YOUR EYE  
I'LL TRY TO ACT COOL 'CAUSE  
I'M IN A NEW SCHOOL  
SO LOOK OUT, WORLD, I'VE ARRIVED!

*(CAST makes like kids running to get to the next class on time as they exit SR and SL. Cast members in the next number get into position on stage. While they are doing this, the MUSIC and LIGHTS fade out. The next scene is set.)*

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## **Scene 2 -- Doing the Tag**

*(A group of SIXTH GRADERS are standing in poses outside of their lockers while TAMMIE is in the middle of the stage. MATT is standing stage left front reading a book. MOESHA and BILLY are posed center stage just behind Matt.)*

### **MUSICAL #2 – “Doing the Tag”**

*(SPOT is on TAMMIE. As she sings she works her way over to MATT.)*

**TAMMIE:** HANGIN' IN THE HALLWAY, NOTHING ELSE TO DO  
HANGIN' IN THE HALLWAY, THAT'S WHEN I SEE YOU  
AND I GET THE IDEA THAT IT'S TIME TO DO  
..... THE TAG.

*(LIGHT on the whole stage as TAMMIE tags MATT. He drops the book and chases her. MOESHA and BILLY join them. These four actors dance across the stage. Solo Moesha. As she is singing she works her way over to Billy who has moved two steps to the left of the group and poses.)*

**MOESHA:** FIND A FRIEND WAY DOWN THE HALL  
SNEAK RIGHT UP, TRY NOT TO FALL  
TAP A SHOULDER THAT IS ALL ...  
JUST TAG.

*(Solo CATHY. Cathy joins the group from her posed position. During this section the ACTORS singing are continually tagging each other.)*

**CATHY:** MAKE BELIEVE IT WASN'T YOU  
EVEN THOUGH YOU KNOW IT'S TRUE  
HOW CAN I GET BACK AT YOU ...  
JUST TAG.

*(Interlude. At the end of this interlude SIX SINGERS join the group stage center and join the song.)*

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