**PCST 2016**

**Jack is late. Air pollution and health at a bus stop**

***Performance***

**Presenter**

*Welcome ladies and gentlemen, today you’re attending a theatre play.*

*It is an invented play, but with a very serious aim: in this play, we talk about* ***pollution and health****.*

*Why?*

Actor looks around: *Did anybody ask why, or did I dream of it?*

*The environment where we live, work and study concerns us all: we take advantage of its beauty, but we can also suffer from its pollution.*

*There are many types of pollution: sea pollution, noise pollution, air pollution, and so on.*

*Who is deciding what to do to protect us against pollution? Who is controlling what’s going on? How can we raise our voice?*

*As you can see, we’re now waiting at a bus stop, in the middle of a traffic-congested city. Traffic provokes pollution and is bad for our health.*

*What advice could we give to the people living here?*

*Oh, how many questions I have already asked! Listen to our actors and decide by yourselves the advice we could give to the decision makers.*

(Jack is ready on the scene next to the bus stop. He’s waiting for the bus to go to school. After him, the other characters arrive)

**1. Jack**

*This bus is not coming. And I’ll be late for school, everybody will be mad at me. The History teacher, my parents, and Jorge too – he’s waiting for me to return the Nintendo card I borrowed him.*

(He sneezes and blows his nose – get ready a handkerchief on the scene!)

*What’s this grey stuff on the hanky?! Oh jeez, there’s a terrible traffic. What a stink, all these cars! I think it’s them getting me sneeze.*

*In Canada, where I’m from, there are so many green spaces. I’ve never felt a smell like this, I used to breathe much better there.*

Please continue:

*Hey, there’s Professor Smith over there!*

*For all these reasons, I propose to the Mayor to:*

**(This part should be acted at the end of all the characters’ presentations. After the Mayor answers, we’ll get back to Jack with his recommendations. On by one, all the other character will talk to the Mayor.**

***2. Professor Smith* – Jack’s teacher**

This character starts acting just after Jack finished. Jack talked about pollution from his perspective – a child used to many green spaces.

*Hi Jack, what are you doing here? You should be already at school. Oh, I see, the bus is late.*

*My car just broke down so I need to take the bus too to go to school – my class starts at 10, but I need to arrange many things before that. We’ll both be late.*

*Is it possible that we cannot find a way to use fewer cars? Not only they are bad for our health, they also damage the monuments of this beautiful city…*

Please continue:

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*Oh, look, here’s Fabrice! You know, we were at school together many years ago. Let’s ask him what happens with this air that make you sneeze so much. He is a technician expert of environmental monitoring and his job is to keep air pollution under control.*

*For all these reasons, I propose to the Mayor to:*

**(This part should be acted at the end of all the characters’ presentations. After the Mayor answers, we’ll get back to Jack with his recommendations. On by one, all the other character will talk to the Mayor.**

***3 - Fabrice* - Technician expert of environmental monitoring**

This character starts acting just after Professor Smith finished. Professor Smith talked about pollution from his perspective – a teacher reflecting on how to reduce smog and traffic.

*Hey, look who's there! How’re you doing? Ah, you’re stuck in traffic too. Yes, there was an accident near the end of the line, everything is blocked. You know, too many cars…*

*What? You’re asking what is this smell in the air?*

*Well, using a technical expression, it is a concentrate of* ***sulphate, nitrate and metal****. Scary words, huh? But if we all do our best, we could make a lot to reduce their presence in our city.*

*Have you ever heard of the* ***particulate matter****, the so-called PM? It is produced by traffic, but also by the apartments’ heating and by industries…*

Please continue:

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*Oh, look, Rose is coming! She’s the paediatrician of my son Conrad. She lives nearby. We may ask her what she thinks about it…*

*For all these reasons, I propose to the Mayor to:*

**(This part should be acted at the end of all the characters’ presentations. After the Mayor answers, we’ll get back to Jack with his recommendations. On by one, all the other character will talk to the Mayor.**

***4. Rose – Paediatrician***

This character starts acting just after Fabrice finished. Fabrice talked about pollution from his perspective – a technician expert of environmental monitoring.

*Good morning Fabrice, it has been a while. Well, that’s good, it means Conrad is fine.*

*What?! The bus is half an hour late? That’s crazy. And the air is so bad here.*

*What do I think? Well, I think air pollution can be really bad for our health. For example, the cases of allergy and asthma are getting more and more frequent.*

*But is not a seasonal problem only. The point is, the polluting elements are there for the whole year. In summer, substances such as* ***ozone*** *mostly increase with hot temperatures, while in winter the* ***particulate matter*** *is predominant. Breathing all this isn’t goo at all.*

*I was just wondering, we could organize some activities at school, to sensitize students on what they can do to fight pollution…*

*Checking my email this morning I received the link to a recent report of the World Health Organization. I printed some infos to show to my colleagues in the hospital:*

*The report is called “*[Preventing Disease through Healthy Environments: a Global Assessment of the Burden of Disease from Environmental Risks](http://gioconda.ifc.cnr.it/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/WHO_Preventing_disease_through_healthy_environments.pdf)”. It says

“Air pollution induces oxidative stress leading to inflammatory responses in the airways and bronchial hyper-reactivity, typical features of **asthma**. There is strong evidence that acute increases of ambient air pollution provoke asthma exacerbations and increase hospital admissions in adults and children. Long-term exposure to ambient air pollution, e.g. from motor vehicle exhaust, was furthermore associated with asthma development in both children and adults. Also, ozone exposure has been linked to acute reductions in lung function.

Please continue:

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*Ehi, I can’t believe it! Look at this, the Mayor is there. Why don’t we ask her what she thinks about all this?*

*For all these reasons, I propose to the Mayor to:*

**(This part should be acted at the end of all the characters’ presentations. After the Mayor answers, we’ll get back to Jack with his recommendations. On by one, all the other character will talk to the Mayor.**

**5 – Mayor of a city**

This character starts acting just after Rose finished. Rose talked about pollution from her perspective – a paediatrician

Who would like to protect children from the risks of air pollution.

*Traffic, traffic, traffic.*

*I’m the major of one of the most congested cities in the world. I tried to promote the use of new, eco-sustainable buses. How could I do to convince people to take them instead of the cars?*

Please continue:

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***When the Mayor finishes all the characters, starting from Jack, address her his/her recommendations to reduce air pollution.***

***The Mayor concludes:***

*Thank you all for your advice.*

*From my point of view, I would like to…*