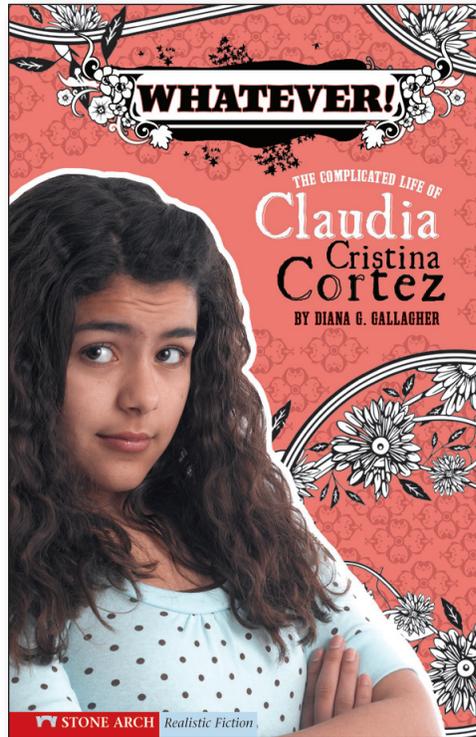




READER'S THEATER



Whatever! by Diana G. Gallagher

Characters: **Claudia's Thoughts**

Claudia

Adam

Nick

Becca

Monica

Genre: **Realistic Fiction**

Ages: **9-12**

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Claudia's Thoughts:

My name is Claudia Cristina Cortez. I am thirteen, I am in the seventh grade, and my life is complicated. This week I have my best friends to thank for that. You wouldn't think best friends would complicate life. Parents, teachers, school bullies, popular kids, yes, but friends, no.

Adam:

Don't you like me anymore, Claudia?

Claudia's Thoughts:

What? Not like him? Adam and I are closer than dogs and fleas, thunder and lightning, or hamburgers and fries.

Claudia:

Why do you think that?

Adam:

Because you didn't want to come over to look at my baseball cards. I know you still collect cards.

Nick:

Claudia doesn't like me either, but I don't care!

Claudia's Thoughts:

Nick is my annoying seven-year-old neighbor. I can't stand him.

Claudia:

Go watch TV, Nick.

Adam:

Yeah, Nick.

Nick:

Baseball cards are stupid.

Claudia:

Some baseball cards are worth a lot of money. Now go away.

Nick:

There's nothing to do in your yard.

Claudia:

Catch bugs.

Adam:

Here's a quarter.

Claudia:

That should buy us about sixty seconds.

Adam:

Listen Claudia. I know you can't spend all your free time with me, but we don't spend any time together.

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Claudia's Thoughts:

I wasn't sure what to say. Adam and I had been friends since we were little kids. I still liked some of the things we used to do together, but I'm thirteen now, not nine. I like doing other things, too.

Nick:

Look out! It's the mutant cat from Planet Z! You can't get away from Viper Man.

Claudia:

Stop that, Nick!

Claudia's Thoughts:

My poor cat, Ping-Ping, knows all about the mutant brat from planet Earth. She made a mad dash to escape Nick and zoomed into our house through the pet door. Then Nick decided to take out his boredom on the dandelions by whacking their tops off with a stick.

Nick:

Swish! Swish!

Adam:

We haven't played catch in weeks, Claudia.

Claudia:

I know. I've been busy.

Adam:

I don't get much practice with Tommy or Peter. Peter's smart, but he's not a very good ball player and Tommy clowns around too much.

Nick:

Here's the bug you told me to catch, Claudia!

Claudia:

Hey!

Adam:

That wasn't very nice.

Nick:

I wasn't trying to be nice.

Claudia:

Believe me, Adam, I'd rather play catch with you than do homework or chores or watch Nick, but I can't be in two places at once.

Adam:

I know. That's why I want to join the Whatever Club.

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Claudia's Thoughts:

I started the Whatever Club with my best friends Monica and Becca after Anna, the most popular girl in school, started the Glory Girls club. She only let her close friends join. Our feelings were really hurt, so we started our own club. It's called the Whatever Club because we couldn't agree on one thing the club should be about. We take turns choosing different things to do, and we are never bored. What would Becca and Monica think about Adam wanting to be in the club? I talked with them the next day at school during lunch.

Claudia
(to Becca and Monica):

We have a problem. I'm calling a Whatever Club meeting.

Becca:

What problem?

Claudia:

I absolutely cannot talk about it here. The code word is BOY.

Becca:

Did Tommy hear Anna's rumor? Does he know I sort of like him?

Claudia:

No that's not it.

Monica:

Is it about Brad? Did he talk to you? Did you faint?

Claudia:

No, no, and no. I called a Whatever Club meeting because we can't talk about it here.

Claudia's Thoughts:

Somehow I knew this situation could become disastrous and I didn't want to talk about it in front of the whole lunch room. The Whatever Club had always been just Monica, Becca and me. We share all our secrets and talk about stuff we don't want anyone else to know, especially a boy. But we didn't have a no-boy rule and it seemed unfair to keep Adam out. Besides, we knew how it felt to be kept out of something when Anna wouldn't let us join the Glory Girls. I wanted to spend more time with Adam, too, but convincing Monica and Becca that he should be allowed to join the Whatever Club . . . well, let's just say I think it might be an uphill battle!

THE END