JORDAN/JOHN (Female/Male)

JORDAN CARTER - A senior. Once academically successful. Due to unforeseen circumstances Jordan has lost her rank, lost her friends, and lost everything she thought was important.

JOHN CARTER - Jordan's younger brother. A sophomore and our story's foil to the system. John sees the academic system for what it is and is bound to work around it, especially if it means he gets to talk to the cute new freshman girl.

ACT I, SCENE 6 - JORDAN and JOHN's House

JOHN

Hey

JORDAN

Hey

(JORDAN is casually doing her own thing when JOHN decides to interrupt)

JOHN

I ran into Sydney today - Sydney Summers

JORDAN

I'll bet that was fun.

JOHN

She asked about you. Where you were and stuff.

JORDAN

What'd you tell her?

(JOHN realizes there are a lot of details to this story…. He probably doesn't want to get into all of them now)

JOHN

Nothing… it wasn't much of a conversation…

(A moment… as though he has been struggling with this question all day -)

Do you think people can care about school and still be... good people?

JORDAN

(more caught off guard by the question than not understanding - she stops playing)

What?

JOHN

Like… do you think that it's possible for people to work hard and also… I don't know… care about - other stuff too?

JORDAN

(Sharply)

No.

JOHN

(Really trying to justify his feelings he might be having for a girl…)

But… we used to be Above the Average. Are you saying that we ---

JORDAN

(Huge shift. Sharp. Aggressive.)

It's different. You know it's different. No one Above the - - Do you remember? Do you remember last year at all? Did *you* care about real things? Did I?

(Lots of pain here. JOHN looks down as JORDAN glares at him… a moment)

No. None of them have any idea.

(A beat)

Why are you talking about this?

JOHN

I just… Rank Redemption is next week and maybe.. I was thinki - -

JORDAN

I thought you didn't care about your rank anymore?

JOHN

(Almost overlapping -)

Nevermind.

JORDAN

Never mind about what?

JOHN

No one.

JORDAN

No one?

JOHN

Nothing. I mean nothing.

JORDAN

Who is it?

JOHN

I … it's nothi - - her name is Lily.

JORDAN

And Lily is Above the Average? Is she one of Sydney's friends?

So what - just an afternoon hanging out with Sydney and her "squad?"

JOHN

No - it wasn't like that, I just - -

JORDAN

Just you and Sydney - talking about how hard it is to stay at the top.

JOHN

No - no - Sydney wasn't there - well she was - but she was - - Lily isn't like that.

JORDAN

They're all like that, idiot. Sydney. Lily. All of them.

JOHN

No - she is smart, and - -

JORDAN

Mom would be so disappointed.