

# Dream On

By Alyssa Formosa

## *Characters*

**Piper** – 12 year old girl. Dreams to fly.

**Joey** – 12 year old boy. Piper's best friend.

## *Synopsis*

Piper and Joey's teacher, Ms. Quinn, assigned her students a paper to write about their dreams. Piper tries to write the paper.

**Piper:** *(To audience.)* My Dreams, by Piper Willis.

Life is never fair. I've had a terrible injustice committed against me. You see, Ms. Quinn, you told us to write about our dreams, what we hope to achieve in life, and you told us that if we work hard enough our dreams will one day be within reach... I'm calling bull! Whoever said nothing is impossible is so dense that I'm surprised they haven't sunken down to the bottom of the Pacific. My dream is never going to happen. I don't understand, Ms. Quinn, how you're allowed to go around placing false hopes into children like that. Don't get me wrong, I think you're a lovely lady, but I find this writing assignment a complete waste of time. As a sign of protest, I refuse to tell you my dream. It is a sparkling, magical fantasy that is just for me. I hope you understand. Sincerely, Piper.

**Piper:** *(At park.)* AHHHHHHHHH. *(She stomps around then sits. She bangs her fists on the ground.)*

**Joey (entering):** Piper?

**Piper:** Hi.

**Joey:** What are you doing?

**Piper:** Channeling my raging fire over Ms. Quinn's writing assignment.

**Joey:** Can I be mad with you?

**Piper:** The more the merrier.

*(Joey stomps around and then kicks the ground.)*

**Joey:** Ow!

**Piper:** You aren't supposed to kick the ground.

**Joey:** I was being angry for you.

**Piper:** You were being stupid. How does kicking the ground seem like a good idea?

**Joey:** I think I broke my toe.

**Piper:** Suck it up.

**Joey:** It hurts!

**Piper:** I was having a crisis first and it's rude to try and upstage someone else's crisis.

**Joey:** I was helping with your-

**Piper:** Shhh.

**Joey:** But I-

**Piper:** Shhh.

**Joey:** Piper!

**Piper:** Shhh. Once we figure out my crisis, we can deal with yours.

**Joey:** I can't just ignore the pain.

**Piper:** Which foot?

**Joey:** What?

**Piper:** Which foot did you hurt?

**Joey:** The right one.

*(Piper stomps on his left foot.)*

**Piper:** There, all better.

**Joey:** Ow! What was that for?

**Piper:** To balance out the pain. *(Beat.)* You're welcome.

**Joey:** I just hurt more now!

**Piper:** No, now you feel more balanced. I read about it in a book.

**Joey:** What book? Pain For Dummies 101?

**Piper:** You're missing the big point here!

**Joey:** And what would that be?

**Piper:** A terrible injustice this world has committed against me! She's telling us to follow our dreams but if I were to follow my dreams I would die.

**Joey:** I have no sympathy.

**Piper:** You're such a drama queen. I hope you realize that the faster we deal with my crisis the faster we get to your... thing.

**Joey:** Really?

**Piper:** That's what I toed you.

**Joey:** You cannot make toe jokes and then completely ignore my injury.

**Piper:** But don't you wanna know what my dream is?

**Joey:** What's your dream?

*(Piper looks both ways and then motions for Joey to come closer. She whispers her dream in his ear.)*

**Joey:** I can see how that's an issue.

**Piper:** I know! Out of all the things to want from the world, why do I have to want that?

**Joey:** Do you want to hear what my dreams are?

*(Piper looks at Joey and he smiles at her.)*

**Piper:** No.

**Joey:** I dream for better friends and a new foot.

**Piper:** Wow you're funny, Joey. Joe-sipher. The Joe Man.

**Joey:** It wasn't a joke.

**Piper:** You're cute when you're mad.

**Joey:** And you're annoying when you're... *(he motions to her.)*

**Piper:** When I'm what?

**Joey:** When you're... you.

**Piper:** I think we've had our limit of each other for the day. You should go.

**Joey:** Me go?

*(Piper nods.)*

**Joey:** Why?

**Piper:** I was here first.

**Joey:** I don't think I can.

**Piper:** Joey, I know I'm amazing, but you seriously need to learn when you're not welcome.

**Joey:** I mean I physically don't think I can; my foot really hurts.

**Piper:** How do you plan on getting home?

**Joey:** I guess I'll have to hop on one foot. Or limp. Except my other foot hurts too because someone stomped on it.

**Piper:** You have to be kidding me.

**Joey:** I wish I was.

**Piper:** Would your royal highness like a piggy back ride?

*(Joey smiles and nods.)*

**Piper:** Hop on.

*(Joey hops onto Piper's back and she starts to walk offstage.)*

**Joey:** How's it going?

**Piper (breathless):** Good.

**Joey:** Am I too heavy?

**Piper:** Nope. *(Beat.)* Nope.

**Joey:** I should get you to do this for me every day.

**Piper:** Nope.

**Joey:** I'll pay you a nickel.

*(Piper exits with Joey on her back. She enters without Joey.)*

**Piper (to audience):** My Dreams Attempt Number Two, by Piper Willis.

Dear Ms. Quinn,

I would like to start this by saying that I did, in fact, hand in a paper. I find it both offensive and rude that you put me in the same category as Randel Fields who did not, in fact, hand in anything. I respect you enough that I took the time to explain to you why I would not be doing the assignment and I feel that deserves some recognition. On to the next point of business, I did not swear in my last paper nor did I indicate swearing. When I wrote 'bull' I meant it as a shorter form of bull poop but your concern about my language reveals what type of mind you have and I must say it is not a clean one. As for my use of the word dense as an insult, I was taught by many people, including you, that I have a right to an opinion. I stick by my previous protest and refuse whole-heartedly to reveal my dream to you but, once again, as a sign of respect I write to you informing you why. My dream is not one that should be followed, only admired. I toast to a future where we can see eye to eye. Sincerely, Piper.

*(Piper sits and watches the sky. Joey enters and sits beside her.)*

**Piper:** Just look at the birds.

**Joey:** My toe nail is cracked.

**Piper:** See how they fly?

**Joey:** There is so much pus.

**Piper:** They're so free.

**Joey:** The nail is falling off.

**Piper:** Did you say something?

**Joey:** My toe nail is going to fall off!

**Piper:** You're still caught up on that whole thing?

**Joey:** My body is hurt!

**Piper:** It's your toe.

**Joey** (*motioning to his foot*): My toe! And we still haven't gotten to it yet.

**Piper:** That's because we're still dealing with my dream dilemma.

**Joey:** But what about my toe terror?

**Piper:** Dream dilemma sounds way cooler than toe terror.

**Joey:** Toe terror sounds like the name of an amusement park ride.

**Piper:** Are we at the actual rides or the baby section?

**Joey:** It's a good name!

*(Piper pointedly stares away.)*

**Joey:** Why are you still upset about your dream anyway? So the assignment reminded you that you can't

achieve it? Big deal.

**Piper:** The thing is, I didn't actually do the assignment.

**Joey:** Piper Willis didn't do an assignment? Why isn't this on the news?

**Piper:** I still wrote a paper, I just didn't tell her my dream.

**Joey:** And there's the Piper I know.

**Piper:** She sent me a letter back saying that she wants me to redo the assignment properly.

**Joey:** So just do it.

**Piper:** I already did. Minus the proper part.

**Joey:** You rebel.

**Piper:** It just doesn't seem fair that she would make me write the assignment when I'm obviously so distressed about it! At least your dream is possible; you can find new friends and get a foot transplant easily. Mine is never going to happen!

**Joey:** So lie. Tell her your dream is to be a housewife or something.

**Piper:** I can't just lie.

**Joey:** A little fib never hurt no one.

**Piper:** I can't.

**Joey:** It's like when I told you I liked your hair.

**Piper:** To my very core I believe in my dream.

**Joey:** You're being ridiculous, Pipes. It's getting you all backed up.

**Piper:** You don't know what you're talking about.

**Joey:** Yes I do, I have dreams too!

**Piper:** Your dreams are stupid so they don't count.

**Joey:** Those aren't even my real dreams, you didn't give me a chance to tell you my real dreams!

**Piper:** They don't matter right now.

**Joey:** When will they matter?

**Piper:** When my crisis is over.

**Joey:** And when will that be?

**Piper:** Once you help me figure everything out.

**Joey:** I've tried to help you figure things out but you won't listen. I've ignored this throbbing, excruciating, painful toe - I don't even talk about it anymore! For you.

**Piper:** That's your choice.

**Joey:** It was. But not anymore.

**Piper:** Where are you going? Are you trying to be cool? It's not working because you, Joey, are not cool, that's why I'm your only friend.

**Joey:** We are not friends.

**Piper:** Excuse me?

**Joey:** You don't want a friend, you want a robot-slave. *(He exits.)*

**Piper:** Joey, Joey come back here! I can't believe you lied about liking my hair.

**Joey:** I lied about liking your Band-Aid too!

**Piper:** My Dreams Attempt Number Three, by Piper Willis.

To The Most Esteemed Ms. Quinn,

I didn't see a need to involve my parents. Nevertheless, I forgive you. I may be grounded but it's not like I have anyone to hang out with anyway. There really has never been a better time to be grounded. I'm friendless with impossible dreams, heartbroken, and now I'm a bad student too. I think my dream crisis might have changed into a midlife crisis. I was hoping that you'd see by now that this isn't just me being stubborn, this is me standing up for what I believe, what I know is right. Joey wanted me to lie, but I can't do that. This is bigger than you and I! Before I end this, I just want to point out that I'm still in the same category as Randel Fields even though I've

handed in three papers now and he hasn't even handed in a word. But I accept this, I accept my fate. My dream will never happen and neither will my grade. I thank you for your time. Please do not contact my parents about it again. Sincerely, Piper.

*(Piper stands on the edge of the rock with her arms spread and looks up at the sky. Joey enters.)*

**Joey:** What are you doing? Piper, were you about to jump off of the rock?

**Piper:** No.

**Joey:** You weren't trying to live out your dream, were you?

**Piper:** Maybe.

**Joey:** You could've broken your arm!

**Piper:** What are you doing here?

**Joey:** I came to find you.

**Piper:** Why? It's not like we're friends.

**Joey:** Don't be like that.

**Piper:** Like what? You made it very clear that we are not friends.

**Joey:** I was angry.

**Piper:** Remember? I don't do emotions that's why I want a robot-slave instead of a friend.

**Joey:** My toe nail fell off.

*(Joey smiles at Piper hopefully. Piper takes an exaggerated deep breath.)*

**Piper:** I don't care! Just leave me alone! I'm going to wallow in a pool of my own misery.

**Joey:** I feel really bad about what I said. But it is true, you aren't the friendliest person to be friends with-

**Piper:** Thanks.

**Joey:** You're welcome. I like you the way you are. You're my best friend. You're honest, a little crazy, and

if you'd forgive me I would really like to be your best friend again.

*(Joey smiles at Piper hopefully. Piper takes an exaggerated deep breath.)*

**Piper:** I miss you too! *(She tackle-hugs Joey.)* Everyone has been so mean to me and Ms. Quinn called my parents and my parents grounded me and you weren't talking to me and I was mad at you and my dream wasn't happening and-

**Joey:** Don't you have something to say to me?

**Piper:** Duh, I'm catching you up with everything that's been going on.

**Joey:** Don't you have something you want to apologise for?

**Piper:** I'm sorry... that it took you so long to realize I was right.

*(Joey shakes his head.)*

**Piper:** I'm sorry... that you were angry with me.

*(Joey shakes his head.)*

**Piper:** I'm sorry that... you really gotta help me out here.

**Joey:** For being so selfish!

**Piper:** No, that's not it. We agreed that it was you.

**Joey:** It takes two people to get in a fight!

**Piper:** What do you want me to say?

**Joey:** You're sorry for being so selfish! And, in the future you will focus on both of our problems, not just yours.

**Piper:** You said that you liked me the way I am.

**Joey:** I lied.

**Piper:** That is not nice.

**Joey:** Friendships take compromise.

**Piper:** I did compromise! You said you were wrong and I agreed with you.

**Joey:** That isn't compromise.

**Piper:** I'll work on it.

**Joey:** You will?

**Piper:** Yes. This dream thing has changed me.

**Joey:** That's the thing about life, it's always changing. Like when my nail fell off-

**Piper:** When I was standing on the rock I was thinking about how I could just soar into the night and disappear and no one would notice. I mean it would be so freeing, not having to worry about anything.

**Joey:** I would notice. *(Beat.)* I hope you don't mind but I told my mom about your dream and we've been brainstorming. We thought maybe we could talk to your parents and get you a bird for your birthday. I mean I know it's not the same thing but...

*(Piper shakes her head. She continues to grimace and shake her head as Joey makes suggestions. She smiles and shakes her head as he finishes his paragraph.)*

**Joey:** ...or how about when we were old enough we could go skydiving? Parasailing? Jet packing? Actually tonight I was going to bring a kite with me but since it's so dark I brought umbrellas and thought that we could pretend to be Mary Poppins. How does that sound?

**Piper:** You were talking to your mom about my dream dilemma?

**Joey:** I was worried about you.

**Piper:** You're so cute when you're worried!

**Joey:** So, *(he hands her an umbrella)* what do you think?

*(Joey freezes as Piper addresses the audience.)*

**Piper:** My Dreams Attempt Number Four, by Piper Willis.  
To The Extravagant Ms. Quinn on this glorious day,

I know I haven't waited for a response since my last paper but I've had such a revelation that this cannot wait. Ms. Quinn, life isn't about impossible dreams, life is about who's there to help you try to achieve those dreams, no matter how impossible. In the past few weeks I've pushed the best person in my life away just to have him come back and be more generous than ever. This made me realise a new dream - to be a good person. Each morning when I wake up that will be my goal and each night I want to go to bed knowing that I achieved it. I know I won't be perfect but I don't expect to be. My other dream is still there, it'll always be there, but that's okay because it makes my life a little more magical. I want to thank you for being persistent with me throughout this, it's changed me for the better. That's not sarcasm. Really, it's not. Sincerely, Piper.

*(Joey lays on the ground so that he's looking up at the sky. Piper walks over to him.)*

**Piper:** What are you doing?

**Joey:** Watching the birds.

**Piper:** You're turning into me.

**Joey:** *(Shudders.)* There's a scary thought.

**Piper:** Now that my dream dilemma is all fixed we can move on to your toe thing.

**Joey:** Toe terror.

**Piper:** How is your toe?

**Joey:** The nail fell off.

**Piper:** What? When was this? Why didn't you tell me?

**Joey:** I told you so many-

**Piper:** You poor thing, it must hurt.

**Joey:** It does hurt!

**Piper:** You're so cute when you're in pain.

**Joey:** You seem to think that I'm cute a lot.

**Piper:** It's a girl thing, girls always have to reassure each other that they're cute. That's why I chose you to

be my friend! You're not as needy as girls and you're not as annoying as boys.

**Joey:** You're more needy than most girls and more annoying than most boys.

**Piper:** I'm trying really hard to be nice here. Besides, you shouldn't care what I'm like, you should just worship me.

**Joey:** Worship you? You can't even fly. *(He turns around and runs out.)*

**Piper:** Joey, take that back!

**Joey:** Make me!

**Piper:** My Dreams The Follow-Up, by Piper Willis.

To My Friend, Ms. Quinn,

Hello, me again. First, I would like to thank you for the A plus. The sun seems to shine a bit brighter every day as I set forth to be a good person. Ms. Quinn, at the end of my paper you wrote that you'd still like to know what my magical dream is. With all due respect, if you've been paying attention, then you'd already know. You're an educated woman, fill in the gaps. Sincerely, your favourite student, the wind beneath your wings, Joey's life coach, Piper.