

Falling From Judgment

An opera . . . written and composed by
Discover the Music Inside Kids Opera
Company, a third grade class from
Stedwick Elementary School

Cast of Characters

Aaron: narcissistic, judgmental, meticulous, adventurous

Motivation: Needs attention and power

Elina: passionate, mature, scrupulous, stubborn

Motivation: Needs to do the right thing

Darla: free thinking, hopeful, sage, timid

Motivation: Needs encouragement to share her wisdom

Bella: compassionate, modest, aware, rebellious

Motivation: Needs something to stand up for

Christina: self-critical, moody, ignorant, humorous

Motivation: Needs to know she is enough

Aaron, Jr: miniature Aaron (puppet)

Scene One

Curtain opens with all sitting on benches, putting on skates.

Aaron (mini aria as intro)

I need the power to bring me up
So I can be me.
No one can be better than me.
I take people down, to build me up.

Bella (mini aria as intro)

I want to help people
Even when they're mean.
I want to stand up for everyone.
No matter what happens, I'm there.

Christina (mini aria as intro)

Am I enough?
I really need to know.
I'm scared I'm not enough.
I don't know what to do.

Darla (mini aria as intro)

I need to share my wisdom
Because the world is hurt.
But I need help
To release my thoughts and ideas.

Elina (mini aria as intro)

The world is not right.
I need to do the right thing.
That's why I'm here.
I have a powerful fire inside me.
Aaron: Look at me, I'm so handsome.
Aaron Jr: Yep. Obviously.

(photo bomb by Christina)

Elina: Aaron is immature. I don't know why.

Darla: I know. We're trying to help him but he rejects our help.

Christina: I'm not a good skater.

Aaron: And she'll never be. (to Aaron, Jr)

Bella: I can teach you.

Christina: Ok

Bella: Need help? (tying shoes)

Christina: I don't know how to do it.

Aaron: Don't I just shine?

Elina goes into the rink.

Aaron: She is so good at skating, but I'm better than her, way better than her.

Aaron Jr: Way better.

Christina: What does the wave say to the ocean? Nothing, it just waves.

Aaron: You are a stupid joke.

Elina: I love skating.

Aaron: When she falls, I'm gonna laugh as hard as I can. Come on, work skates, work.

Darla: I'm not sure about skating with so many people, but I'll try.

Bella: It's ok. I'll be beside you.

Christina: I'm scared people will laugh at me.

Aaron: (Pfft) Of course you can't skate. And that's why I'm going to laugh so hard at you. Just kidding.

Elina: Ignore him. You can't learn until you try. Here, I'll help you.

Aaron: I need a skate mate and she doesn't.

Darla: Maybe I'll just skate where no one can see me.

Bella: But you're really good at it.

Aaron enters the rink and falls.

Aaron: These stupid skates are broken.

Elina: Need a hand?

Aaron: I don't want your nasty germs. I don't need anything from you or from anyone else.

Bella, Darla, and Christina enter the rink. Christina clings to the railing.

Darla: I'm not so sure about this. I think I'll just watch.

Bella: You'll be fine, just believe in yourself.

Aaron: Don't even try it, everyone knows you can't skate.

Darla: Are you trying to make me feel bad?

Aaron: What does it look like I'm doing?

Christina: I'm not good enough, I'm not good enough, I'm not good enough.

Aaron: You'll never be good enough.

Darla: I'll just sit for a little while.

Aaron: (Looking at Elina) She's just doing that to show off.

I can do better. Yeah, I'm better than all of them!

Aaron Jr: You sure are.

Elina: So we are going to do the spin in turn? Aaron, do you want to do it?

Aaron: Nooo. It's a stupid thing.

Bella: Why would you say that?

Darla: What got into you?

Christina: She was only trying to help you.

Aaron: It's not like I need it anyway. (to Aaron, Jr)

Christina is not my friend. She's not perfect like I am.

Aaron Jr: You're right.

Christina: Did you say something?

Aaron: Oh nothing, nothing at all. (Sigh) Do you need some help?

Christina: Um . . . I'm terrible. You would help me?

Aaron: Yes, yes, let's just go already!

Aaron and Christina fall

Aaron: You made me fall down. You are going to pay. -

Christina: But I don't have any money.

Elina: Are you ok? What can I do?

Aaron: You have done enough!

Elina: I just want you to be better at skating.

Aaron pushes Elina to the floor and lashes out at her.

Aaron: SO, YOU THINK YOU'RE MISS PERFECT? WELL, YOU'RE NOT!!!! YOU ARE A DIRTY BLACK RODENT!!!! PEOPLE LIKE YOU NEVER BELONGED HERE!!!! YOU'RE MAKING A FOOL OUT OF YOURSELF!!! GO BACK WHERE YOU CAME FROM AND TAKE THE REST OF YOUR KIND WITH YOU . . . AND NEVER COME BACK . . . EVER!!!!!!! You look prettier on the floor.

Bella: I'm here for you. You're not alone.

Aaron: Stay out of this! Don't get involved!

Bella: I am sticking to my friend's side.

Aaron: Whatever.

Elina: Why did you do this?

Darla: What have you done?

Christina: What did she ever do to you?

Aaron: EVERYTHING.

(singing) Elina stole my life, my glory, my spotlight.

She doesn't deserve this. This should be mine, not hers.

Aaron whispers something to Christina and she goes with him.

Scene Two

The scene opens with Bella, Darla and Elina still on the skating rink discussing what they are going to do.

Bella: Are you okay? That was pretty tough on you.

Darla: You must be really hurt by this. I wish we could do something.

Elina: Maybe we can.

Bella: What do you think we should do?

Darla: Ummmm. I think I have something.

Elina: Darla, it's time to share your wisdom inside and do the right thing. Now is your time to shine.

Bella: Elina is right.

Darla: Okay.

The focus shifts to the food court where Aaron and Christina are getting a snack.

Aaron: I just can't decide which side of my face is my best side. Both of them are just so perfect. I can't decide. Never mind, I look gorgeous on both sides!

Aaron Jr: And you'll always be.

Christina: I don't understand how you always look so perfect.

I am the opposite of perfect.

Aaron: It doesn't matter how hard you try. You'll never be me.

Christina: Why did the dog cross the road? To get to the barking lot.

Aaron: That's all you got? Do you want to take pictures?

Christina: Really? Me? Of course!!

Aaron: We are best friends. No we're not. (to Aaron, Jr)

Christina: (crying) I should have known you wouldn't want to be friends with a person like me. I can't do anything! I should just give up on everything.

Aaron: I mean . . . we are friends. Can you move a little that way?

Christina: Why? Do you not want me in the picture?

Aaron: Just no photo bombing.

Christina: I look bad?

Aaron: Well, your hair is too red.

Christina: It's too shiny and ugly.

Aaron: Let's take another picture. Your hair is messed up. Fix it.

Aaron Jr: Your hair is beautiful. (to Aaron)

Christina: Ok, one moment.

Aaron: Now smile for the camera. (turns camera around)

Christina: Cheese!!!!

Aaron: Did you know Elina, Darla and Bella aren't really your friends? I'm your *real* friend.

Aaron Jr: Listen to him.

Back on the rink

Elina: We need to stop Aaron from criticizing Christina.

Darla: You're right. Enough is enough. He crushed Elina.

Elina: He has been so mean to everyone. He needs a lesson.

Bella: So what's the plan?

Darla: We take a video of Aaron to show that he is not a good friend. We capture how he is and how he is treating Christina.

Bella: Then we can decide how Aaron will see it.

Elina: Amazing plan Darla. I never saw this side of you before. What if it doesn't work?

Bella: We have a plan B.

Elina: What's plan B?

Darla thinks for a while and then shares the plan.

Darla: Plan B . . .

Trio

We act like Aaron acts.

Bella: What do you mean?

Darla: To show Aaron who he is.

Elina: That's a good idea. But is this the right thing?

Bella: We can try it.

Elina: We could go too far with this plan B.

Darla: I know it will work.

Elina: Okay, because it's YOUR plan, it will work.

Darla: Something inside tells me it's gonna work out.

Bella: Okay.

Elina: This will be hard for us.

Bella: Because this is not who we are.

Elina: We need to do this for Christina! We need to do this for everyone.

Darla: Then it's settled.

Bella: When do we know the right time to do the plan?

Darla: We'll know.

They carry out Plan A, videotaping Aaron with Christina.

Elina: I hurt my knee. I can't skate.

Aaron: Now I'm up here, and you're down there.

Bella: Are you okay?

Darla: What happened?

Darla, Bella and Elina go to the bathroom and leave the phone with the video on the railing.

Aaron sees the phone and picks it up.

Aaron: OMG, Aaron the Greatest.

Aaron Jr: He's the king of all!

Christina: Can I see it?

Aaron: Sure, let's admire me together.

Christina: This is not good. You treat me like an animal.

Aaron: This is fake. I can explain.

Christina: You were using me?

Aaron: Darla and Bella, they tricked me. It's all wrong.

Christina: Traitor . . . you're not my friend.

Aaron: I can explain everything. The video is fake. They used me, they used us.

Christina: No, you used me.

Christina tries to leave, but Aaron stops her.

Aaron: Christina wait! Come back! This is not what it looks like.

(to audience) Now she won't be my puppet.

Aaron Jr: Let's just focus on getting her back.

Aaron: Great idea, little me. (to Christina) I'll listen to your jokes all day long. Your jokes are the best!

Bella: (to Christina) You should come with us instead.

Darla: We're your real friends.

Duet

Aaron: They don't know anything about you.

Christina: It seems like they do.

Aaron: They don't appreciate your amazing jokes.

Christina: I don't know which way to go.

Aaron: Come with me.

Christina: I'm not sure about anything.

Aaron: Please, Aaron Jr. adores you.

Christina: Really?

Darla: Plan B.

Christina goes with Aaron. They enter the rink. They fall down. Bella, Darla and Elina surround them. They act exactly like Aaron. Darla has a camera, Bella has a mirror and Elina has on headphones. Bella keeps putting the mirror in Aaron's face, but he turns away and will not look.

Trio

Elina: Did you say something?

Bella: I'm prettier than all of you.

Darla: I'm way cooler than everyone.

Elina: I'm on fire today.

Bella: You look prettier on the floor.

Darla: I'm so beautiful in my spotlight.

Bella: You need some makeup.

Elina: Clear the way. Make way for the model.

Bella: I could never look better.

Darla: I'm not quite perfect in this one. I'll take another.

Bella: My cheeks are perfect and rosy.

Elina: I love this song. It reminds me of me.

Darla: You look ugly in this picture.

Elina: Excuse me.

Bella: I love the way I glisten.

Darla: You look like a dog.

Aaron finally looks in the mirror and backs away.

Christina: (gasp) What got into you guys? You're acting crazy.

Aaron goes to the bathroom.

Scene Three

The scene opens with Aaron in the bathroom. He looks in the mirror, he washes his face, then looks in the mirror again...

Aaron Jr: Look closely. You are different.

Aaron (aria)

Who am I?

I feel dark inside.

I'm confused.

I'm scared.

I feel like I'm all alone.

Am I living a lie?

People try to help me,

But I won't let them.

Why am I acting like this?

Why do I hurt other people?

Who is this person in the mirror?

Aaron Jr: Is it too late to change?

I'm not sure, but I should try.

I don't need the spotlight.

I don't want to be bad.

From now on I'll be good.

I will think about others.

I'll be a new me.

Maybe it's not too late.

Outside the bathroom

Christina: So you are my real friends.

Bella: Of course we are.

Elina: We were always there for you.

Christina: All this time I thought Aaron was my friend. Why would you even want to help me?

Darla: We saw how he treated you and Elina and we couldn't just stand there and watch it happen.

Elina: I am not doing this just because I am your friend, I am doing this because it's the right thing.

Christina: I guess you guys ARE "real friends". I can never get over what Aaron did to me! I will never forgive him! EVER!!!

Bella: Aaron needs our help, too.

Aaron comes out of the bathroom

Christina: I know who you really are, Aaron. Now I know who my real friends are. And you're not one of them. **(Christina turns her back to him.)**

Aaron: I know you're mad at me.

Christina: You made me feel worse about myself to make yourself feel better.

Aaron: I'm sorry.

Christina: How am I supposed to move on after all those horrific things you've done? In fact, how is anyone supposed to move on after all that?

(reprise of Aaron's aria)

Aaron: I'm not that guy anymore. I'm changing, really.

Aaron Jr: You should believe him.

Christina: I've changed, too. I'm not your little puppet!

Aaron: I'm just going to say here and now... I apologize for EVERYTHING....

Christina: We don't have anything between us. Period. You don't know how I feel, Aaron.

Aaron: I know I don't. But I want to tell you how I feel.

Christina: I bet you feel so good about yourself.

Bella: You shouldn't say that to him.

Darla: I would be thinking the same if I had to go through the things you did.

(Elina's ARIA)

I'm an immigrant who has been judged.

We've gone through the same thing.

He's been judged and pushed down, just like me.

I know how he feels.

We know how it feels to be brought down.

When you think about it,

We're all different people.

Everybody is an immigrant because everybody comes from different places.

I'm an immigrant like everybody else.

We are different. But we're the same.

Elina: **(to Aaron)** You've learned a lot from this experience. I trust you'll do the right thing.

Aaron: I'll try. But people can't change just like that.

Bella: I know you'll change.

Darla: I have. I've learned that I need to stand up for the right thing, even when it's difficult.

Christina: I need to learn to not be so hard on myself, to be a better person to me and to the world.

Aaron: Will I get a second chance to show I have changed?

Sing theme song as an ensemble.

Falling from Judgment

Refrain

We fall from judgment.

We get back up.

We have to be strong.

We'll get past it,

But we'll have to work hard.

We have to stop judgment,

Before it stops us.

Verse

Judgment is poison.

It makes you shut down.

It will take your power.

It will crush you inside.

Verse

Judgment can trick you.

It's stronger if you think it is.

It takes control.

It brings you to the ground.

Bridge

Don't let judgment

Stop you from your dreams.

Discover your music inside.

It will help you be brave.