

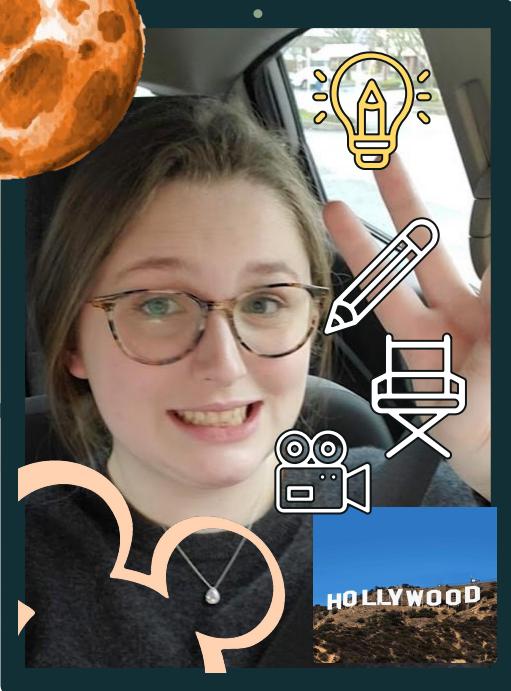


# “The French Are Coming”

Beth writes an episode of  
Wizards of Waverly Place



# BETH'S DREAMS



## Why Are You Writing Fanfic For Class?

- I wanna write kids' TV
- I have no initiative

# “The French Are Coming”

- Why French?
- Beth, don't you speak Spanish?

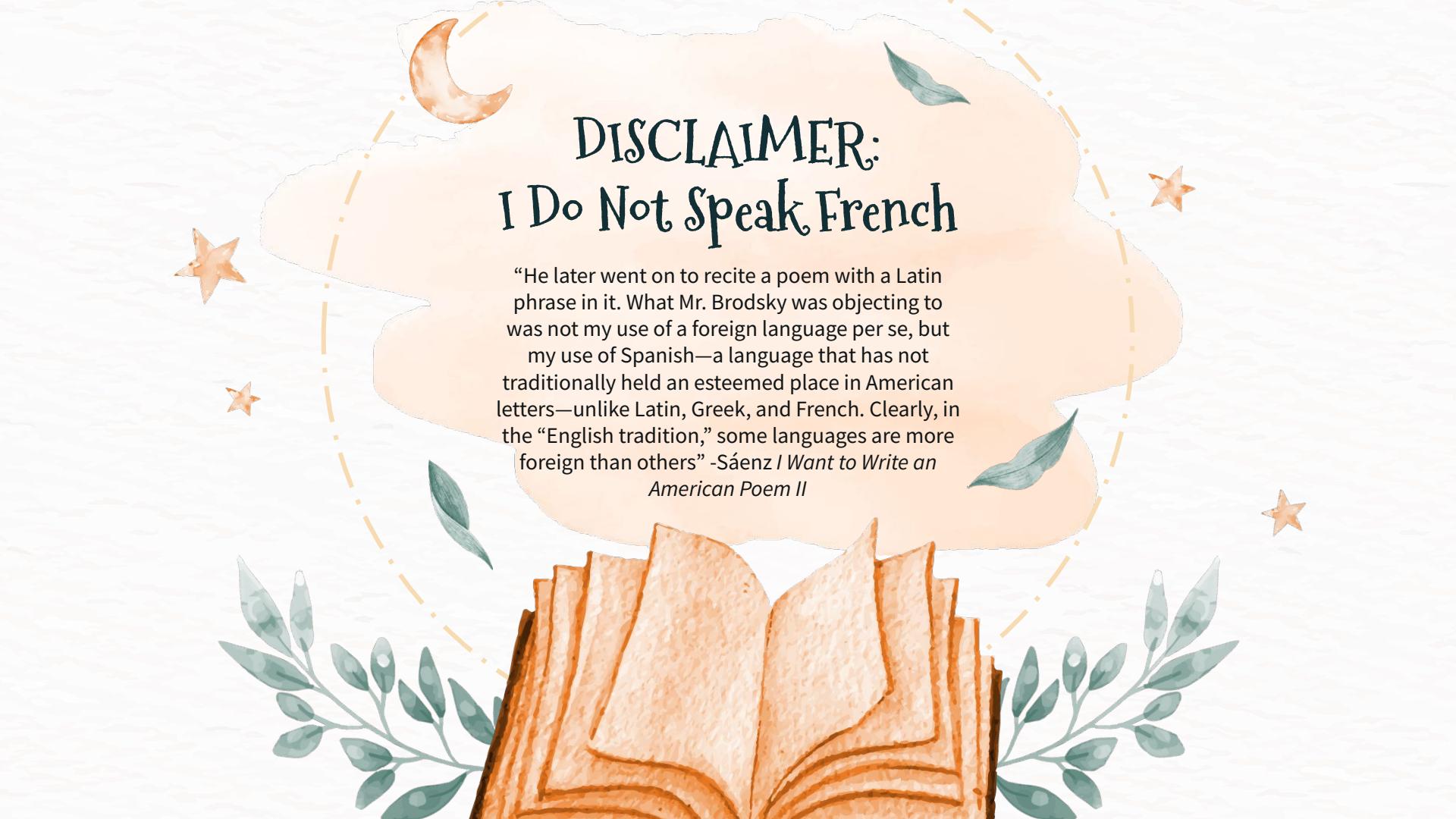
# WHY NOT SPANISH?



The Russos are  
canonically Latinx  
(S1 E3)

I am not.  
(cite something about  
connection between  
language and  
ethnicity)





# DISCLAIMER: I Do Not Speak French

“He later went on to recite a poem with a Latin phrase in it. What Mr. Brodsky was objecting to was not my use of a foreign language per se, but my use of Spanish—a language that has not traditionally held an esteemed place in American letters—unlike Latin, Greek, and French. Clearly, in the “English tradition,” some languages are more foreign than others” -Sáenz *I Want to Write an American Poem II*

# Characters



Alex Russo



Harper Finkle



Jerry & Theresa



Gigi



Justin Russo



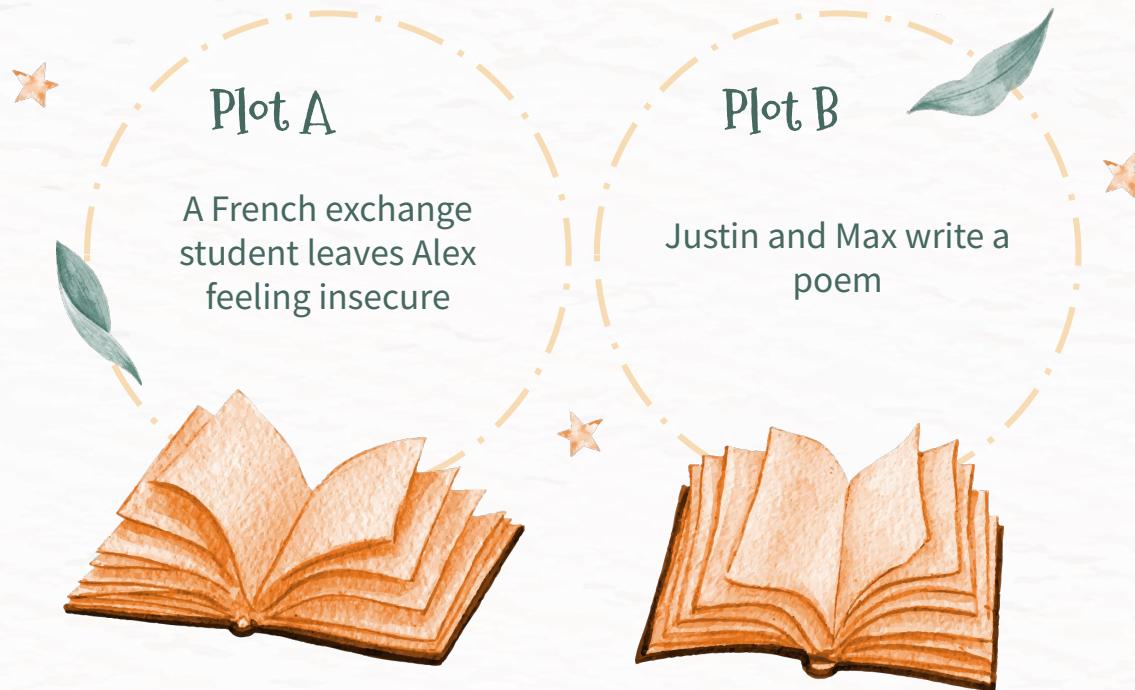
Max Russo

# Characters



Chloé Dupont

# THE SITCOM FORMULA



# Scenes

Chloé's arrival  
is announced

## Scene 1

Gigi excludes  
Alex and  
Harper

## Scene 3

Justin and Max  
show their  
teacher

## Scene 5

Justin and Max  
perform their  
poem

## Scene 7

Gigi makes fun of  
Alex and Harper

## Scene 2

Justin and Max  
write their poem

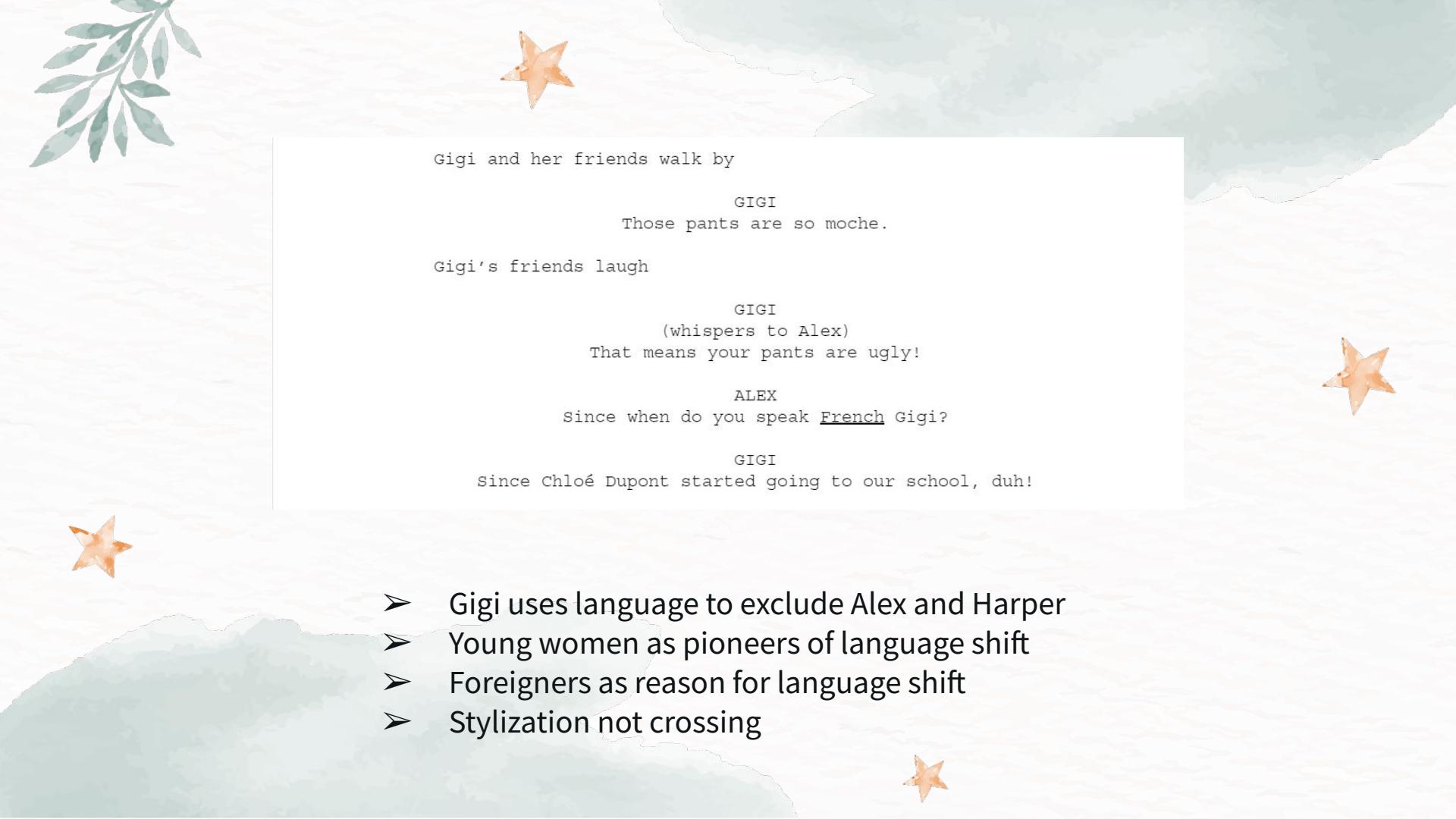
## Scene 4

Harper finds Alex  
in a closet

Alex and Harper  
learn their own  
language

## Scene 8





Gigi and her friends walk by

GIGI

Those pants are so moche.

Gigi's friends laugh

GIGI

(whispers to Alex)

That means your pants are ugly!

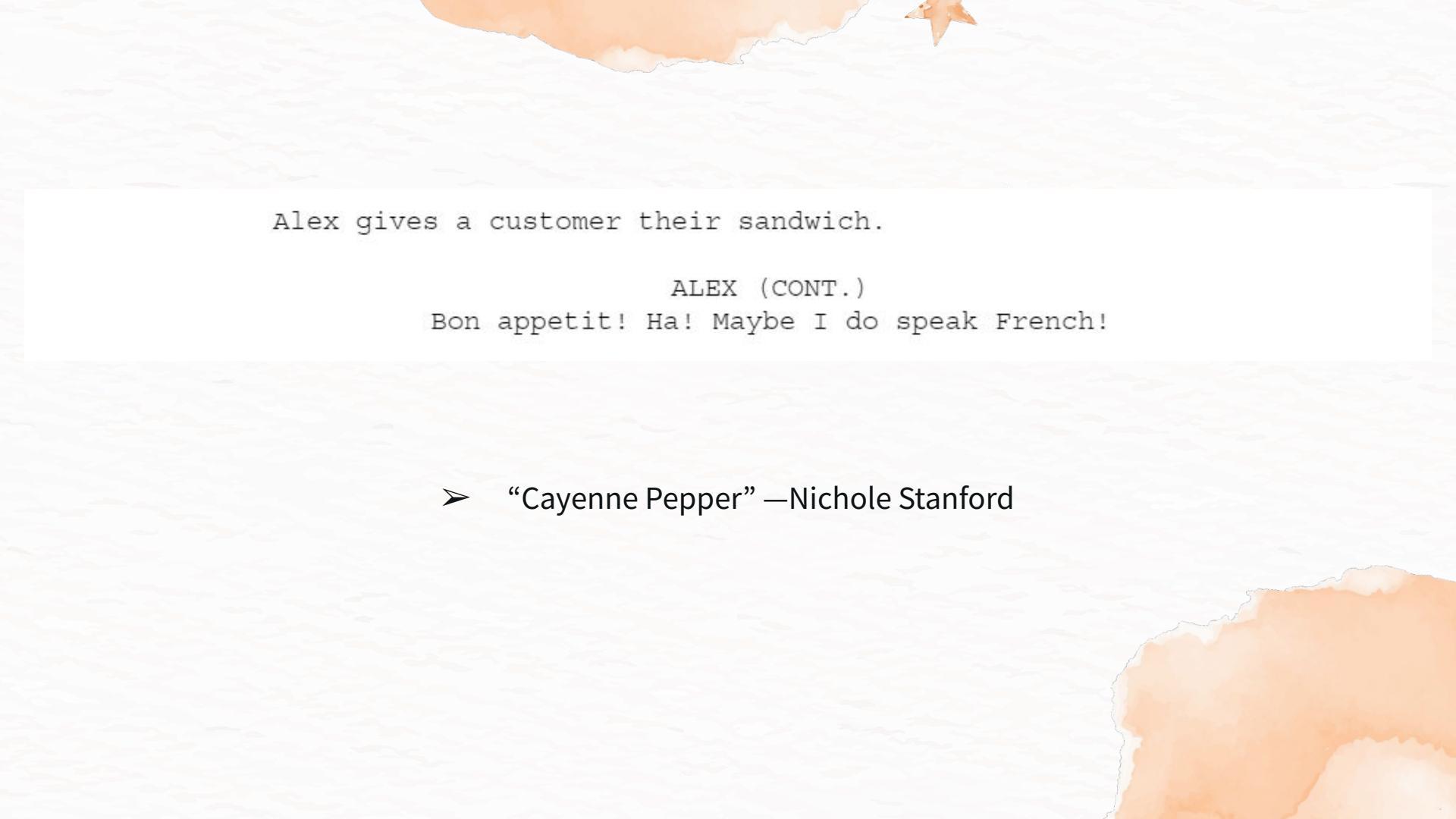
ALEX

Since when do you speak French Gigi?

GIGI

Since Chloé Dupont started going to our school, duh!

- Gigi uses language to exclude Alex and Harper
- Young women as pioneers of language shift
- Foreigners as reason for language shift
- Stylization not crossing



Alex gives a customer their sandwich.

ALEX (CONT.)

Bon appetit! Ha! Maybe I do speak French!

➤ “Cayenne Pepper” —Nichole Stanford

CHLOÉ

Puis-je avoir un sandwich au jambon, s'il vous plaît?

ALEX

What?

Gigi

Oh Chloé, they don't speak French. They aren't like us.

HARPER

Actually, I've been studying!

Harper pulls a book from her bag.

HARPER (CONT.)

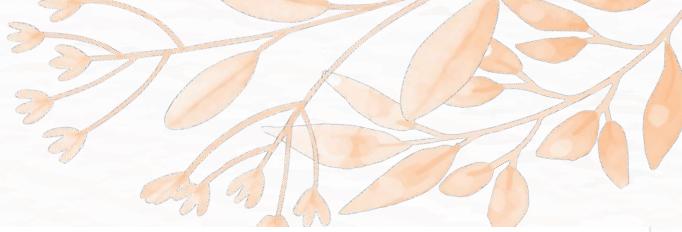
(with heavy American accent)

Bonjour. Où est la bibliothèque?

- Gigi uses language to exclude Alex and Harper
- Gigi judges Harper's poor French

GIGI

Oh, sorry Harper, we would invite you, but you don't speak French and Chloé might not understand you.



CHLOÉ

I am actually quite fluent. I've seen a lot of American movies like the one with the lost fish, and the princess without the shoe-



➤ English as a Lingua Franca for entertainment

ALEX

This whole French thing is pointless. When is Gigi ever going to use that? I've been taking Spanish all of high school and never used it.

HARPER

Doesn't your mom speak Spanish?

ALEX

My mom annoys me in one language you really think I need her to annoy me in two?

➤ Foreign Language Instruction

JUSTIN

No, Max, a couplet. It's two lines that rhyme. And we're doing this my way because it needs to have structure and be grammatically correct.

MAX

(in thought)

Hm. Like a person.



Justin shakes his head in bewilderment

MAX (CONT.)

(with lots of pauses and expression)

How about, "Summer good, winter bad, wet pizza, Max mad."

JUSTIN

Or, we could do something different. I mean, you didn't use a verb anywhere in those sentences. How about this, you write your poem, I'll write mine, and when we're finished we'll go to our English teacher and have her tell us her favorite.

MAX

You're on!



- Grammar/Meaning
- “All languages undergo the simplification process”—Global Englishes
- Justin superiority



TEACHER  
(crying)

Max... that was the most beautiful thing I've ever heard!

JUSTIN  
What?

MAX  
(at Justin)  
I guess I just have a way with words.

TEACHER  
(still crying)

Your commentary about how teenagers are tempermental without stability in the home is so moving.

JUSTIN  
That was a line about pizza! And it wasn't even a complete sentence!

MAX  
Hey man, she said it was beautiful!

---

JUSTIN  
But his haiku component was too short! Haikus are only 3 lines and he didn't even do that!

TEACHER  
It's not about that. It's about the emotion. What an artist.

- Meaning/Grammar
- Expressing voice





Alex pulls a crumpled flyer from her pocket.

ALEX

I saw this flyer posted outside the sub shop, and well, I just got so upset that everyone seems to know this cool new language and is hanging out with this cool new supermodel from freaking France and I'm just a girl who works in a sandwich shop.

---

HARPER

Alex...

The flyer is a picture of Gigi advertising for a French learning audio tape company with the words: "WITH FRENCH, EVERYTHING IS *MAGNIFIQUE*"

➤ Language landscapes

ALEX

I've been practicing in private because I don't want to embarrass myself.

HARPER

Alex none of that stuff matters! I wasn't very good at it and I'm still the most popular girl in school.

ALEX

Harper, last time you spoke French Gigi and her friends made fun of you.

HARPER

Yeah but I have at least 4 teachers' phone numbers in my phone, so who's really the cooler person here?

ALEX

Gigi. She's friends with a supermodel.

HARPER

Well I think your cool whether you speak French or do that thing where you burp the alphabet.

ALEX

Ha! I am pretty good at that!



Censorship as code-switching



Harper is okay with being bad at French



Importance of accepting community

Justin and Max walk on stage and take a seat.

MAX

Summer good. Winter bad.

JUSTIN

Sunshine warm. Snow cold.

MAX

Pizza wet. Max mad.

JUSTIN

Leaves fall.

Justin begins to cry

JUSTIN (CONT.)

(crying)

Justin sad.

An awkward pause. Followed by delayed/confused applause.

THERESA

(crying)

Jerry... we've gotta be better parents to those boys! I'm just glad they've found an outlet to express how they feel! After this, we're going home and having a nice family meal together.

JERRY

I didn't get it.

➤ Justin code-switches to express

# Honorable Mentions: Jokes I'm Proud of

MR. LARRY TATE

(cheerful)

Howdy colts, fillies, and foals!

The class groans in unison

MR. LARRY TATE (CONT.)

Groan all you want, I have some exciting news

ALEX

(sarcastically)

You've decided to stop referring to us as farm animals?

HARPER

(to Alex)

Ooh! Where do you think they're from? Spain? Korea?

Harper leans in closer to Alex

HARPER (CONT.)

(whispers)

Argentina?

Mr. Larry Tate leans in

MR. LARRY TATE

Actually

Harper is startled and jumps back in her seat

MAX

I was thinking we could write something about sandwiches.  
After all, salami begins with "slam".

JUSTIN

(confused)

No it doesn't!

MAX

Makes you hungry though, doesn't it?

JUSTIN

So I was thinking for our poem we could do something classic, like a couplet, then switch it up with a tercet, and just when they're comfortable with that, hit 'em with another couplet!

MAX

Why does it matter what kind of cups we're using?



# Thank You Google Translate