

EXT. AVONLEA - TOWN ROAD - A LITTLE LATER

Gilbert walks home carrying a SACK of supplies. BILLY ANDREWS breaks away from a TRIO OF BOYS who are all walking to school. (The boys catch up eventually).

BILLY ANDREWS
Hey, Gilbert!

Gilbert keeps walking -- he could do without a dose of Billy.

GILBERT
Hey.

BILLY ANDREWS
(oblivious, macho)
How's it going, Blythe?

GILBERT
Fine.

Billy strolls beside Gilbert. The boys follow behind.

BILLY ANDREWS
You gotta come back to school, Bud,
that ugly orphan is out of control.

GILBERT
What do you care?

BILLY ANDREWS
We need a guy to show her she's not
so smart.

GILBERT
She's smart. Deal with it.

BILLY ANDREWS
Why you gotta be like that, Bud?

GILBERT
Bust out a book and take care of it
yourself.

BILLY ANDREWS
Yeah, right. Good one, Bud.

GILBERT
Hey Billy, I'll give you a tip,
okay?

BILLY ANDREWS
Yeah?

GILBERT
I'm not your Bud.

BILLY ANDREWS
(disbelieving)
Yeah, right.

Billy encourages his friends to laugh. They do, insincerely.

GILBERT
And if you ever hassle her again
you'll regret it.

BILLY ANDREWS
(disbelieving)
Yeah, right.

GILBERT
Yeah, right.

BILLY ANDREWS
(realizing)
What's your problem?

Gilbert stops walking -- the insensitivity of the question has ignited a short fuse. All the boys except Billy look uncomfortable. There's sudden tension in the air.

GILBERT
Ask me that again.
(off Billy's confusion)
Seriously. Go ahead.

BILLY ANDREWS
Why you gotta be like that?

GILBERT
Ask me.

BILLY ANDREWS
Come on, Bud. I don't get you.
Seriously, what's your problem?

In one movement Gilbert drops the sack and *PUNCHES* Billy who staggers back. Billy, enraged, lunges at Gilbert, swinging wild. As Billy's friends stand by impotently, the two boys engage in a scrappy, unskilled, juvenile fight. Gilbert finally dispatches Billy with a couple of smart hits. Billy goes down (but not out).

Gilbert picks up his sack and continues on his way. He's not proud of this moment. In fact, it's made everything worse.