

# UNLIKELY TIK TOK STARS

**By Paige Hernandez**

A short play for young audiences and families  
commissioned by La Jolla Playhouse

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*Unlikely Tik Tok Stars* by Paige Hernandez

## **SETTING**

Current day, Anywhere

## **CHARACTERS**

**PARENT FOLX** – Stepparent

**BONUS KID** – Step young adult

Names aren't used in the dialogue but feel free to re-name them! This play is written with gender neutral language. Gender, pronouns and relationship are adaptable.

## **ADDITIONAL INFO**

Best for Grades 6-12 or ages 11-18

### **This play is written in verse/rhyme.**

The rhythm, cadence and rhyme patterns differ throughout. I recommend that you read it slowly and without music so that rhymes land naturally. After you've tried it on, feel free to play with tempo, styling and add music! The addition of words, pauses and breath to any part of the rhyme is understandable as you journey to perform this confidently.

### **Create a dance!**

This play is definitely inspired by the various TIK TOK dance challenges that have taken social media by storm. Feel free to start the play with a dance that you create or use one of the many existing dances you can find online. Ideally, the two characters begin and end with the same dance and maybe show a move or two throughout.

Have fun and enjoy!

*Lights up.  
PARENT FOLX and BONUS KID  
do a simple dance together and finish in laughter.*

**BONUS KID**

Well that was fun.

**PARENT FOLX**

It really was nice.

**BONUS KID**

And I can't believe...

**PARENT FOLX**

It only took us twice.

**BONUS KID**

But that's because you really teach well.

**PARENT FOLX**

You're just sayin' that...

**BONUS KID**

No, I really can tell.

**PARENT FOLX**

*(Does a prior dance move)*

*"That I'm classic, bougie, ratchey ey? "*

**BONUS KID**

*(Does a prior dance move)*

*"Sassy Moody, nasty hey"!*

*They both laugh.*

**PARENT FOLX**

*(laughs)*

...this is so bizarre...

**BONUS KID**

Face it, cause now...

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<sup>1</sup>Popular lyrics from *Savage* (Clean edit) by Megan Thee Stallion

**PARENT FOLX**

I'm a tik tok star!!

*(beat)*

**PARENT FOLX**

What's up with you? Are you buttering me up?

**BONUS KID**

Huh?

**PARENT FOLX**

Last week we weren't speaking...you were acting all tough.

**BONUS KID**

1-Condensing.

2-That was real.

No act here...I'm as hard as steel.

**PARENT FOLX**

Ok ok ok---no big deal.

**BONUS KID**

See. It's this. Constantly calling me out.

You never dig deep. Never figure it out.

**PARENT FOLX**

You never open up. Just 'tough steel' disguise.

I ask simple questions...you just roll your eyes.

**BONUS KID**

"Simple" ---I see.

You don't know me.

Layers like an onion

...Never easy.

**PARENT FOLX**

Now hold on I've been trying---2 years straight!

I wouldn't wait for my fate, so I became fresh bait.

A blind date? With my love? Sealed the deal.

They told me you weren't easy...

They told me how you'd feel-

**BONUS KID**

-Both of you? Clueless!  
Never considered my grief...  
Mourning is a bear, it stole my joy like a thief!

**PARENT FOLX**

Every day is a test. I don't always know best.  
I can't imagine (at your age) putting a parent to rest.  
I guess-  
What's best-  
Is for me to just listen.  
Get out of your way...  
Don't cloud your decisions.

**BONUS KID**

Look, I just need more time---

**PARENT FOLX**

At your own pace.  
I support their vision,  
I don't take their place.

**BONUS KID**

Thanks.

**PARENT FOLX**

No prob.

**BONUS KID**

Appreciate---

**PARENT FOLX**

I know.

**BONUS KID**

Are you listening?

**PARENT FOLX**

My bad.

**BONUS KID**

Try to go with the flow.

*(beat)*

How about this?

I'll come to you.

If I pull my ear, just listen.

Rub my heart? Let's talk.

I may not get this right but at least it's a start.

**PARENT FOLX**

Deal!

I'm trying...and I won't give up.

Just know around me you don't have to be so tough.

**BONUS KID**

You're right. But wait.... there's more on my mind.

I've already asked you this fifty-eleven times...

**PARENT FOLX**

Ohhhh I see---this stems from last week...

Quarantine blues...in and out of bleak?

**BONUS KID**

I peak...I dip.

I'm weak...I'm tough.

**PARENT FOLX**

Happy, sad...

I was fit now fluff.

**BONUS KID**

Just looking for---

**PARENT FOLX**

Happiness in the now?

**BONUS KID**

But where to begin---

**PARENT FOLX**

Oh---I think I know how...  
I thought about it...I'm over it...

And you're right---  
Balance is good, risks are alright.

**BONUS KID**

*(skeptical)* Say more—

**PARENT FOLX**

Or I'll say less...let me show and prove...

*(grabs laptop)*

I saved the link.

**BONUS KID**

*(surprised)*  
And now you approve?

**PARENT FOLX**

Go crazy, be happy and...  
I'll do it too...

**BONUS KID**

You're serious?  
No joking?  
After all I put you through?

**PARENT FOLX**

Yup. Clean slate.  
What do we have to lose?

**BONUS KID**

Why wait to be happy if we can instantly choose?

**PARENT FOLX**

Makeover night---  
They won't recognize us when we're through...  
Who knows? We might gain some new viewers too!

**BONUS KID**

Omg more tiktoks and this!!? You really do care!

**PARENT FOLX**

We're tough as steel now...  
but we'll be "savage" with unicorn hair.

*BONUS KID can't believe it!  
They get to dye their hair!  
And a non-corny reference from PARENT FOLX!*

*PARENT FOLX swells with emotion.  
They begin to practice their dance again.*

*THE END*