

INSTALIVE DRIVE

Marquita is a 14-year-old who is a goofy, loud-mouthed, but lovable girl at school. She makes everyone laugh and wants to be a comedian when she is older. She loves being the center of attention but is inclusive and always finds a way to include everyone. She has a popular Instalive segment on her Instagram page where she interviews different students each week.

One day, Marquita was recording her Instalive and interviewing a new student, Conor McScor.

“Hey Conor McScor, welcome to Ryerson Middle School and welcome to my Instalive! I’m Marquita, but you can just call me Marquita Angelique Boniva-Strator ... nah I’m just kidding ... call me Marqs! That’s what everyone else calls me. I hear you’re from Ireland! Top o’ the mornin to ya! How long have you been here?”

Conor was nervous to be on the show and struggled to answer. “Umm three weeks ... months ... uh wait let me see ... four times three is eight ... or twelve weeks.” Conor turned red and shifted uncomfortably in his seat.

Marquita was trying to keep the mood light and began to crack jokes.

“Don’t be so scared Conor McScor, it’s just a Instalive! You are being ‘Con-nervous!’” She laughed. “I guess we have your new nickname .. Con-nervous McScared. You heard it here first folks! Meet our new student, Con-nervous McScared!”

The interview continued and Conor stumbled through answers and nervously repeated himself. Marquita continued to make jokes and recover the interview but her guest was clearly uncomfortable.

The next day at school everyone was congratulating Marquita on her Instalive. They told her it was the best one yet and they loved the nickname for the new

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student. She looked on social media during lunch and saw it had turned into a meme. A picture of Conor with the caption, “Four times three is eight. #Conner-vousMcScared”.

Conor found Marquita after school and said that he couldn’t believe she was so horrible.

“What do you have against me?” he said with tears in his eyes.

Marquita explained that she is a comedian and she wasn’t trying to be rude, but had to keep her Instalive interesting. She told him that she was playing the part of a comedian and sometimes comedians make jokes about others but it’s all in good fun.

“People know I’m a jokester, don’t worry. I do it to everyone. We’re all good - I don’t have anything against you!” Marquita gave him a pat on the back and skipped away.

Conor didn’t feel like they were “all good”.

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Guiding Questions:

- Do you believe this was a harmless prank?
- How should Marquita be made responsible for her actions?
- Should the school be monitoring the Instalive? How could this help? How could this hurt?
- If someone misinterprets what was posted online and is offended, whose fault is it?
- How does the situation change when you look at it from Marquita's view? How does it change when you look at it from Conor's view?
- What could have been done differently?

Topic: Media Balance and Dynamics, Digital Drama
Age: Middle School