

This is the bible I wrote for "Freaks and Geeks" before "Freaks and Geeks" was "Freaks and Geeks." Confusing? You bet! A series bible is what every respectable TV show creator writes up for his series, so that the writers you hire can get inside your head without you having to tell them everything. There are no rules for series bibles. In fact, when I decided to write one I tried to get bibles from other shows and nobody could find any to give me. So, I just put in anything and everything I thought of that could help all of us on the writing staff, as well as the production staff, make the series everything I wanted it to be at the time. As you look through the bible, you'll notice that lots of stuff changed, which means that we had such great people working on the show that many times they had better ideas about stuff than I did. And that's the way it's supposed to work. A TV show or a movie is a collaboration between many talented people who have their own areas of expertise. So, wade into the "Freaks and Geeks" bible if you dare and see our series' humble beginnings.

"FREAKS AND GEEKS"

The Series Bible

"Dawson's Creek."

"Party of Five."

"Beverly Hills 90210."

Did any of us really know people like that in high school?

Did any of us ever look like that in high school?

Did any of us ever have those problems in high school?

For most of us, high school was about trying to get through each day without getting beaten up or humiliated. It was about constantly being faced with evidence that contradicted the way our parents and churches told us the world was supposed to work. Life wasn't fair. People weren't that nice. Things didn't always work out for the best. And, unlike the kids on TV, we rarely if ever confided in our parents or came to them for help. We never even really bothered to confront them if we were mad at something they'd done. We just tried to get through life as best we could, usually in the face of overwhelming adult, parent and peer pressure.

This isn't a show so much about what teenagers do but about the way they think, perceive and deal with the world around them. It's about confronting the first real obstacles that life throws at you outside the safety of your home and parents. It's about the gradual loss of innocence. For some teenagers, this entails a fight to keep that innocence at all costs and for others, it's about the desperation to get rid of that innocence as quickly and as harshly as possible.

A lot of high school shows deal mainly with dating and the drama that surrounds that. But my experience was that even though dating was something you thought about back then, it was something you rarely had the nerve to do because it entailed actually having to interact with and expose part of your psyche to the opposite sex. And who had the time or nerve to do that? High school was really much simpler than that when you got right down to it.

High school was about survival. And it still is.

It's about avoiding getting beaten up or humiliated or in trouble or even drawing attention to yourself if you can help it. Because for most of us, attention only brought persecution.

In its simplest form, high school broke down to:

- a) who you liked,
- b) who you didn't like,
- c) who you were attracted to (strictly on a physical level) and
- d) who you were afraid of.

It was about what group you became part of -- because no high school student doesn't belong to one group or another (because even if you weren't in a group, you were in a group that was comprised of other people who decided to not be part of a group -- ergo, you were in a group). And the interaction within the groups and the interaction between groups was and continues to be the politics of high school and adolescence.

For most kids, high school represents one thing -- something they're simply trying to get through. Unfortunately, there's no TV show that tells kids that what they're going through day to day, all the little obstacles and aggression that seem so terrible and epic at the moment they're happening, are just the way it's always been and always will be when you stick a group of young to mid-teens together in a large cinderblock building and hope that they'll socialize.

That is, there wasn't a show like that until now ...

"Freaks and Geeks" is a weekly one hour comedy/drama about high school that follows the parallel stories of a brother and sister -- Sam and Lindsay Weir. Each belongs to a different group in the high school caste system -- the two groups that seem to dwell farthest outside of the rest of the school:

The "freaks" and the "geeks."

SAM & LINDSAY WEIR

Sam Weir is 13 and what we currently refer to as a "geek." He's not a nerd in the classical Hollywood sense -- he doesn't wear glasses with tape in the middle or snort when he laughs. He's not even into computer programming. He's just part of the group in school that didn't really fall into any category.

He and his friends are all a little backwards and immature. They're obsessed with things like Monty Python, Warner Brothers cartoons and Star Wars. They work on the school plays and in the Audio/Visual room.

They think about girls from time to time, but only as mysterious and sometimes scary creatures. The thought of sex overwhelms them -- the concept of being exposed both physically and emotionally in front of a female other than their mothers is far too terrifying to even consider. Imagining themselves on a date that ends with a kiss on the lips is about the most that they can handle without having their minds blown.

They're also the group that's the most susceptible to the school bullies, mainly because they're a group of guys who quite simply won't fight back. So, every bully and wannabe tough guy cuts his teeth on these gentle beings with no fear of reprisal.

The geeks are the group that will probably end up doing the best in the real world but for now, every day is filled with the danger of persecution and humiliation.

Sam is a little different from his friends in that he's a hopeless romantic, albeit a 13 year old version of the term "hopeless romantic." His life is filled with crushes on basically unattainable girls. Usually falling for the most beautiful, popular girls in the school, he also develops crushes on the smart, active girls (like the ones who are always head of student council or student government).

But his idea of romance has been shaped by old movies and his religious upbringing. He doesn't long to have sex. Like his fellow geeks, the thought of it fills him with fear. Just having to change clothes in the locker room in front of other guys is the ultimate traumatic experience for Sam, so the thought of stripping down and being intimate with a girl is more than Sam's young mind can even process.

But the thought of holding hands, of kissing (close mouthed, of course -- he's a quite germ conscious too), of walking her down the hall to her class or getting to kiss her, of dancing with her and having her look into his eyes and profess her love for him -- that to Sam is the ultimate goal. However, it's one that's probably better left unfulfilled. Sam has too much fun with his male friends and enjoys his life as a kid. An actual relationship is just too scary and filled with responsibility.

Still, he'd be happy to straddle the two worlds from time to time ...

Sam's ultimate goal in his high school life is basically to get through it as painlessly as possible. If he could have fun and get to participate in the things he loves -- drama club, A/V, watching and listening to comedy, having his crushes and maybe getting a girlfriend -- he'd be more than happy. Unfortunately, high school isn't about smooth sailing.

He's tormented by bullies constantly, he's judged by other students outside of his group to be "weird" and "immature," he's told by his teachers that he has to "grow up and be a man," and he has a hard time coping with any and all aspects of adult life.

Responsibility is his worst nightmare. He wants to do everything but doesn't want to be in charge of anything. He wants the glory but doesn't want to put in the time. He's afraid of being in charge because being in charge means the possibility of people getting mad at you or yelling at you or you having to yell at them. This is what Sam doesn't want to do.

He simply wants everybody to like him, and in high school this just isn't possible. But he's constantly trying.

Lindsay Weir is a modern day, female Holden Caulfield.

She's 16 and has just gone through a major change in her life. She had always been a devoted student. She was easily on her way to being class valedictorian. She was a model girl, believing in God, believing in her future and believing that the world was a fair place.

Then her grandmother died -- a vibrant woman who loved life more than anything. It challenged Lindsay's belief in God and it made her think that maybe there is no point to everything. It sent her into a personal crisis, far deeper than the normal teenage, Sylvia Plath-reading malaise. It really rocked everything she ever believed in and set her on a course of questioning everything she encounters.

The problem is, deep down she longs to be the person she once was. But she knows that to go back to would be to step backwards, to deny the answers to the questions she's already uncovered. It would mean she was going back to blind faith, something she is no longer able to do. She feels a profound loss of innocence and this makes her questioning of the world all the more bitter.

During the summer, no longer able to relate to her goal-oriented, "smart" friends, she fell in with a group of burn-outs -- the "freaks." These were all kids who were also having a hard time accepting the world on the terms that school and society were telling them to. They weren't as profound as Lindsay, but since they were questioning things regardless, she found them to be her soulmates for the moment.

She knows (or maybe she doesn't know, but we do) that they'll all eventually grow apart, that their quests for answers will end much easier than hers,

because they are ultimately not as driven as she is. When they find an answer or situation that approximates what they've been looking for, they'll settle in and get on with their lives. Or else they'll self-destruct.

But Lindsay is in it for the long haul, and it's the knowledge that she's been forced by the world and herself to start her quest for the truth earlier and more intensely than most of the population ever will (if they do at all -- most of them won't and will probably be much happier with their lives -- but ultimately not as enlightened) that makes her search all the more consuming.

Is it good or bad to be like Lindsay? We don't know, but the person who knows least of all is Lindsay herself.

Lindsay is always looking for something meaningful to get involved in. Any kind of humanistic endeavor is her favorite thing, although she is still a 16 year old girl and is susceptible to teenage judgments and fears. This keeps her in a state of fluctuation and anger at herself when ingrained, teenage girl responses rise up in her decision making processes.

She likes her freak friends but feels let down by them whenever they do something that reveals they're not as serious as she is about most things. They love to rebel against what she rebels against, but many times they enjoy it just because for them it's rebelling for the sake of rebellion, a means of upsetting the teachers and authority figures for whom they have a deep seated mistrust and disrespect.

Lindsay wants to change the world. Her friends want to upset it. And so, she ultimately has no one she can truly turn to ... especially with her grandmother gone.

THE WEIR FAMILY

The people Lindsay and Sam are most likely not to turn to for help are their parents, Harold and Jean Weir. Harold is in his early-50's. He and Jean, mid-40's, both married later in life and started their little family.

Harold is just that much older than his kids so that he'll never really get them. He's not really into music (he was into it as a kid but that was more about big band music and then early 50's rock until it got too "wild" -- he's one of those dads who only has an AM radio in the car which has never been tuned to a music station -- he's a news and talk radio guy). All he knows about rock and roll is what he reads in the Wall Street Journal. He's up on how rock stars are all into drugs and that rock music is ruining the youth of America and he from time to time he finds articles in various church publications and other conservative newspapers that try to analyze rock and pass them on to Sam and Lindsay (usually those articles that begin with sentences like "As the drummer pounds out a sex-simulating beat, the drug-crazed audience is overcome with a loss of self-control ...").

The world of fashion and peer pressure alludes him. He sees the world as a businessman and so has no real sympathy for the gray areas of life. In his store, if something's selling, you order more of it. If it's not, you get rid of it. If an employee's not doing good work, you fire them. If somebody's having trouble at home, they should leave their problems at the doorstep of the store. If it's cold out, you wear the warmest jacket you can find, regardless of how weird it looks. If it's raining, you pull on black buckle-up rubbers and go. If people make fun of them, that's their problem.

In other words, he's the last guy you go to if you're a teenager who has a problem with the people at school. The trouble is, Harold really wants to help and thinks he has good advice (and in actuality, his advice is all good ... if you're a guy in your 50's -- as far as being good advice for a teenager, well, generally it couldn't be worse).

Harold is basically married to his sporting goods store. He loves his family and tries to be a good husband and father but he works long hours and is never really home. He usually tries to be home for dinner every night but usually goes back to the store to catch up on paperwork or else works in his den at home. But he loves his family and is very concerned and feels a little bit guilty about how Lindsay is turning out, thinking it's his fault for not being around enough. He will always make time for Sam and Lindsay if he can and likes to feel that makes an effort to be there for them.

The best solution he's come up with to keep Sam and Lindsay on the straight and narrow is to make them work at his store after school. The problem is, Lindsay seldom shows up and Sam is usually too busy with his friends or the drama club to come in. But at least Harold feels like he's trying. He also tries to keep his kids in line with "scared straight" horror stories about ex-friends of his that died doing whatever it is he's afraid his kids are getting into. Harold thinks this to be a very effective method for controlling his kids, fairly unaware that they simply laugh about his stories behind his back (it's this goofy way of handling problems that almost makes Sam and Lindsay want to do whatever it is he's trying to scare them away from).

Harold has a very cynical view of the world sometimes, nurtured by the fact that he has to deal with a lot of the dregs of society in his sporting goods store -- bikers, hunters, rednecks, crazy army vets, survivalists. His business motto is "The Customer is King" but deep in his heart he doesn't really believe that. He has to deal with everything from white trash guys trying to return worn out work boots they've obviously worn for years, claiming that the boots are defective, to whacked out Vietnam vets who come in looking for old army C-rations because it's the only thing they can eat. Harold also takes a lot of heat from his customers because he doesn't sell guns. He sells everything else a hunter would need -- camouflage clothes, bows and arrows, ammo, knives -- but he refuses to sell guns. Part of the reason is because the paperwork for selling guns is overwhelming but more than that, Harold simply hates guns. He's not comfortable around them, he didn't like using them in the army and he just doesn't want to be responsible for his customers who would buy guns. Lindsay admires this about her dad, even though she sometimes thinks it's a

little hypocritical that he sells everything else for hunting. The one kind of guns that Harold does sell are BB guns, which Sam is forever trying to convince his dad to let him buy. However, Harold refuses to let Sam have one.

Jean spends most of her time these days either going to the mall or working at Harold's store in the back office, balancing the books and doing whatever accounting she can. She loves being part of Harold's business and feels that she's finally got the professional life in retail that she always secretly dreamed of.

One thing the Weirs are not is an emotional family. Harold and Jean aren't demonstrative of their love for each other in front of the kids (in fact, Sam and Lindsay can't recall ever seeing their parents kiss in front of them). Jean would like to be more affectionate with her kids but Sam and Lindsay put the kibosh on any hugging and kissing from their parents as soon as they became teenagers. This saddens Jean and yet she's probably just as comfortable without all the excess emotion around the house.

Jean was brought up quite religiously and was a cold fish for a long time in her dating days with Harold. Even after they were married, Jean was not quite the girl Harold had hoped for. Bottom line, she's a bit of a prude. But Harold loves her just the same.

Jean is an eternal optimist and longs for a world where everything runs smoothly and no one is ever angry or doubtful. She deals with Lindsay's defection to the freak side in the only way she knows how -- by not handling it. She convinces herself that Lindsay's just going through a phase, and if Lindsay says that she's not smoking cigarettes and pot, then Lindsay can only be telling the truth because both Jean herself and Sunday school taught Lindsay it's a sin to lie. Deep in her heart, Jean knows that Lindsay probably is having problems but Jean would rather just pretend they don't exist and know that God will sort everything out. She also knows that if she can just get Lindsay to start going to the mall with her again, everything will be fine.

THE GEEKS

Neal Schweiber - One of Sam's entourage, Neal is strangely self-confident for being a little guy. He's a 50 year old Borscht Belt comedian wrapped in a 14 year old's body. He's obsessed with his hair and will only lash out at another person if somebody messes with his hair. The irony is that his hair's so thick that you really couldn't mess it up with a wind machine and an egg beater. Sam and Bill affectionately refer to Neal as having "gorilla hair." Neal's also obsessed with his clothes and always tries to dress nice. Unfortunately, his definition of nice and the school's definition of being nicely dressed are polar opposites. But his shirt's always tucked in and he's always ready to burst into his William Shatner impersonation at a moment's notice.

Neal is very smart and is usually the top student in his classes, especially science. However, intelligence seems to be in his genes. His father, Franklin, is a dentist and his mom, Julie, is a medical researcher. Franklin has his own

very successful dental practice and Julie works for a local drug company doing testing on animals (this will pit her against Lindsay in an episode, in which Lindsay will try to champion the cause of animal rights and basically turn Neal's mother into a pariah to many in the school).

Neal's brother, Kurt, is older than him and is attending the University of Michigan, studying nuclear engineering. Kurt is a very serious guy who Neal has never really had any kind of conversation with that wasn't about science. Kurt's one of those guys from high school who you always saw but never talked to, and who most the people you knew had never talked to. You know, the kind of guy that either becomes Bill Gates or a psycho-killer.

Franklin and Julie are at an odd point in their lives. Basically put, Franklin's bored. Having married his high school sweetheart, Franklin was a virgin and had only been with Julie when they wed. So, it goes without saying that Franklin is about to experience a severe mid-life crisis.

Julie thinks that their lives are about to begin again because in a few years Neal will be heading off to college and then she and Franklin can do everything they said they were going to do for years -- travel and be romantic again. Unfortunately, Franklin has lost his spark for Julie and, now that he considers his life half over and his youth gone, he's in a panic to live the life he gave up before he's too old to do it.

As the series begins, we meet Neal's parents just as the discontent is starting to well up in Franklin. By the end of the first season, after a slow dissolving of their relationship, Franklin and Julie will end up officially separating, throwing Neal into crisis (as well as Julie, who is not at all prepared mentally for the life of a single woman). This will also make Neal one of the few students in his school with divorced parents. Even though other students' parents are having problems, the community is too religious and Midwestern for most people to actually leave their spouses. And so Neal becomes a bit of an anomaly, which only helps to heighten his depression. This in turn makes him become more dependent on Sam and Sam's family to be a surrogate happy home environment. He'll start spending more time at Sam's house and will almost become another son for Harold and Jean.

Neal is connected to Sam through a love of science fiction. He likes comedy also, but only the more intellectual shows like Monty Python. Neal is obsessed with Star Trek and there's constant battles between Sam and Neal over which is better, Star Wars or Star Trek.

Neal considers himself to be much more worldly than his fellow geeks, mainly because his parents have exposed him to every book and movie that deals with more adult themes. He also watches the news all the time and is very up on current events and he never passes up a chance to show the other geeks how smart he is.

Bill and Neal have an interesting love/hate relationship. Since Bill is rather slow, Neal has adopted him almost as a ward but spends most of his time

getting aggravated at how dumb Bill can be. However, Neal likes having Bill around because it just makes him feel all the smarter. Neal also likes having what basically amounts to a groupie. Bill thinks that Neal's the greatest and would follow him anywhere and do anything for him.

All in all, Neal's a good guy. He's a guy who wouldn't necessarily help you out of a jam, but he'd at least give you good advice and then let you vent to him afterwards.

Bill Haverchuck - a mentally slow tall guy, Bill is another of Sam's core entourage and a guy no one can figure out. He's seems like he should be in special ed and there's been times that the school has tried to place him there, but he and his mom refuse to go along with it. So, Bill gets bad grades but he tries as best he can.

Bill is an only child and a TV junkie, spending most of his hours in front of the set. He's a science fiction and comedy fan like the other geeks but, then again, he's a fan of everything. There's constantly arguments going on because Bill thinks that "Silver Spoons" and "Different Strokes" are the two funniest shows on TV.

Bill's also given to excessive daydreaming and is just this side of being a pathological liar. He believes everything that everybody tells him and is constantly passing on bad information. If there's one source for every untrue rumor in the school, it's Bill. He's also one of those guys who you never know if he's serious or not. Lots of what he says can either be taken as him being dumb and not understanding what you're saying or else he's just giving you shit. He does both, so there's no way to even tell (he's constantly getting almost beaten up by both jocks and freaks because of this). Bill's problems in class and in life are due to the fact that he probably has Attention Deficit Disorder but that hasn't really been diagnosed yet and so he's just labeled as slow and unable to concentrate and must remain getting bad grades.

Bill is the product of a single mother. Gloria Haverchuck is the neighborhood's resident hot mom. She is a former biker babe who decided to leave the biker world once she became pregnant with Bill. She's always been a chain smoker and so her smoking during the pregnancy probably did Bill no good. Bill's father, Morris, is still a biker and never comes around to see Bill, except on the rare occasion when he's in the area. But Gloria has really tried to be a good mother. The problem is, well, she's just not that bright.

Right after Bill was born, the only way she could think of to make money was to become a stripper. She did this for several years and saved up enough money to buy the house that she and Bill currently live in. She quit stripping and eventually landed a job as Franklin Schweiber's dental receptionist. She's very good at the job and is constantly trying to improve herself. Alas, she still has a lot of her white trash biker genes clouding her judgment and she's usually in some form or another of bad relationship.

Since she lives in the same neighborhood as the Weirs, she is constantly calling Jean to talk and get advice. Jean tries to help her but can't help shake her head at the way Gloria runs her life. But Gloria's a sincere woman and you somehow can't help but like her.

All the geeks, as well as many freaks and other boys in the neighborhood, are enamored with Gloria. She's the hot mom who sunbathes in the front yard wearing a very revealing bikini (nobody sunbathes in Michigan), mows the lawn in cut-off shorts and a halter top and has been rumored to do her housework in the nude when Bill's at school. Many a geek fantasy has been fueled by Mrs. Haverchuck and Bill is constantly telling people to stop talking about his mom.

Millie Kentner - the class brain. Millie is the daughter of very conservative parents. Her father, Tom, is on the city council and her mother, Sandy, owns a Christian bookstore. Known for being a staunch Republican, Tom Kentner is a very strict, yet loving father. He and Sandy are the very definition of family values and provide Millie with a happy, yet cloistered life.

Tom and Sandy met in college (a conservative Christian college), where they were both members of several campus organizations and student governments. They both demonstrated against Vietnam protesters during the war, convinced that a fight against the godless Communists was a holy battle that the US should be engaged in. They met and married as virgins and even now treat sex as a necessary evil (at least Sandy does -- Tom's always trying to convince her that husbandly needs are sanctified by the Good Book -- which they are, but still, the bottom line is Sandy's a cold fish).

One of Tom and Sandy's biggest causes is violence, sex, drug and alcohol use on TV (one of Tom's biggest city council crusades is to ban all cigarette and alcohol billboard advertising from their town) and so they heavily monitor Millie's TV viewing and prohibit her from any movies bearing more than a PG rating (and even a PG merits discussion as to what may be in it that keeps it from getting a G).

Millie loves her parents and enjoys her home life, for the most part. There are times when she wishes she had a little more freedom, but that wish is quickly abandoned when she sees how wild and unfocused most of the kids at school are. She's quite susceptible to her father's philosophies of Christian values, Republican values and any other values that hope to keep you from "vice" of any kind. The sad truth is that Millie may very well end up being wild either in college or, more realistically, once she enters the work force as a young woman.

Millie is Lindsay's former best friend from Lindsay's ace student days. Millie will most definitely be the class valedictorian. She studies constantly and is a member of any and all high-end extra curricular activities -- debate, student government, student United Nations -- anything that will go onto her record to get her into a top college.

She doesn't lord her smarts over the other students, although she can't help at times feeling superior to them. But her religious upbringing makes her want to help people more than judge them. She is constantly using her student government connections to try and start programs to promote studying and good grades. But, alas, this is high school and even though her heart's in the right place, her fellow students' heads are definitely on other things.

Millie is very distraught at Lindsay's defection to the freak side and is constantly trying to get the old Lindsay back. She knows that Lindsay's as smart, if not smarter, than she is and Millie enjoys when she sees flashes of the old Lindsay, which happens from time to time if she engages Lindsay on Lindsay's own terms. However, this doesn't happen that often because, well, Millie's just not able to muster up the mindset that the freak world lives by.

Millie's a fan of classical music and has absolutely no concept of modern music, which is forbidden in her house. She was brought up listening to symphonies and musicals. She knows almost every line of every Gilbert and Sullivan operetta and can tell you the storyline of just about every opera ever written. These will all serve her well later in life but for now, well ... the high school social structure only subtracts points for these items.

Dawn Dukowski - A very fat girl who becomes one of Sam's best friends. Dawn is a happy girl despite her enormous weight. Her father, Stanley, is a normal sized guy but her mother, Daisy, is as big as a house. It seems that obesity runs in Daisy's genes and Dawn got a heapin' helpin' of Daisy's genes.

Dawn's mother works at the post office as a counter person and despite being very friendly and jovial, Daisy's one of those workers who give the post office a bad name. She's constantly disappearing into the back to do whatever it is that postal workers do back there, and if someone gives her a slip to pick up a package, everyone knows great expanses of time will pass while Daisy goes to retrieve the package.

Stanley works as an insurance claims inspector and so spends his days dealing with all sorts of odd people. He's constantly uncovering insurance fraud attempts and has a rather diminishing opinion of the human race. But he loves his big wife and his big daughter (he's one of those guys who just loves fat women -- if Daisy ever lost weight, he'd probably leave her).

The Dukowski home life is filled with fun and laughter. Daisy loves to cook, Stanley loves to eat and Dawn loves to see her parents happy. They all watch TV together, like the same shows (mostly sitcoms and old movies) and enjoy drinking wine. Stanley and Daisy have a very European attitude toward drinking and so have always let Dawn drink wine with dinner and occasionally in the evening (this attitude came from their honeymoon, in which they traveled all over Europe on a culinary tour and picked up the French and British mindset toward food and drink).

Dawn is very close with her mother and visits her a lot down at the post office (another source of aggravation for postal customers because Dawn will camp out at the counter across from her mother and the two will gab as Daisy waits on customers, who definitely get her divided attention).

The Dukowskis have just recently moved to Chippewa, Michigan, from another town not too far away. Stanley was transferred by his company and so Daisy got a transfer to the Chippewa post office from her old place of work and the family has easily made the switch from their old life to the new one -- mainly because it's exactly the same life, only with different street names.

Once Dawn arrives at the school as a transfer student, she gets herself into the drama club. Theater has always been one of her favorite things. Dawn has an interesting self-image that allows her to be in theater looking the way she does. Simply put, she really doesn't care what people think about her. She always knows when people are laughing at her or staring at her but she just uses this to feel superior to them, to look at them as small minded and judgmental. This attitude came from her mother, who feels the same way. There are definitely times when Dawn wishes she could just fit in and not be so different, but she knows that there's not really much she can do and quite frankly, she doesn't want to change anyway.

One of the bad things about Dawn is that, in order to preserve herself against any verbal assaults or jokes from other people, she has a tendency to strike first and make a joke about the other person's physical shortcoming before she knows if they're going to make fun of her or not. This prompts her to constantly make fun of the way Sam looks, whether it's his gangly arms or big ears or nose. Most people don't want to make a comment about her weight and so they just take her insults and store up a resentment against her. But then she's such a happy person that no one would dare ever make fun of her. Well, except maybe for the mean kids -- but they make fun of everybody. At school, outside of the drama club, more than anything, people just ignore her.

Dawn and Sam have a lot in common -- their love of comedy, love of theater, love of having fun. They quickly become very close friends. This puts Sam in constant turmoil because he thinks he should make Dawn his girlfriend. Unfortunately, he just can't get around the issue of her weight. She has a crush on Sam and is constantly putting pressure on him to advance the relationship. But Sam can barely handle the idea of being intimate with the prettiest girl in school -- the fattest girl in school isn't even an option to him. And this only increases his guilt.

THE FREAKS

Daniel Krantz - One of Lindsay's best friends, Daniel was her gateway to the freaks. It was Daniel whom Lindsay met the day she walked up in front of the 7-11 and asked to try a cigarette. He's one half of the school's "mature" couple, his girlfriend being Kim Kelly. They're the couple that everyone in school knows is sexually active.

Daniel lives on his own, having split from his parents recently. His parents, Caleb and Eugenia, are bona fide trailer trash and are so into drugs and alcohol that they don't even notice that Daniel's gone. They live on welfare and will most likely end up dead very soon. Daniel loves them but has, for his own self-preservation, given up on them completely. Occasionally, he brings them groceries or pizza but he gets so depressed by the way they live that keeps his visits few and far between.

Daniel works as a pizza delivery guy, a job he loves because it's another way for him to meet women. It's also a great job because he gets to eat all the pizza he wants. In fact, pizza is about all Daniel eats -- pizza and Hostess SnoBalls. This habit will result in him being fat later in life but for now, he's a good looking guy whose high metabolism keeps him looking fit.

Daniel is a guy with literally no ambition. He knows that he should have some idea what he wants to do with his life but he just can't get that excited about anything. He spends all his time and energy fixing and souping up his rusty old Trans Am, so he knows that he might have some kind of mechanic job in his future. But once again, nothing really excites him. He just likes to hang out, smoke pot, do the occasional drug and watch TV. If he has any dream, it's to move to Hawaii and do nothing but smoke pot all day and enjoy the nice weather.

Daniel's also a bit of a cat and he really wants to have sex with everything around him. It's not a malicious act for him -- he just can't help himself. He knows he's attractive and he's supremely confident and so he literally can't help but hit on every female in the school, including teachers. This drives Kim crazy and they have an understanding that he can flirt all he wants but he'd better not be boning anybody but her. This, obviously, is a very hard promise for Daniel to keep.

Daniel loves music and is a fan of heavy rock music, from Foghat to Black Sabbath to Led Zeppelin. He can play the guitar but just enough to get by. He and Nick (see below) will occasionally get together and jam but it's really just more noise than anything. There's no rock band in either of their futures.

Daniel's a smart kid -- much smarter than he thinks he is. He's a great reader but wastes his reading skills on magazines and comic books. If he were to figure out what he wanted to do, he could really go places. And someday he just might. But right now, Daniel is just a ship adrift on the freak ocean.

But he likes the way he looks while he's playing the guitar (a full length mirror on the back of his bedroom door provides him with a good view of himself as he plays -- he enjoys posing and acting like a rock star and is sometimes just as happy unplugging his guitar and simply using it as an air guitar prop).

Nick Andopolis - Nick's an army brat who has spent much of his life moving from army base to army base. He's lived in Chippewa for the last few years, ever since his mom decided she was tired of moving and made the family buy a permanent house.

Nick's dad, Henry, is a rather cold, tough man who works in a tool and dye shop. A former Marine, Henry's a guy who used to be big and powerful but is now letting himself go, drinking too much beer and watching too much TV. Henry lost a finger in an accident at the shop, which put him out of work for a while. This forced Nick's mom, Lottie, to get a job as a waitress at the Acropolis, town's coffee shop (lovingly referred to by the students as "the Old Craphole" -- and they refer to Lottie as "Andopolis at the Acropolis," a nickname she enjoys). Once Henry went back to work, Lottie decided that she liked having a job, now that Nick and his brothers are older and don't need her around the house. And so, she works full time and is really the life of the Acropolis, one of those waitresses whom all the regulars love. She really came out of her shell there and so works long hours, finding the love and acceptance from the customers that she never gets from her husband.

Nick is really into music and plays drums. He spends a lot of time in the afternoons playing drums along with records in his garage. Everyone knows the Andopolis house because it's the one with rock music and mediocre drumming blasting out of it everyday after school. Nick wants to be in a band but, alas, he's really not that good of a player. He had a few lessons but then decided that he didn't need to know how to read music or learn anything more than the few snare drum patterns that his teacher showed him. And so, his playing abilities are rather limited.

Nick's two brothers, Brian and Calvin, are older than him and both in the armed services. Brian's a Marine and Calvin's in the army. Whenever they come home, they still enjoy beating up on their younger brother and even though Nick likes them, he's much happier when they're not around. Even though he wants to be a musician, Nick's almost resigned to the fact that he'll probably have to enlist once he graduates from high school because, well, that's what the Andopolis men do.

Ken Miller - Ken is the kind of guy who just looks like he should be an auto mechanic. Ken lives in the house that every Midwestern neighborhood has -- the house with all the broken down cars all over the yard.

Ken's father, Frank, is a mechanic who works out of their house. Frank used to work for the auto industry on the assembly line but was laid off years ago. And so, vowing to never work for anybody other than himself, he started his auto repair business. He'd love to not work at home but there's no way he can afford a garage of his own. His business comes mostly from friends and friends of friends.

Frank makes Ken work with him whenever Ken's free and although Ken enjoys working on cars, he doesn't particularly like working on them with his dad. It's not that his dad's mean, it's just that his dad treats him like an employee, and a bad one at that. Ken's definitely not the smartest apple on the tree and this aggravates his father to no end. And so, their work days together consist of Ken getting yelled at and screwing up constantly. The funny thing is, Ken's actually a good mechanic in auto shop class at school.

It's just the intimidation of his father and knowing that he'll probably screw up that actually makes him screw up. He likes his dad but the bottom line is, he's scared of him.

Ken's mom, Iris, is a mousy woman who is a housewife and has never had any aspirations to be anything but. She and Frank enjoy a very loving relationship -- so loving in fact that we usually feel like Frank wishes that Ken wasn't around. Frank's always alluding to the fact that once Ken turns eighteen, he's out of there. Frank's the kind of father who will make you pay rent if you don't move out when you're supposed to.

Frank and Iris are sort of old bohemians, albeit Midwestern bohemians. And so Ken grew up in a fairly lax environment. He has an older sister, Crystal, who's beautiful and pregnant by one of her boyfriends. She's always been "loose," and has the well-earned reputation as "the school slut." Ken also has a much younger sister, Ellie, who was a surprise to the whole family. Ellie is Ken's greatest tormentor and Crystal is Ken's greatest ignorer.

And so, Ken makes due with his best friend Nick and his freak friends at school. Ken doesn't really know what he wants to do with his life, but he figures it'll have something to do with cars. In all actuality, he'll probably end up working on an assembly line like his father used to.

Kim Kelly - a tough, angry freak girl. She's the leader of a small group of tough girls, that also includes Karen Scarfolli and Sue Caralich. They are in many ways bullies like Alan White and his group, except that Kim has the possibility to be much more dangerous. The product of an abusive home, Kim keeps her family life to herself and instead channels her negative energy into the confrontation and verbal abuse of anybody she considers old (which is anybody over 30).

Kim's father, Arlo, is an alcoholic who has physically abused her in the past. Not sexually but through beatings and other forms of physical punishment. Arlo is a frustrated man. Frustrated by his life, frustrated by his career, frustrated by his family. He had dreams of being a stock car racer that vanished the minute he knocked up his then girlfriend and now wife, Cookie. Vowing to do the right thing -- getting married, getting a job, putting his dreams aside -- he's regretted every minute of it. However, he's too much of a mess to leave them and too much of a mess to actually be a good father.

And so, Arlo drinks. He has a job at an auto parts store (he bounces from job to job but always gets fired for insubordination) but hasn't really gotten any kind of a promotion in years. He's too irresponsible and bad with the customers to be a manager and so he's pretty much relegated to running the stockroom. Being around people who know about cars is the only joy he gets out of life and so the auto parts store is the only place that he's even remotely happy at. All tolled, Arlo's a guy who could very easily end up homeless if he ever left his family.

Cookie, Kim's mother, is an immature woman who's never gotten the hang of mothering. She works part time as a hair dresser to fill in the missing income that Arlo's low paying job doesn't provide. Cookie's always been far too concerned with the impossible task of keeping Arlo happy and so has neglected her kids from the get-go, sending them to their rooms whenever Arlo didn't want them around. She's obsessed with the fear that Arlo may leave her and so will do anything to keep him interested in her. The irony is that Arlo would probably like her much more if she just left him alone (except for waiting on him hand and foot).

Kim has an older brother, Chip, who's the epitome of a problem child. The lack of love in the house has taken its toll on him. Chip's way into drugs and disappears for weeks at a time. He keeps a room in the house but is seldom there. In fact, nobody really knows where Chip goes but it's a pretty good bet that he'll either end up dead or in jail pretty soon unless someone is able to help him. He likes Kim and they will occasionally talk about how much they hate their parents but that's the extent of it. Kim wants to help Chip but sees that for now, it's a lost cause.

Cookie has recently developed diabetes and so, out of some strange obligation Kim feels (that even she doesn't understand), she has taken charge of driving her mother around to the various doctors and clinics she's being treated at. Kim is a tough girl who has a nurturing side to her. She suppresses it constantly but it's there. It's the thing that'll save her (once she gets her life together and gets all her anger out, there's a good chance she'll become a nurse).

One of Kim's biggest problems is she has made the connection in her head that all people her parents age or older are just like her parents and so she has a deep seated hatred for older people. Older people she meets who are nice are people she doesn't trust, thinking them to be sheep in wolves' clothing. It's as if she wants the world to pay for the sins of her parents. Kim's a kid who could benefit from some therapy but in the Midwest, this seldom happens.

Kim ended her abuse by her father by fighting back against him one day in her early teens. She actually broke his arm in a fight that resulted in Arlo falling into the kitchen table. Since then, there's been a cold understanding between the two of them not to communicate at all. Kim plans on moving away from home as soon as she can. But for now, she's content to channel her aggression into the students and bus drivers of her high school.

Kim is very suspicious of Lindsay and refuses to acknowledge her as part of the freaks. She sees Lindsay as a wannabe from a good home who's only hanging with the freaks because she thinks it's cool. Lindsay is put off by Kim, especially by the way she treats older people. Lindsay and Kim are usually at loggerheads about one thing or another and if there was someone that Lindsay could eliminate from her day, it'd be Kim Kelly. However, as the series progresses, Lindsay and Kim will develop a deep bond of respect for

each other, the kind that develops between former enemies who realize that they both have similar problems.

Tina Shields - a tall, pretty girl who's also quite tough, she's in some ways the antithesis of Kim Kelly. She enjoys having a good time and doesn't do well in school -- not because she's dumb but simply because she's lazy. She loves to shop and to shoplift, and she introduces Lindsay to the world of rock clubs, where Tina is famous for sleeping with band members. Lindsay's not a huge fan of the way Tina runs her life, but she enjoys the wild and nihilistic side of life that Tina represents. All the freak guys are in love with Tina but she just teases them, preferring only older guys in bands. She's vowed to never date a guy in high school because ... well, she doesn't have to. Lindsay wishes she looked like Tina but seldom lets this fact out, thinking it too shallow and girly. Tina loses patience with Lindsay's dark side sometimes (Tina likes to be dark too, but up to a point - she never lets it interfere with her good time, while she feels Lindsay lets her dark side regulate her life). Tina will probably end up working in a Walmart for the rest of her life, but that's way in the future.

Tina's parents, Greg and Lucy, are the mysteries of the neighborhood. No one knows what Greg does for a living. He won't tell anyone and rumors abound that he's in the CIA or the FBI or something exotic like that. The truth is that Greg works for the phone company in the collection department. He doesn't tell anybody because, well, he doesn't want to. That's how the mystery began and now that there's so much speculation about what he does, Greg knows that the truth would only be a letdown and would make him just another guy in the neighborhood. Needless to say, Greg's a little wacky.

Lucy is a painter who specializes in cat paintings. She sells her paintings at various art fairs and flea markets. Her paintings aren't bad -- it's just that there, well, cat paintings. There's a lot of cats in the Shields' household. Tina loves cats but not as much as her mother. Lucy's a cat freak and is definitely well on her way to being a "crazy cat lady." She knows that Tina's living a pretty wild life but is more concerned with being Tina's friend than her parent. Lucy's parents were strict disciplinarians and so Lucy vowed never to do that with her kids. Unfortunately, Tina's the kind of girl who needs discipline much more than she needs another friend.

THE BULLIES, TEACHERS AND OUTSIDERS

Alan White - Sam's nemesis, he's a short guy who picks on Sam because he knows Sam won't fight back. Alan comes from a long line of bullies, with his older brothers, Rick and Tim, both being tough guys who have beaten on Alan all his life, especially since he's so short and they're so tall. Somehow, Alan got a regressive short gene because not only are his brothers tall but so are his parents. Needless to say, Alan's always looking for ways to make up for this and so he's found the perfect ego boost in the tall and gangly Sam Weir.

Alan's father, Ben, is an auto factory worker who drinks too much and usually ends up in a bar brawl at least once a week. Alan loves his father but he's not exactly the best role model to steer Alan away from a life of violence and

intimidation. Alan's mother, Helen, is completely oblivious to what a terror Alan is at school, thinking him to still be her "little angel." In fact, the title "little angel" gets Alan beaten up by his brothers more than anything. But Alan loves his mom and is a perfect gentleman with her. He's a mama's boy and will probably never cut the apron strings.

Alan, his brothers and his father go deer hunting regularly, although deep down Alan absolutely detests it. He's never shot a deer. His brothers think it's because he's got bad aim since he always shoots and misses but in reality, Alan just can't bring himself to shoot anything -- one of Alan's small glimmers of humanity.

Cindy Sanders - Cindy is the middle of five sisters. Her family is one of those beautiful families that every town seems to have. The girls are all well-mannered and good at school. Cindy's oldest sister, Olivia, graduated a few years ago and is currently at Michigan State University studying to get her English degree so she can become a teacher. Cindy's second oldest sister, Denise, is currently a senior and is a real leader at the school. Denise is on every form of student government and activities board and Cindy really tries to emulate her. But there's no rivalry between them. Cindy and Denise get along great, although Denise really scrutinizes whomever Cindy dates and usually does the high school equivalent of a background check on any and all of Cindy's suitors. Cindy's two younger sisters, Anne and Colette, are currently in junior high and elementary school, respectively, and are quite happy kids. Bottom line, the Sanders family not only seems to have no problems but in actuality, they don't have any problems.

Cindy's parents, Charles and Peggy, are the perfect couple. Charles is a partner in a law firm and is always called upon to help out the kids of other upstanding families in the area. He's a kind man who is very understanding of the foibles of other kids. However, if it were his kids, well ... It's not even something he has to think about. Peggy is a homemaker and is happy to be. She also does a lot of charity work for the community and can often be seen delivering food and clothes to poor families in town. She's very active in their church, as is the whole family. They're Catholic and can always be found at any and all church activities.

Cindy has been brought up to be kind and generous, but there's also a strong "Robin Hood" ethic in her family, in that all the girls have been brought up with the belief that it's up to them to defend the weaker people of the earth. This is why Cindy will always come to the defense of anyone being picked on. It also is the source of a lot of "rich kid indignation," when Cindy thinks that people are not behaving the way they are supposed to. She has run-ins from time to time with freaks and bullies because they do something that she considers to be disrespectful of either herself or someone else. The Sanders family is a big believer in "the world should work exactly like this."

Cindy's father is the kind of guy who gets very upset if they arrive at a restaurant and their table's not ready. This always gives them a scary quality to anyone who knows them because you never know when you might break

with Sanders protocol and do something that will get them mad at you. In other words, if you're going to marry into the Sanders family, you'd better know what you're getting yourself into.

During the run of the show, Cindy's father will find out that his partner is embezzling from him and his law firm will fall apart. This will put the family in a crisis and wound Charles' trust in people so much that he has to completely rethink his life and beliefs.

Eugene Seidelman - Eugene is from the other side of town -- the farmer side. Chippewa, Michigan, is a town that is bordered on one side by farmland. Hence, the school has a minority of "farmers" who are as out of place in an otherwise suburban school as a city kid would be living on a farm. Eugene is a huge kid who has no concept of how the world works or of how human relations should be. If you could say anyone was actually brought up in a barn, it would be Seidelman. He has three other brothers, Dallas, Hank and Travis, who are as big as he is. They're a real rough and tumble bunch and anyone who gets in their way will end up being trampled under foot. They love their parents, Roy and Sarah, and all plan on either taking over the family farm or starting their own. They have no other ambitions because they don't really know that other careers exist. They watch very little TV and spend most of their freetime shooting guns in the field and blowing things up with firecrackers.

During the course of the show, Seidelman's brother Travis will realize he's gay. Do I need to say what this will do to the family?

Rick Summers - the school cool guy. Rick's a good looking guy (he's got perfect hair and a butthair mustache that never seems to grow in) and he knows it. He's on the basketball team and is very popular with the jocks and the popular kids. His permanent girlfriend is Diane Crebs, a very pretty girl who's pretty much the female version of Rick.

Rick is a guy who thinks he's funnier than he really is (and he's not that funny -- his humor is more that put-down, punch-guys-in-the-balls kind of humor). He's also oblivious to the fact that most people really don't like him that much -- they just like him because since he's popular, he's their gateway into the popular group. Rick represents the vicious circle that exists in high school -- that popular kids are popular because they're in the popular group, even though nobody really knows why they're popular because they're not really that much fun to hang around (You follow that? It never made sense to me when I was in high school either but it seemed to be the case).

Rick's family is quite well to do. His father, Aaron, is a lawyer and his mother, Cherise, is buyer for Saks Fifth Avenue. They live in a nice house in the nice part of town and indulge their children in almost anything they want. The Summers wish they could move to a more upscale town but since Aaron's practice is so lucrative and community dependent, he knows that to move away would probably not be the best thing for his career or income.

Rick has a younger brother and sister, Frank and Ashley, who are very bright and also quite popular. They really appear to be a perfect family. The truth is that Cherise is actually addicted to diet pills and this keeps the family in a state of internal turmoil. They've been able to cover it up but the strain is beginning to show, especially on Aaron, who's been trying in vain to get his wife help. She refuses to admit she has a problem, saying the pills are the reason she looks so good. And she does. But there's problems down the road for the Summers family.

Mr. James Rosso - The school guidance councilor. He's a long suffering guy in his late 30's who really cares about the students even though he knows that they could care less about him, or so he thinks.

James was an orphan and grew up in a foster home, never getting adopted. He tracked down his natural mother but found out she was a drug addict who died not too long after he was born. He has no idea who his father is and so he's truly a man with no family. His only "relatives" are the people from the foster home who brought him up. He keeps in contact with them and they're all quite close but it's no substitute for a real family.

And so James is constantly dating, trying to find the right woman to make his wife. Unfortunately, he's just too needy and desperate to find the right woman. Someday he will, but only if he gets a little more cool or meets a woman who really wants to be his glorified surrogate mother. He's an okay looking guy and so goes out on a lot of dates but usually ends up blowing it after a couple of evenings out.

To make up for his lack of a personal life, he really pours his energy into his job. Too much energy, really. He definitely makes a difference with the students because he occasionally gets through to them and sets them back on course, but it's just not that easy. The kids don't want to listen to him. If he tries to be strict, they turn off. If he tries to be their friend, they get suspicious. And so he's stuck in no man's land. But he cares about the students, every single one of them, as if they were his own family.

He's quite a square, which is another turn-off for the students. He tries to be hip but it just makes things worse. James usually tries to dress in the style of the day but it always looks weird on him -- maybe it's his hair (no matter what he does, he has a big cowlick in the front that ruins the effect), maybe it's the way he moves (he's a rather stiff guy, the kind that only elicits laughs when he's on the dance floor) or maybe it's just something he gives off (he's one of those "whitest man in the room" guys).

He loves jazz and plays the bass. He relaxes every evening by putting on his favorite jazz albums and playing along. He's a very good musician and occasionally considers scraping the whole guidance councilor game to join a combo. But he knows that, for the little money he makes at school, he'd really go poor trying the jazz musician's life. He has a cat named Charlie (after Charlie Mingus) and a bird named Bird (after Charlie Parker).

He's a good cook and enjoys cooking (a fact that has gotten around the school and not helped his reputation with the tough kids). He drives a Dodge Duster that he keeps in mint condition. He's a bit of a neat freak and has a hard time with the messiness of the students. In fact, he can't really go into the cafeteria during lunch because of all the food he sees the students waste and throw around.

Bottom line, he's a geek grown up. But he's got a heart of gold, even though he sometimes wishes he didn't.

Mr. Ken Guyevski - The auto shop teacher and the freaks' father figure. Ken is a guy who's seen it all and done it all. A Korean war veteran, Ken was a front line soldier who received the Purple Heart, which he turned down. He was wounded in an attack that killed most of his fellow soldiers and his wound occurred as he was trying to escape the melee. He still has great guilt at this, even though he wasn't fleeing out of cowardice. He tried to help his friends but there was no hope and so his only choice was to stay and be killed or flee. He has recurring nightmares about the incident but he's gotten used to them by now.

He was one of ten children from a Catholic family. His parents and a number of his older siblings have died, mostly from cancer, which runs in his family. And yet he smokes constantly, figuring that either way he's doomed, so he'd might as well enjoy himself. He was married briefly and had a son named Eli, who is retarded. Eli's retardation broke up his marriage. His ex-wife, Sharon, was a very immature woman who was also a hippie. She wanted nothing to do with Eli and so Ken took Eli and raised him by himself. He loves his son and feels that Eli's his cross to bear for his wartime "mistake."

Ken loves his job at the school, knowing that he's making a difference in the lives of kids that most other people give up on. He uses tough love on them and is not a pushover by any means. He's the first one to jump on them and dress them down for doing something stupid or careless.

He wants them to grow up to be responsible and knows that simply being their friend is not good enough. Most of the guys either don't have fathers or have fathers that aren't doing the job and so Ken's made it his job to bring them up the way he believes they should be brought up.

He loves country music and can be found most of the time singing old Hank Williams songs to himself. He and Eli live in a very modest house in a lower class neighborhood. He loves tinkering with cars and really has no ambitions outside of what he's already doing. He'd like to be rich, obviously, but the thought doesn't run his life. As long as Eli's happy and they're both healthy, that's good enough for him.

Ken likes to play poker and has a couple of regular poker games he plays in during the week. One is with a group of guys from the auto plant that he went to high school with and the other is one he's organized with some of the other teachers from the high school, including George Kowchevski and James

Rosso. It's a rather top secret game, since the school would look down on its teachers gambling with each other. But it's a good chance for them to vent and have fun. It's mostly the teachers from the more vocational classes -- woodshop, metal shop, gym, etc. They jokingly refer to it as the PTA -- the Poker/Teacher Association.

Mr. George Kowchevski - An ex-Marine, George is the school's enforcer. Whenever there's chaperoning or guard duties to be filled, George is the man. He lives by the credo the Marines taught him: "Above all, discipline." Not that he's a sadistic hard ass -- on the contrary, he's actually not a bad guy. He just refuses to take shit from anybody. He also teaches health class and is famous for jumping down students' throats if anybody laughs during any of his many sex education lectures. This is the downfall of many a student. George's remedy for this is generally to have the student stand in front of the class and then have the class laugh at them for a minute. The students are generally scared of George but they respect him. To get on friendly terms with Mr. Kowchevski is a feather in the cap of most kids, although George will happily turn on them if he feels a student is too comfortable and takes advantage of the friendship by doing something wrong.

George's wife, Carol, is an emergency room doctor, so he seldom sees her. They have a good relationship although he obviously wishes she was home more. There's always a little tension around the house because George knows that ultimately Carol's job is more important to her than he is. But only by a little bit.

George is an avid reader and loves anything to do with war and war history. He's not a hawk by any means, but he's just fascinated by the whole subject. He also reads Louie L'Amour books and is quite fond of Westerns. He's a guy who never listens to music -- someone who only has an AM radio in his car, permanently tuned to the news station.

He's a healthy eater and is always coming down on the students for eating junk. He is famous for yelling at kids who use their hot lunch money to buy junk food from the snack bar.

George dreams of one day being a writer of war novels but for now, he's fairly content with his life.

Ms. Linda Noble - the new drama coach, Linda hits the school like a hurricane. She's unlike any woman most of the school has ever met. She's loud, brash, uncensored and full of energy. She can be the best friend you've ever had or she can be your worst enemy. She has no problem whatsoever with screaming at people if she doesn't get what she wants. While the old drama coach, Miss Felker, who is also an English teacher, was a firm believer in encouraging the students, no matter how good or bad their acting was, Linda's first love is the theater and she'd rather see a student expelled before she'd let what she considers a bad performance go by. But this isn't just based on ego -- she thinks that drama and acting are what make a person strong and confident. She'll work with anybody who wants to act but they have

to play by her rules. If they do, she can turn just about anybody into a good actor. But it comes from her peeling away every defensive layer that person has. And most students don't want that layer peeled.

Linda was a career student for years. She got a BA in theater, then a Masters, then a Ph.D. in psychology (strictly because it would help her as an actress and a director). Her family is a very conservative group that live in New Hampshire. Linda is the black sheep of her family and her parents are constantly giving her grief about being in theater. And since she's not on Broadway, which would be the only thing they could see being a respectable job for a theater major, they just think she's a complete and utter failure. This just makes Linda want to work all the harder.

Linda has always had a problem with alcohol. It started in high school for her, where she was pretty wild. In college, she really lived the theater life, doing plays and partying constantly. The pressure from her family is probably what both drove her to drink and keeps her doing it. Even though she won't admit it, she's really bothered by her family's lack of respect for her chosen field, and she's always trying in vain to please them. Her job at the high school is her first out-of-college experience (even after getting her Ph.D., she stayed at the college and ran the theater) and she's taking it on with gusto. The teachers don't know what to think of her and neither do the students. However, Sam will practically fall in love with her and become her number one confidante, which will be both good and bad.

The Janitors - the school will be populated by an assortment of janitors -- both normal and, usually more often than not, not normal. These poor souls are often the whipping posts for every student trying out their hand at disrespecting their elders. Even kids who are generally good will take a verbal poke at a janitor from time to time, or at least have a good laugh at their expense (and usually behind their back). There's Wilber Stang, the insane bearded rock and roller/pothed, a former freak whom the freaks all refuse to believe they'll ever turn out like. There's Mr. Amberchek, a huge man of unknown foreign origin who no one can understand, not because he speaks another language but because he mumbles incoherently when he tries to communicate. And then there's Mr. Smith, an old man who literally has no personality whatsoever. He's the guy who always shows up with the red sawdust after anybody shows up. He also seems completely impervious to any and all verbal assaults by the students. He's seen it all and done it all and in reality is probably quite outgoing and happy in his outside life. He's just perfected the art of self-preservation.

In addition to all these specific characters, there will be a group of teachers, administrators and councilors who come in and out of the students' lives. The thing is, for most kids, adults all seem to blend together, except for the ones you really like and respect. Sam and Lindsay will have their adult confidantes -- Lindsay has Mr. Guyevski, and Sam will have Ms. Noble. Outside of that, the adults at the school are all standard issue authority figures from the teens' points of view -- although each week, they'll usually end up realizing that these adults are flawed and insecure former teenagers, just like themselves.

GENERAL NOTES ABOUT THE SERIES

- This show must be real. The teens in this series will talk like real teens. They will never be too clever or grown up sounding. We don't want a bunch of teenage Neil Simons spouting off wittily. These kids generally engage in teenage put-downs, they overextend their language ("Oh, yeah? Well, you're a ... uh ... big idiot, that's what you are") and never talk in that writers' "Now that I'm in my 30's, I know what I'd say in that high school situation, so I'll give this kid a snappy comeback" style of writing. These kids have to deal with each other with whatever is in the lexicon of a teenager and nothing more (and despite the fact that most of us think "if I knew then what I know now, I'd really be cool and in control" the sad truth is that if we knew what we know now when we were in high school, we'd probably get beaten up on a regular basis because teenage bullies don't respond well to clever put-downs at their expense).

- The students in high schools, as much as we wish they would be, are not at all politically correct (especially back in the 1970's and early 80's). This means that their language and put-downs are very often harsh. They use words of which they don't understand the full meaning. And for boys, the use of homophobic names and references is just a fact of life. There is nothing more effective when a teenage boy wants to put down a peer or adversary than a homosexual reference. This includes the terms fag, homo, queer, faggot and others. Obviously we can only go so far with this on network TV, but it's still a very real fact of life for high schoolers that the right, politically correct thing is seldom said. Being as harsh as we can get away with, especially when we're portraying adversaries and bullies, will make the show ring true and will connect with teens more because, frankly, that's what they have to put up with in their day to day lives. We will always portray the students who use these terms as bad guys and they'll usually get their comeuppance, but it's important that they be real -- and speaking like that is very real.

- Sam's stories generally move him from fantasy to reality. Sam usually has some Pollyanna-ish view of the world that gets a dose of reality and leaves him a little smarter and a bit confused. Lindsay's stories move her from idealism to reality. Like most thoughtful teenagers, she has lofty goals and desires but she's constantly forced to adjust them to the way the world actually works. She can't be the idealist she wants to be because the world can't accommodate pure idealism -- the best intentions still have to fit into the human condition. And so, each week Sam's pulled up to the human condition and Lindsay's dragged down to it. (You could say that Sam's also dragged down, because his fantasy world is idealistic too. But Sam's fantasy world is based in ignorance and with ignorance, there's nowhere to go but up.) Sam and Lindsay are both fighting against reality but from opposite sides.

- The divisions between the groups in the school -- the freaks, the geeks, the jocks, the farmers -- will not be cut and dry. There's nice jocks and mean jocks, there's good geeks and bad geeks, and there's cool freaks and not so

cool freaks. Sam and Lindsay both have discoveries of this fact throughout the year, challenging their pre-conceived notions of how the world works -- things aren't that cut and dry. They and the other characters in the series are constantly learning the lesson that people are ultimately defined by their actions and not their groups.

- The series takes place in the early 1980s for a few different reasons:

First of all, this is a show about what it's like to be a teenager and to be in high school. Other shows on TV deal with the problems facing teens today -- violence, guns, drugs, gangs, the internet -- but none seem to deal with the philosophical realities of being that age.

By setting the show back then, we're freed of current outside societal problems that quickly date the show and are thus allowed to address the broader themes that have stood the test of time for the past 20 years. Teens are usually aware that the real world -- a world of politics and wars and tragedy -- is happening around them but, quite frankly, they don't care. The only thing that matters to them is the day to day, face to face relationships with their peer groups. Everything else is just abstract and not worth dealing with -- it has no bearing on their lives.

Secondly, a big theme of this show is how kids move from immaturity to maturity. And a big part of that is sexuality. To set this show in 1980, when the country was very sexually active, we can deal with Sam and Lindsay and their friends' backwardness on the subject of sex in a straight ahead manner. In the 1980, there was no AIDS (that we knew of). When a teen was afraid of sex, it was strictly a matter of maturity and of morals (and, okay, if you had Health class, of VD too). It was the childhood teaching of religious ethics and parental warnings, along with simple fear, that kept kids from having sex before they were ready. Today, a fear of sex is clouded by the very real fear of contracting a fatal disease -- there's actual life and death reasons to abstain. And so, if the show were set in present day, Sam would be a hero for not wanting to have sex. In 1980, he's just looked on as weird and immature. And these are the levels at which we should want to deal with the topic of sex, because it's an honest exploration of what's really behind sexual relations and the transition from childhood to adulthood.

On the business side, to set this show in the early 80s doubles the audience that will watch it. Kids and teens will watch because they'll enjoy seeing their problems portrayed accurately and realistically on TV and will learn that their parents went through the exact same problems that they did. For adults, the show is pure emotional nostalgia. Not just because they'll be able to say, "Oh, I used to dress like that" or "Oh, I remember that song" -- other shows are doing that at the moment. But they'll see their formative years portrayed both realistically and humorously and this will make them tune in week after week and not just see this as another teen soap-opera filled with beautiful kids dealing with grown-up romance problems -- the type most of us never even knew in high school.

- This series will deal with questions of religion and faith in so far as it affects the way kids and teens develop morally and emotionally. A lot of teen behavior and eventual teen (or adult) rebellion comes about as a result of religious upbringing. Some students will hold onto their religious values of behavior and some will already be throwing them off. Some, like Lindsay, will be in crisis over her changing attitude toward organized religion and belief in general. Some, like Bill, will be trying desperately to make religion work for them (as his parents inundate him with various religions in the hopes of curing his slowness).

Some still, like Sam, will accept and rarely question the moral code that has been given to him by a religious upbringing. However, he will have to face quite often the disparity between an idealic moral code and adapting it to the real world. (Don't worry -- I'm not a religious nut. I'm not religious at all. However, most of the country is and so the effect religion has on the way kids and teens think and act is such a major part of their lives that to not address it, or at least reference it, is to avoid the infamous 800 pound gorilla.)

Teen series rarely deal with the effect that religion and belief have on kids, yet it's far too important of a point to gloss over. It will always be handled as lightly as possible and at times (as with Bill and his parent's Scientology phase) will be quite funny and absurd. But this show is about what makes up teens and their behavior and a family's religion and the extent of their beliefs and fervor affect teenagers as much as popular culture and, in many ways, more. A show like this shouldn't be afraid of dealing with religion and beliefs. These are two more keys to the souls of humans, especially developing ones.

- This show should convey the mysteries of being a teenager, of seeing for the first time how the world works and how other people run their lives, and thus seeing that everyone thinks differently. High school is where innocence is lost, in one form or another. It's where our world view changes and it's where we get our first glimpse of the future -- our own futures. And we see that the future is about human relations of all sorts. And in this we see that it's not going to be as easy as our teachers and parents and churches and TV shows led us to believe it would be. Mom and dad can't protect us anymore, and we come to realize that we don't want them to protect us anyway. We have to grow and we know it.

- The show follows Sam and Lindsay from immaturity to maturity. For Sam, it's from emotional immaturity and for Lindsay, it's from ideological immaturity.

- When possible, the show should always seek to solve problems visually, not verbally.

- One of my beliefs in life is that if teenagers aren't able to rebel against the older generation -- or to rebel in general -- then the natural order of the world is thrown off. If rebellion occurs at a younger age, that rebellion and the release it brings helps to segue teens into responsibility. If the rebellion can't happen at a practical age, then it'll happen at an older age and be more destructive and random -- and usually self-destructive. Rebellion in whatever

form it takes place is the key to unlocking the door to adulthood. This will be alluded to in characters like Millie, who is playing completely by the rules. We will see rumblings of discontent as she sometimes wishes she could do what Lindsay is doing. At the same time, we'll get a glimpse that some of the freaks are getting their rebellion out of their systems and we'll see the beginnings of yearning for a normal life in them. (This isn't a big thing but it goes toward making the show more realistic.)

- The show is not about neat resolutions and tidy endings, not about easy solutions and pat answers. There are generally never any big victories at the end of each show -- only small triumphs, bits of headway or realizations that open the door to change and improvement. There should never be a "Gee, you're right, I was wrong" ending. It's a show about people learning about how to get along with other people and unless you're battling the forces of pure evil, which hardly anyone ever is in life, you're simply clashing with people who are looking out for themselves while you're looking out for yourself. And so victories are only based on mutual acknowledgment and the agreement to be tolerant of the other person's quest for self-preservation.

That is all ...

Have a good semester and here's to year ten of the show!

"FREAKS & GEEKS" BIBLE SUPPLEMENT

Hey, here's a bunch of nit-picky stuff I left out of the series bible. If you thought I was hung up on details in that one, well then, friend, read on ...

WHAT THEY WEAR

Overall note is that all the students will have about four or five outfits they will wear all the time. Pants can stay the same a lot of the time, shirts change daily (except for some poorer or stinkier looking kids). Even cool kids and rich kids shouldn't have a lot of different changes. Bottom line, all these kids are blue collar or lower end white collar.

The Geeks

In general, the geeks try to dress well but just don't quite pull it off. Maybe if they were better looking or cooler guys, their clothes would make them attractive. But on them, no matter what they wear, it somehow doesn't work.

Sam -

Overall look: Sam looks like a kid who cares about how he looks but only up to a point. He dresses more for comfort and his fashion sense is limited to knowing what other kids are wearing and then trying to approximate their look. He thinks he looks better than he does in his clothes (everything looks fine to him from head-on in the mirror but he doesn't see that what he can't see doesn't really hang well). He's not so much ruffled as the victim of poorly made clothes.

Shirts: Pullover Velour V-neck shirts with collar (a little baggy and ill-fitting), short sleeved knit pullover with zipper V-neck and collar (white stripe on edge of collar and sleeves), terrycloth pullover with 2 or 3 button V-neck and collar (shoulder pieces are darker color than rest of shirt, with a stripe on each upper arm), not usually tucked in

Pants: Brown, green, burgundy jeans, never denim blue jeans (until 2nd season), occasionally polyester slacks

Shoes: Tan suede earth shoe hybrids with rimped soles (remember those things? The soles were shaped like 2 "w's" and the whole shoe looked kinda pumped up like a loaf of bread -- see Paul Feig for details), dark suede tennis shoes (occasionally)

Coat: Parka, faux-Members Only jacket (maybe), windbreaker with stripe or father's sporting goods store logo embossed on back (cheap, low-end looking)

Accessories: Always a belt, sometimes with a large copper novelty belt buckle (like a train or Model T car or a tennis racket)

Neal -

Overall look: Neal fancies himself a snappy dresser, but he's got an old man's fashion sense. Very conservative looking (imitating his father, who's a scientist). He always tries to be neat and smoothed out.

Shirts: Solid color dress shirts, usually with light tan sweater vest, sometimes checked or small vertical stripes, always tucked in

Pants: Mostly dress slacks (a little too tight), khakis, never jeans

Shoes: Dark brown leather slip-on boat shoes, loafers

Coat: Corduroy parka (a jacket trying desperately to be stylish), shawl sweaters with belt

Accessories: Wide belt, one or two pens in pocket of dress shirt (no pocket protector!!!), calculator case on belt, lots of stuff in his pockets (mini-flashlights, pen knife, notepad, small gadgets) -- Bottom line, Neal's a nerd who's trying to dress up

Bill -

Overall look: Bill's pretty much a mess. But not a sloppy guy. His family isn't very well off but his mother tries to dress him nice. The result is a lot of clothes from the irregulars bin.

He looks like a guy who leaves the house neat but immediately becomes unkempt. Bill is so unaware of his clothes that you get the feeling he doesn't care what he wears.

Shirts: Plaid cowboy shirts, sweater vests (Bill tries to take his fashion cues off of Neal but it's always off a bit), brightly printed button up shirts, pullover shirts that no one else would buy (different color swatches sown together, weird patterns patchworked into solid colors, stuff from the irregular bin)

Pants: Off brand jeans, rumpled khakis, occasionally vertically-striped pants

Shoes: Orthopedic black dress shoes (not jokey looking -- just sensible looking shoes), suede gym shoes (Tom Wolf brand -- see Paul Feig for explanation)

Coat: A beat-up, hand-me-down football/baseball jacket with the name of the school on it

The Freaks

The freaks tend to wear the same thing all the time. Even though they have several changes of clothes, they are all so interchangeable that if you weren't paying attention, you'd think they were wearing the same thing everyday. The freaks tend to settle for one look they like and then stick with it.

Lindsay -

Overall look: Lindsay is trying very hard to look like a freak. She pulls it off very effectively but there's always something a little studied about her look. She dresses down but her clothes are always pretty clean. She tries to be sloppy but can't help primping and neatening herself. A lot of her clothes come from her father's sporting goods store, so they're rather new looking. You'd have to look close to see that she's not truly a freak, but it shows.

Shirts: T-shirts (flower embroidered, band logo iron-ons), thermal underwear shirts, solid color sweaters (occasionally cowl neck), button-up plaid shirts (tucked in)

Pants: Bell bottom jeans, old painters pants, overalls

Shoes: Black suede rubber soled shoes, clogs, old running shoes

Coat: Old plaid hunting jacket, army field jacket, old worn Parka, long wool coat

Accessories: Worn knapsack for books,

Daniel -

Overall look: Daniel has the original grunge look, before it had a corporate name.

Shirts: Plaid flannel shirts with T-shirts underneath (usually black T-shirts)

Pants: Bell bottom jeans

Shoes: Work boots, old sneakers, snowmobile boots in the winter

Coat: An old army field jacket, an old sweatshirt under his coat if it's very cold out

Accessories: Scarf, snowmobile gloves, never wears a hat (it would mess up his afro), a large afro pick is always in his back pocket (although we never see him use it)

Nick -

Overall look: Nick is a good looking guy and he tries to dress cool to get girls. His clothes are pretty tight fitting in order to show himself off. It usually works.

Shirts: Button up cowboy-cut shirts (usually white -- never patterned or plaid), never a T-shirt, short sleeved V-neck knit shirts, occasionally a pullover sweater that looks like his mom bought it for him

Pants: Bell bottom jeans, hip hugger jeans, white bell bottom cotton pants

Shoes: Rubber soled padded leather shoes, running shoes, leather dress shoes from time to time

Coat: Navy P coat, burgundy leather jacket (waist length), ski jacket

Accessories: Very wide black leather belt, watch on a wide black leather wristband, puca shell necklace or gold chain, large comb with a handle that sticks up out of his back pocket

Ken -

Overall look: Ken is a motorhead in the truest sense of the word. He looks like he's perpetually just stepped out of the auto shop. He's a heavy guy and looks like he could care less about how he looks. However, he gets very offended if you make fun of his clothes -- go figure.

Shirts: Mostly T-shirts (all colors, usually with a rock band logo or a "Mopar" logo -- sometimes the name of a local business), old sweatshirts

Pants: Grease-stained jeans (droopy in the seat and too big overall)

Shoes: Grease soaked work boots, gas station boots (ankle-high black boots with thick soles), occasionally grease soaked old tennis shoes

Coat: An old ski vest with a "Mopar" patch on the front and an "STP" patch on the back, a dirty down-filled ski coat when it's too cold for just the vest

Accessories: Surprisingly enough, a comb in his back pocket, shop glasses in one of his pockets or on his head, an old spark plug he's constantly playing with (his good luck charm), a greasy bandanna in his backpocket

The Teachers

This is a school where nobody makes much money (like most schools in this country). The teachers try to dress nicely but, like the kids, we see a lot of repeats in their wardrobes. But they try and usually look pretty nice.

Mr. Guyevski -

Overall look: Of all the teachers, Mr. Guyevski looks like he cares the least about his appearance. Still, since he wants to set an example to his students, he tries to dress as nicely as he can, albeit in outfits that allow him to work on engines and slip into coveralls. He generally ends the day with grease on his shirt.

Shirts: Solid color dress shirts (usually white -- tucked in), never a tie

Pants: Work pants that look like dress pants (black or dark blue), sometimes jeans

Shoes: Old leather dress shoes (black or dark brown), gas station shoes (black work shoes with thick soles)

Coat: A down-filled nylon hunting jacket, an old black leather coat, a cotton windbreaker (when it's not cold)

Accessories: A retractable key ring on his belt (they look like little silver hockey pucks and have a retractable chain that holds a key ring), a trucker's wallet (A large wallet with a chain that attaches to his belt), a tire gauge and small screwdriver in his shirt pocket, a Swiss Army knife, a small Maglite in a case attached to his belt (as you can tell, he's got a lot of gadgets -- he's the kind of guy who has one of those compasses suction-cupped onto his windshield)

Mr. Rosso -

Overall look: Mr. Rosso tries harder than any other male teacher to look good. He's a single guy who's always hoping to meet a woman and dresses as if he thinks a new available woman may walk through the school at any time. Mr. Rosso is a geek grown up who's always trying to cover up his roots.

Shirts: Button up dress shirts, turtle neck sweaters, ski sweaters, an occasional sweater vest

Pants: Khakis, Dress pants of all colors (sometimes he shows up in rather loud patterned pants)

Shoes: Leather dress shoes (some with laces, one pair with a large buckle), those corny zip-up leather boot/shoes (like Johnny Carson used to wear)

Coat: Sports jackets (camel hair, tan, blue, burgundy), dark trench coat, a down-filled ski jacket when it's really cold

Accessories: Pull-on buckle up "rubbers" over his shoes when it rains or snows, a thin gold chain

Mr. Kowchevski -

Overall look: An ex-Marine, he has an ex-Marine's fashion sense. No nonsense clothes, a little tight fitting to show off his muscles, a crew cut -- he's a guy completely unaware of current fashion. He dresses in what he thinks looks good and respectable.

Shirts: Button up short sleeve dress shirts (solid colors) with sober neckties, V-neck sweaters (dark blue or black)

Pants: Polyester dress pants (crisply pressed and creased -- gray or blue)

Shoes: Sensible leather dress shoes, sometimes black leather coaches shoes (black leather gym/dress shoes with rubber soles)

Coat: Tight fitting navy blue sportsjacket, leather bomber jacket, green army parka when it's very cold

Accessories: A huge ring of keys that he is constantly spinning on his finger

Ms. Collins -

Overall look: Ms. Collins is the hot divorcee. She dresses up far too nice for high school. She wears a lot of makeup and especially mascara. She's a fairly attractive woman and so it doesn't make her look bad. She just looks completely out of place in this blue collar/lower middle class high school.

Outfits: Chanel-esque suits, cowl-necked sweater dresses, safari suits, cowl-necked sweaters with light colored slacks

Shoes: Fashion boots with sensible heels, dark colored dress shoes with low heels, occasionally saddle shoes

Accessories: Jewelry, jewelry, jewelry! Large gold earrings, enormous Egyptian-style necklaces, large solid bracelets, large costume jewelry rings, big brooches in the shapes of bugs and animals

The Others

Millie Kentner -

Overall look: Millie's a conservative girl from a conservative family. She dresses like her church-going mother. Always very sensible and never showy. Her clothes are a little nicer quality than the other students' and she is very concerned about always being neat and tucked in.

Pants: Light colored slacks, knee-length skirts (light-colored cotton, occasionally denim but new, unfaded denim), gauchos

Shirts: White dress shirts, vertically striped knit pullover shirts, cowl-necked white sweaters, white sundresses in the spring, high button granny shirts

Shoes: School uniform leather shoes, dark brown earth-type shoes, white girl's deck shoes, leather fur lined boots in the winter

Coat: Knee-length wool coat with large fake fur collar in cold weather, white windbreaker, sweater jackets, her father's old letterman jacket

Accessories: A large book bag, a silver necklace with small crucifix

Alan White -

Overall look: Alan's a little guy who tries to look older. He attempts to dress nice, or at least like the juniors and seniors do. But he usually looks a little dirty and definitely doesn't look any older.

Pants: Jeans, cotton dress jeans

Shirts: Button-up short sleeve dress shirts, pullover sports shirts, T-shirts with band logos

Shoes: Tennis shoes, occasionally leather dress shoes

Coat: Bomber-style jacket with fleece collar, multi-colored ski jacket, hooded sweatshirts

Accessories: a thin gold chain necklace (sometimes)

WHAT THEY LISTEN TO

Here's some of the bands that the freaks and geeks would be listening to in the Midwest in 1980 (the great thing is that, even though the groups divide pretty cleanly on what they listen to, there's lots of spillover in what they like, partly because of their siblings and parents and partly just because they're kids who are easily persuaded):

The Cars - geeks

Chicago - geeks

Asia - geeks, some freaks

Bee Gees - geeks

Black Sabbath - freaks

Blue Oyster Cult - freaks

Blood, Sweat & Tears - geeks

Bad Company - freaks

Eric Clapton - freaks, some geeks

Alice Cooper - freaks and geeks

Cheap Trick - freaks and geeks

Doobie Brothers - freaks and geeks

John Denver - geeks

Eagles - geeks, some freaks

ELO - geeks

Fleetwood Mac - geeks, freak girls

Foghat - freaks

Peter Frampton - freaks and geeks

Foreigner - freaks and geeks

Genesis - freaks

Jimi Hendrix - freaks

Iron Maiden - freaks

Elton John - geeks

Journey - freaks and geeks

Judas Priest - freaks

Kiss - geeks

John Lennon - freaks and geeks

Kenny Loggins - geeks

Lynyrd Skynyrd - freaks and farmers

Marshall Tucker Band - freaks and farmers, some geeks

Molly Hatchett - freaks and geeks

Meat Loaf - geeks

The Steve Miller Band - freaks and geeks

Van Morrison - nobody

Moody Blues - geeks

Tom Petty - geeks, some freaks

Prince (early) - nobody

Rolling Stones - freaks for early stuff, geeks for "Some Girls"

Rush - freaks

Roxy Music - nobody who'd admit it

The Tubes - freaks and geeks

Santana - freaks and geeks

Carly Simon - teachers

Simon & Garfunkel - teachers

Patty Smith - "Creem" reading freaks

Bruce Springsteen - not very big in Midwest, some cooler geeks

The Police - freaks, a few geeks

Supertramp - geeks, some freaks

Jethro Tull - freaks

Queen - freaks and geeks

James Taylor - geeks, some freak girls

Jackson Brown - geeks, freaks who smoke lots of pot

Van Halen - freaks

War - geeks

Paul McCartney and Wings - geeks, some freaks

Crosby, Stills & Nash - teachers

Yes - freaks, some geeks

ZZ Top - freaks, some geeks

Frank Zappa - only the coolest of freaks

The Alan Partridge Project - geeks

Billy Joel - geeks

Bob Seger - geeks, some freaks

J. Geils Band - freaks for early stuff, geeks for "Centerfold" era

Ted Nugent - freaks

Led Zeppelin - freaks

April Wine - freaks, some geeks, lots of Canadians

Triumph - mostly girl freaks

REO Speedwagon - geeks

Jeff Beck - cool freaks

Robin Trower - freaks

Three Dog Night - geeks

B-52s - Nobody

Devo - very cool geeks

Elvis Costello - moody geeks, some freaks

Talking Heads - some geeks, some freaks, mostly no one

The Romantics - geeks, a few freaks

Sex Pistols - no one knows about them

The Ramones - them either

Pablo Cruise - geeks

Gino Vanelli - girls from every group

David Bowie - freaks

Pat Benatar - geeks and freak girls

Billy Squire - freak girls

Boston - geeks

Golden Earring (Radar Love) - freaks

UFO - freaks

Deep Purple - freaks

Head East - a few freaks, a few geeks

Steely Dan - geeks, geeks, geeks

Aerosmith - freaks

The Knack - geeks

38 Special - freaks, some farmers

THINGS IN THE BACKGROUND

In all the hallway scenes, there will be things happening in the background that typify high school (however, we won't have too much stuff going on in the hallway -- we don't want it to look like all those period movies that take place in Medieval England where every street in town is filled with people doing activities typical of the era -- you know, how every street in "Moll Flanders" and "Shakespeare in Love" looked like a Renaissance Faire was taking place -- do we really think that every street in merry olde England had jugglers performing and bear baiting contests? But I digress). Here's some of the stuff we'll see in the background:

- Two guys having a punching contest (punching each other on the arm seeing who'll get hurt first)
- Band kids selling candy bars
- Drama kids selling suckers
- Drama kids walking around in costume to promote the play they're currently putting up
- Freak couples making out
- Kids harassing the janitors
- Janitors sweeping the halls with red sawdust
- Kids trying to step on other kids' new shoes to get them dirty
- Students carrying wooden planters and cutting boards they made in woodshop
- Students trying to navigate the hallway carrying large sheets of poster board
- Student government kids hanging long painted paper signs advertising dances and school activities
- Freaks tearing the signs down
- Other freaks writing on the signs
- Students making fun of the pictures of former graduating classes hanging on the hallway walls
- Band kids carrying tubas and large cumbersome cases down the hall
- Hearing the school band rehearsing with the door open

- Freaks with large radios (but not boom boxes -- just big cassette players or large transistor radios -- all low quality)
- Hall monitors (usually women in their 50's who are constantly knitting)
- Science students carrying large science fair exhibitions to and from class
- Kids getting clean-outs from other kids (when you run up behind somebody and knock their books and papers out from under their arm and all over the floor)
- Jocks taking up too much of the hallway and kids trying to get by, not daring to ask them to move
- Guys checking out girls
- Girls checking out guys
- Kids getting wedgies (when you grab the waistband of someone's underwear and pull it up as hard as you can -- AKA "snuggies")
- Tough freak girls harassing younger kids
- Girls laughing at anybody and everybody
- Teachers yelling at students in front of their lockers
- Freaks flipping teachers off behind their backs
- Kids tapping their friends on the opposite shoulder behind their backs to get them to turn around the wrong way
- Students in band uniforms
- Farmer kids tripping smaller kids
- Guys high-fiving each other
- A/V guys pushing projector carts down the hall
- Yearbook kids taking pictures of other students (the students pose by doing kick-lines, putting their arms around each other, standing and smiling stiffly, putting up finger horns behind their friends heads, punching each other, or simply looking like they really don't want their pictures taken)
- Groups of freaks breaking up when a teacher approaches
- Guys delivering love notes to girls for their friends

- Girls coming up to a group of guys and telling one of the guys that some girl likes them
- Students imitating teachers after they've passed by
- Students giving other students "flat tires" (when you walk up behind someone and catch the back of their shoe with your foot, making their heel pop out of their shoe)
- Geeks carrying huge piles of books
- Students rushing to the nurse's office with a cut or a bloody nose
- Students from Commercial Foods class walking around wearing industrial aprons and paper food service hats
- Auto shop students wearing dirty coveralls
- Greasy haired, dirty "stinky" guys (usually some form of geek -- although often a farmer or a freak or just some kid who's a real outsider)
- Scary crazy kids that no one talks to
- Quiet mousy girls with no friends walking quickly down the hallway, clutching their books
- Drafting students carrying blue print rolls down the hall
- Fights, fights, fights!
- Students on payphones
- Students who are dressed very nice (disco-style clothes)
- Students who are dressed terrible (ratty T-shirts, knit watch caps, old worn parkas, dirty jeans)
- Jocks wearing their school jerseys (usually on game day)
- Girls wearing rabbit skin jackets (short jackets with a patchwork of different colored squares of rabbit pelts)
- Students eating junk food (Hostess fruit pies, Nutty Buddy prepackaged ice cream cones, Twinkies, cans of soda pop)
- Other students knocking the food out of the other kids' hands
- Kids burning other kids with the "If your hand is bigger than your face, you'll die when you're thirty" gag (the other kid puts his hand up to his face to check and you hit the back of his hand, causing him to get a bloody nose -- funny!!!)

WHAT THEY DRIVE

This is the Midwest. Lots of road salt plus students with very little money divided by a blue collar/lower middle class upbringing equals lots of rusty, crappy cars. Add to that a motorhead sensibility and a dash of Detroit "we'd rather die than drive a foreign car" ethic and you've got the parking lot of a Midwestern high school:

The Freaks: Chevy Novas, Ford Pintos, Chevy Camaros, Pontiac Trans Ams, Chevy Malibu (if you were lucky and could find one), souped up Dodge Darts

The Geeks: Plymouth Furys, any and all station wagons, old Corvairs, AMC Pacers (their moms' cars), Dodge Darts, Dodge Dusters, an occasional VW bug

The Teachers: Chevy Monte Carlos, Mercury Cougars, Opels, station wagons, AMC Spirits, Ford Thunderbirds (not the cool old ones, but the really boring looking mid-70s ones), Dodge Coronets, an occasional old Cadillac

The Farmers: Ford pickup trucks, Chevy pickup trucks, any pickup trucks

Notes: Almost every car is rusty. The road salt every winter makes most cars rust out all along the bottom of the doors and fenders. Most of the students cars are rusted right through, creating holes along the bottom.

The freaks cars are usually souped up. This means that there's lots of added on gauges stuck to the dash boards, wide slick tires, the backs of the cars have been raised to be more dragster-like, and all their cars rumble loudly when they idle. A lot of them have large whip antennas sticking up, sometimes several.

Most of the geeks drive their parents' cars. Hence, it usually looks like a grandma convention is in town when the geeks start pulling into the parking lot. Boxes of Kleenex are in most back windows and Union 76 balls are on top of a lot of antennas.

WHAT THEIR WORLD LOOKS LIKE

This is the Midwest and in the Midwest, the sun doesn't seem to shine that much during the school year. There's lots of sunshine during the summer but, for some reason, the minute Labor Day hits and everybody's locked back in school, the sun seems to go on vacation for a majority of the fall and winter. Only once spring starts to show its face does the sun decide to reappear and mock the students who are still trapped in their classes. Then, the real personification of "spring fever" takes over (in episodes that take place in the spring and toward the end of the school year, this frustration with being inside should be prevalent -- it seems to make most students crazy -- I've never done a study but I'd bet grades drop in the spring because, frankly, nobody can concentrate anymore).

There's an overabundance of earth tones in the Midwest. Gray skies. Lots of dark green in the grass and in the trees and once fall hits, browns and tans join the landscape. The colors of nature seem to affect the colors of the people. There are few bright colors in people's clothes and even if they wear louder colors, the quality of the sun's light seems to mute them. In other words, the people dress like the land around them. It's earth tones, earth tones, earth tones!

The lighting in the schools is also muted. Florescent lights are the norm but there are great stretches of hallway that seem to be fairly dark (sometimes it's just because light bulbs seem to be constantly burned out). The classrooms are painted in very dull tans and creams. Every classroom has a window that looks out on the typically gray day and the earthiness of the landscape. However, no matter how dull it looks outside, it looks much better than the classroom everyone is trapped in -- the classrooms seem to be set up to flaunt the fact that kids are unable to escape.

Cinematography-wise, in order to capture this world and portray it the way it feels to those in it, the show should be shot in a very Steadicam/handheld manner. High school life is not fluid and doesn't lend itself to long, flowing dolly shots. This show should feel more like a hospital show or war movie. It has an "anything can happen" and "anything can jump out at you" quality. Smoothly drifting around a conversation isn't really the way to go with this. All camera moves should be motivated by the action and the content. It shouldn't be about a DP worrying that the camera's not always moving. When the students are moving, we move with them and participate with them. When they're sitting and talking, we're sitting with them. In other words, if the camera moves, it should have a good reason for moving. (Hey, even the camera's afraid of getting beaten up and picked on!)

"FREAKS AND GEEKS" BIBLE ADDENDUM 5/31/99

THE TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATION:

In order to show that some things never change, "Freaks and Geeks" will set up the members of the school administration -- the teachers, the councilors, the principals -- as having the exact same politics as the student body. There are freak teachers, there are geek teachers, there are popular teachers, there are jock teachers and there are disaffected teachers. The politics of the teachers lounge are exactly the same as it is in the school.

In keeping with this, here's a nemesis for Mr. Rosso:

Dan Whitman - In his 50's or 60's, Mr. Whitman's an older teacher who doesn't like anything about Rosso -- his philosophies, his look, his methods -- and he takes every opportunity to let Rosso know it. Mr. Whitman is a staunch conservative and the happiest thing in his life at the moment is that Ronald Reagan's about to become President (Mr. Rosso is, of course, backing Carter -- although he also has leanings toward the independent candidate Anderson).

Mr. Whitman was transferred from the inner city of Detroit, where he taught Government in one of the worst, most dangerous schools in Michigan, to William McKinley High. His inner-city experience left him a little prejudiced, a lot intolerant and a whole lot tough (he has that difficult prejudice, the kind that can be backed up with a lot of personal experiences -- the kind you generally don't get into an argument about because you know he'll just overwhelm you with stories you can't defend against). He was able to transfer to McKinley only after he put in enough time in Detroit to get his pension vested.

Whitman's a guy who's seen everything. He was in the front lines in World War II, he was in the front lines at his inner-city school, he was a hardass with his two sons, one of which turned gay and the other committed suicide. There's no way to know if his sons' fates were genetically predisposed or if Dan Whitman drove them to it. Whitman has pretty much disowned his gay son, although he will tolerate him at family gatherings. Whitman's wife, Barbara, is a long suffering woman, an Edith Bunker-type who simply puts up with her husband and ignores his unpleasant side. Whitman is good to his wife but in that scary way -- he'll take her out to a nice restaurant but then spend the evening yelling at the waiters and barely tolerating his wife's small talk. He's simply a guy who's been worn down by the events in his life (not that he was the nicest guy to start with).

Whitman's definitely an old school guy when it comes the psychology of school and teaching. He believes solely in grades as a reward for work, and he has no use for the self-esteem method of teaching that is just gaining ground in the schools of the country. He believes in discipline and corporal punishment for students who get out of line. He's the teacher that will throw you against the wall if you act up or come over to your desk and slam his fist down in front of you to get your attention. He's convinced that this is the only

way to help kids and that he's only doing them a favor to bust their balls (is he right or wrong? -- hard to tell -- there's definitely something to be said for his way of handling problem students -- some of them respect him and get back in line, others hate him and strike out even more). This brings him in direct conflict with Mr. Rosso (one of the many things). Simply put, Mr. Whitman hates Mr. Rosso. He hates his appearance ("He's a goddammed hippie!"), he hates his soft-hearted way of dealing with the students, he hates Rosso's philosophy of how to handle kids (Rosso is a hard-core self-esteem guy -- nothing in the learning system should ever do damage to a student's self-esteem -- Rosso wants to rid the school of grades, of required classes, of anything that might inhibit a child from realizing their full potential) and even Rosso's easy-going demeanor ("If you walk around acting like you're the kids' best friend, then their going to start treating you like one of their friends and not take you seriously."). Whitman's constantly looking for reasons to get Rosso fired (not in a sitcom way, though -- he's not Dr. Bellows) and the worst moments in his life are when he gets dressed down by Rosso for roughing up a kid. Bottom line is, both of them are there to stay and so they'll just have to learn how to co-exist (Rosso can't ever figure out why Whitman hates him so much -- Rosso goes out of his way to be nice to Whitman but that just makes things worse -- the problem is that Rosso reminds Whitman of his son that committed suicide).

LINDSAY, DANIEL AND NICK:

In a nutshell, this is the most important part of the show. The geek stuff will always come easier, since a) most of us are former geeks and b) Lindsay's existential quest and the way the freaks fit into it provide the emotional backbone of the show. The bottom line for Lindsay is that she comes to the freaks the same way that Sam comes to his new high school -- immature and unlearned in the ways of the new environment. The biggest question from here is, will acceptance into the freak world really make Lindsay happy?

There are several options for Lindsay's relationship with Daniel and Nick and so in order to open a meaningful discussion, I'll list some of the possible configurations that their relationships can take.

For Lindsay and Daniel, the possibilities at the beginning of their relationship are:

- Daniel could hit on her and she could take him up on it, making out with him and going all the way (Lindsay's newfound atheism leads her to total hedonism).
- Lindsay could make out with Daniel but then panic when he wants to go all the way, and then she escapes and things are weird between them for a while.
- Lindsay could hit on Daniel, who has no interest in her, thinking her too goofy and immature.

- Lindsay could glom onto Daniel and follow him around like a puppy, trying to fit in with him and putting him off in the process.

- Lindsay could see that Daniel's trouble and begin to distance herself from him every time he starts to get friendly with her.

- Lindsay could be completely turned off by Daniel and do everything in her powers to avoid him.

For Lindsay and Nick, the possibilities at the beginning of their relationship are:

- Lindsay and Nick could immediately become a couple, bringing Lindsay immediately into the freaks, the risk being that she's out of the freaks again if she and Nick break up

- Lindsay and Nick could start dating, with Lindsay flaunting the budding relationship to her old Mathlete pals and to all the teachers

- Lindsay and Nick could become best friends, with Lindsay pining after Daniel and Nick pining after Lindsay (or someone else)

- Lindsay could start to see Nick as a bonehead and patronize him as she deals with the deeper questions in her life

- Lindsay could become obsessed with Nick, who suddenly has second thoughts about her, being freaked out by the prospect of a steady girlfriend and by Lindsay's intensity

- Lindsay and Nick could become best friends, with Lindsay happy that Nick doesn't want to be romantic, the two of them seeing teenage dating as cliched and stupid (although Nick wouldn't mind having a romance with Lindsay).

Another important question is how this whole defection to the freaks really affects Lindsay. Some questions to throw to the room concerning Lindsay's quest are:

- How do Lindsay's parents deal with her change? Do they ignore it? Try to change her back? Punish her? Take her to a psychiatrist? Ground her? Let her do whatever she wants? Fight with her? Buy her things to woo her back to being a model student?

- Does Lindsay still do homework? Does she secretly care about grades even though she professes not to? Does she actually want to fail? Does she convince herself that she doesn't care? Does she feel regret about her choice, even though she enjoys being a freak? Is she looking for a way to gracefully get back into being an A student, without the freaks thinking she's not cool? Or is her dream to flunk out of school and prove something to everybody?

- What happens when Lindsay gets her first B or C? What happens when she flunks her first class? Does she hide her report card from her parents? Does she give it to them defiantly as a way of saying "fuck you"? Do her parents flip?

- Does Lindsay worry about getting into college? Has she decided not to go to college? Is she still secretly prepping for college, figuring she can glide through high school on her smarts? Does she like the idea of college? Does she see college as just another lie? Is she planning out the rest of her life? Does she plan on having a life? Has she decided to not plan her future? Does she even need college?

- What if Lindsay can't help but get A's? Is she so smart that she can literally do nothing and still ace her classes? Does she think that the other students are all dumber than her? Does she judge people on their intellect? Does she like stupid people? Does she make a concerted effort to do badly in class? Does she put down wrong answers when she knows the right one just to look not as smart as she is? Does she take pride in her intellect? Is she ashamed of her intellect? Is she glad she's smart? Does it give her a secret feeling of superiority to know that she's smarter than she lets on to be?

- How do the teachers handle her if she's been skipping class regularly and she's still getting all A's? Do they keep it quiet, not wanting smart students to see that they really don't need high school? Do they convince themselves that she's cheating? Do they admire Lindsay? Are they jealous of her? Do they talk to her like an adult? Do they feel she is one of them? Do they feel she's judging them? Does she make them self-conscious?

- Is Lindsay happy with her new life? Is it everything she wanted? Are the freaks as cool as she thought they were? Are they as deep as she thought they were? Are they as non-judgmental as she thought they were? Are they smarter than she thought? Are they dumber than she thought? Does she enjoy the fact that some of them aren't into personal hygiene? Does she sometimes get repulsed at them? Does she think everything they do is great? Is she embarrassed by them? Does she see herself being friends with them forever or just until she's out of high school? Does she plan on moving away after high school? To New York? To California? To Europe? Does she plan on killing herself?

A TYPICAL DAY FOR LINDSAY (POSSIBLY):

She wakes up screaming.

Uh ... okay ... actually, I wake up screaming. Lindsay probably just wakes up.

She wakes up to a clock radio set to the local album rock station. She gets as many extra minutes of sleep as she can out of the snooze control, until her mom finally comes to the door to roust her out of bed. Lindsay's not what you'd call a morning person. In fact, she hates mornings and would much rather sleep in until well around noon. Her mom, however, is a morning

person and has already been up for hours, watching morning TV, making breakfast and drinking coffee.

Lindsay usually staggers downstairs in her pajamas and picks at her breakfast. Every morning she tries to get her mom to give her coffee but Jean always tells her that she can't have coffee until she turns eighteen (and even then Jean doesn't encourage it -- she's anti-caffeine for kids and won't even let Sam and Lindsay drink Coke). Lindsay usually just wants cereal but her mom always makes her toast, eggs and bacon in addition. Lindsay rarely eats it and so Jean usually eats two breakfasts (which she doesn't particularly mind). Then Lindsay goes upstairs to get ready for school.

The old Lindsay used to spend a lot of time in the bathroom, washing and blow-drying her hair, then picking out her clothes and making sure everything looked nice and pressed. Then she'd pick out the perfect jewelry and find the right perfume (usually settling on Love's Baby Soft). Then, she'd check herself multiple times in the mirror, go downstairs to ask her mother's opinion of her outfit, get a little advice and then go upstairs to change whatever it was her mother thought needed changing.

However, the new Lindsay has a whole new regiment (which she's still getting used to even though it's much easier than her old regiment). She still showers every day but then doesn't blow-dry her hair. She tosses on one of three pairs of worn jeans that she owns, grabs a T-shirt or pullover from her drawer, puts on a few rings, her army jacket, then heads downstairs. Jean asks her if she's really going to wear that (every single day), Lindsay snaps back that she is, Jean sighs and makes some random comment to the effect of "you know, it's not a crime to look nice at school," to which Lindsay doesn't respond and heads out the door. Sometimes Harold is there with a half-hearted "listen to your mother" but ultimately he doesn't really care what Lindsay wears to school. He does care that she seems to be changing but figures it's all natural -- all his Kiwanis buddies have been bringing in stories of teenage rebellion for years, having been through this stage with their kids already (Harold and Jean had kids later than any of their friends).

Lindsay heads out to the bus stop, where she meets up with Millie. She tolerates Millie but everyday she distances herself from Millie more and more. Not in an overt "don't talk to me" way but by responding less and less to Millie's questions or comments. Lately Millie grills her about rejoining the Mathletes and Lindsay's admonitions to lay off get stronger and stronger. "Millie, don't ask me that again" is about the point we're at by the second episode.

On the bus, Lindsay keeps to herself. Kim Kelly and her tough friends usually terrorize the bus, smoking cigarettes in the back of the bus and blasting their radio. Whenever the bus driver tries to get them to stop, Kim and her friends yell at the bus driver and usually end up winning any fight. The bus drivers sometimes pull the bus over to get Kim in line but no one can win against Kim. Hence, most of the bus drivers end up quitting. Lindsay's bus route is notorious for going through more bus drivers than anywhere else. Lindsay

usually stays out of this, although once she's in with Kim, she may join in from time to time. But more likely she doesn't. She really hates that Kim does that and always feels sorry for the bus drivers.

At school, Lindsay goes to her locker. She doesn't have anything hung in her locker anymore. She used to have her schedule in there and pictures of kittens and horses but now there's nothing. She's thought about putting up pictures of rock bands but she's never been that motivated to do it.

She goes to her morning classes and pays attention in spite of herself. Try as she can she can't not pay attention in class. It's been a part of her life for so long -- being a model student -- that she can't break the habit. What she can do is resist raising her hand to answer the questions. If there's any freaks in her class, she'll pretend to not know the answer to a question if the teacher asks her. It kills her to do it, hating the fact that the teacher might think she actually doesn't know. If Kim is in class with her, Lindsay'll sometimes act rude to the teacher to prove that she's really a freak to Kim. It really kills her if it's a teacher she likes. However, she can channel her anger at the fact that people she thought she trusted, like her parents, sold her a bill of goods on the whole existence of God thing and so can project that anger onto her teachers, thinking them to part of the conspiracy. When she's given back a paper with an A on it, she quickly puts it into her notebook to hide it from any freak eyes that may be looking. She feels great that she got an A and so can act like she doesn't care. When she starts getting papers with Bs and Cs on them (because she stays out with the freaks and doesn't study), it really hurts her. She feels like a failure and rethinks her involvement with the freaks, trying secretly to figure out how to pull off more studying without anybody knowing about it (either the freaks or her parents -- she wants everything in her life to look seamless).

Between classes, she heads out to the smoking patio to look for Daniel and Nick. If they're not out there, she doesn't go out. The other freaks kind of scare her and if Ken is the only one she knows out there, she won't go out. She doesn't feel comfortable around him and is a little scared of him. For her, the freaks are Daniel and Nick and without them, she'd rather just get to her next class so she can sit there and look bored, all the while paying attention.

At lunch, Lindsay sits at the freak table, which is in the back of the cafeteria behind a wall where the lunchroom monitors can't see them unless they actually walk over to look at the table. Lindsay usually brings her lunch from home, keeping it in her large purse so that nobody sees her carrying a sack lunch. She used to always get a hot lunch but has decided that carrying a tray across the cafeteria would be far too uncool. The rest of the freaks all buy their lunch from the snack counter (a student run concession that sells nothing but Hostess products and other junk food). They all usually eat Hostess Sno-balls, Fruit Pies and Ding Dongs (or as they were later called by the good people at Hostess, "King Dons" -- yes, it's true). Occasionally Mr. Kowchevski will come over and yell at them for eating nothing but junk food, which they find to be really funny. Lindsay and the freaks usually talk about everything from what albums they're going to buy to who they're mad at to more

existential discussions about God and the world. Lindsay usually gets them off on the more existential tangents which they enjoy for a while, or at least until one of them thinks of something more fun to talk about, like firecrackers or cars or guitar amps. Lindsay doesn't mind when they talk about stuff other than deep things. In a way, she enjoys it more because it takes her mind off her worries. She really finds the freaks to be entertaining -- she's also quite attracted to Daniel and Nick, although she really tries to suppress it. She doesn't want to break up her group by dating someone and running the risk of breaking up or upsetting the guy she doesn't date. Also, she knows that Daniel's with Kim and that Kim would kill her if she did anything or showed that she was interested in Daniel. Whenever Daniel playfully hits on her (he hits on every girl), she loves it but steers him away from it. But just the fact that he hits on her is enough for her sometimes. With Nick, whom she knows she could date if she wanted, she's more afraid of dating him and having it not work. Plus, he's a bit too much of a stoner for her tastes. She knows that he really can't stop smoking pot because he likes it too much.

After lunch, Lindsay goes to the rest of her classes. She goes to her gym class, which she hates. She hates having to change into her gym clothes, she finds sports pointless and she's not at all athletic. She's not a good runner and she hates getting her hair all sweaty. She doesn't want to wash her hair after class because it's so long and hard to dry. So, she usually does as little as possible in class so as not to break a sweat. When the teacher pushes her to join, she just exaggerates how bad she is at sports so she doesn't have to play too much (unlike most guys, she could care less if the girls in class think she's not athletic -- she doesn't care what the other girls think of her). She has a home ec class that she has mixed feelings about. The feminist in her thinks it's an antiquated class (the teacher is always talking about how to train them to be homemakers, whether they plan on having careers or not -- "Even if you work, you're going to have a family at home that needs to be cleaned and fed."). And yet she really likes things like cooking and sewing. After all, she's her mother's daughter. And so she usually complains to any of the freaks and cool kids in class about how dumb home ec is and yet she excels in it.

Once school is over, she'll sometimes take the bus home but more often than not, she'll go and hang out with the freaks. Many times they'll go hang under the bleachers or over at Nick's garage and smoke pot. Nick, Daniel and Ken will usually end up jamming on their instruments, which Lindsay finds to be only kind of fun. It's fun for about a half an hour but then the guys will keep playing for hours. And it's not very good. But it is loud. Lindsay will usually sit there, pretending to listen, smoking cigarettes and thinking about her life and about the world. Sometimes she'll take off early to go hang out in her bedroom and listen to records while reading books (on the way home she sprays on lots of perfume to cover any cigarette and pot smoke she may have on her and she always keeps a box of Tic Tacs in her purse). She loves reading novels and poetry. She reads classics, modern novels, Sylvia Plath -- anything intelligent she can get her hands on. She'll usually do her homework with the stereo off. She's never been able to concentrate with music playing. She gets through her homework quickly and then keeps listening to albums. She borrows a lot of records from the freaks and spends a lot of time making

compilation tapes of her favorite songs. She sometimes makes tapes for Daniel and Nick of their favorite songs or of songs they try to play. She also makes drumming tapes for Nick of his favorite songs to drum along with so he can just pop the tape into his stereo and play along with the songs without having to get up and change the record.

When dinner rolls around, she goes downstairs to eat with the family. The Weirs have a strict rule about the family eating together every night. Harold Weir always comes home from work, no matter how busy he is, to eat with his family. Then, when dinner's finished, he'll either go back to the store to do paperwork until late or else he'll go into his den and work at his desk on all the store's accounting. Dinner is something Lindsay has grown to dread, since her parents usually grill her about her friends. They hate that she's hanging with the freaks and use all sorts of techniques to try and get her to be the old Lindsay again. Some nights it's her father using some scared straight technique, the next night it's them trying to use low-rent psychology on her, the next it's them trying to be super nice to her. They're obviously consulting every one of their friends, not to mention reading every book about teenagers, trying to get into Lindsay's head. She suffers through it all, some nights being very defensive, some nights trying to act like she's the old Lindsay (even though her parents don't buy it). It all depends on her mood and how good or bad of a day she's had. But she really hates being under the spotlight every night. Many is the time she tries to divert her parents' attention to Sam but, alas, Sam never has anything going on that his parents are concerned about.

After dinner, there's many nights in which she gets into a fight with her parents about going out. She usually says she's going to the movies with friends but her parents don't buy it. Some nights she can get out of the house, either by conning them or by fighting them loudly enough for them to give in. It's usually when her dad goes back to the store that Lindsay has the most success in getting out of the house. Her mother is pretty easy to con and Lindsay has become expert at it, usually telling her mom she's going to the mall or over to a friend's house to mess around with makeup and talk about boys -- all the girly things her mom wants her to do.

Once she's out, she usually goes out with the freaks, who go driving around. Most nights they hang out in the parking lot of the 7-Eleven or in front of Salvatore's Italian Deli, smoking cigarettes and just hanging. Other times they'll go out to their clearing in the woods, light a bon fire and sit around smoking pot. Sometimes they sing rock songs, sometimes they just talk about anything and everything (school, who they like, who they hate, what trouble they got into, what they want to do to some teacher or administrator). Some nights they go off to vandalize things. Daniel and Ken usually instigate this. They like to blow up mailboxes with M-80s, give lawn jobs (pulling your car up onto someone's lawn and spinning your tires to tear up their grass), do "donuts" in the parking lot of the K-Mart (driving your car in circles and making the tires squeal to lay rubber patches), go cruising down the main street (only on Friday and Saturday nights) and generally drive around fast on back roads. Daniel always wants to do something illegal and destructive. Some nights Lindsay's into it, other nights she begs them to do something else. Some

nights they listen to her and some nights they don't. It usually depends on how much money and pot they have. If they don't have any, then it's destruction time.

At the end of the evening, they drop Lindsay off at the end of her street, so that her parents don't see her getting out of a souped up freak car (which rumble so loudly that they wake up anybody within earshot). She walks home and comes in, some nights getting yelled at and lectured by her father for staying out too late, other nights coming home to find everybody asleep. She goes upstairs, changes into her pajamas and either reads or puts on her headphones and listens to more music. She usually stares at the picture of her grandmother for a bit and gets depressed. Some nights she likes to make herself depressed, especially when she's listening to sad or moody music (there are definitely times when she feeds off her sadness at grandma's death and enjoys feeling bad -- it makes her feel mature and cool). Then, when she's falling asleep, she'll turn off the light and go to bed, unsure about how she feels about her life.

MORE RANDOM THOUGHTS

- Sam, Neal and Bill have been into Estes rockets (those model rockets that you shoot off in your backyard that have rather dangerous engines you load in before they take off) for years. It's lost its thrill but they still do it. They stand around and watch impassively as the rocket goes up. Have discussions as they launch rockets. Try to decide if it's right to put a live mouse or frog into the payload to send it into space (whenever kids would do this, it would kill the animal -- some kids did it specifically to kill the mouse or frog, other kids did it thinking the animal would come back alive and then be horrified when it came back dead). - Lindsay bonds with Daniel first but sees that his allegiance to Kim makes him a weak ally. Ken is a closed door to her but we'll find out he actually likes her and maybe has a huge crush on her -- he just doesn't know how to express it. He's mean to her as his backwards way of showing her that he likes her.

- Maybe at first the freaks try to use Lindsay because they know she's smart. Daniel gets Lindsay to start doing his schoolwork for him and helping him cheat. Lindsay starts to feel used. "I'm out of the Academic Decathlon and into the Freak Decathlon."

- In one episode, the freaks want to sneak into the local Oktoberfest, a yearly German festival in which locals set up giant beer tents and stay up drinking and singing all night long. Maybe the freaks steal a keg out of the back of the beer tent. Get chased by big scary German guys and Shriners.

- Have a lot of people in the school -- teachers, councilors, Lindsay's old friends -- very concerned about Lindsay's defection to the freaks. It's the talk of the school, or at least the academic side of the school. Lindsay becomes a cause for a lot of people. She represents the decline of youth culture to many adults. Everyone's becoming junior psychologists with their theories about what's wrong with Lindsay. Bottom line is, Lindsay's lost her faith in God and when you're brought up religiously and put all your faith and belief in your future in the idea that God is guiding you and suddenly you tell yourself there is no God, you become like an angry ship adrift on the ocean until you figure out how you're now going to run your life. The loss of God triggers the crisis and the further Lindsay tries to distance herself from her old life, the more confused and adrift she becomes.

- Mr. Rosso tries to break up a fight between Daniel and Kim. Kim says "Get away from me, hippie!" Mr. Rosso responds, "Hey, don't come down on me. I'm just lettin' my freak flag fly" and laughs, thinking himself the coolest guy in the school.

- Let's re-establish Mr. Guyevski and the auto shop. Mr. Guyevski is the father figure for all the freaks and the auto shop is the place where they all hang out and can have a lot of their interaction, because of the nature of the auto shop.

- Have a story where Ken and the freaks get into a huge feud with Ken's next door neighbors, a nice couple who are fed up with the freaks always working on their cars in Ken's yard. The freaks are always revving their engines loudly, causing things to fall in the neighbor's house. Ken's dad, who runs his auto repair business out of his yard, is as bad as the freaks. Sometimes he works on Harley motorcycles and their rumbling is deafening. We should really feel sorry for the neighbors. They have a legitimate complain. However, the freaks take revenge on them constantly (especially Daniel and Ken) and Lindsay gets upset with them because she feels sorry for the neighbors. The neighbors start referring to Ken and his family as white trash and maybe even start a petition to get them out of the neighborhood. It's one of those ugly domestic scenes where you don't know who to side with.

- Have a story based on something that really happened in my neighborhood. A bunch of freak motorheads used to drive really fast up and down the streets of our neighborhood. There were lots of kids who played outside and the parents (who were all pretty blue collar) would get really mad at the freaks, who of course thought it was all hilarious. Once, when a freak was speeding down the street, one of the fathers in the neighborhood -- a huge, scary guy -- threw a rock at the freak's car and cracked the back windshield. The freak slammed on the brakes and ran out at the father. A bunch of freak girls ran out, as well as parents, to watch the confrontation. A huge ugly scene took place with parents yelling and freaks yelling back and freak girls yelling and laughing derisively. Finally, the father who threw the rock got into a shoving match with the freak and ended up grabbing the freak around the waist and falling on top of him on the street. He had pinned the freak's hands to his chest so that when they hit the pavement, the freak cracked his head open. The freak girls started shrieking and crying and the parents flipped and the freak's head was bleeding all over the place and nobody knew who to be mad at. It was a mess and one of the ugliest scenes I'd ever seen.

- Songs to use: Paul McCartney and Wings "High, High, High" for the freaks
Olivia Newton John's "I Honestly Love You" for something Cindy Sanders related
Barry White's "I'm Gonna Love You" for some date or make out scene
Traffic's "Dear Mr. Fantasy" for something drug related

- Daniel's dad could be a guy who was once normal but after receiving a blow to the head in a robbery attempt becomes a different guy. Almost like a detached person. He just sits and watches TV, doesn't talk, doesn't respond when people are talking about him. He's a shell of his former self.

- Daniel's constant quest for sex is due to the lack of love from his parents. He's always trying to find love and acceptance through sex and conquests. He never feels satisfied by it and so his quest is both endless and aggravating to him and it becomes self-perpetuating, making him crazier and crazier as time goes on. It also drives him to commit anti-social acts and to vandalize things.