

Ang from *Labeled*

The Moment Before

A teacher has just called the character and everyone with them “losers.” A different teacher refuses to answer the question “Are we losers?” The character responds.

(an outburst, not to anyone in the room) The Titanic is fake. The Titanic is fake, it wasn't hit by an iceberg. It was the government. The government took the titanic down and all this time we've been living a lie. There was no iceberg. *(beat)* Mr Poole is teaching that the Titanic is fake in history class. History. I never say anything but this really... “The Titanic is fake,” I try to keep my bubble intact. “There is no iceberg,” I can't stand by and listen. The class is sitting there, they don't care if there's an iceberg or not, it's not even an important moment in history. Why do I care about the Titanic? Why this? Why now? *(to the teacher)* “You're wrong. You're wrong. You're wrong and you can't tell us wrong things.” *(as the teacher)* “Sit down.” I don't. “Sit down!” I don't. I don't sit down. I care about the Titanic. *(stands on a chair)* The Titanic was hit by an iceberg. *(as if the teacher is pulling them)* Don't touch me! The Titanic was hit by an iceberg. *(pointing at the invisible teacher)* You're a liar. You're a liar. You're a... *(beat. Takes a breath. Calm.)* He shoves the desk. I fall. No one catches me. In the VP's office, when we're discussing my punishment she says... She. Says. *(calmly steps down and sits.)* “You're right but you should have backed down. You should have just accepted what he said.” I found out the truth. Everyone's a loser. The teachers too. They're not better. They don't have it all figured out.