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to it. C' - mon, ev - 'ry - one!

(Lost in the mix of cliques is GABRIELLA MONTEZ, a shy beauty who hangs by the edge of the crowd TAYLOR MCKESSIE, president of the Science Club, arrives with a couple of BRAINIACS, including MARTHA COX.)

TAYLOR

(extending her hand)

Hi, I'm Taylor McKessie. You must be new.

GABRIELLA

Gabriella Montez. Hi.

TAYLOR

Did you do anything fun over the winter break?

GABRIELLA

Oh, you know... my Mom took me on a ski trip. All I did was read.

SHARPAY

(walks by, fingers form an "L" on her forehead)

With all those cute boys on the slopes? Loser!

GABRIELLA

Well, uhm, actually, I did meet a boy.

TAYLOR

See? So make with the newsflash, sister!

GABRIELLA

They threw a New Year's Eve karaoke contest for the kids!

(The STUDENTS face upstage and freeze, becoming PARTY KIDS.)