

Parents

Adapted from What Part Will I Play?

CHARACTERS (AGES 11-13)

Frances

Meg

Tiffany

***Mom (can be played by 1-4 or more actors.)**

***Dad (can be played by 1-4 or more actors.)**

Setting:

An empty Stage in a theatre

In this fantasy scene, three young women each share her image of her parents. Ideally, several actors create the two larger-than life parent (perhaps miming a man's suit, brief case, and hat for Dad, and a woman's sweat suit, visor, and tennis racket for Mom.) the parents' voices should be created by several actors speaking together, music can be used to underscore the scene. [This scene is an all-female cast play, but it is equally powerful when performed with young men creating the Dad.]

(Frances, Meg, and Tiffany are each in their own space, facing down stage. They are talking directly to the audience.)

Frances: I know I'm not the only kid ever to have problems with her parents, but my problems –

Meg: My problems –

Tiffany: What problems?

Frances: Are mine!

Meg: Are different!

Meg, Tiffany, and Frances: Parents!

Meg: Why don't you try to really understand me?

All Actors: Parents!!

Frances: I wish I could tell you how I really feel.

All Actors: Parents!!!

(The huge MOM and DAD are created by the actors. Tiffany skips out to talk to them.)

Tiffany: Hi, Mom.

Mom: (Several voices.) Hello, dear.

Tiffany: Hi, Dad.

Dad: (Several voices.) Hello, dear.

Tiffany: I'm home from school.

Mom & Dad: That's wonderful, dear.

Tiffany: Listen.

Mom & Dad: We're listening.

Tiffany: Can I go over to my friend's house after school on

Friday? She's having a swimming party.

Mom: Why of course, dear.

Dad: Anything you like, dear.

Tiffany: Gee, thanks, Mom and Dad. You're terrific.

Mom & Dad: We know dear.

Tiffany: An example of the perfect parents, as conceived by the middle school child. (She skips offstage.)

Meg: The following is an example somewhat closer to reality. Hi, Mom.

Mom: Hello, dear.

Meg: Hi, Dad. (No reply.) Hi, Dad!

Dad: Oh, hello, dear.

Meg: May I go over to my friend's house after school on Friday? She's having a swimming party.

Mom: Will there be a lifeguard?

Meg: What?

Dad: Will there be any parents there?

Meg: Hope not.

Mom: Who's driving?

Dad: Any drinking?

Meg: Just Cokes.

Mom: How many?

Meg: (Joking.) The Cokes?

Mom & Dad: Don't use that tone of voice with us, young lady.

Meg: What voice? What tone? What did I say?

Mom: That's enough!

Dad: You're grounded.

Mom: For a month. No TV.

Dad: No phone.

Mom: No computer.

Dad: Absolutely no fun –

Mom & Dad: Until you're 21!!

Meg: But, Dad!

Mom & Dad: Meg!!!

Meg: Now that's reality.

Frances: Wanna see what it's like at my house? Try this.

Hi, Mom and Dad. I'm home.

(The Parents are now distracted, slightly turned away.)

Mom: Fine, dear.

Frances: I got all A's on my report card.

Dad: Fine, dear.

Frances: Do you want to see it?

Mom: Fine, dear.

Frances: My teacher asked me to stay after class so she could tell me how well I was doing.

Dad: Fine, dear.

Frances: Then she took me out for an ice cream.

Mom: Fine, dear.

Frances: I had eleven scoops.

Dad: Uh huh...

Frances: Then we drove to Mexico.

Mom: Uh huh...

Frances: Then I flew to the moon!!

Dad: Uh Huh...

Frances: Are you listening?

Mom: Frances, your Father and I are having a little party on Friday night. Do you think you could go visit a friend or something?

Frances: You don't want me here?

Dad: Some friends from the office, Frances. It's an important party for us, dear.

Frances: So you want me out of the way?

Mom: Just this once, dear.

Frances: You always say that. Are you that embarrassed by me? Is everything more important to you than me?

(The Parents turn their backs on Frances.)

Frances: No! Pay attention to me! Please...

(The parents begin to disappear.)

Frances: Then forget it. I don't care about you either. No... Mom... please!

All Actors: Don't bother us, Frances. Stay out of the way, Frances. Don't bother us, Frances. Stay out of the way, Frances.

Frances: (Overlapping.) Stop it!

Meg: (Overlapping.) Mom! Dad!

All Actors: (Overlapping.) Yes, No, Yes, No, Yes, No...

Tiffany: (Overlapping.) Mom?

All Actors: (Whispering, fading.) Parents!

(The Parents have disappeared. The girls are left alone on stage. The fantasy ends.)

END OF SCENE.