

*A Day in the Life of . . .*  
By Matthew Landis (with input from Rachel Desoto)

*Enter Mom, Son, and Daughter, 2 groups of them. One group freezes in place while the first group performs.*

*-Scene Morning-*

*It is early morning, and they are all coming together for breakfast to talk about the day. Dad is not present, as there is no dad in the household at all. Mom is a single mother working to support both children, working on two jobs.*

Female1: *(seems to be in a hurry to help the kids make breakfast so she can get out the door)* There are pop-tarts on the shelf, and enough milk for cereal in the back of the fridge. Don't forget that you have football practice today son. And you, young lady, had best not be late to work today because of drama practice again. They will probably fire you if you keep getting there late like yesterday!

Female2: *(gives Mother a resentful look, say with attitude, dramatically)* I don't want a job anyways! I want to be able to stay at drama and practice with my friends! *(said in a mean way to try to hurt Mom)* Dad doesn't make me work when I visit him over the summer! And how come Male1's Name doesn't have to work?

Male1: *(represents dumb jock stereotype and "cool")* I gotta go to football practice, so I don't got time for a job.

*Female1 gives daughter a no-nonsense look*

Female2: *(whining)* But Momm... I already worked 15 hours this week! And it's only Wednesday! And, they're scheduling me double shifts for the rest of the week!

Female1: Good, that means you will be able to help pay for your car insurance this month. *(glares)* It wouldn't be so expensive if you hadn't gotten a speeding ticket.

Female2: *(glaring back)* Humph, maybe if I didn't have to work so long, I wouldn't be so tired and so likely to speed!

*The previous people freeze and the new scene starts, different family, same kind of conversation*

Female3: Shut up and eat your breakfast. You are going to go to work early. Skip cheerleading, and if you don't, then you won't be driving anywhere for the rest of the month.

*(turns on son)* And you Son, need to bring your grades up. I don't mind the D's and C's, but if you fail another class, then you'll be ineligible for sports, and then how the heck are you going to get into college on a scholarship.

Male3: *(is another dumb jock, "cool" persona)* Yeah yeah Mom, I will, but not tonight. I have a big party tonight that I got to go to. Everyone who is anyone will be there! *(smugly)* And I got a special invite!

Female3: *(Thinks about it for a few seconds)* Ok, you can go to the party as long as you promise to get your teacher to give you some extra credit or something. And if any of your teachers asks why I can't attend the conferences tonight, make something up. A relative in the hospital or something. I'm going out for ladies night with my friends, and I'm not going to miss that for any boring conference! I'll be back late, so feed yourselves. And have a good day *(smiles)*. *Mother exits*

Female4: *(rolls eyes)* Why do I feel like I'm the only one in this house who cares about grades and getting into college.

Male3: Hah, it isn't like school is going to help us in the real world. The only reason to go is for parties and making friends! Maybe if you weren't such an obvious nerd you would get to go to parties too...

Female4: *(sarcastically)* Yeah... maybe you are right...*(rolls eyes)*

*Son and Daughter Exit together*

*-Scene Classroom-*

*Throughout this scene, the Male2(teacher) is on his cell phone; whenever a student interrupts him he should be increasingly irritated*

Male2: *(teacher should have bad grammar)* I'm not sure exactly what the answer to your question is, so I suggest you look it up in a dictionary or something like that. So... yeah... lets move on. *(Hands out worksheets)* Do those. They'll help ya learn. And if ya have trouble, don't ask me for help, read your book! That's what they're for!

Male6: Man, this sucks. I don't know how to do this! *(while looking at teacher and loudly)* Maybe if you actually taught us stuff...

Female5: It's easy! Did you study, or read, or do anything?

Female6: Why you are so worried about it... you know teach always gives easy tests. Thinks we are all dumb probably.

Male5: Yeah... how do you fail an open book test?

Male4: *(wakes up)* Huh? What? What did I miss?

Male5: I spoke too soon...

Male1: *(to jock)* Hey, you're up! Partied all night? So, what's going down tonight?

Male3: We gonna have a party, that's what. Its gonna be off the hook! Its going to be good clean fun *(winks and whispers conspiratorially)* we got a keeegggg!!!

Female3: *(excitedly)* Oooh! And... did you get any of the "good stuff"?

Female6: Yep! And we can smoke it in the house tonight, pops is out of town!

Female4: Uhh... I'm done. What's next?

Male2: That's the work for the day... if you're done, then sit and talk... or something like that... I really don't care, just don't bother me.

Female1: *(makes a sound to indicate disgust)* Can't we do something that relates to real life instead of just doing friggen worksheets over and over again!

Male2: I don't get paid enough for this... I just teach what I'm told to teach!

Female2: *(under breath, Male2(teach) will not hear this comment)* So, just give us worksheets and sit around doing nothing? If I wanted to read a book and teach myself, I wouldn't waste my time coming to school!

Male2(teach): Now, time for attendance. Why are so many of you missing? Over half of you out today? What is it? Another one of those senior skip days that everyone organizes? Ah well, makes the class more manageable... And everyone gets a book since so many are gone.

*-Scene Change to Afternoon-*

*The students are all standing around together, like they would in a parking lot possibly, Male1 walks up*

Male1: What's up Guy?

Male2: Nuttin much G. Goanna skip practice and start the party early, you?

Male3: Yeah, you coming with us Male1's Name?

Male1: I don't know, Mom is already on me cause I'm failing a lot of classes.

Male4: Hah, like she will ever find out you skipped a practice or two. It's not like we need to go every day anyways!

Male5: We're on varsity, they need us to win! Now come on, the party waits for no one.

Male6: Come on guy, practice will make you too tired to party, you know that after practice all you can do is go home and go to sleep.

Male1: Ah well, you are right, I don't want to miss out on anything. Practice will wait, the party won't. Oh, and I got the homework for us. You know the little nerd who sits in the corner at lunch? Not only did I take his homework, but I *made* him give me all the answers to the test today! Here you are. *(Pulls paper out of pocket)* Now, lets go, I can't wait to get trashed!

*All give a secret handshake of some sort, and then freeze into a position*

*Daughter is at work*

Female4: Bah, I *don't* want to be here!

Female2: So quit...

Female4: I can't. Mom doesn't want to pay for my car insurance. So I have to work to pay for it. But I wish I could be at drama, practicing...

Female3: Yeah, I had to give up all my hard classes so I could keep my job. It's just tough keeping up with school and a job at the same time. The Male2(teach) doesn't seem to care about what the boss wants and the boss doesn't care what the Male2(teach) wants.

Female2: Yeah, a no-win situation. Work and school really sucks.

Female1: Its not that the work is hard, but occasionally he just gives us a bunch of worksheets. A packet of 5 worksheets takes a while to do, hard work or not! And then, if you get a bunch of teachers who do that on the same day... It's really not fair!

Female5: yeah, you are right, I never thought of that... I guess I've never worried about it much; I don't do homework or studying anyways. As long as I pass with C's or D's, my 'rents don't really care.

*Men unfreeze and begin to walk to proscribed positions for final scene*

Female2: Oh, by the way Daughter, you are scheduled to take over for someone tonight who called in sick, so don't leave after your shift is over.

Female4: Ugh, again!?! This is ridiculous... How am I ever going to find time to balance school and extra-curricular stuff? I'll never be able to do all the stuff that we need to get into a good college... There are laws that regulate how long I'm allowed to work, but nothing says that teachers can't give me 8 hours of homework to do after I go to school!

*-Final Scene-*

*This scene will consist of the students looking out to the audience, and saying quotes from Data samples. You can assign any quote to any person, but I assigned them to specific people for the sake of our performance.*

Male3: Did you know 2/3rds of parents have no idea how their students are doing in school?

Female3: Did you know when seniors look back on their high school careers, they wish their schools had prepared them better with work and study habits?

Male2: Did you know 2/3rds of students say they get through they school day primarily by goofing off with their friends?

Female5: Did you know most students say they would work harder if their school demanded more of them?

Male1: Did you know 4 out of 5 students say they cheated on a test last year?

Female2: Did you know 9 out of 10 students say they copied someone's work in the last year?

Male5: Did you know 2/3rds of students are employed and half of them work more than 15 hours a week?

Female4: Did you know only 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of students say their friends think its important to do well in school?

Male6: Did you know in U.S.A students on average spend 4 hours a week on homework? In other industrialized nations, its 4 hours a day.

Female6: Did you know 72% of high school juniors and seniors say they would work harder if they could do it over again?

Male4: Did you know 94% of students want to go on to college?

Female1: Did you know 3/4ths of students say they are the 1<sup>st</sup> generation of their family to attend college?

Female4: If you really want to know what's going on in school today...

Male1: Ask the students...

*The End*

*Author's Note:*

*So I've read a few plays and usually the writer gives ideas about how he or she thinks their play should be performed. There are only a few things I will mention. Feel free to do it without props. In the original performance, we only used one cell phone for the Male2(teach), worksheets for the class(we used scripts), and a group of black boxes for chairs. Feel free to change the characters around. You can decrease or increase cast size depending on your need. I would also like to note that small changes to the script are also acceptable. I understand that for high school performances, editing by school boards is sometimes required. Please try to keep it "reasonable". That's all, and enjoy.*

*Director's Note:*

*This script was written at the request of a group of people who were meeting to discuss curriculum reform in U.S. high schools. Some of them decided that the students they were discussing needed to be represented. The students were given a series of articles about some of the issues facing high schoolers today. They took the articles and created the script to represent a wide variety of teens. They wanted to encapsulate some of the issues that all of their peers face in a way that would be entertaining and enlightening. I think they succeeded. Thank you for listening.*

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