

BENNY AND SERENA'S HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

a one-act play

by

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DIALOGUE SAMPLE

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SERENA takes care of infant BEN.

SERENA

You certainly get people's attention, little fella.

BEN

Goo.

SERENA

And why not? You're perfect, aren't you?

BEN

Paf.

SERENA

You're Mommy's precious treasure. You're Mommy's little joy.

BEN

Cheese!

SERENA

It's just you and me, now, kiddo.

VOICES enter and descend upon BEN.

VOICE 1

Wow! Look at that kid.

VOICE 2

How old is he?

SERENA

Seven months.

VOICE 2

Seven months and walking?!

SERENA

He still holds onto things.

VOICE 1

Look at him with those blocks! He's got the most advanced manual dexterity I've ever seen in a toddler.

VOICE 2

Thinking about preschool? I'd be very selective if I were you.

SERENA

Really? It's a little early, don't you—

VOICE 1

What are his interests?

SERENA

Stuffed animals. Especially Fuzzy Bunny. Blocks. Stewed carrots.

VOICE 2

I hope you're playing Mozart for him.

VOICE 1

Have you looked into Genius Toys? They have an excellent selection. He's playing well above preschool level.

SERENA

We like to play in the park. We built a fortress out of mulch.

BEN

Look, Mommy! There's thirteen guys inside the fortress and twenty-eight outside, so that's...forty-one.

SERENA

Thirty-one, sweetie.

VOICE 2

No, he's right.

SERENA

...Oh.

VOICE 1

Do you have any family members who are good at math?

VOICE 2

Or friends?

VOICE 1

Maybe some tutoring.

SERENA

He's only three.

VOICE 1

(whispering) She's a little defensive.

VOICE 2

Welcome to Great Expectations Preschool!

BEN

Sprechen Sie Deutsch?

VOICE 2

Natürlich!

SERENA

I taught him a few words.

BEN

Ich bin ein Berliner!

SERENA

Where'd you learn *that*?

VOICE 2

Ms. Hirschel, I really think Benny should be in our older group. He needs more stimulation.

SERENA

Won't he be overwhelmed?

VOICE 2

Not at all. His social skills are extremely well developed. The other kids adore him.

BEN

Can I teach them fractions?

SERENA

Benny is doing fine. He's got his math puzzles, his Erector set, his History Channel videos, and the complete works of E.B. White. That's a lot of talking animals. Thank God he can read them himself now.

BEN

I'm some pig!

SERENA's MOM and DAD enter.

SERENA'S DAD

What about college, Serena?

SERENA

Yes, Dad, I started a 529 when Benny was two months old.

SERENA'S MOM

He means for *you*, dear. You promised us when Benny started school—

SERENA

I really don't have time. With work, and all of our activities. Anyway, it costs too much.

SERENA'S DAD

I said we'd pay for you to take classes.

SERENA'S MOM

Don't you still want to be an interior designer?

SERENA

I have a job. I make great money in tips.

SERENA'S DAD

How do you like that. The first one in our family NOT to get a college degree.

SERENA

Dad, give me a break! I'm not an idiot. Besides, I'm learning more from Benny than I ever did in school.

END OF DIALOGUE SAMPLE