

Scene 1

Lights over center stage. Curtains open to reveal a chair in center stage facing the audience. WALT, a high school senior, enters cautiously and a bit confused. He awkwardly waves and then wonders why he did that. He walks over to the chair. He looks for someone to tell him what to do.

WALT

Do I just...?

(Points to the chair, waiting for a response)

Okay.

(Sits down, waiting for something to happen)

So who talks first? Am I...are you waiting for me to start? Or...

Lights turn on over MRS DREXEL, who is standing in downstage right in front of her chair with a clipboard. MS COOPER is beside her fumbling with a tripod camera. She runs backstage and jogs back on to the camera.

MRS. DREXEL

Sorry, hold on. Wait just a second, hon. We're um...

(whispers to MS COOPER)

What's—what's the issue?

MS. COOPER

Just getting the camera all set. And the lighting.

WALT

Oh, sorry.

MRS. DREXEL

No worries, honey. No, it's not you. Hold on. Just getting everything perfect!

MS. COOPER

Good.

MRS. DREXEL

There! All right, good! We can begin!

MS. COOPER

So I'll start recording in 3. 2. 1.

Lights quickly and overwhelmingly center in on Walt in his chair.

WALT

Woah, wait. Um...still not sure what's happening. Or what we're doing. My teacher was talking about it, but... I wasn't listen--I didn't understand--

MRS. DREXEL

Well first and foremost, I'm Mrs. Drexel! Hi, if you don't know me! And the camerawoman behind me is the great and wonderful Ms. Cooper. You may have seen her before. She teaches...the...history...of...Americaaa?

MS. COOPER

Algebra.

MRS. DREXEL

Algebra! She teaches algebra! And she's the greatest gosh darn algebra teacher there is. ... I didn't know we offered algebra. That is interesting. Well you learn something new every day, don't ya?

MS. COOPER

I hope so.

MRS. DREXEL

Well! Back to me! I'm in charge of putting together the yearbook and creating the little video at graduation. The students talk about some of their favorite high school experiences, where they're going to college, that kind of thing.

WALT

Right! Right, yeah! I saw that at my cousin's graduation.

MRS. DREXEL

Exactly! But instead of just making a little video about that stuff for graduation, we're making a much *larger* video for your class' ten year reunion! It's gonna have more in depth interviews with the students.

(eerily eager)

We're gonna ask you more questions this year!

(beat)

And you can come in anytime you like! Just to talk. Our door is always open. Sometimes Ms. Cooper won't be here, sometimes I won't be here, but someone will always be here during our office hours. You can come in here and just tell us your thoughts and concerns and *everything*, and then *everything* will be on the video for *all* your classmates to see in ten years!

WALT

Oh. Uh o-okay.

MRS. DREXEL

So let's begin! *What is Your Name?*

WALT

Walt.

MRS. DREXEL

Okay honey, say your full name. With your last name.

WALT

Walt Adams. Well, technically Walter, but—yeah.

MRS. DREXEL

That's great, good job!

WALT

Thank you.

MRS. DREXEL

Now, I'm just gonna ask you some simple questions. You know, just to get to know you, that kind of thing, okay?

WALT

Okay.

MRS. DREXEL

(with the most passion)

What is your favorite color?

WALT

Blue.

MRS. DREXEL

Ohhh...kay. We were actually looking for green. Yeeahh. Cause that's the... school color. Can you just... say green?

WALT

Green...?

MRS. DREXEL

Perfect! We'll edit that out later. Next fun little get to know you question! What was a significant experience from high school that you would consider your favorite?

WALT

Oh geez, okay. Uh--

MRS. DREXEL

(barely stopping for a breath)

And why is it your favorite moment? And how did this favorite moment affect you? And in what way did you learn from it? Or did you not learn from it? Explain. Or, not necessarily your favorite moment, but maybe the moment that just stuck out the most to you. And give me a moment from each year! Or each class this year. No, from every class--every year! Yes. Or actually, you know, even better--

WALT

No, no, no. I'll just answer that one.

MRS. DREXEL

Okay, favorite moment from each class from each year. Go.

WALT

So...

MRS. DREXEL

And we don't have too much time. I have fifty other students I have to interview before lunch. So...chop chop!

Near black out. Other students are bringing on chairs and sitting in various locations around the stage. A light comes on over them as they each talk to Mrs. Drexel. They cannot interact with each other, as these interviews are taking place at different times. The kids face the audience as Mrs. Drexel and Ms. Cooper stay in place in downstage right.

AUGUST

Hey, is this where we do the interview thing? ...Great.

MOLLY

Hello, am I too early?

XAVIER

Ah, sorry I'm late.

KIRK

Good afternoon, Mrs. Drexel. Ms. Cooper. How are you?

MOLLY

Oh, you only interview one person at a time? Huh. Okay. So all the attention on me!

(clearly quite uncomfortable)

Great.

XAVIER

My class is all the way across the school. And my teacher was like, no you can't leave yet! So. That's why I'm late...

LILLIAN enters and gives a small wave.

LILLIAN

Hi, I'm Lillian. Oh, you probably—probably knew that. Um... I'm just gonna...

She sits, waits, looks around a bit, and then simply stares ahead.

RUBY

Hi, it's me!

AUGUST

Any day? I can come and talk any day? All right, I didn't know that. Thank you.

RUBY

So, when are we starting?

XAVIER

Do I just go? / Or...

AUGUST

What's going / on?

RUBY

Is there a question for / me?

MRS. DREXEL

So let's just start by introducing yourself to the camera. Ms. Cooper, are you ready?

MS. COOPER

Yes, I'm ready. So let's begin. Start by saying your name.

When one student speaks, the rest freeze in place.

AUGUST

August Powell.

MRS. DREXEL

And say what you plan on studying in college and what you plan on doing afterward. For example, my major was bowling industry management. I also debated whether my major should be bagpiping, another great passion of mine. But I ended up minoring in bagpiping and majoring in bowling industry management. I guess you could say it was more up my alley.

MS. COOPER

Please stop.

MRS. DREXEL

Okay.

AUGUST

Um, I'm going to be a business major. Not exactly sure what I want to do with that, but yeah. It'd be cool to open up my own restaurant but that's just an idea.

MOLLY

I'm Molly Green. I plan on being a book publisher...if that's even like at all possible. Um. I love fantasy and adventure stories. And I guess we'll... I don't know, we'll see where I am in a couple years!

KIRK

Hi, I'm Kirk Thomas. And um...

(his head has switched to somewhere else)

No. No. No! Oh God. Of course. Damn.

MS. COOPER

Everything okay?

KIRK

I just—oh God, I totally got that problem wrong.

MS. COOPER

Sorry?

KIRK

(completely in a different, stressed headspace)

This math problem— this word problem— that I stayed after class all through break to figure out—oh God I even asked for heeeelp I'm gonna look like an idiot!—

MRS. DREXEL

Okay. Kirk? Future career?

KIRK

Uh anything but a mathematician.

MS. COOPER

Hey, uh you're talking to a math teacher, so... math is cool.

KIRK

Oh, math teachers, they're fine. They're great—whatever. But a mathematician? Like what do they— what do they do all day? Do they just wake up, excited for the day ahead? Solve equations and call it a night? Like what--who? Why? Why would someone--I just don't understand! They probably get paid a lot, but for doing what exactly? Haven't all math formulas been invented or proven or whatever? Are there really more to be discovered? And if something in math hasn't been discovered yet, are we really ever going to use it?

MS. COOPER

So then what would you want to be instead?

KIRK

I really want to go into filmmaking. Especially animation and doing special effects, like CGI and stuff.

MS. COOPER

Those both use lots of math.

KIRK

What?

LILLIAN

Hi I'm Lillian Miles. And I want to be a mathematician. So...

(Nods, beat)

So is that it? Can I go?

RUBY

I'm Ruby Wright. And I am going to be a singer. I'd love to give a little performance for the video if that's—

MRS. DREXEL

Uh no, sorry sweetie. There's no microphone here.

MS. COOPER

I think there's one in the next room. I can ask--

MRS. DREXEL

Sh. No. Stop talking.

MS. COOPER

What?

MRS. DREXEL

(in a commanding stage whisper to only Ms. Cooper)

She performed *We Didn't Start the Fire* at the talent show of Two Thousand and Eighteen. She doesn't. Know. The words.

RUBY

Oh yeah no problem, I have one right here!

(pulls out a microphone from their backpack)

Just give me the countdown!

XAVIER

Okay so hey, my name's Xavier. And I want to be a...bagpiper!

MRS. DREXEL

No way! What? You! I love you! We should start a school club!

XAVIER

Oh my God yeah totally.

MRS. DREXEL

I think I'm going to cry.

Ms. Cooper and Xavier share a small laugh.

MS. COOPER

Okay so what do you really want to do Xavier?

XAVIER

I'm really interested in having a radio show. I think that'd be really cool. Talking about professional hockey or--

MRS. DREXEL

I'm sorry. I don't understand. You said bagpiping.

XAVIER

I... it was...I was kidding.

MRS. DREXEL

Oh. Humor. Of course. Yes.

XAVIER

Kay.

MRS. DREXEL

Walt? Walter.

WALT

Yeah?

MRS. DREXEL

I said what did you want to be when you are older?

WALT

Oh, I uh... well, my...

(single laugh, smile fades)

I don't... I don't uh. Yeah. I don't. Still not sure. I might be like... undeclared cause I just...don't. Know.

(shrugs, sighs, gives a little smile)

So I'll keep you in suspense! ...yeah...Wait, is that going to be in the video, or—?

Black out

Scene 2

Lights on. WALT and AUGUST are sitting on a bench on stage right eating their lunches. LILLIAN is eating with a book in down stage left. XAVIER and KIRK eat together on a bench in up stage left.

AUGUST

So what'd Mrs. Drexel ask you?

WALT

What was my favorite color.

AUGUST

Ha! Classic. I didn't get that one— But you said green, right?

WALT

Blue.

AUGUST

Oh no! Graduation will be lonely without you.

WALT

(gives a little laugh)

She was... yeah pretty disappointed.

AUGUST

Did her face like become all... “How dare you!”

WALT

“Say green! We only like green here!”

AUGUST

Big mistake.

WALT

Yeah. But maybe I'm not ready.

AUGUST

To convert to green-ism?

WALT

No! Ha—

AUGUST

It's a big endeavor. Take your time. Lots of paperwork I've heard. / And with your carpal tunnel...

WALT

No, I mean to... *graduate*.

AUGUST

Still having trouble with choosing where to go?

WALT

Where to go, what to do, everything. Am I the only person who's this behind? Cause sometimes people don't know what exactly they want to do, but they're choosing between two different options. I don't even know what I like or what I'm good at, / or...

AUGUST

You're pretty good at everything.

