

Our Lady of Labrador School
West St. Modeste
Labrador

The Northern Lights Troupe

presents

GETTING THE POINT

The students wrote the play, beginning with a "racket". Jokes were added and the situation developed through the discussion.

CAST:

Rosita Buckle	Betty Sue Baines
Lucy O'Dell	Miss Beetle
Lorna O'Brien	Suzanna Browne
Godfrey McDonald	Steven Croft
Sandra Kelly	Mary-Ellen King
Neal Pike	Ralph O'Keefe
Paul Pennell	Paul Webber

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"NORTHERN LIGHTS TROUPE"

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"GETTING THE POINT"

Characters:

Betty-Sue BainesRosita Buckle
Miss BeetleLucy O'Dell
Suzanna Browne.....Lorna O'Brien
Steven CroftGodfrey McDonald
Mary-Ellen KingSandra Kelly
Ralph O'KeefeNeal Pike
Paul WebberPaul Pennell

Setting:

Curtains open. Five students are sitting around laughing, talking, chewing gum. One student, Ralph O'Keefe is tapping out a rhythm with two rulers on top of his desk. He is making the most noise.

Betty-Sue: Ralph! Stop making such a racket!!

Ralph: (stopping) What's wrong with you. I ain't hurting you, am I?!

Betty-Sue: Yes, as a matter of fact-you are. If it wasn't for you, I wouldn't be here!

Ralph: It's not my fault you're here-it's your father's.... I don't even know your mother.

Mary-Ellen: Oh will you two grow up! We're all involved, and we'd better get ready to face the music.

Steven: (looking out through door) Get ready everyone. Here comes the old bat now!

Paul: (taking thumb-tac out of bulletin board) Ummm!

Mary-Ellen: What are you doing, Paul?

Paul: (Placing thumb-tac on teacher's seat) We can't get into any more trouble than we're already in; right Ralph?

Ralph: You're the boss!

Betty-Sue: Sure. You two haven't gotten me in enough trouble already - Hiding the glasses first - and now putting a thumb-tac on her seat!

Ralph: It was Paul's idea about hiding the glasses in the first place.

Mary-Ellen: (to Paul) That's right, it was your idea. If I get grounded because of this, my boyfriend, Moose, will pound you to a pulp - you little prankster.

Mary-Ellen: (checking doorway) Here she comes. Places everyone.

(Enter teacher)

Everyone: (Together) Good afternoon, Miss Beetle.

Ralph: (Half-whispered) She got more hair on her legs than what's on a dog's.

Steven: Beetles don't have hairy legs!!

Ralph: I said, "a dog" - doe, doe!

Betty-Sue: That's weird.

Mary-Ellen: Just because she don't shave her legs - don't mean she's weird!!!

Ralph: (Puzzled) What are you two talking about?

Betty-Sue: I dunno....

Miss Beetle: (clearing her throat) A-hem. All right class, that's enough.

(everyone ignores her-keeps whispering & arguing)

Paul: (rising, looking at classmates) All right everyone-cool it - can't you see the teacher is speaking.
(silence) Thank you.

Miss Beetle: (smiling at Paul) Thank you Paul. You're such a good-well-mannered boy. I really can't see why you hang out with this lot. (indicating others)

Paul: You're right, Miss Beetle. I guess I am influenced by the mob.

(everyone gives menacing looks at Paul)

Mary-Ellen: (nudging him) Paul - you remember what I told you about my boyfriend?

Miss Beetle: Be quiet Mary-Ellen. Let's see - is everybody here. (Looking at each student individually) Mary-Ellen King, Ralph O'Keefe, Paul Wenber, Steven Croft, Betty-Sue Baines - someone is missing - I'm sure there were six of you.

Suzanna: (crawling in)

Miss Beetle: Of course - we mustn't forget Suzanna who forgets EVERYTHING - including the time I said to be here. Now get up off your knees and go...wait a minute - why are you crawling?

Suzanna: Well....well,...Miss Beetle - you said if I was ever late for class again - "...not to dare walk in..."; so I'm crawling!

Miss Beetle: Humph! A born comedian -- take your seat Miss Browne! (To class) You all know 'why' you're here. This morning you hid my glasses. No thanks to you -- I've found them. I've had to keep you after classes, one day every week since September. Your practical jokes have got to end. Now I know there must be a master-mind behind them -- tell me who it is, and you may go home.

(Everyone looks at Paul)

Paul: (Trying to divert attention from himself)
But Miss Beetle, you judge us too harshly. We weren't responsible for the false alarm to the Fire Dept. last Friday.

Miss Beetle: No, unfortunately someone beat you to that one. But you did put glue on the Principal's seat during General Assembly last Monday -- and he couldn't stand up to end the assembly -- so everyone got an extra hour off from classes.

Ralph: We admitted to putting up posters announcing a Valentine's holiday and no one showed up for classes on the 14th.

Miss Beetle: Yes, you did admit to that one -- but we still haven't found out who put salt in the sugar basin in the teacher's staff room...and I have a sneaking suspicion

Steven (trying to side-track her thoughts) Miss Beetle, where did you find your glasses, anyway?

Miss Beetle: As if you didn't know. I suppose you had nothing to do with hiding them?

Mary-Ellen: (tired and wanting "out") Can't we go home now. We're sorry and we won't do it again!

Miss Beetle: That's what you told me every other time. When are you people going to settle down and put more effort into your studies than you do in trying to find ways to disrupt school life?

Ralph: (disgusted) School, school, school! I've got a birthday next month and then I'm quitting. You don't learn nothin' in school!

Suzanna: We might'n' learn much, Ralph -- but we sure have lots of fun not learning.

Mary-Ellen: Don't you like the football games, Ralph? And the sock-hops, and dance-a-thons? (Ralph smiling in agreement.)

Miss Beetle: All of those things are important parts of school life -- but it isn't true that you don't learn anything. There must be something you remember. Take English

for example. Mary Ellen" You're good at English.
Do you remember what an "autobiography" is?

Mary-Ellen: (thinking) Let's see. Isn't it the history of
automobiles? (everyone laughs)

Betty-Sue: Speaking of history - That's my favorite subject.

Miss Beetle: It is? Well then you remember what happened in 1492?

Betty-Sue: Of course! Columbus discovered America.

Miss Beetle: That's correct. And what happened in 1500?

Betty-Sue: (puzzled) America had it's 8th birthday?

Ralph: (laughing) Well how dumb!

Miss Beetle: Ralph - that's not very nice. I suppose you know
everything! Well if you think you're so smart - tell
everyone what a "collective noun" is?

Ralph: (thinking) That's easy - "garbage truck". (everyone
laughing)

Suzanna: Oh Miss Beetle, I never got my history test back.

Miss Beetle: (rustling through some papers) Here it is.

Suzanna: Thanks...I think. (begins to shiver)

Miss Beetle: Suzanna, why are you shivering?

Suzanna: It must be the "zero" on my test.

Miss Beetle: What happened? Weren't the questions clear?

Suzanna: Yes, the questions were clear enough. It was the
answers that I had trouble with.

Betty-Sue (laughing) What a joker! Isn't she great?

Steven: Heh? Mary-Ellen? What marks did you get in Phys.
Ed. last year?

Mary-Ellen: No marks, Steve, - but plenty of bruises (everyone
laughing).

Miss Beetle: Children! That will be enough! Can't you be serious
for just one minute?

Suzanna: I'm not serious - I'm Suzanna.

Miss Beetle: Suzanna really! Getting back to my glasses...(groan
from class) And all the other pranks you've played
this year. You've got to stop and the ring leader
has got to apologize. (Everyone looks at Paul).

Paul: (rising hesitantly) You're right, Miss Beetle. I'm
the guy you're looking for. Let the others go home.
I'll apologize.

Miss Beetle: Oh sit down Paul. It's a very noble act - to take the blame for your friends, but I'm looking for the real mischief maker. This is not the time for chivalry.

Paul: (To others) You can't say I didn't try.

Suzanna: (dramatically) Oh Miss Beetle, please forgive me (to Paul) You can't take the blame this time. It was me Miss Beetle. I'm your mischief maker.

Miss Beetle: I should have known there was a comedian behind all of this. Well what do you have to say for yourself?

Suzanna: I've been out of line. I've gotten my friends in trouble. I promise to reform. Please forgive me.
(on her knees, taking Miss Beetle's hand) (Paul tells Suzanna about thumb-tac. Others begin to be nervous.)

Miss Beetle: (going to sit down) Well, that's much better.

Mary-Ellen: (fore-seeing the disaster) (Jumping up) Oh! Miss Beetle - may we go home now. My mother gets awful upset when I'm late for supper.

Suzanna: My mother would faint if I was ever on time.

Paul: (trying to steal thumb-tac from seat.)

Miss Beetle: Sit down Paul. (to Mary Ellen) Yes, you are all dismissed - but before you go, promise there will be no more pranks.

Everyone: (dragged out) We do Miss Beetle. Good-bye Miss Beetle. Thank you, Miss Beetle, (they scurry out. Suzanna is left kneeling).

Miss Beetle: You may go too Suzanna. Are you sure you got the point of this meeting?

Suzanna: Point? Oh yes I did. I'm sure you will too. (Disappears quickly.)

Miss Beetle: (Has a puzzled look on her face. She puts things in order). Kids they can be horrible sometimes - but I really love them. (Pulls up map, sees distorted picture of herself) Oh! (laughs) Oh well! (Goes to sit down. Sits on thumb tac. Jumps up!) Ow!! Those horrid children, just wait until tomorrow - (rubs bottom) I think I got the point!