

HENRY GORDON ACADEMY, CARTWRIGHT

presents

THE GRASS IS ALWAYS GREENER

CAST

Leanne.....	Donelda Pardy
Tracy.....	Barbie Mesher
Jamie.....	Leneah Hamel
Kenny.....	John MacDonald
Carla.....	Miranda Pardy
Andrea.....	Michele Martin
Pilot.....	Colin Vaters

TEACHER ADVISORS

Sue Jensen  
Sylvia Noseworthy

Karen Schlossek, Gr. 5  
Peacock Elementary School  
Happy Valley



THE GRASS IS ALWAYS GREENER

Characters:           Leanne  
                  Andrea  
                  Travis  
                  Kenny  
                  Carla  
                  Pilot  
                  Friend  
                  Jamie

Scene I: (St. John's)

As the scene opens, Leanne is sitting on the chesterfield. Music is playing in the background. Leanne picks up letter, opens it and begins to read. Music fades out and a voice offstage begins to read:

Hi Leanne,

How's the big city life? I hope it's treating you good. Everything at home is getting busy because the carnival is coming up. Myself, I'm getting some rest for all the dances. I need my beauty sleep, you know.

I can't wait for the skidoo race. Dad is actually going to let me use the skidoo! Can you believe it?! I really wish you were here. Remember last year when we were in the gas can race? You must have fallen off that gas can a hundred times. I guess it's easy to do when you can't hold on to anything. I've never laughed so much in my life. The others weren't much better. Can you remember how mad Mary was at Jim? I can still see her pulling him across the ice, gas can and all. She didn't care how many bumps they went over or how many bruises he got. He must have been black and blue all over. It was the joke of Cartwright for weeks. Whenever we saw Jim, we would ask him if he'd counted his bruises lately. (Ha! Ha!) That was funny.

Who's going to ride my gas can this year? I really wish you were here. What a time we'd have!

It seems just like yesterday that we were at the airstrip saying good-bye.

Well, I must go now. I'll phone you later. Really miss you! Bye.

Jamie.

(Leanne folds the letter and sits back on the chesterfield, feeling sad. She begins to recall that time at the airstrip).

Lights go down on Leanne.

SCENE II: (Flashback)

Setting: Cartwright airstrip. All friends are there saying goodbye to each other. Leanne and Travis have their tote bags.

LEANNE: Well, I guess this is it.

JAMIE (sadly): I can't believe you're leaving us.

LEANNE (trying to be cheerful): I'll write and call. Just think, you'll be graduating this year. Next year, you'll be out there with us. We'll have the time of our lives. Just imagine all the cute guys we'll see out there. We can stay up all night, do our nails, eat popcorn and watch real cable TV.

(Everyone laughs).

TRAVIS (joking): Can you imagine me with pink toenails?

LEANNE: I don't know Travis. I find pink awfully attractive.

(Pilot enters)

PILOT: The weather is coming down. We have to leave for Goose Bay now.

CARLA: Call anytime but don't start sulking on the phone.

KENNY: I don't know what the big deal is. Goodbye Leanne and Travis. I'll miss you. I'll write and call. Goodbye. Take care.

(Kenny walks over to Leanne and Travis, gives them pats on the backs and walks out.)

CARLA: Oh don't worry about him, Leanne. He'll miss you as much as we will, if not more.

TRAVIS: Don't worry. I'll look after her. But we have to leave now or we'll miss our flight.

(Leanne and Travis exit. The others wave goodbye to them.  
Lights go down on Cartwright scene.)

SCENE III: (St. John's)

Leanne is still sitting on chesterfield. Enter Travis and Andrea. (Travis is wearing a pink shirt).

ANDREA: Hi Leanne. What's ya doing? What's ya got there?

LEANNE: Oh, it's a letter from one of my friends in Cartwright. Here Travis want to read it?

TRAVIS: What's wrong? Homesick or what?

LEANNE: No, no! I just like to hear from my friends back home. I wish I could be there. There's so much going on now. I can just imagine what they're doing.

(Lights go down on St. John's scene and up on Cartwright scene. Leanne is thinking about what they might be doing.)

Kids in Cartwright are having a snowball fight. They're throwing snowballs at each other, flicking snow in each other's face, etc. Scene lasts for about 45 seconds. Lights go down on Cartwright scene and come up on St. John's. Travis is off to side reading letter.

LEANNE: Oh, I wish I could be there. I miss everybody so much.

ANDREA: Come on. Let's go up to the Mall for awhile. We can't buy anything but we can always look. Coming, Travis?

LEANNE: Oh, but we just went there yesterday.

ANDREA: Well, what else is there to do?

TRAVIS: Ok, let's go and catch the bus. Aw come on, you guys. Maybe we'll run into someone from home.

(Leanne, Andrea and Travis exit) Lights go down.

SCENE IV:

Setting: Cartwright. Play music for about 10 seconds. Kids sitting around looking bored. Leave music on very low.

JAMIE: Oh, gosh, I'm so bored. There's nothing to do here. I wish Leanne was here, or even better that we were out there with her. At least out there, we could do a lot of things. We could go and see a new movie whenever we wanted to and go the malls, buy whatever we want. There's more things out there.

KENNY: Oh, Jamie, you know there's no use taling about it, if we can't be out there.

CARLA: Yeah! Besides, we have things to do in Cartwright.

JAMIE: That's the point. We do the same things all the time. To the pool hall, to the dance, to Little Everest - over and over again. Sometimes I get dizzy just thinking about it.

CARLA: Sometimes, I wish you weren't my friend.

KENNY: Okay, now, you two. Calm down. I miss them too but it's not worth getting into a big fight over. Let's make plans for tonight. What are we going to do?

JAMIE: Let's watch Leanne's Grad tape.

CARLA: No, we've already watched it 36 times.

JAMIE: Well, Let's look at it again. We can go out later.

(Puts in tape)

Look at that dress. Isn't it beautiful?

KENNY: I heard her aunt had to put in extra material up around the top.

CARLA: Leave it to Leanne.

JAMIE: Speaking about dresses, you should see the wicked dress I have picked out to wear to the dance. Tim's jaw is going to drop.

CARLA: I haven't decided what I'm wearing yet. If Leanne was here, I'd borrow something from her.

KENNY: Okay guys, what are we going to do now? Hey, let's go to the Hotel for a hamburger and fries. Then we can skidoo out to Little Everest to kill some time and then go to the pool hall.

JAMIE: I suppose we may as well but that's so boring. There's always so many young kids at the pool hall.

KENNY: Okay, then, let's go.

(They exit the stage, taking their coats as they go. Lights go out on Cartwright scene and come up on St. John's scene.)

SCENE V:

Setting: St. John's. (Leanne, Andrea and Travis return from Mall)

ANDREA: Well, that was fun wasn't it?

LEANNE: Yeah, I suppose so.

TRAVIS: Are you still thinking about home?

LEANNE: Yeah, they're probably having a ball. I bet they're going out to Little Everest tonight and will be having a grand old time.

TRAVIS: Yeah, I know.

ANDREA: So what is this Little Everest? The highest peak in Cartwright?

TRAVIS: Little Everest is the place where all the gang goes to hang out. You guys go to the Mall and we go to Little Everest.

ANDREA: But what do you do there?

LEANNE: It's a gigantic hill. You climb to the top and you can watch the stars. You can see White Hills - that's our radar site. On the bottom of Little Everest, there's a perfect place to light a fire, roast marshmallows and warm up before we go back to Cartwright.

TRAVIS: The carnival is coming up, too. Too bad we can't go home for it.

ANDREA: So what is this carnival thing? What happens at it?

LEANNE: The carnival is the best time of the year other than Christmas and the Easter Fair.

TRAVIS: Yeah, I agree. There's never a dull moment during carnival.

LEANNE: They have all kinds of activities for the whole week. There's games for everybody, dances for teenagers and bake sales and auctions.

ANDREA: (sarcastically) Oh, it sounds like fun.

TRAVIS: Well, it is! Can you imagine. In one game you have to jump on the skidoo, race up to a certain spot, jump off and thread a needle, get back on the skidoo and race back to start. You try threading a needle when you don't even know you have a needle in your hands because it's so cold and your fingers feel frozen.

Then there's the obstacle course in the middle of the ice. The adults have to climb under a net, run through tires, jump over barrels and walk on sticks. That's not so easy either, you know, with big boots on. (Travis is acting this out.)

ANDREA: Oh, Travis, you made me break a nail.

LEANNE: Yeah, it's a lot of fun. All the cute guys from Goose Bay come up for it.

ANDREA: When is this carnival. Is there any way you can get back for it? You both talk like you miss it so much.

LEANNE: We do miss it. It's home - everybody misses home.

TRAVIS: Too bad, March break at home is exam time here. So there's no way we can go home for it.

LEANNE: Just our luck.

ANDREA: Oh dear, speaking of exams, I'd better go and study. See ya later.

(Andrea exits)

TRAVIS: You know, Leanne - I've been thinking. Just talking about the carnival makes me realize how much I miss Cartwright. I don't know if I'm going to be able to take much more of this. Maybe I will and maybe I won't.

LEANNE: Aw, come on Travis, don't talk like that.

TRAVIS: You're no help at all. You talk like you miss home but sometimes I wonder if you really mean it.

(He walks out on her.)

SCENE VI: Lights come up on Cartwright.

(Enter Jamie, Kenny and Carla) Jamie is limping. They remove their coats and put them on chairs.

JAMIE: Gee whiz, Carla, what were you trying to do? Kill me or what?

CARLA: I was the one who broke your fall.

JAMIE: Well, I wish you would have put on some weight over the summer - you're so bony.

CARLA: I wish you'd lose some weight off your -----

(is interrupted)

KENNY: Stop it. I'm sick of the bickering. Just smarten up, ok? It was an accident. It's no one's fault.

(They sit there looking glum. Then Jamie comes up with a bright idea.)

JAMIE: Hey, let's call Leanne.

KENNY: Yeah, what's the number again?

CARLA: I have it right here.

(Lights fade out on Cartwright scene while they're dialing the number and comes up on the St. John's scene.)

The phone rings and Leanne answers.

LEANNE: Hello.

JAMIE: Hi Leanne! How are you?

LEANNE: Jamie, is that you? I was just thinking about you after I read your letter.

JAMIE: Yeah, it's me. Do you miss me or what?

LEANNE: Of course I do! Holy cow, I can't believe it's you. How's everybody? What's the weather like?

JAMIE: Slow down! Slow down! Everything's all right. The weather's horrible as usual and everyone misses you like crazy -

LEANNE: I miss you guys, too. I wish I was home.

JAMIE: Why, is the big city life not treating a small town girl right? I mean, there's so much to do out there and so many different people to meet. How do you find time for study? I wish I was out there.

LEANNE: Well, it's not all it's cracked up to be. Besides, when I read your letter, it seems like there's a lot of things going on up there now. It really made me homesick.

JAMIE: Everything that's going on now is the same as before, only you're not here now.

LEANNE: Oh, that's sweet. But don't get too mushy on me now. I don't want to start crying on the phone.

CARLA: Let me talk to her now. (Takes the phone.)  
Hi, Leanne. How are ya? Have you seen any good movies lately?

LEANNE: Travis and I saw Naked Gun and a Half. It was really funny. But that's about it. I don't really have time to be going out to the movies and stuff.

CARLA: Gee, I thought you'd be having a blast out there -



LEANNE: No Carla. University is twice as hard as high school. I have to study Chemistry and Physics alot because I didn't have them in high school. I have to do well. The GRHS is sponsoring me to come out and study nursing and then go back to Labrador to work.

CARLA: I guess that might be a drag. Well, good luck. Say hi to Travis and them. We have to go. When Mom finds out I've called, she'll have a fit. It'll be two fits if it's over \$10.00.

(Passes phone to Kenny)

KENNY: Hi Carla. What's ya doing?

LEANNE: Oh, I'm studying real hard. Carla will tell you about it. I really miss you guys. I'd better let you go now. I'll write later. Tell everyone I said hi.

JAMIE: (Comes back on.) Bye, Leanne.

(Lights go down on Cartwright scene. Lights stay on St. John's.)

#### SCENE VII: St. John's

Leanne is hanging up phone. Andrea enters.

ANDREA: Who was that on the phone?

LEANNE: Oh, Just someone from home.

ANDREA: I hope you're not more homesick than before, hearing from your friends.

LEANNE: It didn't really make me feel homesick. It just made me think about the people back home. I wonder what Travis is going to do.

ANDREA: What do you mean?

LEANNE: Well, Travis and I had a little argument earlier. I think he's going home.

ANDREA: Really?

(Lights go down)

#### SCENE VIII: (Lights come up on St. John's. Andrea and Leanne are sitting around. Travis enters.)

TRAVIS: Well, I'm ready.

LEANNE: I guess this is it.

TRAVIS: I guess so.

ANDREA: There's still time to change your mind, you know. You don't have to leave.

TRAVIS: No, there isn't any time. I already have my ticket and my mind's made up. I'm going.

LEANNE: What're you gonna do home? When you were there you were bored all the time and you couldn't wait to get back.

TRAVIS: Look, Leanne. I'm sorry but I just don't want to hear it. I'm sick of everybody telling me that this is a mistake - if it is, it's my mistake. I have to live with it.

LEANNE: We said we'd stick it out together.

TRAVIS: Yeah, well, that was then, this is now. I'm not the first one to turn back and go home. Some people just aren't ready for the big city life. It's not like I'm going home for good. I'll be back when I'm ready but now's not the time.

ANDREA: I understand.

TRAVIS: No, you don't. You live here and I live there. You've never even been there.

LEANNE: Take it easy, Travis. Calm down. You have to do what you have to do.  
(Honk! Honk!)

TRAVIS: Well, I have to go. That's my ride.

ANDREA and LEANNE: See ya, Travis - Take care -

#### SCENE IX:

Lights come up on Leanne writing a letter to her friends. She is reading aloud as she writes. Leanne begins reading:

Hi guys,

How are you all? I guess you're all getting ready for carnival by now.

By the time you get this letter, I guess Travis will be home. It's funny, you know, I thought Travis would stick it out here. But I guess he missed home more than I thought. Maybe he's right. Maybe he's not ready for this.

I really miss him but I'm going to stick it out to get my nursing degree. I can look forward to going home after that.

Anyway it was real good to hear from you all. I was really missing you guys and wishing I could be there. But you guys are there wishing you could be here. I guess it all depends on where you are. As they say, the grass is always greener.

I must go now and get some sleep. I have an important exam coming up. I'll talk to you later.

Love,

Leanne