

PEACOCK ELEMENTARY

HAPPY VALLEY

PRESENTS

EN F-RANCAIS, S'IL VOUS PLAIT !

Oh no, an F- in French!? Afraid that his parents just might cancel his grading present- a family trip out on "the road" to see the Expos at Montreal's Olympic Stadium- Rodney touches up his report card. However, it becomes obvious on the trip that he is far from being an A+ student. Maybe learning a second language isn't such a dumb idea after all.

**CAST(in alphabetical order)**

Krista Blake  
Harry Borlase  
Kentrina Broomfield  
Natalie Burden  
Donna Carroll  
Robert Fleet  
Mandy Gear  
Tracy Hardiman  
Cassie McNeil  
Sarah O'Donnell  
Amanda Pardy  
Sharon Penny  
Ashley Rice  
Angie Snow  
Jessica Wall  
Shannon Webber  
Bryan Winters

**SET** Mr. Keeping's Grade 5 class

**TEACHER ADVISORS**

Denise Blackmore  
Glenis Penny  
Kathleen Borlase



Randy Kemuksigarc  
Gr.4 Peacock Elementary

Characters

The Brown Family

Rodney, Elaine, Jack, Rita

Scene 1 - The last day of school, as Rodney is walking to school we hear the voice of his parents on the speaker:

Mother: We'll be so proud of you dear.

Father: Remember, if you pass every subject, it's a trip to Montréal to see the Expos at Olympic Stadium.

Rodney enters classroom and sits in his seat. He is looking a little nervous.

Rodney: (talking to himself) I think I passed everything except French, but who cares, I'm not gonna need French in my lifetime.

A group of classmates are sitting around talking. We hear:

Student "A": If I pass, I'm gonna get \$100 and a bike.

Student "B": Sure that's nothing, if I pass I'm gonna get a TV and a VCR.

Student "C": You guys are some lucky, my Dad told me that if I don't pass, I'll get a good smack.

Friend: (notices Rodney and walks over to his desk.)  
What about you Rodney, what will you get if you pass this year?

Rodney: If I pass the whole family is driving out the road to Montreal so that I can see an Expos game.

Friend: Oh God you're some lucky.

Rodney: Oh my, but I might just fail french!

Friend: Yeah, we really did fool around alot this year.

Scene 11 - Rodney is walking home alone.

Rodney: (looking at his report card) I can't believe it! F- in French! Mom and Dad are gonna kill me. And my trip to Montreal to see the Expos, I've been looking forward to this since Kindergarten. We have front row seats, my chance to catch the ball at the game, and I was gonna see Larry Walker, my favorite player and maybe get his autograph. And Pepsi, and hot-dogs in the stands! And real poutine!

Scene 3- Parents are preparing the trunk for the trip. Mother is looking over their list.

Characters - Mother, Dad, Elaine and Rodney.

Mother: (checking the list) O.K., we have the spare tire. What do we need, we got the cooler, Jack did you get the booster cables back from George? We might need them. (Jack mumbles)

Jack, I'm gonna bring a bar of sunlight soap, somebody told me that's good if you get a hole in your gas tank.

Jack: I hope that don't happen.

Mother: Where's the tent?

Jack: Elaine, get over here, run down the basement and get the tent, it's underneath the stairs.

Elaine: O.K., Dad.

Mother: And, Elaine, bring these report cards in the house, we won't be needing them on the trip.(Elaine leaves)

Mother: I still can't believe it, he's improved so much since I spoke to his teacher last. A B in Science, a B in English, and an A+ in French. He's gonna be some help to us on this trip driving through Quebec.

Jack: Yes, you and I are pretty useless at understanding that language.

Scene 4 - Rodney is on the phone, speaking to his friend.

Rodney: Well, I guess I won't be seeing you much this summer. Guess what! I'm going to the Expos' game in Montreal.

(pauses while he is listening to his friend)

(Elaine enters in search of the tent)

You know how an F kinda looks like an "A", well I found a black pen and made it into an "A". Then I just turned that minus sign into a plus! I can't believe they actually fell for it! I'll bring ya back an Expos hat, with Larry Walker's autograph. Later. (hangs up the phone)

Elaine: I know what you did!

Rodney: (look of surprise on Rodney's face) And you'd better not squeal ya little rat. If you say anything, I'll tell your friends that you watch Barney, plus I'll show everybody that picture of you in the bathtub.

Scene 5 - Song

Characters - Family Brown, singers, truck driver

Let me tell you a story about a family named Brown,  
They packed up their car and headed out of town  
Two kids in the back, mother father in the front  
Going down the road, just a thumpety thump thump

Whoa, what's happening? A hole in the oilpan?

So they sat and they waited for very very long  
In hopes that another car would soon come along  
After three hours when they looked up ahead  
An eighteen wheeler, painted all red.

Ah, il y a un gros problème, évidemment; est-ce que vous  
avez besoin de mon aide?

All: "RODNEY?"

After being helped by the man named Gilles,  
The Browns moved on, even made it up the hill,  
Rodney sat quietly with guilt-filled thoughts  
That "F" he'd made into an "A" - He thought he'd been caught.

Hurry up Dad! How much longer to Churchill Falls?  
We'll be there when we're there. Just stop complaining.  
I'm bustin' to pee.  
I want chicken fingers at the restaurant!  
I wants a burger and fries!

What the Browns didn't know, what they didn't suppose,  
Was at seven o'clock, Churchill Falls is closed,  
They needed the toilet, they were starving too,  
But they landed into town at 7:02!

(heavy sighs throughout the family!)

(another verse explaining how the strike has started)

Scene 6 - Setting up the tent past Churchill Falls

Characters: Rita, Jack, Elaine, Rodney  
Five campers

Softly in the distance you can hear campers singing a french song. (The Browns are talking as they set up their tent)

Rodney: I'm starved!

Elaine: Can we soon eat? You promised we'd eat at Churchill Falls.

(Mother is looking for something in the car)

Mother: My God, look at the mess in this car; do you kids have to be so messy!

Father: Anybody see the pegs? (Rodney finds the pegs and hands them to Dad.)

Mother: (with a set of camping pots in her hand) Oh, oh, I think we've got a problem here. It says here that we need a flattop screwdriver in order to get the handles on these pots. One of you had better find me one or we're never gonna eat tonight.

Jack: (looking in the trunk) I hate to tell you this but we've got everything in here but a flattop screwdriver.  
(sound of singing gets a little louder)

Mother: Rodney, go over there and ask those campers if they've got a flattop screwdriver.

Rodney: Mom, they're singing in French!  
(lights dim, we see Rodney walking across the stage with a flashlight, he is mumbling some french)

Scene 7

Rodney: Est-ce que je peux - Est-ce que je peux - aller aux toilettes. Est-ce que je peux HAVE aghhh (getting frustrated) ah... un... (using gestures of twisting a screw, and then driving a car) screw - AUTO.

At the other campsite. We now hear conversation among the five campers.

Camper 1- Veux-tu un autre HOT-DOG?

Camper 2 - (patting his stomach) Mon dieu, Non merci, j'en ai déjà mangé cinq!

Camper 3 - (turning around and noticing Rodney) He, Bonsoir!

Rodney: BONJOUR! Um Can I umm..est-ce que je peux DO YOU HAVE (taps his head) Flat...

Campers are guessing at Rodney's gestures. They throw words at him for example:

Ah, une tête? un chapeau? tuque?

(Rodney gestures "FLAT" with his hands)

Une assiette? (They look at each other) Qu'est-ce qu'il veut?

Hand? You want hand?

(using his previous gestures for a screwdriver,) Je veux...

Camper: Ahh! a screwdriver! Tu veux un tournevis! J'en ai un, mon ami, un instant.(goes and looks for one).

Another camper: (points to Rodney's T-shirt) Ah, tu aimes les Expos, toi.

Rodney: (nodding) Oui!

Another camper: (picks up a little radio) You hear the news? the Baseball? Ah, c'est dommage, ein - La grève de Baseball? Ah, la monnaie, la monnaie, la monnaie. Pour ça, c'est tout fini, le baseball est fini.

Rodney: (smiling and nodding in acceptance of everything that is said in french) Oui, oui. (Camper gives screwdriver to Rodney)

Scene 8 - In Vermont

(Set the scene by having French being spoken in the background).

Wandering around the supermarket. Everything is in French. The family is confused.

Clusters of people are speaking. The family is looking at labels.

Client I: Ah Bonjour! Ca va bien?

Client II: Ah oui ca va bien! Il fait beau aujourd'hui ein?

Client III: Ah bain oui...(speech fades into mumbling. conversation switches to two men, one has the newspaper in his hand, showing the strike to the other.)

Homme I: La grève de baseball est terrible! Ils veulent trop d'argent. Et Les Expos - la meilleure équipe du monde!

Homme II: Maintenant il n'y a rien à la television.

(By now the Browns are at the counter. They are checking in their groceries.)

Mother: Rodney, I didn't see any bread, would you please ask the lady if they have any.

Rodney: (very slowly) Est-ce que peintre.....

Lady: Pardon????

Rodney: peintre

Lady: De quelle couleur??

Rodney: couleur?

Lady: Oui, couleur; rouge, bleu, blanc....

Rodney:(recognizes the sound of this color) BLANC!!

Lady: Un instant, s'il vous plaît. (she exits)

Mother: Maybe we'll get a nice loaf of french bread, wouldn't that be nice?

Rodney: Look mom, every page of these magazines and newspapers is about baseball. I wish they had some english ones, I don't have a clue what it's about.

(Lady comes back with a can of white paint)

Lady: Votre peintre, monsieur, 20.00.

Scene 9 -

Manic five

The Browns stop for gas - The sign says " Service Libre".

They wait and wait for service.

(scene depicted in the song)

Jack: Well, we managed on empty for quite awhile.

I guess we should fill er up, its a long way to Baie Comeau.

Mother: I hope we'll understand what we'll owe them, we had some lot of trouble paying for our lunch back there at the truck stop.

Jack: Yeah, and Rodney so good in French and he couldn't even order a plate of fries.

Rodney: Change the tape, Dad - put on... Crash Test Dummies.

Elaine: No, I wants a hear Barney and gimme back my pillow.  
(wrestle with the pillow)

Mother: Goodness we've been waiting a long time. There is someone looking out at us. Why aren't they coming out? They're not doing anything. Maybe you should go in, Rodney, and tell them we need gas.

(Meanwhile two cars pull up and are beeping their horns).

A person from the car behind comes up to the window and says:

Driver: Il faut faire le petrol toi-meme!

Mother: Rodney, what are they saying?

Rodney:(looking around - She's coming, it's a nice day.

Elaine: You dummy! He's telling us we have to get our own gas, its a self serve!

Scene ends quickly with lots of beeps.



Scene 10 - Hotel Lobby in Baie Comeau

(The clerk is working at the desk, the family is in a huddle trying to figure out how to ask for a hotel room).

Rodney: Mom, I don't know how to say that. We didn't learn how to ask for a hotel room in french class this year!

Elaine: Anyway, how much DID you learn this year Mr. A+?

Dad: Well somebody had better figure it out 'cause I'm beat from all that driving.

(Another tourist approaches them to help)

Tourist: You people look as if you just came over the road.

( A group of people enters, goes to the desk and mimes getting a hotel room).

Mother: Yes, we certainly did.

Tourist: We're on our way back to Labrador City, how's the road, pretty rough?

Mother: Not too bad. Our biggest problem hasn't been the road but trying to understand all this french, even though we're traveling with an A+ French student.

Rodney: MOOOM....

Dad: I wish they'd teach them how to ask for things in those french classes like screwdrivers, and gas and french fries and hotel rooms! Eh, Rodney?

Tourist: Well, I should be able to help you. You need a room?

Family: (nods)

(Tourist saunters over to the desk and asks in french)

Avez-vous une chambre pour une famille de quatre?

Clerk: I'm sorry, we have no rooms left. We just filled our last vacancy.

Scene 11

Narrative song - Take me out to the ball game....

Scene 12 - Arrived in Montreal

Busy Street scene - Looking for le Stade Olympique.

Rodney: There it is! I'm sure that's it, Dad; Olympic Stadium!

Dad: That's it, I've had it. I'm gonna find the nearest parking spot and we're gonna walk until we get to it.

Elaine: Wow, Mom look at how they're making those bagels in that oven, they sure look better than those ones at the Co-op!

Mother: I feel so out of style compared to these ladies in Montreal, look Elaine, what do you think of that hat?

Elaine: Oh, Mom yuck, I'd never wear something like that, I think it looks stupid.

Dad: Rodney, look over there, is that the entrance to the stadium?

Rodney: I don't know, who are those guys Dad, and why are they carrying those signs?

(Suddenly Rodney's teacher appears out of the blue. She is also on vacation in Montreal and what a coincidence to see her!)

Elaine: Rodney, look at that lady across the street, she looks like Mlle Bernard, our french teacher.

Rodney: I know it is because.....

Teacher: Bonjour Rodney, Bonjour Elaine, hi everybody! My goodness what a coincidence! How's your summer?

Family: Great! What are you doing in Montréal?

Teacher: Ah, I just love Montréal. I come here every summer, my sister lives here and of course I shop 'till I drop! Isn't it a shame about the strike? I know you're such a big Expos fan, Rodney.

Family: Strike? What strike?

Teacher: The baseball players went on strike. It's been on the front page of every newspaper in Quebec for several days now. And that's all you hear on the radio, and the Expos were doing so well too.

Dad: So that's what all those people were talking about in French. Every time they saw Rodney's T-shirt they had something to say.

Rodney: Ahh, and all those magazine covers, that's why baseball was on every page.

Teacher: Well anyway, Rodney, this experience will certainly give you some practise in your French, and I bet it'll really help you to improve your French mark for next year!

Mother: By the way, we were really surprised by Rodney's final French mark on his report card.

Teacher: Yeah, well I found it very difficult to give him more than an "F", but hopefully this trip will help to improve his attitude for next year.

Mother and Dad: An F?

Dad: (Grabs Rodney by the ear) I think we've got something to talk about.

Mother: (to the audience) It looks like it's gonna be a long trip home.

Play ends with tapings of some of the major lines of the play.  
Ending with "I'll never need French in my lifetime."



**The Cast  
Peacock Elementary School**