

**Amos Comenius Memorial School
Hopedale
presents**

Resettlement

Cast

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|-----------------------------|-------|-------------------------|
| Mr. Rena Dicker | | Rena Dicker |
| Miss Jessica Flowers | | Jessica Flowers |
| Amy, Amber | | Amber Vincent |
| Mark | | Mark Nochasak |
| Julian, Peter | | Julian Hunter |
| Brittany | | Brittany Wolfrey |
| Nathan | | Nathan Karpik |

Teacher Advisor

Mr. Benjamin Vatcher



Scene 1 High School graduation. Students and teachers are standing around waiting for the ceremonies to begin.

Nathan: (Speaking to Amber, Julian, Mark and Brittany collectively) So, how does it feel to be totally done with high school?

Brittany: It feels great! I can't believe that the end is finally here! Don't get me wrong, I enjoyed school, but it sure is nice to be finally finished!

Mark: It feels awesome Sir, no more school for me!

Nathan: Now I thought I heard that you were accepted into college in Goose Bay.

Mark: Yeah, you know what I mean Sir, no more HIGH SCHOOL! Now come September I'll go leave my mark on Goose Bay with the rest of these guys. (Puts arm around Julian, Amber and Brittany)

Rena: Well, we certainly had a great year, didn't we?

Julian: Yeah, look at all the things that we did this year alone! It's amazing when you list them all off!

Brittany: Personally, my favorite memory of the year was watching Mr. Rena try to make an Inukshuk! (Laughing)

Rena: Yeah, that was a laugh wasn't it? But you guys showed me how to make it properly and it never fell over yet!

Amber: (laughing) Yeah, well you better hope that we don't get much wind or it's gonna fall over again Sir!

(Rena shakes his head with embarrassment)

Mark: I like Miss's landmark unit. Even though it was right at the beginning of the year, I remembered that stuff all year.

Rena: That STUFF! Oh, if only Miss wasn't off putting the last minute touches on her graduation speech so that she could hear that! (Laughing)

Mark: Yeah, that STUFF!... No seriously, it was good fun. I enjoyed that chapter. Can you guys remember that... from the beginning of the year? (Freezes)

Nathan: Yeah, and I can't get over how fast the year went by. It seems like just yesterday I was making you guys run all over Hopedale getting ready for sports meet. Can you remember that? (Freezes)

Rena: Wow, when you stop and think about it, the year sure went by fast. It seems like it was only yesterday that we were getting ready to come up here for the first time. (Freezes)

Scene 2 At the airport. Three new teachers, Jessica, Rena and Amy wait anxiously in the Goose Bay airport for their flight to arrive which will take them to Hopedale - their new home for the next ten months. The third teacher is heading to Nain.

Jessica: It shouldn't be too much longer now guys before our flight gets in. Then it'll be "Hopedale here we come!"

Rena: No Jess, I keep telling you that our flight goes to Nain to let Amy out, then we fly to Natuashish. THEN we go to Hopedale.

Amy: Yeah Jess, don't forget about me!

Jessica: Oh my God, guys, you know what I mean...

Rena: Anyway, since we've got some time to kill... (looks at Amy) have you seen any pictures of coastal Labrador yet?

Amy: Well, I've seen a few, but they were really old and hard to pick out. (Rubs her forehead to wipe the sweat from her brow from the heat)

Jessica: Amy, are you alright? You're not homesick already are you?

Amy: What? No! What made you say that? (Rubbing more sweat from her brow)

Jessica: Well, you're kinda red in the face and you don't seem your usual self.

Amy: (Laughs) Oh, well, that's because of my mom, you know how she is... (Jessica and Rena glance at each other with a slightly confused look on their faces) Well, she worries too much. (Stands and rubs more sweat from brow and begins to take off heavy winter jacket) She bought me this winter jacket because it's really warm, and that was fine. But, in the airport in St. John's she hauled it out and made me promise to wear it until I got to Hopedale, so it would keep me warm. She told me (Mockingly) "I don't want to find out that my little girl got pneumonia"

Rena: (Laughing) But Amy, it's the first of September!

Amy: (Has the jacket off and in her lap) Yeah, but that's my mom for you. She's really worried about me going to teach in Labrador. And she worries the most about how cold it's going to get.

Jessica: Well, I'm sure that it'll get cold during the winter, but surely it can't be that cold up there now... can it?

Rena: (Shrugs) Don't ask me. All I know is from these pictures that I got from one of the teachers who taught in Hopedale last year.

Jessica: Well, we might as well have a look at them now while we wait for the plane to get in.

Rena: (Reaches into his carry-on and produces a handful of pictures) Here they are. (Amy and Jessica thumb through them)

Jessica: See, there's a picture of the plane we'll be flying on. And there's a picture of the school - ACMS.

Amy: Hey, that's Nain! You can see most of the community in that one. You know, it doesn't look that different from where I live.

Rena: Oh, you should have heard some of the stuff that some of my friends said. Johnny figured that we are going to teach in an igloo.

Jessica: That's terrible. But in saying that, my sister said that "you'd better like eating seal flippers if you're gonna go way the hell up there". And my best friend even asked me "How am I going to teach there because they won't be able to understand me since they don't speak English".

Amy: See, that stuff makes me really mad. It's comments like these that creates so much tension between groups.

Jessica: (Sighs) Yeah, we know. I just hope that they don't think we are like that...

Scene 3 Nathan stands center stage. He is the aboriginal teacher. He is currently heading up the training for sports meet. He is awaiting the return of Julian, Brittany, Amber and Mark - members of the sports meet team for this year. They are practicing their cross country run.

Nathan: (Alone on stage watching for the first of the runners to return) Wow, I can't believe that the summer is over already. It sure went by some fast. (laughs) It certainly went faster than these guys.

(Amber and Brittany come running onto the stage as they have returned from their run. Amber gets back first, but only by a fraction. Both girls are out of breath for the first few lines)

Amber: (To Brittany) See, I told you that I'd beat you!

(Nathan records their times)

Brittany: Amber, you didn't beat me, at the very best it was only a tie.

Amber: (Defensively) Ah! Not even! I was back first, maybe not by much, but face it... I BEAT YOU!

Brittany: (Shrugs, as if it doesn't bother her) Whatever! That's only because I wasn't actually trying! (Looks around, then turns to Nathan) Hey, where's Julian and Mark?

Nathan: (Frustrated at the mention of the two boys) Here, look for yourself. (Hands Brittany the binoculars and points in the same direction that the girls had just returned from)

Brittany: (Looking through the binoculars) I don't see them.

Amber: (Grabbing the binoculars from Brittany) Here, let me see... (laughing) There they are. They're sitting down on a rock, probably taking a break.

Brittany: Yeah, that's Mark and Julian for ya, always taking it easy.

Amber: A little too easy perhaps, eh Sir?

Nathan: (Arms crossed, shaking his head and clearly frustrated) Yeah, I don't know what I'm going to do with those two. They're great at most of the games, but they are such slow runners.

Brittany: Yeah, but sports meet is still three weeks away Sir. There's still lots of time for them to get back in shape.

Julian: (Strolls casually onto stage with Mark as if nothing important was happening) Hey guys!

Nathan: (Clearly cross at the two boys for not taking this practice seriously and for being so slow on the run. Speaks to Brittany) Do you think that three weeks is enough time to get these two to run five kilometers in twenty minutes or less?

Brittany & Amber: (laughing) Not even, Sir!

Mark: Hey, what's that supposed to mean. Sir? (Nathan shows the two boys the time on the stopwatch and records it on his clipboard with the girls' information) What! That's not right! We didn't take that long. There's no way we took that long!

Julian: There's no way it took us thirty-five minutes! Sir, we didn't take that long! Your watch is broken!

Nathan: Nope, the watch works fine. That's how long it took you.

Julian: Not even! We were looking at the new teachers over at the airstrip.

Brittany: I bet that even those new teachers could beat you guys! (Brittany and Amber laugh together at the boys' expense. Nathan shakes his head in frustration at the boys' ease of distraction)

Nathan: You two have to take this more seriously.

Julian & Mark: Yes Sir...

Nathan: Anyway, I'll see you all on Wednesday in school. Good run girls, and as for you two (looking at Mark and Julian) like I already said, you have to take this more seriously!

Julian & Mark: Yes, Sir...

(Nathan exits in one direction and the four students exit in the other direction)

Scene 4 On the rock with low expectations. Mark, Julian, Brittany and Amber are walking together onto the stage from the opposite side from which they exited in the previous scene indicating that they have been walking for a while. They stop to sit on a rock and the conversation continues...

Julian: (Laughing) You should have seen them getting off that plane. One of them was so tall that he smashed his head on the doorway of the plane trying to get out.

Amber: I can't stand the new teachers that they keep getting. Those stupid Newfies don't know anything about us. How are they supposed to teach us anything?

Mark: (Mockingly) Maybe they can teach us the Newfie Stomp!

(Mark and Amber do a mock dance of the Newfie stomp and they all laugh together)

Brittany: Very funny guys.... why don't you give them a chance?

Amber: They're probably just going to be boring old (Inuit word for white people) who don't know anything but the Newfie stomp and how to catch their stupid cod fish. I bet you five bucks that at least one of them will go off on skidoo and get lost trying to find their way home from the post office.

Brittany: (Sarcastically) Ha, ha, very funny. You guys need to give them a chance. Maybe they'll be nice. You don't know. Anyways, as long as they're not boring.

Mark: Well, I don't know what they're going to be like, but man are they ever WHITE! You'll see them on Wednesday. They're like ghosts they're that white.

Scene 5 The new classroom. In Jessica's classroom, she is putting up posters. She is brainstorming ideas for a unit.

Jessica: (hanging a poster) There, now that looks a bit more like an English classroom. (Gets down from her chair, talking to herself) Now, what am I going to have as a theme for my first unit? (Hears talking coming from backstage, and into the room comes Rena and Nathan, deep in conversation)

Nathan: And last but not least, as you have probably already figured out, this is your wife's classroom. So, I guess this will be the high school English room.

Rena: Very good. Well, thanks for the tour Sir. You've got a beautiful school here.

Nathan: Ilali - that means you're welcome. I'll see you tomorrow.

Rena and Jessica: (Somewhat together) Yeap, ok! See you tomorrow.

Jessica: Oh Sir, I almost forgot! Before you go, I was wondering if you could give me some help with pronouncing some of my students' names. (Nathan nods his head and walks over towards Jessica where she is looking through her bag for her planner)

Nathan: (Laughs a little at the new teacher's mispronunciation of some of the names) Not bad, well, see you tomorrow! (Leaves the same way that he entered)

Rena: Have you figured out what you're going to do yet? School starts tomorrow morning you know!

Jessica: Actually, hearing Mr. Nathan speak Inuk earlier gave me an idea of how to begin my year.

Rena: Oh, really? Well, let's hear it! (Sits comfortably to hear the idea)

Jessica: Well, I was thinking about starting the year with a unit on landmarks and how we have all left our impressions on the land in some way or another.

Rena: Uh, can you explain that a little more than that?

Jessica: Well, we could do things like "a descriptive essay on how to build an igloo" or "how they interact with the wildlife" or have a discussion on a topic like "how the choices they make during their life can shape their community".

Rena: That sounds like a good idea... I might try something like that myself.

Scene 6 Waiting for school. Nathan stands alone as he is the first one to the school on this first morning of the school year. The new teachers arrive soon and enter the school. The students aren't long behind them as they have a practice before school starts.

Rena & Jessica: Good Morning Sir.

Jessica: You're up early this morning.

Nathan: I've got a practice with the kids this morning for sports meet. Someone has to make sure they are ready.

Rena: I see. Well, we'll see you inside.

(The teachers keep walking by and proceed to go into the school. Seconds after the teachers have left the stage, the students come running onto the stage)

Brittany: Ah! We missed them. The new teachers are already gone inside.

Nathan: (Sternly) You missed them because you run so slowly. Now, DJ's and back. Let's go, let's go!

Mark: But sir, we've only got ten minutes before the bell goes. We can't go now, we'll be late!

Nathan: That's right. There's only ten minutes left, which means you'd better get going now or you ARE going to be late for school. Then you'll be staying with me for detention! Now get going! Come on!

Amber: Cripes Sir! Strict! Makin' us run at eight in the morning!

Nathan: (Sternly) Get going, now, let's go!

Brittany & Amber: (Together) Yes Sir! (They start running)

Mark: (Groans) Cripes...strict ole teachers!

Nathan: What?

Julian: Nah boy, just kidding (Boys start their run)

Nathan: (Sighs, shaking his head but smiling as he walks towards school)

(As soon as Nathan is out of sight, the boys come back on stage)

Julian: See! I told you he wasn't going to stick around. We don't have to run to DJ's...

(Nathan comes flying back out)

Julian & Mark: Cripes! (Really get going this time in a hurry to avoid a scolding from Mr. Nathan)

Nathan: (Mutters off a string of undecipherable words and utterments, but laughing and shaking his head at the boys once they are out of sight)

Scene 7 The classroom. Jessica is in her classroom anticipating the bell, looking at her watch.

Jessica: Well, here we go!

(Bell rings. Students enter - Mark, Julian, and Brittany)

Mark & Brittany: Hey Miss.

Julian: Hi Miss.

Jessica: Good Morning class. Welcome back to school and welcome to grade twelve.

(Amber enters class and slowly goes to her seat)

Amber: Bla, bla, bla... boring ole school, learning boring ole Hablunaut English crap again...

Jessica: Well good morning. It's nice to meet you too...(Looks at her class list) Amber?

Amber: (Bluntly) Yeah!

Jessica: (Starts handing out course outlines) Oh and by the way, as you'll see in your course outlines that I have for you here, I don't plan on teaching any "crap".

Mark & Brittany: (Laugh at how Miss actually said "crap")

Julian: (To Mark, looking at the course outline) Hey, check this out!

Mark: Miss, there's a lot of Inuk stories on this list.

Jessica: Yes, that's right.

Mark: (Holding up the course outline and pointing at it) What's this about building an Inukshuk?

Amber: Wa? We're gonna build an Inukshuk? You can't teach us about that!

Jessica: No, but you can show me how to build an Inukshuk and I can help you write about it.

Brittany: That doesn't seem too bad. I mean, not boring. That actually sounds rather interesting, Miss.

Scene 8 Graduation.

Amber: Holy mac, I can remember that just like it was yesterday!

Mark: Yeah, me too.

Brittany: It's hard to believe how fast the year went by! I guess time really does go fast when you're having fun!

Rena: Oh look, Miss is coming. I guess the speeches will start soon!

(Everyone gets seated as Jessica comes onto stage)

Jessica: (Goes up to the podium and addresses the crowd) Well, here we are, graduation 2008! I don't know about everyone here, but I have no idea where the time went. This has to have been one of the fastest but most enjoyable years of my life. I'd like to call upon Mr. Karpik to help me with a short speech!

(Nathan goes up to join Jessica)

Nathan: Over the past school year we've had the pleasant opportunity to teach some of the finest students you'll find anywhere. I'd like to take a moment to reflect on just a few of the many things that these students have done this year, and I'm not just talking about academics.

Jessica: Yes, that's for sure. Anyone who has been in our school this year has certainly seen a multitude of beautiful artwork that fills the walls and corridors of our school!

Nathan: None of that stuff was easy to make you know. It all took a lot of hard work and dedication. Just like the hard work that these put off at sports meet this year. We didn't win, but we had a lot of fun and we certainly showed everyone that there is a lot of talent in this little community!

(Sports meet team goes a little nuts with applause and cheers)

Jessica: And as you've certainly noticed around town, there's a lot more of these students' hard work and dedication to their culture and their community. And as you come into our school you can't miss some of the work that our students have shared with us as they taught all of us new teachers the background behind the Inukshuk. And with a little help from our friends, and after a few attempts, we even built our own Inukshuk that is still standing after all that wind we had last night! (More clapping and applause from students and teachers) Now personally, I think that Inukshuk is a perfect display of what these students are capable of doing. If these students can teach us clumsy teachers how to make something as big and beautiful as that, then they are certainly capable of meeting and exceeding each and every goal that they set for themselves! (Cheering and clapping from students)

Nathan: Well, that's all for us. I'll turn the stage over to the students. Guys, would you like to say anything?

(Amber and Julian take the podium)

Julian: On behalf of the graduating class, I'd like to take the time to thank you teachers for teaching us and reminding us of the importance of the little things, like learning our names before you met us, or using local examples to teach stuff, and most importantly valuing our culture.

Amber: You mentioned all of our accomplishments. Well, it's not just us. You certainly had a huge part in that too. You've really showed us how to set our goals and helped us make the impressions that we did. So, you deserve a round of applause, and on behalf of all of us here in Hopedale, thanks for making the impression that you did on our class, our school and our community! (Clapping) Miss, you got anything else you want to add?

Jessica: (takes the stage again) Well, that's everything for us tonight. I hope everyone has a good night and as we all disperse and go our own ways in a few days time, don't forget the things that you've learned over the years and don't forget who you are and where you come from. That's certainly your most important landmark! That said - congratulations grads of 2007/08. Have a good night.

(Clapping, hats get thrown into the air and then the lights go dim and curtains close.)