

**Jens Haven School
Nain**

Presents

Life Lessons at 20 000 Feet

Cast

Sarah the flight attendant	Kendra
Emma the jock	Ocean
Rex the rebel	Max
Jesse the prep	Tyrone
Tim the class clown	Mark
Summer the “emo” kid	Alicia
Intercom/Pilots	Shanae

Lights up. At the airstrip. Everyone is excited to go to Goose Bay for a career trip. They are chatting before boarding the plane.

Emma: Too bad about Mr. Goudie having to go on the hospital plane without us.

Jesse: Maybe you shouldn't have hit him so hard.

Tim: Hit ON him you mean?

Emma pushes him. Sarah comes over and calls to the students.

Sarah: Yoo hoo! The plane is ready to go now. Please come over to security. *(She has a sign saying security and puts a hat on.)* Any knives, guns, poison, or weapons of any kind?

Everyone: Err... no.

Sarah: Good! Please step aboard.

Students all get on the plane. Summer sits alone; Jesse and Emma push on first and sit together. Rex and Tim sit by each other (not next to each other). Sarah gets on last; pulls the door closed and proceeds into her pre-flight speech.

Sarah: Yeah, okay, hi! My name is Sarah. *(Claps hands and uses gestures.)* Keep your seatbelts fastened at all times... if they work. There are no bathrooms so I hope you went already. The door you came through is the emergency exit. Only open it in case of emergency and don't all rush at once. It'll be about an hour and twenty minutes to Goose Bay if we make it. *(Everyone pauses and stares at her.)* Just kidding!

Tim: That's worse than my jokes.

(Short pause)

Rex: Hungry boy! Got food or wha?

Tim: Hey, speaking of food, do you know what two foods should never go together? *(pauses for effect)* Hot DOGS and CAT sup!

Everyone: Augh, Tim!

Sarah pauses. Pulls out bag and starts rooting through. Pulls out some Purity Cream Crackers.

Sarah: Does anybody want a cracker?

Jesse: Eww. Ugh, I hope you don't expect me to actually eat that. (*Jesse looks at her with disgust*)

Sarah: Maybe some tea would help. (*Roots through her bag again. Pulls out a random teabag and tosses it to Jesse. Jesse watches does not move to catch it and lets it fall to the floor.*) Please get ready for takeoff. (*Whispers*) 5, 4, 3, 2, 1

Plane takes off- Characters can demonstrate this by leaning back some. As the airplane is taking off Tim's chair falls over throwing him to the ground. Sarah rushes over to help him up.

Tim: Boy, I feel SO safe now!

Sarah: Cheap ol' plane, anyway.

While Sarah is helping Tim up, Emma retrieves the teabag.

Emma: Hey Summer! Heads up! (*Tosses the teabag*)

The teabag hit Summer in the face. Time cracks a joke.

Tim: In the FACE!

Everyone laughs. Summer puts up her hood and turns up her music. Plane rumbles in turbulence (the sounds will be banging off stage). Everyone screams for five seconds. The screams die off- Sarah screams loudest.

Intercom: It's okay everyone, just a little turbulence. Everything will be okay.

Rex is kicking the back of Jesse's chair.

Jesse: Seriously? I don't like having my chair kicked. Hint. Hint.

Rex: (*Mocking*) Seriously? I don't like having my chair kicked. Hint. Hint. I'm the guy who doesn't care. So, I am going to do it anyway.

Rex resumes kicking the chair and Jesse is visibly annoyed.

Summer: Cripes! Why can't the both of you stop acting like children and get along?

Emma: Hey, weirdo! How can you hear them anyway? I can hear that sad ol' music of your blasting from back here.

Tim: Ha! That heavy music of yours is sure to drag this plane down!

Summer sighs and sits back down. Loud bang (offstage)

Intercom: Sorry, folks! Turns out we're not so okay after all! Hang on tight!

Everyone screams again as the plane takes a nose dive. Students lean back, like they are stuck in their seats by the force.

Tim: I was right! I was right!

Everyone: SHUT UP TIM! We're all going to die!

Emma: We CAN'T crash! I have a tournament in two weeks!

Jesse: This can't be it! I'm too good to die with the likes of you!

Rex: Shut up, fool!

Jesse takes a swing at Rex and they both move to fight with one another.

Sarah: Oh my God! Stop it! Neither of you are getting anymore Creamy Crackers!

Tim: Well YEAH, because we're all going to die in a few minutes anyway!

Everyone stops and looks at him.

Summer: Guys! We're about to die and all you can do is fight? Our plane is crashing and look at how you're treating each other.

Everyone looks at the window, quietly. Lights down, spotlight on centre stage

Emma: *(to the audience)* Arts, sports, sports, that's all I ever have on my mind. We're about to crash and all I can think about is that tournament, when there are more important things; my family, and education for instance. If it wasn't for those things I wouldn't be where I am today. I remember the time when I had a whole week to study for a test but I was too busy with soccer practice. I bullied Summer into letting me cheat off her test and she got all the blame...

Lights up stage left and center. Everyone at desks, getting ready to take their tests. Emma stops Summer off to the side.

Emma: Summer, did you study for the geometry test?

Summer: Yeah...why?

Emma: 'Cause I didn't. I've been busy with practice all week. I'm going to look off your test, okay? Okay!

Summer: No, I don't think you should.

Emma: I said, “okay.” Okay. *(shakes fist)*

Summer: What if we get caught?

Emma: We won’t get caught.

Summer: *(Sheepishly)* Okay, fine.

They take their seats. The teacher hands out the test. The students all start writing. Summer moves her paper so Emma can see. Emma doesn’t understand something. In the background the other students not crucial to the scene can be either scribbling furiously, or acting as though they are having a hard time. Rex is probably twiddling his thumbs, Tim making faces, Jesse working hard, etc.

Emma: Summer, I can’t read your writing.

Summer moves the paper into view, leans over to explain it. The teacher looks up.

Teacher: Summer, what are you doing?

Emma quickly moves away and starts writing.

Summer: *(Shrugs)* Well, I, I, I was...

Teacher: Emma, was Summer trying to cheat off you?

Emma: Yeah, it was all her.

Teacher: Well, Summer you’ve earned yourself a zero. Go to the office please.

Summer puts her head down and leaves the classroom. The teacher returns to her desk. As Summer leaves, Tim makes a smart aleck comment.

Tim: If you were going cheat ,you could have at least helped me!

Teacher: Give it a rest, Tim. Back to work everyone.

Freeze. Lights down, spotlight up centre stage.

Emma: I really shouldn’t have let Summer get a zero when she studied so hard. I took advantage of her. Now I know I can’t let sports be my first priority...well, if we get out of this mess, anyway.

Emma sits back down and everyone is still frozen. Rex rises and slowly moves into the spotlight at centre stage. Spotlight centre stage

Rex: I remember that time when I stole Jesse's clothes after gym class. That guy really thinks he's all that and a bag of potato chips. I just thought that someone needed to show that kid up. Why not me?

Lights up. He goes offstage (stage right). Everyone starts running around for gym. Rex is hanging around off to the side.

Coach: Okay, good class! Hit the showers, everyone!

Stage left. Everyone walks off. Rex walks off with a furtive look and follows the class offstage. A few seconds later he appears with a bunch of clothes in his arms. He runs off stage right. Jesse comes out stage left.

Jesse: Hey! Give me back my clothes you flea ridden mongrel! I'm going to have to burn them now that you've had your hands on them!

He walks part way then turns to go back. The other students come out and laugh at him. Jesse gets upset and storms offstage, embarrassed to stage right.

Tim: Whew! Look at those sexy legs!

Everyone laughs Lights down. Spotlight on centre stage. Everyone freezes. Rex comes out stage right with the spotlight.

Rex: I thought it was funny at the time, but I feel bad now. It was a cheap way to get a laugh. I guess I was just acting out because I was jealous of his popularity. Even though it gets me attention, I guess I don't need to be a jerk all the time.

Rex moves slowly back to his seat and everyone else is frozen. Sarah gets up. Spotlight follows her as she goes to centre stage.

Sarah: I never seem to have enough food for my passengers. I should have brought Bits and Bites. They would have fit in my purse for sure. I hope they were satisfied.

Jesse comes up

Jesse: We weren't. *(Pushes her aside.)* It's my turn.

Sarah huffs, and grudgingly goes back out of the spotlight.

Jesse: Well, I don't really know if I have any regrets, but I guess I can come up with something. I said it earlier; I can't believe my life is going to end with all of these "people," especially Rex. *(Chuckles)* I remember that time I got him really good in front of everyone..

Jesse joins scene in the high school corridor with everyone, after class. He now has his clothes back and is complaining to Emma. Lights up.

Jesse: Man, I can't believe I wasted fifteen minutes of my precious time to find those clothes.

Emma: Well, you owe me for finding them in the girls' locker room.

Rex comes out.

Jesse: How did Rex even manage to get them there in the first place? Must have slithered in like the snake he is. Obviously, he's so jealous of me he needs to steal my fabulous clothes. Speak of the devil.

Jesse and Emma walk by Rex in the hall. Jesse gives Rex a bump with his shoulder.

Rex: I see you're finally wearing clothes.

Jesse: At least I can afford clothes instead of stealing them from people cooler than me. How long have you been wearing those now? 27 days?

Rex looks angry, but begins to walk away, stage left.

Jesse: *(Calling after him)* Hey! And have you heard of deodorant? It helps!

Rex: Do you want your face punched in?

Jesse: Your stench might knock me out first.

Everyone laughs. Rex leaves stage left. Everyone freezes. Lights down. Spotlight at centre stage.

Jesse: Okay, so maybe I shouldn't have made fun of Rex. It burned me that he took my clothes but I think I went too far. I heard later that his dad had been laid off and they were going through some problems at home. I guess I do have a regret after all.

Jesse slowly returns to his seat. The spotlight remains at centre stage. Tim gets up and moves into the spotlight.

Tim: Sometimes, I'm a really funny guy. I mean hilarious. Ehh, but, sometimes I go a bit too far. Like that time with Emma's big game, for instance. It was the biggest volleyball game of the year and I decided to play a joke on her. It went a little like this...

Lights up centre stage. Emma and another student are at center stage talking about the big game. Rex and Tim are over in the back.

Emma: This is going to be the best game ever! I'm soooo pumped!

Student: Yeah! We're going to blow them up!

Rex and Tim are listening, annoyed.

Rex: Aren't you getting sick of Emma talking about volleyball.

Tim: Yeah, I know what you mean. They talk about it constantly and it gets on my nerves.

Rex: Let's have some fun with them. Man, you should play one of your famous pranks on her.

Tim: Yeah! Maybe right before the big game so there's a big audience to appreciate it. I have the perfect idea.

Boys start whispering. Fade out black. Lights come back up. Emma and the other student are warming up for the game at center stage. Tim comes out and walks up to Emma, beaming.

Tim: Good luck with the game, Emma. Hope you do well. *(Slaps her on the back, sticking on a joke of some kind. He has problems so it takes a few tries.)* Uhhhh, you're going to do great, I know you'll do well. Go and show them what you're made of! *(Finally gets it stuck on)* Well, see you!

Emma looks at him funny.

Emma: Uh, okay? *(Weirdly)* Thanks?

Emma runs off, stage right, while Rex and Tim start laughing.

Rex: Ha! She's going to be sooo embarrassed! I didn't think you'd actually have the guts to do that.

Tim: Yeah, me either. I'm awesome!

Emma storms back on stage, sign in hand, visibly angry.

Tim: Holy shipwreck.

Rex runs off, kind of laughing.

Emma: Does everything have to be a joke to you? Got no feelings or wha? This is only the most important moment of my young life.

Tim: *(Awkwardly laughing)* What? Didn't you find that funny? I mean everyone else is laughing.

Emma: No, now that I know what it feels like to be on the other end of your jokes, I don't find it funny at all.

Emma tosses the sign at him and storms off stage right. Lights down, spotlight at centre. Everyone else freezes, except Tim who returns to the spotlight.

Tim: Well, I guess it wasn't that funny. You shouldn't pick on people because people have feelings. I wouldn't have liked it if I were in her situation, I guess. I wish my mom had taught me that. Maybe I'll tone it down a bit in the future. For the next few minutes, anyway.

Tim heads back to his chair. Unfreeze. Lights up, stage right. Everyone comes back out of the daze from looking out the windows. The plane is still crashing.

Summer: That's all you guys ever did! You never see how much hurt you cause one another.

Rex: Yeah, she is right... sorry man *(looking at Jesse)*. I acted like a real jerk.

Jesse: Yeah, it's okay. You don't really smell bad.

Rex tries to fist bump Jesse, and Jesse awkwardly fist bumps him.

Sarah: I'm sorry I never brought you all Mary Browns!

Everyone looks at her strangely.

Jesse: Umm... moving on.

Tim: I'm sorry, Emma. I hope I didn't ruin the game for you.

Emma: It's okay, it didn't bother me too much. *(To Summer)* And Summer, I know you worked hard for that test and should never have let you take the blame. I'm so sorry.

Summer: That's okay... *(pause)* This is how we should have been treating each other all along. I know we're all different, but there is no reason for us not to get along. You guys stuck with your own cliques and it interfered with any chance of getting to know each other.

Rex: Too bad we going to die boy!

Big sigh from everyone.

Sarah: OH YEAH! There are parachutes under your seat! I guess I forgot that in my opening speech.

Everyone yells at Sarah at the same time.

Sarah: I know, I know, I am the worst flight attendant ever. First no Mary Browns, now this.

Tim: Okay, we get the point! Let's get out of here now!

Everyone straps on a parachute.

Summer: Who's going to go first?

Emma: *(Gets up and goes to Summer)* I think you should because you brought all of us together, if it wasn't for you we would all still be at each others' throats.

Tim: For sure, at least one of us would be dead right now.

Summer: Thanks guys. I'll see you on the ground.

Summer jumps out.

Emma: Tim, you go now. I can't handle any more of your dry jokes.

Tim: UHN TISS, UHN TISS, UHN TISS *(dances over and jumps out)*

Emma: Okay Rex, your turn.

Rex: I'm gonna die! *(shakes hands)* Okay, I can do this!

Rex jumps out.

Emma: *(looking at Jesse)* Ladies first.

Jesse: *(flips up his collar)* I'm a man. *(pause)* But you can jump with me if you want...you know, if you're scared.

Emma: Oh, go on, I'll be right behind.

Jesse jumps, and Emma addresses Sarah.

Emma: You weren't such a bad flight attendant!

Emma jumps . Sarah walks over and gets ready to jump, then remembers her purse and goes to get it. Lights up centre stage. Everyone jumps in and goes to the centre of the stage

Summer: Is everyone here? Is everyone okay?

Tim: I've got all my limbs. Where's that crazy flight attendant?

Sarah comes running in, all messed up.

Sarah: I'm okay, I'm okay! *(Sarah falls, Rex helps her to her feet)*

Jesse: I'm glad we all made it, safe and sound.

Summer: Err...what about the pilots?

Emma: Oh, I'm sure they are safe and sound. I mean if we have parachutes they probably do too...

Plane crash sounds in the distance.

Pilots: *(Offstage)* We're OK!

Sarah pulls out a cell phone.

Sarah: Oh my God! Reception! I have three bars! *(She makes a call)* We crashed! We crashed! *(Pause)* No, it wasn't my fault this time! *(Pause)* Mom, can you pick me up?

Everyone: SARAH!

Sarah: Oh yeah, and a couple other people as well? Thanks Mom! *(Hangs up)* She's on her way, let's head to that road over there.

Everyone starts walking. Rex is last and does a fist pump. Summer comes back out .

Summer: Well, we all made it back, safe and sound, including the pilots. Just another happy ending, I guess. When we got back to school, we became the best of friends. Jesse and Rex eased up on each other. *(Jesse and Rex come out with Summer)* Jesse even gave him some of his fancy polos. Emma was still into sports, of course, but she never tried to cheat off me again. *(Emma comes out to join the others)* In fact, we study together, sometimes. Tim is still a clown, but he really tries not to be so mean about it. *(Tim joins the others on stage)* As for me, I don't shy away in the corner so much. And no one has thrown any tea bags at me. In the end, we learned that friendship should always come first.

Sarah runs on stage in a frenzy.

Sarah: *(With a spatula)* I'm a cook!

Players take a bow .