

Synopsis:

In 1968, five young people from different coastal communities, embark on a new journey to a new community and school. We are introduced to the young people through resettlement, as they prepare for the trip to Cartwright. As we get to know the characters, we learn about their shared similarities and differences, and their impressions about coming to a new place.

The Lights

Scene 1 (Batteau Getting Ready To Go)

James: What do you mean, I'm leaving?

Mother: You know we have to go. Times are changin'.

James: So what? I don't have to go. I can look after myself! Been doin' it for a long time now. Takin' care of the youngsters forever too.

Mother: And that's just why you have to come. Sam is only 8 yet and Millie can mind the washing, but we're gonna need you for sure.

*Mother leaves.

James: *walks aside* I wish Dad were here...

Scene 2 (Goose Cove Getting Ready To Go)

William: Hey Dad, what time is the boat s'posed to get in?

Father: She's out 'round back – William get your gear and bring it to the stage! Run up and get your mudder! She's up at Aunt Ethel's.

William: *runs over stage* Ship's comin' 'round the back now da once! Dad says we should get our stuff down to da stage.

Mother: Here my son, I'll be right down.” *turns to Aunt Ethel* “Well...see ya next week once the kids are settled in school. It might be a little adjustment but we'll sort it all out.

Aunt Ethel: Don't worry 'bout it maid. You get dem kids ready for school. We'll bring in your salt fish when we comes in.

Scene 3 (Dove Brook Getting Ready To Go)

Oldest Sibling: Sally get your bags packed. We're goin' 'cross the bay the once – don't know why we gotta really, but they says we gotta go - so we may as well go now before dark.

Sally: It'll be dark by the time we steam in. Say this might even be kinda fun maybe like an adventure. Maybe what they're all sayin' isn't all that bad.

Younger Sister: “What are you sayingggg? I don't wanna go. I like our home. Here. Why can't we stay here?”

Sally: *Takes sister aside* It's not going to be as bad as you think. All of our friends are going too, and you'll even make new friends. From all over the bay! The new school in Cartwright is huge compared to the one we got. I'm sure you'll love it there.

Younger Sister: But what about our old house? What will happen to it? What's the point of going to Cartwright and leaving behind our house with all of our memories?

Oldest Sibling: *Takes young sister* Come here. Look at me. Look at me! Suck it up, buttercup!

Scene 4 (Spotted Islands)

Ruby: My God b'y, how long have we been on this boat?

Cousin: Too long. I thought we were getting on an actual boat, not this bottle cork.

Rose: Actually, we've been on this boat for precisely ten hours and thirty two minutes, and forty three seconds. Forty four, forty five, forty six...

Ruby: That's enough, we get it.

Rose walks away

Cousin: *looks out window* Wait Ruby... I think I see somethin' over there.

Ruby: *Gasps* Look...!

Lights get brighter

Scene 5 (The Big Day)

Teacher: Alright class my name is Ms. Keeping. I would like to welcome you all to Henry Gordon Academy! I know it's hard moving from your home, but together we can get through this. So, to start this class off I would like you to introduce yourselves and where you are from. I will go first. My name is Elizabeth Keeping, and I'm from Hearts Content in Newfoundland.

Sally: *Sheepishly raises hand*

Teacher: Okay, why don't you go first?

Sally: Hello! My name is Sally Bird and I'm from across da' Bay, Dove Brook. I thought I was gonna be happy here but now that I'm here, I'm nervous.

Teacher: Nice to meet you Sally! Now, going up the row I would like you all to introduce yourselves and where you are from.

William: Okay... my name is William Hamel from Goose Cove.

Ruby: Hi guys, I'm Ruby Morris and I'm from Spotted.

James: Uh...my name is James... James Dyson.... I'm from Batteau.

Teacher: Nice to meet you all! Well now let's begin class, everyone rip your eyeballs out.

Everyone: *gasps of confusion* Whaat? Huh? Uhhh...

Teacher: Just seeing if you were listening! Consider it your first test. How does everyone feel about moving to Cartwright?

Sally: Well...it's not as much fun as I thought it would be. It's a little different than what I'm used to. But I know it's only the first day...

Ruby: You really wanna know how I feel? Huh? I'll tell ya...

I went on this extremely long boat ride, sittin' next to annoying people to come here! We packed everything and left. I feel rotted – that's how I feel.

James: That about sums it up for me as well.

Teacher: Well I appreciate you sharing those sentiments. I know it can be a bit tough, and it's difficult coming to a new place with new people.

William: We'll only be strangers for a while – then we'll know all about each other!

Teacher: That's a great attitude to have, William! I appreciate your positivity. We all have different stories to share about where we came from.

Ruby: I'd say! Did anyone else spend 11 hours on a cold boat, listening to someone giving you second-by-second updates on everything?

Enter Random Person who actually has a name

Rose: I'm terribly sorry! I'm (so many minutes) late and I'm freakin' out!!!

Ruby: You again!?

Rose: Oh hello friend! *Rose eagerly sits next to Ruby* You're the nice girl from the boat! I'm happy I at least know one person here! *Talks to James* Because I was really worried about coming to a new school and not knowing anybody and not talking to anyone but now I know that we're gonna be really best friends!

Teacher:O K then. Welcome. What did you say your name was?

Rose: Oh! Where are my manners? I am Rose. From Domino.

Teacher: Welcome, Rose. Ruby, you were saying...?

Ruby: Yeah...umm...nevermind.

Teacher: Well I'm glad everyone is finally here. I want to ask you all a question. What were your first impressions of Cartwright?

James: *Stands up* My first impressions were a bit skewed. I didn't want to come here. I'm old enough to make a living on my own. The only reason I'm here is to take care of my younger brothers and sisters because Mom can't do it all after Dad passed. That's the only reason I'm here.

William: *Approaches James* Listen me buddy! If you ever needs help with the wood and the huntin', look no further 'cause I'm your man!

Sally: Before coming, I thought it'd be great – a new start. Something fresh. A new adventure. But now I'm not so sure. I guess I'm a little homesick, if that's what they call it.

William: *Walks to Sally* Ahh but you see – it **IS** a new adventure! New people, new possibilities (I'm William, by the way) and a fresh start.

Sally: NNnnnice try!

Teacher: Please sit down Mr. Hamel. Thank You!

quiets down

Ruby: Did anybody see those lights last night?

Teacher: Beautiful isn't it?

Ruby: Yeah. Coming into the harbour – I don't know how to describe them. They were just really bright and... welcoming? After so long on a cold, wet boat, they looked warm and comforting.

Teacher: I know that feeling, too. They were the same lights that I saw when I first came here. Coming to a new place, so far from home, scared, not knowing a soul. But there was something about those lights that told me everything would be fine.

James: I have to admit I wasn't too thrilled about coming here but as I started to enter the harbour and saw the lights I realized it might not be so bad after all.

William: Yeah, I agree. They sure did look cool.

Teacher: It only takes a little light to lead you home.

Scene 6: Graduation Day

Everyone throws their hats in the air

Teacher: Congratulations everyone! You did it – you should all be very proud of your accomplishments. Whatever direction life takes you from here on, just know who you are and where you came from.

applause

William: I just wanna say that it's been a real great time being with you all these past few years. And when I'm rich and famous I won't forget any of you!

Ruby: Famous?! You'll be famous alright. Famous for fallin' through the stage and bringin' up on your suspenders!

everyone laughs

James: I remember that time – Ms. Keeping needed her fish for the winter and we were scavellin' to clean all the fish before dark. Sally, you remember that?

Sally: Of course! Then we started throwing eyeballs at him while he was stuck there.

Rose: Oh my goodness! Do you remember the time James and William found a dead bat and hid it in the science lab?

laughter

Teacher: You did what?!

Rose: Oh no! Silly me – that must have been a dream I had. And the dead bat came alive and all of a sudden it just jumped out of the classroom and was running around like crazy!

Teacher: MMMmmHmm! *leaves stage*

Ruby: Wait – how long do you think this school will be here?

Sally: I'd say give it 20 years. The way things are changing these days, it's only a matter of time before the building is old and outdated.

Ruby: I guess so. We've had problems with the furnace already.

James: Well if this old barn will be here for that long, I'm gonna leave something behind...

takes out pocket knife and carves name into desk

Who's with me?

William: Right here! *carves name*

Rose: Let's all do this! This'll be cool!

Sally and Ruby look at each other in agreeance

everyone carves name

William: C'mon guys! Let's all go have a fire.

Rose and Ruby left behind

Rose: I can't stop freaking out – I'm too excited! What are you gonna do this summer? What are you gonna do next year? Are you moving away or are you staying here?

Ruby: Rose...I'm glad you're my friend. *hugs*

stage darkens

Hey Rose, look! The northern lights are out tonight.

walk away

Lights continue to shine as curtain closes

The End