



*Written by  
Cora Alley*

## “Growing Ups and Downs”

**Scripture:** Proverbs 22:6

*"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it."*

**Dramatic Category:** Full-length Christian Play

**NOTE:**

This play was written for elementary-aged children and was performed during the "Just Say, 'No' to Drugs," week in the public schools by a college-age children's theater touring group. It does not contain overtly Christian dialogue because it ministered to children in a secular environment; however, please feel free to add overtly Christian dialogue to the ending scene if you want to perform this for Christian schools. This was exceptionally well received in the public schools; I recommend that you take a team from your church and be "light and salt" to a hurting world filled with confused children.

**Topic:** Successful life choices for children

**Performance Time:** 30-40 minutes

**Number of Players:** 4 adults + 13 children (*or adults portraying children*)  
(*The cast can be as few as 12 if parts are doubled.*)

**Objective:**

To create a visual picture of "growing up" in a child's mind by connecting good choices to stepping up the ladder and bad choices to sliding down it.

**Synopsis:**

“Growing Ups and Downs” is a surrealistic "dream play." Two adults, Molly and Brian, sit atop a long plank, suspended between two ladders. They look down onto the stage where younger versions of themselves are trying to "grow up."

Each time the "child versions" of the adults make good choices, they take a few steps up the ladder toward adulthood; however, each time they make choices that hurt their own bodies or the feelings of others, they slide down the ladder and land in miserable little heaps on the floor.

The children in the audience watch as the characters deal with peer pressure to use drugs, temptations to be mean-spirited and sharp-tongued, and the tendency to place greater value on "things" than people. The adults watch these scenes and comment on the difficulties of growing up. They lament that they missed out on so much joy in their young lives, and they confess that they should have grown up smarter and had more fun.

During a desperate "Twilight Zone" moment, the adult Brian finds a two-way radio and communicates with his younger self, just in time to save the life of his older brother who did not have to die of a drug overdose, if only someone could have warned him.

The Child Brian and the Child Molly learn their lessons well, and successfully climb the ladder all the way up to the top to symbolize that they truly have grown up. This highly visual program communicates an unforgettable truth: Life is all about choices, the results of which can grow you "up or down."

**Cast:**

*"Flashback"*

- Chris: *An energetic, adult reporter with a New York accent*  
Bonnie: *A newspaper girl, selling papers, played by a small adult or a child*  
Adult Brian: *An adult actor who sits on top of the ladder and comments on the actions of the child version of himself*  
Child Brian: *A child actor who portrays the Child Brian in the various "growing up" scenes as the Adult Brian: watches and remembers*  
Adult Molly: *An adult actor who sits on top of the ladder and comments on the actions of the child version of herself*  
Child Molly: *A child actor who portrays the Child Molly in the various "growing up" scenes as the Adult Molly: watches and remembers.*

*"Lunch"*

- Mary: *A poor girl with glasses*  
Becky: *A very snooty girl*

*"Play Ball"*

- Sam: *A defensive kid*  
Mark: *A kid who gets knocked over in the basketball scene*  
Jeff: *Another kid in the basketball scene*

*"Loaded"*

- Mike: *Brian's older brother*  
Pete: *A friend of Mike's who's also into drugs*  
Allen: *Another friend of Mike's who's also into drugs*

*"Sweet Dreams"*

- Beth: *A friend of Molly's who becomes deeply insulted*  
Sue: *Another friend of Molly who turns on her*  
Kathy: *Another friend of Molly who also is disgusted by her*

**Props:**

A notepad and a pencil for Chris  
A stack of newspapers for Bonnie  
2 fancy lunch boxes  
A brown bag lunch  
Lunch items  
An apple  
A basketball  
3 chairs  
A joint (artificial, of course)  
“Tic Tacs” (to portray drugs)  
Pajamas  
Pillows  
Blankets  
A portable DVD player  
A “new” DVD  
A two-way radio  
2 large ladders  
A plank for the adults to sit on

**MUSIC NOTE:**

This play lends itself to "live" accompaniment, like the old-fashioned soap opera or silent movie sound tracks. Have a musician sit off to the side, playing a synthesizer, who provides a musical background for various scenes that lend themselves to music; for example:

1. Play a happy tune for the opening rhyme that introduces the show.
2. Create the "up and down" slide sound as the younger versions of the adults try to climb the ladder toward adulthood.
3. Play a carousel-type tune during the rewind sequences that replace the negative scenes with positive "retakes."
4. Play a somber ending measure of music in scenes where the kids "blow it."
5. Play a positive ending measure of music in scenes where the kids make wise choices.
6. Play triumphant music at the conclusion.

In short, punctuate this entire play with spontaneous music that breathes along with the action and creates a "musical carpet," serving as a sort of "emotional barometer" that helps the children understand the thematic meaning behind the lines.

**COSTUME NOTE:**

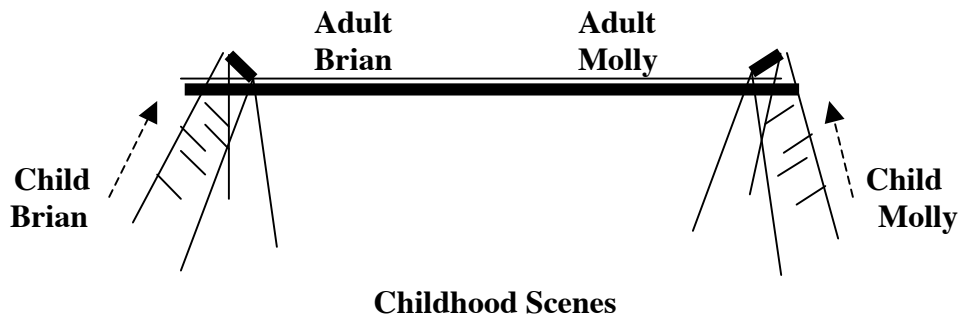
This program was written to communicate with elementary-age children in the language of their culture. Dress them to reflect their fashions; use their slang expressions, insert their favorite foods and toys in the various scenes. Change the conversation to reflect the world in which they live. Make this real for them.

## Set Arrangement:

### NOTE:

To create the "Twilight Zone" effect of this play, you must have two distinct planes of reality: the "adult world" of the grown up children on the plank suspended between two ladders; and, the "child world" of the adults as children, who are growing up below them. This is a surrealistic "dream play," so the illusion of two realities is critical.

**DANGER:** Be sure the plank is sturdy upon which the two adults sit. Put a cushion up there, especially where the back of the thighs hit the plank. They sit up there for a really long time, and the circulation can be cut off easily, then they can't get down because their legs fall asleep!



## The Script:

### ACT I

**Scene 1:** "Hot News!"

**MUSIC:** A CHEERY TUNE

**LIGHTS:** FULL STAGE, SPOTS ON ADULTS ON TOP OF LADDER

*(The little girl, who portrays the Child Molly stands down left, at the base of the ladder, with the Adult Molly at the top. The little boy, who portrays the Child Brian, stands down right, at the base of the ladder, with the Adult Brian at the top. Both child characters are frozen. The Adults at the top of the ladder are also frozen, looking down in amazement at the "child versions" of themselves. Chris, the reporter, enters from stage right; Bonnie, the newspaper vendor, enters from stage left; carrying a stack of newspapers in one hand and waving a newspaper with the other. She shouts out the headlines, like an old-fashion newspaper vendor.)*

**Bonnie:** *(shouting)*  
"Kid's grow up and down"  
Get your papers,  
Read all about it!  
Get your papers.

**Chris:** *(in a New York accent)*  
Hey there, kid.  
Keep selling those papers,  
I got the front-page story.  
*(He scribbles something on his notepad)*  
*(coming closer to her)* Let me ask you something, kid.  
  
Do you wanna' grow up?  
*(answering his own question)* Sure, that'd be fine!  
Who wants to live a whole life?  
Being only nine?

**Bonnie:** *(thinking about it)* You'd never own a house or buy a car,  
If you always stayed as big as you are.

**Chris:** *(whispering)* But let me tell you,  
there's a rumor in town.  
People grow up,  
but they also grow down.  
*(to the children in the audience)* It's true, you know;  
you can grow right down.  
Look around;  
they're all over town.

**Bonnie:** *(to the children)* Folks look big;  
oh, they look real cool,  
But they're hearts and their heads are still in preschool.

**Chris:** *(to the children)* Which way you grow  
depends on what you know.  
Growing up or down, it's true,  
Depends a lot on what you do.

*(Chris walks over to stage right where the Child Brian is frozen, like a mannequin, at the base of the ladder with the Adult Brian at the top.)*

**Chris:** Growing up is like climbing a ladder,  
*(He takes a step up the ladder)* Step up,  
*(He takes a step down)* step down.  
It really does matter!

*(Bonnie realizes the connection and runs over to the ladder at stage left, where the Adult Molly sits and the Child Molly is frozen at the base.)*

**Chris:** Good choices grow you up  
*(He takes several steps up.)*  
Bad choices bring you down  
*(He steps back down.)*

**Bonnie:** *(She takes several steps up)* Good choices bring a smile  
Bad choices bring a frown  
*(She steps back down)*

**MUSIC:** **If you feel inspired, make up a tune for this and have Chris and Bonnie sing it; otherwise, play a little jingle as they say this.**

*(Chris comes back around to center stage and addresses the kids in the audience.)*

**Chris:** Growing up has its downs,  
Could be smiles, could be frowns.  
How do you know which choice to make?  
Use your head, for goodness sake!

*(Bonnie comes back around to center stage and addresses the kids in the audience.)*

**Bonnie:** Protect your body, guard your mind.  
Look ahead, and look behind,  
Growing up is a dangerous game.  
It can be fun, or just a pain.

**Chris:** Here's how you'll know just what do,  
Whatever you do, comes back to you.

**Bonnie:** Give a kind word, and you'll get one too.  
If you help others, they'll help you.

*(Chris walks back around, behind the frozen Child Brian, and takes a few steps up the ladder.)*

**Chris:** *(pointing to the Child Brian)* Wouldn't it be great to talk to yourself,  
*(pointing to the Adult Brian)* If you were all grown up, on the top shelf?  
*(He stares at the adult)*  
What do you think your grown up self would say?

*(Bonnie realizes how amazing that would be, looks first at the Child Brian, then up to the grown up Brian, and asks in a questioning tone.)*

**Bonnie:** If you could talk to the kid you are today?

**Chris:** Let's wait and see what they say to each other,  
*(pointing to the Adult Brian)* One  
*(pointing to the Child Brian)* is the grown up version of the other.  
*(Bonnie runs around to stage left, takes a few steps up the ladder and says:)*  
Listen, and see just what they do; *(pointing to the Adult Molly:)*  
The kid at the bottom *(pointing to the Child Molly)* could be just like you.  
*(Bonnie exits stage left, and Chris exits stage right.)*

## ACT I

### Scene 2: "The Flashback"

*(Adult Molly stares in amazement at the Child Molly; Adult Brian does the same thing with the Child Brian.)*

**Adult Molly:** That sure brings back memories.

**Adult Brian:** Really?  
I don't remember ever being so small...  
I mean short.

*(Defensively)* I was so cool... or at least I thought I was.  
*(In disbelief)* I was cool...wasn't I cool?

**Adult Molly:** *(sarcastically)* Right.  
And I never dressed like that!

*(thoughtfully)* Such a little girl...  
Was I ever really that young?

**Adult Brian:** *(intent on the size)* Was I ever really that small?

**Adult Molly:** *(tired of his fixation on his size)* Yes!  
You weren't born all grownup.  
You had to get here one step at a time...  
It's called growing up.  
It's hard, and it takes forever!

**Adult Brian:** Not me. I was grown up in no time.  
Before I knew it,  
I was tall, smart, and handsome.

**Adult Molly:** *(glaring at him)* Well, two out of three's not bad.

**Adult Brian:** *(insulted)* Hey, hold on there.

**Adult Molly:** I'm sorry.  
I shouldn't have said that.  
Now that I'm grown up,  
I've learned to control what I say.  
When I was young, though,  
I used to have quite a mean mouth on me.

*(Child Molly springs to action and shouts offstage)*

**Molly:** Yeah, well you've got a face like run-over pizza!

*(Child Molly freezes and the Adult Molly: resumes)*

**Adult Molly:** See... quite a mean mouth.

**Adult Brian:** Not me...I've always been perfect.

*(She laughs and he quickly goes on.)*

No, really!

My principal used to think I had a bad temper, but he was wrong.

*(Child Brian jumps into action, waves his fists, and shouts)*



**Brian:** If you come around here again,  
I'll beat you so hard,  
your momma won't even recognize you.  
Wimp!

*(Adult Brian: looks at Adult Molly, with embarrassment. Child Brian freezes.)*

**Adult Brian:** Okay, so the principal was right!

**Adult Molly:** *(sizing up adult Brian)* I'm surprised you lived long enough to grow up.

**Adult Brian:** Ah... now there you go again,  
you said you had outgrown putting people down.  
That's childish you know...  
Putting people down.  
You're big now.  
You should know better.

**Adult Molly:** Yeah. You're right.  
I know now that the only way to feel important  
is to make other people feel important.

**Adult Brian:** *(staring intently at his child self)* We know that now,  
but I sure wish I had known that then.  
I was so tough, but all I really wanted was for people to like me.  
Ya' know, respect me.

**Adult Molly:** Growing up is hard.

**Adult Brian:** Sometimes I thought I'd never make it.

**Adult Molly:** Growing up is like climbing a ladder isn't it?  
You just do it; one step at a time.

**Adult Brian:** Yeah, but it sure has its ups...

**Adult Molly:** And its downs.

**MUSIC:** If you have turned this into a tune, they both sing it.

**Adult Brian:** Growing up has its downs,  
Could be smiles, could be frowns.  
How do you know which choice to make?

**Adult Molly:** Use your head, for goodness sake!  
Protect your body, guard your mind.  
Look ahead, and look behind,  
Growing up is a dangerous game.  
It can be fun,

**Adult Brian:** ...or just a pain.  
Here's how you'll know just what do,  
Whatever you do, comes back to you.

**Adult Molly:** Give a kind word, and you'll get one too.  
If you help others, they'll help you.

**Adult Brian:** *(looking intently at his younger self)*  
Wouldn't it be great to go back and talk to myself?

*(motions to the boy)*  
You know, back then.

**Adult Molly:** *(looking at the girl, curiously)*  
You mean, go back and warn myself?

**Adult Brian:** *(staring at the Adult Molly)*  
Yeah.  
Kinda' like a voice in my own head.

**Adult Molly:** I could let myself know  
that I don't have to put people down  
to bring myself up!

**Adult Brian:** *(very excited)* I could show myself that being cool  
and being tough are two different things.

*(profoundly)* Things sure are clearer from a rear-view mirror.

**Adult Molly:** *(doesn't get it)* Sure. Whatever.

**Adult Brian:** I mean, I can see clearer who I am...  
I do not like green eggs and ham!

*(He looks to Adult Molly for approval.)*  
Oh, sorry, wrong story.

*(Molly snaps out of wondering about adult Brian, and stares below where action begins on the ground floor.)*

**Adult Molly:** Shhh. *(pointing down at the children who gather below)*  
Look. Something's happening.

**LIGHTS: FADE TO 50% ON THE ADULTS**

## ACT 2

### Scene 1: "Lunch"

#### LIGHTS: UP ON CENTER STAGE

*(The Child Molly is by herself on stage. She sits down on the center chair. One chair is to her left, and another is to her right. She begins to open her fancy lunchbox. Mary, a timid girl who wears glasses, approaches her.)*

**Mary:** *(approaching shyly)* Can I sit here?  
The other chairs are full.

**Molly:** *(obviously uncomfortable)* Well, umm...  
I guess so.

*(She looks around for a friend. As Mary sits beside Molly, Molly stands up and looks off in the distance.)*

*(to Mary)* I'm waiting for my friend.

*(She spots Becky.)* Hey, over here.

*(She motions to Becky. Becky comes and Molly obviously puts Becky between herself and Mary.)*

**Becky:** *(motioning to Mary)* Who's that?

**Molly:** *(sarcastically)* Oh, ol' four-eyes?  
I don't know.  
All kinds of weirdoes go to this school.

**Becky:** How did we get so lucky to have lunch with this one?

**Molly:** *(glancing at Mary's lunch)* Check that out!  
Her lunch is in a brown paper sack!

**Becky:** *(catching the satire, and adding to it)* I don't believe it.  
Does she have anything good?  
Anything worth trading?

**Molly:** *(straining to see)* Looks like tuna.

*(The physical comedy is high as both Molly and Becky try to see what Mary has for lunch but try not to be noticed.)*

**Becky:** No! Not tuna! Yuck!  
No fruit roll-ups or nothing. *(Insert the name of the latest "lunch fad item.")*

**Molly:** I think she's a fruit roll-up!  
*(leaning over to Mary)* Do you have anything good you want to trade?

**Mary:** *(examining her lunch)* Well, I have an apple.  
*(She holds it out)*

**Molly:** I can see that. I mean something real people eat like "pizza pockets," or a "Super Juice"?

**Becky:** Or at least a candy bar.

**Mary:** My mom doesn't buy stuff like that.

**Molly:** Oh. *(to Becky)*  
She doesn't have any money.

*(Both girls laugh.)*

**Mary:** *(straining to hear)* What?

**Becky:** *(covering up for Molly)* Ah...She doesn't think it will get sunny. It, ah...looks like it's gonna' rain.

**Mary:** *(looking up into the sky)* It does not.

**Becky:** *(pointing off into the distance)* Look at that junky old car! What a piece of trash!

**Molly:** So is the driver! *(straining to see)*  
Who would be stupid enough to drive something like that?

**Mary:** *(embarrassed)* My Mom.

**Molly:** You're kidding? Doesn't your dad have a job?

**Becky:** *(Both Molly and Becky get up to leave.)* That's it. I can't be seen anywhere near that car.

**Molly:** *(to Mary)* Me neither, what will people think?

*(Becky exits offstage, Mary leaves in the direction that Becky pointed when she saw the car. Molly begins to exit, but turns to try to climb the ladder. She struggles to climb up, and lands flat on the floor. She looks bewildered, then freezes.)*

**MUSIC:**     **Struggles to step up, then slides down and lands with a crash!**

**LIGHTS: UP FULL ON THE ADULTS, CENTER STAGE LIGHTS REMAIN 100%**

*(The light comes up on the Adult Molly: who glances at the Adult Brian with embarrassment, then hangs her head.)*

**LIGHTS: FADE TO 50% ON ADULTS**

## **ACT 2**

### **Scene 2: "Play Ball"**

*(The Child Brian is playing basketball with three other boys: Mark, Jeff and Sam. He bounces the ball and pretends to throw it at Mark and Sam, but catches it himself first.)*

**Brian:** All right, which one of you chumps thinks you can play some ball; 'cause if you're ready to lose, just step on this court.

**Mark:** *(to Sam)* Man, I don't like playing with this guy.

**Jeff:** He gets real mad if he doesn't win.

**Sam:** *(looking worried)* I know. Don't argue with him.

**Mark:** *(agreeing)* Yeah.  
The last kid that argued with him ended up with a broken nose.

**Sam:** *(whispering)* He hit that kid in the face with a basketball.

**Jeff:** He gave me a black eye once.

**Brian:** *(wondering why they are not joining the game)*  
What's the matter girls?  
Are you scared I'm gonna wipe you out?

**Sam:** *(defensively)* Don't call me a girl!

**Mark:** *(calming Sam down)* Come on. Let's play.  
He's not as great as he thinks he is.

**Jeff:** Don't get too close to him.

*(The boys play and run back and forth across the stage, pretending to play basketball. Suddenly, Brian hits Mark on the shoulder and Mark falls to the floor.)*

**Sam:** *(helping Mark up)* Hey, that was a foul, man.

**Jeff:** You can't hit him like that.

**Brian:** Foul, nothing!  
No blood; no foul.  
My grandma plays better than you.

**Sam:** Let's get out of here.

**Jeff:** You don't have to take that.

**Brian:** Getting too tough for you, girls?

**Sam:** *(standing up to Brian)* I said, don't call us girls!

**Brian:** *(face off with Sam)* I'll call you whatever I want, ladies!

*(Brian pops Sam on the head with the basketball and Sam falls flat on the court. Mark and Jeff run over to help him up. Brian laughs as the three boys exit. Brian exits toward stage right, in the direction of the ladder, laughing all the way. He decides to climb the ladder, struggles, and falls flat on the floor, then he freezes. He matches the stage picture of the Child Molly at stage left.)*

**MUSIC:** **Struggles to step up, then slides down and lands with a crash!**

**LIGHTS:** **UP FULL ON THE ADULTS, CENTER STAGE LIGHTS REMAIN 100%**

*(The light comes up on the Adult Brian: who glances at the Adult Molly with embarrassment, then hangs her head.)*

## **ACT 2**

### **Scene 3: "The First Remorse"**

*(Adult Molly leans over to look at the Child Molly. Brian leans over the edge of the ladder and stares at his younger self, in disbelief.)*

**Adult Brian:** I did that?

**Adult Molly:** I didn't know then how much I hurt people.

**Adult Brian:** *(to adult Molly)* Did you see what I did?  
I can't believe it. What a hot head!

**Adult Molly:** All I wanted was to be popular.  
I just didn't know how to do it.

**Adult Brian:** Yeah, well now I know why I didn't have any friends.

**Adult Molly:** *(very condescending)* You were an idiot, that's why.

**Adult Brian:** *(accusatory)* There you go with the name calling.  
I thought you grew out of that!

**Adult Molly:** I will.  
I mean, I did...  
I hope I did... do.  
Oh, I wish I could stop her from hurting people;  
she's just hurting herself...  
I mean, myself....oh, I don't know what I mean anymore!

**Adult Brian:** *(pointing at the children flat on the floor)*  
Looks like we didn't make much progress growing up that day, did we?

**LIGHTS:** FADE OUT ON THE ADULTS, REMAINS UP ON CENTER STAGE

### ACT 3

#### Scene 1: "Backwards Thinking"

*(Bonnie: enters from the audience, writing on a notepad. Chris walks onto the stage and Bonnie: yells at him.)*

**Bonnie:** Hey Chris! I got a story for ya!

**Chris:** *(looking around on the stage)* What's up?

**Bonnie:** *(motioning to the slumped and frozen Child Brian and Child Molly)*  
Looks like they're not?

**Chris:** *(stepping toward the Child Brian)* He's being so cool.

**Bonnie:** *(pointing to the Child Molly)* She's just a snot.  
At this rate, they'll never grow up.  
Putting people down, has got to stop!

**Chris:** *(to Bonnie:)* Thanks for the tip, kid.

*(Chris starts writing in his notepad as though this were a "hot tip." He walks over to the frozen Molly, then he turns to the kids and asks them,)*

What do you think she should do?  
How would you feel, if she'd bagged on you?

*(Chris asks the kids for advice, and responds to some of their comments.)*

You wouldn't feel real good.  
I can tell you that right now.

*(Chris walks over to the frozen Child Brian)*

And what about him?  
Is he really that cool?  
Or just a hot-headed, big-mouthed fool?

*(He asks the kids for advice.)*

Let's see if we can turn back the clock.

**Bonnie:** *(excited about the prospect)*  
Make 'em go backwards, now that would rock!

*(Bonnie joins him as they both stand between the two ladders. He hands his notepad and pencil to Bonnie, rolls up his sleeves, rubs his hands together, as though to show that this is going to be a "big deal," then he claps his hands loudly.)*

**MUSIC:** Play some "carousel-type music" to underscore the rewind of the scene.

*(Molly and Brian snap to attention at the clap of Chris's hand. They each get up and move backwards. Brian backs off the stage, and Molly backs into the position where her scene began. They prepare to start again.)*

### ACT 3

#### Scene 2: "Lunch Revisited"

*(The Child Molly is by herself on stage. She sits down on the center chair. One chair is to her left, and another is to her right. She begins to open her fancy lunchbox. Mary approaches her again, just like she did the first time.)*

**Mary:** *(approaching shyly)* Can I sit here?  
The other chairs are full.

**Molly:** *(friendly)* Well, umm...  
sure, I guess so.

*(She looks around for a friend. As Mary sits beside Molly, Molly remains seated.)*

*(to Mary)* I'm waiting for my friend.

*(spotting Becky)* Hey, over here!

*(She motions to Becky to sit down, but Molly stays beside Mary.)*



**Becky:** *(motioning to Mary)* Who's that?

**Molly:** Oh, this is Mary.  
*(to Mary)* You're name is Mary, right?

**Mary:** No, I'm Mary Parker, not Mary Wright.

**Molly:** No, I meant your name is Mary.  
I'm right about that, right.

**Mary:** Oh, yeah. I see.

*(Both girls laugh and Becky looks on, eyeing Mary suspiciously.)*

**Becky:** *(whispering loudly to Molly)*  
How did we get so lucky to have lunch with ol' four-eyes?

**Molly:** Don't call her that. That's mean.  
She can't help it if she wears glasses.

**Becky:** *(glancing at Mary's lunch)* Check that out!  
Her lunch is in a brown paper sack!  
I don't believe it.  
Does she have anything good?  
Anything worth trading?

**Molly:** *(straining to see)* Looks like tuna.

*(The physical comedy is high as both Molly and Becky try to see what Mary has for lunch but try not to be noticed.)*

**Becky:** No! Not tuna, yuck! No fruit roll-ups or nothing.

**Molly:** *(trying to silence Becky)* Maybe she can't afford "Fruit Roll-ups."

**Becky:** *(leaning over to Mary)* Do have anything good you want to trade?

**Mary:** *(examining her lunch)* Well, I have an apple.  
*(She holds it out.)*

**Becky:** I can see that.  
I mean something real people eat  
like "Pizza pockets," or a "Super Juice"?  
Or at least a candy bar.

**Mary:** My mom doesn't buy stuff like that.

**Becky:** Oh. *(to Molly)* She doesn't have any money.

*(Molly glares at Becky, and tries to hush her.)*

**Mary:** *(straining to hear)* What?

**Molly:** *(covering up for Becky)* Uh...  
She doesn't think it will get sunny.  
It, ah...looks like it's gonna' rain.

**Mary:** *(looking up into the sky)* It does not!

**Becky:** *(pointing off into the distance)* Look at that junky old car!  
What a piece of trash!  
Who would be stupid enough to drive something like that?

**Mary:** My Mom.

**Molly:** *(Molly gets up and turns to Becky.)*  
Those kinds of cars are very rare.  
She's lucky to have one.

*(To Mary)* Do you think your Mom could give me a ride home?  
I've always wanted to ride in a car like that.

*(Molly glares at Becky as she exits with Mary.)*

**Molly:** I'm sorry about Becky. She talks without thinking, sometimes.

**Mary:** That's the only car we have.  
My dad got laid off.

**Molly:** He'll get another job; don't worry.

**Becky:** *(Shouting after Mary and Molly as they leave)*  
Hey, are you just going to leave me here?  
What's the deal?

*(Molly and Mary exit in the direction of the ladder. Becky follows, very disgruntled. Mary and Becky keep walking, but Molly reenters alone. She approaches the ladder and climbs up three steps and stands proudly.)*

**MUSIC:** Suspenseful as she climbs up, then triumphant as she stands tall.

**LIGHTS:** UP ON THE ADULTS, REMAIN UP ON CENTER STAGE

*(Adult Molly cheers and looks proud.)*

**LIGHTS: FADE TO 50% ON THE ADULTS, REMAIN UP ON CENTER STAGE**

**ACT 3**

**Scene 3: “Play Ball, Revisited”**

*(The Child Brian is playing basketball with the same boys: Jeff, Mark, and Sam. Brian is bouncing the ball and pretending to throw it at Mark and Sam, but catching it first)*

**Brian:** All right, which one of you chumps thinks you can play some ball?  
'Cause if you're ready to lose, just step on this court.

**Mark:** *(to Sam)* We're gonna' win.

**Brian:** *(taking a practice shot)* I'm good at this, so look out!

**Mark:** *(to Sam)* Don't argue with him!

**Jeff:** The last kid that argued with him ended up with a broken nose.

**Sam:** *(whispering)* That's not true; its just a rumor.

**Brian:** *(wondering why they are not joining the game)*  
What's the matter with you guys?  
Are you scared I'm gonna wipe you out?

**Sam:** *(defensively)* No, we're ready, come on.

**Mark:** *(to Sam)* Let's play. He's not as great as he thinks he is.

**Jeff:** Careful, don't get too close.

*(The boys play and run back and forth across the stage, pretending to play basketball. Suddenly, Brian hits Mark on the shoulder and Mark falls to the floor.)*

**Sam:** *(helping Mark up)* Hey, that was a foul, man.

**Jeff:** You can't hit him like that.

**Brian:** *(hurrying to help Mark)* Oh, I'm sorry. Are you okay?

**Sam:** *(helping Mark up)* Let's get out of here.

**Jeff:** You don't have to take that.

**Brian:** No. I didn't do it on purpose. I'm sorry, really.  
Here, let me help you. I didn't even see you.  
I was just watching the ball.

**Mark:** *(to Sam)* It's okay; he didn't mean it.

**Jeff:** Are you sure that was an accident?

**Brian:** Honest man, I didn't mean it.

*(Brian helps Mark as they exit off stage right. Sam and Jeff trail behind. Once they all exit, Brian return onto the stage. He looks at the ladder, then begins to climb up. He successfully takes three steps. Now, Brian matches the Child Molly on the other side.)*

**MUSIC:** **Suspenseful as he climbs up, then triumphant as he stands tall.**

**LIGHTS:** **UP ON THE ADULTS, REMAIN UP ON CENTER STAGE**

*(The lights come up on the Adult Molly and Brian, who congratulate each other and look proudly at their child selves.)*

**LIGHTS:** **FADE DOWN TO 50% ON THE ADULTS, REMAIN UP ON CENTER STAGE**

#### **ACT 4**

##### **Scene 1: "Forward Thinking"**

*(Chris and Bonnie enter the scene from opposite sides. They survey the Child Molly and Brian and nod to each other knowingly. They address their remarks to the kids in the audience.)*

**Chris:** *(to the kids)* I guess it works, your great advice.

**Bonnie:** Help each other, and just be nice.

**Chris:** If you want a friend,

**Bonnie:** try being one.

**Chris:** 'cause living alone,

**Chris & Bonnie:** just ain't no fun!

**MUSIC:** **Again, if there is a tune to this, sing it.**

**Chris:** Growing up has its downs,  
Could be smiles, could be frowns.

**Bonnie:** How do you know which choice to make?  
Use your head, for your own sake!

**Chris:** Protect your body, guard your mind.  
Look ahead, and look behind,  
Growing up is a dangerous game.  
It can be fun, or just a pain.

**Bonnie:** Here's how you'll know just what do,  
Whatever you do, comes back to you.  
Give a kind word, and you'll get one too.  
If you help others, they'll help you.

**MUSIC:** **Transition as Bonnie picks up a newspaper**

**Chris:** *(noticing that Bonnie is a newspaper)* So, kid.  
You sold a lot of those papers, have ya?

**Bonnie:** *(engrossed in reading)*  
Yeah. But, look at this headline.

*(she shows the paper to Chris)*  
*(reading the headline)* "Fourteen year old kid dies of drug overdose."  
Can you believe this.  
Did you write this story?

**Chris:** Sure did,  
but not because I wanted to;  
Believe me, I hope I never write a story like that again.  
I wish kids would learn to talk about what's bothering them,  
Quit trying to take drugs,  
thinking that'll make 'em feel better.

**Bonnie:** *(puzzled)* Do drugs make kids feel better?

**Chris:** Nope!  
Why do you think they call it "dope"?

*(Chris continues talking to Bonnie about the news story as they walk off at stage right.)*

## ACT 4

### Scene 2: "Loaded"

*(Mike, Pete and Allen walk onto the stage. They are obviously sharing a "joint" among them and laughing. Brian gets down off the ladder and marches angrily down center. He turns, looks behind himself, as though he has just had a fight with his parents.)*

**Brian:** *(shouting)* I don't care either!  
So, put me on restriction!  
I'll find a way to get out anyway.

**Mike:** *(enters the scene behind Brian)*  
Hey little brother, you got it again, huh?

**Brian:** Yeah.  
I don't know where they get off  
thinking they can just haul off and hit me whenever they feel like it.  
I'm never gonna' have kids when I grow up.  
Kids don't have any power.

**Mike:** Don't get so worked up, man.  
When I was your age, they used to hit me, too.  
It's kinda hard now that I'm bigger than dad.  
I found a way to make it all okay, though.

**Brian:** You did?  
What?  
Do you hit him back?

*(Mike pulls some pills out of his pocket, and holds them out for Brian to see. Brian takes a close look)*

**Mike:** No, I take these. *(He holds one up to Brian's face)*  
If that don't work. I smoke one of those.  
*(He points to the joint Allen is holding.)*  
It fixes you right up.  
Try it.

**Pete:** Life's a drag, man.

**Allen:** So take a drag on this.

*(Allen takes a drag on the joint, then holds it to Brian, but Brian only looks puzzled.)*

**Brian:** Mike, those are drugs, man.  
I can't believe it.  
What are you doing with that stuff?

**Mike:** Don't get so worked up.  
I know what I'm doing.

**Allen:** Relax kid.  
Everybody does this.

**Brian:** That stuff can kill you!

**Pete:** Not me, man.  
I'm too cool to die.

**Mike:** I know how to handle this.  
Here, try some. *(He holds a pill out, but Brian steps back)*  
You'll forget all about getting beat up, and you'll feel great.  
Here; quit thinking about it, and just take it.

*(Mike holds the pill even closer to Brian's face. Brian takes a hesitant step forward.)*

**Brian:** *(obviously hesitating)* I don't know.

**Mike:** Come on man;  
I'm your brother.  
I wouldn't steer you wrong.  
Trust me.

**Brian:** *(Reaches out for the pill and takes it)*  
Okay. If it's good enough for you,  
I guess it's good enough for me.

**Allen:** Whoa!  
Have a good trip, man.

**Mike:** *(slapping him on the shoulder)* You'll feel better in no time.  
See ya, kid.

*(Mike, Pete, and Allen start to exit, then Mike turns around to say:)*

**Mike:** *(holding out the pills)* If you want anymore of these  
*(points to the joint)* or one of these,  
then it's gonna' cost ya, man.  
I'll take your allowance,  
and your piggy bank is mine, now.

*(They exit.)*

**Brian:** *(He starts to sway and looks dizzy.)* I don't feel so good.  
Mike, what happens when you feel kinda' sick.

*(Brian starts to follow Mike offstage, but heads for the ladder instead.)*

**Brian:** Help me, Mike.

*(Brian tries to climb the ladder; he makes it up to the rung where he ended up after the last scene, but falls dramatically down to the floor and passes out. He freezes in that position.)*

**MUSIC:** Dramatic, depressing slide down to crashing sound

**LIGHTS:** UP ON THE ADULTS

**ACT 4**

**Scene 3: "Second Remorse"**

*(Adult Brian looks down at his younger self and screams at him.)*

**Adult Brian:** *(screaming)* NO!  
Don't take that stuff!

*(to Adult Molly)*  
I almost killed myself that day.  
I was so stupid.  
I've got to go warn myself.

*(Adults Brian moves to head down the ladder, but then realizes that he can't)*

**Adult Molly:** *(reaching out to stop him)* You can't.  
You're learning the hard way.  
The way that could have killed you.

*(thoughtfully)* I never did that.  
I was too scared.  
I believed those cops, who came to our school,  
and told me drugs would ruin my life.

**Adult Brian:** You were smart.  
I wish I had listened.  
Growing up was easier for you.

**Adult Molly:** I had my own troubles.  
I didn't know that people were more important than things.

**LIGHTS:** FADE TO 50% ON THE ADULTS, REMAIN UP ON CENTER STAGE



## ACT 4

### Scene 4: “Sweet Dreams”

*(Three girls enter in their pajamas from stage left. Molly gets down off the ladder, puts a flannel nightie over her head, and then sits down and joins the scene.)*

**Beth:** This is so cool.  
A slumber party!

**Molly:** Let's stay up all night.

**Sue:** Thanks for having us over, Molly.  
I love being friends with just us.  
Nobody else, okay?

**Kathy:** Nobody else.  
Just us; promise?

*(They all stack up their hands in an oath.)*

**Beth:** What do you want to do first?

**Molly:** Let's do what we do best.

**Kathy:** What's that?

**Sue:** Watch TV?

**Beth:** Play games?

**Molly:** No, silly. Let's talk!

*(All the girls gather closer)*

**Beth:** About who?

**Molly:** *(staring at the girls, knowingly)* Who do you think?

**All:** Boys!

**Molly:** Of course!

**Sue:** Don't you think Jason is so fine?

**Beth:** No, I like Mark.  
He's so cute, when I see him I get so nervous, I can't even talk.

**Sue:** *(to Beth, satirically)* That's a miracle: You not being able to talk!  
I think Jason is a babe.

**Molly:** Well, you're all wrong.  
The cutest boy in school is Brian.

### **LIGHTS: UP ON ADULTS**

*(All three girls stare at the Child Molly as lights go up on the Adult Molly and Brian. The younger girls freeze on stage. Adult Brian looks shocked.)*

**Adult Brian:** What?

**Adult Molly:** I had a crush on you when we were little.

**Adult Brian:** You did?

**Adult Molly:** Don't worry; I got over it.

### **LIGHTS: FADE TO 50% ON THE ADULTS**

**Sue:** Jason is so cool!

**Kathy:** Why?

**Sue:** Why? You know why.  
His parents have a pool.

**Kathy:** Sam has his own DVD player in his room.  
He gets high speed Internet;  
he has tons of video games too!

**Beth:** Mark has a new mountain bike.  
He gave me a ride on it last week.

*(All the girls giggle in amazement.)*

**Molly:** *(to Beth)* I hate to break this to you but Mark likes me.  
That's right.

*(Beth is shocked.)*

He was over here everyday last week.

**All:** *(shouting together)* No! Why?

**Molly:** *(combing her hair)* Because I'm prettier than you.  
I have great hair, a super personality, and I have lot of cool stuff.  
Did you see my portable DVD player?  
Check this out.

*(She shows off her stuff. The other three girls stare at her in amazement. They look at each other, very uncomfortable.)*

**Molly:** I don't see why that should bother you.  
Just pick someone else to like.  
I'll let you have Brian.  
He may be cute, but he's not very smart.

**LIGHTS: INSTANTLY UP ON THE ADULTS**

*(Adult Brian: turns his back on the Adult Molly, who only laughs.)*

**LIGHTS: BACK DOWN TO 50% ON ADULT**

**Molly:** *(to Sue)* You couldn't have Mark as a boyfriend anyway.  
His family is much better than yours.  
They have three cars! You only have two.  
Give it up.

**Beth:** *(devastated)* I can't believe you would steal my boyfriend.

**Molly:** Steal, nothing.  
He's crazy about me because I am so much prettier than you.  
You can't help that. Cheer up!

*(Beth gets up and motions to Sue and Kathy to get up, too)*

**Beth:** I think, maybe, we're going to have our own slumber party.

**Kathy:** That was an awful thing to say, Molly.

**Sue:** I'm going, too, before I find out that you like my Jason.

**Molly:** Are you kidding?  
I wouldn't like Jason.  
Have you seen the clothes he wears?  
If I hung out with him, people would think I had his taste in clothes.  
Get real.  
*(reaching for her DVD)* Look at my new DVD!

*(All three girls leave Molly alone on the stage. As Molly gets out her new DVD, she doesn't even notice their exit until she turns around.)*

**Molly:** *(puzzled)* You guys!  
*(looking off in their direction)* Hey, come back here!

*(Molly gets up to follow the girls out, but moves toward the ladder. She climbs up to the level where she was, but makes it no further. She loses her footing and falls flat on the stage again. She freezes in that position)*

**MUSIC:** **Dramatic, depressing slide down to crashing sound**

## **ACT 4**

### **Scene 5: "Headlines"**

*(Chris and Bonnie run onto the stage. Chris from Stage right, where Brian has landed in a heap, and Bonnie from stage left, where Molly is wilted at the base of the ladder.)*

**Chris:** *(taking notes, and running onto the stage)*  
Oh no, not again!  
*(pointing to Brian on the floor)* This guy is in some serious pain!

**Bonnie:** *(pointing to Molly, on the floor)* Is this girl ever gonna' stop?  
At this rate, they'll never grow up.

*(to the kids)*  
What's with her and all her stuff?  
Do you think she'll ever have enough?

**Chris:** *(to the kids)*  
*(motioning to Brian)* And what about him?  
Is he really that cool?  
Or is he killing himself like some gutless fool?

*(to the kids)*  
To grow up, you've got to use your brain,  
And save yourself all this pain.  
*(to Brian)* Your body takes special care

**Bonnie:** *(to Molly)* And there's more to life than pretty hair!

**Chris:** I hope these rotten choices stop,  
or they'll never make it to the top.  
Come on, let's go warn these kids.  
Before their lives hit the skids!

**Bonnie:** *(She has been writing headlines on her notepad.)*  
I got it! How's this for a headline:  
"Don't Let Growing Up Kill You"

*(Chris tries to be gentle, while realizing that she's just not a gifted journalist yet.)*

**Chris:** Yeah, you've got a point there.  
Now let's work on trying to hook them in.

**Bonnie:** Dropping dead is a hook.  
It drags lots of people in.

*(They walk away.)*

## ACT 5

### Scene 1: "The Warning"

*(Adult Brian and Molly stare at their younger selves with pity.)*

#### LIGHTS: UP ON THE ADULTS

**Adult Brian:** *(looking at Child Brian)*  
Would you look at him? What a stupid kid!

**Adult Molly:** *(curiously)* That's you that you're talking about, you know.

**Adult Brian:** *(defensively)* Hey, that's you down there, too.  
*(in disbelief)* We're both down there.  
What a mess we made of our young lives.  
I can't believe how mean you were.  
You probably didn't have any friends.

**Adult Molly:** No, I didn't.  
I was very lonely.  
I just wanted to be popular, but I didn't know how.  
I should have cared more about people, than I did about stuff.

*(staring at the sprawled-out Brian)*  
But, you're no genius!  
Look at you!  
I don't think you're having a lot of fun growing up either.

**Adult Brian:** No, things just got worse for me.  
I started hanging around with the wrong crowd.  
I got in so much trouble,  
that my parents sent me away to a special school.

I hardly ever saw my brother much.  
He died when I was in junior high.  
It was a drug overdose.

They found his body out behind the gym  
after a football game, when he was in high school.

**Adult Molly:** (*realizing how sad adult Brian is*) Oh, I'm so sorry.  
My childhood was not as bad as yours.  
I was just miserable, and I couldn't figure out why.

**Adult Brian:** (*staring intently at his younger self*) I've got to try to stop him.

**Adult Molly:** (*puzzled*) Stop who?

**Adult Brian:** Myself!  
I mean, look.  
My brother's still alive.  
I'm stupid, but maybe I could get smart.  
I'm not hooked on drugs, yet.  
There's still hope for me.  
I've got to get through!

**Adult Molly:** (*confused*) Get through?  
How can you get through?  
He's you!

**Adult Brian:** (*scrambling around and finds a two-way radio*) I got it.

(*He proudly holds up the two-way radio*)

**Adult Molly:** A two-way radio?

**Adult Brian:** (*Beginning to mess with it*) Brian to Brian.  
Come in.  
Come on, man.  
Come in.  
Your life is at stake here.  
Brian? Come in!  
Brian to Brian.  
Come on little buddy.

**Adult Molly:** (*bewildered, but staring intently at the Child Brian*)  
I hope this works, for your sake.

## ACT 5

### Scene 2: "Wake up!"

*(Child Brian begins to stir. He gets up. The adults give each other a "high-five." Child Brian looks around. The Adult Brian is elated and begins yelling at the Child Brian.)*

**MUSIC:** Escalates in the background and adds to the drama of this sequence

**Adult Brian:** Hey man.  
Wake up!  
You're not using your head!  
This is the rest of your life we're talking about!  
You don't want to break Mom's heart.  
You don't want Dad beating you every time you turn around!

*(The Child Brian is looking around to see where the voices are coming from.)*

**Adult Molly:** *(encouraging the Adult Brian:)* Keep talking, it's working!

**Adult Brian:** You can still save your brother.  
He doesn't have to die.  
Come on, man.  
Get some courage.  
Stand up for what's right.  
You've only got one body and one mind, protect it.  
Protect those you love while you still have them, please!  
You can stop all those miserable years I had in junior high and high school.

**Adult Molly:** *(shouting at Brian also)* You don't have to go to your brother's funeral!

**Adult Brian:** Learn to talk about what's bothering you;  
drugs never kill the pain!  
They just kill you mind and your body!

**Brian:** *(bewildered)* What's going on?  
I hear voices, but there's nobody around?

**Mike:** *(walking onto the stage)* Hey, man.  
How do you feel now?  
No worries, right?

**Brian:** Were you talking to me just now?  
I heard somebody yelling.

**Mike:** Man, that stuff's really working on you.  
Bad trip, dude.

*(Mike takes a joint out and offers it to Brian.)*

**Brian:** No thanks.

*(Adult Molly and Adult Brian give each other a "high five" again.)*

**Mike:** Why not?  
You're hearing voices, man.  
You've got to relax.

**Brian:** No, Mike.  
I'm not smoking that, and I don't think you should either!  
You're going to kill yourself if you keep that up.

**Mike:** Mellow out, man.  
You sound like Dad or some teacher, or a cop.  
This stuff isn't going to hurt you.  
*(He encourages him to take it again.)* Here.

*(He holds out the joint. Brian takes it, stares at Mike, then throws it on the floor and crushes it with his foot.)*

**Brian:** Mike, can we talk about what's bothering you.  
Drugs never kill the pain, they just kill the mind and the body.  
Come on, let's go shoot some baskets.  
Let's talk.

*(They exit. Mike keeps going and Brian climbs the ladder. He makes it almost to the top and stands there proudly.)*

**MUSIC:** **Proud, triumphant sound, reaching a crescendo**

## **ACT 5**

### **Scene 3: "Second chances"**

*(Adult Brian proudly holds the two-way radio out to Adult Molly.)*

## **LIGHTS: UP ON THE ADULTS**

**Adult Brian:** Here, you try it. It works!

**Adult Molly:** *(in disbelief)* You're kidding!



**Adult Brian:** Go ahead. Try it.  
What have you got to lose?  
You could have a happier childhood  
if you quit destroying other people with that mean mouth of yours.

**Adult Molly:** I got over that.

**Adult Brian:** Maybe so, but not until your childhood was over  
and you had to grow up miserable and all alone.  
Now, try it.  
(handing her the two-way radio) Here.

**Adult Molly:** (reluctantly) Oh, okay.

*(She begins to mess with it, but doesn't know how it works. Brian helps her. She begins to speak:)*

Molly.  
Hello, Molly.  
Molly this is Molly.  
I mean, I'm you... only later, when you're grown up.

*(The Child Molly just sits there. Adult Molly looks to the Adult Brian for help. He motions to her to keep on trying.)*

**Adult Molly:** Molly. Listen to me.  
People are more important than things.  
Your DVD player can't talk to you,  
or go with you to see a movie,  
or make you feel better when you are lonely.  
Please listen to me.  
I know now how much I hurt people.  
Please learn this lesson.  
If you make other people feel valuable and important,  
they will make you feel valuable and important, too.  
Learn to love people, Molly. Please.

*(Adult Molly is depressed and pleading. Adult Brian wants her to get to the point. He takes the two-way radio, and shouts:)*

**Adult Brian:** Go apologize to your friends.  
Tell them you were wrong,  
and forget that silly DVD player!

*(He hands the two-way radio back to Adult Molly who stares at him because of his to-the-point manner. They both stare at Molly who has gotten up to see where the voices are coming from.)*

**LIGHTS: FADE OUT TO 50% ON THE ADULTS**

## ACT 5

### Scene 4: "Friends Again?"

*(Kathy, Beth, and Sue walk across the stage, completely ignoring Molly.)*

**Molly:** Hey, you guys.  
Were you talking to me just now?

**Sue:** No! We're never going to talk to you again.

*(She motions to the others to keep right on walking across the stage.)*

**Beth:** Why don't you have a nice long chat with your DVD player?

**Kathy:** Yeah; it doesn't have any feelings, so it will stick around.

### LIGHTS: UP INSTANTLY ON THE ADULTS

**Adult Molly:** *(shouting from the top of the ladder into the two-way radio)*  
Tell them you're sorry.  
Tell them you won't steal their boyfriends,  
and you don't care about stuff more than you care about people.  
Tell them, Molly!

You still have a chance to be happy,  
but nobody wants to be with you because you hurt people!  
Make them feel good about themselves!  
That's how friendships work; you get whatever you give out!  
And you're not going to get any love when all you dish out is hate!

**Molly:** *(She looks around for the voice. The girls begin to leave.)*  
You guys, wait.

*(They stop, but they do not turn around to face her.)*

**Sue:** *(impatiently)* What?

**Molly:** *(hesitating)* I'm sorry.

*(The girls slowly turn around and look at her in disbelief)*

You're right. I was being mean.

**Kathy:** And selfish.

**Molly:** And selfish.  
Okay, I was mean and selfish.

**Beth:** And a “show off.”

**Molly:** Okay, I was mean and selfish, and a show off.  
I'm sorry for all of that stuff.  
I just wanted you to like me,  
and I thought if I had enough stuff and a boyfriend,  
that you would think I was cool.

**Sue:** Molly, you can be a really fun person,  
it's just that you get really stuck on yourself sometimes.

**Beth:** Not everybody can have nice stuff, you know.  
Some of us just can't afford it.

**Molly:** I know.  
I'm sorry.  
Can I come with you?

**Kathy:** Okay, but we've moved the slumber party to my house,  
so I don't know if you'll want to come.

**Molly:** Why not?

**All:** She doesn't have a pool!

**Molly:** *(getting the joke)* Oh, that's okay,  
people are more important than stuff, anyway.

*(As they exit, Molly turns towards the ladder, and climbs almost to the top, even with Brian's height. Both look triumphant. Lights up on Adult Molly, and Adult Brian, who are thrilled.)*

**MUSIC:** **Proud, triumphant sound, reaching a crescendo**

## **ACT 5**

### **Scene 5: "It's a Wrap!"**

*(The Child Brian climbs all the way to the top and the Child Molly climbs to the top as well. They sit back-to-back with their adult counter-parts. Chris and Bonnie walk onto the stage.)*

**Chris:** What a story!

**Bonnie:** *(shouting and waving her newspapers)*  
Front page news: "Watch your step, growing up"  
Step right up, folks!  
Get your papers!

**Chris:** *(to the kids)* You can do it, too.  
You can grow all the way up,  
All in one piece.

**Bonnie:** *(continuing her shouting and walking through the audience)*  
"Watch your step growing up,"  
Step right up, folks!  
Get your papers!

**Chris:** Just be careful.  
If you're hurting inside, talk to somebody about how you feel.  
don't drown your troubles with drugs!  
If you're lonely, be nice to somebody  
and they'll be nice to you.

**Bonnie:** *(continuing her shouting as she exits)*  
"Watch your step growing up"  
Step right up, folks!  
Get your papers!

**Chris:** *(shouting to Bonnie while exiting)*  
Hey kid.  
Give me one of those papers.  
I wrote that story!

## **LIGHTS: ON THE ADULT AND CHILD PAIRS ON THE BOARDS**

*(Adult and Child Brian sit back-to-back on one side of the board, as do Adult and Child Molly on the other side.)*

**Brian:** I remember growing up.  
I thought I'd never the reach the top.

**Adult Brian:** Every time I thought I was cool,  
I was really being a messed up fool.

**Brian:** It was choices, you see.

**Adult Brian:** That made the difference for me.

**Adult Molly:** Up and down,  
now you know!  
There really are two ways to grow.

**Molly:** The choice is simply up to you,  
The love you give comes back to you.

**MUSIC:** If you have written a tune, sing this as a "finale."

**Both Brians:** Growing up has its downs,  
Could be smiles, could be frowns.

**Brian:** How do you know which choice to make?  
Use your head, for your own sake!

**Adult Brian:** Protect your body, guard your mind.  
Look ahead, and look behind,

**Both Mollys:** Growing up is a dangerous game.  
It can be fun, or just a pain.

**Molly:** Here's how you'll know just what do,  
Whatever you do, comes back to you.

**Adult Molly:** Give a kind word, and you'll get one too.  
If you help others, they'll help you.

**LIGHTS: FADE OUT**

**The End**