

A

About BartPlot Summary

Bart is sixteen years old. Just recently he has formed a band with his friends called “The Black Habits”. He lets his best friend Eugene listen to their demo tape. After Eugene’s review of their tape, a friendship turns into a feud when Bart has a fit about his friend’s remarks. Eugene was only trying to help Bart, but Bart’s temper could get him into trouble. How will they resolve this fight? Find out, in BART!

The Characters

Bart: Bart is sixteen years old and he is the singer and guitar player in a band called “The Black Habits”. He is 6’0 and really skinny with pale skin and blond hair. Bart has a very short temper and thinks too much of himself, and not much for others. Bart has little patience, but from time to time on rare occasions, he shows compassion and empathy.

Eugene: Eugene is Bart’s best friend. Eugene is one of those “always there for you” best friends. He is short and stubby like his father. Eugene always hopes for the best for people because he is just very nice. Eugene is trying to help his best friend Bart with his singing because once again, he wants the best for his friends.

Band members: The band members are very positive that their music sounds good, but they both agree that their singer Bart needs more practice. They are stereotypical rocker teenagers with the same “who cares” attitude like any other kid.

B

(Enter Bart’s band “The Black Habits.”)

Bart: That’s a wrap guys! Wow, I bet you if we played our music at a show, a lot of people would enjoy our stuff! I think we sound superb!

Band Member 1: Yes. I agree. We are definitely radical man! It still seems like there is one other little thing missing though.

Band Member 2: It sounds like we have one factor missing.

Bart: I think we are totally perfect! I want everyone to hear us. Let’s do a demo and send it to a recording studio! People would listen to our recorded songs.

(They make their demo)

Bart: I’m gonna show my best buddy Eugene! Now!

(The band members exit and Eugene enters)

Eugene: Hey Bart! How was band practice? Good? I bet you guys have an album ready to release for millions, eh? HAHA!

Bart: Knock it off! HAHA! Pass me that tape player man?!

Eugene: Sure, man

Bart: Put this tape in quick!

Eugene: I am, ya dork!

(Eugene and Bart listen to the “Black Habits” tape. Eugene looks unimpressed)

Bart: So . What do you think? Is that amazing or what?

Eugene: the music sure is good!

Bart: What do you mean? The music?

Eugene: Yea! The MUSIC!

HIGH LEVEL 1

C

Bart: Do you like the singing or what?

Eugene: Not really, the singer isn't very good. He should get lessons! But the guitarist rocks!

Bart: Dude, I'm the singer! I can't believe you just made fun of me like that! I thought you were my best friend! I guess I know the truth now! Get out of here, you sellout! Gimme my tape!

Eugene: What'd I say?

Bart: Get out!

(Eugene leaves)

Monologue

Bart: I can't believe this; my own best friend putting me down like that. He can't do any better. I can't get over how much of a loser he is. I wish I had told him off. You know what? I'm gonna march over there right now, and do it! I'm going to really tell him what I think of him and his stupid comments. I'm gonna listen to our tape one more time to pump me up, because it's so good!

(Bart in furious anger stands up ready to leave just as Eugene sticks his head in the door)

Bart: Hey. If it isn't Eugene. Come in here dude so I can tell you what a jerk you are.

Eugene: Dude, I want to explain. Your band is good, man. I was telling you that your singer wasn't good for your band's sake! Would you rather hear it from one person that your singer needs a little bit more of a voice, or have hundreds of people reject you from the music industry forever because of the one thing you didn't improve? This way, you can solve your problem, and have hundreds of people think you are flawless! I know you were probably teed off because no one wants to be bad at what they love to do, but man, to be honest, I was only telling you that to avoid future disappointment. This way, your first gig will be TOO good.

Bart: Dude, it's cool, but you didn't have to tell me I stink. Like, do I really stink that bad?

D

Eugene: Let's put it this way, if you were trying to win American Idol, Simon would want to shoot you. You have a cool sounding yell; you just need to work on hitting the right notes in your yell.

Bart: Alright man, I'll work on it.

(Bart and Eugene shake hands)

Bart: Oh yea, sorry for flipping out, man. I have a bad temper.

Eugene: No!!!! Really?

Bart: So we're cool?

Eugene: Yea man.

ONE YEAR LATER at "The Black Habits" Concert

Bart: **ALRIGHT! THIS SONG GOES OUT TO MY BUDDY EUGENE, FOR HELPING ME WITH MY PROBLEMS! HE IS THE REASON I'M HERE TODAY! THANKS MAN!!**

Eugene: (to himself) No problem, man.

Teacher's Notes

Knowledge/Understanding

- The student provides information about the characters that is of limited appropriateness. Bart, the singer and guitar player in a band, is described as a person who “has a very short temper and thinks too much of himself”; both characteristics are borne out in the script. Likewise, Eugene, who is identified as someone who “wants the best for his friends”, shows this by providing an honest appraisal of Bart’s singing in an effort to help him improve. However, the statement that Bart “shows compassion and empathy” is not demonstrated in the script, and much of the information provided about the characters is irrelevant (e.g., that Eugene “is short and stubby like his father” and that Bart is “really skinny with pale skin”). In addition, the band members are not given personalities.

Thinking/Inquiry

- The student portrays character development in the script with some effectiveness. Both Eugene and Bart are believable characters, and Bart gains new insight into friendship by coming to appreciate that good friends are honest with each other. Unfortunately, despite the script’s believable characters and the unique and compelling insight into friendship one of them gains, neither the character development nor the development of the theme are sufficiently in-depth.

Communication

- The student creates dialogue that is convincing to a limited degree. There is an attempt to provide appropriately casual dialogue between the two young men. However, the often very curt dialogue (e.g., “**Eugene:** Sure, man . . . **Bart:** Put this tape in quick! **Eugene:** I am, ya dork!”) is inconsistent with the monologue by Bart and the long speech by Eugene that closely follows it. Also, these long speeches, which occur just as the tension is escalating and the scene is nearing its climax, slow down the action at a point when speed is called for.

- The student provides stage directions that are of limited appropriateness. Few directions are given, and they usually refer to the entrances and exits of characters. There is no indication of characters’ positions and movements onstage, and many needed directions are missing (e.g., “*Eugene and Bart listen to the . . . tape*” is not preceded by a direction that has one of them starting to play the tape).

Application

- The student creates a working script that is of limited effectiveness. The resolution, in which Bart publicly acknowledges his friend’s contribution to his success, is well crafted and effective. However, there are several problems with the script as a working script. For instance, no setting is provided to assist with its staging. Also, the action includes the band making a demo tape, a manoeuvre that would be difficult to stage and for which no directions are given.

Comments

This work is representative of a high level-1 performance. The student demonstrates a limited degree of achievement of the expectations in the Knowledge/Understanding, Communication, and Application categories of knowledge and skills. In the Thinking/Inquiry category, however, the student demonstrates some degree of achievement – i.e., achievement that is more representative of level 2.

Next Steps

In order to improve his or her performance, the student needs to:

- provide relevant information about the characters;
- provide character development that is more in-depth;
- provide dialogue between Bart and Eugene that is more direct to better dramatize the tension and the climax;
- provide much more direction for movement on stage;
- supply more information about the setting and include props.