

AThe ReunionCharacter Description

Felicity – An very attractive woman who is starting a very promising career as a lawyer. She was not always hard-working in school, but has changed her ways to meet her goals. She is, however, very resentful at times because she doesn't have time for relationships.

Hannah – She is a very intelligent woman with 2 children and one on the way. She never did continue in academics, despite her ability, because she got married, and had children right out of high school. Therefore, she feels quite jealous of Felicity because of her successful career.

Waiter – a non-speaking part.

Plot Summary

Felicity and Hannah were best friends all throughout high school, and now they are meeting for the first time, in five years. They are surprised at each other lives and successes, which also makes them envious of each other. Both learn to accept themselves and their lives through renewing their friendship.

BThe Reunion

(The scene: an out-door cafe. Felicity is sitting under a large umbrella at a table for two. There are pretty flowers in large pots on either side of the table. A waiter holding a tray stands discretely stage left.)

Felicity is very smartly dressed and looks very confident as she waits for her friend. Hannah enters stage right. She is obviously pregnant and is carrying a large handbag.)

Felicity: *(Standing up to greet Hannah. She is very excited.)* Hannah! How wonderful to see you! Let me look at you!

Hannah: *(amazed at how good Felicity looks, tugs self-consciously at her own dowdy dress then hugs Felicity)* I missed you. It's been too long! You look amazing!

(Felicity and Hannah both sit down. Hannah is rather nervous and fumbles with her handbag when the waiter comes to get their drink orders.)

Hannah: I was really surprised when you phoned. It must be ... 5 years?

Felicity: Yes. At least. I've thought about you a lot and all the fun we used to have together, but what with law school and getting a new job and all ... time has just passed.

Hannah: *(amazed)* You're a lawyer! *(before she can stop herself)* ... but you were never very good at ... I mean, I thought you wanted to be a model.

Felicity: *(laughing)* I know. You were always the top student at school and I was just an airhead. I smartened up though and started to think about more important things than my hair and fingernails! I just got serious, that's all.

(The waiter brings their drinks and puts them on the table. Felicity thanks him but Hannah ignores him because she is still shocked by Felicity's news.)

Hannah: *(enviously)* No wonder you look so professional and important.

Felicity: Thanks. And what about you, always the brainy one. What are you now? A rich doctor? Or maybe a surgeon?

LOW LEVEL 4

C

(There is an awkward silence. Hanna seems embarrassed and she replies quietly.)

Hannah: Well, no Felicity. I'm married, with 2 children and another one on the way. *(She pats her stomach.)* I'm just a mom. One of those stay-at-home moms. Nothing that special.

Felicity: Oh, you are so lucky!

Hannah: No Felicity, I'm not the lucky one. Look at how successful you are, and how together your life is! *(she starts to cry)*

Felicity: *(alarmed, pats Hannah's arm)* What's wrong? What did I say? Please don't cry Hannah.

(The waiter comes forward with the menus, but Felicity waves him away.)

Hannah: So much has changed since we last saw each other. *(Pause)* Well, I must be honest with you. I'm so ... surprised at you Felicity. I'm also so jealous of you. You went out and made something of yourself. You did something with your life and now you're successful. I'm just a house wife. I wish I would have gone on and become a doctor, or a surgeon you know! When I got pregnant though, I just gave up on school, and decided to be a mom. There's nothing great about that.

(Hannah takes a tissue from her bag and wipes her eyes.)

Felicity: Oh Hannah, don't say that! You have so much to be proud of! You have a family and children, whereas I don't even have time for friends, let alone a man, or children! My work had taken up my whole life! I just wanted to prove to people that I could be something more, that I could be more than a Calvin Klein model. I tried so hard not to be a failure, but I still feel like one. We're working on a huge case right now that can make or break my career. The work load is tremendous. I don't have any time for relationships.

Hannah: *(shocked)* I'm so sorry, Felicity. I had no idea.

D

(Awkward pause. They don't really know what to say, and they just sit and think about their own lives. The audience senses that there is some tension between the girls as they sit and smile, and look nervous. Finally Hannah can't take it anymore and breaks the silence.)

Hannah: *(brightening up)* Well you made time for me today.

Felicity: *(smiling)* So I did. Maybe there's hope for me yet.

(Hannah is silent for a few minutes and then smiles as she takes a package of photographs out of her purse.) Would you like to see pictures of my kids?

Felicity: I certainly would! Show me!

(Hannah shows the photographs to her friend, proudly explaining each one. There are a lot of "aahs" and "isn't that adorable".)

Felicity: Your children are so beautiful. I would love to see them.

Hannah: How about this weekend?

Felicity: That would be great, but I have to work on *(she suddenly laughs)* I mean that would be great!

(Hannah finally puts the photographs away as the waiter comes back with the menus.)

Teacher's Notes

Knowledge/Understanding

- The student provides information about the characters that is highly appropriate. For example, according to the introduction, Felicity is “very resentful . . . because she doesn’t have time for relationships”, and her behaviour in the scene bears this out. Information provided in the scene about how the two main characters are dressed (i.e., Felicity is “very smartly dressed”, while Hannah wears a “dowdy dress”) also provides valuable clues for understanding the women.

Thinking/Inquiry

- The student portrays character development in the script with a high degree of effectiveness. Both characters are highly believable. Felicity has a career, but feels that because of it she has had to give up much in her personal life. Hannah is understandably somewhat intimidated by her well-dressed and confident friend (evident in the direction “*tugs self-consciously at her own dowdy dress*”). This intimidation is also reasonable given the low perception she has of herself, which is clear from her self-assessment: “I’m just a mom. One of those stay-at-home moms. Nothing that special.” While renewing their friendship, both Hannah and Felicity learn to accept and appreciate their own lives.

Communication

- The student creates dialogue that is highly convincing. Hannah’s expressions of surprise at Felicity’s success and her disappointment and embarrassment at her own situation are quite realistic (e.g., “I’m so . . . surprised at you Felicity. I’m also so jealous of you. You went out and made something of yourself. You did something with your life and now you’re successful. I’m just a house wife. I wish I would have gone on and become a doctor, or a surgeon you know!”).
- The student provides stage directions that are highly appropriate. For example, in “*Awkward pause. They don’t really know what to say, and they just sit and think about their own lives. The audience senses that there is some tension*

between the girls as they sit and smile, and look nervous. Finally Hannah can’t take it anymore and breaks the silence”, he or she provides just enough direction to effectively indicate the great amount of inner action taking place.

Application

- The student creates a working script that is of considerable effectiveness. The setting, an outdoor café, is appropriate for a reunion, and the student adds authenticity to the scene by having the waiter stand in the background and appear at the table at appropriate moments. Skilful use is made of props such as Hannah’s handbag, with which the character betrays her nervousness by fumbling with it when she first encounters Felicity and from which she later draws a tissue to dry her eyes. Tension in the scene escalates when Hannah expresses her envy of her friend’s career, and the climax is reached when Hannah shows Felicity the photographs that lead to the creation of a new bond of friendship between the two women. This climax and the resolution, which consists of the promise of renewed friendship, are, however, predictable and, therefore, somewhat weaken the impact of the drama.

Comments

This work is representative of a low level-4 performance. The student demonstrates a high degree of achievement of the expectations in the Knowledge/Understanding, Thinking/Inquiry, and Communication categories of knowledge and skills. However, in the Application category, the student demonstrates a considerable degree of achievement – i.e., performance that is more representative of level 3.

Next Steps

In order to improve his or her performance, the student needs to make the climax and resolution less predictable by giving them a twist.