

# WORKS IN PROGRESS

By Paul H. Johnson

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*Works in Progress*

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## **DEDICATION**

*For all of my students*

## **STORY OF THE PLAY**

This play is a compilation of scenes from teenage life. It is a challenging acting tool for actors of every level. It begins by taking a look at some of the individuals we have in schools today. It quickly moves on to examine the rituals of dating by allowing the consciences to speak out loud to the audiences ... not much has changed! While this play takes a humorous look at many facets of teenage lives, it touches on some of the social ills, too. Anorexia is one topic dealt with in a frank, realistic exchange of emotional dialogue. Saying good-bye to a friend is another topic that is handled in a serious manner. All in all, "Works in Progress" is a glimpse into the turbulent, emotionally vacillating years of high school.

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**PROPS**

ACT I

MONOLOGUES: Electric guitar.

THE DATE: Ladders, bench.

HOMECOMING: Shakespearean hat, itinerary, note pad  
and pencil, cowboy hat, guitar, long hair wig.

THE TRUTH: Purse, diuretics.

BREAKING UP...: Couch or bean bag chairs.

PROM DATE PHONE DANCE I and II: 9 telephones, list,  
distributor cap.

SAYING GOOD-BYE: Musical instruments, song sheets,  
electrical cords, boxes, poster, bass guitar.

CHANNEL SURFING: Remote control, telephone.

GRADUATION THOUGHTS: Mortar boards and gowns.

**Scene 1**

**MONOLOGUES**

**CAST OF CHARACTERS**

*(10 Flexible)*

**ACTOR 1**..... High school student  
**ACTOR 2**..... Poorer student  
**ACTOR 3**..... High school geek  
**ACTOR 4**..... Athlete  
**ACTOR 5**..... Wants to be a farmer  
**ACTOR 6**..... Musician  
**ACTOR 7**..... Average student  
**ACTOR 8**..... Homecoming queen  
**ACTOR 9**..... "Mr. Cool"  
**ACTOR 10**..... Another student

*(The ACTORS are arranged around the stage in various poses typical to teenagers. There could be special lighting for each to present their monologues or a general lighting plot with each actor breaking the pose and walking DS to address the audience. When they are done they assume their original pose. Multiple levels would add to the visual effect of this scene.)*

ACTOR 1: High school. Remember it? Some of you out there remember it 'cause you're living through it now. Others remember certain things ... like a teacher, a girl or guy, friends, or some prank you pulled ... ike putting a Volkswagen Beetle in the commons area one night, or driving around town stealing gnomes out of people's yards. Yeah ... now you remember. And you remember there's a lot to high school, so, some things have changed and some things haven't. One thing that hasn't changed is the fact that we are all kinda works in progress, you know, like not really done yet. We are all in the same boat, but yet different ... you know?

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ACTOR 2: I don't have a lot of nice things. I don't blame my parents though. You see, they're saving up to buy a house for us. So, everything I get seems to be hand-me-downs or from rummage sales. That's okay though, I mean, at least my parents love me and I get to do things with them ... they're still married and seem happy. I do wish, though, that I could have a new dress once in awhile.

ACTOR 3: *(You may want to plant "Mom" in the audience to gasp and make comments.)* Hi. Yeah, I'm a geek, nerd, dweeb. I'm sorry, Mom. I'm a student who studies a lot, not out of need, but out of sheer boredom. You see, I'm considered a leper by my classmates. My mom still drives me everywhere! Sorry, Mom, but you do. Imagine the embarrassment of having your mother drive you to your first rock concert. Not only that, but she insisted upon walking me up to the door and kissed me good-bye. It's just easier to stay home. Mom, don't cry, you'll get the hiccups again.

ACTOR 4: I love sports. I'm good at hockey, but my friends don't appreciate the sacrifices I make to work at being good. Most just think I'm stuck-up. I'm really not. That's all.

ACTOR 5: I grew up on a farm. Farming is what I know and what I want to do. I chew tobacco - well, not in classes anymore, after Mr. Kenny caught me and squeezed my lips together until I swallowed some. I about puked. I'm not in a lot of activities in school 'cause I go home after school and work. I'd rather go hunting or to the races than almost anything else. My town friends don't understand, but I don't really expect them to.

ACTOR 6: *(GUITAR PLAYER hits a power cord - Sings.)* "Headbanging is GREAT ... *(Screams.)* You know, I don't pay attention in class. What the hell. You were probably hooked on Elvis, the Beatles, or the Stones when you were growing up and you didn't listen all the time either, or ... or ... you doodled all over in your notebooks, too. Now you're doctors, lawyers, teachers, preachers. No diff. I'll turn out all right. *(Hits a power chord and scream-sings something unintelligible.)*

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