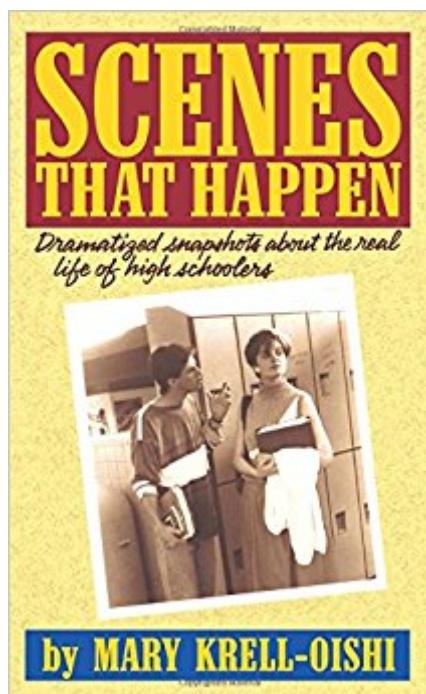


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Scenes That Happen: Snapshot Dramatizations About Life In High School



Synopsis

Here is a hit for any classroom! This helpful text contains thirty-four real-life scenes for boys, girls and mixed casts. Each with two to four actors, they are ideal for classroom or stage performances. They are also excellent for use as contest scripts because student actors portray themselves in the bearable and impossible situations of teenage existence. The thoughtful and touching themes include dating, popularity, growing up, graduation, suspension from school and moving-experiences to laugh about and cry about. The scene lengths vary from four to seven minutes each. All scenes are royalty-free with book purchase. Includes 13 scenes for 2 girls; 11 scenes for 2 boys; and 10 scenes for 1 boy and 1 girl.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Thirty-four real-life scenes for guys and girls and mixed casts of two to four actors. Scene lengths vary from four to seven minutes each. Suitable for classroom or stage performance. Excellent contest scripts because student actors portray themselves in the believably unbelievable situations of teenage life. Themes include dating, popularity, growing up, graduation, suspension from school, and moving - experiences to laugh and cry about.

Grade 7-12-- Krell-Oishi's attempt to capture the voice of adolescence comes close at times, but ultimately misses the mark. Her subjects--dating, teen pregnancy, sibling rivalry, friendship, college plans, grades--are certainly the stuff of daily teen discussions. However, the slice-of-life scenes read more like case studies from a guidance counselor's files. Occasional attempts at slang and street

language can't disguise the preachy tone of these homogenous model teens as they unerringly find the right path in a few carefully constructed sentences. If YAs are going to the trouble of memorizing someone else's words, something that stretches their minds and vocabularies is more worth the trouble. Perhaps a drama teacher stuck for ideas might find these scenes useful as a launching point, but the vivid character studies in Mel Glenn's poems in *Class Dismissed* (Clarion, 1982) are much more evocative. In most schools, *Scenes That Happen* probably won't. --Sally T. Margolis, Park Ridge Public Library, ILCopyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.

I agree with others about the blandness of the scenes in this book, but for me, a high school drama teacher (11 Years), that can be a strength at times. One of the most difficult things to get beginning actors to do is take risks. Most of these scenes don't require much of that, and because memorizing the lines, being loud enough, staying open, are still struggles for them, something safe is helpful to many of my students. I wish more of the scenes were comic, that helps bring more out of them as well. But, I have been working with this book for years and have not found anything else that has the right length and style for my students on a repeated basis. Of course I only use this for their first scene, after that we require much more. But has worked for me and they leave a lot of room for creative students to expand on what's there, while not intimidating students who are more timid.

Krell-Oishi's book attempts to fill a much needed void in the world of high-school scene study: the need for brief, interesting scenes which teenagers can relate to and are interested in. Unfortunately, almost all of these scenes completely lack active dramatic conflict. Characters generally talk about problems they are having with offstage unseen characters; those on stage are almost all in agreement. As the subtitle states, these are mere "snapshots" of adolescent life. Accurate, but like the average snapshot, not very interesting. Yes, the writer has a good ear for teen dialogue, but she seems to lack a true affection for young people. The characters tend to be drawn as nothing more than caricatures with simplistic motives. High school kids are complex, and I've yet to meet one who was only shallow, or bitchy, or self-absorbed, as most of Krell-Oishi's characters are. As a drama teacher, I'd recommend others to look elsewhere for good scenes for teens.

No, this is not high drama. But, as slices of life, these scenes are good for young students who are new to the world of acting. As a drama teacher, I use these scenes in my beginning classes as simple scenes that inexperienced performers can tackle and in which they can perform well. I would not recommend this book for the advanced acting student, except for some scenes in this book and

the sequel, that I actually think are very well written and include a lot of depth. This book also helps by providing some good 3 character scenes that are hard to find.

I had the unfortunate privilege of reading many of the skits in here, finding them very senseless. Not only do these scenes never happen, but by the end of each short we feel just as we did when it began. Nothing has been accomplished and there never has been that much of a conflict to begin with. The language is too mild, high schoolers do not talk like that. Words and phrases like "Oh my God" are overused, trust me, high schoolers do have a wider vocabulary than that. I have not read the sequel to this book and do not wish to unless for a good laugh, which is all the first book is good for.

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