



“Children These Days” by Elisa Dill
1st Place, Short Play 13-15

15

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Title 1

“Children these Days”

Characters

Eddie: An old man, the grandpa of Rebekah,

Rebekah/ Becky: a young girl, granddaughter of Grampa Eddie, a friend of Lucas,

Lucas: a young boy, a friend of Rebekah's,

Act I

Scene I

Location: Eddie's living room

Eddie sits on a recliner in his living room by the fireplace. His hand has a cast on it. The fire is going in the fireplace and the room is dimly lit.

Rebekah walks into the room with Lucas behind her.

Eddie (to Rebekah): Hello, dear. Did you bring a friend home from school today?

Rebekah: Yeah, this is my best friend ever! His name is Lucas.

Eddie: Why, hello, Lucas. You can call me Eddie.

Lucas (shy): Hi, Mr. Eddie.

Eddie (smiling): What a polite young man, Rebekah! I love children.

Children these days are such good ones! So polite.

Rebekah: Mmm-hmm. Grandpa Eddie? Can you tell the story of how you got the cast on your hand?

Eddie: Of course, kids! Come sit by the fire.

Lucas and Rebekah sit on the floor by Eddie's feet.

Eddie: So, it all began wi-

Rebekah: Tell the story! Tell the story!

Eddie (trying to seem firm): Yes, yes, Becky. Just be patient and don't interrupt.

Rebekah (blushing): Sorry, Grandpa Eddie.

Eddie: So, it all began with my dear friend, Tom. Tom is-

Lucas (innocently): is old like you?

Eddie (gasping): How dare you say such a thing! I thought you were a polite young man.

Lucas (holding up seven fingers): I'm not a man. I'm only 7.

Eddie: No matter. I only thought you were polite and matu-

Rebekah: Please can you just tell the story now?

Eddie: Yes, yes. So... My friend, Tom. He and I were barbecuing hamburgers in my backyard. Everything was great. The burgers were cooking. The water was-

Rebekah: Ewww!

Lucas (seeming happy with his realization): Water is gross... and for old people. Like you!

Eddie (angered): Stop it, children! Be nice and polite now, I beg you! No more interruptions, alright?

Rebekah and Lucas nod and make bubbles with their mouths to indicate they were going to be silent now.

Eddie: Good. Now... I went away for two minutes to get something from the kitchen. The problem is that when I got back... Tom had taken the hamburger patties off the grill!

Lucas: Why is that bad? Weren't you hungry?

Rebekah: Yeah.

Eddie: Of course I was hungry! But I wasn't going to let Tom ruin the burgers! So, anyway...I told Tom to put them back on, but he said no! How dare he say no to me! I hate hearing the word no!

Lucas and Rebekah (giggling): No! No! No! No! No!

Eddie (angrily): Enough! So I told Tom again to put them back and he said that he wanted them cooked rare! I told him that they needed to be well done and that he was wrong. He said no again and-

Lucas: No! No!

Eddie (growling angrily): Stop it! When he said no, I took the plate from his hand and started putting the hamburgers back. But then, Tom grabbed it back! I got so angry-

Rebekah: You shouldn't have gotten angry over that. Mommy says-

Eddie (rudely): I don't care what *Mommy* says! I was angry so I punched the fence!

Rebekah and Lucas gasp.

Eddie (noticing the kids' reaction and talking defensively): And I had every right to. It was my own fence after all. So then-

Rebekah and Lucas (delayed and in awe): You punched a fence!?

Eddie: Yes, I did. Don't act so bewildered. I was only-

Rebekah (looking confused): What's biwiddler?

Eddie (angered at the interruption): Stop interrupting me! I-

Lucas: Ok, Mr. Eddie, I'll stop innrupping you.

Eddie: Good. Now-

Lucas (smiling with an innocent look): What's innrupping?

Eddie stands up angrily.

Eddie: That! That's interrupting!

Lucas: Oh, ok.

Rebekah: I can't bewieve you punched a fence! Can you show us the fence, Grandpa Eddie?

Scene II

Location: Eddie's Backyard.

The three of them walk to the backyard. The backyard has a small patio and a large yard. There is a fancy grill on the patio along with a nice dining area. The right side of the yard has a fence with a hole in it.

Eddie (walking to the hole): Here it is, kids.

Lucas and Rebekah (with open mouths): Woah...

Eddie: It's not that bad. Now, let me finish the story.

Lucas: Okay, Mr. Eddie.

Eddie (dramatically): As soon as my hand hit the fence...

Rebekah: What?

Lucas: What happened?

Eddie: I was still talking. Don't interrupt-

Lucas: As soon as your hand hit the fence, you were still talking?

Eddie (angrily): No, I was still talking before-

Rebekah: You were still talking before your hand hit the fence?

Eddie (angrily): No! I was still talking before you interrupted-

Rebekah (sweetly): No, Grandpa Eddie. I wasn't there when you punched the fence, so how would I have interrupted you?

Eddie: No! You interrupted me-

Lucas: Mr. Eddie, Becky just said she wasn't there. How would she have interrupted you? It-

Eddie: No, no, no! She INTERRUPTED me when I was-

Rebekah: Brushing your armpits?

Eddie: *growls* No! No! No! When I was telling-

Lucas: Rebekah how to brush your armpits?

Eddie: NOOOOOOOO! YOU INTERRUPTED ME WHEN I WAS TELLING YOU HOW I PUNCHED THE FENCE! LIKE THIS!

Eddie swings his arm and punches the fence with the hand that doesn't have a cast and punches a hole in the fence right next to the hole he had made earlier in the story. The kids gasp.

Eddie (bending in pain): Aaaaaah! Owwww!

Lucas (whispering to Rebekah): Should we tell a grown-up?

Rebekah (nodding): Uh-huh, uh-huh.

Lucas and Rebekah run off-stage.

Scene III

Location: Eddie's living room

Lucas and Rebekah enter the room. Eddie is sitting on a chair by the fireplace with both his hands in a cast. Eddie is trying to read a book.

Lucas and Rebekah: We're sorry, Mr. Grandpa Eddie.

Eddie (looking up from his book): It's alright, kids.

Rebekah: Can we help you?

Eddie: How about you help me turn the pages on the book so I can read it to you?

Rebekah and Lucas nod.

Rebekah (whispering to Lucas): I told you Mr. Grandpa Eddie would work. It has both Mr. for you and Grandpa for me in it.

Lucas (high-fiving Rebekah): Yeah!

The End