



2017

33 Short Comedy Plays for Teens

Rebeca Wallin

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Wallin, Rebeca (2017) "33 Short Comedy Plays for Teens," *Children's Book and Media Review*: Vol. 38 : Iss. 12 , Article 30.
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol38/iss12/30>

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Play Review

Title: 33 Short Comedy Plays for Teens

Author: Laurie Allen

Reviewer: Rebeca Wallin

Publisher: Meriwether Publishing LTD

Publication Year: 2011

Number of Pages: 211

Estimated Run Time: 5-15 minutes

Number of Acts: 1

Number of Characters: 7

Reading/Interest Level: Intermediate,
Young Adult

Rating: Significant Shortcomings

Review

Though titled 'plays,' the 33 works in this collection would more accurately be called 'scenes.' Each piece is a self-contained short scene with two to seven characters and ranges from four to twelve pages. The scenes, written specifically for teens, are based on typical high school situations including things such as homework, classes, dating, driving, and friends. These ordinary situations are then usually heightened and exaggerated, often verging on and crossing over to the ridiculous.

The ease of use of these ready-made scenes is a plus for drama teachers, and the scenes hold some merit for beginning-drama students who are learning to perform for an audience. The ridiculous, exaggerated situations can also help a beginning actor start to break out of their shell or develop a character. However, the scenes lack the depth and character development needed to truly train actors, and the lack of a full script to study when performing scenes from a full-length published play is notable. The dialogue is repetitive and characters rarely change or grow.