Shining Moment

Sarah Ratliff

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Reviewer: Sarah Ratliff
Reading Level: All
Rating: Dependable
Genre: Contemporary realistic play; Plays; Historical fiction;
Subject: Death--Juvenile drama; Family--Juvenile drama; Drama--Reviews;
Theme: Life is full of shining moments.
Production Requirements: The set consists of a front porch of a house with a suggestion of a roof, railing, steps and a makeshift ramp. There must be a workable screen door and window, as well as a working record player. Porch furniture is also needed.
Acts: 1
Run Time: 45 minutes
Characters: 4
Cast: Adults only or adults and children
Time Period: 1986

William Henry goes to visit his grandfather Edsel, his Aunt Ida, and his cousin Ally on their farm. His grandfather is 89 and in a wheelchair due to failing health. Ally is obsessed with baseball and shares her love of the game with William Henry. While he is visiting, William Henry dreams of his grandfather playing baseball the night of Halley's Comet, only to discover in the morning that Edsel has passed away.

This play takes a nice look at families, love, and death. The play uses songs to capture the mood as well as to help with transitions. The characters could use a little more development, especially the grandfather; however, they still work as useful tools for telling the story. The plot is somewhat lacking, but the overall story is successful and would be enjoyed by younger audiences. It provides a great opportunity to discuss death, especially death of grandparents or older relatives.