

Drama Ministry®

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CARPE DIEM

by TIM SHOEMAKER

GENRE: Comedy

SYNOPSIS: Mrs. Baker isn't the world's smartest teacher. She should know better than to let Eddy read his poem, but she's caught up in the moment and wants to believe the best, that even Eddy wouldn't stoop so low. This sketch will play better if you don't make these characters stereotypes or caricatures, but play them as real people. There are teachers like Mrs. Baker and, unfortunately, there are students like Eddy

DIRECTOR'S TIP: Mrs. Baker isn't the world's smartest teacher. She should know better than to let Eddy read his poem, but she's caught up in the moment and wants to believe the best, that even Eddy wouldn't stoop so low. Don't make these characters stereotypes or caricatures, but play them as real people. There are teachers like Mrs. Baker and, unfortunately, there are students like Eddy.

TIME: Under 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 7

TOPIC: Christian Living

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Matthew 6:25-34

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Thanksgiving, Epiphany, Pentecost

CHARACTERS:

Mrs. Baker - A high school English teacher

Eddy - Class clown

Leslie - The teacher's pet

Meg - Another of the teacher's favorite students

Students - 3 or more "extras" to cheer on Eddy

PROPS: Poem written on notebook paper for Meg, notebook paper for Eddy, pen for Eddy, pens, books, papers for all students, chairs/desks for students, dry erase board, chalkboard, or large poster board

COSTUMES: Contemporary clothing appropriate to character

SOUND: Four wireless mics

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: A high school English classroom

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CARPE DIEM *by Tim Shoemaker*

As the scene opens, all STUDENTS are seated. MRS. BAKER is standing, talking to the class.

Mrs. Baker: *(Erasing marker board)* We only have a few minutes left in class. Does everybody have their short essay I assigned on Friday?

EDDY: *(Pretending to be sincere)* I wasn't here on Friday, so I don't have an essay, Mrs. Baker. That won't go against my grade now, will it?

Mrs. Baker: No, Eddy. That won't go against your grade.

EDDY: 'Cuz if it's important, I could just copy someone else's paper real quick.

STUDENTS laugh-the reaction EDDY was looking for. He's pleased with himself.

Mrs. Baker: That won't be necessary, Eddy. *(Trying to regain class control)* Class, let's give Eddy a quick review so he won't feel so left out and stupid. *(She glares at EDDY.)* Who can write on the board the term we started to discuss last Friday?

LESLIE raises her hand.

Mrs. Baker: Leslie, come on up.

LESLIE approaches the board. MRS. BAKER hands her the marker. LESLIE writes "carpe diem" on the board in large, neat letters. She returns the marker to MRS. BAKER, and crosses to her seat proudly.

Mrs. Baker: *(Looks at board, nods approvingly)* Very good, Leslie. *(Pauses, then, with feeling:)* My favorite uncle died two weeks ago. These were his last words. *(Points to board and pauses)* At first, many of us in the family were confused and wondered why he chose "carpe diem" as his last words.

EDDY: Maybe he was delirious.

OTHER STUDENTS start to laugh but MRS. BAKER cuts them off.

Mrs. Baker: *(Snapping)* Absolutely not! His mind was sharper, even seconds from death, than a lot of people I know. *(She glares at EDDY.)* Anyway, after thinking about his last words over the past couple of weeks, I've come to the conclusion that his final phrase was nothing short of profound. *(Pause)* Eddy. Would you like to take a shot at what this means?

EDDY: *(Studies the board for a moment)* Well, yeah ... it definitely means "crappy" something. "Crappy Deal"? Yeah, sure. That makes sense. Death is kind of a crappy deal.

OTHER STUDENTS laugh. EDDY is happy. MRS. BAKER is not.