



Arts Engagement
and Education

EMILY

"I don't like the whole change that's come over you in the last year."

From *Our Town*

By Thornton Wilder <https://www.thorntonwilder.com>

Gender: Female/Feminine Presenting

Style: Contemporary Dramatic

Age Range: 16-20's

Link to Buy Script: <https://www.harpercollins.com>

Play Synopsis

Our Town tells the story of a small town, Grover's Corners, New Hampshire, in order to tell us the story of every town, the whole world over. Narrated by the "Stage Manager", we follow the Gibbs and Webb families, residents of Grover's Corners, through twelve years of life changes -- from the mundane in Act I, "Daily Life," to the romantic in Act II, "Love and Marriage," to the devastating in Act III, "Death and Eternity." Through the young lovers Emily and George, their strong and loving parents, and the many other Grover's Corners' locals, Wilder delivers universal truths about what it means to be human.

At this moment

The Stage Manager explains that George has just been elected president of the senior class for the next year and that Emily has been elected secretary-treasurer. Emily is walking down Main Street carrying an armful of schoolbooks. George catches up with her and asks to carry her books. He says that he is awfully glad she was elected.

Suddenly George asks why she is angry with him. Emily gives an honest answer: George has changed during the last year; he spends too much time playing baseball, and people talk about him because he doesn't speak to anyone and acts conceited. George stammers and then admits that Emily's honesty is beneficial because "it's hard for a fella not to have faults creep into his character." Emily explains that she wants men to be perfect and there is no reason why George shouldn't be.

Monologue (Act II)

I don't like the whole change that's come over you in the last year. I'm sorry if that hurts your feelings, but I've got to- tell the truth and shame the devil [...] Well, up to a year ago I used to like you a lot. And I used to watch you as you did everything? because we'd been friends so long? and then you began spending all your time at baseball? and you never stopped to speak to anybody anymore. Not even to your own family you didn't? and, George, it's a fact, you've got awful conceited and stuck up, and all the girls say so. They may not say so to your face, but that's what they say about you behind your back, and it hurts me to hear them say it, but I've got to agree with them a little. I'm sorry if it hurts your feelings? but I can't be sorry I said it.

Helpful Links:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ftVBKsaCTbU&list=PLY1ttTF7Ik4nKFKNNkVkJHyMc3AgUKvljJ&index=88>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WdVeDLFSqM4>