



**Sample Pages from
Status Update: A Symphony**

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SIXTEEN

IN 10 MINUTES OR LESS

Friend Request
Double Click
Brace Yourself
Lazy Eye
Fireworks
Pay Phone
Bench Warrant
Wheels
Tumblefur
Status Update: A Symphony

A Suite of Short Plays
BY
Bradley Hayward



Sixteen in 10 Minutes or Less

The plays herein may be licensed together or separately. The piece was conceived as a full length evening of entertainment, but each short stands perfectly well on its own without any prior knowledge of the characters. When produced in its entirety, the plays should be presented in the following order:

Act One

Friend Request (3M, 4W).....5

Thanks to a series of ill-fated friend requests, a doctored photo of a student spreads like wildfire among a group of teenagers.

Double Click (1M, 1W)..... 15

Young love blossoms when two teenagers flip open their laptops and start chatting.

Brace Yourself (1M, 1W)..... 23

A teenage brother and sister squabble as they try to extract a gummy bear that has lodged itself in a set of braces.

Lazy Eye (2 Either).....31

Two eyeballs get bent out of shape while defending their half of a teenager's brain.

Fireworks (1M, 1W)..... 39

A couple of teenagers in love look up at the night sky and wait for colorful explosions to dance among the stars.

Act Two

Pay Phone (2M, 1W, 1 Either)..... 47

When a teenager loses his cell phone, he has no choice but to use a pay phone. Things quickly take a turn for the worse when a mysterious operator starts telling him what to do.

Bench Warrant (4W)..... 57

Three teenage girls have claimed a bench as their very own and routinely chase away all the "losers" who come near it.

Wheels (2M)..... 65

A teenage boy tries to repair a beat-up old truck so that he can get away from his parents and their broken down marriage.

Tumblefur (1W)..... 73

A sweet teenage girl takes her dog for a walk in the park and discovers that there is something exciting around every corner.

Status Update: A Symphony

(3M, 4W) 79

Seven teenagers express their hopes and fears online in a rousing symphony of status updates.

Settings

When the plays are presented together, the settings should be simple representations of each locale. The use of blocks is more than sufficient and will help facilitate quick scene changes between plays. When the plays are presented separately, the settings may be as simple or elaborate as you wish.

Characters

3M+4W, Expandable to 13M+17W+3 Either

James: Hyper & jumpy, male.

Piper: Outgoing & popular, female.

Cindy: Sarcastic & spontaneous,
female.

Samantha: Exuberant & talkative,
female.

Laura: Artistic & lonely, female.

Brody: Quiet & introspective, male.

Vance: Shy & thoughtful, male.

Right Eye: Eyeball, male or female.

Left Eye: Eyeball, male or female.

Operator: Voice only, male or
female.

Mom: Voice only, female.

Dad: Voice only, male.

When all of the plays are presented together, the characters may be played by the same actors throughout (for a minimum cast of 7) or the roles may be assigned separately (for a cast up to 33). All of the named characters are sixteen years old.

Right Eye, Left Eye, Operator, Mom, and Dad were written to be played by the same actors as the named characters, but could be cast separately.

If the plays are presented independently, many of the roles become gender flexible. Simply change the pronouns when appropriate.

Status Update: A Symphony

by Bradley Hayward

Characters

James, Piper, Cindy, Samantha, Laura, Brody, Vance

Setting

A bare stage; cyberspace

Seven STUDENTS are standing, sitting and lying down on various levels. Unless denoted by “beats,” the characters begin saying the next line a few words before the character before them has finished.

CINDY: Cindy Steckler. Sixteen. Sacred Heart High School.

PIPER: Piper Lawson. Sixteen. Sacred Heart High School.

LAURA: Laura Berg. Sixteen. Sacred Heart High School.

VANCE: Vance McCarthy. Sixteen. Sacred Heart High School.

JAMES: James Lawson. Sixteen. Sacred Heart High School.

SAMANTHA: Samantha Peters. Sixteen. Sacred Heart High School.

BRODY: Brody Anderson. Sixteen. Sacred Heart High School.

Beat. They change positions.

EVERYONE: Status update.

Beat.

CINDY: Weekend! Chillin’ with my home girls. Listening to some good music, having good talks about life, drinking our cold glasses of sweet ice tea. Loving life right now.

Beat.

PIPER: Woohoo! Pool gettin’ done! Yeahhhhhhhhhh so happy!

Beat.

LAURA: A chunk of butter floated in a puddle of syrup on my waffle before it melted. Yum!

Beat.

VANCE: I can't call anyone due to network errors till Monday, yet some random guy from India can call me and ask if I am happy with my health insurance. Gotta love cell phones.

Beat.

JAMES: Sup freaks? Ready to get my Slurpee on! Say hey yeah!

Beat.

SAMANTHA: Ohhhhhhhh! Friday, I smooch you! X-O-X-O!

Beat.

BRODY: Long story short, epic fail turned into epic win.

Beat.

EVERYONE: Status update.

Beat. They all change positions.

CINDY: Monday morning! Ugh! Wake me when it's over.

PIPER: Woke up to a text that made my day!

LAURA: Sun shines around the room and bounces off everything like a balloon.

VANCE: The day starts whether you turn on the alarm or not.

JAMES: Wake up wake up wake up wake up. Hahahahahahahaha!

SAMANTHA: Got all cleaned up and dressed up. Think I'm ready to go.

BRODY: Shirt on. Deodorant on. Brody out.

Beat.

EVERYONE: Status update.

Beat. They all change positions.

CINDY: Class! Sittin' up in this desk freezing my tail off! A/C blastin'. At least this one ends early so I can go outside to warm up, but the next class starts in like thirty minutes.

PIPER: Some people are just dumb! Wish they could teach common sense and skip parabolas.

LAURA: Drama class canceled. Boo. Fire alarm did it. Talk about drama.
Oh the woe.

VANCE: Whoops. Studied wrong country. No idea where Uzbekistan
is. Ask me 'bout Hawaii and I'm your guy. Fail.

JAMES: Passing notes in class not a good idea. 'Specially when you draw
pictures of the teacher. Waiting for principal.

SAMANTHA: If I can get motivated to organize my backpack I might
actually find something like where my markers are and the book I
need now.

BRODY: Boring boring boring boring boring boring. Zzzzzz...

Beat.

EVERYONE: Status update.

Beat. They all change positions.

CINDY: Lunch! Cafeteria smells like wings. Bleah! Messy fingers
touching all the knobs and handles. Think I'll skip it.

PIPER: Can't wait to smash! L-O-L! I'm hungry!

LAURA: Table over here. Table over there. Come over here.

VANCE: Brown bagging it today.

JAMES: I'm starving. Imma gonna get myself a Hot Pocket. Yum yum!

SAMANTHA: How quick a gallon of milk disappears!

BRODY: Finally gonna eat. What should I eat, umm?

Beat.

EVERYONE: Status update.

Beat. They all change positions.

CINDY: Work! No play! Gotta jet and get there before boss flies.

PIPER: Cash to burn equals new dress, ya think?

LAURA: Interview was good and I hope uniform is too.

VANCE: It's not about how much money you make, but what you do
with the money. Ha!

JAMES: Need a job A-S-A-P!

SAMANTHA: Working tonight, four to close. Come see me and cool down!

BRODY: Just now getting off work. Gonna park the truck and lay on the grass and watch tomorrow come.

Beat.

EVERYONE: Status update.

Beat. They all change positions.

CINDY: Parents! Gone for a few days. What to do what to do? Hmm.

PIPER: Love it when the rents go on holiday!

LAURA: Mom/Dad watching Forrest Gump again. Can't take it!

VANCE: I'd say mow the yard if Mom did my laundry.

JAMES: Woot woot! House to myself!

SAMANTHA: Thanks Dad for sorting me out. Lurve you! Heart heart smile.

BRODY: Mother is the mother of all mothers. Bad way, not good.

Beat.

EVERYONE: Status update.

Beat. They all change positions.

CINDY: Love! Star star sigh star star.

PIPER: Squiggle squiggle happy face. You know who!

LAURA: Broken hearts are easily mended.

VANCE: I'm not poet, but I can show it.

JAMES: Ick!

SAMANTHA: Happy b-day to my boy!

BRODY: Got some new tools. Will use 'em for sure. Thanks.

Beat.

EVERYONE: Status update.

Beat. They all change positions.

CINDY: Image! Good hair day makes me smile!

PIPER: Tacky pink lipstick and bad fake tan all over your face!

LAURA: Pop it or leave it?

VANCE: If I was a blade I'd shave you smooth.

JAMES: Pants r baggy. Deal with it sucka.

SAMANTHA: Mom wears my shoes so much they don't fit anymore.

BRODY: Shampoo commercial. For real? Who cares?

Beat.

EVERYONE: Status update.

Beat. They all change positions.

CINDY: Fears! Staying up to finish homework. Call me.

PIPER: Test tomorrow. Have to pass it. Summer here I come.

LAURA: Why isn't it M-C squared equals E?

VANCE: Dentist tomorrow. Oh joy.

JAMES: Don't forget the shoulder check. Zoom zoom!

SAMANTHA: Check email. Check email. Why no reply?

BRODY: Why does this always happen to me?

Beat.

EVERYONE: Status update.

Beat. They all change positions.

CINDY: Sleep! The pillow awaits! Whew!

PIPER: Cucumbers on the eyes.

LAURA: New face cream, wish me luck.

VANCE: Can't sleep. Computer playing a movie.

JAMES: Music on. Keeps the nightmares away.

SAMANTHA: Night night all!

BRODY: *Zzzzzzzzzz.*

Beat.

EVERYONE: Status update.

Beat. They all change positions, getting a little closer to one another.

CINDY: I hope the sun comes out tomorrow.

EVERYONE: Comment.

PIPER: Me too!

LAURA: Love the rain.

VANCE: TV says so.

JAMES: Wanna go swimming?

SAMANTHA: It will.

BRODY: Meh.

Beat.

EVERYONE: Status update.

Beat. They all change positions. They get even closer.

PIPER: I wish they made bathing suits that didn't pucker.

EVERYONE: Comment.

CINDY: L-O-L.

LAURA: Yeah.

VANCE: Whistle.

JAMES: Ew sis!

SAMANTHA: Smiley face.

BRODY: Heh.

Beat.

EVERYONE: Status update.

Beat. They all change positions. Closer still.

LAURA: I pray he's okay.

EVERYONE: Comment.

PIPER: Who?

CINDY: Who?

VANCE: Who?

JAMES: Who?

SAMANTHA: Who?

BRODY: He's fine.

Beat.

EVERYONE: Status update.

Beat. They all change positions. Closer still.

VANCE: I want what I want. Deal with it.

EVERYONE: Comment.

PIPER: You funny!

LAURA: I hear you.

CINDY: You got it babe.

JAMES: Snort bahahahaha!

SAMANTHA: Done. Dealt with it.

BRODY: Dude. Really?

Beat.

EVERYONE: Status update.

Beat. They all change positions. Even closer yet.

JAMES: I think I can.

EVERYONE: Comment.

PIPER: I think I can.

LAURA: I think I can.

VANCE: I think I can.

CINDY: I think I can.

SAMANTHA: I think I can.

BRODY: Nuff said.

Beat.

EVERYONE: Status update.

Beat. They all change positions. Very close now.

SAMANTHA: I can and did.

EVERYONE: Comment.

PIPER: Told ya.

LAURA: Smile.

VANCE: What?

JAMES: Woot woot!

CINDY: Hearts and more!

BRODY: I love you.

Beat.

EVERYONE: Status update.

Beat. They all change positions. They are all huddled up together.

BRODY: I did it.

EVERYONE: Comment.

PIPER: Did what?

LAURA: I knew you could.

VANCE: Good for you.

JAMES: Did what?

SAMANTHA: I love you too.



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