

# **STRIKING FOR A FUTURE**

**A One Act Play**

**By**

**William Bross**

**And**

**Rev. Cheryl Frank**

# STRIKING FOR A FUTURE

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

**ANDREW MASON.** 57. Editor of the City Record, a fictitious N.Y. City Newspaper

**JACKSON THOMAS.** 45. Lead reporter for the City Record

**TEAGAN MASON.** 16. Andrew Mason's youngest daughter

**BARBARA MASON.** 55. Andrew Mason's wife

**ANNA MASON.** 23. Andrew Mason's married daughter

**SECRETARY.** 21

*Please note – If your church wants to shorten and simplify this play, you can skip Act 1 Scene 1 and start the play at the beginning of Act 1 Scene 2.*

*At the end of the play, only the six actors come back into the sanctuary to take a bow.*

*If you have questions or want to let us know how the play was received, please write to us at [wilperrycca@gmail.com](mailto:wilperrycca@gmail.com)*

## **THE TIME**

Early afternoon of September 20, 2019

## **THE PLACE**

Andrew Mason's second story office overlooking 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. New York City

Act One. Scene one. People are marching along 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Scene two. Andrew Mason's Office. Early afternoon

## **STRIKING FOR A FUTURE**

### **ACT ONE**

#### **Scene One**

#### **SETTING:**

A Poster is placed on a stand stating:

**September 20, 2019  
Climate Strike March  
New York city**

The worship area is lit but the doors are closed.

## **PLAY BEGINS**

In the hall or vestibule a drummer begins softly playing a marching cadence on a snare drum. Over 30 seconds, the snare drum player gradually plays the drum louder.

The doors leading to the sanctuary are opened and the drummer, playing at full volume, leads ten or more striking marchers up the center aisles. The marchers, carrying signs, walk up and down the aisles for about three minutes ending up in a row across the front of the stage. They then follow the drummer out and the doors are closed.

The sound of the drum fades away gradually.

## **STRIKING FOR A FUTURE**

### **ACT ONE**

#### **Scene Two**

#### **SETTING:**

The first poster is replaced on the stand with a second poster

**City Record Editor's Office  
5th Ave., two stories above the  
On-going Climate Strike March**

#### **AT RISE:**

Andrew Mason is sitting at his desk dressed in a white shirt with the top button open and his tie loose. He gets up and walks over to look out a prop window ten feet to the right of Andrew's desk.

ANDREW

*(Speaking to himself while looking out the window.)*

**Give me a break. These Kids should be in school, not marching down 5<sup>th</sup> Ave.**

ANDREW

*(Walking back to his desk shaking his head, he hears a knock on his door.)*

**Yeah, what now!**

JACKSON

*(Walks into the office and goes over to look out the window.)*

**You know, this climate strike march is getting a lot of attention. It's been a long time since I have seen this many people marching in New York City. CNN is estimating there are at least 300,000 marchers.**

ANDREW

*(Speaking with authority.)*

**Jackson, all this started with that Swedish girl, and now these kids have a new hero who is going to save the planet. What will save the planet is them getting back to school where they belong, going to college and getting a good job. Not playing hooky and stopping traffic.**

JACKSON

**I don't know Andy, these kids are fired up. I hear there are hundreds of marches taking place today all over the world. We need to cover this story. Which reporter did you assign?**

ANDREW

**Oh, don't you worry, I put Johnson, the new guy, on this story. I'll give the march.....oh,**

*(Looking at the audience, with an evil grin.)*

**How about five column inches on page eight.**

JACKSON

*(Still standing at the window shakes his head in disbelief)*

SECRETARY

*(Walks from the back of room to Andrew's desk)*

**Your wife is calling on line one, sir.**

ANDREW

*(Andrew looks over to Jackson at the window)*

**This is probably about this march. Barbara is into all this climate change stuff.**

ANDREW

*(Picks up the phone on his desk)*

**Hello, Dear.**

*Andrew listens for about 15 seconds and begins shaking his head back and forth and making a sour face)*

**But...but.... what will the neighbors say?**

*(Speaking with disbelief)*

**The Mitchell's and the Kaufmann's are getting solar panels on their house too?! OK, Dear, we'll talk more when you get here. Goodbye.**

*(Turning to Jackson and speaking in shock)*

**I don't believe it. I don't believe it! Barbara wants to put solar panels on our roof.**

*(Looking straight ahead at the audience, he laments)*

**My beautiful normal roof covered with solar panels.**

*(Turning to look at Jackson)*

**Next she will want me to become a vegan.**

JACKSON

*(Leaves the office.)*

SECRETARY

*(Enters from the back of the room and walks forward to Andrew's desk)*

**Your daughter Teagan is here to see you, sir.**

ANDREW

*(Andrew gets up and stands in front of his desk and, as Teagan approaches, he holds his arms out and smiles getting ready for a hug from his daughter. Teagan walks by her father and goes directly to the window.)*

TEAGAN

*(As she walks by her father)*

**Hi, Dad.**

ANDREW

*(Andrew, with his arms still out, turns his head sideways to look at his daughter and with a frustrated, didn't you notice I wanted a hug look, turns and goes back to his desk with his shoulders slumped forward and his head down.)*

TEAGAN

*(Looking out the window)*

**Isn't this exciting?! Come look Dad. This march is a big success for the climate change movement!!**

ANDREW

*(Cradles his head in both hands and looks down at his desktop)*

TEAGAN

**Oh look! Here come the kids from my school. Oh, there's Devon, he is walking with his bike. Hi Devon! Hi Devon! I'm up here!**

ANDREW

*(With a surprised look on his face)*  
**Who's Devon?**

TEAGAN

**We met at the environmental club at school. He's awesome.**

ANDREW

*(Looking at the congregation with a smirk, mouths the two words –  
"He's awesome" – while shaking his head side to side with a la-de-da  
look.)*  
**You're in an environmental club?**

TEAGAN

**Dad, I told you that four months ago.**

ANDREW

**Why is he walking with his bike?**

TEAGAN

**He told me he wants to encourage others to think about riding a bike when possible. You know, Dad, cities all over the world are setting up bike lanes and improving public transportation. Some cities are even experimenting with auto free Sundays. Why, in Europe...**

ANDREW

*(Interrupts Teagan speaking sternly)*  
**Wait a minute! Wait a minute! This is America! Nobody is telling me I can't drive anywhere I want any day I want.**

TEAGAN

*(Leaves the window, walks over and stands beside her father at his desk.)*

**Dad.... I have been meaning to talk to you about that. Do you realize how embarrassing it is for me, as a member of the environmental club, for my father to drive that big gas guzzler? You really need to get with the times and buy an all-electric car.**

ANDREW

**Now wait just a minute. I'm the editor of a newspaper, and that, so called gas guzzler, happens to be a status symbol.**

TEAGAN

**Well guess what, Dad, keeping up with the Jones is out. It is time to be living more simply and sustainably. I mean, think about it. Do you really have to drag five thousand pounds of steel with you to the grocery store to buy a gallon of milk just to say I'm so special?**

ANDREW

**Well, I am special.**

TEAGAN

*(Shakes her head and walks back over to the window)*

RECEPTIONIST

*(Walks from the back of the room to Andrew's desk)*

**Your wife is here to see you, sir.**

BARBARA

*(Walks up to Andrew's desk.)*

**Hello, Dear.**

*(Looks over at the window and sees Teagan)*

**Teagan, you're here. I assumed you would be marching with the strikers this afternoon.**

TEAGAN

**Well, it will be a while before our church comes by. Then we can all join them. So, in the mean time, I thought I would watch it from Dad's office.**

BARBARA

*(Barbara walks over to the window and hugs Teagan.)*

TEAGAN

**I just can't believe how many kids are striking from school today to join the march.**

BARBARA

**I'm not surprised. Today's youth are way ahead of their parents on this issue. They study the science of climate change in school and they are determined to fight for their future.**

*(Looks over at Andrew and says loudly in an authoritative tone.)*

**Of course, if the media will give this student strike some good coverage, it will help the cause.**

ANDREW

*(Speaking with an, I know what's best tone.)*

**Now honey, all this scary talk by a few scientists and one 16-year-old girl, what's her name, Greta something, is getting everyone overly excited about this issue. Yes, the world may be temporarily getting a little warmer, but this has happened in the past, and before you know it, everything will be back to normal. God will not let his creation be destroyed. If there is a problem, he will fix it.**

BARBARA

*(Walks to Andrew's desk with a determined look on her face.)*

**I admire your faith, dear, but God has given us free will and Andrew, with that freedom comes great responsibility. Our children's future is at stake. The longer we wait to begin making changes to stop global warming, the harder it is going to be to fix this problem in the future.**

ANDREW

**Well, I must say, I didn't expect to hear that members of our church are out marching with these striking kids today.**

BARBARA

**Yes, Andrew, members of our church know how serious the problem is, and as people of faith, they are taking a stand. Andy, we can't just sit back and think that God will fix this problem. We created this problem and if we don't fix it, the future of our children and grandchildren are in jeopardy. So, today we are marching. We have also established a committee at church to reduce our use of fossil fuel and begin to look at ways we can use less paper and plastic and compost our food waste.**

BARBARA

*(Walks back over to the window to join Teagan)*

SECRETARY

*(Walks from the back of the worship area to Andrew's desk.)*

**Sir, your daughter Ann is here to see you.**

ANN

*(Walking from the back of the room to Andrew's desk carrying baby Grace [a toy doll is used as a prop] wrapped in a blanket, sees Teagan and Barbara at the window)*

**I didn't know you two were here.**

TEAGAN and BARBARA  
*(Walk over to Ann at Andrew's desk.)*

TEAGAN

**I came to watch the strike march from Dad's office and Mom came to see Dad.**

BARBARA

*(Speaking to Ann.)*  
**What brings you here today?**

ANN

*(Looking sad and speaking with deep concern)*  
**I came to talk to Dad.**

BARBARA

*(Gives Ann a kiss and takes Grace into her arms.)*  
**Well, good luck with that. Teagan and I have been trying to explain why all these young people are striking from school today. He thinks, if we will just be patient, our warming planet will cool down in no time.**

BARBARA and TEAGAN

*(Walk back to the window with Grace.)*

ANDREW

*(Gets up from his chair and gives Ann a hug. He sits back down and Ann sits down on a chair to the right of Andrew's desk. Andrew, speaking with concern.)*  
**What's wrong, Ann? I can see you're troubled about something.**

ANN

**Dad, I'm worried About Grace's future.**

ANDREW

*(Looks over to his granddaughter who is at the window and then back to Ann.)*

**Now Ann, Mom and I will see that Grace will have the best of everything. I have already started a college fund. And....**

ANN

*( Ann interrupts.)*

**Dad, I know you and Mom love Grace and want her to have the best of everything. But Dad, what kind of world is Grace going to have? You run a newspaper. You must know that bad things are happening to our planet: Species are going extinct, the oceans are becoming acidic, glaciers are melting, farmers are suffering from drought. Dad, have you forgotten what Hurricane Sandy did to our city? Scientists throughout the world are saying we have got to take this climate change issue seriously.**

ANN

*(Reaches out and takes her fathers hand.)*

**Dad, you have always been my hero. Now I need you to be Grace's hero. I don't want her to spend her whole life struggling to just survive one crisis after another.**

*(Andrew, with his head down, holds Ann's hand with both his hands and then slowly looks up at her face in deep thought. He lets go of her hand, gets up from his desk and walks over to the window where Teagan and Barbara have been watching the march and fussing over Grace. He takes Grace from Barbara, and looking down at the baby, walks slowly around the office for about 45 seconds. During this time the snare drum player in the foyer area starts playing his/her drum, first softly and then gradually louder. The snare drum stops and Andrew looks up from Grace to the audience.)*

ANDREW

*(Speaking with conviction)*

**My granddaughter is most certainly going to have a future!!**

TEAGAN and BARBARA

*(Leave the window and walk over to Andrew who is still holding the baby)*

ANN

*(Gets up from her chair and joins her mother and sister on either side of Andrew)*

ANDREW

*(Looking side to side at his family)*

**You're right! You're RIGHT! Change is scary and I'll admit, I like the way things are. But now...**

*(Looking down at Grace)*

**Holding Grace in my arms, and looking at this beautiful face with so much trust and so much promise....**

*(Looking back at his wife and daughters, and speaking with acceptance)*

**I know I have to stop denying the truth.**

*(Now speaking with conviction.)*

**This is the only world we have, and if we don't stop heating it up, Grace's future is in jeopardy. I can tell you right now that this is not going to happen on my watch!!**

*(In a loud voice)*

**Jackson! JACKSON!!**

JACKSON

*(Comes running into the office)*

**Yes, chief.**

ANDREW

*(In a forceful manner)*

**Get your best team together. I want a large front page story about these strikers. These kids are fighting for their future Jackson. They're saying loud and clear to all us adults, it's time for action. I want pictures! I want interviews! Make it happen!**

JACKSON

*(Smiling, gives Andrew a high five)*

**Andy, when were done, New York is going to be talking about this climate strike march for months.**

*(Runs out of the office)*

TEAGAN

*(Gives her father a big hug.)*

**Oh, Dad!**

ANDREW

*(Looking around at his family with a confident smile)*

**Is it too late to join this march?**

BARBARA

*(Speaking to Teagan with a sly smile,)*

**Get the sign we made for your father.**

TEAGAN

*(Walks over to the window and brings back a sign that says Kick the Carbon Habit. Grandfathers Striking for a Sustainable Future. She Gives it to Andrew)*

ANDREW

*(Takes the sign from Teagan. Takes hold of Barbara's hand and gives her a kiss on the cheek.)*

**You know, honey, I think it really would be kind of cool to drive an electric car.**

ANDREW, BARBARA, TEAGAN and ANN

*(Walk down the center aisle toward the back of the sanctuary. About half way down the aisle, they stop)*

BARBARA

**You know Andy, I think it's time we had more vegan meals.**

ANDREW

**Can I have meat once a week?**

BARBARA

**We'll see. We'll see.**

ANDREW

**Let's get marching!**

MARCHERS

*(The doors open and the drummer and marchers, along with Andrew, Barbara, Teagan and Ann, march to the front of the stage area, line up and take a bow.)*

**END OF PLAY**

**Some suggestions for signs for Act 1 Scene 1**

**Times Is Running Out**

**Our future Is In Our Hands**

**People of Faith Marching For A Sustainable Planet**

**United For Climate Action**

**Don't Mess With Our Mama**

**To Change Everything We Need Everybody**

**Kick The Carbon Habit**

**Good Planets Are Hard To Find**

**There Is No Planet B**

**Yes We Care**

**Your mother Needs You**

**I Shouldn't Have To Skip School To Fight For My Future**

**Kids and Parents Together**

**This Is Our Home Treat It Like you would Want To Be Treated**