

## INTRODUCTION

This play is about a young person who wants to change his life. Chris would like to see new places and learn new things, but the older people in his life don't like his plan. They can only see problems. Chris finds that he, too, is a little afraid of change.

## CHARACTERS IN THE PLAY

Chris, a young person who wants to travel  
Cox  
Mills  
Harris  
Dean  
Wright

} five of Chris's friends, all older than him

## PERFORMANCE NOTES

At the beginning of the play Chris's friends are in a room. Cox is reading a book, Mills and Harris are talking quietly to each other, and Wright and Dean are looking out of a window.

You will need six chairs, a book, a bag and a map.

## Canada Can Wait

*Cox, Mills and Harris are sitting in a room. Dean and Wright are standing by a window. Chris comes in.*

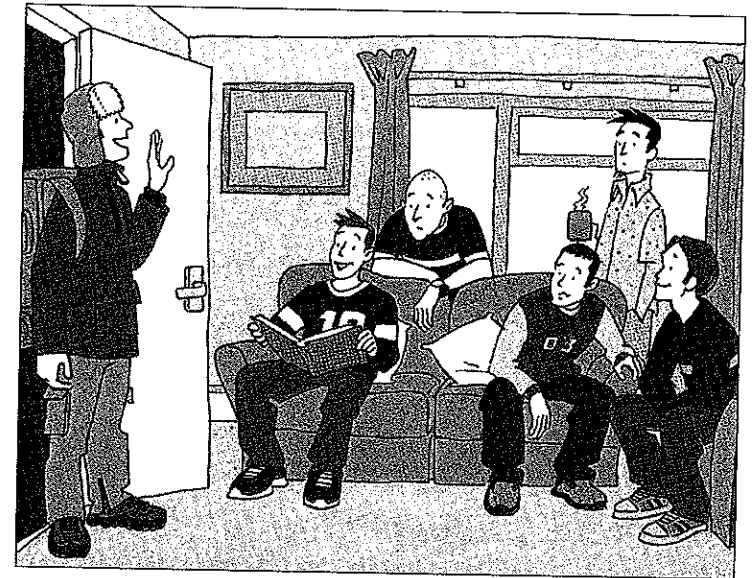
CHRIS *(Smiling)* Well, goodbye, everyone.

COX *(Putting down his book)* Are you going?

CHRIS Yes, I must.

MILLS When are you going?

CHRIS Now.



*'Well, goodbye, everyone.'*

COX Now? So soon?  
MILLS Don't go!  
CHRIS But I must. I need a change.  
HARRIS What are you going to do?  
CHRIS I'd like to travel for a time.  
HARRIS Travel? How wonderful!  
DEAN Yeah, think of us when you're travelling.  
COX Yes, think of us – we have to stay here.  
MILLS It's the same old thing, day after day—  
HARRIS The same old faces.  
WRIGHT The same old problems.  
MILLS Nothing different for us!  
DEAN But someone has to do it.  
COX Yes, that's right. We can't *all* go!  
CHRIS Why not? You can travel too.  
COX Us? (*He laughs.*)  
MILLS How can we travel?  
HARRIS We have things to do here.  
CHRIS What things?  
WRIGHT He says, 'What things?'  
DEAN What a question!  
COX (*To the others*) He's tired of us.  
CHRIS No, I'm not. I'm not tired of you. I'm happy here.  
MILLS Are you?  
CHRIS Well, I *was* happy here. It's a good place, and I—  
HARRIS Yes?



'Spain, perhaps, or Greece . . .'

CHRIS Well, I like you. I'm one of you – one of the group.  
WRIGHT That's nice.  
DEAN So where would you like to go?  
CHRIS I don't know. Spain, perhaps, or Greece . . .  
maybe even Canada—  
COX Canada?  
CHRIS Yes. I'm very interested in Canada.  
MILLS Canada, well!  
HARRIS That's interesting.  
WRIGHT You're very adventurous, Chris.  
COX We're not adventurous at all, I'm afraid.  
DEAN But then you're young—



*'The lakes and the forests . . .'*

COX You have your life in front of you.  
 MILLS You want to see exciting places—  
 HARRIS Like Canada!  
 WRIGHT The lakes and the forests . . .  
 COX The great St. Lawrence River . . .  
 DEAN How wonderful!  
 COX Lucky Chris!  
 MILLS It's different for us. We have to stay here. We can't go to Canada.  
 HARRIS 'I'm one of you,' you said, 'one of the group.' But you're not!

DEAN No, Chris, you're different from us—  
 CHRIS No, I'm not! Stop talking like this. I'm not different from you. Sometimes I'm happy, sometimes I'm not. I work and eat and sleep, like you.  
 MILLS Ah, but *you* are going away—  
 HARRIS And *we* are staying here.  
 WRIGHT And that makes you different.  
 CHRIS I'm *not* different!  
 COX But what about Canada?  
 CHRIS Stop talking about Canada! I'm not going to Canada – I'd *like* to go there, that's all!  
 COX So you *aren't* going there now?  
 CHRIS I don't know. Perhaps. I need some time to think about my life.  
 WRIGHT Oh, yes.  
 DEAN Everyone does.  
 MILLS It's usual for people to do that.  
 HARRIS And there's lots of time. You're young.  
 CHRIS That's right. I have my life in front of me.  
 HARRIS So, take your time.  
 CHRIS Right.  
 WRIGHT You can stay here as long as you like—  
 DEAN And think about it.  
 CHRIS Yeah. (*He sits down.*)  
 ALL Mmm . . .  
*Everyone is quiet for a moment.*