

EXPLORING COMEDY GENRE - PRE-VIEWING ACTIVITY

There are actually five people around the dinner table in this scene from *The Bar Mitzvah Boy* (1976) but the Bar Mitzvah boy and his sister's boyfriend are silent throughout.

As you read, try to spot the comic moments and imagine how you think the scene will look on screen.

Mother [Rita]: Stan and Dora Klein.

Daughter: What about them?

Mother: We don't know if they're coming to the dinner dance. Victor!

Father [Victor]: If they come, they come. If they don't, they don't. Confucius Cohen. [To son-in-law] Pass the salt.

Mother: But the seating plan. It will make ash and blotter of the seating plan. They should be on the second table but it's full.

Daughter: But they're not relations.

Mother: But he's a doctor. He expects it. [Sighs] They'll give him a beautiful present though.

Daughter: But they might not be coming.

Mother: But by the same token...

Father: Rita, let me eat.

Mother: You'd think they'd RSVP. A man in his position.

Father: Perhaps they didn't get the invitation. Perhaps they were in Bournemouth. He's a doctor, perhaps he can't read decent writing. Perhaps he couldn't afford a stamp - who can?

Mother: It was stamped already. It was a stamped addressed card. No expense spared.

Father: For the first time in three months, may I eat without hearing seating plans, and menus, and caterers, and do we tip the rabbi, and should we invite Miriam, and what if it rains, and should I wear a long dress or a short dress, and nothing will spoil it will it? In the morning, he gets Bar Mitzvahed, in the evening we have the dinner dance, and by Sunday it's all a dream, thank you, Amen.

In your groups, try to perform the scene bringing out the comedy by using tone of voice and facial expressions.