

# Epic Fail

A Comedy in One Act

*By*  
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### **STORY OF THE PLAY**

Teenagers are faced with failure every day. Some mornings it feels like they have the letter F stamped on their foreheads in bright red ink. In a series of hilarious vignettes, five students take on a multitude of challenges, each from a different perspective. From driving a car that has a mind of its own to having an argument with a bag of chips in a vending machine, these teenagers discover that the only way to succeed is to stare failure in the face. And if they're going to take that risk, they might as well make it epic!

Performance time: 30-35 minutes.

**CAST OF CHARACTERS**  
*(Entirely gender flexible cast of 5-30+)*

**STUDENTS:**

There are five core students. They are entirely gender neutral (including their names); simply change the pronouns at your discretion.

**AVERY**  
**CHRIS**  
**PARKER**  
**LOGAN**  
**ROBIN**

**CHORUS:**

The chorus should have at least three members, but could be infinitely larger. They may say all of their lines in unison, split the sentences between them, or a combination of both. For the smallest possible cast, the chorus could be eliminated altogether. If this is the case, their dialogue should be spoken in unison by the students.

**ENSEMBLE:**

There are many roles in the ensemble and they may be assigned individually, doubled up by the students, or played by members of the chorus. Also, it is perfectly acceptable to have the actors portray both genders.

<b>PRINCIPAL</b>	<b>DRAMA TEACHER</b>
<b>MATH TEACHER</b>	<b>ENGLISH TEACHER</b>
<b>INSTRUCTOR</b>	<b>ACCELERATOR</b>
<b>BRAKE</b>	<b>GEAR SHIFT</b>
<b>HEART</b>	<b>BRAIN</b>
<b>GOOD CRUSH</b>	<b>BAD CRUSH</b>
<b>CHIPS</b>	<b>SODA</b>
<b>CARROTS</b>	<b>MILK</b>
<b>MOM</b>	<b>DAD</b>
<b>SISTER</b>	<b>BROTHER</b>

## **SETTING**

All that's required is a bare stage, with a few blocks that will be rearranged for each setting.

## **LIGHTS AND SOUND**

There are no special light or sound effects. Music may be used in between scenes, but there should be no blackouts. This will help keep the play moving along at a brisk pace.

## **COSTUMES**

The students wear white button-up shirts and blue jeans. Underneath these button-ups, they wear T-shirts that have the letter F stamped across the chest, in bright red ink. The chorus wears brightly colored clothes to differentiate them from the students. No special costumes are necessary for characters in the ensemble, but if you have any fun ideas, go for it!

## **PROPS**

The props can be real or imagined. If you decide to use props, keep them minimal. List of properties: three exams, can of soda, small bag of chips, small carton of milk, small bag of baby carrots.

## **Epic Fail**

*(AT RISE: The CHORUS is huddled up center stage, wearing brightly colored outfits. The five STUDENTS are scattered around them on various levels, dressed in matching button-up white shirts and blue jeans.)*

**AVERY:** A.

**CHORUS:** Awesome. Assured. Amazing.

**CHRIS:** B.

**CHORUS:** Bright. Brainy. Balanced.

**PARKER:** C.

**CHORUS:** Competent. Capable. Common.

**LOGAN:** D.

**CHORUS:** Dicey. Dopey. Dumb.

**ROBIN:** F.

**CHORUS:** Foolish. Futile. Failure.

*(On the following lines, the STUDENTS rip open their button-up shirts, revealing the letter "F" in bright red ink on their shirts underneath.)*

**AVERY:** Fail.

**CHRIS:** Fail.

**PARKER:** Fail.

**LOGAN:** Fail.

**ROBIN:** Fail.

*(The CHORUS stamps their feet.)*

**CHORUS:** Fail.

**ROBIN:** How come they skip the letter "E" when they pass out grades?

**LOGAN:** Because "E" stands for something else.

**PARKER:** What does it stand for?

**CHORUS:** Epic.

**CHRIS:** Epic what?

**CHORUS:** Epic fail.

*Epic Fail*

- 6 -

*(As AVERY speaks to the audience, the STUDENTS exit and the CHORUS moves the blocks around to form a principal's office.)*

**AVERY:** That sounds about right. I'm not exactly what you'd call the sharpest knife in the drawer. I'm not even the pointiest fork. When it comes to cutlery, I'm more like a slotted spoon. I understand the big stuff, but it's the details that slip through the cracks. Unfortunately, teachers are pretty big on details. So when it comes time to collect my homework, chances are pretty good it will be accompanied by the F word.

**CHORUS:** Fail!

*(The CHORUS exits as AVERY takes a seat in the principal's office. Across from him are the PRINCIPAL, DRAMA TEACHER, MATH TEACHER and ENGLISH TEACHER.)*

**PRINCIPAL:** You're probably wondering why I've called this meeting.

**AVERY:** No.

**PRINCIPAL:** Really?

**AVERY:** I'm pretty sure it's because I'm an idiot.

**PRINCIPAL:** I never said you're an idiot.

**AVERY:** You don't have to. I know I am.

**PRINCIPAL:** You're not an idiot.

**AVERY:** True or false. I failed my math test.

**MATH:** True.

**AVERY:** I failed my English test.

**ENGLISH:** True.

**AVERY:** I failed my drama test.

**DRAMA:** True.

**AVERY:** See. Idiot.

**PRINCIPAL:** Is there something going on at home that you'd like to talk about? Perhaps we could help you.

**AVERY:** Home is not my problem.

**PRINCIPAL:** Then what is your problem?

**AVERY:** Passing tests. Duh.

*Epic Fail*

- 7 -

**PRINCIPAL:** It's not just that you failed them that concerns me. It's the way you failed them that I find, for lack of a better word, spectacular.

**AVERY:** (*Smiles proudly.*) Yeah. I figured if I was going to fail them anyway, I might as well make it interesting.

**PRINCIPAL:** So your answers were on purpose?

**AVERY:** That depends on which ones you're talking about.

**PRINCIPAL:** Exactly why I called you here. I've asked your teachers to read a couple of examples and then afterward you can explain yourself.

**AVERY:** Shoot.

**PRINCIPAL:** Don't worry. We're not going to hurt you.

**AVERY:** No. I meant, "Go ahead."

**PRINCIPAL:** Oh. Then go ahead.

**MATH:** (*Reads from a piece of paper.*) "Confusion is a strange affliction. Panic, fear and contradiction. Never sure what's fact or fiction. Leads me to a drug addiction."

**PRINCIPAL:** What do you have to say for yourself?

**AVERY:** I'd say that was pretty good. Wouldn't you?

**MATH:** Perhaps. But this is a math test.

**AVERY:** So?

**MATH:** So I asked for the quadratic formula.

**AVERY:** Which is just as confusing as poetry.

**MATH:** Interesting, but not relevant. In fact, you answered every equation with a poem.

**ENGLISH:** And on your English test, you answered in equations.

**PRINCIPAL:** For instance?

**ENGLISH:** (*Reads from a piece of paper.*) Question. "In *The Scarlet Letter*, what letter was Hester Prynne forced to wear across her chest?" Answer. "E equals M C squared."

**AVERY:** Pretty funny, right?

**PRINCIPAL:** Jon Stewart is funny. Ellen DeGeneres is funny. Carrot Top is funny. You are not funny.

**DRAMA:** Are you bored in class?

**AVERY:** No.

**MATH:** Overwhelmed?

**AVERY:** No.

**ENGLISH:** On drugs?

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