COMHRÁ AG GEATAÍ NA SCOILE

Suíomh: Betina agus Seán, tuismitheoirí ag geataí na scoile ag comhrá. Tagann Nell, tuismitheoir eile, lena leanbh chun í a fhágaint ar scoil. Páirceáileann Nell a gluaisteán. Níl aon leanbh eile timpeall. Táid ar fad imithe isteach ar scoil. Is léir go bhfuil sí déananch. Tá Betina agus Seán ag caint fós ag geataí na scoile.

NELL

Seo linn, tapaigh Róisín! Brostaigh, brostaigh, brostaigh. Dein deabhadh!

ROISÍN

Ok Mam. Tóg bog é!!! Ní bheidh an múinteoir crosta liom. Ní bhíonn sí riamh nuair a bhím déanach.

NELL

Tá's agam Róisín. Ach díreach nách maith liom a bheith déanach, agus ná dearúd tá post agamasa leis. Beidh mé déanach do mo chrúinniú! Anois a stór, slán. Bíodh ana lá ar fad agat. Bí go maith.

(Tá Róisín imithe suas céimeanna na scoile ach casann sí timpeall nuair a chloiseann sí é seo.)

RÓISÍN

Mam, bím i gcónaí i mo chailín maith!

NELL

Tás agam, tás agam a stór! Ar aghaidh leat!!! Slán!

(Fágann sí slán ag Nell agus féachann sí uirthi ag dul isteach ar scoil. Casann sí timpeall agus scaoileann sí osna mór! Tosnaíonn Betina agus Seán ag gáire!)

SEÁN

Na haon tigh mar an gcéanna mar sin a Nell!

NELL

Ná bí ag caint liom! Cá n-imíonn an t-am ar maidin! D'éiríomar in am ach n'fheadar.... an chéad rud eile bhí sé in am imeacht agus gan an lón fiú amháin déanta agam.

SEÁN

Buíochas le Dia go bhfuil Tomás seo againne ag an aois anois a lón féin a dhéanamh.

BETINA

Tá cúpla bliain eile le dul againne Nell.

NELL

Tá san!

SEÁN

Ní chreidim gurb é seo an bhliain dheireanach aige Tomás sa bhunscoil agus go mbeidh deireadh againn leis an scoil seo ar fad an bhliain seo chugainn. Braithfimíd uainn é dáirire. Ana scoil ar fad í agus bhí na leanaí ar fad ana shásta go deo anseo.

BETINA

Dochreidithe nach mbeidh aon duine fágaithe agaibh sa scoil a thuilleadh.

NELL

Triúr sa mheánscoil!

SEÁN

Ní bhíonn an t-am i bhfad ag imeacht a mhná! Bain súp as faid atáid fós ag caint libh. Faic anois ach scáileáin im thigse! Cogar caithfead imeacht uaibh, tá na huain á mbreith! Slán a mhnáibh!

NELL agus BETINA

Slán Seán.

(Imíonn Seán agus fágtar na mná ag caint.)

BETINA

Áthas orm gur bhualas leat. Ceist agam ort. An raibh tú in ann aon chiall a dhéanamh don mata aréir?

NELL

Níl tuairim agam. Fágaim fé Róisín féinig é mar ní féidir liom tóin ná ceann a dhéanamh don mata nua san. Ní rabhas riamh ró mhaith chuige ach na laethanta seo níl aon tuiscint agam air.

Buíochas le Dia gur maith le Róisín é agus tá sí ábalta é a láimhseáil í féin. Imíonn sí le taobh a hathar ansan!

BETINA

Táimse sa bhád ceanna, ní féidir liom bun nó barr a dhéanamh as. Ach an rud is measa ná níl Hannah in ann dó ach an oiread.

NELL

Tá suíomh gréasán a fhaigheann Róisín féin ana úsáideach nuair a bhíonn sí i bpunc. Gheobhad duit é agus seans go gcabhróidh sé leat. Idir an dá linn cad ina thaobh ná tagann Hannah abhaile linne uair nó dhó sa tseachtain leis an obair bhaile a dhéanamh le Róisín, go dtí go dtiocfaidh sí isteach air.

BETINA

Dáiríre! Chabhródh san ana mhór linn. Bheinn go mór faoi chomaoin agat Nell.

NELL

Ná ní faic é sin.

BETINA

Ní thuigeann tú, dáiríre, is mór an chabhair é. Más féidir liom aon ní a dhéanamh duitse, díreach abair liom.

NELL

Níl faic na ngrást! Do chomhluadar lá eigin! Is féidir leat smaointe a thabhairt dom i gcomhair lón blasta sláintiúil. Bíonn Róisín i gcónaí ag caint ar lón Hannah!!!

BETINA

An mbíonn? Níl aon dua ansan. Is féidir linn suí síos agus roinnt smaointe a chuir le chéile. Cad faoi caifé a bheith againn anois?

NELL

Ná bhreá liom é Betina. Ach tá deabhadh an diabhail orm. Tá cruinniú agam ag a deich. Ar zúm!!! Tá an ghráin agam ar an zúm seo!

BETINA

Lá eile mar sin?

NELL

Cinnte. Abair le Hannah teacht chugainn tráthnóna. Slán.

BETINA

Déanfad san. Go raibh míle míle maith agat. Slán, slán.

Ráitisí Teangan/Language Statements

Seo linn.	Let's go.
Tapaigh! Brostaigh! Dein deabhadh!	Hurry.
Tóg bog é.	Take it easy/Don't stress.
Bíodh ana lá ar fad agat.	Have a fantastic day.
Bímse im' chailín maith i gcónaí.	I'm always a good girl.
Ar aghaidh leat.	On you go!
Braithfimid uainn é.	We will miss it.
Ana shásta go deo.	Extremely happy.
Ní bhíonn an t-am i bhfad ag imeacht!	The time flies.
Bain súp as.	Enjoy it.
An raibh tú in ann ciall a dhéanamh don mata?	Could you make any sense of the maths?
Níl tuairim agam.	I haven't a clue.
Fágaim fé Róisín féin é.	I leave it up to Róisín herself.
Ní féidir liom tóin ná ceann a dhéanamh dó.	I can't make head nor tail of it.
Tá sí ábalta é a láimhseáil í féin.	She can manage it herself.
Is mór an chabhair é. It's a great help.	It's a great help.

CONVERSATION AT THE SCHOOL GATES

Scene: Betina and Seán, parents at the school gates chatting. Nell arrives, another parent, with her daughter to drop her off at school. She parks her car. There aren't any other children around. They have all gone inside already. It seems she is late. Betina and Seán are still chatting at the school gates.

NELL

Here we go! Quickly! Hurry, hurry, hurry! Speed it up!

ROISÍN

Ok, Mom. Take it easy! The teacher won't be cross with me. She's never cross when I'm late.

NELL

I know Róisín. It's just that I don't like to be late either, don't forget I have a job too. I'll be late for my meeting. Ok, bye love. Have a wonderful day. Be good.

(Róisín has started going up the school steps on hearing this she turns around.)

RÓISÍN

Mom, I'm always a good girl!

NELL

I know darling. Off you go now! Bye!

(She bids Nell goodbye and Nell watches her as she enters the school doors. She turns around and lets out a big sigh of relief. Betina and Seán begin to laugh!)

SEÁN

It's the same in every house Nell.

NELL

Don't mention the war! Where does the time go in the morning! We woke up in time but I don't know...the next thing it was time to go and I hadn't even made the lunch!

SEÁN

Thanks be to God that our Tomás is of an age to make his own lunch.

BETINA

We have a few more years to go there Nell!

NELL

Tell me about it!

SEÁN

I can't believe that this is Tomás's last year in primary school. And that we'll be completely finished with this school next year. We will really miss it. It's a great school and the children were so very happy here.

BETINA

Incredible that you won't have any children left here anymore.

NELL

Three in secondary school!

SEÁN

The time flies ladies! Enjoy them while they still actually speak to you. All we have in our house now are screens! Listen I have to go—lambing season! Bye ladies.

NELL and BETINA

Bye Seán.

(Seán leaves and the women stay talking a bit.)

BETINA

I'm glad I bumped into you. I've a question for you. Could you understand last night's maths?

NELL

I haven't a clue. I leave it to Róisín herself because, to be honest, I can't figure out the new maths at all. I was never any good at it but these days I can't understand it at all.

Thank goodness that Róisín likes maths and that she can manage them herself. She takes after her father there!

BETINA

I'm in the same boat, I can't figure them out at all. But the worst thing is Hannah can't figure them out either.

NELL

There's a great website that Róisín finds useful when she is stuck. I'll get it for you and it might help. In the meantime, why doesn't Hannah come to our house once or twice a week to do the homework with Róisín until she gets the hang of it?

BETINA

Really! That would be a great help. I'd be so indebted to you Nell.

NELL

It's no problem.

BETINA

Honestly, you don't understand, it would be a great help. If I can do anything for you anytime just tell me.

NELL

Nothing at all. Your company sometime. You can give me healthy lunch box ideas. Róísín is always talking about Hannah's lunch!

BETINA

Really? That's easy. We can sit down and put some ideas together. How about a coffee now?

NELL

I'd love to Betina but I'm in a hurry. I've a meeting at ten—on zoom! I really hate all this zooming!

BETINA

Another day then?

NELL

Sure. Tell Hannah to come over this evening. Bye!

BETINA

I'll do that. Thank you so so so so much.