

Spring is for the Birds

A Play for Children

by

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By Alan D. Perkins
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CHARACTERS
(in order of appearance)

4 Workers
Sandy Beech
Tyrone Shoelaces
Winter
Summer
Candy Wrapper
Rabbit
Bear
Squirrel
Snake
Barbara Blacksheep
Larry Bird
Lady Bird
Groundhog
Autumn's Secretary
Autumn
4 Students
Dr. Noah Lott
Spring
Mother Nature

REQUIREMENTS

The play is presented like a newscast with multiple locations and reporters.

(The 4 WORKERS walk in a circle in the center of the stage. Each carries a sign saying "Strike".)

4 WORKERS

Strike! We're on strike! Unfair! (etc.)

(Lights up on SANDY BEECH, a news reporter.)

SANDY

(to the audience) Hello, I'm Sandy Beech, and if you've just joined us, it is official: Spring has gone on strike — there will be no spring coming this year. Until we hear otherwise, Winter will just go right into Summer.

I'm here with the members of Seasons Local Union number 407. Excuse me ...

(WORKER 1 comes to SANDY.)

WORKER 1

Yes?

SANDY

Is it true that Spring is on strike?

WORKER 1

That's absolutely correct. Spring is on strike.

SANDY

Now, that's a tall order — an entire season going on strike.

WORKER 1

I know we're up against some pretty stiff odds, but the boss says Strike, and we strike.

SANDY

Now, the boss you refer to is Spring herself?

WORKER 1

That's right. One of the hardest workers I've ever seen. We're her crew, and we back her up no matter what.

SANDY

How long do you expect this will continue?

WORKER 1

Only Spring knows that.

(WORKER 1 goes back to the circle.)

SANDY

(To the audience) Well, there you have it. The boss says Strike. Why would a season do such a thing? We take you now to Tyrone Shoelaces at Season Central. Tyrone ...

(From another part of the stage, TYRONE enters with WINTER.)

TYRONE

Thank you, Sandy. Tyrone Shoelaces reporting live from Season Central. We're all concerned about the decision to cancel spring this year, so I'm here at Season Central to see if we can get a better understanding of the situation at hand. I'm here now with Winter. Hello, Winter.

WINTER

(Yawns) Will this take long? I'm sleepy.

TYRONE

I'm sure it won't. Tell me, Winter, why is Spring on strike?

WINTER

I don't know what her problem is. Seasons have it easy. Take me, for instance. During winter everything slows down. The animals go into hibernation, the plants die, the waters freeze over ... I basically just sit still. It's a cushy job.

TYRONE

So you do basically nothing.

WINTER

That's not true. I nap.

TYRONE

That's all?

WINTER

Well, there IS the occasional snack.

TYRONE

Winter, do you have any words for Spring?

WINTER

Sure. Hey Spring - chill. (laughs to himself) That never gets old.

TYRONE

(to the audience) And there you have it.

WINTER

Can I go back to my nap now?

TYRONE

Oh, if you have to.

(to the audience)

This is Tyrone Shoelaces, reporting from Season Central.
Back to you, Sandy.

SANDY

Thank you, Tyrone. I have another one of the workers with
me who can shed a little more light on this whole thing.

WORKER 2

Nope. That's the whole point. No light will be shed.

SANDY

But you just said ...

WORKER 2

I'll tell you what's going on ... we're not shedding any
light. We're not bringing Spring. You see, every year
it's the same thing. Since Winter does basically nothing,
it's all up to us to get things going. We have to wake up
the animals, get the plants growing, bring out the sun,
warm up the air ... it's a lot of work. And then Summer
comes and basically lets everything run wild.

SANDY

Fascinating. And what about Autumn?

WORKER 2

Autumn? All talk, no action. But you gotta watch him —
he's so flashy, very colorful -- likes to look good, if you
know what I mean.

SANDY

So you're saying that Winter, Summer and Autumn do little
to nothing.

WORKER 2

That's exactly what I'm saying. They put in a few hours
and sit back, but we bust our ...

WORKERS

(Interrupting) STRIKE! WE'RE ON STRIKE!

SANDY

(to the audience) If you've just joined us, Spring is on strike. If I understand this correctly, Spring feels that she shoulders so much of the workload, that the entire season is on strike.

WORKER 2

That is correct, Sandy.

SANDY

Furthermore, they're saying that the other seasons are basically lazy. Now, I understand Tyrone Shoelaces has more news from Season Central. Tyrone ...

(TYRONE enters again, this time with SUMMER.)

TYRONE

Thank you, Sandy. I'm here with Summer.

SUMMER

(whispers) Say it.

TYRONE

No.

SUMMER

Aw, Dude! You promised.

TYRONE

Oh ... very well. Introducing, his most righteous dudeness - the season who's so hot he's cool: Summer.

SUMMER

Now, that wasn't too hard, was it, dude?

TYRONE

You have no idea. Now Summer, it appears that Spring has made some pretty harsh accusations. What are your thoughts on the matter?

SUMMER

Dude! Spring, like, needs to chill out.

TYRONE

That's exactly what Winter said.

SUMMER

Frosty knows what he's talkin' about.

TYRONE

But what about Spring's accusations? Is she right? Is Spring the only season who works hard?

SUMMER

Spring is definitely a hard-working babe. There's no doubt about that. She needs to lay back, get mellow. Take it easy, dudette.

TYRONE

But isn't that the problem? She's decided to do just that?

SUMMER

Aw, bummer. You're right. Spring, you gotta get your head together!

TYRONE

Summer ... I can call you "Summer," can't I?

SUMMER

Righteous! Can I call you Ty?

TYRONE

Uh, no. Mr. Summer — what exactly do you DO?

SUMMER

Aw, I got it great! I lay back, let my hair down, munch some chips, hit the waves, catch a tasty curl — it's awesome! Being Summer totally rocks!

TYRONE

I think I understand.

SANDY

Tyrone?

TYRONE

Yes, Sandy?

SANDY

Tyrone — we've now heard from both Winter and Summer. They seem to be in total agreement with the workers. Spring carries most of the burden of the year's weather while the other seasons basically sit back and enjoy the fruits of Spring's labors.

TYRONE

It appears to be true, Sandy.

SANDY

Is there any way you can get an interview with Autumn?

TYRONE

I've put in an appointment with his secretary. With luck we'll be hearing from him soon.

SUMMER

Good luck, dude. Autumn's a pretty tough audience. We were supposed to go surfing two years ago and he keeps rescheduling. Totally bogus.

SANDY

We'll be waiting for your report Tyrone.

SUMMER

Dude, he said we can call him Ty!

TYRONE

I did not!

SANDY

Thank you ... Ty. We go now to Candy Wrapper, out in the field. Candy, what's happening in the field?

(CANDY enters with BEAR, RABBIT, SQUIRREL and SNAKE, who lies very still.)

CANDY

Actually, I'm not in the field, but in the forest. I'm here with what you might call the Woodland Animals.

BEAR

That's right — we're with the Woodland Animals Local Union number 43.

CANDY

Now, surely you've heard the news that Spring is on strike.

BEAR

You BET we have.

RABBIT

I think it stinks.

SQUIRREL

You can't imagine the implications of this catastrophe.

CANDY

I'm sure I can't. Can you give us an overview?

BEAR

For starters, we've finished hibernating! Like it or not, our clocks say it's time to get up. But now it's too cold, so we can't do anything but sit around the house.

SNAKE

Help ... can't move ...

SQUIRREL

And since we only put away enough food for the winter,
we're starving!

RABBIT

Not to mention that no fruits and leaves will be growing,
so even if we DID go outside, there's nothing there to eat!

SNAKE

... help ...

CANDY

Is this true?

BEAR

Better believe it, hu-man.

SNAKE

Help!

CANDY

What's his problem?

BEAR

Oh, he's cold-blooded. Locks up stiff as a board until
spring.

SNAKE

... cold ...

SQUIRREL

Nuts!

CANDY

I know it's nuts.

SQUIRREL

No, nuts. I'm looking for nuts.

BEAR

Yeah. Got any food?

SANDY

Candy?

CANDY

Yes, Sandy?

SANDY

You might want to ask them if this will effect next winter?

CANDY

Will this effect next winter?

RABBIT

If nothing grows, we can't put anything away. We'll be doomed!

SQUIRREL

I spend the better part of the year putting away nuts. If there are no nuts, then I don't eat during the winter. I'll starve.

BEAR

We'll all starve.

SNAKE

... freezing ...

CANDY

And there you have it. Candy Wrapper, out in the field ... uh ... woods.

BEAR

You know, YOU look kinda tasty -- Candy.

CANDY

Sandy? SANDY!!!

SANDY

Thank you, Candy. I hope you have your running shoes on. (laughs) To recap: Spring is on strike. I hear that we're trying to get an interview with the source of all this, Spring herself. We now go to Barbara Blacksheep, who has an interesting take on this whole thing. Barbara

(BARBARA enters with the BIRDS, who look like tourists. Each carry a large egg.)

BARBARA

Hewwo, Sandy. This is Bawbwa Bwacksheep. I'm here in Orwando, Fworida - Disney Worwd to be exact - with the Bird family.

LARRY BIRD

Hi. I'm Larry Bird, and this is my lovely wife, Lady Bird ...

LADY BIRD

Hello. Hi Mom!

LARRY BIRD

(Indicating the eggs) And these are our children, Harold and Sally.

(listens to the egg) What's that? You want to ride Space Mountain AGAIN?

BARBARA

Now, you're actuawwy GWAD Spwing is on stwike?

LARRY BIRD

Yes. Spring is for the birds. Ha! I made a joke!

LADY BIRD

Good one, hon! Barbra, as you know we birds fly South for the winter. Well, this year we wound up in Disney World and, by golly, we're having the BEST time!

(listens to egg) What's that dear? You want to ride "it's a small world?" Be patient, tweetie.

BARBARA

But without Sprwng, you'll be stuck in Fworida.

LARRY BIRD

And what's your point?

LADY BIRD

Don't get us wrong — for years we've flown North for the spring, then South for the winter, then North for the spring again, then South for the winter again. We're just getting a little tired of it. So, we've decided to just stay in Florida where it's warmer.

BARBARA

But what about food?

LARRY BIRD

There's food down South.

BARBARA

What about the nests you've weft behind?

LADY BIRD

I understand Animal Kingdom has some nice condos for sale.

(Both eggs start to get restless.)

LARRY BIRD

Sorry, they're just hungry. In a minute, kids. You know how kids are. They get so peckish this time of day. HA! I made another joke!

LADY BIRD

That's two, dear.

SANDY

Excuse me, Barbara.

BARBARA

Yes, Sandy?

SANDY

We've just gotten a hold of someone I think our viewers are going to want to hear from. We take you back to Candy Wrapper who has a special report. Candy ...

(CANDY enters with the
GROUNDHOG.)

CANDY

Thank you Sandy. I'm here with the one-and-only Groundhog.

GROUNDHOG

WHAT? IS THAT CAMERA ROLLING?!!

CANDY

You can relax, Mr. Groundhog.

GROUNDHOG

OH? IT'S EASY FOR YOU TO SAY!

CANDY

Mr. Groundhog, I'm sure you know that Spring is on strike.

GROUNDHOG

SHE'S RUINED MY LIFE!!

CANDY

I can see how this will affect you. I mean, you basically usher in the Spring.

GROUNDHOG

OH MAN, I CAN'T TAKE THE PRESSURE!! IT'S ALL UP TO ME!
IT'S ALL ON MY SHOULDERS!

CANDY

I understand you've already made your history-making appearance months ago.

GROUNDHOG

OH, REMIND ME, WHY DON'T YOU! IT'S JUST THE BIGGEST
EMBARRASSMENT OF MY LIFE!

CANDY

You mean Spring not following through?

GROUNDHOG

EVERY YEAR IT'S THE SAME THING: "IS SPRING COMING?" "IS IT SIX WEEKS OR JUST AROUND THE CORNER?" WHEN, WHEN, WHEN ... IT NEVER STOPS!! IT'S ALL UP TO ME! DO YOU HEAR ME?! EVERYBODY WAITS FOR ME TO CALL THE SHOTS!! NOW I'M NOTHING BUT A BIG, FAT LIAR!!

CANDY

Nobody thinks you're a liar.

GROUNDHOG

NO! I'M A BIG, FAT, UGLY, FURRY, SMELLY LIAR!!! IT'S ALL MY FAULT!!! I ALREADY TOLD EVERYONE SPRING WAS COMING!! NOW IT'S NOT COMING AT ALL!!! WHAT HAVE I EVER DONE TO YOU, SPRING!

CANDY

So, according to the Groundhog ...

GROUNDHOG

SPRING! BUDDY!! WHAT HAVE YOU GOT AGAINST ME? WHAT HAVE I EVER DONE TO YOU? WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN PARTNERS, YOU AND I! I MAKE THE ANNOUNCEMENT, AND YOU FOLLOW! YOU'RE THROWING EVERYTHING OFF!!! YOU GOTTA END THIS STRIKE! I CAN'T TAKE THE PRESSURE!! I CAN'T TAKE THE PRESSURE!!!

CANDY

This is Candy Wrapper, live with the Groundhog. Back to you, Sandy ... and FAST.

GROUNDHOG

AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAUGH!!!!!!

SANDY

Thank you, Candy, for that ... loud report. Oh! We've got Tyrone Shoelaces back at Season Central. Have you got something for us, Tyrone?

(TYRONE returns with AUTUMN's SECRETARY.)

TYRONE

Yes I do, Sandy. I have a rare exclusive with Autumn. Now, Autumn ...

SECRETARY

Mr. Autumn will be with you shortly.

TYRONE

You're not Autumn?

SECRETARY

Oh, certainly not. I'm his secretary.

TYRONE

When will Autumn be able to speak with us?

SECRETARY

Autumn is a very busy season.

TYRONE

Oh, is he now?

SECRETARY

That's right. He's on a very tight schedule. This morning he saw his stylist, and then he went to see his tailor. Right now he's returning from the gym. He tends to put on a few pounds during the winter, you see.

TYRONE

But as a Season ...

SECRETARY

Mr. Autumn is extremely busy, you know.

TYRONE

Doing what?

SECRETARY

Now, that's entirely up to Mr. Autumn now, isn't it?

TYRONE

Yes, I suppose it is.

SECRETARY

Here he comes now, right on schedule!

(AUTUMN enters with a grand gesture.)

AUTUMN

Thank you, thank you. Take a message, please. Dear Mr. Summer: I humbly accept your offer to spend this summer at your seaside resort. Please contact my secretary to make all the arrangements, blah blah blah, etcetera etcetera etcetera. Very truly yours, Autumn. Get that out right away, would you?

TYRONE

Uh, Mr. Autumn.

AUTUMN

Yes, that's me. And I tell you that I have the utmost confidence that we're doing all we can on this matter. Furthermore, you can trust me completely to do whatever it is that's necessary in order to continue the fine traditions that have been placed before us. Thank you, thank you.

TYRONE

Now, Mr. Autumn. About Spring being on strike ...

AUTUMN

Yes. It's a shame. But I assure you that I would never do such a thing, and you can count on my continuing service, dedication and support. Thank you, you're too kind.

TYRONE

So, what is it exactly you do, Mr. Autumn?

AUTUMN

Do? Why, all I can. All I can. Thank you.

TYRONE

And that would be ... ?

AUTUMN

Ah, you're a feisty one. Very well. Autumn is a very, very difficult season. One must have a keen eye for color and style. Winter is just around the corner, you know, so I must be sure that the plants wither and the leaves fall ...

TYRONE

Isn't that up to gravity?

AUTUMN

It's that Gravity again, stealing my spotlight. Take a letter: Dear Mr. Gravity: Once again it is apparent that YOU are taking credit for my toil and labor. I see no further recourse but to have my lawyers contact you. Very truly yours, Autumn. Get that out right away, would you?

SECRETARY

Yes sir, Mr. Autumn.

TYRONE

And about the plants withering? Isn't that because Summer let them all run wild?

AUTUMN

Take a letter. Dear Mr. Summer: Once again it is apparent that YOU are taking credit for my toil and labor. I see no further recourse but to have my lawyers contact you. Very truly yours, Autumn. Oh, P.S. I retract my offer to stay at your seaside resort. Get that out right away, would you?

TYRONE

So, what are you going to do now, being that Spring is on strike?

AUTUMN

I have an appointment to have my colors done. What do you think — golds? reds?

SECRETARY

Oh, that would be just lovely.

TYRONE

Sandy, do you have any questions for Mr. Autumn?

SANDY

As a matter of fact ...

AUTUMN

No time. But feel free to make an appointment with my secretary. Ta, ta! Thank you, thank you.

(AUTUMN exits.)

SANDY

So, there you have it ... an exclusive, rare and strangely uninformative interview with Autumn.

WORKER 3

So, you see that we weren't kidding.

SANDY

For those who just joined us, I'm standing here with a member of Seasons Local Union number 407. You've worked directly with Spring for many years, is that correct?

WORKER 3

Absolutely. Spring is one of the hardest working Seasons I've ever seen. She just doesn't order us around. She doesn't tell us to do anything that she doesn't happily do herself.

SANDY

Do you have a specific responsibility?

WORKER 3

Yes I do. I get the plants growing.

WORKER 1

Sun detail. I make the weather warmer.

WORKER 2

Livestock. I tend to the animals and insects.

WORKER 4

Snow removal and Social events. You know ... kite flying, baseball, barbecues, school graduations ...

SANDY

Speaking of which, we're back with Candy Wrapper with a special report. Come in, Candy.

(CANDY enters with 4
STUDENTS.)

CANDY

Thank you, Sandy. I'm here with students from [Name of this school] in [location of school]. As you already know, Spring is on strike.

STUDENT 1

I know! It's freezing out here!

CANDY

How does this affect you?

STUDENT 1

Well, first of all, we can't play in the schoolyard.

STUDENT 2

If spring doesn't come, we'll be in the fifth grade forever!

STUDENT 3

I kinda like being in fifth grade! I got [teacher's name]!

STUDENT 4

Hey, I'm looking forward to summer vacation. My family is taking me to Disney World!

CANDY

I hear they're having a bird problem down there.

STUDENT 2

I want to graduate!

STUDENT 3

I play in the band. If spring doesn't come, we'll be practicing that music for the spring concert until I'm old!

STUDENT 1

Maybe you'll finally hit all the notes.

STUDENT 3

That's not funny.

STUDENT 1

I want to go to High School and play on the baseball team. If spring doesn't come, we won't get to play in the schoolyard and I'll never get my pitching arm in shape.

STUDENT 3

Do you think they'll cancel the city-wide exams? They're only given in Spring, right?

CANDY

And there you have it, Sandy. From [school], this is Candy Wrapper reporting.

SANDY

Thank you, Candy. Let us know how things develop there. In the studio with me now is season specialist, Dr. Noah Lott. Dr. Lott, please tell us about the impact of all this from a scientific standpoint.

DR. LOTT

It'll be my pleasure, Ms. Beech. As you can see in this chart, the angle of the sun ...

SANDY

Uh ... excuse me, Dr. Lott. Where's the chart?

DR. LOTT

Did I forget the chart again? Oh, drat. I'd forget my own lab coat if it wasn't draped over my shoulders!

SANDY

Can you continue without it?

DR. LOTT

Of course. I am, after all, a scientist. During the season known as "Spring," the axis of the Earth is tilted toward the Sun, and the length of daylight hours rapidly increases as latitude increases. Imagine, if you will, a lovely picture of the Earth tilting toward the sun with squiggly rays beating down on it.

SANDY

Yes, I think we get the picture.

DR. LOTT

You do? That's good, because I forgot to bring it.

SANDY

Please continue.

DR. LOTT

Of course. The hemisphere begins to warm significantly, causing new plant growth to "spring forth", giving the season its name. Now, imagine if you will a nice picture of the ground with plants popping up, drawn like little springs. It's a very funny but quite effective picture if I do say so myself ...

SANDY

That's fascinating, Dr. Lott.

DR. LOTT

Now, during Spring, Snow begins to melt, and rivers and streams swell with runoff and Spring rains. Most flowering plants bloom this time of year, in a long succession beginning even when snow is still on the ground, and continuing into early summer.

SANDY

Let me guess ... imagining another picture?

DR. LOTT

You've seen them? They really are quite good. Those folks in the art department outdid themselves.

SANDY

Please, back to Spring ...

DR. LOTT

Springtime is seen as a time of growth, renewal, of new life being born for both plants and animals. Imagine, if you will, a lovely ...

SANDY

(Interrupting) So, if Spring continues to strike, what sort of problems can we see ... from a scientific point of view?

DR. LOTT

Well, scientifically speaking, it'd be a huge mess.

SANDY

Thank you, Dr. Lott, for that informational scientific report.

WORKER 1

She's coming! She's coming!

(The WORKERS all see SPRING approaching, and they crowd around her.)

SANDY

Ladies and gentlemen, there seems to be some commotion. It looks like Spring is here! The cause of all of this turmoil has arrived. Spring, Spring ... over here! An interview, please!

SPRING

Yes?

SANDY

Sandy Beech, and we're live on the air. Do you have a statement to make?

SPRING

As a matter of fact, I do.

SANDY

Give her room, give her room.

SPRING

Ladies and gentlemen. I want to apologize for all of this, but you have to understand that I have no choice. I've been doing this for a long time, and the workload is simply unfair. Winter just sleeps all the time, Summer lets everything I've done go to waste and Autumn ... well, nobody's quite sure what Autumn does. But my job is never quite done. From bringing in the sun to making everything grow ... it's just not fair. I appreciate all of you who want me to end this strike, but it's just not possible. WE'RE ON STRIKE!!

SPRING and WORKERS

WE'RE ON STRIKE! WE'RE ON STRIKE! (etc.)

SANDY

Amazing. Spring, is there anything that will make you end this strike? Spring? Hello? Spring?

(MOTHER NATURE enters with SUMMER, WINTER and AUTUMN (and his Secretary) in tow.)

MOTHER NATURE

You never named your terms.

SANDY

Oh my! It's Mother Nature herself!

WINTER, SUMMER, AUTUMN & SECRETARY

(ad libbed) We're so sorry. We tried to stop her. This isn't my fault. Would you please just listen to her? (etc.)

SPRING

My what?

MOTHER NATURE

Your terms. You can't strike unless you have terms. What do you want?

SPRING

I want everything to be off my shoulders.

MOTHER NATURE

But that's simply not possible.

SPRING

Then there must be changes.

MOTHER NATURE

I don't think you understand the big picture. If Spring doesn't happen then the entire balance of nature is thrown off. Plants don't grow. Animals won't survive. The entire planet will suffer.

SPRING

Then let some of the others do more.

WINTER, SUMMER, AUTUMN & SECRETARY

(ad libbed) What? Whoa there! I don't think so! Are you nuts? I work hard enough as it is! (etc.)

MOTHER NATURE

Silence! Spring, it doesn't work that way.

SPRING

Then we strike. STRIKE! STRIKE!!

SPRING and WORKERS

STRIKE! STRIKE! STRIKE! (etc.)

SANDY

This is a catastrophe! Mother Nature and all the other seasons can't make Spring end the strike.

STUDENT 1

Well, forget you. I'm going out to the schoolyard to play anyway.

SPRING

But you can't. It's too cold.

STUDENT 1

I don't care.

(STUDENT 1 mimes practicing pitching and catching, pausing only to shiver and try to warm himself.)

STUDENT 3

I'd better study — the city-wide exams are only a few weeks away.

(STUDENT 3 takes out a book and starts to study. The BIRDS enter.)

LARRY BIRD

Well, we're back, everyone! Disney World was great! Mickey sends his regards. But it's time to dust off the old nest.

LADY BIRD

I can't BELIEVE what Animal Kingdom was asking for condos! For that price we could be living over Park Avenue!

LARRY BIRD

And five bucks for a bottle of water! Are they insane?!

(BEAR, RABBIT and SQUIRREL enter, walking up the center aisle. They look around for food.)

BEAR, RABBIT & SQUIRREL

Food! Food! Here food! Here foody foody food! (etc.)

SPRING

What are you doing?!

BEAR

We're gonna have Spring, with you or without you.

SPRING

This is ridiculous.

SQUIRREL

Not as ridiculous as no Spring at all.

(Animals and Students ad-lib their lines all at once.)

MOTHER NATURE

STOP!

(All freeze.)

SPRING

What are they doing?

MOTHER NATURE

They all need you, Spring.

SUMMER

We all need ya. It's like the circle of life. Hakuna Matata, dude.

WINTER

I'm sorry I told you to "chill." Force of habit, I guess.

SECRETARY

Mr. Autumn bestows his regrets for this situation and wishes you to come to your senses as quickly as possible.

MOTHER NATURE

The world won't wait for you any longer. They're all expecting Spring.

SPRING

But it won't be Spring without me. Look — those seeds will never grow. And that poor kid will freeze his fingers off playing ball in the cold.

MOTHER NATURE

That won't stop them. If you don't bring in the season, they'll try to bring it without you.

SPRING

(Whining) But they're doing it all wrong.

MOTHER NATURE

I know.

WINTER

It's all up to you.

SUMMER

You da Season, sis!

SECRETARY

Mr. Autumn values you as a Season, and he wishes to express ...

AUTUMN

(Interrupts) I can do this on my own. Come back to us. Please.

STUDENT 1

Look, Spring ... we know that sometimes you have to work hard, and sometimes it seems like it's not worth it. But nobody can do what you do, and we're all counting on you.

SPRING

But what about me? Winter - Summer ... can't you lend a hand?

WINTER

I wish I could.

SUMMER

No way, José. With all that global warming and all, it's best I lay low.

MOTHER NATURE

Don't look at it like you're the most overworked season. You're the most ... IMPORTANT season.

SPRING

You mean, I'm your number one season?

MOTHER NATURE

We'll just keep that between you and me. But truthfully, there is nothing like the satisfaction of knowing you worked hard and did a job well - pride in a job well done. That in and of itself is its own reward.

SPRING

I always wanted to be the number one season. Autumn keeps telling everyone it's him.

MOTHER NATURE

(frustrated) So are you going to let all these other people do the job you do so well? You know they won't do it as well as you do.

STUDENT 1

Excuse me ...

MOTHER NATURE

Not now. We're involved in some serious negotiations.

STUDENT 1

(to SPRING) Would you throw the ball to me?

SPRING

What?

STUDENT 1

I need practice. Would you throw the ball to me? It's very important to me. I work hard to be a good pitcher, and I really love it. I know I'm good, but I always want to be better. Will you practice with me?

MOTHER NATURE

Out of the mouths of babes ...

(Pause as all watch SPRING, who holds the ball. She is clearly conflicted. After much struggle, she gently tosses the ball to STUDENT 1.)

SPRING

Alright. I get it now.

(Suddenly the trees sprout flowers and birds start singing.)

STUDENT 1

What happened?

MOTHER NATURE

There now. That wasn't so bad, was it?

SANDY

Does this mean the strike is over?

(SPRING huddles with the WORKERS.)

SPRING

Can we stay at Summer's seaside resort?

MOTHER NATURE

I'm sure I can work out something.

SANDY

And there you have it, folks. The strike is over and Spring will be arriving on schedule. This is Sandy Beech reporting live.

BEAR

(To SANDY) Hey, got any food?

Blackout

** END OF PLAY **