

Blanche Weiss

# 8 Minutes

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"Place your hand on a stove for one  
minute and it feels like an hour.  
Sit next to a pretty girl for an hour and it  
feels like a minute.  
That's relativity."  
Albert Einstein.

Author's note:

*This short story is a work of fiction. It is  
presented as a scenario. Why this choice?*

*Because a day in a classroom is like a play:  
unity of place, time, and action!*

*So here is a closed-door affair of 8 minutes  
for you!*

*I wish you to love my pupils as I love them. I  
invite you to experience 8 minutes in the  
heart of my classroom.*

*Do not hesitate to contact me at  
<https://blancheweiss.bookelis.com>*

Translated from French by B. Weiss  
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## SCENE 1

*FADE IN:*

*EXT. COURTYARD: DAY, 10.20*

*THE BELL RINGS AT THE END OF RECESS. A GROUP OF TEACHERS EMERGE FROM THE CORRIDOR AND ENTER THE PLAYGROUND WHERE CYCLE 3 CHILDREN ARE FINISHING SETTING UP A SET FOR A PLAY WITH THE HELP OF AN ADULT, THEIR TEACHER, A VERY ACTIVE YOUNG MAN. IT'S A BUSY TIME. MODELS OF LEONARDO DA VINCI'S MACHINES OCCUPY A WHOLE AREA.*

*THE TEACHER IS THE FIRST TO WALK THROUGH THE DOOR. SHE HOLDS A COFFEE CUP IN HER HAND. SMALL, VERY ELEGANT IN A LITTLE GREY DRESS AND HEEL SHOES, HER GREY*

*HAIR NEATLY DONE UP IN A BUN, SHE WALKS TOWARDS HER 26 SECOND GRADE PUPILS WHO ARE LINING UP OUTSIDE THE PLAYGROUND. THIS YEAR SHE IS LUCKY, HER CLASS IS NOT OVERCROWDED, SINCE THE LANGEARD FAMILY MOVED OUT AND THE TWINS LEFT. SHE TURNS TO HER COLLEAGUE, A YOUNGER MAN, WHO IS FOLLOWING HER CLOSELY.*

MADAM  
(TRIES TO HIDE A YAWN)  
I dream of being in my bed!

CHRISTIAN  
Another crazy night?

MADAM  
If only...

CHRISTIAN  
Is your husband here?

MADAM

No, not even!

CHRISTIAN

Then I don't even want to know what you  
did!

MADAM

You'll see when you're my age! Having said  
that, I'm infinitely grateful to Giorgio for the  
show later: it will allow me to sit down!  
(- To the older children who are setting up a  
cardboard set representing a tower):  
Superb! Your sets are wonderful! What a  
job! I can't wait to come and see you!

GIORGIO

We're expecting you in 10 minutes. We're  
running a bit late. The "Stars" haven't had  
time to do their make-up!

MADAM

No problem, we're late too.