

Excerpt from...

PITCH AND CATCH
A Short Play by Bruce Kane
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WARNING No one shall make any changes to this play for the purpose of production. Publication of these plays does not imply its availability for production.

SETTING: Home plate on a baseball field.

CHARACTERS:

CATCHER
BATTER
UMPIRE
BATTER#2

(Lights up on CATCHER and UMPIRE standing behind home plate. The Catcher pounds his mitt as the BATTER enters and steps into the batter's box.)

CATCHER: My guy's a little wild today. Be careful on anything inside.

BATTER: I don't need no help from you.

CATCHER: You don't need any help from me.

BATTER: That's what I said.

CATCHER: No, you said "I don't need no help." Correct English would be "I don't need any help."

BATTER: What are you my English teacher or somethin'?

UMPIRE: What say we play some baseball?

(The three of them prepare for the pitch)

CATCHER: It's not correct pronunciation to drop the "g" at the end of a gerund. It makes you sound ignorant.

BATTER: Hey, who you callin' ignorant?

(The Batter takes his eye off the ball as it pounds into the Catcher's mitt)

UMPIRE: Steeee-rike one.

BATTER: He was talkin' to me during the pitch.

UMPIRE: He was talking before the pitch. You were talking during the pitch.

BATTER: Well, I ain't ignorant.

CATCHER: You aren't ignorant.

UMPIRE: Are you ready to hit?

BATTER: You bet your ass I am.

(He steps up to hit. The Catcher and Umpire prepare for the next pitch.)

CATCHER: You just sound ignorant.

BATTER: Just because I speak good ole Americ...

(The batter takes his eye off the ball just long enough...)

UMPIRE: Steee-rike two.

BATTER: That's no fair.

CATCHER: That's not fair.

BATTER: Will you shut up?

CATCHER: I'm just trying to help.

BATTER: Well, I don't need no help.

CATCHER: Any help. "I don't need any help.

BATTER: That's right... I don't need no help. *(They all set up for the next pitch)* You just tell your boy to bring it on.

CATCHER: Bring what on? You really need to be more precise in your use of pronouns. When not preceded by a noun, "it" loses all meaning.

(The play continues...)

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