

Michael Makes a Plan

Cast – Michael
Mom
Dad
Mr. Henson
Receptionist
James Moore
Narrator

ACT I

Narrator – Michael Marino is sitting in his living room with his parents discussing his job possibilities after having graduated from high school.

Dad – Have you got any interviews lined up for tomorrow Michael?

Michael – No! Not Really, but I plan to look.

Mom – I'll get a newspaper. We can look in the classified ads.

Dad – I tell you, Michael, you'll never get anywhere unless you go to college.

Michael – Aw, Dad! We've been through this a hundred times. I'm not going. I'll make it without it. After all, you did.

Dad – I could have done better, and besides, times are different now. Jobs require more education and training.

Mom – (Coming in with the newspaper) There are a lot of jobs in today's edition. Hmmmm, let's see! Here is an opening at Ray & Ray Chevrolet. No, it requires two years experience; that won't work. Here's an ad for a mechanic at Bob's Garage.

Michael – I don't think so. I didn't like shop in school. I especially hate to get my hands so dirty.

Mom – Well, there are several opportunities for Jacksonville Regional Medical Hospital, but they all require some sort of special training.

Michael – Let me see it for a minute. (Getting paper) Here’s one that doesn’t require any experience N & N Restaurant, but I don’t want to work in a hot kitchen. Here’s one! Cabot Carpet Center is hiring, but I remember when the carpet installers hauled that carpet in here. I love my back too much to carry that stuff and work on my knees all the time.

Mom – Here’s one! Coleman Dairy in Searcy is looking for a delivery person. No, hold it, you have to be at least 18 years old and you have to start work at 6:00 a.m. and I don’t think you can get up early enough.

Michael – I’m not exactly a morning person am I?

Dad – You don’t have many choices do you son?

Michael – I’ll find something. Don’t worry! I can take care of myself.

Dad – Right! Just like you took care of those grades in school.

ACT II

Narrator – Michael goes in to see his Career Guidance Counselor, Mr. Henson.

Mr. Henson – Hello Michael! Surprise! Surprise! What brings you back to your old junior high? Do you miss me that much?

Michael – I need your help Mr. Henson. I should have listened to you better when I was in your class. But, you know me. I thought I was going to be in the NBA by now. I need to find a job.

Mr. Henson – Mike, jobs are hard to come by when you don’t know what you really want. A lot of water has passed under the bridge since you were here and that time is gone forever. But, you haven’t died of old age either so we’ll try to come up with a plan for you.

Michael – I really need a job now. I think I kind of screwed up my opportunity to go to college. I’ve asked my friends and parents and I have looked in the want ads, but I really don’t know what to do now.

Mr. Henson – That is a start, but there are some other things you can do too. You might go to the Arkansas Employment Security Division in Jacksonville or Searcy. They can show you all the job openings where you are able to work. With your age and lack of special training or education it will be difficult.

Michael – Yea, that’s a good idea. I didn’t think of that.

Mr. Henson – You know Michael, Cabot is a growing town so you might go to the construction sites around the area. They are always looking for workers. The work is hard and you have to work in all kinds of weather conditions, but the pay is relatively good without a degree or skills.

Michael – Hey, I like that idea too. I remember drawing house plans in your class and I really liked that. I would like to build houses some day.

Mr. Henson – Well Michael, if that makes you happy it tickles me plum to death. If you need any names or a reference letter just let me know and I will help however I can.

Michael – Thanks Mr. Henson you are the greatest.

ACT III

Narrator – Two weeks later the phone rings and Michael answers it.

Michael – Hello

James Moore – Michael this is James Moore Construction Co. I have been going through the applications and I have a job opening now on the framing crew if you are still looking for a job in construction. If you can come in tomorrow about 10:00 we can sit down together and I will interview you for the job.

Michael – Thanks Mr. Moore! I will be at your office by 10:00.

James Moore – Great, don’t be late.

ACT IV

Narrator – Michael enters the construction office and greets the receptionist.

Michael – Hello, my name is Michael Marino and I have an appointment to meet with Mr. Moore about the construction job.

Receptionist – It's good to meet you Michael, Mr. Moore is interviewing another applicant right now, but if you will have a seat he should be through in just a minute. (36 seconds later) You may go in now.

Mr. Moore – Hello, I am James Moore. Are you Michael Marino?
(shake hands)

Michael – Yes Sir! I am glad to be here and I want to thank you for calling me in for an interview.

Mr. Moore – I am always glad to give young men a chance. We can always use good hard working construction workers. I have your application and it looks like you have goofed off a little in high school.

Michael – Yes sir. I was not really focused on what I wanted to do. It's crunch time and I can't goof off any longer. I know I have missed some good opportunities, but I can't put it off any longer. I can be a good worker if you give me a chance. I think I would really like to learn how to build houses.

Mr. Moore – We all have to grow up sooner or later. You don't have much work experience so do you have any personal character references?

Michael – Yes sir, I brought a list of references with me. They will all tell you that I can be trusted and I always show up on time.

Mr. Moore – Believe it or not, sometimes that is more valuable than experience. We start work at 7:00 a.m. and work till dark sometimes. You can expect to ache all over and smash your thumb a few times until you learn the tricks of the trade. Are you willing to work hard for long hours and learn from the ground up.

Michael – Yes, Mr. Moore. I will do my best I can promise you that. Do I need to buy my own tools?

Mr. Moore – Yes, Michael you do. You will need a good heavy hammer and a tool belt to start off with. You can start tomorrow morning if you are ready.

Michael – Just tell me where I need to go and I will be there ready to work.

Mr. Moore – Meet me at 7:00 a.m. at 112 N Pine in Graystone and we will give you a chance to work with our company.

Michael – Thanks again for your time Mr. Moore, (shake hands and leave)

ACT V

Narrator– Six weeks later Michael goes into Mr. Henson’s office, it is a big office with 30 desks in it.

Michael – Mr. Henson, I just wanted to thank you for putting me in touch with James Moore Construction Co. I got the job and I have been working there about a month.

Mr. Henson – Great! I am proud of you. I knew you could do it.

Michael – I do like framing houses, but I think I would like to be a Builder or an Architect. I really want to design houses and do it my way.

Mr. Henson – You know that architecture requires a five-year degree from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. It is a tough program and requires a lot of patience and a high numerical aptitude. If you want to be a builder and design your own house plans you might go to Arkansas State Technical Institute at Beebe. It is a two-year program to learn computer aided drafting. Builders learn the trade by on-the-job training. Then all you have to do is get a contractors license to build in the city limits.

Michael – Would I be able to work around school?

Mr. Henson – James Moore is a pretty nice guy that would probably be willing to let you work evenings and on Saturdays.

Michael – I wish I had taken CAD at good old Cabot High. I could be on my way to owning my own building company by now.

Mr. Henson – It would have made life easier if you had followed through with the plans you made in Career Orientation, but we can't do anything about that now. Two years sounds like a long time to go to a technical school, but it will be over before you know it. If you need help with the tuition you can see the financial-aid officer at the University of Beebe and they can set you up with student loans. You will have ten years to pay them off after you graduate from ASTI. But, at least you can afford the tuition and help pay the bills.

Michael – Thanks Mr. Henson. I know if I don't do it now. I will be framing houses for Mr. Moore for the rest of my life and I will never be able to afford to build my dream home on the Little Red River.

Mr. Henson – Well, good luck and when you get that dream home built let me know.

Act VI

Narrator – Back home with mom and dad

Michael – Dad I want to go back to school and learn how to draw house plans on the computer.

Dad – Fine, but I am not going to pay for school when you didn't make the grades in high school.

Michael – I know Dad, but you don't have to worry. I am going to get a student loan and work part-time. It will only take me two years. I can pay off the loans after I graduate from school and work full-time.

Dad – Well, I am proud that you finally decided to make a plan for yourself.

Narrator – The moral of the story is....?