

# **BAD SEED**

**A Dramatic Reading**

**by  
Maxwell Anderson**



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This is the arrangement of the play with which Karen McPeck won the National Contest of the National Forensic League in 1958.

The Bad Seed is a play which deals with Rhoda Penmark, a child of eight, who is in direct competition for a penmanship medal, with Claude Daigle, a boy in her fourth grade class. Upon losing the medal to Claude, Rhoda becomes so angry that she... drowns him at a class picnic.

I shall portray Mr. and Mrs. Daigle, the parents of the drowned boy; Miss Fern, matron of Fern School; and Mrs. Penmark, Rhoda's mother.

MRS. PENMARK: This is a terrible tragedy for Mrs. Daigle, as you say. She has lost her only son. But if there were any shadow over Rhoda--from what has happened--I shall have to live under it, too--and my husband. As for Rhoda--she would not be happy in your school next year.

MISS FERN: No, she would not. And since she would not, it would be as well to make up our minds now that she will not be there.

MRS. PEN.: Then there is a shadow over her--and you have decided that she will not be invited to return to the Fern School?

MISS FERN: Yes. We have made that decision.

MRS. PEN.: But you can't tell me why?

MISS FERN: I think her behavior in the matter of the medal would be sufficient explanation. She has no sense of fair play. She's a poor loser. She doesn't play the game.

MRS. PEN.: But you're not saying that Rhoda had anything to do with Claude's death?

MISS FERN: Of course not! Such a possibility never entered our minds, (At this moment, the doorbell chimes). There's someone at the door.

--- END OF FREE PREVIEW ---