**Reader’s Theater: The Calamity of 2017**

**Characters:**

**Nicole – A local insurance agent**

**Erin – A local homeowner**

**Riley – A local body shop owner**

**Michael – A local homeowner**

**Setting: A group of old friends meets once a month for breakfast and coffee at a local restaurant and talk about their lives.**

**Michael:** Wow! What a storm last week, huh? We had some minor damage to the house, but it sounds like we got off a lot easier than some people in town. There were reports of hail stones the size of golf balls?!

**Erin:** You’re not kidding…I’m the “some people” you’re referring to. The kids were really freaked out, and no one slept because the dogs were up howling and barking all night. The roof is trashed. Both cars have major hail damage. We even lost a window on the south side of the house.

**Nicole:** We live just outside of town, and we didn’t see much other than some heavy rain and lightning. But based on this last week in the office, there are a lot of people that are in the same boat as you, Erin.

**Riley**: We’re about to be swamped down at the body shop. I looked at our appointment book yesterday, and we’re booked solid for the next month. In fact, I think I might be putting in some pretty long hours for awhile.

**Erin**: That’s good for you, though! All those dented cars and smashed car windshields means a lot of money in your pocket, Riley.

**Riley** (smiling): I’m not complaining – hailstorms are GREAT for business. In fact, if we could have one about every three months or so, I’d be a millionaire by next year.

**Nicole**: PLEASE do not even joke about having a storm like that every three months. Every three decades would be enough!

**Michael**: I’m sure you’ve been putting in some long hours, too, Nicole. Except all that extra “business” isn’t quite as good for you guys at the insurance agency.

**Nicole**: Uh, no, not really. With all of the claims that are being filed, it triples the amount of paperwork we have to do. And it’s going to cost the company tens of millions of dollars. I doubt they’ll be handing out as many holiday bonuses this year.

**Erin**: One thing’s for sure. All the damage sure does cause a lot of headaches for people. I’m glad we have good insurance that will pay for all of our repairs, but it is a real pain trying to communicate with the insurance company, the window replacement company, the roofing company…

**Michael**: And then trying to find a time for all of them to show up and fix everything.

**Erin**: Right. I still have to go to work everyday, but somebody has to be at the house while all of these people are showing up to fix everything. And we’re supposed to be going on vacation next week, so we can’t really have anything done until we get back.

**Nicole**: Have you found a good roofing company yet? There are always a few lousy contractors that start showing up after a storm like this. I could recommend a few good ones.

**Riley**: And you could bring your car down to the shop anytime, Erin. As a personal friend, we’ll start on yours right away.

**Michael**: My son just got a job with one of the local roofing companies. They seem to do a pretty good job, and they pay him pretty well. He’s just glad to be able to make a few extra bucks this summer – I guess the hailstorm was good for him, too.

**Nicole**: Ugh, Michael – you had to mention work. I probably better leave our little get-together early today and get a start on all of that paperwork.

**Riley**: Same here. We’ve already had a few cars come in this morning, and six more coming in this afternoon. Like I said, Erin – bring yours in anytime and we’ll get started right away.

**Erin**: Thanks so much, Riley. I appreciate that. It’ll be one less thing to worry about – I’ll be glad when this is all over.

**Michael**: That’s the one thing we can all look forward to. In a few months, all of this will be over and we’ll have forgotten all about it. We’ll probably have brand new things to worry about.

(Everyone laughs. The End.)

Written by Cole Pomeroy, Park Middle School (2014)