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Overview

Character Education Book of Plays K-5

It is a different world to when we, parents and educators, were growing up! Things we took for granted, such as keeping our word, living up to our obligations and respecting our elders, seem to have become secondary to instant gratification, ego fulfilment and money, money, money.

It is not too late to reverse this trend, starting with our most valuable resource – our children. We should start now while the children are still young enough to be open to these profound ideas. There are many ways to teach lessons; certainly drama is one of the best.

By incorporating acting, music, visual arts, communication skills and, most importantly, fun, this collection of primary-age plays offers a tool in the quest for social competence. Here are seven plays, dealing with values such as respect, honesty, responsibility, commitment, love and courage. Each play is short enough to be presented during the school day, and most have accompanying teaching materials, such as class discussion topics and vocabulary worksheets. Every effort has been made to tell the teacher or director how to create costumes, props and scenery using items already found at school or items that can easily be found at home. Most of the plays have flexible casts; the chorus or other group parts can be as small or as large as each class requires.

These plays are not only classroom-friendly, but will be great for church groups, scouts, recreation centres and camps. Put the play on for the rest of the year level, or have a community night and invite families and friends. We can make a difference!





Vocabulary Worksheet

You Don't Love Me!

Matching

Match the word with the definition which is most correct.

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. ____ monologue | a. Moves toward in a threatening way |
| 2. ____ increasingly | b. A speech given by one actor |
| 3. ____ baffled | c. Confused, bewildered |
| 4. ____ advances | d. Becoming more and more |
| 5. ____ outburst | e. A loud, startling noise or remark |

Multiple Choice

Pick the sentence in which the word in bold type is used most correctly.

6. ____ a. Grandma shook her cane **menacingly** at the boys who trampled her flowers.
____ b. The movie was **menacingly**; we could not sleep the night we saw it.
____ c. Mum and Dad talked so **menacingly** I could hardly hear them!
7. ____ a. His **muttering** car made quite a noise as it went down the street.
____ b. She was **muttering** quietly to herself as she tried to decide what to do.
____ c. Mum is always **muttering** me – I wish she would let me grow up!
8. ____ a. 'This is a terrible **situation**,' my father said when he saw our flat tyre.
____ b. The room was so crowded, there was no place to **situation**.
____ c. I packed all my clothes for summer camp in my new **situation**.
9. Describe what is meant by **interrupting**. _____

10. 'The teacher asked us if we knocked over the glue, but we were all **innocent**.'
Did the students knock the glue over? _____

You Don't Love Me!



A Play about Different Ways of Showing Love

(It is dinnertime at the PHILLIPS' house; as the play begins, DAD is at the table, MUM is bringing in the last of the meal, SARAH and MATT are sitting at the table. MATT is happy and hungry and cannot wait to start eating. SARAH has her head in her hands; she looks upset.)

Sarah I had a terrible day at school! I'm never going back!

Dad Why, Sarah? What do you mean it was terrible?

Matt They put a new mirror in the girls' toilets and she had to look at herself! *(SARAH makes a fist in MATT'S direction.)* Just kidding, just kidding!

Mum *(taking her seat)* What went wrong, Sarah? Did someone upset you?

Sarah It's my horrible teacher, Mrs Greenlee *(or insert name of classroom teacher here)*. We had homework last night . . . which I forgot to do because I was playing Matt's new game *(or current fun after-school activity)* with Matt!

Matt How nice of your little brother to share his games with you, Sarah! You must love him a lot!

Sarah *(pretending to ignore him)* Anyway . . . so Mrs Greenlee told us to hand the homework in and I didn't have it, so she gave me a zero!

Dad Sarah, I am very disappointed to hear that you had homework last night and you didn't do it!

Mum So am I! Well, perhaps there's a way that we can help you remember when you have homework. We don't want this to happen again.

Matt I think the answer is a new brain for Sarah!

Dad Matt, let's see if we can help your big sister.



You Don't Love Me!

Sarah You're giving Matt away! Thanks so much! That WILL help me!

Mum I know – I'll put a little notepad up on the fridge, and every day you can come in and write your homework on it! That way, I'll be able to help you remember!

Sarah *(Muttering under her breath)* You mean you'll nag me . . .

Mum What did you say?

Sarah Nothing, Mum. That probably will be good.

(They eat in silence for a moment, then:)

Sarah *(In a loud voice)* But that's not all that went wrong!

(The family jumps, startled by SARAH'S outburst.)

Dad What else?

Sarah At recess, some boys were picking on my best friend Jane, and I went over and told them to leave her alone and Mrs Greenlee made us all go and sit on a bench for the rest of the break!

Mum Poor Mrs Greenlee. It must be hard to know who to punish in a situation like that.

Sarah Poor Mrs Greenlee? Poor Mrs Greenlee?! I don't feel sorry for her! I think she hates kids, that's what I think.

Matt She really used to like kids until she had you in her class.

Dad Matt . . .

Matt Don't mind me, I'm just eating.

(They eat for a moment, in silence, then SARAH says:)

Sarah And that's not all!

(Again the family jumps, startled.)

Mum What else, Sarah?