

KiDsKiTs

by Eva Marie Vowles

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ABOUT THIS COLLECTION

Welcome to “KiDsKiTs,” a collection of skits and ideas for drama presentations for use in the classroom. The material found here can be put together with a limited number of rehearsal hours and requires little in the way of props, costumes, lighting or sound.

In this booklet you will find material suitable for children of various ages and reading ability. The essential thing to remember is that drama should above all be fun. Hopefully this material will be as much fun for the performers as it is for the audiences.

The skits here have been successfully performed in recreational drama classes for the past several years. To avoid the problem of memorizing lines, the students held their scripts for most performances. A touch of melodrama can only enhance the scripts’ inherent silliness.

In several of the classes at the recreation centers, there have been emotionally and/or physically challenged students who responded very well to the material.

...The skits may be presented royalty-free in the classroom, but if presented before any kind of audience, a reasonable royalty fee is due. Please see end of script for application.

AUTHOR’S NOTE

With over 18 years of experience working in all aspects of theatre, an equal number of years dabbling in writing of all formats, and a lifetime of being a child or working with them, writing for children’s theatre has become a natural stop on the road to...? I have tried to take all I have learned about children and the theatre, and blend it together into something that emphasizes fun, teamwork and laughter. The magic of the theatre, the wonder of children, and the power of words amaze me daily, and to be able to put them together into something that can come alive on the stage is an experience that will be hard to top.

- *Eva Marie Vowles*

INCLUDED IN THIS COLLECTION

The Three Little Pigs (Or Were They Bears?)

The narrator is not quite sure, and unfortunately he's telling the story, complete with dragons, evil step-sisters and some confusion about just who built the house of straw.

Running Time: 7 minutes.

Ages: 6+

Of Damsels and Dragons

Poor Princess Freddy! She sets off to visit her very best friend in the whole world, Princess Bob, and meets up with a weird Wizard, a dreadful dragon and a less-than-coordinated Knight. Add to that a narrator who must work through tormenting tongue-twisters and let the laughs begin.

Running Time: 12 minutes.

Ages: 8+

The Lord's Prayer

You're saying your bedtime prayers and someone answers. Someone with a sense of humor.

Running Time: 6 minutes.

Ages: 9+

Storybook News: Little Bo Peep

Peter Piper tries to bring you the story of a poor little girl who has lost her sheep and doesn't know where to find them, but, as Peep points out, if she knew where to find them, they wouldn't be lost. Peter asks the questions, Peep provides the answers, and neither are what the audience expects.

Running Time: 6 minutes.

Ages: 8+

Captain Environment

Captain Environment is here to save the world from...well, he isn't sure. But with the help of an environmentally aware litterer, he may just save the planet after all.

Running Time: 9 minutes.

Ages: 9+

This Is Your Life, Jack Vine

This is your life, Jack Vine! (*as in Jack and the Beanstalk.*)

Jack however, doesn't know his own mother, his cow, or the giant. Why? Turns out Jack has the flu. So, who's filling in?

Running Time: 10 minutes.

Ages: 9+

The Newn News

The evening news was never like this! Join two anchors with the brains of one, a sportscaster who has all the facts mixed up, Wendy, the windy weather girl and Dottie Knot with her on-the-spot-report (*except that she can't find the spot*).

Running Time: 10 minutes.

Ages: 10+

Return of the Dragon

In order to win the hand and heart of the princess, the knight must defeat the dragon living in yonder fields. The problem? The knight lacks courage, coordination and is a little lacking in the brains department. Will he win? Does the princess want him to?

Running Time: 25 minutes.

Ages: 10+

Mysteries Should Be Unpredictable

The characters in this murder/mystery try desperately to act out the story as the author writes it. If only he would quit making changes. The author is confused, the crew is frustrated, and the result is hilarious.

Running Time: 30 minutes.

Ages: 10+

God and the Director

A study in technical comedy. Those that have worked backstage, with or without difficult directors, will find familiar humor in this short comedy for groups with the advantage of technical effects.

Running Time: 6 minutes.

Ages: 11+

GRADE K-2 -- INTRODUCTION

When dealing with children of this age we are dealing primarily with non-readers. I recommend starting with material these children already know,, such as nursery rhymes, and action songs.

Nursery Rhymes: Several nursery rhymes can be easily acted out, with characters saying lines that pertain to them. There are many rhymes that work and here are a few examples: "Jack and Jill," "Humpty Dumpty," "Mary Had a Little Lamb," "Georgie Pordgie," "Old Mother Hubbard," "Sing a Song of Sixpence" (*2nd verse*), and "Little Miss Muffett." These can also be changed to accommodate various combinations of girls and boys. You can always do "Jack and Phil," and "Old Mister Hubbard."

Another use for nursery rhymes is to have the children recite them with various emotions. Usually the children this age know their nursery rhymes and can have fun performing them mad, happy, sad, cool, whiny etc. Try these rounds of these in a performance, one where the teacher chooses the emotion, one where the accompanying family member chooses the emotion, and one where the performer chooses the emotion.

Charades: Charades can also be done with this group, giving them categories such as sports, musical instruments, and feelings to work with. The animal category is very difficult as most animals end up looking the same.

Stories: Try stories such as "The House That Jack Built" and "A Fly Went By" (*by Mike McClintock*) that involved animal sounds the children can make as the story is read. Some stories can be too long for the attention span of the children.

Skits: Two skits from this book can be used with children of this age: "The Three Little Pigs" and "Of Damsels and Dragons." A teacher or reader can act as the narrator and the other children simply follow the narrator's instructions. Confusing blocking such as that between the Dragon and Princess in "Of Damsels and Dragons," can be omitted. If the class contains more than one good reader, "The Lord's Prayer" can be attempted as well.

GRADES 3+ -- INTRODUCTION

Nursery Rhymes: These children are able to perform nursery rhymes with a variety of feelings and characters. Because they have often forgotten their nursery rhymes by this age, it is best to write them out on recipe cards. The children are given a card and a one-word description of how they are to recite it, such as happy, sad, cool, tough, pouty, etc. As with the younger children, three rounds can be used, one where the teacher chooses the emotion, one where the accompanying audience member chooses the emotion, and finally one where the performer chooses the emotion.

Charades: This is a good game for this group, with suggested categories such as sports, musical instruments, and feelings which the students then act out in mime. Again animals tend to be rather difficult as it is hard to tell a lion from a tiger from a cougar from a panther, etc.

Skits: These children are able to handle most of the skits in this book, with the possible exceptions of "Return of the Dragon" (*in which they could take roles such as the Curtain, Voice, and Narrator*) and "Mysteries Should Be Unpredictable." Certainly if you have two or three strong readers, "Dragon" could be attempted.

GRADES 6+ -- INTRODUCTION

Nursery Rhymes: These young people also can have fun performing nursery rhymes with various emotions/characters. They will more than likely not know their nursery rhymes, so you should have them written out on recipe cards. They also can be given a one-word description on how they are to perform it: cool, melodramatic, bored, charming etc.

Charades: Choose a category such as musical instruments, sports, feelings, or movies, and have the students act out their selection in mime.

Skits: Any of the skits here are suitable for this age group.

THE THREE LITTLE PIGS ***(Or Were They Bears?)***

CHARACTERS: *(5 Flexible)* Narrator, Pig 1, Pig 2, Pig 3, Pig 4/Mom/Dragon/Gorilla.

COSTUMES: Optional. Can go with full “pig suits” or a company costume such as black pants and a common colored t-shirt.

PROPERTIES: Straw.

PLAYING TIME: 7 minutes.

* * *

(AT RISE: NARRATOR on stage DL or DR.)

NARRATOR: Once upon a time, there were three little pigs.
(Four members of the ensemble step forward and become PIGS, oinking and snorting.)

(NARRATOR counts.) I said there were three little pigs.
(Shoos off PIG 4.) That’s better. Once upon a time, there were three little pigs. *(PIGS oink and snort.)*

Or were they bears? *(PIGS become BEARS, growling and snarling.)*

No, no, they were definitely pigs. *(BEARS become PIGS again, oinking and snorting.)*

Anyway, one night...well, maybe it was during the day,...yah, that’s it, one day, these pigs went out to seek their fortunes. *(PIGS look around for something.)*

That means that they were going to find a way to make a living, you know, get a job. *(PIGS show they understand now.)*

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