

Wanted to Say

A Choral Readers Theater By Carol Montgomery

Performance Time = a little over 3 minutes

Readability = grade 3.1

Cast (3+):

Narrator (May be another cast member, teacher, or director.)

Mothers (girls)

Fathers (boys)

Children (high voices--all)

NOTE: This script has the potential of touching hearts deeply...IF the words are applied to individual lives. You may want to incorporate a writing exercise with this script (e.g., a letter or a journal entry). Even if you choose not to discuss the script in small groups, hearing these words several times should encourage your students--especially if they can imagine their parents or grandparents speaking them. Maybe they'll inspire each other? :) Let me know how your class and audience responds, please.

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Narrator: Here are a few words our parents OR grandparents may have wanted to say, but never did--or never could. The guys represent the voices of fathers, the girls represent the voices of mothers, and the two groups reading together represent the voices of the children.

Fathers: Enjoy life!

Mothers: And vegetables!

Children: (*high voices*) Okay.

Mothers: Sing!

Fathers: Whistle!

Children: (*high voices*) Teach me?

Fathers: Sure!

Mothers: Stop to study a flower...a tree...or a rock.

Fathers: Watch ants. They'll teach you something.

Children: (*high voices*) What?

Mothers: Working hard.

Fathers: And saving...which reminds me...

Children: (*high voices*) Yes?

Fathers: Save your money and fight debt!

Children: (*high voices*) What's debt?

Mothers: Owing money to someone.

Children: (*high voices*) I see.

Fathers: It's like being a slave.

Children: (*high voices*) Oh, no!

Mothers: You'll be fine, Honey.

Fathers: Just take care of your money... AND your body.

Children: (*high voices*) Okay.

Mothers: And, be nice to your brother, sister, friend, bus driver....

Fathers: And the police. They're your friends.

Children: (*high voices*) I'll try.

Fathers: Respect everyone.

Children: (*high voices*) Even the bully?

Mothers: Bullies are just hurting inside.

Fathers: Tell them what you know is right. And, get help.

Mothers: We're here for you.

Children: (*high voices*) I know.

Fathers: (*smiling*) Smile!

Mothers: (*smiling*) Your smile is a gift.

Children: (*smiling*) Then, I'll smile more!

Fathers: Love others--a lot!

Mothers: But remember, words can hurt.

Children: (*sad*) I know.

Fathers: Even my words have hurt you. I'm so sorry.

Mothers: And, I was wrong to yell at you. Will you forgive me?

Children: (*high voices*) Yes, I forgive you.

Fathers: Will you forgive me, too?

Children: (*high voices*) Yes, I forgive you, too.

Fathers: I LOVE you--really.

Mothers: I love you, too.

Children: (*high voices*) You do?

Fathers: Yes, I really love you.

Mothers: And, I will always love you.

Children: (*high voices*) That makes me happy!

Fathers: No matter what anyone has said, you're NOT a failure!

Mothers: You're important! Your feelings are important, too.

Fathers: And, you're a beautiful treasure.

Mothers: You have an unlimited future.

Fathers: You'll go far.

Children: (*high voices*) Wow!

Mothers: I believe in you.

Fathers: Dream BIG!

Children: (*high voices*) I'll try.

Mothers: I'm so glad you're in our family.

Fathers: Thank you for forgiving me.

Children: (*high voices*) You're welcome. You know what?

Fathers: What?

Children: (*high voices*) I'm hungry.

Mothers: Time for cookies!

Children: (*high voices*) You're so sweet, Mama.

Mothers: You, too, Sugar.

Fathers: What about me?

Children: (*high voices*) Moms are sweet and...

Fathers: And?

Children: (*high voices*) And dads are extra, extra, extra special!

Fathers: (*smiling*) And you're one of a kind!

Children: (*high voices*) Thanks! So are you! Want to thumb wrestle?

Fathers: You're on! Winner gets an extra cookie!

Children: (*high voices*) Let me win, okay?

Fathers: Because I love you?

Children: (*high voices*) No, because I want the extra cookie!

Narrator: The End.

Curriculum Links (Valid in 2011):

<http://freestoriesforkids.com/children/stories-and-tales/resentful-thumb>

At the bottom of the page is a story about forgiveness called “A Resentful Thumb”--available in Spanish and several other languages.

<http://www.atozteacherstuff.com/pages/4459.shtml>

Here’s a simple lesson plan on forgiving for K-2nd graders using a felt board and the book Snail Started It. (Which I haven’t read yet.)

<http://www.amazon.com/Man-Named-Dave-Triumph-Forgiveness/dp/0452281903>

A Man Named Dave: A Story of Triumph and Forgiveness. Well, I haven’t read this book, but apparently some teachers use it with middle and high schoolers. The 252 reviews look very positive. Maybe you can check it out at the library since it was a best seller?

<http://stubbydog.org/2011/02/a-lesson-of-forgiveness/>

“A Lesson of Forgiveness” from an abused pit bull who was rescued. This is her story as told by humans.

<http://bbll.com/ch10.html>

I don’t know anything about the author, Bryan Bell, but his Chapter 10-Forgiveness from “Lessons in Lifemanship” is a beautiful, practical one-page essay. He shares stories from his own life. He mentions one prayer from Biblical literature, but if that bothers you skip that paragraph. There are wonderful principles of forgiveness here.

<http://www.thecutekid.com/parenting/effective-praise-kids.php>

Short article on the importance of Effective Praise for parents, but also useful for teachers.

<http://712educators.about.com/od/praise/a/praise.htm>

Short article for teachers on “Effective Praise.”

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thumb_war

Wiki article on “Thumb War,” shows a picture of a US army soldier playing a thumb war with an Iraqi boy. I never heard of most of their rules, though. :)

<http://www.wikihow.com/Thumb-Wrestle>

Wiki How on “How to Thumb Wrestle” with 4 steps. Photos included.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w85B8WaplGk>

“Thumb wrestling world championship match”--not really, just a dad playing his child! :) Takes seconds! Watch the smile!