



Play Actor Emblem

Play acting is a performing art that is often forgotten about by young people today. It is actually a useful tool in any child's life. Play acting encourages creativity in the minds of boys and girls. In this emblem youth will learn vocabulary, learn to write plays, and understand the basic skills of performing.

Play Actor Word Search – Requirement #1

The Mirror Game

This game is a popular “basic skill” acting game. Have the boys break into groups of two. When this is done, have the partners face each other. Pick one person from each group to be the leader. Instruct the leader to slowly make motions with his body (arms, legs, head, etc.). The other person is to follow the leader and try his best to mimic every move. After a couple of minutes, have the partners switch leadership responsibilities.

Do this exercise a couple of times. Then do it again, this time using props. It is important that each group have two of everything. The following items could be used:

- Toothbrushes
- A newspaper
- Shaving kit (take off the razor)
- Table setting (plates, forks, knives, etc.)

You may notice at first that the boys may make quick motions in an effort to confuse their partner. Please remind them that the goal is not to try to “mess up” their partner but to work as a team. The goal is for the partners to follow each other so well that an observer would not even know who the leader was.

Basic Drama Terms – Requirement #2

Now it's time to have some fun and see a performance. On page 32 in the Handbook your troop has learned many new vocabulary words. It would be best if the youth saw a musical or play opposed to a movie. This is because musicals and plays tend to use a stage. The performance seen does not have to be live. One viewed on tape would be just fine. After watching the performance discuss examples of the words seen on page 32.

Here is a short list of possible musicals:

- CATS
- Annie
- Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

Favorite Actor – Requirement #3

After the boys write a report about their favorite actor or actress, have them present their reports to each other. Afterwards, discuss the different genres of a theater (movies). Talk about which are their favorites and why. Such examples are:

- Comedy
- Horror
- Drama
- Thriller
- Mystery
- Sci-fi



Charades – Requirement #4

After a couple fun games of charades (explained in Handbook page 33) we will then take the game a step further. Another form of acting, which is fun, is called improvisation. In this type of acting a situation is given and must be acted out spontaneously without a script. This encourages creativity on the part of the actors who get to make up their own lines as they go. It may be helpful if the leader(s) demonstrated first how improvisation works. The following situations could be used for this exercise:

- Getting a haircut
- Dealing with a person who is being too loud at a movie theater
- Interviewing for a job
- A pilot and a copilot landing a plane
- What it's like at a restaurant

Bible Story Acting – Requirement #5

This week's meeting will combine the activity with the devotional. On page 33 in the Handbook your troop should be working on creating and acting out a story from the Bible. Use this time to create and practice the play. Now comes the devotional time and *your* troop will take part in it. At the end of your Adventure Corps time invite the Girl Guards and Sunbeams to your meeting so your troop can act out their play in front of an audience.

Devotionals

Corinthians 12:14-21

Today we learned many words that had to do with Play Acting. What were they? (Actors, mime, script, etc.?)

After the boys give out some responses then read I Corinthians 12:14-21. Next explain to the boys that in order for a play to work there cannot be just actors. There also needs to be script writers, make up artists, a stage crew, and more. Lead the troop in a discussion about this.

In today's scripture we learned that our body is made up of different parts. In order for the body to be complete we need to be able to hear, smell, taste, touch, and speak (and much more). That is why we need so many body parts. The same is true for play acting.

In I Corinthians 12:14-21 God teaches us that we must all work together if we want things to work at their best. Sometimes it may seem that the lead star of a play is the most important person but where would that lead star be if no one wrote the script?

By now your troop should understand the concept that they must work together to make a great play.

The Book of Jonah

The entire book of Jonah is needed in order to understand the whole story. Yet it would be impossible to read all four chapters. That is why for this devotional it would be more helpful if you told the story on your own opposed to reading it word by word from the Bible.

Today we went over the words "stage left" and "stage right". The Director of a play tells the cast which way to go and when. God is the director of our lives. There are times when we are supposed to go "stage left" but we choose to go "stage right". This happened to a man by the name of Jonah.

Jonah was told by God to go to a place called Nineveh. Nineveh was a bad place where people sinned often. God wanted Jonah to go there and tell the people that they were acting bad and to teach them about God. Jonah was scared though. So instead he got on a boat and traveled in the opposite direction of Nineveh.

During his travels God sent a storm that was so strong it started to break apart the ship. All of the people were scared. They did not understand why this huge storm was attacking them. Jonah knew that God sent the storm as a punishment to him. Jonah knew he did wrong so he jumped off the boat. As soon as he jumped off the boat the storm stopped. Jonah did not drown though because God sent a large fish

(and be sure that you tell them that this fish was LARGE). Jonah was swallowed by the fish and lived inside it for several days. Guess where God had the fish swim to? (See if they will guess Nineveh.)

Jonah was let out of the fish at Nineveh. From there he did what he was told and preached the word of God to the people of Nineveh. Would it not have been easier to follow God's direction from the beginning? In order for a play (and life) to work we need to follow instructions from our director.

Genesis 20:1-10

Acting is a lot of fun but there are times to act and times not to act. In the story we are about to read we will see how a man by the name of Abraham, told a lie.

Read Genesis 20:1-10. At the end of verse 10 it will ask, "What is your reason for doing this?" Stop reading there. Instead of reading the Bible for the answer to that question have the boys try to guess. Of course when it comes down to it the reason why Abraham lied was to try and keep everyone safe. The only good way to stay safe and out of trouble is to pray . . . not to lie. In fact, God was upset with Abraham when he did this.

Has there been a time when you may have lied to get yourself out of trouble? When was it? What could you have done to make things different? Have you had the opportunity to ask for forgiveness from God as well as the people you may have hurt?

Matthew 4:18-22

Today we learned about improvisation. Do you think that it was hard to act out situations right on the spot with no script?

Then read Matthew 4:18-22. When Jesus needed disciples to spread the Word of God he picked 12 men on the spot. Most of these men had nothing to do with religion and now, *on the spot*, they had to spread the Gospel. Have you ever had a person ask you about church, God, or Jesus? What did you say? Is it hard to think of things at that moment?

After these questions lead a discussion on what Adventure Corps members can say if asked about church related questions from friends and family.