

Iwana Reed

A Puppet Script about Literacy



Description:

A one- or two-person puppet script

Aims:

Recognize the importance of literacy for everyday life and for spiritual growth

Audience:

Ages 4-10

Country/Area:

General

Minimum Time Requirements:

6-8 minutes

Scripture to Study:

None

Materials:

- A green-skinned puppet that is designed to look like a human girl, or some other unusually-colored puppet
- A Bible

Pre-class Preparations:

Practice the script with the puppet. (Either one person can read it all, or a 2nd person can operate the puppet and speak Iwana's lines.) Make sure that the puppet's mouth movements coordinate with the words she "says". Keep the mouth closed when she is not "speaking". Puppet should face audience when "speaking" to them (green) and face person when "speaking" to him / her (orange).

Classtime:

Script

- Puppet to person:** Hi! My name is "Iwana". (pause)
Iwana Reed. What's yours?
- Person to puppet:* *My name is _____. Hmm... 'Iwana',
I don't think I've heard that name before.
It's different.*
- Puppet to audience:** Yes, Sireee! Iwana Reed's my name
and reading's my aim. I'm gonna learn to
read just as fast as I can! Then I can do
lots of 'cool' stuff! See, my family and I
moved here from the farthest place away
that anybody can come from!
- Person to puppet:* *Oh, did you come from Timbuktu?*
- Puppet to person:** No way! You have it all wrong. People in
Timbuktu don't have green skin (or skin
the color of mine)! My home is so far
away, nobody has even *heard* of it! See, I
grew up in Tim-buck-3!
- Person to puppet:* *Well, is life very different there? I mean,
except for the color of your skin,
of course!*
- Puppet to audience:** The biggest difference for me is that our
language has never been written. Tim-
buck-3 doesn't have any signs, or books,
or clocks. You know, stuff like that. No
letters or numbers at all! That means no
school! *Not even any math!* Too bad,
huh? (pause for children's' responses)
Yeah, life without school *sounds* fun,
but . . .

Materials:

- Puppet

Person to puppet:

But, what? Is life really so different without reading and writing?

Puppet to person:

Oh, yeah, lots!

Puppet to audience:

Do you like to have your Mom or Dad read you a book? (pause for children's responses) That sounds 'cool' to me! Right now, nobody in my family can read stuff like Dr. Suess or anything to me! I think I'd really like that, especially at bed time. That's why I say, "Iwana Reed's my name and reading's my aim!" I'm gonna learn to read just as fast as I can! Then I can read lots of 'cool' books!

Person to puppet:

Wow! I never thought about that! I've just always had lots of books around.

Puppet to audience:

Oh, hey, and then there are those 'way-cool' video games! I've seen you guys play those. We never had anything like that in Tim-buck-3. No-siree! They're great, but I can't figure them out. See, there are always those instructions that come on the screen first. You know, those words that tell you which button to push if ya wanna jump, or go forward, or up, or down? You know what I mean? (pause) Whenever I see a video game, I say to myself, "Iwana Reed's my name and reading's my aim." I'm gonna learn to read just as fast as I can! Then I'll be able to play those 'way-cool' video games!

Person to puppet:

O.K. What else?

Puppet to audience:

Another thing, you guys got a lotta 'super-cool' places to go here! You know where I really wanna go? (pause) I wanna go to the zoo and see all those animals from around the world. Mama tried to take me once, but she couldn't read the signs about which *bus* to take. And we couldn't read numbers, so we didn't know what *time* the buses would come. We decided just to walk, but then we couldn't read the *map*! You know what? (pause) We *never* got to the zoo! We were just glad to get back home in one piece. That's another reason I say, "Iwana Reed's my name and reading's my aim!" I'm gonna learn to read just as fast as I can. Then we can go anyplace we want!

Person to puppet: Wow! I never realized it might be dangerous if you couldn't read!

Puppet to person: Dangerous? *Dangerous!!* Let me tell you what happened next!

Puppet to audience: When we were walking around in the city, looking for the zoo, we passed this *sign* in the middle of one street. We figured it was just to keep cars and trucks out, but walkin' would be okay. Then, ka-boom! A building exploded right in front of us! Bricks and concrete came flyin' everywhere. See, the sign said, "Stay Out, Danger", but we couldn't read it. Whew! We almost got dynamited clear to death! That's why I say, "Iwana Reed's my name, and reading's my aim!" I'm gonna learn to read just as fast as I can! Then we can stay away from scary stuff like that!

Person to puppet: Iwana, we've learned a lot from you today. But I can't help thinking that there's one more thing you'd really enjoy if you could read.

(Person holds up Bible)

Puppet to person: Yeah! Wow! That's a book about God, isn't it? I've seen people reading that sometimes. They say it tells them *all about* God. Yes siree! I'm gonna learn to read just as fast as I can. Then I can play video games, and visit the zoo and keep out of danger. But, best of all, I can't wait to read the Bible and learn everything about God!

Person to puppet: Good for you, Iwana! You're getting me excited about reading my Bible, too! I'm sure you'll be reading in no time at all!

Puppet to audience: Well, it's time for me to go study my abc's now. I had fun talking to you. Bye kids! Bye, bye!

Materials:

- Bible

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

Q. Why is this girl named Iwana Reed?

A. She wants to learn to read.

Q. Where was she from?

A. Tim-buck-3

Q. Why can't she read?

A. Her language was never written.

Q. Why does she want to learn to read? (Hint: What things can't she do now?)

A. She wants to read books, play video games, go to the zoo, keep out of danger, and most of all read the Bible.

Q. How would your life be different, if your language had never been written down?

A. Answers will vary, but consider the differences Iwana mentioned.

And that's why God is looking for Bible translators *and* literacy workers, who teach people to read. Because if you can't read your Bible, it is *not* Good News! It is a closed (or locked) book!