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# Beo's Bedroom

Charlene Gan

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Dickens, Ned. *Beo's Bedroom*. Playwrights Canada Press, 1996. ISBN 0887546528. Contact publisher regarding price. 27 pp.

Reviewer: Charlene Gan

Reading Level: All;

Rating: Excellent;

Genre: Adventure plays;

Subject: Drama--Reviews; Monsters--Juvenile drama; Courage--Juvenile drama;

Theme: Fears help us to grow.

Production Requirements: A bedroom set, with lots of clothes, stuffed animals, and modern costuming  
Acts: 1

Run Time: 45 min

Characters: 2 F, 8 various

Cast: The other characters can either be male or female or the production can be done with just 4 people.

Time Period: Present

Beo is a girl who is afraid of the dark. After her mom tucks her into bed, the night creatures come out to play. Beo has to become strong to protect her stuffed animal friends. She defeats Grund, the pile of laundry under her bed and then she defeats his mum who is a robe hanging on the bathroom door. Beo is so tired she has to sleep, so Bard, her stuffed bear, says he'll take watch for the rest of the night but he falls asleep and a fire breaks out. Beo believes the fire is really a dragon and so she wants to save her stuffed animals but is not fully able to save Bard. The fire started when some of the laundry got caught on the heating vent. Beo's mother comes to the rescue and helps put out the fire and offers Beo the chance to sleep with her for the rest of the night. Beo decides that she now knows what is real and what is not so she can sleep alone again. She is growing up.

This play has a great theme of growing up and out of our fears and, for Beo, facing our fears. Beo is able to grow up because she has let part of her imagination go. This is explained in the last song when she sings to her toy bear, "Only a Toy." The rest of the characters are fairly static but this is because they are all apart of Beo's childish imagination so they do not progress throughout the story. The music is simple but interesting and has meaning for the reason the songs are sung. The play can be done without singing the songs (rather just saying them) if preferred but the songs do add atmosphere that helps move the plot along. The story is all told in rhyme such as the poem for Beowulf was. This makes for easy transitions between scenes and for easy understanding of what is going on in the story. The story is taken from the poem "Beowulf" and applied for children trying to face their fears. It would be interesting to read this play first and then for the older kids to read "Beowulf." The pace of the play is fairly exciting. It has its high points and then lets the audience rest before another high point comes along. This pacing helps the audience stay with the play and not get overexcited or tired from watching it.