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Two pigs, a Wolf and a Mud Pie

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Wolf, J. M. *Two Pigs, a Wolf and a Mud Pie*. Scholastic Inc., 2002. ISBN 0439271681. Contact publisher regarding price. 9 pp.

Reviewer: Morgan Hagey

Reading Level: Primary

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Fairy tale plays; Humorous plays; Plays;

Subject: Drama--Reviews; Fairy tales--Juvenile drama; Three little pigs--Juvenile drama;

Theme: Things are not always what they seem

Production Requirements: There needs to be a small set. One suggestion from the author is to use living sets with children who don't want to talk on stage, but want to be in the play. There needs to be two "houses" for the Hansel and Gretel scene and for the Snow White scene. During the dance scene, it may need to be decorated like a high school dance.

Acts: 1

Run Time: 10 minutes

Characters: 15-20

Cast: There needs to be four children male or female willing to have lots of lines, then there are several parts (five to be exact) that still have some lines, but not as many as the three little pigs or the wolf. There also needs to be six children who don't want to speak but want to be in the play.

Time Period: Variable, written ambiguously so it can be set whenever the director would like.

Tic, Tac and Toe, otherwise known as the three little pigs, are the main characters of the play. The story picks up after the three pigs have moved into Tic's brick house and outsmarted the wolf. Tac and Toe return home from buying mud pies at the grocery store to find Tic not home. Fearing that he has been kidnapped by the Wolf, they go out to find him and end up in the enchanted forest. There, they come across the ginger bread house and Hansel and Gretel. Realizing that Hansel and Gretel are in the middle of their own story, Tac and Toe leave them to outsmart the witch and continue searching for Tic. Next, Tac and Toe come across Snow White's forest cottage. Snow White doesn't want the pigs to try and sell her anything. She doesn't have any information, so the two pigs continue on. When they enter Cinderella's town, the prince and Cinderella get mad at the pigs because they try to move her shoe which is "going to ruin the story!" They aren't any help at all. So, Tac and Toe decide to call it a night and go home. When they finally get back, it is already the next morning, and they find Tic and the Wolf waiting for them. It turns out that Tic had left a note for his brothers, letting them know that he had gone to help the Wolf fix his flat tire. Apparently, the Wolf is a vegetarian who would never eat pork. Naturally, everyone ends up happily ever after.

J.M. Wolf's fun story of the three little pigs offers an interesting twist. Instead of rewriting the classic story, he offers us a continuation of the tale. This cute take on a classic would be interesting to children in elementary school, who would enjoy the simplicity of the language and the interesting adaptation of the well-known fairy tale, as well as the numerous jokes that they would be able to understand. The different fairy tale references keep the story moving and interesting, and the short time of the play will allow younger students to enjoy it by accommodating their short attention span. In addition, the large and diverse cast requirements give opportunities to shy actors and actresses. The play also comes with many good ideas for costumes, sets, and lights, making it easy for an educator to mount this play in his/her classroom. This play would be ideal for elementary school teachers, especially third through fifth grade. Any age elementary through seventh grade could be an appreciative audience.