



2003

Skits and Spoofs for Young Actors

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Hagey, Morgan (2003) "Skits and Spoofs for Young Actors," *Children's Book and Media Review*. Vol. 24 : Iss. 4 , Article 14.

Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol24/iss4/14>

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Cheatham, Val R. *Skits and Spoofs for Young Actors*. Plays, 1977. ISBN 0823802205. Contact publisher regarding price. 194 pp.

Reviewer: Morgan Hage

Reading Level: Primary; Intermediate;

Rating: Outstanding;

Genre: Humorous plays; Plays; Parody;

Subject: Problem solving--Juvenile literature; Honesty--Juvenile drama; Drama--Reviews;

Theme: This book of short tales has distinct morals for each skit. For example, the skit "The Tortoise and the Hare Hit the Road" has the theme of "slow and steady win the race."

Production Requirements: Because this collection contains many different short spoofs, the production requirements are simple but varied. You need some general costumes; you don't need complicated lights or set. You could do it as simply or as complicated as you want.

Acts: 1 for each skit or spoof.

Run Time: Between 15 minutes and 2 hours

Characters: On average 5 or 6 people.

Cast: You need approximately 5 students to do any of the plays; you can vary that number, either more or less, depending on which skit or skits you choose.

Time Period: Written in contemporary language but the time period varies depending on which skit you choose. Most are "timeless" fables or fairy tales.

This collection contains skits and spoofs of classic tales, such as *Cinderella* and *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, with an added funny twist. Cheatham uses contemporary language and jokes to tell these stories. For instance, when little Red Riding Hood encounters the Big Bad Wolf, the wolf offers to carry her basket of bread for her. She declines, politely declaring that she gets points toward her Girl Scout merit badge for carrying the basket. Each skit is funny and is simple to understand and to stage.

This collection of short plays is quite delightful. It has a lot of fun dialogue that is easy for children to memorize. Each play teaches the timeless morals of fairy tales and fables in a light-hearted style without being heavy-handed. The plays are a lot of fun for adults and children. The jokes are easily understood by children but not below an adult's humor level. This is a difficult task to accomplish, but Cheatham seems to have done it. All in all, this is a humorous collection of skits and spoofs.