



2009

I'm the King of Castle!

Rebeca Wallin

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Hutchins, Pat. *I'm the King of the Castle!* Oberon, 2004. ISBN 1840024860. Contact publisher regarding price. 51 p.

Reviewer: Rebeca Wallin

Reading Level: Preschool, Primary

Rating: Significant shortcomings

Genre: Plays; Humorous plays;

Subject: Children's plays; Royalty--Juvenile drama; Sharing--Juvenile drama; Drama--Reviews;

Theme: Working together is best.

Production Requirements: Sound, minimal staging, simple costumes.

Acts: 2

Run Time: 70 minutes

Characters: 10+

Cast: 6 male, 4 female

Time Period: Medieval

Twin brothers rule a kingdom together. This is accomplished by trading off who will be king each night at midnight. The brothers are not happy about this arrangement and spend their days as king torturing the other brother by listening to music, playing games, and eating food that the other despises. This is wreaking havoc on the court and the kingdom. The court jester cooks up a scheme involving an evil baron (played by himself) to help the kings see the error of their ways. They agree to rule in harmony.

This predictable script would possibly be enjoyable to very young children. Their parents will not enjoy it—especially the almost exact repetition of the first and second thirds of the play with the two different kings. The underdeveloped stock characters will bore actors and audience alike. The play becomes slightly more interesting with the introduction of the evil baron in the second act, but then once again follows a predictable plot line. This play would be easy to produce with simple costume ideas and minimalistic staging needs. Possibly a young elementary cast would enjoy presenting the show. One redeeming quality of the show is the definite lesson it teaches about sharing and cooperating.

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