

Emes Play

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Grade Level: Elementary-Middle School

Description:

Script of a play to be used as a performance to convey a specific message about emes. Simi learns the value and importance of telling the truth and avoiding exaggeration through different events that happen while she's away at summer camp.

Goals/Objectives:

Students will dramatize a story in play form to internalize a message about emes.

Materials Needed:

- Props
- Costumes

Instructions:

1. After teaching a unit about emes, have the students present the play to the class or school.
2. Divide up parts and rehearse.
3. Prepare scenery, costumes and props, if desired, to enhance the effect.

אמת-It's True!

SCENE 1

Head Counselor 1: Attention all campers! Attention all campers! Rest hour is now over. I repeat, rest hour is now over.

Head Counselor 2: Stop whatever you're doing and run, run, run to your next activity. Hurry, hurry, hurry, don't be late!

Simi 1: Oh good! Finally! Rest hour is the most boring part of the entire day. I for sure read a hundred books and wrote a million letters during all these rest hours that we have. What's our next activity?

Girl 2: I have a hard time believing that you read a hundred books and that you actually wrote a million letters. Please!

Girl 3: Come on. You know how she talks. She always exaggerates. Everyone exaggerates when they talk!

Simi 1: Hey, now you're the one exaggerating! I do not always exaggerate.

Girl 4: Well, for both of your information, you were both exaggerating. Many people exaggerate when they talk, and they think there's nothing wrong with it. Truthfully though, exaggerating is not being truthful at all.

Simi 1: What's the difference really? So I really read one book and not a hundred? Or that I really wrote three letters and not a million? Who cares anyway?

Girl 2: It does make a difference and it does matter because exaggerating often is not the אמת. Even more so, it can very easily turn into lying.

Girl 4: I think that just because many people, not everyone, might exaggerate, it doesn't make it right. Talking without exaggerating is something that takes גבורה, and that's exactly what we've been working on. In fact, we shouldn't have such a hard time with it at all.

Girl 3: Well, sounds great to me and we're all going to be late to next activity if we don't hurry. And that's not exaggerating at all!

SCENE 2

Girl 5: Yay! It's arts and crafts time! I wonder what we'll be making this time. Remember last project? That gorgeous picture frame is still hanging in my room.

Girl 6: Well, here comes the arts and crafts counselor and you know how she hates it when we're late! She likes to start right away. Shhh! Let's quiet down.

Arts and Crafts Counselor: Good morning girls. It looks like most of you are here. Good, let's begin. Today we'll be making a beautiful project. It's a ...

Simi 2: (*out of breath*) Oh! Oh! Am I late? Did you start already? You see...

Arts and Crafts Counselor: I think you know that I don't appreciate interrupting our activity because of latecomers. And this isn't the first time you're late this summer either. Can you explain yourself?

Simi 2: Yes, you see, it happened like this. On our way to the arts and crafts cabin we saw a little girl fall. Maybe everyone else didn't see and so that's why they're here, but I did see and I couldn't just leave her. She was a little girl, probably in the youngest bunk, and she was bleeding. I had to run to get her help. That's what took me so long.

Arts and Crafts Counselor: Who is this girl? What's her name and what's happening now?

Simi 2: Girl? Which girl? Oh, the little girl. I, I, I don't know her name or what's happening. As soon as I was able I left because I know you don't appreciate latecomers to your activity.

Arts and Crafts Counselor: (*under her breath*) And I don't appreciate dishonesty either!

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SCENE 3

Head Counselor 2: Attention all campers! Attention all campers! This activity is now over. I repeat, this activity is now over.

Head Counselor 1: Stop whatever you're doing and run, run, run to your next activity. Hurry, hurry, hurry, don't be late!

Girl 5: Why were you really late? That story you said didn't really happen, did it?

Girl 6: Oh please! Of course it didn't happen. Where were you? Come on, tell us the truth this time.

Simi 3: I wasn't anywhere special. I was really on my way and then I met a girl from the other bunk and we started to talk and I lost track of time. That's all.

Girl 7: So why didn't you say so? Why did you have to make up that whole story? The counselor didn't believe you anyway.

Simi 3: You mean I should've said the truth? And gotten myself sent to the head counselor to be punished? No way!

Girl 7: Well, I don't agree with the way you were dishonest. You see what's happening? First you started with exaggerating and already you're up to lying! I would watch out if I were you! It's always best to say the truth.

Girl 8: No reason for all of us to be late to next activity. Besides, it's a good one. Sports! I hope we get to play a good game! Let's go!

SCENE 4

Sports Counselor: *(blows whistle)* Hello, hello girls! Let's get into shape with five jumping jacks and then we'll play a super duper game of...BELTS!

All Girls: Hurray! Hurray!

Sports Counselor: *(starts jumping)* And a one and a two and a three and a four and a five! Great job! Line up for belts!

Girl 8: I'm last. I called first.
(All girls line up)

Head Counselor 2: Stop whatever you're doing and run, run, run to your next activity. Hurry, hurry, hurry, don't be late!

Counselor: Good. I'm happy to see that you're all back from your sports activity. We have just a few minutes to wash up and then it's off to the dining room for supper. Remember, it's washing up time and not time for fooling around. I'll be back in two minutes to take you all to the dining room.

Simi 5: Perfect. Just enough time to bounce my ball around a little bit before our counselor comes back. What a long day!

Girl 10: But you heard what she said. Now's not time for playing around. We have to ready to get to the dining room on time.

Girl 11: Besides, don't you know the camp rule about playing ball in the bunkhouse? If you break something, you'll be in BIG trouble.

Simi 5: (*keeps bouncing ball*) Since when are you all so worried about me? Anyway, nothing's going to happen just from throwing the ball around a little bit.

Girl 12: Well we would really hate to see something happen. Hey! Watch out for our counselor's shelf!

Girl 10: Be careful! Be careful! You're ball is heading right over towards...

SMASH!

Girl 11: Now what are you going to do?

Girl 12: What are you going to say? That was our counselor's expensive CD player that your ball just knocked down.

Girl 11: Look! It's broken and I don't think our counselor will be so happy about it either.

Girl 10: How much do you think such a CD player costs? It looks quite expensive to me.

Simi 5: Well, I don't plan on saying anything at all. And I hope none of you are either. Quick, line up, I hear her coming.

Sports Counselor: OK. These are the rules, only two steps, no in-steps and no stepping on the last line. Who's first? 1-2-3 go!

(Girls begin playing as game gets harder and harder, girls slowly getting out)

Girl 9: Whoa! Only a few of us are left in the game. I hope I win. I hardly ever win any games. Is it my turn again? OK, here goes. Huh! I made it! Now whose turn is it?

Girl 7: It's mine and then the last line is going to be moved again. I don't think I have much time left in the game. I don't think I ever did this well in a game of belts before!

Simi 4: Ooh! My turn again! *(jumping up and down)* Ready set here I go! *(makes a very big in-step)* One-two-over! I did it and look how far you have to move the last line. I can't believe I jumped so far!

Girl 9: Hey! That's not fair! You made a HUGE in-step! You have to do it over!

All Girls: *(chanting)* Do over! Do over!

Simi 4: I did not! You're just saying that because you don't think that you'll be able to make it next time.

Sports Counselor: I agree with the other girls. You're in-step was quite big. Why not do it again?

Simi 4: Fine, you'll all see that I'll be able to do the same thing again. *(jumping up and down)* Ready set here I go! *(makes a very big in-step)* One-two-over! This time I didn't make any in-step at all.

Sports Counselor: I don't know, to me this looks like a classic case of cheating. I guess there won't be any winners today. The activity is just about over.

SONG-DANCE

SCENE 5

Head Counselor 1: Attention all campers! Attention all campers! This activity is now over. I repeat, this activity is now over.

Girl 2: This must be some terrible mistake! Or better yet, maybe it's someone's idea of a Purim joke!

Girl 3: This is no Purim joke. Trust me! What are we going to do?

Girl 4: I think we should do something fast!

Girl 5: Let's raise money somehow, a lot of money and bribe the inspectors! That should do it. We all know that "Money talks".

Girl 6: Bribe them? That's not the *mitzvah*! Why don't we raise money and use it to renovate our school? We can paint, install more garbage bins and even buy the most expensive air refresheners to eliminate the "awful odor" the inspectors smelled!

Girl 7: I know ! We can replace the use of paper towels with those blow driers for your hands! Those are much more sanitary!

Teacher: That sounds like the best idea we've come up with so far, which brings us to the next stage of our plan. What are your ideas for raising money?

Girl 8: How about a bake-a-thon? We can bake loads and loads of cookies and cakes and sell them to ladies who just had babies and have no time to bake. Then we'll use that money for our renovation campaign.

Girl 9: We can also have an exercise day where each girl will get sponsors for the amount of exercise she does. That should bring in a lot of money.

Girl 10: My uncle is president of the board and he is always talking about a clothing drive. Everyone can bring in their "nearly new" , gently used clothing for us to sell. We can use all that money for our campaign as well.

Teacher: Girls, you've really outdone yourselves with all these wonderful suggestions and ideas. I can't wait to see the results. Good luck!

FUND-RAISING DANCE

SCENE 7

(All girls quickly line up)

Counselor: What a nice surprise! Everyone all lined up and ready to- hey! What happened to my CD player? Look! It's broken! Does anyone have any idea how this happened?

(Girls shake heads quietly as counselor looks at each one)

Counselor: Well then, I think we'll forget about supper for the time being. Please sit down all of you. I want to tell you a story.

(Girls sit down comfortably and move towards the back of the stage)

Once upon a time, there was a young boy, let's call him Yankel, who had a very hard time telling the truth.

SCENE 6

(Boys walking together and talking, each holding an umbrella)

Yankel: I don't know Chaim, how come I have such a hard time being honest? Whenever I open my mouth it seems like stories and stories keep tumbling out and I have no way of stopping them! And the problem is that none of these stories are ever true!

Chaim: Come on Yankel, there must be some times that you say the truth.

Yitzy: Why don't you just think before you speak and make sure that what you're about to say is the אמת?

Moshe: Yankel, I have a great idea! The next time you're about to lie, why don't you just picture Rebbe teaching us about אמת. I can hear him teaching right now-

(Rebbe standing off to the side of the stage)

Rebbe: חזמו של הקדוש ברוך הוא אמת" ל"ל teach us " the seal of Hashem's name is אמת- truth! "שקר אין לו רגלים" which literally means- falsehood has no feet. The letters of the Hebrew word שקר can't stand on their own because the ש in the Torah is written with a pointed bottom. אמת on the other hand is spelled with letters that can stand on their own. Truthful words have merit while lies and cheating have none at all. "מדבר שקר תרחק" stay far, far away from falsehood.

Yankel: You're right. Rebbe has spent so much time teaching us so many things about being truthful and saying the truth. I'm really going to try hard to work on myself.

Yisroel: It takes real גבורה to make such a decision and you can be sure that we'll help you along the way.

Yitzy: Here comes the city bus now, let's get our money ready.

Shmully: It will sure be a relief to get out of the rain and onto a warm, dry bus. How much do you have to pay? I'm still ten so I only have to pay fifty cents.

Yisroel: And I turned eleven two months ago so I have to pay a dollar twenty five. It's a good thing I have enough money. I wouldn't want to have to walk home on a day like today.

Yankel: Oh boy! I turned eleven yesterday but I only have fifty cents in my pocket. I don't want to walk home in this rain. What should I do?

Busdriver: Come on in boys, come on in. Pay me your fare and move on back. *(Chaim, Moshe and Shmully hand over money and move on back, Yankel is next)* Well, come on kid. We haven't got all day. Do you have your fare or not?

Yankel: Well, you see sir, I turned eleven yesterday but I only have fifty cents in my pocket.

Busdriver: Well then why are you just standing there? You don't have enough money? WELL THEN GET OFF MY BUS!
(Yankel gets off bus, all boys follow and old man comes after them)

Chaim: Yankel! You told your true age. What גבורה!

Yisroel: It couldn't have been easy to get off the bus, especially in this weather!

Yankel: But the rest of you had enough money. Why'd you all come off the bus with me?

Moshe: We couldn't let you get off the bus alone.

Shmully: Besides, we're all so proud of you. We know how hard it must have been to say the truth, especially when it's so cold and rainy out.

Yankel: But I didn't expect it to end this way. I thought the driver would be so proud of me for saying the truth that he would let me ride the bus even though I didn't have enough money.

Yitzy: It doesn't always work that way, although that's what we'd like. We know that Hashem sees everything and that's what really counts. Look! That man got off the bus right after us and it looks like he's coming our way.

Old Man: Excuse me boys, I couldn't help but notice what just happened on the bus a few minutes ago.

Yankel: What? What did you see? What are you talking about?

Old Man: I saw how you got off the bus because your birthday was yesterday. I also know how easy it could have been to say that your birthday will be tomorrow. You know, my grandson just came from Russia and he's staying with me now. My wife wanted to send him to yeshiva but I told her no. Now, seeing all of you with your yarmulkas and tzitzis, nice young yeshiva boys and how honest you boys are, you can be sure that I will register my grandson in a school like yours today! Oh- and here's enough money for you to ride the bus home the honest way.

Yankel: Thank you. Thank you, sir. Thank you for telling us about your grandson.

All Boys: Wow!

SCENE 7

Counselor: So girls, that's the story. Anyone have anything to say?

Simi 5: Yes, well, I guess, umm, I was the one who broke your CD player. I didn't do it on purpose but the other girls did try to warn me. I'm the only one to blame. I'm sorry. I'll work hard the rest of the summer not only to pay you back for the broken CD player but also to be careful about exaggerating, lying and cheating as well. From now on, I'm going to try to only say the truth. And that's the real truth.

All Girls: Hurray! Hurray!

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