

Achdus 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 achdus. Chany and Ruthy learn about the importance of including others and making everyone feel wanted in the class. Achdus and friendship themes are discussed in the play. This play can be used to enhance or introduce a unit on achdus.

Goals/Objectives:

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

Materials Needed:

- Props
- Costumes

Instructions:

1. After teaching a unit about achdus, 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.

Variation:

- Perform this play during Sefiras HaOmer when we are supposed to work o and focus on our bein adam l'chaveiro.

אחדות

SCENE 1

Narrator 1: Chany and Ruthy are on their way home from school and discussing their upcoming חומש test.

Chany 1: What a long, long day in school. Boy am I glad the day is over!

Ruthy 1: Me too. It's good to be on the way home. What are you doing about the חומש test that's coming up. Did you start studying yet?

Chany 1: No, I didn't. What are your plans?

Ruthy 1: How about getting together and studying with me?

Chany 1: Sounds like a great idea. I love studying with you and I always do well too!

Ruthy 1: Fine, we'll finalize our plans a different time. Here we are at my house now. See you tomorrow.

Chany 1: See you, bye!

(Ruthy enters house, Chany goes off stage)

SCENE 2

Narrator 2: Ruthy is glad to be home where her warm and loving family welcomes her.

Ruthy 1: Hi Ma, I'm home!

Little Sister: Ruthy, Ruthy! I was waiting sooo long for you to come home. I need help with my homework. Could you help me now?

Little Brother: Hello Ruthy! Guess what we're having for supper tonight? Your favorite-meatballs and spaghetti!

Ruthy's Mother: Hello Ruthy. How was your day? I see we have some children who are very happy to see you. Why don't we sit down to supper? Totty will be here very soon to join us.

Ruthy 1: *(under her breath)* Well, I'm sure glad I'm home. At least I'm popular somewhere, even if it's at home.

(Family sits down, Mother starts serving)

Father: Hello, hello everyone. Let me take off my hat and jacket *(removes hat and jacket)*, and join you by the supper table. How was everyone's day? Ruthy?

Ruthy 1: *(mumbles)* Fine, same as usual.

Father: Did you chat with any friends today? Did anyone include you in their games?

Ruthy 1: No, just with Chany a little. Like always. I'm done eating. I'm going to my room to do homework.

(Ruthy leaves stage, Little Brother and Little Sister leave also)

Ruthy's Mother: I'm so concerned about Ruthy. It seems to me that the only girl she talks to and plays with is Chany. And it doesn't look like she's happy about it either.

Father: Do you have any idea why?

Ruthy's Mother: None at all. Ruthy is such a nice, fun, regular girl. What can be the problem?

Father: How about talking to her teacher about it?

Ruthy's Mother: PTA is tomorrow night. I'll discuss it then. Thanks for the great idea.

SCENE 3

Narrator 3: Ruthy gets ready to leave for another difficult day at school.

Ruthy 1: Bye Ma. I'm leaving to go to school.

Ruthy's Mother: Ruthy, did you eat any breakfast this morning? Here, take this yogurt with you. Have a good day.

Ruthy 1: Thanks Ma, bye!

SCENE 4

(In school, group of girls sitting around together, Ruthy walks in and sits alone)

Girl 1: Hey everyone! Anyone started studying for the HUGE חומש test that's coming up?

Girl 2: Study for the test?! How are we supposed to think about that while we have mounds of other work to do!

Girl 3: Besides, the חומש test isn't till the end of the week. There's plenty of time. What's the rush?

Chany 1: I'll tell you what the rush is. The test is soon, like really soon, and it's on a ton of stuff. חומש and רש"י!

Malky 1: Why are you making such a big deal over a חומש test? And if you don't get a hundred, who cares? Why do you take your work so seriously? I don't study for a test until the night before.

Chany 1: You're right. I didn't really mean what I said. I was just kidding.

Girl 4: Quick, we better get ready for class. מורה's coming.

(Girls scramble to their seats)

Teacher: בקר טוב בנות, please sit down, take out your סידורים and daven to yourselves.

(Girls sit down and begin davening to themselves. Girls silently finish and put away סידורים)

Teacher: We'll be playing a חזרה game as a review for the upcoming חומש test. Now let's divide you girls up evenly. Ruthy, please sit behind Malky and be part of that team.

(Girls on that team look at each other and give a sigh)

Girl 5: *(whispering loudly)* Now we'll never win!

SONG-WHY DOES EVERYBODY MAKE SO MUCH FUN OF ME

Teacher: Let's begin with the first question. Ruthy, why was פרעה out in his pajamas in the middle of the night?

Ruthy 1: Well, uh, maybe, uh *(looks nervous, bites fingernails, looks around)* um...

(Girls on team rolling eyes, sighing out loud)

Teacher: Malky, can you help us?

Malky 1: Of course I know why! Like, it was מכת בכורות and he was going to find משה and אהרן. Like obviously!

(Girls on team start cheering)

(Bell rings for recess)

SONG-DANCE- NEVER, NEVER

SCENE 5

Girl 6: *(bouncing ball)* Whoever wants to play a quick game of machanayim come to the gym.

(Girls 1 and 2 start following Girl 6, Girls 3, 4, 5 and 7 crowd around Malky)

Girl 7: What are you going to do, Malky? Are you in the mood of joining?

Girl 8: Yeah, let's go. It'll be so much fun.

Malky 1: Sure, why not? Let's go. *(Girls join others)*

(Chany and Ruthy are walking together towards group of girls and talking quietly)

Malky 1: Now, do we have an even amount of girls for two teams? *(starts counting)* 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and myself. That makes 9, we need just one more person and then we can start. Hey Chany, want to join our game? We need you for our team.

Chany 1: *(looking from Ruthy to Malky and back at Ruthy)* Well, I, uh, well, sure. Ruthy, you don't mind if I join, do you?

(Ruthy shrugs and walks alone to side)

SONG-BE A FRIEND AND UNDERSTAND

SCENE 6

Narrator 1: Ruthy comes home as her mother is getting ready to leave to PTA.

Ruthy 1: Hi Ma! I'm home!

Ruthy's Mother: (*running and out of breath*) Oh Ruthy, I'm so glad you're home. I'm running out now to PTA. Please take care of the kids for me and I'll see you later.

Ruthy 1: OK Ma.

SCENE 7

(*Line of mothers*)

Mother 1: What a long line! I guess it will be a while until it's my turn.

Mother 2: My daughter is so nervous to see her report card. I'm sure she did fine.

Mother 3: My daughter is having such a great year! She loves her Morah and her class.

Mother 4: This class has been together for so many years and was never ever mixed. Could you believe that?

Mother 5: Of course. They're such a wonderful group. They all get along with each other and there are no cliques! My daughter says that everyone is friends with everyone!

Ruthy's Mother: That's funny. I wonder if I'm standing on the correct line. My daughter, Ruthy, is miserable. She comes home every day so sad. She says the girls ignore her, they make fun of her and they don't include her in their games.

Malky's Mother: Ruthy? I never even heard my daughter, Malky, mention that name. I wonder why not.

Chany's Mother: But my daughter, Chany, is friends with Ruthy. What can be going on in school?

Ruthy's Mother: Oh it looks like it's my turn now. Nice meeting all of you.

Teacher: You must be Ruthy's mother. She looks just like you. Ruthy's doing beautiful work.

Ruthy's Mother: I'm not surprised. Ruthy is such a good girl and she's working hard too. I'm worried about Ruthy though. She comes home every day so sad. She's such a sweet girl, but she says she has no friends. The one friend she has isn't her friend in school.

Teacher: I'm shocked. I had no idea and I'm so glad you told me about this. You know, we're working on our school theme כולנו כאחד, and stressing אחדות very much. I'm going to look into the matter.

Ruthy's Mother: Thank you very much for your help.

SONG-OH HOW I WISH SOMEONE WOULD BE MY FRIEND

SCENE 8

Narrator 2: Ruthy is sitting alone as all the girls in her class are talking together.

Girl 9: Thank goodness PTA is over. I was so nervous to get my report card.

Girl 10: My mother was so proud of my marks. It was worth all the hard work to get them.

Girl 11: That reminds me! The חומש test is TOMORROW! It's the first test of the new term. I really want to do well!

Chany 2: Me too.

Malky 2: Chany, what are you worried about? You always do well.

Girl 12: Yeah Chany. I wish I had your brains. Tests are probably no big deal for you.

Chany 2: That's not true. I study hard to get the marks I get. And I didn't even start studying yet.

Malky 2: You didn't? Oh that's just perfect! How about if I come over to your house tonight and we'll study together?

Chany 2: YOU want to study with ME? Sure. You can come over.

Girl 9: Can I come too and we'll study all together?

Girl 12: Me too? Please?

Malky 2: No! It'll just be me and Chany. Otherwise we won't get anything done.

Girls 9 and 12: Oh well.

SCENE 9

Narrator 3: Ruthy and Chany are on their way home from school.

Ruthy 2: So Chany, are we still on for tonight? Should I come over later to study for the חומש test?

Chany 2: Yes. I just have to ask my mother. Call me!

Ruthy 2: Great! I'll speak to you soon.

SCENE 10

Chany's Mother: Hi Chany. How was your day at school?

Chany 2: Great Ma. Thanks for asking. We're having a big שׁוּמֵשׁ test coming up and I don't know what to do about studying. I made up with Ruthy that we'd study together. We're great study partners. Then Malky asked to study with me and she's the most popular girl in the class, and I told her yes.

Chany's Mother: Why can't you study with both?

Chany: I don't know. I'll figure it out later. I'm going to my room to start studying. Could you please call me when Malky gets here?

(Chany goes to her room, begins studying and falls asleep)

Narrator 1: Chany goes to her room and begins studying. Before she knows it she is fast asleep over her notes. Chany begins to dream...

(Malky knocks on Chany's door)

Chany 3: Hi! I'm so glad you're here. Let's go to my room and start studying. Here's the nosh and soda, make yourself comfortable.

(Girls start noshing and studying)

Malky 3: How long do you think it will take for us to study? Do you usually study alone for tests? Oh, studying is such a bore! I can think of so many more exciting things to be doing right now!

(Phone rings)

Chany 3: Hello.

Ruthy 3: Hi Chany, its Ruthy calling. Did you speak to your mother? Can we get together to study? Do you want to come to me or should I come to you?

Chany 3: Ruthy...hello. How are you? Do you want to come over here and join...

Malky 3: *(whispering loudly and gesturing)* No! No! Don't let her come! No! Don't invite her over!

Chany 3: Uh Ruthy, um I changed my mind. I can't study with you tonight.

(Malky making funny faces in background, both girls trying not to laugh)

Ruthy 3: Is everything OK? You sound funny.

Chany 3: Well honestly, I'm not feeling so good. I have to go.

Ruthy 3: Well, רפואה שלימה. I hope you feel better soon.

(Chany hangs up phone and bursts out laughing)

Malky 3: That was a close one, Chany! What were you thinking, almost inviting Ruthy over here? It's a good thing you caught yourself! What do you see in her anyway?

Chany 3: Nothing really. The truth is that I'm trying to help her. The poor thing has no friends and that's why I volunteered to be her friend.

Malky 3: But she's so quiet. And, like, she can't play sports at all and doesn't even know the answers to the חומש חזרה! (*pause*) Hey, what's that noise? Do you hear it? Where is it coming from?

Chany 3: Oh my Malky, I think it's coming from the phone! It looks like it was never hung up properly! Hello?

Ruthy 3: Chany, you forgot to hang up the phone the right way. I'm sorry I listened in to your conversation, but I guess it was meant to be. Thanks for your good intentions, but I don't want any friends who feel sorry for me. So. I wish you all the best.

Chany 3: Ruthy, I have to explain what happened-

Ruthy 3: There's no need for any explanation. You agree with me don't you?

SCENE 11

Chany's Mother: Chany, are you sleeping? Are you feeling OK? Malky's here to study.

Chany 2: Oh, yes, I'm fine. A dream...it was only a dream. That was a close one! Tell Malky she can come to my room.

Malky 2: Hi Chany! Ready to start studying? How long do you think it will take? Do you usually study alone for tests? Oh, studying is such a bore! I can think of so many more exciting things to be doing right now!

Chany 2: Hi Malky! I'm ready to start as soon as you are. Come in and make yourself comfortable.

(Phone rings)

Chany 2: Hello. Hi Ruthy. You want to come over and join...

Malky 2: *(whispering loudly and shaking head)* No, no, no!

Chany 2: Listen Ruthy, I'll call you right back. Malky, what was that all about?

Malky 2: Were you just about to invite Ruthy over here to join us studying? What were you thinking? I don't have anything to do with her! She can't come study with us!

Chany 2: Malky, *(taking a deep breath)* I'm good friends with Ruthy and we study very well together. Either you agree to let her join us, or I'll study with Ruthy by myself.

(Malky shrugs) **Malky 2:** You know, Chany, I really admire your loyalty. What a great friend!

Chany 2: Thanks. I'll call Ruthy now. We'll have a great time studying-you'll see!*(Chany picks up phone)*

SONG- TOGETHER, TOGETHER

SONGS

WHY DOES EVERYBODY MAKE SO MUCH FUN OF ME

Why does everybody make so much fun of me
Don't they know that it hurts me so
Can't they see my heart is breaking on the inside
Where oh where can I hide?

Oh how I wish someone would be my friend
And accept me for the way I am
And together we could play and share
If only somebody would care.

I always try so hard to do my very best
But I never learned how to play the game
So why does everybody make so much fun of me
I'm feeling so ashamed.

WISHING I WERE SOMEBODY

How I wish that I could be somebody
Somebody that people would respect
But instead I'm only a nobody
A nobody my classmates all reject.

All the kids just look up at the ceiling
They all make believe that I'm not there
But a nobody also has feelings
That are buried way deep down somewhere.

Oh will it happen when I am much older
Will I ever get to see the day
That somebody pats me on the shoulder
And says to me I think that you're OK.

I wonder if I'll ever be accepted
As a real somebody on the team
Can I ever feel that I'm respected
Or is it just nothing but a dream?