

Tznius 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 tznius. A clothing store grapples with different issues in tznius as it has to decide what image they want to portray to their customers.

Goals/Objectives:

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

Materials Needed:

- Props
- Costumes

Instructions:

1. After teaching a unit about tznius, 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.

והיה מתניך קדוש - צניעות

SCENE 1

Saleslady 1: I am so excited! I am just so excited! Are you excited? Are you? Are you excited?

Saleslady 2: My goodness! Just listening to you is making me excited! And to answer your question, yes, I am also excited!

Saleslady 3: Me too. Just look around this place. The walls painted, the tiles on the floor, the furniture in place...

Saleslady 4: Our very own clothing boutique is on its way towards a super, duper, fabulous, grand opening.

Saleslady 5: And don't forget to mention our sign hanging outside. Exclusive Clothing Boutique. Now, doesn't that sound inviting?

Saleslady 6: Well ladies, enough of this very exciting chitter chatter. We've got work to do. We must set up an attractive display in our window. We want to invite all kinds of people into our boutique to shop.

Saleslady 1: And that's just the beginning! We've got loads to take care of! Let's go!

(All Salesladies start getting busy)

SCENE 2

Saleslady 7: *(talking to Saleslady 8)* Here, you get a skirt while I find the perfect top to display. *(Rummaging through boxes)*

Saleslady 8: Oh, I think I might have found something. How's this for a skirt?

Saleslady 7: And I think I've found the perfect top. Let's try putting it together and see what it looks like.

(Salesladies dress the model; skirt is obviously too short; neckline too wide; sleeves too short)

Saleslady 9: Ooh! I love it! What a sensation our display will make. We'll be bombarded with tons of customers in no time.

Saleslady 10: Those colors look sooo good together and I just love the style!

(All salesladies are standing around)

VMK 1: Are you sure that this is a look that you want to display? Is this the way you really want the women and girls to look?

Saleslady 8: Why? What's wrong with this look?

VMK 2: Well, let's take a closer look. *(Takes out magnifying glass and measuring tape and measures)* Look at this skirt. Is it four inches below? Don't let those knees show!

Saleslady 9: Well, as long as she's standing her knees are covered. But what will happen as soon as she sits down or crosses her legs?

VMK 3: That neckline! Is the collarbone completely hidden? Kosher necklines are certainly no pain in the neck!

VMK 4: And her elbows! Is that some elbow I see peeking out? *(Taking a close look with her glasses)*

Saleslady 10: Her collarbone is basically hidden and her elbows are basically covered. Isn't it good enough?

VMK 4: Don't you think you should take a closer look and see whether your display will make the right kind of sensation or not? And, no. Good enough is not good enough.

Saleslady 8: Do you think we can find a longer skirt to put on? And a top with longer sleeves and a collar or a narrower neck so that our display will be the right kind of sensational?

(Salesladies fix up model; examine their work)

Saleslady 7: Now that's...

All Salesladies: Perfect!

SCENE 3

Saleslady 11: Now that our display is taken care of, let's get on with the rest of our preparations.

Saleslady 12: What has to be done now? Things are looking good and under control. We should be ready for our first customers any minute now.

Saleslady 13: Not so fast, my friend. Not so fast. We have yet to choose the perfect music to play in our store. We want our customers to enjoy shopping in our Exclusive Clothing Boutique.

Saleslady 14: How does some loud, rocky music sound? Our customers will be able to bop along as they shop.

VMK 5: Will you be handing out earplugs? I wouldn't want to get a headache while I shop.

VMK 6: Is loud, rocky music the music we want our girls to be listening to while they shop?

Saleslady 14: Is rocky music really that bad?

VMK 7: The way to use music correctly is to play it in a way that moves one's emotions, NOT their bodies.

VMK 8: Remember, a person's quiet manner sends a loud message.

Saleslady 13: I think I would choose some slow, quieter music to play for our customers while they shop.

Saleslady 11: Yes, this way they can concentrate on their shopping. The music would only be in the background for them.

Saleslady 12: I'm imagining it already. It sounds just...

All Salesladies: Perfect!

SCENE 4

Saleslady 15: Just one more thing to take care of and then we'll be all set to open our doors.

Saleslady 16: You mean we're not finished yet? We took care of our display (*pointing towards the model*), we chose the perfect music to play (*turns on music for a minute*), what more do we need?

Saleslady 17: Wouldn't it be nice to have some magazines and newspapers next to the register? Or even maybe near the dressing room so that while someone is waiting they'll have what to read?

Saleslady 15: That's just what I had in mind. Shopping in our store will be an absolute dream.

Saleslady 16: The only question now is, what kind of magazines and newspapers are we going to have?

VMK 9: Are you thinking about informative papers or enjoyable papers?

Saleslady 17: Why can't it be both?

VMK 10: Why, it most certainly can. But, what kind of articles are going to be in there? Are they articles that conform to the proper Hashkafos of the Torah?

VMK 11: And the pictures and advertisements! Are they pictures and advertisements that Jewish women and girls should be looking at?

VMK 9: Use your Binah, what kinds of papers should people from Jewish Mishpachas be reading?

Saleslady 15: I've got it! The perfect reading material to have in our store! The articles are the best! The pictures and advertisements as kosher as can be. We'll have subscriptions to both the Binah and Mishpacha Magazines! How does that sound?

Saleslady 16: How does that sound?! It couldn't sound more...

All Salesladies: Perfect!

SCENE 5

Saleslady 18: Oh, am I excited! This is it. The moment we've all been waiting for.

Saleslady 19: Just one last look around and we're ready to open our doors.

Saleslady 20: Opening for the very first time, the one and only Exclusive Clothing Boutique. Now all we have to do is wait for our very first customer.

(Two girls heading towards the store)

Saleslady 21: Judging from the girls coming our way I'd say we don't have long to wait at all.

Girl 1: Would you look at this new store that just opened? Look at its sign. And look at that display! Isn't it sensational?

Girl 2: Let's go in and browse around. We might even find something to buy.

Saleslady 18: Hello girls and welcome to our Exclusive Clothing Boutique. We invite you to a most pleasure filled shopping experience. Is there anything I can help you with?

Girl 3: Oh, no thank you. We're just looking, if that's OK.

Saleslady 18: With pleasure.

(Girls browse around; pick up and examine clothing; flip through magazines)

Girl 1: *(picks up skirt and holds it against her)* Hey, what do you think about this skirt? *(skirt is way too long)*

Girl 2: *(picks up skirt and holds it against her)* And what do you think of this skirt I'm holding? *(skirt is way too short)*

Saleslady 19: I see that you girls really can use some help. Let's take a closer look at each of your skirts.

Saleslady 20: *(turning to girl with long skirt)* Did you ever hear the saying, "Your skirt is not a broom; don't sweep the floor"?

Saleslady 21: *(turning to girl with short skirt; takes out measuring tape)* Is that four inches below? Don't let those knees show!

Saleslady 18: I've got the perfect solution for both of you! Why don't the two of you make a switch? The long skirt wouldn't be too long on you since you're a bit taller. And that skirt won't be too short on you since you're a little bit shorter.

Saleslady 19: You see, that's the trick with clothing. Just because it may be good on one person doesn't necessarily mean that it would be OK on someone else.

Saleslady 20: Every person must evaluate for themselves and make sure to be aware of what they wear. So, give it a try. Make that switch. *(Girls switch skirts)* I'd say that that looks...

All Salesladies: Perfect!

SCENE 6

(Two fancy, old ladies walking down street)

Gertrude: Oh, don't you say, Marsha, won't you just look at that sensational dress shop that opened up down the street.

Marsha: I see, Gertrude, I see. What do you say about going in there and taking a peek? Maybe we'll even find something to buy. You know just how much I love to shop.

Gertrude: I say that's a great idea. But if it's anything like the other store we just walked out of...

Marsha: Well we won't know unless we give it a try. Let's go.

(Enter store)

Marsha: *(breathing in deeply)* Gertrude, do you smell what I smell?

Gertrude: Smell, Marsha? What in the world are you talking about?

Marsha: Yes. *(Closes eyes while talking)* Yes. I smell peace and relaxation. Why, *(opens eyes)* just look around this place. The apparel displayed is actually clothing that are modest. The styles are classic and beautiful. And the music playing, do you hear it Gertrude?

Gertrude: I must say I do. Soft and pleasant. What a difference from that other store we just came out of. Over there, the music was rocking and the clothing! Just horrid! The lengths were outrageous! Never mind the prices! I mean, why would anyone in their right mind pay such a high price for some faded, ripped piece of garbage?

Saleslady 1: Hello, ladies. Is there anything I can help you with? Is there anything specific you're looking for?

Marsha: We just stepped in and were admiring your beautiful shop. The apparel you have displayed...

Gertrude: The music you have playing...

Marsha: And I even noticed the magazines you have out.

Gertrude: Everything in your shop is so nice, and refined. I almost feel like I've stepped into an upperclass, highscale, exclusive clothing boutique.

Saleslady 2: But you have! Didn't you read our sign outside? Exclusive Clothing Boutique. That's exactly what we are.

Gertrude: Oh! How silly of me for not noticing! So that's what you really are! But, tell me. Why? Why are you exclusive? Why is everything in your shop so fine and pleasant?

Marsha: And why is all the clothing you have displayed modest? Why aren't you showing the same things as the other shops on this street?

Saleslady 3: Why? You want to know why we dress and behave differently.

(Ladies nod their heads)

Girl 1: I know why. We act different because we are different.

Girl 2: And I know why we are different. We're different because we have the Torah. We have Mitzvos. And we have guidelines.

Girl 1: The guidelines are meant for us; for our benefit and for our protection.

Saleslady 4: We have guidelines for the way we dress (*VMK 1-4 enter*) that protect and preserve our inner selves...

Saleslady 5: We have guidelines for the music we listen to (*VMK 5-8 enter*)...

Saleslady 6: And we have guidelines for the materials we read (*VMK 9-11 enter*).

Gertrude: I think I'm beginning to understand. But tell me, I notice all these VMK people. I never heard of VMK. Did you, Martha?

Martha: No, I haven't either. Who are they and what do they mean?

VMK 1: We stand for the words **Vihaya Machanecha Kadosh!**

Gertrude: For what? I still don't get it.

VMK 2: These words are from a Passuk in our Torah that teach us that we must keep to the laws of modesty completely in order to properly keep His Torah.

VMK 3: Not only that though, but when we do keep these guidelines properly, we merit Hashem's blessings and protection.

Martha: You mean to tell me that you must keep to these guidelines?

Salesladies: Absolutely!

Girl 1: Oh, but we want to.

Girl 2: And we're proud to.

Girl 1: These guidelines dictate the...

VMK 1-4: clothing we wear...

VMK 5-8: the music we listen to...

VMK 9-11: and the materials we read.

Gertrude: VMK, **Vihaya Machanecha Kadosh**. I like the sound of it. Don't you, Martha?

Martha: I sure do, Gertrude. It sounds absolutely, positively...

Everyone: Perfect!