

# PICTURE THIS!

**Nine Short Scenes of Emotions  
For Elementary Students**

*By Michael Boston*

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## **STORY**

This is a play for elementary school-aged children on how we deal with the emotions we feel. Each scene concentrates on a specific emotion: sad, frustrated, frightened, happy, angry, excited, cool and jealous. The scenes are designed for classroom use as well as for elaborate productions, for students of all learning levels, including students who have not yet learned to read and English-language learners. The dialogue is structured with patterns, repetition and rhythms to allow for easy memorization. Each scene could also be performed as its own playlet.

All roles may be played by a male or female children ages 5 to 11, except for the offstage voices, which can be played by adults, juveniles, or members of the audience. About 50 minutes.

## **SCENES AND CHARACTERS**

### **JEALOUS**

VERDE - jealous, adjusting to new siblings.

BABIES - 2 to 6 boys and girls, Verde's new brothers and sisters.

MOM - a voice.

DAD - a voice.

### **EXCITED**

BOREO - bored, looking for something to do.

FRIENDS - 2 to 10 boys and girls, also bored.

MOM - a voice.

### **COOL**

PABLO - the coolest kid in school, but doesn't know how to read.

KIDS - Pablo's friends, they don't know Pablo's secret.

TEACHER - a voice.

### **ANGRY**

GARY - extremely upset, accuses everyone of stealing his toy.

DETECTS - 2 to 15 boy and girls, help Gary retrace his steps.

CUSTODIAN - a voice.

PRINCIPAL - a voice.

TEACHER - a voice.

MOM - a voice.

DAD - a voice.

SPOT - Gary's dog, a hand puppet.

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**HAPPY**

HARPO - happy, it's his (or her) birthday, but nobody knows it.

KIDS - 2 to 15 boys and girls, believe Harpo holds the key to happiness.

**SAD**

SADIE - sad because everyone is laughing at his (or her) big shoes.

CLOWNS - 2 to 6 boys and girls, think Sadie is trying to be funny.

**FRUSTRATED**

RUSTY - frustrated, he's being punished for something he didn't do.

YARD DUTY - Rusty's nemesis, seems uncompromising.

YOUS - 4 to 6 boys and girls, blame each other for the "accident."

**FRIGHTENED**

FREDDY - frightened, when left alone with her imagination.

NOISES - 3 to 8 boys and girls, the scary things in Freddy's head.

MOM - a voice.

**OKAY**

INDIE - okay, after a roller coaster of emotion.

FAMILY - 2 to 6 boys and girls, together play Indie's mom, friends, bullies, and newfound friends.

### **SETS**

Each play in this collection is a child's drawing that comes to life. A "giant picture frame" positioned upstage where the actors begin each play helps portray this concept.

### **COSTUMES**

The actors can perform in their street clothes. Since these skits are about kids in kid situations actors should be dressed as they would any day. If you do use costumes, use specific colors to emphasize the various emotions, i.e. use red as the prominent color in *Angry*. Costumes depend on the size and scope of your production.

### **PROPERTIES**

Most of the action is pantomimed so very few props are needed. Having the big shoes for Sadie in *Sad* makes for a good visual gag. A "backpack" with a hole in the bottom is also a good visual and aids in telling Gary's story in *Angry*. These suggestions and others are offered in the script.

### **SOUND**

Sound is used as a transitional tool. You can use virtually any kind of instrument. The instruments suggested in the script are usually the most readily available.

### **MUSIC AND DANCE**

Incorporating music and dance is optional but can create added excitement to the show. There are thousands of songs that fit the scenarios. If you have a "happy song" that you like, use it. Songs are suggested by theme not title. This allows the director or classroom teacher to use songs that they know. (Be sure to obtain rights to use copyrighted music.)

## JEALOUS

*(LIGHTS up. Verde and Babies form a "picture" upstage. VERDE appears upset, while the BABIES are oblivious.)*

VERDE: On Saturday I was green.

BABIES: Green?

VERDE: I was jealous.

BABIES: Jealous, why?

VERDE: I was jealous of you guys.

BABIES: Jealous of us?

VERDE: Yeah, I was the only one around here.

BABIES: And then we came along.

VERDE: *(Pouting.)* Six new brothers and sisters.

BABIES: Don't you like us?

VERDE: Of course.

BABIES: Then what's the problem?

VERDE: You get all the attention.

BABIES: Like when?

VERDE: Well ... like on Saturday.

*(SOUND: Chimes, bells or piano, indicating "flashback."  
VERDE and BABIES cross downstage. Babies crawl around while Verde yells out to the audience.)*

VERDE: Mom ... I'm hungry.

BABIES: We want food.

VERDE: *(Louder.)* Mom ... I'm hungry!

BABIES: We want food. We want food.

VERDE: Mom, I'm hungry!

MOM: *(Offstage.)* After the babies.

VERDE: *(Whining.)* Mom.

BABIES: *(Sticking their tongues out at VERDE.)* Babies first.

*(SOUND: Chimes, bells or piano, indicating "flashback."  
VERDE and BABIES change position. Babies crawl around while Verde yells out to the audience.)*

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VERDE: Dad ... can we play ball?  
BABIES: We want ball.  
VERDE: *(Louder.)* Dad ... can we play ball?  
BABIES: We want ball. We want ball.  
VERDE: *(Louder.)* Dad ... can we play ball?  
DAD: *(Offstage.)* After the babies.  
VERDE: *(Whining.)* Awww ... Dad.  
BABIES: *(Teasing.)* Babies first.

*(SOUND: Chimes, bells or piano, indicating "flashback."  
VERDE and BABIES change position. Babies crawl around  
while Verde yells out to the audience.)*

VERDE: Mom ... can I watch my movie?  
BABIES: My movie.  
VERDE: *(Louder.)* Mom ... can I watch my movie?  
BABIES: My movie, my movie.  
VERDE: *(Louder.)* Mom ... can I watch my movie?  
MOM: *(Offstage.)* After the babies.  
VERDE: *(Whining.)* Awww ... Mom.  
BABIES: Babies first. *(Tongues out at VERDE.)*  
VERDE: Why are they always first?  
BABIES: After the babies, babies first.  
VERDE: Will I always come second?  
BABIES: After the babies, babies first.  
VERDE: Are they more important?  
BABIES: After the babies, babies first.  
VERDE: They get all the attention.  
BABIES: After the babies, babies first.  
VERDE: Will it always be this way?  
BABIES: After the babies, babies first.  
VERDE: Forever!  
BABIES: After the babies, babies first.  
VERDE: NO!

*(BABIES chase VERDE upstage moving to the beat of their  
lines.)*

## **End of Freeview**

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