

“Playing Up”

Play Script

7



Telling Lies

Pupils learn:

Why it is important to tell the truth.

They learn that covering up lateness by lying is not a good idea.

They learn that if they lie, other people will not be able to trust them.

Short play scripts about pupil behaviour for Junior Assembly

Play Script 7: Telling Lies**● Introduction from the teacher:**

- We should always tell the truth to one another.
- If we tell lies, other people will not know when they can trust us.

● What this short play script/presentation is about:

It shows how some children feel they have to lie. Some lie to cover up things. Others lie to impress others. The script also poses the question: is it sometimes all right to tell a lie?

● Ten speaking parts you will need:

Girl: Karen

Boy: Ahmed

Boy: Simon

Simon’s mum:

Narrator 1:

Narrator 2:

Female Teacher: Mrs Forest

Boy: Shiv

Girl: Cass

Boy: Tim

- In each play script, the role of the narrators is to reinforce the learning points or message of the script.
- After each play script, you will see follow-up questions.

- Karen:** It wasn't me, Miss. I did not do it.
- Ahmed:** She did, Miss! She is sitting behind me and she hit me on the head every time you turned your back to write on the board.
- Karen:** I did not, Miss. It was not me.
- Ahmed:** She did and it really hurts, Miss.
- Karen:** I did not do it, Miss. It was Simon.
- Simon:** No it wasn't, Miss. I haven't touched him. I was just getting on with my colouring in. Anyway, I saw her do it.
- Mrs Forest:** Is that right? Are you telling me lies?
- Karen:** No, it wasn't me. I'm not lying. I didn't hit Ahmed.
- Mrs Forest:** OK, I shall ask you one more time to tell me the truth or I shall telephone your parents and ask them to come in and see me.
- Karen:** Well, he hit me at break time in the playground. He deserved it.

- Mrs Forest:** So now you admit that you did hit him?
- Karen:** I did not hit him very hard, Mrs Forest.
- Mrs Forest:** Why could you not tell me the truth and own up first time when I asked you? Why do you have to lie and blame other people?
- Simon:** Yes, she blamed me, Miss and I had nothing to do with it.
- Mrs Forest:** If you tell me lies about this, how can I trust you about anything else? How will I know when you are telling me the truth?
- Karen:** But I am telling you the truth now, Miss and I am sorry I hit Ahmed.
- Narrator 1:* Some children try to lie their way out of trouble.
- Narrator 2:* That's right. They should learn to take responsibility for their actions instead of trying to blame their friends.
- Narrator 1:* They tell lies to their teacher instead of owning up to what they have done.
- Narrator 2:* I think their teacher knows if they are lying. She can tell.

Narrator 1: *We should always tell the truth or other people will not know when we are telling the truth.
Let us look at this . . .*

Mrs Forest: So last night I asked you all to finish your story and to draw a picture to illustrate it. Let's hear some of your stories. Let's hear yours . . . ah, Karen.

Karen: I have not got it here today Miss.

Mrs Forest: Why not? I asked you all to finish it last night and bring it to class today.

Ahmed: She didn't do it, Miss.

Karen: Yes I did do it! I just left it on the bus coming to school this morning.

Mrs Forest: OK, well I shall just go and telephone the bus company and ask the bus driver if he found it when you got off the bus. I've got the number here; I can phone them now . . .

Karen: No, please, Miss. Don't phone them. I didn't leave it on the bus. I was telling you a lie. I did not write the story last night. I was too busy watching television.

Mrs Forest: Then why bother to tell me a lie? Why could you not just tell me the truth?

Narrator 1: *That child has lied to her teacher again!*

Narrator 2: *She seems to have real trouble telling the truth.*

Narrator 1: *I agree. She must try to learn to tell the truth and take responsibility for her own actions.*

Narrator 2: *Some children also tell lies for other reasons.*

Shiv: Do you mean your Dad is seeing the Prime Minister next week because of his bravery?

Cass: Yes. He saved the little girl's life in the stormy sea when we were on holiday in the summer. He is a hero now.

Tim: And did he really rescue her by fighting off a giant shark? He must be the bravest father ever!

Cass: Yes. The shark had got lost and come into the bay. My dad saw it and jumped in straight away when he saw the girl about to be attacked by the shark.

- Shiv:** Well, how come the local newspaper did not print a story about it? He should have had his picture in the paper. I didn't see it. Did anyone else?
- Karen:** No I didn't see it.
- Ahmed:** Nor did I.
- Cass:** He said he did not want his picture in the paper. He did not want everyone to know how brave he is. He did not want to show off.
- Tim:** What is your Dad's job? What does he do?
- Cass:** He is a special rescue officer. He travels around the country rescuing people who need help.
- Shiv:** You're the one who needs help. You're making all this up.
- Cass:** No I am not. He **does** save people's lives. He's really brave.
- Tim:** Well, how come he sold us our house? My mum said your dad was the estate agent who sold us our house and she said he charged us too much!

- Cass:** Well, yes but he saves people's lives at weekends. Really . . . he does!
- Narrator 1:** *I think Cass is telling us lies about her father, don't you?*
- Narrator 2:** *She is lying to them because she wants them to be impressed and jealous of her. That is why she is showing off by making up the story about her father.*
- Narrator 1:** *But if she is lying to them about that, how will they ever know when she is telling them the truth? They will never be able to believe her, will they?*
- Narrator 2:** *I'll bet adults never tell lies.*
- Narrator 1:** *Really?*
- Simon:** Are you sure Grandpa is going to be all right, Mum?
- Simon's Mum:** Of course he is, love. Now do not worry and let's get you off to school. Come on . . .
- Simon:** But Nana was crying when I asked her how Grandpa was.

- Simon's Mum:** He is going to be fine. Now don't you worry. You have got a very important test in school today. I do not want you worrying over nothing.
- Simon:** I do not believe you, Mum. Please tell me the truth. Grandpa is not well, is he?
- Simon's Mum:** No. He was rushed into hospital last night.
- Simon:** Well, why did you not tell me the truth?
- Simon's Mum:** We did not want to worry you. You have an important test in school today and we did not want you to get upset.
- Simon:** Oh, Mum. I hate it if you lie to me.
- Narrator 1:** *I suppose some adults tell their children lies to protect them from things that might upset them?*
- Narrator 2:** *Yes. They sometimes protect their children from the truth because they think their children may get upset. They do it because they care about them.*
- Narrator 1:** *So it is OK to lie sometimes, is it?*
- Narrator 2:** *No, not really. We should all tell one another the truth.*

Narrator 1: *OK. I promise to tell the truth...the whole truth and nothing but the truth.*

Narrator 2: *You sound like a witness in court. They always have to tell the truth to the judge . . .*

Mrs Forest: Who was that talking? Was it you?

Shiv: It wasn't me, your honour. I mean Miss.

Teacher: No. It never is you, is it? By the way, why are you wearing that expensive watch to school today?

Shiv: My Mum said I could wear it today. I asked her if I could and she said it was OK.

Mrs Forest: Your Mum is still outside talking to the school secretary about the visit to the museum next week. I shall just pop out into the corridor and ask her if she is happy for you to wear the watch in school, shall I?

Shiv: No, Miss. Please don't! She does not know I am wearing it. She would kill me if she knew I had it in school!

Mrs Forest: Oh dear. One day someone will tell me the truth around here. How can we trust one another if we keep lying to each other?

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

1. How do you think Ahmed felt when Karen kept on hitting him?
2. Why does Karen blame Simon?
3. Why does Karen eventually tell her teacher the truth?
4. What excuse does Karen give for not having her story with her?
5. Why does Karen ask her teacher not to telephone the bus company?
6. Why does Cass lie about her father’s job?
7. What does Shiv think about what Karen tells them about her father?
8. Why does Simon’s Mum lie to him about his Grandpa?
9. Why does Shiv lie to Mrs Forest about his watch?
10. If you were Mrs Forest, how would you feel when the pupils lie to you?