

Only a Game

A drama to be performed by primary-age pupils

Background

This 15 minute drama resource has been designed especially for teachers to use with their primary pupils. It is ideally performed by the pupils for their peers, other teachers, and parents to encourage a whole school community approach to e-safety. The play can also be performed as part of a school e-safety Activity Day with sessions for pupils and their parents. The key messages focus on online gaming and ways young people can stay safe whilst using these interactive technologies. Lesson plans, activities, and curriculum links will be provided free of charge on request. See below for more details.



Synopsis

Jay and good friend Alex both love playing games online—they're loads of fun! Jay plays games almost everyday and often spends hours online instead of doing homework or playing with real life friends.

Alex, on the other hand, is only allowed to play games for a certain amount of time each day which allows plenty of other time to do school work and play with mates. Jay gets into some trouble online after playing a game meant for older children. It is up to Alex (and your pupils) to help Jay out of this tricky situation and stay safe on the Internet using the five SMART rules.

Script Preview

SCENE ONE

In a space large enough for the audience to be seated on the same level as the performers, rows of seats are set up in two semi circles around the performance area with a free aisle through the centre. At the back of the stage hangs a large screen which will project images and messages at various points throughout the play. In front of this sit two small desks and chairs with a computer on each – one stage left for Alex, and one stage right for Jay. The two friends are busy playing an online game.

As the audience enter, images from the game can be seen on the large screen. Annoying, overlapping sounds and music fill the space.

The Narrator enters the space through the central aisle and attempts to speak to the audience over the racket. Clearly bothered by the noise, they take a remote control out of their pocket and reduce the volume. Jay and Alex continue to play in the background whilst the Narrator speaks.

NARRATOR:

(SPEAKING DIRECTLY TO THE AUDIENCE) That's better! Couldn't hear myself think, let alone begin to tell you our story! Well, Jay's story really. *(POINTING TO JAY)* That's Jay over there.

JAY:

(LOOKING STRAIGHT AT THE AUDIENCE) Hi, I'm Jay and this is my bedroom *(CONTINUES PLAYING)*

NARRATOR:

Jay's just been given a new computer from his Mum and Dad. They got really fed up with the noisy games he plays, so he's allowed to keep it in his bedroom. *(POINTING TO ALEX)* That's Jay's best mate Alex.

ALEX:

(LOOKING STRAIGHT AT THE AUDIENCE) Hi, I'm Alex and this is our front room *(CONTINUES PLAYING)*

NARRATOR:

Alex's family keep their computer in the front room. His Mum's a bit strict about which games he can play and for how long. For a while Alex *really* wanted to have a computer of his own in his bedroom too. But as he watched his friend spend way too much time on the internet, he started to think that maybe his Mum wasn't being that mean after all..... *(EXIT DL)*

ALEX:

(LOOKING STRAIGHT AT THE AUDIENCE) Jay and I used to play online games together every day. I never got

as good as him though, but that's only because he could play whenever he wanted to and my mum only allowed me half an hour. I used to think my Mum was being really unfair, but after the trouble Jay got into, I could see that she was only trying to keep me safe from nasty websites.

JAY:

(LOOKING STRAIGHT AT THE AUDIENCE) Mum and Dad didn't know much about computers back then so left me alone to play what I liked. "*Safer to be playing in his bedroom than playing on the street*" they would say. Alex's mum was really mean though and would only let him play for like 2 minutes a day before homework.....

ALEX:

(TYPING A MESSAGE TO JAY, WHICH IS PROJECTED ON THE SCREEN) Sos J.....time's upGot to go and do my maths now....B.O.R.I.N.G....See u at school 2moz. **(TURNS AWAY FROM THE COMPUTER)**

JAY:

(ANNOYED) Aw come on! Not now Alex! We're just about to get to the best bit! **(TYPING A REPLY)** You can't leave the game now..... 5 more mins.....Your mum won't know.....Alex? You still there?.....Alex?.....**(SHRUGS SHOULDERS AND CONTINUES PLAYING)**

(FREEZE ACTION & SOUNDS/MUSIC FROM A GAME PLAYS IN THE BACKGROUND. NARRATOR ENTERS DL))

NARRATOR:

So, I guess that's how it all started. Alex would play for a bit before homework, but Jay found it really hard to leave a game half way in so would stay and carry on playing. And sometimes that could be most of the night. **(EXITS DL)**

To request a free copy of the full script for 'Only a Game' and the accompanying lesson plans and pupil work pages, please send us an email at drama@childnet.com