

A script from



## **"Being Cool"**

A Puppet Script

by

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**What** Willie has decided that he's cool, but learns that saying you're something and actually being something are two different things.

**Themes:** Christianity, Actions, Integrity, Conduct

**Who** Willie  
Ralphie (dog)  
Betsy

**When** Present

**Wear  
(Props)** 2 Pairs of Sunglasses- one for Willie and one for Ralphie  
Ball

**Why** Proverbs 20:11

**How** \*See the end of the script.

**Time** Approximately 4 minutes

**Willie** enters wearing sunglasses and tossing a ball and bragging.

**Willie:** Cool. I am soooooo cool. I mean, I'm just about the coolest kid I know.

**Ralphie** the dog enters.

**Ralphie:** Arf. Arf.

**Willie:** Oh. Hi Ralphie.

**Ralphie:** Arf. Arf.

**Willie:** Hey Ralphie. Ya wanna play catch with someone who's really cool?

**Ralphie:** Arf. Arf.

**Willie:** Okay. Here ya go Ralphie. Catch the ball.

**Willie** tosses the ball and **Ralphie** chases after it. Soon **Ralphie** returns with the ball in his mouth.

**Willie:** Good boy, Ralphie. (**Willie** takes the ball and tosses it again) Get the ball Ralphie. Good boy.

**Ralphie** runs after the ball again. As **Ralphie** exits **Betsy** enters from the opposite side of stage.

**Betsy:** Hi Willie.

**Willie:** Oh, Hi Betsy.

**Betsy:** What's up?

**Willie:** Ralphie and I were just playing catch. You wanna play?

**Betsy:** No thanks. I've got a few errands to run. Hey, how come you're wearing sunglasses?

**Willie:** What, (*touches his sunglasses*) these? Oh...I'm just being cool.

**Betsy:** (*Confused*) Wearing sunglasses on a cloudy day is cool?

**Willie:** Sure it is.

**Betsy:** I don't think so. I think it's more like...weird.

**Willie:** (*Surprised*) Really?

**Betsy:** Yeah, really. *(Pause)* How come you wanna be cool anyhow?

**Willie:** Well, cause when you're cool, everyone likes you...and they want to do things with you and stuff.

**Betsy:** I see.

**Willie:** So I've been telling everyone that I'm cool.

**Betsy:** But Willie, a person isn't cool just because they say they are.

**Willie:** *(Confused and speaking slowing)* You mean...saying I'm cool won't make me cool?

**Betsy:** Does saying you're a chicken make you a chicken?

**Willie:** *(Shyly)* Well...no. *(Imitates a chicken)* Cluck cluck cluck. Ha.

**Betsy:** Well, neither will saying you're cool make you cool. It's what you do and how you act that will determine what others think about you...about whether you're cool or not. *(Pause)* Ya know, even without saying a single word, you can tell others a whole lot about yourself.

**Willie:** Huh? What do you mean?

**Betsy:** Well, do you remember Billy Paddlewinkle?

**Willie:** You mean that funny boy that used to go to our school?

**Betsy:** Yes. Remember how he always said that he was a Christian?

**Willie:** *(Nodding yes)* Yeah, I remember.

**Betsy:** Well, he never prayed. And he never went to church. And he didn't even like to talk about Jesus.

**Willie:** Yeah, I know.

**Betsy:** You see, his actions tell us that he probably wasn't really a Christian at all. What we do says more about who we are than what we say. Get it?

**Willie:** Yeah. I think so.

**Betsy:** Some kids like to think they're really cool. Then they do dumb things like, well, like telling a lie or...or not minding their parents. And that's not cool. *(Pause)* Hey. Ya wanna know what the Bible says about this?

**Willie:** (Surprised) The Bible talks about being cool?

**Betsy:** The Bible is cool. It says in Proverbs 20:11 that, "even a child is known by his actions, by whether his conduct is pure and right".

**Willie:** Hmmmm. So, people really *do* know you by how you act and by what you say, don't they?

*Pause*

**Betsy:** Willie.

**Willie:** Yes, Betsy?

**Betsy:** I think you're cool just being yourself. Even without the sunglasses.

**Willie:** Really?

**Betsy:** Yeah...really. God makes each of us unique. We're all special, or cool, in our own way.

**Willie:** Yeah. I think you're right Betsy. Ya know what I'm gonna do. I'm gonna get rid of these sunglasses and just go on being the cute, loveable, adorable little kid I've always been.

**Betsy:** (Placing her hand to her head) Oh brother! I've created a monster.

*Ralphie is heard from a distance approaching.*

**Ralphie:** Arf. Arf.

**Willie:** Oh, here comes Ralphie. Hey Betsy, maybe you need to talk to him, too.

**Betsy:** Ralphie? Why?

**Willie:** 'Cause now he thinks *he's* cool.

*Ralphie returns to center stage with the ball in his mouth and sunglasses over his eyes.*

**Ralphie:** Arf. Arf.

*Willie and Betsy exit laughing as Ralphie follows barking.*

*The end*

### **Tips for performing with puppets:**

Puppets are wonderful tools for sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ in a fun, lighthearted way. What great joy it brings to hear the laughter of children when your performance goes well. I would like to take just a moment to focus on a few areas that I believe are key in order for that to happen.

The first has to do with the stage (curtain) itself. **PREPARE YOUR WORK AREA.** How you feel *behind* the curtain can make a big difference in how your presentation is seen in *front* of it. You will want a large enough work area behind the curtain to allow three or four puppeteers to maneuver comfortably behind it. A short stool or a rolled up blanket can provide relief from the discomfort to your knees and back. Proper lighting is a must. This will help prevent you from losing your place while reading from the script. You may want to attach several copies of the script to the back of the curtain and have each puppeteer highlight their individual parts.

Next, because puppets are mostly expressionless, you will need to give them their spirit and vigor. **BE HIGHLY EXPRESSIVE AND ANIMATED.** Wave those arms, raise your voice and include lots of *wows, boings, zonks and thuds!* Children love that.

The presentation is most important. It is so easy for a good skit to suddenly go bad due to poor delivery. Reading over a script two or three times before performing it can make a world of difference. **COMMIT TO MEMORY AS MUCH OF THE SCRIPT AS POSSIBLE.** This will free you up to spend more time concentrating on the handling of your puppet....adding slap-stick humor, etc. **ALWAYS KNOW WHAT YOUR PUPPET IS DOING.** Is he positioned too high up....or down too low. Is he looking at who he's speaking to. Are his lips in sync with your words.

And finally .....don't forget the 'risk' factor. By this, I mean to be bold. Take risks. Dare to be differently. So what if your puppet (or your audience) gets a little wet. Who cares if your puppet ends up with whipped cream (shaving cream) on its face or with a little Play-Doh in its hair? It all comes out in the wash. **DO THE UNEXPECTED.** Your children will love it. If they are still talking about your puppet skit days, or even weeks, after it's over you're probably doing something right. In short, **HAVE FUN!**

1. Prepare your work area
2. Be expressive
3. Commit to memory much of the script and know what your puppet is doing
4. Do the unexpected
5. Have fun.