

A script from



“Flunking Life”

by
Curt Cloninger

What Mr. Johnson, a retired English teacher, walks into the office of Paul Clark, a newspaper editorialist. Mr. Johnson taught Paul twenty five years earlier, and flunked him because he wrote compositions about Jesus. Now, Mr. Johnson comes to Paul, seeking his advice on life. (Themes: Grace, Perseverance, Endurance, Faith, Persistence)

Who Mr. Johnson, a retired teacher Paul Clark, a 42 year old newspaper editorialist

When Present day

Wear (Props) Desk
2 chairs
“Stuff” on desk (i.e. newspaper, coffee mug, laptop)

Why Hebrews 12:1

How Dialogue should be conversational and easy.
Note: This script is best used in conjunction with “Flunking English” and can be found in Curt Cloninger’s scripts at www.skitguys.com.

Time Approximately 3-4 minutes

Mr. Johnson, a retired teacher, walks into the office of Paul Clark, a newspaper editorialist. Mr. Johnson taught Paul twenty five years earlier.

Mr. J: *(a bit "sheepishly")* Excuse me, are you Paul Clark?

Paul: *(typing on his laptop, not even looking up)* Yeah, I am. But, I'm afraid I'm a little busy right now. Got a deadline.

Mr. J: Oh. I'm sorry. I can come back some other time.

Paul: *(still not looking up, still preoccupied)* No. It's okay. Just give me a second.

Mr. J: Well, actually, I... I just wanted to talk to you for a minute.

Paul: *(still looking at his laptop)* Yeah, okay... have a seat. I'm sorry. I didn't catch your name.

Mr. J: Johnson. Alan Johnson. *(Uncomfortable pause)* Twenty five years ago I was your... High School English Composition teacher.

Paul: *(Finally looking up)* Mr. Johnson?! Wow. It is you. *(Awkward pause)* Do you live here now?

Mr. J: Yes. I moved up here five years ago when I retired. I've been reading your column for five years now. But I never knew you were the same Paul Clark I had in my class.

Paul: Well, it's a small world, isn't it?

Mr. J: Yes. Yes it is.

Paul: *(Awkward pause)* Well, if you're one of my readers, I suppose you're here about one of my columns, eh?

Mr. J: Yes. You're a good writer, Paul. You have very astute insights, politically and... otherwise. Yes, I am here about one of your columns. Last Tuesday's column... the piece you wrote on convictions... "Flunking Life" you titled it. I have it here. *(Refers to newspaper)* You wrote: "I had a High School English teacher, Mr. Johnson, who flunked me for the year, essentially because of my belief in God. I'd like to thank him for that. He taught me a lesson that year. He taught me that true convictions don't come cheap. And that sometimes flunking English is a whole lot better than flunking life."

Paul: *(Slowly)* Ah. I suppose you're here because I mentioned your name. I'm sorry if I've offended you.