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## **"Silver Lining Detector: A Lesson in Gratitude"**

By  
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**What** This busy mom is trying to get her child to sleep quickly, so naturally her child has an endless stream of tricky questions! Tonight's bedtime interrogation is about gratitude and finding the silver lining when life gets hard.

**Themes:** Thanksgiving, Christmas, Family, Parenting, Gratitude, Generosity

**Who** Mom  
Child (either gender, 7-12 years old)

**When** Present

**Costumes** Casual clothes. Child can wear pajamas.

**Props** A Children's book (preferably one with a bunny on the cover)  
Two chairs pushed together (to use as a bed)

**Why** 1 Thessalonians 5:18

**How** The tension of the scene should come from the push and pull between the two actors - Mom should be trying to get out of the room, but the child's questions keep drawing her back in. At the end of the scene, Mom has surrendered to the sweet moment with her child.

*Note: This script is written for Thanksgiving, but with a few tweaked lines, it can be used any other time of the year!*

**Time** 4-5 minutes

A **Mother** and **Child** sit next to each other on a bed (or two chairs side by side), as the **Mother** reads a bedtime story.

*You can tape this dialogue into a real children's book so you don't have to memorize it, remembering to turn the pages every few lines.*

**Mom:** Bella's Rainy Day. "Bella Bunny had a bad day. After school, she came home and threw herself on the ground.

'Mama, everything went wrong today,' Bella said. Mama Bunny sat down beside Bella. 'Tell me all about it,' she said.

'First, my umbrella blew away, and the rain made my fur wet. Then at snack time, I dropped my carrot stick in the dirt and a bird flew away with it.

And I drew a pretty drawing for Thanksgiving, but look, it got ruined in the rain.'

Bella pulled out her drawing, and the colors ran everywhere.

Mama Bunny hugged Bella tight. 'Even when things go wrong, we can find a way to be thankful,' Mama said.

'The rain that made you wet helps the garden grow. The carrot stick you lost fed a birdie and her babies. Your pretty drawing has now become a beautiful watercolor. Look at how the colors swirl and make a rainbow.'

Bella bunny smiled.

Mama Bunny pulled out her bible, and read aloud: 'First Thessalonians 5:18 says: *"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."* Now, let's take your watercolor and hang it up for all to see.'

Bella smiled. 'Thank you, Mama.'

Bella felt thankful in her heart. And she was happy again."

**Mom** closes the book.

**Mom:** The end. Now this mama's gotta go mash three pounds of potatoes for dinner tomorrow. Night, love. See you in the morning.

**Mom** kisses her **Child's** head and walks toward the door.

**Child:** Mama?

**Mom:** Yes, baby?

**Child:** Do we really have to be thankful for everything? Even when things go bad?

**Mom:** Well... it doesn't mean we can't ever be sad, but yes, we should try to find the good in every situation.

**Child:** But what if there isn't any good?

**Mom:** There's always some good.

**Child:** What about when Bandit got out of the backyard? We were so scared.

**Mom** realizes she's not going to shut down this conversation as easily as she'd hoped, so she walks back toward the bed.

**Mom:** Yeah, we were. But remember when we finally found him, in the field down the street? We were so happy to see him, we set up a movie night in the living room and cuddled with Bandit all night and spoiled him with treats.

**Child:** Oh yeah, that was fun. Bandit ate so much cheese.

**Mom:** Yes he did. *(under her breath)* Still looking for the silver lining in his gas the next day, though... *(back to the Child)* Now Mama's really gotta go. Goodnight, honey.

**Mom** pats her **Child's** head and walks quickly toward the door.

**Child:** Mom?

**Mom:** Yes?

**Mom's** been stopped in her tracks again.

**Child:** Do *you* always find the silver lining?

**Mom:** Yeah, I think I do.

**Child:** What about when that lady cut us in line at Target? You were really mad.

**Mom:** Well that was different, she was totally entitled. Just because she only had one item doesn't mean she can just waltz up there —

**Child:** Didn't it give us a chance to practice patience?

Beat as **Mom** considers this.

**Mom:** I guess that's right.

**Child:** Or when we were driving in the mountains and we got lost?

**Mom:** I *told* your dad to download the map before we left the house. I knew we were going to lose service.

**Child:** But remember when we pulled off the road and got out of the car? I had never been that close to a deer before.

**Mom:** Oh right. (**Mom** meanders back toward her **Child**, as if she's being drawn in by the memory) Remember how the sun was setting over the mountain? That was really beautiful.

**Child:** What about when it was raining really hard on vacation last year?

**Mom:** Well, *that* was ridiculous. We paid for all inclusive and didn't see anything besides our hotel room the whole trip. They should've warned us it was monsoon season.

**Child:** I really liked the games we played. You and Daddy set up mysteries and me and Kara had to solve them.

**Mom** remembers this fondly, and sits back in the bed.

**Mom:** Oh yeah... Daddy got *way* into the game.

**Child:** (*giggles*) Remember how he got ketchup all over the bed?

**Mom:** Of course I remember. (*a look of horror/worry on her face*) I hope we tipped that maid well.

**Mom** takes a long look at her **Child** and sinks into a sweet little cuddle.

**Mom:** You know, it's easy to find the silver lining when you're around.

**Child:** I can be your silver lining detector. Like a metal detector.

**Mom:** I love that. (*beat*) I'm gonna really need your help when Nana tells me my potatoes are lumpy tomorrow.

**Child:** Lumps are fun. It's like an adventure for your mouth.

**Mom:** Good boy. (*or girl*)

**They** giggle. Lights out.