

A script from



"Star Spangled"

by
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- What** A little boy wonders about the power of the flag, while a figure from its history tells the story of the night the flag changed his life, reminding us at the end from where our help comes.
Themes: Patriotic, July 4th, America, National Anthem, Faith in God, American Flag
- Who** Child (Boy or Girl)
Parent (Male or Female)
Male Reader 1
Male Reader 2
- When** Present day, with voices (readers) from the past.
- Wear (Props)** Child and parent dress patriotically, two readers dress in black. (Or, if you'd like, Male Reader 2 could be dressed in period costuming as Francis Scott Key.) Props include a small flag, and perhaps a hotdog or something else for the parent that shows the family is at a 4th of July party.
- Why** Psalm 33:12, Matthew 6:33
- How** Male Reader 1 and Male Reader 2 should be opposite sides of the stage, lit separately if possible, but that's not necessary. Child and Parent will interact center stage, and freeze or have their spotlight go out when the readers are performing.
- Time** Approximately 4 minutes

Child (BOY or GIRL) walks on stage, waving a small flag, enthralled with it. He touches it, examines it, waves it again. He's having fun in his own little world.

Parent walks on, looking for him.

Parent: Sweetie, there you are! I've been looking for you. Don't you want to watch the fireworks? They're getting out those poppers you like so much.

Child: *(shrugs)* I like the flag.

Parent: You like the flag? Well, it is a very nice flag, isn't it?

Child: I like how it waves when the wind blows. That's really cool.

Parent: *(kneeling)* Yeah, you're right. That is cool.

Child: And I like the stars. I've got stars in my room.

Parent: Yep. Do you know what those stars represent? *(Boy shakes his head)* The 50 states of America.

Child: What about the stripes?

Lights come up on Readers as Parent and Child freeze.

Reader 1: O say can you see, by the dawn's early light, what so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming. Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous fight, over the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming.

Reader 2: I was a ways off shore when the battle began. I was being held on a truce ship, having been negotiating the exchange of a prisoner, but I could see the battle raging over Baltimore. Rockets falling, one after another. Five thousand British soldiers. A fleet of nineteen ships. I prayed more than ever that night. What hope did Baltimore have to save the harbor other than God? I remember standing on the deck, and I saw it through the smoke. That flag. Waving without rest. It rained that day and night, a hard, chilling, non-stop rain, sheets of it coming down. The battle still carried on despite it. The bombardment on Fort McHenry lasted for a full day. But it kept flying, that flag. It kept flying, every tattered piece of it.

Readers freeze as Parent and Child continue their discussion.

Parent: Today, those stripes represent the 13 original colonies.

Child: I guess we should understand what those stripes and stars mean when we pledge allegiance to it at school, huh?

Parent: Sure, and I think it's also about what it represents. Even the colors mean something. The red symbolizes hardiness and valor. The white is purity and innocence. The blue is vigilance, perseverance and justice.

Child: What does perseverance mean?

Parent and Child freeze. Readers come to life.

Reader 1: And the rocket's red glare, the bomb bursting in air, gave proof through the night that our flag was still there. O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave, over the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Reader 2: The morning of September 14th, after the dust had settled, so to speak, the attack ended. The British were unable to pass the fort and penetrate the harbor as they intended. Fort McHenry still stood. Oh that big, beautiful flag, still flying over the ramparts, was a sight to see, I tell you! Something you can't easily put into words...but I knew I had to. I spent every moment I had writing it down. Seven days later, my poem was published, a humble offering of my day and night watching a flag and its soldiers stand their ground. That poem, and the flag for that matter, would surely outlast these old bones. Certainly its most well-known verses are the first stanza, but if you keep reading, all the way to the end, maybe you'll find some inspiration in the last few verses as well.

Reader 1: Blessed with victory and peace may the heaven rescued land, praise the power that has made and preserved us a nation. Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just, and this be our motto, "In God is our trust." And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave, over the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Readers freeze as Parent and Child continue their discussion.

Parent: So you can see why the flag means so much to our country. Sometimes when all hope seems lost, God gives us a symbol to encourage us not to give up. And we still have that symbol today. Our flag is still flying, telling us all not to give up.

Child: That is why we should always treat it with care. That's what Mrs. Bolton says at school before we say the Pledge of Allegiance.

Parent: That's right, sweetheart. (*Glances behind her*) Oh look! They're bringing out watermelon. Do you want to go get some?

Child: In just a minute. I want to do something first.

Parent nods, smiles and walks off. Child stands for a moment, holding the flag with respect.

Child: Dear God, thank you for our flag, that it always helps us see the important things...to not give up, to remember all the soldiers, to be thankful for our country...

*He raises it high, waves it with energetic spirit and moves toward the exit. The **Readers'** voices escort him off stage.*

Reader 1&2: ...in the land of the free and the home of the brave!

Lights out.