



Three Funny Plays.

All three plays would have immediate appeal to teenage audiences:- fast-moving, clear build to a climax and clear-cut characters. Each play could be simply and effectively staged at the front of a classroom, and the dialogue is easy to read, and would be straight-forward to learn. Actors would enjoy being involved in these light-hearted plays. Highly suitable for forms 3 & 4, but probably too shallow for older.

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"This collection of simple, snappy, one act plays offers an entertaining vehicle for introducing form 3 and form 4 English or drama students to the basics of staging a play without delving too deeply into any issues.

The plays are short - between 15 and 20 minutes each - and require minimal sets, props and costumes, making them particularly suitable for use in a classroom environment.

Since each play has about eight to ten characters, the collection provides enough material to divide amongst a large class of students, with character names, personalities and colloquialisms that can easily be adapted to suit individuals.

"**A Normal Family**" has a science fiction flavour in the mould of "honey I shrunk the kids", offering opportunities for melodramatic over-the-top acting. Students familiar with the theatre sports game "emotional replay" will enjoy this one which takes a humorous look at the bickering that goes on within a stereotypical family.

"**Mr Stink**" involved a group of students who jump to conclusions about their substitute teacher, Mr Stinkovitch, who suffers from bad breath. While the abbreviation of his name and the stock use of a 'poisoned' apple to cure his complaint are a little too obvious, the play itself points out the error of judging by appearances only.

"**What Room Was That Again?**" is a typical case of mistaken identities (though far removed from any of Shakespeare's comic classics!) that occur when two teenagers enter the wrong hospital room after being sent to visit a sick uncle. Great-uncle Alberto is a mobster leader surrounded by some shady characters. These include a stereotypical gold-digging blonde bimbo and the three stooges, with special agent Mully lurking in the background, waiting to pounce. The play ends with a fairly obvious twist but the students should enjoy hamming it up." Lesley Shepherd *e:mag* mid year 1998 AATEL