

Goosebumps

A one-act play for children

By Douglas Evans



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CAST OF CHARACTERS

TEACHER, female third-grade teacher

VANESSA, third-grade girl, group leader

NAOMI, third-grade girl

THOMAS, third-grade girl

JUSTIN, third-grade boy

NOAH, third-grade boy

SETTINGS

Modern third-grade classroom during science period.

PRODUCTION NOTES

CHARACTERS: 6 characters 3 female 3 male

PLAYING TIME: 20 minutes

PROPS:

5 student desks
5 sheets of paper
Portable whiteboard
Marker pens
Eraser

SETTING:

Modern third-grade classroom during science period.

COSTUMES: All students wear modern school clothing

TEACHER: usual teacher clothing

LIGHTING: no special lighting

SOUND: squeaky sound of fingernails scratching a whiteboard

MUSIC: no special music

SCENE 1

Time: Afternoon Present day

Setting: Modern third-grade classroom. Science period.

At Rise: Five desks are grouped together. VANESSA'S desk faces downstage. A portable whiteboard stands behind desks.

Students sit reading their science assignment.

VANESSA

(looking up)

OK, Group Three, today for science we're supposed to pick an experiment and write a short report about it. Which one should we do?

NAOMI

(reading paper)

I like the first experiment. *Which boils faster, tap water or salt water?* We can use the class stove to boil the water.

VANESSA

That would be good. But Group Two has already picked that one.

THOMAS

How about experiment five? *How many paper clips weigh one kilogram?*

JUSTIN

Boring! Who wants to count paper clips for an hour? I like experiment eight...use a prism to make a rainbow on the whiteboard and tell what colors you see.

NOAH

That's too easy. Everyone knows a rainbow has seven colors..red, orange, green, blue, indigo, and violet. We learned that in art.

VANESSA

We're allowed to make up our own experiment. And there's something I've been wondering about... goosebumps.

NAOMI

Goosebumps?

THOMAS

Goosebumps?

JUSTIN

Goosebumps?

NOAH

You mean those weird little bumps that pop up on your skin? They sure look funny.

VANESSA

Right! Our experiment can be called *Ways To Make Goosebumps*. Who wants to do it?

(All hands raise)

VANESSA (CONT'D)

OK, I'll be the recorder.

(VANESSA stands and writes on the whiteboard **WAYS TO MAKE GOOSEBUMPS**)

THOMAS

I have an idea for the first test. I need to go to the window.

(THOMAS steps stage left to an unseen window. He opens it and sticks his arm outside. He returns to group and shows others his arm.)

THOMAS (CONT'D)

There! Goosebumps.

VANESSA

Goosebumps!

NAOMI

Goosebumps for sure!

JUSTIN

Yep, goosebumps up and down your arm.

NOAH

Those are goosebumps all right.

VANESSA

So number one on our list of *Ways to Make Goosebumps is Cold*.

(VANESSA writes on the whiteboard

1. COLD.

NAOMI

I have another test. Watch this. I'm going into the coat closet and turning off the light.

JUSTIN

I've done that. It's scary!

NAOMI

Exactly! That's the point.

(NAOMI walks upstage and enters unseen coat closet. She stands there shivering and looks scared. She rushes out and returns to group.)

NAOMI (CONT'D)

(showing her arm)

There! More goosebumps.

THOMAS

Yep, definitely goosebumps

JUSTIN

Goosebumps for sure.

NOAH

Affirmative! Goosebumps!

VANESSA

So number two on our list is...*Scary Things*.

(VANESSA writes on the whiteboard

2. SCARY THINGS.

JUSTIN

My turn. I have an idea for test number three. I hate when this happens. Listen.

(JUSTIN steps to the whiteboard. He scratches the surface with his fingernails. Loud squeaky sounds fill the air. Students check their arms.)

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

See? Goosebumps!

NAOMI

Me too!

NOAH

My arms are covered with them.

THOMAS

A zillion goosebumps.

VANESSA

Perfect. So number three on our list...*Squeaky Noises*.

(VANESSA writes on whiteboard

3. SQUEAKY SOUNDS

NOAH

I got one. This always works. I do it a lot in my bedroom. It's fun.

(NOAH climbs onto chair. He spreads arms and leaps off.)

NOAH (CONT'D)

(loudly as he jumps)

Yee-haw!

(NOAH checks arm and shows it to the group.)

NOAH (CONT'D)

Ta daa! Goosebumps!

NAOMI

Yep! More goosebumps!

THOMAS

Check! Goosebumps!

JUSTIN

Goosebumps again.

VANESSA

And that's test number four...*Excitement*.

(VANESSA writes on the whiteboard

4. EXCITEMENT

VANESSA (CONT'D)

(reading off the whiteboard)

So far we have *Cold...Squeaky Sounds...Scary Things..and Excitement*. How else can we make goosebumps?

(Students pause to think.)

NAOMI

(shrugging)

Can't think of anything.

THOMAS

Me neither.

JUSTIN

I'm blank.

NOAH

Nothing.

(TEACHER enters stage right. She walks up to Group Three looking cross.)

TEACHER

(hands on hips)

Group Three! You're supposed to be doing a science experiment. But all I see you doing is opening windows, racing around the room, making squeaky noises, shouting and jumping off your chair. Now let's settle down and get to work.

(TEACHER exits stage right.
Students exchange looks and check
their arms.)

NAOMI

Hey! I got goosebumps.

THOMAS

Yep, me too...goosebumps.

JUSTIN

Ditto. Goosebumps. More than ever.

NOAH

Goosebumps. Lots of them.

VANESSA

And that's number five for our list of *Ways to Make
Goosebumps*.

(VANESSA writes on whiteboard

5. TEACHER SCOLDING

ALL

(as VANESSA writes)

Teacher scolding!

(Lights fade)

END OF PLAY