

Rainbow Hunt

A one-act play for children

By Douglas Evans



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CAST OF CHARACTERS

JIMMY-age eight who drags a large plastic leaf bag behind him.

WOMAN-A woman in her twenties, seated on bench, reading a book.

GIRL-age six standing on the sidewalk, blowing soap bubbles.

MAN-A man in his fifties, sitting on a stoop, drinking a glass of ice water.

BOY-age eight riding a skateboard.

SETTING

A quiet suburban street on a present-day autumn afternoon.

PRODUCTION NOTES

CHARACTERS: 5 characters 2 female 3 male

PLAYING TIME: 20 minutes

PROPS:

Jumbo plastic leaf bag
Reading book
Bottle of bubble solution
Clear glass of ice water

SETTING:

A quiet city street on a present-day autumn afternoon.

COSTUMES: All characters wear modern fall clothing.

LIGHTING: strong afternoon sunlight. Light dims stage right to indicate approaching storm. Light stays bright stage left for sunshine that would produce a rainbow.

SOUND: rumble of thunder sound

SCENE 1

*Time: Present-day autumn
afternoon*

Setting: A suburban street

*At Rise: Stage left, WOMAN sits
on a bench, reading a book.*

*Stage center: GIRL stands on the
sidewalk blowing soap bubbles.*

*Stage right MAN sits on front
stoop, sipping ice water from a
clear glass.*

(Stage left enters Jimmy, dragging
a giant plastic leaf bag behind
him.)

WOMAN

(looks up)

Hello, Jimmy. Where are you going with that big sack?

JIMMY

I'm on a rainbow hunt. I'm going to catch a rainbow!

WOMAN

A rainbow hunt? How fun.

(WOMAN points to an unseen puddle
in the street downstage.)

WOMAN (CONT'D)

Look! I see a rainbow right there. A small swirly one on top
of that oily puddle.

JIMMY

(looks toward puddle and
smiles)

Yes, I see it, too. Now I'm going to catch it.

(JIMMY stoops by the puddle. He
dips in his hand and lifts it.)

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Rats!

WOMAN

What's wrong, Jimmy?

JIMMY

(standing)

That rainbow dribbled through my fingers. But I'll catch the next one for sure.

WOMAN

Well, good luck. I hope you catch a good one.

(Jimmy continues walking down the street, dragging his bag behind him. He meets GIRL blowing soap bubbles.)

GIRL

Hey, Jimmy. How's it going? What's the bag for?

JIMMY

I'm out to catch a rainbow.

(GIRL blows another bubble. She points to it. *This can be a unseen bubble.*)

GIRL

A rainbow? Why, I see one right there. See? A wobbly one on the outside of the bubble.

JIMMY

(watches the bubble and smiles)

Yes, I see it. Now I'm going to catch it.

(Jimmy swipes at the bubble, *or unseen bubble*, with his hand.)

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Rats!

GIRL

Oh, no. What's happened? That was a beautiful rainbow.

JIMMY

Another close call. But it burst in my hand.

GIRL

(nodding)

Yeah, I thought that might happen.

JIMMY

Don't worry, though. I'll catch the next rainbow for sure.

(GIRL blows more bubbles. JIMMY continues down the street, dragging his bag. He stops before a MAN sitting on a stoop. The MAN holds a clear glass of ice water.)

MAN

How ya doing, Jimmy? What are you up to?

JIMMY

I'm hunting rainbows.

MAN

A rainbow hunt, huh? That sounds interesting.

(MAN holds up his water glass. He points to the sidewalk.)

MAN (CONT'D)

Look there! See that rainbow on the sidewalk? The sunlight is shining through the ice in my glass. It's made a color spectrum. Do you see it?

JIMMY

(leaning in)

Yep, that's a perfect rainbow, and it's all mine.

(JIMMY crouches by the rainbow on the sidewalk. As he reaches for it, MAN takes a sip from his glass, and the rainbow vanishes.)

JIMMY (CONT'D)

(standing)

Rats!

MAN

Oh, sorry, Jimmy. I didn't mean to ruin the rainbow for you.

JIMMY

(shrugging)

No matter. I won't let the next rainbow get away.

(JIMMY continues down the street,
dragging his bag.)

(A low rumble of thunder is heard.
Light dims stage right to indicate
approaching storm, while stage left
stays bright.)

(Enter stage right: BOY on a
skateboard. He stops beside JIMMY.)

BOY

Hey, Jimmy! What are you doing with the big bag?

JIMMY

I'm on a rainbow hunt. I'm going to catch one.

BOY

Well, you picked the perfect time for it. It's about to rain,
and the sun is still shining. That's when rainbows show up in
the sky.

(BOY looks up and points behind
JIMMY.)

BOY (CONT'D)

Hey! Turn around. There's a great rainbow behind you. Look!
It stretches across the whole sky.

(JIMMY spins around. His mouth
drops open, and he holds up the
plastic bag.)

JIMMY

Wow! Whoa!

BOY

What's wrong, Jimmy? That's a perfect rainbow. You can see all the colors--red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and even violet. Aren't you going to try to catch it?

JIMMY

(looks at bag, shaking his head.)

Yes, it's a good rainbow, and it wouldn't be hard to catch. But there's a problem. My bag is way, way too small.

(Thunder rumbles as JIMMY and BOY gaze up at the sky. Lights fade)

END OF PLAY