

Absalom Interview

Parts: Teacher and an assistant to play Absalom (*Choose someone who can exaggerate Absalom's role.*)

Costume for Absalom: Robe or cloak, belt, crown, big wig with lots of hair

Have Absalom enter as the students answer the following question in the lesson:
How did Absalom look? Was he handsome? *Yes. He was handsome.*

Absalom: Are you talking about me? It's true, I am the most good-looking man in all Israel. (*Strike a modeling pose.*)

Teacher: Oh! Hello, Prince Absalom. I've heard it said that you're perfect from your head to your feet.

Absalom: (*Smile proudly.*) That's me—handsome from head to toe.

Teacher: Is it true that you only cut your hair once a year?

Absalom: (*Adjust lines for long-hair wig or no wig.*) Yes. Actually, I (will be cutting or have just cut) my hair (tomorrow or yesterday). (*Ask proudly.*) Did you know that when I cut it, it weighs 5 pounds? (*Toss head with wig or run fingers through hair without wig.*)

Teacher: That's a lot of hair to weigh that much!

Absalom: Yes. I'm proud of my hair and good looks. In fact, I think I'm so great—I should be king of Israel.

Teacher: But your father, David, is king.

Absalom: (*Act annoyed.*) Yes. I know he is. But I'm working on that.

Teacher: What do you mean?

Absalom: Well, for one thing, I make sure everyone notices me when I go out. I ride in my own chariot and have 50 men run in front of me to clear the way.

Teacher: I guess everyone knows when you're coming, don't they?

Absalom: Of course. Not only that, but I'm making friends with as many people as possible, including these fine young people. (*Shake hands with a few students.*)

Teacher: So you're being kind to the people of Israel?

Absalom: Sort of. I tell them that I am their friend and greet them like I would greet my own family.

Teacher: That must make them feel good.

Absalom: Yes. It makes them ***think*** I like them. *(Laugh in a not-so-friendly manner.)*

Teacher: You mean you're tricking them?

Absalom: Why, yes, I guess you could say that. I tell them that if I were king, I would do a much better job than my father, David.

Teacher: So you really are trying to take the throne from your father?

Absalom: Yes. That's what this is all about. *(Rub hands together gleefully.)* I must go now. I shall steal the hearts of the people of Israel and rule over them all! *(Exit with a flourish.)*