

Mini Play Number Nineteen

23

Video games can entrance some youngsters. The type of music that accompanies the visual adds to the excitement. Isaac loves his video games. He loves his Rap too. Both have moulded his thinking and together with the street culture that he had adopted, Isaac has morphed into a personality that is different from the one he displays at home but one that is embraced by the gang he belongs to. Tonight, Isaac and his friend Terry, live a fantasy that changes lives forever.

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KNIFE CRIME / GANGS

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CONTACT INFORMATION: info@zik-zak.co

FOREWARD

Zik-Zak Corolla's mini plays for pleasure and purpose.

The accounts in the plays are drawn from real-life experiences but the characters are fictitious.

The plays will help raise awareness and promote useful discussion of social issues that now effect most families. The aim is to help safeguard our kids from the increasing dangers they face in this ever-changing world.

Interactive and fun, the plays and the following *Questions for Discussion*, help raise awareness of challenges that affect the younger generation. They have been designed to promote discussion and dialogue especially between kids and their parents or guardians, teachers and others who are genuinely concerned about the welfare of our society.

Because the plays address real issues the language used is at times direct but is unlikely to be offensive. Feel comfortable about playing.

Tips for playing

Drop the directional notes and change the genders of the characters if it is more appropriate to your setting and cast; but be sure to follow the general thrust of the play. Short, the plays may be, but they are carefully researched, thoughtfully penned – and they pack a punch!

It is important to have fun acting out the plays and to get fully involved in the *Questions for Discussion*. Remember not to be judgemental but to listen, consider and learn.

Get Involved. Get Motivated. Play Safe.

Invite your family and friends around for the evening. Make a night of playing and learning. Have some fun!

Speak to the teachers at your kids' school. Get competitions going – Best Production, Best Actor, Best Answer, Best Lesson Learned. *

Contact local groups and clubs to put on a production of a selection of the plays. *

Be expansive. Get on social media (if it is safe and sensible) and spread the word. *

Go Big! Invite the local radio and TV station to come and see your very own special premiere. *

** Performances are authorized for educational purposes only; not for commercial gain.*

Enjoy! Hugs! – Zik-Zak Corolla

LIST OF PLAYS

No.	Subject	Title of Play
1	Alcohol/Driving	Bumpy Ride
2	Alcohol/Social Media	One More Shot
3	Peer Pressure	Movie Madness
4	Peer Pressure	The Breeze and the Wind
5	Bullying	I'm a Bully Are You?
6	Gun Crime	Mommy
7	Bullying	He Deserves Respect
8	Bullying	Gotta Change Wanna Change
9	Drugs	How Is Sally Getting On?
10	Drugs	A Fish on the Line
11	Drugs	Will You Be My Girl?
12	Drugs	You Gotta Show Love
13	Depression	The Phone Call
14	Depression	Black Dog
15	Child Sexual Abuse	No. 26
16	Child Sexual Abuse	The Restaurant
17	Knife Crime	1:30am
18	Knife Crime/Gangs	Trouble Brewing
19	Knife Crime/Gangs	23
20	Body Image	Carrots and Onions
21	Single Mom	That Night
22	Sex/Alcohol	Fast Car
23	Self-Harm/Sexual Abuse	Do You Think They'll Believe You?
24	Cutting/Self-Harm	Me and My Mom
25	Self-Harm	Brain Box
26	Gambling	The Monster
27	Binge Drinking	A Target to Kill
28	Binge Drinking	What a Party!
29	Gun Crime	Rap A Ta Tat Tat Tat
30	Gun Crime	Miss Isabella Lindeman
31	Cyberbullying	Drastic Action

Characters

Mom (Mrs Bowtron)

Isaac

The Others

Terry

Police 1

Teaser

Murder can be a bit of a game, a good laugh that's for sure. But when it's done everyone is a loser!

Scene One

(Isaac is transfixed as he plays a violent video game in his bedroom)

Mom (Shouting) Isaac, will you come on downstairs and eat this meal please.

Isaac (Still playing the video game. He makes sounds as if he is part of the game)

Mom Isaac! I said now!

Isaac (Continues playing. Is thoroughly engaged)

Mom (Appears at bedroom) Your meal is on the table and we are about to eat.

Isaac (Distracted) Just five minutes Mom.

Mom (Marches over to the computer and slams it shut) Now!

Isaac (Not happy) What you doing Mom?

Mom (Determined) Downstairs now! And I've told you before about those games. You're wasting your time and your wasting your money. And that rapping? It sounds mindless to me!

Isaac (Going out of the bedroom with his mom) Hey Mom! I'm going out later. Will you iron a shirt for me please? The Rangers one.

Mom Well at least you won't be on that computer. And if you eat your dinner like a good boy (laughing and playfully clipping Isaac around the head) I might. And who you're going out with?

Isaac Just Terry and a few others for a game of football.

Mom Well, that's good Isaac. I'll pack you up a few peanut butter sandwiches for later. All that energy running around. You'll get peckish.

Isaac Terry likes your sandwiches Mom.

Mom (Grinning) Oh! Does he now?

Scene 2

(Later, on the streets, Isaac, Terry and some others are rapping, filming a video)

Isaac Yo! Taking a bike at night. Looking for a yode in sight

The others We're in for 23 above the knee. Click on the video and see

Terry Travelling dirty at night. Itching, searching for a fight.

Isaac Mas think we're clean

The Others But they ain't seen. What's beneath the jean. Yo!

Scene 3

(In a hospital waiting room)

Police 1 It must be very difficult for you Mrs Bowtron, fortunately, the doctor says Isaac will be fine.

Mom He kept saying he was 23 or something. But he's only 14. I don't understand.

Police 1 It's referring to points – scoring points.

Mom Points? What do you mean?

Police 1 It's thought to refer to a high-scoring basketball player who wore the No.23 shirt (slight pause) It's from a rap video.

Mom Oh! Isaac listens to that rubbish when he plays his video games. It's like background 'music.' I just wish he'd just stop playing it. But I suppose it keeps him out of trouble. I mean, he wouldn't be here in hospital if he'd stayed in and played his video game, you know instead of playing football.

Police 1 Mmm. Gangs talk about a scoreboard. They keep a count of the attacks they make – if they stab someone in the chest it's 30 points, in the head it's 50.

Mom So the gang member who stabbed my Isaac scored 30 points? That's sick, very sick!

Police 1 It is very sick. But that's not quite how it happened tonight.

Mom What do you mean?

Police 1 Isaac got accidentally stabbed by one of his own gang members. When they were in a fight, while they were attacking another boy.

Mom My Isaac in a gang? Never. Never! He still watches cartoons. I make him peanut butter sandwiches.

Police 1 That gang, including Isaac, killed a boy Mrs Bartron. They stabbed him 15 times and he died in the street. Isaac was carrying a knife and he used it.

Mom I feel ill. I am sorry, I think I'm going to be sick (Reaching but not actually being sick) (Composing herself) But I saw Isaac go out. He didn't have a knife.

Police 1 No. You wouldn't, it was beneath his jeans.

Mom How could this happen? It feels like a dream. A nightmare.

Police 1 That's almost what it's like for these kids – a dream, a fantasy. Their reality seems to get very warped when it comes to violence. They think it's a game. Taking somebody out, killing someone – it's a game. They're having a good time. It's fun. They score points.

Mom But can they snap out of it? Come back to reality?

Police 1 Some realise quickly . . .

(Isaac and Terry are in the dock at the right of stage)

Isaac (Shouting and crying) Mom! Twenty years! Mom (Bowing his head) Mom, I'm sorry.

(Terry is smiling. Unaffected)

Police 1 And some realise later. (Terry slowly bows his head) You see, they realise they've taken a life- they've murdered.

Mom And now their lives are taken. They have no life.

Police 1 It's reality, not fantasy. It's not a game.

THE END

Questions for Discussion for 23

1. Is there anything wrong with playing video games?
2. Isaac was engrossed in playing his video game. Have you ever felt like that?
3. Is there any danger in being part of a gang?
4. Did Mrs Bowtron really know her son?
5. Did Isaac show consideration and love to his mother?
6. What choices did Isaac make? Did they work out for his good?
7. Can music affect your thinking and emotions?
8. Is rap music harmless?
9. How do you feel about the characters in the play? Mrs Bowtron? Isaac? Terry? The Others? The Police?
10. Is it okay to carry a knife or another type of weapon?
11. How can you protect yourself and your friends from knife attack and other violent attacks?
12. What have you learned from the play?
13. Throw open the discussion.

THE END