

1 counteract the negative effects of the less healthy
2 selections.
3 EBONEE: Is he speaking English?
4 NADIA: Come on, guys, we're never gonna get this done.
5 TAYLOR: And then the teacher will plan the whole thing for
6 us.
7 ZECHARIAH: *(Inspired)* That was my plan from the start! We
8 could have saved all this trouble!
9 BLAIR: Trouble? You think planning a party is trouble?
10 BEN: With you guys it is.
11 EBONEE: All this talking about food is making me hungry.
12 BEN: Is it lunchtime?
13 MILAN: There are still twelve minutes and forty-one seconds
14 left before lunch.
15 TAYLOR: We didn't even talk about decorations yet.
16 BEN: This is really sounding like a girly party.
17 BLAIR: Why? Because we want decorations?
18 NADIA: I give up.
19 ZECHARIAH: You all wake me up when you've decided what
20 you're doing. *(Closes his eyes and leans back.)*
21 BEN: Yeah, me too.
22 BLAIR: *(Suddenly bored)* This party does sound pretty lame.
23 TAYLOR: Of course it does! We haven't decided on one thing
24 yet!
25 NADIA: Come on, Taylor, let's do it ourselves.
26 BLAIR: Wait a minute! What about Ebonee and me?
27 TAYLOR: *(Sadly)* Looks like girls outnumber boys again.
28 BEN: *(Satisfied)* Just the way I planned it.
29 ZECHARIAH: Yeah. Let the girls and Taylor do the work. We
30 can show up — that will be our part. *(Everyone exits*
31 *except MILAN.)*
32 MILAN: Sometimes when dealing with inferior personalities,
33 it doesn't pay to be too logical.

26. Do You Believe?

Topic: Twelve-year-olds discuss the age-old mystery of Santa Claus.

Cast:

RONI: a little hard-edged, worldly

TERRY: old for her age, world-wise

LONI: the last kid her age to learn the "truth"

1 *(Scene begins as ACTORS are sitting around on a sofa, or*
2 *playing video games.)*
3 RONI: Hey, Terry, what are your parents getting you for
4 Christmas?
5 TERRY: I asked for a computer and TV for my room. I'll
6 probably get clothes and junk I didn't ask for.
7 LONI: *(Sincerely)* What about Santa Claus?
8 TERRY: *(Clearly not having heard correctly)* Huh?
9 LONI: Well, did you ask Santa Claus for anything?
10 RONI: *(A little concerned)* Are you feeling OK, Loni?
11 LONI: Sure. Why?
12 RONI: Did you say "ask Santa Claus"?
13 LONI: Yes, of course.
14 TERRY: *(Suspiciously)* Did you ask Santa Claus for anything,
15 Loni?
16 LONI: Absolutely. I always ask for things and I get what I
17 want. Within reason, of course.
18 TERRY: *(Beginning to become worried about her friend)* Let me
19 get this straight. You actually go to the mall and sit on
20 that guy with the beard's lap and read from your goody
21 list?
22 LONI: Of course not.
23 RONI: Thank heavens.
24 LONI: *(Reasonably)* I write him a letter.
25 TERRY: *(Appalled)* You've got to be kidding.

1 LONI: Every year on Thanksgiving night I sit down and write
 2 a very polite and grateful letter to Santa Claus. I've done
 3 it since I was little and it works perfectly.
 4 RONI: (*Very sincerely concerned*) Loni, please tell me you're
 5 kidding. Please tell me you don't believe in Santa Claus.
 6 LONI: Of course I believe in him. Don't you?
 7 TERRY: Uh, no.
 8 LONI: Roni?
 9 RONI: I can't believe you're even asking.
 10 LONI: (*A little saddened by her friends*) When did you become
 11 disillusioned, Terry?
 12 TERRY: What?
 13 LONI: When did you stop believing?
 14 TERRY: When I was like five. I saw my mom sticking the
 15 gifts under the tree late at night.
 16 LONI: And you, Roni?
 17 RONI: I actually saw my dad eat half a cookie on Santa's
 18 plate and put crumbs on the plate so it looked authentic.
 19 I was seven.
 20 LONI: (*Like a lawyer presenting evidence*) So, because of that
 21 circumstantial evidence, you gave up believing in Santa
 22 Claus?
 23 TERRY: Come on, Loni, everyone knows there's no such
 24 person.
 25 LONI: Not everyone. I believe in him.
 26 RONI: (*Exasperated*) I can't believe we're even having this
 27 conversation.
 28 LONI: Did you ever ask your parents about it?
 29 TERRY: Sure, and they told me I was right. You need to take
 30 a little reality trip, Loni, and grow up a little.
 31 RONI: Yeah, it must be embarrassing to go around saying
 32 things like that. I wouldn't tell the kids at school if I were
 33 you. They'll tease you to death.
 34 LONI: (*Styly*) What if I'm right?
 35 TERRY: You're not.

1 LONI: (*Insisting*) What if I am?
 2 RONI: Loni, we're trying to tell you there's no such thing as
 3 Santa. How did you get to be twelve without finding that
 4 out?
 5 LONI: (*Persistent and emphatic*) What if you're wrong?
 6 RONI: Huh?
 7 LONI: What if there is a Santa and, because you say he
 8 doesn't exist, he doesn't come to your house?
 9 TERRY: That's impossible.
 10 LONI: Why? Didn't you get more presents when you believed
 11 in him?
 12 RONI: No. Not possible. I didn't ... (*Pauses and thinks a*
 13 *minute*) well, it just seemed like I got more presents
 14 because I was little. When you're five, a box of crayons
 15 is a big deal. My mom could wrap up underwear and I
 16 thought it was cool. She can't get away with that any
 17 more.
 18 LONI: Maybe you did get more presents.
 19 TERRY: Only because kid toys cost like ten dollars and the
 20 sweatshirt I want costs forty-eight dollars. We get less
 21 now because our gifts are more expensive.
 22 LONI: Maybe so. Maybe not.
 23 RONI: You're going to try to keep on believing, in spite of
 24 what we've told you and what everyone in the world
 25 says?
 26 LONI: Not everyone. There are lots of people who believe.
 27 The spirit of Christmas is about faith and hope and
 28 believing in something bigger than yourself. Maybe
 29 everybody, even adults, would be happier if they believed
 30 in a little magic.
 31 TERRY: I can just see my dad sitting with a beer waiting up
 32 all night for Santa to arrive and bring him that electric
 33 drill my mom won't get him.
 34 LONI: Maybe he'll get it this year.
 35 TERRY: Maybe I should get it for him.

- 1 RONI: It would be fun to *play* Santa, though. To buy a couple
2 of things for my sisters and put them under the tree with
3 Santa on the tag and not tell them who it's from.
4 LONI: I see Santa is going to show up at your house this
5 year.
6 TERRY: I still think you're crazy, Loni, but it does sound like
7 fun.
8 LONI: Isn't that what it's all about?

27. How May I Help You?

Topic: Communication problems via the phone between an innocent citizen and corporate America.

Cast:

REP: almost mechanical, working on automatic pilot with not much emotion

CUSTOMER: trying painfully to bring a little logic to the conversation

- 1 *(This scene should take place with both ACTORS On-Stage.*
2 *Customer REP should be sitting at a desk with a headset to*
3 *serve as the phone and something to serve as a computer.*
4 *CUSTOMER should have a cell or regular phone. They should*
5 *be on opposite sides of the stage and never make eye*
6 *contact.)*
7 **REP:** *(Very rehearsed, professional, falsely cheerful)* Hello, this is
8 **National Credit Agency. How may I help you?**
9 **CUSTOMER:** Hi. I'm calling to let you know my grandmother
10 has passed away and to cancel her account.
11 **REP:** OK. Could I please get the account number?
12 **CUSTOMER:** *(Consulting a paper)* Yes, that's five-six-nine-
13 one-two-five-four-six-seven.
14 **REP:** Thank you. *(Clicks some keys on the computer. Consults*
15 *screen.)* Yes, I see the account here. There is a three
16 hundred dollar balance.
17 **CUSTOMER:** Well, she died three months ago, in
18 September, and there was a zero dollar balance at that
19 time.
20 **REP:** Well, these charges are for annual fees and late
21 charges. There are also some penalties added for
22 October and November.
23 **CUSTOMER:** I just told you that she died in September.
24 **REP:** I understand, but she is still responsible for the late
25 charges and the fees.