

PUPPETERIA III

by Linda Thomas



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Puppeteria III

by LINDA THOMAS

A collection of eight
puppet sketches

PUPPET CHARACTERS

LILY, a lamb

FREDDY, a frog

TUCKER, a turtle

TWIT, a bird

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TABLE TALK

(Theme: Thanksgiving)

CAST

TUCKER, the Turtle

LILY, the Lamb

(Set opens with LILY Onstage. TUCKER enters.)

TUCKER: *(In a sad voice.)* I'm glad I found you, Lily. I wanted to see you before I left.

LILY: Are you leaving, Tucker? Where are you going?

TUCKER: *(Still sad.)* My whole family is going to Great-Aunt Tessie's for Thanksgiving.

LILY: Gee, that sounds like fun.

TUCKER: Maybe to you, but not to me.

LILY: How come?

TUCKER: Because we go there every year. And the grown-ups just sit and sit, and talk and talk.

LILY: Yeh, that's the way it is at my Grandma's, too.

TUCKER: Why do grown-ups talk so much at Thanksgiving? Why can't Thanksgiving be like Christmas, where everyone gets presents?

LILY: I think Thanksgiving is a different kind of holiday. It's the day when we're glad for all the good things in our lives.

TUCKER: I'm glad at Christmas for all the good things I get.

LILY: Well, yeh. But Thanksgiving is for being glad about different stuff.

TUCKER: Like what?

LILY: Well, like being together with your family. And being glad for sun and rain so food will grow. And thinking back on good times and remembering old friends.

TUCKER: *(He's remembering.)* Yeh, that's what they talk

1 about!
2 LILY: Sure. It's nice for families to remember how good
3 life is. I like it.
4 TUCKER: You do?
5 LILY: Yeh. Grandma tells such funny stories about when
6 Daddy was young. We have a big dinner and
7 before we eat, we tell God how glad we are for the
8 good things He gives.
9 TUCKER: *(With a bit more enthusiasm.)* Maybe I do want
10 to go.
11 LILY: Why did you change your mind, Tucker?
12 TUCKER: Well, I'm thankful for lots of things. *(Short*
13 *pause.)* And if I listen, maybe Aunt Tessie will
14 tell funny stories about Mom.

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16 *(Both exit.)*
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PROMISES, PROMISES

(Theme: New Year's Resolutions)

CAST

FREDDY, the Frog

TWIT, the Bird

LILY, the Lamb

PROPS

A list attached to Freddy's hand.

(FREDDY enters.)

FREDDY: And I promise not to get angry . . . And I promise
to be nice to Twit . . . And I promise . . .

(TWIT enters.)

TWIT: Hi, Frog Face.

FREDDY: *(Angry)* Ooooh! *(Gaining control.)* Hello, Twit.
How are you this fine day?

TWIT: I was great till I saw you, Flapper Foot!

FREDDY: *(Shaking all over.)* You're not going to make
me angry! I promised.

TWIT: Promised what, Goggle Eyes?

FREDDY: *(Showing the list.)* I promised myself I wouldn't
get angry with you.

TWIT: Betcha can't keep that promise, Dimwit!

FREDDY: *(Now angry.)* Dimwit!!

TWIT: *(Gleefully)* See! See! I made you angry, ha, ha!

FREDDY: Listen here, Bird Brain . . .

(LILY enters.)

LILY: What's going on?

TWIT: *(Gleefully)* Freddy promised he wouldn't get
mad and now he is!

FREDDY: She started it! I was trying!

TWIT: See . . . he is angry! I told you!

LILY: Why did you promise that, Freddy?

- 1 **FREDDY:** Well, it's a brand new year and my Sunday school
2 teacher said it's a good time to try to be better.
- 3 **LILY:** Oh, she's right. I'm proud of you, Freddy.
- 4 **TWIT:** I don't know why you're so proud of Freddy. He
5 wasn't any nicer at all.
- 6 **FREDDY:** I was trying, Lily. Really I was!
- 7 **LILY:** Good for you.
- 8 **TWIT:** Well, my Sunday school teacher said no one could
9 be good all the time. So I don't see why I should
10 even try.
- 11 **LILY:** Oh, Twit. God wants us to try. Sometimes we
12 aren't good, but that's no reason to stop trying.
13 If we think about what God wants us to be, it
14 will make us nicer. (*Short pause.*) Twit, it really
15 wasn't nice to make Freddy angry.
- 16 **TWIT:** Maybe you're right, Lily. (*Short pause.*) Hey, I
17 think I'll make a list of things I could do to be
18 nicer. There are one or two little things.
19 (*FREDDY starts to exit.*)
- 20 **LILY:** Where are you going, Freddy?
- 21 **FREDDY:** To get lots and lots of paper for Twit. And maybe
22 a sack lunch. This could take a long time.
23 (*FREDDY exits. TWIT follows yelling.*)
- 24 **TWIT:** Just let me get my hands on you . . .
25 (*LILY exits saying:*)
- 26 **LILY:** Wait, wait . . .
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NIGHTMARES

(Theme: God's Comforting Presence)

CAST

LILY, the Lamb

TWIT, the Bird

(LILY is Onstage. TWIT comes on stage slowly — goes right past LILY.)

LILY: Hey, Twit, what's wrong?
 TWIT: *(In a draggy voice.)* Oh, hi, Lily.
 LILY: Didn't you see me? You walked right past.
 TWIT: No, I didn't see you.
 LILY: For goodness sake, what's wrong? You're not acting like yourself at all. You're usually so full of life.
 TWIT: I'm just tired.
 LILY: Did you go to bed late?
 TWIT: No, it wasn't that.
 LILY: Well, what was it then?
 TWIT: You wouldn't understand.
 LILY: What wouldn't I understand?
 TWIT: Well, I went to bed on time, but I woke up. I had a bad dream and I got scared.
 LILY: Sometimes that happens to me, too.
 TWIT: It does?
 LILY: Of course.
 TWIT: Do you dream about BIG MONSTERS and things like that?
 LILY: Sure.
 TWIT: Do you ever get so afraid you don't ever want to go to sleep again?
 LILY: Well . . .
 TWIT: See, you don't!!

- 1 LILY: Well, I wake up scared, but then I think about
 2 God and how much He loves me. He doesn't
 3 want us to be that afraid.
- 4 TWIT: He doesn't?
- 5 LILY: No, and I remember that He's always watching
 6 over me, even when I'm asleep. That makes me
 7 feel better and then I can go to sleep again.
- 8 TWIT: God watches over you because you're good. But
 9 sometimes I'm not so good.
- 10 LILY: That doesn't matter. God still watches over you,
 11 Twit.
- 12 TWIT: *(In a frightened voice.)* What if He gets mad at
 13 me and decides to let the monsters get me?
- 14 LILY: God isn't like that!! He'll not ever leave you, no
 15 matter what! And monsters are just pretend. We
 16 can have bad dreams when we eat too much, or
 17 get too excited, or lots of things. But they're
 18 not real.
- 19 TWIT: They seem real!
- 20 LILY: That's because you're so good at pretend.
- 21 TWIT: Yeh, I am good at it. I make up the best monsters.
 22 *(TWIT and LILY exit as TWIT says:)*
- 23 TWIT: *(Boasting)* My monsters are 12 feet tall! Bet my
 24 monsters are twice as big as your monsters!
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 26 *(Both exit.)*
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WHAT'LL I BE?

(Theme: 1 John 3:2)

CHARACTERS

FREDDY, the Frog

TUCKER, the Turtle

TWIT, the Bird

PROPS

A ballet tutu for Twit. Can be made by gathering a couple of layers of net onto a band long enough to fit around Twit. Attach with safety pins.

(FREDDY and TUCKER enter.)

FREDDY: What shall we do today, Tucker?

TUCKER: I don't know.

FREDDY: Hey, why don't we roller skate?

TUCKER: Can't we do something, slower?

(TWIT enters in tutu.)

FREDDY: Hey, look at Twit, he, he! Whata you supposed to be? You sure look funny, he, he!

TWIT: Don't you laugh at ME, Freddy. I don't look funny, do I, Tucker?

TUCKER: Well . . . no . . . you look . . . interesting.

TWIT: Thank you, Tucker.

FREDDY: I still think you look funny, he, he.

TWIT: *(With indignation.)* This is my ballet outfit. I'm on my way to my dancing lesson.

FREDDY: Do you have to wear that?

TWIT: Yes, I do. And for your information, I'm going to be a famous dancer when I grow up!

FREDDY: Aw, who'd want to see you dance?

TWIT: Lots of people! Or, I might be a movie star.

TUCKER: I bet it's hard to be a dancer OR a movie star.

- 1 TWIT: Maybe I'll get married and be a mother.
 2 FREDDY: Who'd want to marry you?
 3 TUCKER: Not everyone gets married.
 4 TWIT: What are you going to be when you grow up?
 5 TUCKER: Well . . .
 6 FREDDY: (*Interrupting.*) I'm going to be a dentist!
 7 TWIT: Ha! You have to be smart and go to school for
 8 years and years to be a dentist. What're you
 9 going to be, Tucker?
 10 TUCKER: Well . . .
 11 FREDDY: (*Interrupting again.*) Maybe I'll be a fireman.
 12 TWIT: You don't know what you'll be. None of us do!
 13 TUCKER: (*Thoughtfully.*) I do.
 14 TWIT: You do?
 15 TUCKER: Yep. I'm two things right now that I'll always be.
 16 FREDDY: Yeh, slow and . . . slow.
 17 TWIT: What'll you always be?
 18 TUCKER: I'll always be a turtle and I'll always be a Child
 19 of God.
 20 FREDDY: Well, I can't argue with that.
 21 TUCKER: (*Thoughtfully.*) I suppose I'll be other things, too,
 22 but those two won't change. I'll never change from
 23 a turtle into — say, a fish, and God will always
 24 love me and care for me.
 25 (*All start leaving stage.*)
 26 TWIT: You know, Tucker, you're pretty smart.
 27 TUCKER: Maybe I'll be a dentist.
 28 (*All exit.*)
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TWO BY TWO

(Theme: Unity)

CHARACTERS

LILY, the Lamb

FREDDY, the Frog

TWIT, the Bird

PROPS

A piece of paper attached to Lily's hand.

(LILY enters waving paper.)

- 13 LILY: Oh, my! How could I have done this! Oh,
 14 goodness! (*Speaking to audience.*) We're going
 15 to make posters for Sunday school and my
 16 teacher asked me to divide the whole class into
 17 groups of two. I've asked almost everyone — now
 18 I only have two left. They'll have to work
 19 together and it will never work! Only Twit and
 20 Freddy left. I don't think they will cooperate.
 21 Sigh! (*Short pause.*) I'll have to ask — I promised
 22 my teacher. (*Calling*) Yahoo, Freddy, Twit.
 23 (*FREDDY and TWIT enter.*)
- 24 FREDDY: Hiya, Lily, whatcha want?
- 25 TWIT: What's he doing here?
- 26 FREDDY: Watch it, Twitch.
- 27 TWIT: My name is Twit, Frog Face.
- 28 LILY: Oh, my! This isn't starting well at all.
- 29 TWIT: What isn't starting well?
- 30 LILY: Our Sunday school teacher asked me to get
 31 people together to work on the posters.
- 32 FREDDY: No need to ask, Lily. I'll be glad to work with
 33 you.
- 34 LILY: That's not exactly what I had in mind.
- 35 TWIT: Of course not! She wants me to help her.

- 1 LILY: That's not quite it either.
- 2 TWIT: Then what do you want, Lily?
- 3 LILY: Well . . . I want you and Freddy to work
4 together. (*Stunned silence.*)
- 5 TWIT: Me and Frog Face?
- 6 FREDDY: Me and Bird Brain?
- 7 LILY: Please you two, don't be this way. I know you're
8 different in some ways but you do have lots in
9 common.
- 10 TWIT &
- 11 FREDDY: (*Together.*) We do?
- 12 LILY: Sure.
- 13 TWIT: Name two.
- 14 LILY: Well . . . you go to the same church and you're
15 in the same Sunday school class.
- 16 FREDDY: She's got you there.
- 17 LILY: And you're both God's children and He loves
18 you both very much.
- 19 TWIT: Well, true.
- 20 LILY: God wants us to be different, but I think He
21 wants us to work together, too.
- 22 FREDDY: Well, if that's what God wants . . .
- 23 TWIT: I'm willing to try.
- 24 LILY: I just know you can make a beautiful poster
25 together.
- 26 TWIT: What shall we put on our poster, Freddy?
- 27 FREDDY: How about Jesus talking to a bunch of people?
- 28 TWIT: Great idea! And we can put some birds flying
29 'round His head.
- 30 FREDDY: Yeh! And some frogs 'round His feet. C'mon,
31 let's get started!
- 32 (*FREDDY and TWIT exit.*)
- 33 LILY: I don't believe it! They're going to do it! Now I
34 can tell my Sunday school teacher that everyone
35 has a partner. (*LILY exits.*)

ON YOUR MARK, GET SET, GO!

(Theme: 1 Corinthians 12:26)

CHARACTERS

FREDDY, the Frog

LILY, the Lamb

TUCKER, the Turtle

(FREDDY comes Onstage, obviously very happy.)

FREDDY: I won! I won! Hooray, I won!

(LILY enters.)

LILY: Hi, Freddy.

FREDDY: I won, Lily, I won!

LILY: Whatcha win, Freddy?

(TUCKER enters.)

FREDDY: A bunch of us had a big race and I won! Isn't that neat, Lily? We had to run all the way around the playground and I won!

LILY: Oh, Freddy, that's nice. I'm glad you won.

FREDDY: I'm going right home and tell my Mom. She'll be so proud of me. *(FREDDY exits saying:)*

I won, I won!

TUCKER: I lost, Lily.

LILY: Oh, Tucker, I'm sorry.

TUCKER: *(In a "no one cares" kind of voice.)* No, you're not. You're glad I lost. *(TUCKER draws head into shell.)*

LILY: *(Looking into shell.)* Tucker, come out of there. Please, Tucker, come out.

(TUCKER comes out.)

TUCKER: *(In a hurtful voice.)* Well, you are glad I lost.

LILY: How can you say that?

TUCKER: I heard you tell Freddy that you were glad he won. If you were glad he won, then you must be glad

1 I lost.
2 LILY: That's not true!
3 TUCKER: Were you glad that Freddy won?
4 LILY: Well . . . yes.
5 TUCKER: See! You are glad I lost.
6 LILY: No, Tucker. That's not the way it is at all.
7 TUCKER: Then, how is it?
8 LILY: I wasn't happy because he won and you lost. I
9 was happy because Freddy was happy and felt
10 good about himself. But I was sorry for you
11 because you were sad and disappointed. The
12 race wasn't important to me, but the way my
13 friends feel is important.
14 TUCKER: You mean you were sorry I lost?
15 LILY: Sure, Tucker. Your feelings are important to me.
16 Don't be sad anymore. (*LILY pats TUCKER'S*
17 *head.*) There are lots of things you do really well.
18 TUCKER: (*Not really convinced.*) I suppose so . . . (*Suddenly*
19 *excited.*) Hey, yeh.
20 (*TUCKER starts to exit.*)
21 LILY: Where are you going?
22 TUCKER: I'm going to see if Freddy wants to be in another
23 contest. And I'm going to win this one!
24 LILY: How can you be so sure?
25 TUCKER: 'Cause this time it'll be a "sitting still" contest.
26 And I can sit still for hours — days even. But
27 Freddy can't sit still for even three minutes.
28 (*TUCKER exits.*)
29 LILY: I've gotta see this.
30 (*LILY exits.*)
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THE PROBLEM

(Theme: Matthew 5:16)

CHARACTERS

LILY, the Lamb

FREDDY, the Frog

PROPS

A band-aid on Freddy's nose.

(LILY Onstage. FREDDY enters.)

LILY: Hi, Freddy. Where have you been? I haven't seen you for days!

FREDDY: I know. I've been staying in my room.

LILY: Have you been sick?

FREDDY: Nah.

LILY: (In a sympathetic voice.) Oh, Freddy, did you do something bad and have to stay in your room?

FREDDY: Nah.

LILY: Then goodness, Freddy, why haven't you been out to play?

FREDDY: (In a depressed voice.) I've got a problem, Lily.

LILY: What is it?

FREDDY: It's not a what . . . it's a who.

LILY: Who, then?

FREDDY: It's Herman — the new kid who moved in next door to me last week.

LILY: Is he nice?

FREDDY: No, and that's the problem. Every time he sees me out, he comes over and punches me in the nose.

(Rubs nose.)

LILY: Ah, that's too bad!

FREDDY: I tried punching him back, but it didn't work. He punched me in the nose (Rubs nose) and the stomach. (Rubs stomach)

1 **LILY:** Of course that didn't work. Didn't you hear our
2 Sunday school teacher say we're supposed to love
3 our neighbors?
4 **FREDDY:** Well, I heard her but Herman didn't. Besides, he
5 doesn't give me time to love him. He just punches
6 and runs.
7 **LILY:** Oh, Freddy, this is terrible!
8 **FREDDY:** Yeh. What am I going to do, Lily? All I could
9 think of was to stay in my room, and I'm tired
10 of that.
11 **LILY:** Yeh, you can't do that forever. (*Short pause.*)
12 Our Sunday school teacher is almost always right.
13 We've got to think of a way to show Herman that
14 we want to be friends. Let's think. (*There is a*
15 *long pause while LILY puts her hand under her*
16 *chin and FREDDY rubs his head.*) Hey, Freddy,
17 what are you doing out today?
18 **FREDDY:** (*In an off-hand voice.*) Oh, Herman's mother told
19 my Mom that he's sick in bed.
20 **LILY:** Why didn't you say so before? Now I know what
21 we can do to show Herman we want to be friends.
22 **FREDDY:** What?
23 **LILY:** We can take a game over and play with him. I bet
24 he's getting tired of staying in his room all alone.
25 **FREDDY:** (*Rubbing his nose.*) Yeh, I know all about that.
26 At least he can't punch my nose while he's laying
27 down, he, he. Hey, Lily, what if this doesn't work?
28 **LILY:** Well, we'll just have to think of something else.
29 **FREDDY:** There's lots of flu going 'round. Maybe we'll get
30 another chance.
31 (*They both exit.*)
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SOMETHING'S COMING

(Theme: The Advent Wreath)

CHARACTERS

FREDDY, the Frog

LILY, the Lamb

(FREDDY comes Onstage and spots the Advent wreath.)

FREDDY: Oh, no! Fire, fire! *(Points to the wreath.)* Help, someone, there's a fire!
(LILY rushes Onstage.)

LILY: Where? Where?

FREDDY: *(Pointing to wreath.)* Over there! On that table! It might catch those green weeds on fire, too.

LILY: Oh, Freddy. It's OK. That's an Advent wreath.

FREDDY: A what?

LILY: An Advent wreath. A wreath is a circle. *(Makes a circle with her arm.)* You can make one out of extra Christmas tree branches.

FREDDY: But, Lily what about the fire?

LILY: Those are Advent candles. They belong there.

FREDDY: *(In a partially satisfied voice.)* Oooh. *(Short pause.)* Hey, Lily, what's Advent?

LILY: Advent means something's coming — Christmas is coming!

FREDDY: *(In an excited voice.)* Yeh, yeh, yeh! That's kinda nice to have a wreath to tell us Christmas is coming. *(Kind of bragging.)* But I coulda made a better wreath than that one.

LILY: Oh, I think that one is beautiful.

FREDDY: Well, look, Lily. *(Pointing.)* Whoever made that one, ran out of purple candles and had to use a white one.

LILY: It's supposed to be that way, Freddy. Each Sunday

1 for four weeks before Christmas, one purple
2 candle is lit.

3 FREDDY: Isn't that the slow way of doing it?

4 LILY: Well, yes. But it gives us time to think about what
5 each candle means.

6 FREDDY: They mean something?

7 LILY: Sure. The first one is the Prophet's Candle. A
8 prophet is someone who tells others what God is
9 going to do. The candle reminds us that hundreds
10 of years before Jesus was born, God told the
11 Prophets it was going to happen.

12 FREDDY: Really?

13 LILY: Sure.

14 FREDDY: What about the other candles?

15 LILY: Well that one (*Pointing.*) is the Bethlehem Candle.
16 Bethlehem is the town where Jesus was born. That
17 one over there (*Pointing.*) is the Shepherds'
18 Candle. There were lots of shepherds back then.
19 And God made sure they were the first to hear
20 about Jesus' birth. That last purple candle is the
21 Angels' Candle. It reminds us that when Jesus
22 was born, it was so special that the angels came.

23 FREDDY: You forgot one, Lily. What about the white one?

24 LILY: Oh, that's the best of all — that's the Christ
25 Candle. It's lit on Christmas Eve.

26 FREDDY: Hey, like a birthday candle.

27 LILY: Yeh, kinda.

28 FREDDY: How come you know so much about Advent
29 wreaths?

30 LILY: We made them in Sunday school. The teacher
31 told us all about the candles. (*Short pause.*)
32 Why don't we go to my house and make you one?

33 FREDDY: (*In an excited voice.*) Hey, could we?

34 LILY: Sure. (*They start to depart. FREDDY stops and*
35 *holds out his arm to stop LILY.*)

1 **FREDDY:** Oh, oh! I'm not allowed to set fire to anything.

2 **LILY:** I'm sure your Mom or Dad would light the
3 candles for you.

4 **FREDDY:** Yeh, and I could tell them what the candles mean.
5 (*Both exit.*)

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20 *NOTE: The numerals running vertically down the*
21 *left margin of each page of dialogue are for the*
22 *convenience of the director. With these he/she may*
23 *easily direct attention to a specific passage.*

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PRODUCTION NOTES

These puppet scripts were designed to be used for a special "Time with the Children" portion of a regular Worship Service. However, they can be used in any program for children. They are short, 3 to 4 minutes long, both to fit into the Worship Service and in keeping with the attention span of small children. The vocabulary and situations used were designed to attract and appeal to children aged four and up. The scripts are a learning tool and while they are not theologically intricate, hopefully they do teach children sound Christian principles.

These scripts contain parts for six different puppets. However, parts could be assigned to any kind of character without losing the basic meaning. Puppets originally used for these scripts were purchased from:

Freda Marsh's House of Puppetry
P. O. Box 19482
Oklahoma City, OK. 73119
Phone: (405) 632-5787

Staging is kept to the most simple. A basic tri-fold stage was used. Small props were attached to the top edge of the stage with C-clamps or ingenuity. No prop is used unless it is easily available.

The type of puppet most effective in these scripts has a mobile mouth and some have rods attached to one arm for mobility. Puppet actions for the most part are created by those operating the puppets, keeping with the character of the puppet and stage limitations.



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PUPPETERIA III

by Linda Thomas.

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