



# **Beth & Scott's Party Concert!**

A Study Guide for Grades preK-4  
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BIERKO PRODUCTIONS LLC  
999 Cliff Road  
Yorktown Heights, NY 10598  
(800) 364-5381  
[www.bethandscott.net](http://www.bethandscott.net)  
info@bethandscott.net

## **THE COMPANY**

At Beth & Scott and Friends, we strive to educate and entertain children and adults through the writing and performance of original songs, shows and workshops. Beth and Scott Bierko, the owners and principal performers, are a husband and wife team of singer/songwriters and arts-in-education specialists. Since 1993, Beth & Scott have performed thousands of school assemblies and workshops for children. They are parents of two daughters, Helen and Stephanie. The roles of Beth & Scott are now shared by five wonderful actor/musicians.

## **THE PROGRAM**

**"Beth & Scott's Party Concert"** - is a forty-five minute interactive, musical presentation for children ages 3-9. During this delightful show of original stories and songs, the audience gets an opportunity to join in the fun by singing, clapping and using their imaginations to become everything from wolves to washing machines. Many children are also invited on-stage throughout the program to laugh, dance and play instruments with us.

The topics covered in the songs may include self-esteem, fear of the dark, sharing, responsibility and arguing about family rules. The songs are from Beth & Scott's vast repertoire of material and each show is constructed to be age-appropriate.

To help students better understand the messages and to get the most out of this event, we strongly recommend that the classroom teacher utilize some of the ideas listed on the following page to prepare students for their concert or as a follow-up to the show. Numerous discussion questions and activities have been provided. Please feel free to choose those that are most appropriate for each class or make up other ideas of your own.

## PARTY CONCERT - STUDY GUIDE

### Discussion Topics:

#### Audience Behavior:

- What makes up good audience behavior? For example, arriving on time, giving full attention to the performance, showing appreciation for the work by applauding, etc. Audience members (including teachers!) have rights and responsibilities during a concert. Are these the same for a movie, television show or play? How are they different?

#### Song Topics:

Use any of the songs in the show as a springboard for discussion, such as:

- "One in a Million", "Believe in Yourself & Your Dreams" -Self-Esteem  
What makes someone special? How are we all alike? How are we different? Can you name some of the unique talents you possess? What do you want to be when you grow up? Why?
- "Not So Friendly Monster" - Childhood Fears  
Have you ever been afraid of the dark? What else are you afraid of? What can you do when you are afraid?
- "I Don't Want To Go To Bed" - Rules & Authority  
Have you ever disagreed with the rules set by your parents or teachers? Which ones? Why is it important to have rules and to follow them? What might happen if we didn't have rules?
- "Laundry Mountain" - Responsibility  
In what ways do you help out at school or at home? Do you like helping, why or why not? Why is it important to do your part? Can you think of new ways to help?

#### Activities:

**1. Listening Skills** are important when we are learning as well as in our relationships with others. Try some games that will test and improve students' auditory skills:

a. Simon Says

b. Whisper Down The Lane(a.k.a. Telephone): 4-5 students stand in a line and the first whispers a phrase into the second child's ear (e.g. "The 3 o'clock train arrived at 4:02." or "Peter told Paula that Sue swims with Sam"). The second whispers to the third and so on. The last child says what he/she heard and then the first child says the original phrase out loud to see how well people listened.

c. Hot and Cold - In this game one student leaves the room and an object is hidden. Then the student returns to look for the object. As he/she moves closer to it, students either say "Hot" or make a loud noise (i.e. clapping). As he/she moves away from it, the other children say "cold" or make the noise softly. The student must listen to these clues until he/she finds the object.

**2. Rhythm** – There are many opportunities during the show for students to work with rhythms-speaking, singing, clapping and moving to various beats. Take some time to practice in class by

reading poetry, playing percussion instruments and clapping or moving to different songs. Enjoy making music.

**3. Rhyme/Geography** - In the song, "State Laughs", Beth and Scott sing about Idaho, Tennessee, Arkansas, Kentucky, Washington and Delaware. Have students identify these states on a map of the United States. It can also be fun to make up other silly laughs or silly rhymes for other states or your town. (i.e. "The people in Yonkers, all went Bonkers" or "In Iowa, they go Ha,Ha, Ha.")

**4. Art** - Have students draw a picture of their favorite "scene" from any of the songs in the show (i.e. the boy and his mom in "I Don't Want To Go To Bed", the monster from "The Not-So-Friendly Monster", helping with the laundry, or one of the occupations mentioned in "Believe In Yourself & Your Dreams", etc.)

**5. Self-esteem** is a theme stressed several times during the show. Here are two great exercises to teach children that they are special and unique:

- Create a "friendship circle", where students take turns saying something positive about the person to their right until everyone has had a turn.
- Using pictures, words, phrases and drawings have students create a collage that represents who they are (what they like to do, favorite colors, foods, etc). Make sure their names appear on the collage and display them in the class or hallway.

**6. Acting-** It can be fun to re-enact some of the stories from the show with different students playing different roles. For example in "Not So Friendly Monster" children enjoy pretending that they are the frightened child, the mother, the father and the cat. Encourage students to make up stories of their own. In telling any story, have students create sound effects to enhance the atmosphere (as we do with the coyotes and the rain and thunder).

**7. Movement** – Children use their bodies in this show to become fish and washing machines. Experiment with movement. What other animals or objects can we pretend to be? How do they move? What about using just our arms to create a snake or a popcorn maker?

**8. Simplifying tasks** – Students learn in "Laundry Mountain" that there are many steps to doing the laundry. What other tasks have many steps? Pick one and have students list all the steps involved (i.e. getting a snack, getting dressed to go in the snow, etc.) Another approach is to describe the steps and have them guess what task it is.

**9. Writing** - Encourage students to write email letters to Beth & Scott. They can practice their letter-writing skills and tell us which songs they liked best and why. (Younger students can draw pictures.) Be sure that they include their name, age and school. Letters can be sent to: [info@bethandscott.net](mailto:info@bethandscott.net)