

Boys: 11 - 13 years

Suggestion One

Ernie's Incredible Illucinations Alan Ayckbourn

ERNIE's Mum and Dad are so worried about him, and his 'illucinations', that they take him to the Doctor. They are also concerned that *they* are being drawn into these 'illucinations'. In this scene, ERNIE explains to the Doctor how he manages to involve his family, acting out a scene where his home is invaded by soldiers.

ERNIE

It started with these daydreams. You know, the sort everybody gets. Where you suddenly score a hat trick in the first five minutes of the Cup Final, or you bowl out the West Indies for ten runs - or saving your granny from a blazing helicopter, all that sort of rubbish. It was one wet Saturday afternoon and me and my mum and dad were all sitting about in the happy home having one of those exciting afternoon rave-ups we usually have in our house. (*ERNIE sits in the doctors chair and starts to read a book*) Meanwhile - I was reading a book about the French wartime resistance workers and the dangers they faced - often arrested in their homes. I started wondering what would happen if a squad of soldiers turned up at our front door, having been tipped off about the secret radio transmitter hidden in our cistern - when suddenly ... I shouldn't go out there, Mum ... I said don't go out there ... It's not the milkman. It's a squad of enemy soldiers ... They've come for me ... They've found out about the radio transmitter ... (*The soldiers charge at the door. A loud crash*) Don't go out, Mum ... Don't go!

Suggestion One

Just William 'William and the Russian Prince' Richmal Crompton

WILLIAM's brother Robert is attending a cricket week and has told WILLIAM to keep well away. His curiosity gets the better of him though, and creeping into the grounds he sees his brother sitting on a bench, looking forlorn. Next to him is a beautiful girl, deep in conversation with another young man. In this scene, WILLIAM has devised a plan to help his brother - the girl finds WILLIAM crouching behind a bush and demands to know what he's doing there.

WILLIAM

I'm on guard ... There's a Russian prince playin' cricket with those people an' I've been told by Scotland Yard to guard him ... You see, they thought no one would think it funny to see a boy hanging round watching a cricket match, but a policeman or plain-clothes man would make people sort of suspicious. I'm a good deal older than what I look, of course. I've been kept small by Scotland Yard so as to be able to take on jobs like this. Anyway, I'm supposed to be watching this Russian prince to see no harm comes to him ... (*WILLIAM looks over to where the game is going on*) It's that one ... the one batting now ... He was rescued from the revolution when he was a boy and brought over here secret and given to this family to pretend he was their son so as to keep him in hiding. You see, (*WILLIAM's voice sinks to a sinister whisper*) you see the Bolshevists are after him. He got away with all his jewels for one thing, and they're after his jewels. You see that very dark man over there? ... Well, he's a Bolshevist. He's after the jewels. That's why I'm told to guard this Russian prince against him ... (*He assumes a mysterious expression*) Oh, I've got ways. I've got secret signals. I could have all Scotland Yard here in no time if I gave some of my secret signals ... You won't tell anyone, will you?