

## Charlie/Leroy (All Boys)

CHARLIE: Hey, Leroy, you give me back my lunch!

LEROY: Sure, kid, here. *(Hands Charlie lunch bag)*

CHARLIE *(looking inside)*: You stole my dessert again!

LEROY: How do you know?

CHARLIE: Because it isn't here.

LEROY: What was it?

CHARLIE: Two Twinkies.

LEROY: That's right. That's what it was. *(Starts to leave)*

CHARLIE: Hey, Leroy! You think it's so great to steal my dessert every day and you know what? I don't care if you steal my dessert. I'll even give you my dessert. I get all the dessert I want in Sunday School.

LEROY: Oh, yeah? What kind of dessert?

CHARLIE: All kinds. Chocolate cake and candy bars and cookies...and Twinkies and Big Wheels. We get refreshments all the time, all we want.

LEROY: You're a liar.

CHARLIE: ...and ice cream, and doughnuts, and cupcakes, and...

LEROY: Who gives it to you?

CHARLIE *(momentarily stumped)*: Uh...the minister.

LEROY: Why? Is he crazy?

CHARLIE: No...I think he's rich.

LEROY *(getting an idea)*: ...Sunday School, huh?

**Gladys (Girls 5-9)**

MOTHER: ...And there were shepherds, keeping watch over their flocks by night. And lo, the Angel of the Lord came upon them, and the Glory of....

GLADYS (leaps up, flinging her arms out): Shazam!

MOTHER: What?

GLADYS: Out of the black night, with horrible vengeance, the Might Marvo...

MOTHER: I don't know what you're talking about, Gladys.

GLADYS: The Mighty Marvo, in Amazing Comics...out of the black night, with horrible vengeance...

MOTHER: This is the angel of the Lord, who comes to the shepherds...

GLADYS: Out of nowhere, right? In the black night, right?

MOTHER: Well...in a way...

GLADYS (*one last time as she sits back down*): Shazam!

## Beth/Alice (Girls 10+)

BETH: What do you keep writing in that book?

ALICE: It's...like a diary.

BETH: It is not. It's all about the Herdmans. (*reads aloud*) Imogene curses and swears all the time. Ralph talks about sexy things. Mrs. Bradley...(*gives Alice a fierce look*)...Mrs. Bradley called Mary pregnant...Gladys Herdman drinks communion wine....It isn't wine, it's grape juice.

ALICE: I don't care what it is, she drinks it. I've seen her three times with her mouth all purple. They steal, too – if you shake the birthday bank it doesn't make a sound, because they stole all the pennies out of it. And every time you go in the ladies' room the whole air is blue, and Imogene Herdman is sitting there in the Mary costume, smoking cigars.

BETH (*angry*): And you wrote all this down? What for?

ALICE (*nose to nose with Beth*): For my mother and Reverend Hopkins and the Ladies Aid Society and anybody else who wants to know what happened when the whole Christmas pageant turns out to be a big mess!

## Imogene (Girls 10+)

IMOGENE: I'll get us a baby.

MOTHER: How can you do that?

IMOGENE: There's always two or three babies in carriages outside the supermarket. I'll get one of them.

MOTHER: Imogene! You can't just walk off with somebody's baby!...I guess we'll forget about a baby. We'll just use the doll.

IMOGENE: Yeh. That's better, anyway...a doll can't bite you.

MOTHER: And, Imogene...you know Mary didn't wear earrings.

IMOGENE: I have to wear these. I got my ears pierced and if I don't keep something in them, they'll grow together.

MOTHER: Well, they won't grow together in an hour and a half. What did the doctor tell you to do?

IMOGENE: What doctor?

MOTHER: Well, who pierced your ears?

IMOGENE: My sister, Gladys!

### Beth Monologue (Girls 10+)

The Herdmans were the worst kids in the whole history of the world. They lied and stole and smoked cigars, even the girls, and talked dirty and cussed their teachers and took the name of the Lord in vain and set fire to Fred Shoemaker's old broken down tool house. And that's not all! Somebody sent five dozen doughnuts for the firemen and the Herdmans ate them all, and what they couldn't eat they stuffed in their pockets and down the front of their shirts. And they wrote this really dirty word on the back of Naomi Waddell's favorite turtle, so now Naomi can't take it to the YMCA pet show...her mother won't let her. There were six of them – Ralph, Imogene, Leroy, Claude, Ollie, and Gladys – and they went through the Woodrow Wilson school like those South American fish that strip your bones clean. They went around town the same way – stealing things and tearing things up and whamming kids...so it was hard to get away from them.