

TOMMY GARDNER



Motivational Assemblies

A Resource Guide For Teachers

Reading Rocks!

Performance by:

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Motivational Assemblies

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ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE

This highly interactive program is filled with songs about reading and using your imagination. Students have a 'job' to do for each song; whether hand clapping, singing important phrases, or hand motions. Award-winning story songs challenge students to pay attention to the words and follow the story, the way they read a book.

A 'motivational' assembly is much different than simply a music performance. The songs are introduced with short, age-appropriate motivational messages, often using humor to engage the child. A fun, but effective study guide is available upon request to further reinforce the powerful messages from the assembly.

Perfect for PARP events, Dr. Seuss birthday celebrations, and reading competition ceremonies.

"Reading Rocks!"-This rock and roll hand clapper anthem-type song is the perfect song for kids who respond to audience participation.

Their part in the chorus is the last line:

***"Reading rocks my very soul
my mind goes wild as the words unfold
as pages turn my grades will grow, sing
R.E.A.D.I.N.G. Rocks my very soul***

"It's All There At The Library"- This snappy original gets their hands clapping and their minds on the all so important theme of reading and visiting the library. There is so much available at our libraries today other than just books, this song plants the seeds of that valuable resource.

***"It's all there, go and see, it's all there at the library,
there's so much more than books you know,
it's a place to make your brain grow!"***

"Witch Doctor" (library lyrics)- This parody re-write was created for a couple of reasons. First, the kids know about the Chipmunks and many are familiar with this upbeat hit from the 1960's. The verses support reading and libraries and the silly chorus challenges them to sing. A singing contest between the kids and the teachers makes this fun song irresistible.

CURRICLUM CONNECTIONS

- Reading
- Character education
- Teamwork
- Respect, kindness

The audience is a very important part of the performance. Please talk to your students about what it means to be an audience member and how a "live" performance is different from TV and movies. Some performances may involve audience participation so students should be prepared to behave appropriately, given the nature of the performance and the requests of the artists on the stage.

Your [library] Card Is The Key”-

A volunteer is chosen to perform a beat box into the mic as this rap-type song is performed (usually an older child).

Your Card Is The Key Copyright 2012 Tom Gardner

Refrain

**if you wanna be the best, say yeah
if you wanna learn the most, say yeah
if you wanna fill your brain, say yeah
if you love to read, say yeah**

*We're gonna travel the world we're gonna travel through time
We're gonna fly through space inside of our mind
but our first stop is gonna be the library
cause your card is the key 4xs*

*You wanna learn how to build, you wanna learn how to bake
You can learn about anything that you wanna make
Finding books is like a treasure hunt you'll see
and your card is the key 4xs*

*You can fill your mind, you can fill your soul
Filling up with knowledge can make you whole
Whether fiction or biographies
your card is the key 4xs Refrain*

*Without getting on a plane you can travel the globe
Learn about kids from all over the world
You don't need a ticket to fly over seas
cause your card is the key 4xs*

*The world is small but you can make it gigantic
by filling your mind with any book you hand pick
Where do you wanna go, what do you wanna see
and your card is the key 4xs*

*So come down to your library it's totally packed
cause the best of the best read a lot, that's a fact
You will shine above others I guarantee
and your card is the key 4xs Refrain*

“The Unicorn”- The artist has written a new version of this Irish classic just for schools which not only engages their imagination, but also has some friendship and kindness themes sprinkled throughout.

Volunteers come up and do the hand motions (same as the original song) and are praised for their volunteering. This is when all are acknowledge who had their hand up to volunteer as well as the PTA, PTO, etc.

“I Can!”- This empowerment song has a lyric about reading, but it's really all about empowering the child to believe they can do anything if they put their mind to it and get help when they need it.

Their part in this this song is to listen for and shout out, “I Can!” at the end of each line.

“If you really, really want to do anything just find a way and say I CAN!”

Other story songs may be a part of this show as well depending on the age of the children and the length of the shows, which are typically about 45 minutes. Songs such as, “Kangaroo Waffles”, “Ice Cream Sundae”, “If I Was A Dog”, “Rainbow”, and others.

We take every opportunity to inject respect and kindness ideas and themes into EVERY program, whether it's about reading, health and fitness, cultural awareness, drug/tobacco awareness, etc. We feel this message is the cornerstone to an enriching and flourishing school experience.

Many schools choose to have the artist insert a song or two with themes from their other shows. For example, songs about kindness, respect, patriotism, perseverance, recycling and being green, health and fitness, cultural awareness, etc. Please don't hesitate to contact us about any concerns or questions you may have.

“The BEST assembly we ever had!” Milton Elementary, Marlboro, NY

About The Artist

Tommy Gardner has performed in hundreds of elementary schools, libraries, town concerts, and other family events for the past 20 years. His work solo and with The Uncle Brothers has earned him multiple Parents Choices awards for his 9 children's CDs, as well as numerous other awards, including iParenting, Children's Music Web, Parents Guide Award, and others. His passion is to inspire children through his original music and motivate them to become kinder, healthier, and more productive and tolerant people as they grow up and prepare for middle school.

Tommy has coined the phrase 'Motivation Assemblies' because of his unique gift for reaching children through humor and supporting his messages through his lively and clever original songs.

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