

“How to Pray” or: “The Biggest Losers”

A Puppet Show for Thinker’s Theater in One Act

Script By Anne Haines

Characters:

SNOOKIE:	a “princess”
PRINCE OF DARKNESS:	the Devil aka “POD”
FEAR & DESPAIR*:	his minions
EVA:	SNOOKIE’s friend
RALF**:	an angel who looks like “Alf”.
CRYSTALLINA:	an angel who looks like an angel

*FEAR is a pirate and DESPAIR is a “witchy” old woman, but these 2 can be other “uglies”

**He wears a ‘Born to Rock’ shirt

Scene 1:

SNOOKIE is laying down and crying

SNOOKIE: Boo-who, boo-who, boo-who.....

PRINCE OF DARKNESS (POD) appear on stage but away from SNOOKIE

POD: Hmmm, I see SNOOKIE here isn’t happy. This could be an opportunity for me. I will send my minions, Fear and Despair. They’re good at this.

POD claps his hands, FEAR and DESPAIR appear

FEAR: Yes Master, you called?

POD: Yes, I have something for you two. Snookie is not happy about something and I want you to “HELP” her. You know what to do.

FEAR and DESPAIR: (together) Yes Master, we know your wishes and obey.

POD leaves, FEAR & DESPAIR go over to SNOOKIE who remains lying down

FEAR: Hey there Snookie, what seems to be the problem? You sounded pretty unhappy.

SNOOKIE: Who are you?

DESPAIR: Let’s just say we were sent by a fiend, I mean *friend*, to help you out.

FEAR: So what’s goin’ on?

SNOOKIE: Well, our house was pretty much destroyed in the hurricane so we're living in my aunt's basement. Then my Dad got laid off and my Mom is sick. I think I'm flunking math too.

DESPAIR: You sure do have some pretty big problems. I'd give up if I were you...

FEAR: Yeah, and even MORE bad stuff could happen...

SNOOKIE: I thought you said you could help me.

DESPAIR: Oh right, we DID say that. You know, you can always go shopping to make yourself feel better. You'll spend money you probably don't have for stuff you probably don't need, but you'll feel better.

FEAR: Another thing to do is you can make *other* people feel bad by reminding them how much better than them *you* are. You know, be a mean girl.

DESPAIR: Also, don't talk to anyone about how you feel. Just keep it inside. You don't need anyone else to know about your problems.

SNOOKIE: OK, I guess I could try that....

FEAR and DESPAIR: Well, gotta fly.

FEAR: Master's got another job for us.

DESPAIR: There's a lot of unhappy people in the world.

FEAR & DESPAIR leave

Scene 2:

A sign is held up reading: The Next Day

SNOOKIE and EVA are sitting together

SNOOKIE: You know, I had a really bad dream last night. Last night I was really sad 'cause of all that's going on right now. Nothing seems to be going right for my family. Then these two creature things appeared. They were pretty nasty looking but they said they would help me.

EVA: Yeah, I know, you've had a lot of bad stuff happen. What did they say to do?

SNOOKIE: They said to go shopping, to be mean to people, and to not to tell anybody about my problems.

EVA: ...really? That's what they said to do? I *guarantee* that will only make you feel



WORSE in the long run. If they are telling you those things then they are nothing but a bunch of losers and they probably work for the devil who is the biggest loser of all. I have a better idea. I will ask my Guardian Angel to help you. You know, you have a Guardian Angel too.

SNOOKIE: Well if I do I've never seen it!

EVA: Yes, everyone has one, but a lot of people don't know about them. God sends them to help us. They are always with you, 24/7, 365 days a year. Hey, I've gotta go to class, but I will pray for you.

SNOOKIE: OK, thanks.

EVA leaves

SNOOKIE: I wish I knew how to pray...

Scene 3:

A sign is held up reading: That Night

RALF and CRYSTALLINA (CRYSTA) enter

RALF: Hey dude, what's goin' on? Eva told me you were upset about some stuff.

SNOOKIE: WHO are YOU?

RALF: Dude, I'm Ralf, Eva's Guardian Angel. Didn't she tell you about me?

SNOOKIE: Yeah, but she never said what you looked like!

RALF: Dude, we're all different. But hey, I brought somebody for you to meet! This is Crystallina, YOUR Guardian Angel.

SNOOKIE: Wow, she looks like a real angel!

CRYSTA: Hi there SNOOKIE, how are you? You know, I've been with you ever since you were born. You just never asked for my help.

SNOOKIE: I guess I never knew about you! So how can you help me?

CRYSTA: Well, first we have to explain that angels can help you but you have...

RALF: *(Shouts)* FREE WILL!

CRYSTA: Yes, we can't make decisions for you- only you can do that. We can help guide you to make GOOD decisions and we help people in the world to do God's will.

SNOOKIE: You mean like Santa's elves?

CRYSTA: Well, sort of, but we're really more like messengers from God. I heard you say you didn't know how to pray. We can help you with that.

SNOOKIE: So what do you do?

CRYSTA: Well, forgiveness is VERY big. You need to really forgive whatever people or situations that are hurting you. Forgiveness can be one of the hardest things you ever do, but also one of the most important.

RALF: Then you ask for God's help. Just remember, God doesn't always send help in the ways you might think He should. Sometimes it looks like He's not doing anything at all, but don't give up. Just ask for help in following His Will and we'll be there!

CRYSTA: Also, you can ask for God's protection. One of our chief angels, Michael, is the head of the Protection Unit. He will help you.

CRYSTA: Yes, and Raphael is the chief of the Healing Unit. I've worked for him before, and also for Gabriel, he's the head of Information. You know, when God needs to tell someone something directly.

SNOOKIE: Wow, I had no idea about all of this...

CRYSTA: Let's not forget one of the most important things to do when you pray: You should also THANK God for the blessings he's given you. Like, your family and friends, your home, and all of the things God gives us, including His Son, Jesus.

RALF: It's really very easy to do- anyone can try it anytime, 'cause God's always listening.

SNOOKIE: OK, I'm gonna do it right now. Dear God, Thank you for always being there for me and for all the blessings you give me. Help me to forgive everyone and everything that is hurting me and to do Your Will. Now I know that even when things seem really bad You are protecting me. I will try very hard to be a better person and help others, even when it's hard. Amen.

CRYSTA: That was great, SNOOKIE! From now on, you'll know I am always with you, even though you can't see me.

RALF: Nice meeting you, SNOOKIE. OK, gotta blast!

RALF & CRYSTA leave and POD reappears with FEAR & DESPAIR

POD: Hey there SNOOKIE, guess you had some pretty fancy visitors, huh?

SNOOKIE: (rudely) What do YOU want?

POD: Oh nothing, just your immortal soul...



SNOOKIE: Well, you aren't getting that or anything else from me. You get lost and stay out of my dreams and out of my heart. Keep your creepy friends away from me too. I've got REAL friends who care about me and want to help me. EVA was right, you guys ARE the biggest losers I know.

POD: OUCH! That hurt! I'm outta here.

POD, FEAR & DESPAIR LEAVE, SNOOKIE GOES BACK TO SLEEP

THE END

Discussion Questions

1. Crystallina and Ralf are great guardian angels. Can you think of any real life guardian angels that can help you when you are feeling sad and scared?
2. Eva suggested Snookie should pray to God for help. Do you pray to God? What are some prayers that you say at home and church?
3. Jesus prayed a lot in the Bible. Read Matthew 6:9-13 about a prayer Jesus taught us to pray.
4. What are some other things Snookie could do to help her feel better? (Play with friends, talk to her Pastor, spend time with family).

Director's Notes

1. Many puppets can be found on eBay including the "Alf" puppet and the Learning Resource puppets.
2. Ministry puppets can be adapted for this script. Be creative, a variety of puppet styles can work very well.