

Booktalk!



The False Prince Book Talk Script

For this Book Talk you will need:

- A copy of *The False Prince*
- 4 actors (Conner, Sage, Tobias, and Roden)

(Conner is standing while the other characters are sitting in a semi-circle)

Conner: Stand up boys; I need to get a good look at you. The competition begins right now, better start playing.

(All the boys look at each other confused as they rise slowly to their feet.)

Conner: *(Look them all up and down with disgust)* Well I guess it's as good as I can expect from orphans. *(Say 'Orphans' with distaste)*

Sage: *(Sarcastically)* It's kind of funny that all of us orphans look alike, don't you think Conner? *(Seriously)* What twisted game are you playing? We overheard you. We know you only need one boy. Why kidnap three of us?

Conner: All in good time, Sage. *(Wave away Sage's comment with your hand, ignoring him)* I have big plans for you boys!

Conner: *(Point at Tobias)* Tobias, you and an opponent are engaged in a sword fight. You will battle to the death. He is clearly better than you. Do you fight, knowing you will probably come to an untimely death, or do you stop the battle and beg for mercy?

Tobias: Beg for mercy, sir. If I know I won't win, then there is nothing to be accomplished through my death. I would want to live and then train harder for my next battle.

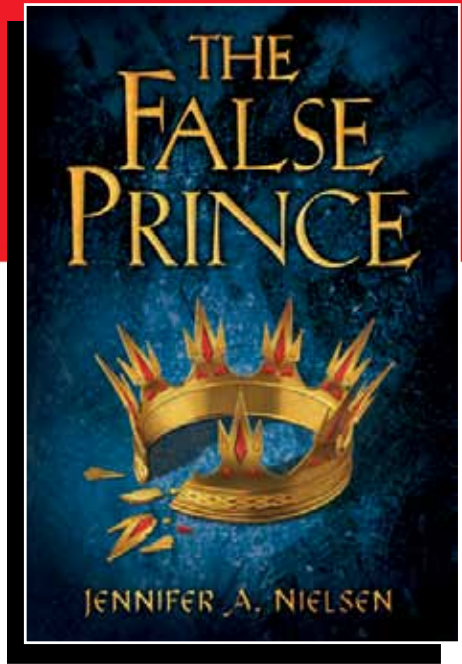
Conner: What about you, Roden?

Roden: *(Passionately)* Fight to the death! I would rather die than live as a coward.

Conner: Have you trained with a sword?

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The False Prince Book Talk Script *Continued*

Roden: I practiced fighting with an old man who lives by my orphanage.

Conner: Did you ever win?

Roden: *(Hesitantly)* Well...no. *(Look down at feet, ashamed).*

Conner: Then you have not been trained. *(Turn to Sage)* And what would you do, Sage?

Sage: *(Seriously)* Beg for mercy, obviously.

Conner: *(Laugh out loud)*

Sage: Then, when my opponent lowers his guard, because he is so certain of his victory, I'd finish him off.

Tobias: *(Flabbergasted)* That is cheating! And a violation of swordplay!

Sage: And I care about sportsmanship why? If I'm about to die it isn't 'play' anymore. I'm not going to stop and check the rule book to see if my survival fits within the guidelines of *(make air quotes)* 'fair play'.

Roden: *(Mockingly)* You know nothing. No master swordsman would lower his guard until you are disarmed.

Sage: *(Smirking)* Conner didn't say he was a master swordsman. Only that he was better than me. And yes, I would win.

Conner: Will you ever be on my side, Sage?

Sage: I am only on my side. The trick is convincing me that helping you *(point to Conner)* helps me *(Point to yourself)*.

Conner: *(Aside, to audience, holding up book)* Which boy do you think has what it takes to be my puppet prince? Pick up a copy of *The False Prince* at your Book Fair and find out!