

Willing Obedience

By Karena Krull

Director Notes: Old Professor Dog is educating his class of student pups on the subject of willing obedience. As Professor Dog is teaching the class, his story is acted out by The Master, Young Pup, and Old Tom who act out his story.

This skit may be done by one actor as a monologue as well.

The Master is always in control and patient. Young Pup over exaggerates all of his movements and facial expressions.

Characters:

Professor Dog: Acts as the narrator for the skit. He is understanding and patient. Using the wisdom he has gained by learning the hard way, he shares the lessons he learned student's pups.

The Master: Portrays loving authority; The Master is always calm, kind, and patient.

Young Pup: Is a good puppy but tries too hard in his own understanding, his emotions and desires become obedient.

Old Tom: Older cat who entices Young Pup away from obedience by distracting Young Pup's attention away from his Master.

Student Pups: (Optional) They listen eagerly to Professor Dog. Interacting occasionally with each other but not enough to distract from the lesson.

Scene One

Setting: Professor Dog enters and stands in front of the podium. Student Pups can be seated down in front of the audience or on stage. Leave plenty of room onstage for the Master and Young Pup to be visible as they move around the stage.

Professor Dog, clearing his throat, begins teaching the Student Pups or audience. He speaks slowly and clearly with gentle authority. The Master and Young Pup make no sounds.

Prof. Dog: I've come here today to talk to you pups about willing obedience. Does anyone have any idea what willing obedience is?

(Call on one or more Student Pups who raise their hands)

Good! Willing obedience is doing what you're told, but that's only half of obedience. You must obey gladly without complaining or protest. Now I know what you're thinking, I remember when I was a young pup just like you. I didn't want to be obedient either! I just wanted to play.

Master and Young Pup: Young Pup enters prancing eagerly with a toy. Master attaches least collar and puts toy away. Young Pup looks at him puzzled.

Prof. Dog: The first lesson was when my Master said, "Come."

Master and Young Pup: Master pats his hand on his leg to call the Young Pup and gently pulls Young Pup to himself

Prof. Dog: I dragged my feet, whined, howled, and pulled back with all my might!

Master and Young Pup: The Master waits patiently for Young Pup to quit pulling.

Prof. Dog: Finally, I realized I was getting nowhere so I looked up at him.

Master and Young Pup: Young Pup looks up. The Master pats him on the top of his head, while Young Pup thinks about what just happened trying to figure out what was being asked of him.

Prof. Dog: Patiently again, The Master said, "Come."

Master and Young Pup: The Master again pats his hand on his leg, calling Young Pup to him and gives a gently tug on the leash. Young Pup snaps his fingers.

Prof. Dog: I got it!

Master and Young Pup: While The Master nods, smiles and pats Young Pup.

Prof. Dog: Or so I thought! The Master wanted me to go with him and not lag behind. So eager to please this time I darted off full speed ahead.

- Mastering and Pup: Young Pup bolts forward full speed ahead of The Master, who stands in place patiently.
- Prof. Dog: When I reached the end of my leash, WOOF! What a mistake!
- Master and Young Pup: Dazed, Young Pup rolls as head around in big circles with his tongue hanging out and eyes rolling.
- Prof. Dog: It was then I realized that racing ahead of my Master, even with good intentions, wasn't being obedient either. I wondered if I'd ever learn. Patiently again, my Master said, "Come."
- Master and Young Pup: Master pats His hand on His leg for the third time.
- Prof. Dog: This time I looked up at him first.
- Master and Young Pup: Young Pup looks up his Master who praises him by patting him on the head.
- Prof. Dog: Cautiously, I walked beside Him. I continually looked up at Him time, and time again.
- Master and Young Pup: Young Pup looks dubiously up at The Master several times, then they walk around the stage together in unison.

Scene Two

- Prof. Dog: Everything seemed to be going okay so I became a little bolder.
- Master and Young Pup: Young Pup proudly holds his head up high, prancing along but not looking at his Master as much but still paying attention.
- Prof. Dog: And soon I was feeling quite proud of myself. I WAS obedient at last!
- Master and Young Pup: Young Pup struts beside his Master who is smiling down at him and encouraging him with pats on the head.
- Prof. Dog: Then, out of the corner of my eye I noticed something move.
- (Enter Old Tom)

Prof. Dog: It was old Tom, the cat. I quickly glanced at that OLD cat.

Old Tom: Tom slowly strolls teasingly by Young Pup with his nose in the air.

Prof. Dog: Then I really looked at him.

Old Tom: Tom taunts Young Pup by sticking out his tongue.

Prof. Dog: Forgetting my Master I charged full speed at old Tom.

Old Tom: Old Tom jumps up and exits running full speed off stage.

Prof. Dog: Do you know what happened when I reached the end of that leash?

(Let the audience answer; if they don't respond quickly continue on with the next line, answering for them.)

Prof. Dog: You're right! WOOF again! This time I was upset.

Master and Young Pup: Young Pup looks up resentfully and grumbles to himself.

Prof. Dog: I had been good. I just wanted to get old Tom! I wasn't asking for too much! I pouted.

Master and Young Pup: Young Pup crosses his arms across his chest emphatically and sticks out his bottom lip.

Prof. Dog: I looked up at my Master with hurt and anger. "Why me?", I asked. I had tried so hard to obey. I just wanted Old Tom. He wasn't being fair. He is asking too much of me, I growled.

Master and Young Pup: Young Pup continues to pout. Master pats and encourages him until Young Pup feels better and has time to calm down.

Prof. Dog: Or was He asking too much of me, after all?

Master and Young Pup: Young Pup begins to cheer up with The Master's encouragement.

Prof. Dog: Lovingly and with patience my Master kept training me.

Master and Young Pup: They exit the stage with Young Pup jumping happily beside The Master.

Prof. Dog:

And do you know what? I learned to look up to my Master continually, not lagging behind his will, or racing ahead of Him.

I learned to be happy when obediently following my Master. I was no longer distracted by my own desires, like chasing old Tom, the cat.

And do you know what? Even though I had to give up my own ideas and plans, I was able to go places and do so many more things because I was obedient!

Now I really enjoy the outings and adventures my Master plans for me. The love and patience my Master has shown me melted my anger and hurt feelings into happy willing obedience. Do you want to willingly decide to follow your Master today?

(Lights out)

The End