

“How Much Is That Doggie in The Window?”

By Mary Engquist

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Characters---Darlene--Charlie—Teacher who is a real person, Ms. Huckberry

Props---- Two handheld puppets - boy and girl. Two more handheld dog puppets or even stuffed dogs would work.

Scene #1 The setting is a classroom of first and second graders.
(Charlie starts pulling Darlene's pigtails.)

DARLENE

Quit pulling on my pigtails, Charlie or I will tell on you.
(She turns around and looks at him.)

CHARLIE

Best get used to it, for I will never stop pulling your pigtails.
Why they smell like honey.

DARLENE

Just because my dad owns a honey farm gives you no right to pick on me and call me names.

CHARLIE

Oh, come on now, I just find you a silly ole farm gal that I am

stuck with in this classroom all day.

DARLENE

You stink, Charlie, now Shush! Here comes Ms. Huckberry.
(Ms. Huckberry walks in the classroom carrying
the stick.)

CHARLIE

Oh no, she looks like she is in a bad mood today.

DARLENE

No, she does not. Why just look at her; she has a smile on her
face.

CHARLIE

If you call that a smile, well, my name is Jiminy Cricket .

TEACHER

Okay, kids, get out your walking shoes for I have a very
important assignment for you.

DARLENE

What is that, Ms. Huckberry?

TEACHER

Well, children, it's like this. I want you to learn the ABC's of

helping people, and what better way than to let you all look for my poor lost dog. He went out last night and never returned.

CHARLIE

What do you mean the ABC's? Of what?

DARLENE

Charlie you ask too many questions.

TEACHER

It's like this, Charlie, A stands for the big apple, and B is for big boy, and C is for capture. My dog's name is Pudding Head. He is a black and white mixed hound. Last seen on my back porch, headed to who knows where. Now with that said, class is dismissed.

(Teacher leaves the room)

DARLENE

Boy, Charlie, why are you acting weird and moving your head so much?

(Charlie is shaking his head in a circle and swatting his hands back and forth.)

CHARLIE

Oh, I think that I have a fly on me. Now help me get it off.

DARLENE

Oh, gee, Charlie, can't you do anything anymore?

(She uses her hands to swat at the fly.)
(Darlene hits Charlie in the face.)

CHARLIE

Not so hard. You're going to break my nose.

DARLENE

If I wanted to break your nose, I would. Now shush! So we can hear any barking.

CHARLIE

Hey, do you hear that?

(They both put their hands on their ears to listen.)

DARLENE

Yea, I hear that and it's a cat meowing. Don't you know the difference between a cat meow and a dog bark?

CHARLIE

Well, for your information I do. Listen to this, ha, ha, woof, woof, meow, meow.

(He says in a loud voice)

DARLENE

Quiet now. Why that may scare him off thinking that a cat is nearby.

CHARLIE

Oh, shucks, he's gone, and I don't have time for this. We have been chasing him all night. I have a plan.

DARLENE

What kind of plan, Charlie?

CHARLIE

Okay, look, see that doggie in the window across the street?
(They both put one hand over their eyebrows looking.)

DARLENE

Yes, but that is not her dog. Why that dog is a brown and white dog.

CHARLIE

Don't you get it, Darlene? All we have to do is spray paint the brown spots black and she will never know the difference. You see, I am a genius, hee! hee!
(He rubs his hands over his chest.)

DARLENE

If I didn't know you better, well, I would think that you're the nutty professor.

CHARLIE

Nutty maybe, but professor, no way. Okay now this is what we

will do. See that dog outside of the window tied to that post?

DARLENE

Yea, I see it.

CHARLIE

Okay, we will do a switch. We take the tied up dog and put him in the window and replace him with the brown and white dog, which we will take and spray paint black. Why Ms. Huckberry will never know the difference, hee, hee.

DARLENE

Oh, Charlie, that will never work.

CHARLIE

Oh, yes, it will.

(Dim the lights - new scene)

CHARLIE

Hand me that can of spray paint, Darlene.

DARLENE

Here you go .

(She hands him a can, and another dog puppet.)

CHARLIE

Now that went on good. Let's get him over to Ms. Huckberrys house.

DARLENE

Oh, here she comes now, look!

TEACHER

(walks out)

Hey, you found my dog. Oh poor, Pudding Head. I sure have missed you. But you look so different. You seem thinner and my, oh my, look at your coat. Why it's fading. Poor, poor baby. Mama loves you.

(She kisses the dog. The paint smears unto her face. You can use water and flour and color it black.)

TEACHER

Thank you both so much for finding my dog. You surely are good students.

Hey, what is that barking that I hear? Oh no, it sounds like my little Pudding Head.

CHARLIE

No, Ms. Huckberry, that is just a shadow that you see.

TEACHER

But it is barking at me.

CHARLIE

(Starts coughing real loud)

It's only me coughing, don't you see? Besides here is your dog.

TEACHER

Where?

CHARLIE

Well, you are holding him.

TEACHER

(Teacher holds dog back from her face and takes a good look. She then feels his body where all the spots are.)

I don't believe this.

DARLENE

What don't you believe, Ms. Huckabee?

TEACHER

That you and Charlie have really learned your lesson today. Let me take Pudding Head home now. Thanks so much.
(She walks off with the dog.)

CHARLIE

Boy, that was close. Let's release the dog in the window, replace him with her dog that is over here on the side, and put him back in the window. Hey, wait a minute, my hands are all black after picking him up.

DARLENE

Looks like we got the wrong dog and she really had Pudding Head.

CHARLIE

Yea, how did that happen?

DARLENE

Well, you got me on that one. Now wash your hands before you give us away.

CHARLIE

Did you ever get the feeling that her dog never was really missing?

DARLENE

But why would she tell us to go and see if we could find him?

CHARLIE

I think that it was only a test.

DARLENE

What kind of test, Charlie?

CHARLIE

You know, it was the ABC test she talked about. A for the Big apple, B for big boy, and...

DARLENE

And C for capture.

CHARLIE

Yea, we captured a whole new look with all these black spots on us.

DARLENE

Oh, Charlie, you are too funny.
(They laugh and curtain closes.)

THE END