

Laugh and the World Laughs with You
From the book, "Recitals, Drills and Plays for Children"
By Bertha Irene Tobin (1921)

LENGTH: Five minutes

CHARACTERS:

-Mabel

-2nd Girl

-3rd Girl

SETTING: A city park

(Mabel enters right, laughing. She is dressed in a play dress and is dragging a little toy dog after her. Goes to center, picks up dog, and speaks.)

MABEL:

You're the dearest doggie ever,
Yes, you are.
I love you better than any live one,
Yes, by far.
You cannot bark—bow-wow—I know,
What care I?
If you cannot bark, my doggie, neither
Can you cry. *(Whines.)*
Oh, I'm very happy, doggie *(laughs)*,
Indeed I am.
Come along, we must be going.
Careful, Sam!

(Places dog on floor and starts left. Meets 2nd Girl who is dressed much like the first, and is carrying a rag doll.)

2ND GIRL:

Oh, Mabel, how are you, my dear?
And how's your dog today?
I'm very glad I met you here
As you went upon your way.

MABEL:

Yes, I'm glad to have met you, too,
Of course I am. *(Picks up dog again.)*
Don't you bark so at that dolly,
Naughty Sam! *(Barks.)*
You aren't very nice now, are you?
You be good. *(Slaps dog.)*
I'd hate to have to slap again,
Indeed, I would!
(To 2nd Girl) You have such a nice new dolly,

She's a dear.
Oh, no, he won't bite your dolly,
Never fear.

2ND GIRL:

Yes, I love her very much,
She is so good to me.
And I do not care one bit because
She is not a raging beauty.
At first I cried 'cause she was rag,
When I wanted a nice one so!
But I quit crying when Mother told me
It was better to laugh, you know.

MABEL:

What did she say about laughing?
I'd like to know.
I can laugh. I try to. But sometimes it's
Hard, you know.

2ND GIRL:

Why, she said that when I laughed,
The other girls would laugh, too.
And she said that if I cried
They wouldn't like me though.
For that the ones who liked to laugh
Made more friends every day;
But no one liked the ones who cried,
So crying didn't pay.

MABEL:

I like that kind of talk, I'm sure.
Indeed I do.
Come, let us walk. You are a happy girl,
I like you!

(They exit left as 3rd Girl enters right. She is dressed in a party frock, and is pushing a doll's go-cart, with a lovely doll in it. She stubs her toe and nearly falls, begins to cry, and throws herself on floor.)

3RD GIRL:

I hate every one of them, I do.
Nurse, she's mean to me.
Made me dress in my best clothes,
And go to that old party.
What do I care for parties?

I don't want to go.
And I won't. I'll show them
That they can't boss me so. (*Cries angrily.*)

MABEL: (*Entering left with 2nd Girl.*)
Yes, it's to be a big party
Lots of fun.
Sometimes I wish that I could go,
Just to one. (*Wistfully.*)
But I'm just not a-going to cry.
Not a bit!
For what good would crying do me?
Not a whit! (*Laughs.*)

2ND GIRL:
No, it would not help a little,
Little, tiny, tiny bit.
If we'd cry they wouldn't
Invite us to it.
Guess we haven't got the dresses
That it takes to go.
But some way I don't care so much,
Since I met you though.

MABEL: (*Starting forward.*)
Why, what's the matter here?
Why, my dear,
Whatever could have happened to
Cause that tear?

3RD GIRL: (*Jerking away.*)
Let me alone. You cannot help.
And I don't want you here with me.
I'm crying because I don't want to go
To that old mean party. (*Cries louder.*)

2ND GIRL: (*Looks at her with disgust.*)
Come on, let's go away from her,
A touch-me-not is she.
It's just as Mother said about the crying.
Come on, and let her be.

MABEL:
Oh, no, that would not be right at all.
So I'll stay.
And see if I can't help her a little

In some way.
Listen, little girl, and I'll tell you a joke;
Listen to me.
You are crying because you must go
To that party.
(3rd Girl looks up but keeps on crying.)
And this little girl and I would
Like to go
To a party very much. But we
Aren't crying though.
We just laugh, and play with her doll—
See, it's a rag,—
And my puppy—it isn't real—but we
All play tag.
And we forget about the party where
We couldn't go.
And we laugh instead of crying,
It's better so.

3RD GIRL: *(Interested.)*
Oh, don't you ever cry?

(Mabel makes her dog bark at 2nd Girl's doll. 3rd Girl laughs.)

2ND GIRL: *(As she and Mabel help 3rd Girl up and straighten her dress.)*
My, what a pretty, pretty dress.
You ought to laugh, you see.
How could you ever cry like that
In all this finery?

3RD GIRL:
I do feel better, thank you.
I didn't want to go,
But they made me. I must hustle
Or I will be late though. *(Laughs.)*
That's a funny little doggie,
And you're funny girlies, too.
'Cause you laugh instead of crying.
Guess I'll try to be like you.
(Claps her hands.)
Oh, I know what we will do.
I'll have a little party.
You bring that doggie and that dolly,
Tomorrow afternoon at three,
To my house and we'll all play
And be happy. Come, won't you?

Nurse won't care. And Mother
Will be glad to help me, too.
Oh, I'm so glad I met you girls.
I'll laugh now instead of cry.
Don't forget to come tomorrow.
(Pats dog and laughs.)
Dear little girls, goodbye *(Exits left.)*

MABEL:

Oh, I'm glad she is so happy,
Aren't you?
And we are going to a party
Just we two. *(Claps hands.)*

2ND GIRL:

Oh, I'm glad my mother taught me
It's better to laugh than to cry.
'Cause laughing made her ask us to her house.
See you tomorrow, then. Goodbye!

(One girl exits right and the other left. At entrance they turn and throw kisses at each other, then run off.)

CURTAIN