

THE STORY OF THREE HATS
(ONE ACT PLAY)

Characters: **Old Man / Narrator**
 Little Hat
 Son
 Ms. Hat
 Mr. Hat
 Old Wise Lady

Scene 1. Old Man and Son are sitting on a porch front. Son is on the step and Old Man is in a chair.

Old Man: "There comes a time, my boy, in the life of every hat that the ways of the hats must be passed on to others. This is your time. There are some things you must learn in order to carry out the role of a covering. Never forget what I am about to say because it is of the utmost importance."

"I shall tell you about three different hats; each one is a type of people found in the world. They think that small difference, which are shades of the same thing, make them superior to others. Rather than seeing themselves as humankind, with more in common than they differ, too many have bought

in to the big lie that skin color, how much one knows, the amount of money one has or the position one holds in society, ought to drive relationships. It is our job to teach the true meaning of living.

"They had the right idea long ago when they spoke of brotherhood. The golden rule: 'Do unto others as you would have them do unto you,' was and still is a mighty fine proverb. The problem is, people have redefined the golden rule to focus on the gold. And now, 'the one with the gold rules,' is the new meaning of that rule. Some of our hats have learned bad ways. Beware of them. Hear my words in The Story of Three Hats, for they are wise words."

(Lights go dim, scene changes, and lights come back on.)

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Scene 2. Store front window where Mr. Hat, Little Hat, and Ms. Hat can be seen. As Narrator begins speaking, Mr. Hat gets up, goes to the back of the store where Little Hat is and begins to look at himself in the mirror. Admiring himself and acting out the words of the Narrator. Little Hat and Ms. Hat just look on - shaking their head from time to time.

Narrator: “Mr. Hat believes that the joys of the world cannot be compared to the joys he can give. Why, he has covered the heads of kings, queens, ambassadors and celebrities around the globe. He has the one quality that all other hats lack - STYLE. The leader of the hats must be stylish.”

Mr. Hat: “I am a proud hat with much to boast about. When you have the reputation that I have, it is not easy to sit on the sideline. Flaunt it, my boy! Flaunt it so that all might see. A person should do what he or she it best suited for. Cover, my boy! Cover. That is what I am best at. My calling is to serve as a covering.”

“Understand, bragging is not what I do. For I am merely stating the truth. Always speak the truth, because

the truth will set you free. Remember that.”

Narrator: *(While Narrator speak, Mr. Hat is still speaking to Little Hat and carrying on about his wonderful talent without the audience hearing him.)* “The quiet Little Hat sat in the corner listening to Mr. Hat. He wondered why he was so full of boasting. He thought to himself, 'I, too, am a covering and enjoy my work just as much. But flaunting it is just not my cup of tea.' See, Little Hat was the reserved quiet type - but not the shy type. He just never wanted to be the center of attention. He likes to sit behind the scenes and observe. The back of the store was his place. He could see all and therefore knew all. He was the hat with the 411.”

(Other hats in the store are asking Little Hat different things - one by one as the Narrator speaks.) “Some hats would check him out to find out the latest on other hats, especially Mr. Hat. He could be counted on to drop a few juicy morsels of gossip to the local press. One story hit the streets about Mr. Hat's gambling problem. He so often lost large sums of money at the track and would lie about his losses - even to his wife. And being the bearer of all news, good or bad, everyone thought that Little Hat was the source beyond a doubt. The story was given

with much detail that the finger had to pointed to Little Hat as the one. But it could not be proven. Eventually Mr. Hat and Little Hat had a falling out over the story and they stopped speaking for a while, a long while.”

(Lights dim out, scene changes, lights come back on.)

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Scene 3. Before lights come back on, put "dust" on all the hats. Hats are in the same place as in the beginning of Scene 2. Place BANKRUPT sign some where on the scene.

Narrator: “Seeing the situation from the sidelines, Ms. Hat decided to take action now before the store would close and all the hats would be given to various street vendors. She saw this as an opportunity to get on the good side of Mr. Hat and Little Hat and would therefore make her popular. Before this time she was not considered to be in their league. Ms. Hat surveyed the situation and decided to act as a mediator between the two parties.” *(Ms. Hat begins taking notes of the attitudes Mr. Hat and Little Hat towards each other, writing on a small pad.)*

“She went to Mr. Hat first. *(Ms. Hat and Mr. Hat act out words spoken by Narrator.)* She told him that she had talked to Little Hat and that Little Hat felt badly about the way the two of them had been behaving toward each other for the past few years. She told him that Little Hat wanted to be friends again but was afraid to face him.”

“She then approached Little Hat and told him that Mr. Hat had asked her to come to him about making up. (*Ms. Hat and Little Hat act out words spoken by Narrator.*) She said to Little Hat that Mr. Hat was such a proud one that he was not able to face him. She went on feeding Little Hat with information that she knew Little Hat wanted to hear. In the end, Little Hat said that he would consider the matter.”

“Ms. Hat then returned to Mr. Hat with the news that Little Hat would acknowledge his faults before all regarding the wrong done to Mr. Hat.”

Ms. Hat: “Excuse me, Mr. Hat, I spoke to Little Hat about the incident that happened three years ago. He feels very sorry about it. You to have been friends for so long to let anything come between that. He has agreed to make a mends. He is willing to make a formal apologize to you before all. He truly misses your friendship.”

Mr. Hat: “Ms. Hat, you're an angel. I thank you very much for taking it upon yourself to see that old friends remain as such. I have much respect for you now.” (*Ms. Hat leaps with joy and does a little dance of excitement. Then suddenly stops with a look of bewilderment. Saying quietly to herself, 'How will I*

get Little Hat to publicly acknowledge his faults?)

Narrator: (*As lights are dimming and scene is changing ...*) “Ms. Hat had a week of sleepless nights. She could not figure out how to get Little Hat to speak before a group and , moreover, acknowledge his faults regarding the matter with Mr. Hat. Being so confused and frustrated on the matter, she decided to go to a wise old lady for advice.”

(Lights dim out, scene changes, lights come back on.)

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Scene 4. At Wise Old Lady's place.

Ms. Hat: "I know that you are known for your ability to help people who are in trouble, especially the local police with their difficult crime scenes. Now, I need your help."

Old Lady: "What can I do for you, my child? Tell me your problems and I shall give you all the answers."

(The two continue to speak without the audience hearing them. The audience can only hear the Narrator.)

Narrator: "Every time Ms. Hat asked a question, the wise old lady put out her hand for payment. This may have happened at least ten times. Ms. Hat paid out more than she was willing; but when she thought of what she would gain when the two enemies would make up, she decided that it was well worth it. After giving the wise old lady her last dollar, she hurried home to put the plan into action."

"Later that day, Little Hat met Ms. Hat at a previously agreed upon place. She told him that a well-known

newspaper had contacted her to serve as guest writer for their society column."

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Scene 5.

Ms. Hat: "Off the record, what do you think Mr. Hat should say to you in order to make up for the differences between the two of you?"

Narrator: "What Little Hat did not know was that Ms. Hat was recording the entire conversation."

Little Hat: "Well, let's see. Mr. Hat should say, 'I am sorry for the pain and anguish I have caused all who have had to suffer due to my foolish actions. In the future, I hope to do better, being more aware of the feelings of others and seeking to maintain the friendship of those I have known so long.'"

Narrator: "The meeting lasted for two hours, but only the words of Little Hat's acknowledgment of his faults hit the air. Although Mr. Hat was pleased, Little Hat was devastated. When he saw how he had been tricked into speaking before a group, the hate he had for Mr. Hat transferred to Ms. Hat. Now Mr. Hat

and Little Hat are on speaking terms, though from the vendor's rack. As for Ms. Hat, Little Hat refuses to say another word to her.”

(Ms. Hat has moved to the back of the store and Little Hat has taken her place, closer to Mr. Hat.)

