

The Dragon and the Safety Officer by Cath Howe

My Empathy Short is a duologue; a short playscript for two characters. This is great for exploring Empathy; the two characters are so different and begin to understand each other.

Try swapping parts or learning by heart. Change voices. Add props and costumes. I'd love to see the finished product!

Characters: Safety officer (A), Dragon (B)

Costumes: Safety officer – uniform and badge. Dragon – tail to swish

Stage directions in **purple**.

(Dragon blows into the air. Safety officer runs up.)

A Stop! What are you doing?

B **(quietly)** Nothing.

A That's a lie. I must report you. **(gets out notebook)** Time: 9 am. Place: Richmond Road, The Pig and Bucket pub.

B Please don't!

A There's customers...dogs. If you do that again, I will spray you with my portable fire extinguisher

B Not the spray!

A Yes, the spray. Fire in an enclosed space. It's a huge risk!

B It was only a little flicker...

A It's completely forbidden. You've singed my eyebrows. Could've caused a major incident; fire engines, the lot.

B **(sadly)** It's what Mum and Dad taught me. I must practise every day. If I can't make a flame, I won't get into dragon school.

A Buy a box of matches?

B I have to make fire. It's who I am.

A Well, I have to check for safety. And you are NOT SAFE!

B No...I understand. Sorry. Can I swish my tail?

A If you're careful.

B Can I roar?

A No.

B Just a small one?

A No.

B It's not easy being a dragon.

A It's not easy being a safety officer. I could lose my job if I let you...light up.

B I like your jacket..and the badge

A Ten years in the job. Yes, it's a great badge.

(Silence.)

B Who are those children over there?

A Sea Scouts. It's their annual barbecue. Soon they'll be sailing down the river in their boats.

B I don't like rivers. All that water. Makes me nervous.

A Oh, yeah, I suppose it would.

B I don't know what to do. I have to make fire. (sighs) Could I come to the Sea Scout barbecue? Are they friendly?

A They're a great lot.

B And...do they cook their food on a fire?

A Yes. The barbecue's over there. All ready.

B They haven't lit it yet... (excited)

A Calm down. (sighs...thinks) OK, you can do it.

B Oh wow! Oh wow!

A You must go slowly... gently...we have to be able to eat the food.

(collects a sausage) See this sausage, let's practise...Not too fast...

(Dragon does huge blowing and puffing. Safety officer holds the sausage a long way from Dragon's mouth)

Good...tiny flame...think of blowing on a candle...You can do this.

(Dragon does small gentle breaths and they both study the sausage)

Beautifully cooked. That was great!

I think we could get you a job at the pub....you could light the ovens every day.

B A job...really? (Dragon leaps around with wide-open mouth) Thank you! thank you!!!

A Calm down...singd my eyebrows again.

B Sorry. (they both grin) I'm so glad you came to tell me off!

#ReadForEmpathy



#EmpathyDay