

A one-act dramatic play
**The Clever Boy and the Terrible,
Dangerous Animal**
by Idries Shah



CAST

Narrator 1

Narrator 2

Narrator 3

The Clever Boy

The Clever Boy's Mother

The Crowd of People

The Man (in the Crowd)

A person in the Crowd

Props: A VERY large watermelon

A "knife" – perhaps a plastic knife, wooden stick or cardboard cutout (small enough to fit in a pocket)

Little seeds (could use something like coffee beans)

Water pail or pitcher

The Script

Narrator 1: Once upon a time there was a very clever boy who lived in a village.

Narrator 2: Nearby was another village that he had never visited.

Narrator 3: When he was old enough to be allowed to go about on his own, he thought he would like to see the other village. So one day, he asked his mother...

The Clever Boy: May I go and see the other village?

The Clever Boy's Mother: Yes, as long as you look both ways before you cross the road. You must be very careful!

Narrator 1: The boy agreed and set off at once.

Narrator 2: When he got to the side of the road, he looked both ways. And because there was nothing coming, he knew he could cross safely.

Narrator 3: And that's just what he did.

Narrator 1: Then he skipped down the road towards the other village.

Narrator 2: Just outside that village he came upon a crowd of people who were standing in a field, and he went up to them to see what they were doing. As he drew near, he heard...

The Crowd of People [*looking frightened*]: Oooo...Ahhh...Ohhh!

The Clever Boy [*going up to one of the men in the crowd*]: Why are you saying 'Oooo' and 'Ahhh' and 'Ohhh,' and why are you all so frightened?

The Man: Oh dear me! There is a terrible, dangerous animal in this field, and we are all very frightened because it might attack us!

The Clever Boy [*looking around*]: Where is the terrible, dangerous animal?

The Crowd of People: Oh! Be careful! Be careful!

The Clever Boy: Where is the terrible, dangerous animal?

Narrator 3: And so the people pointed to the middle of the field. And when the boy looked where they pointed, he saw a very large ...

All of the Narrators: WATERMELON!

The Clever Boy [*laughing*]: That's not a terrible, dangerous animal!

The Crowd of People: Yes, it is! It is! Keep away! It might bite you!

Narrator 1: Now the boy saw that these people were very silly indeed, so he said to them

The Clever Boy: I'll go and kill this dangerous animal for you.

The Crowd of People: No, no! It's too terrible! It's too dangerous! It might bite you! Oooo! Ahhh! Ohhh!

Narrator 2: But the boy went right up to the watermelon...

Narrator 3: took a knife out of his pocket...

Narrator 1: and cut a large slice out of it.

All of the Narrators: The people were astonished.

The Crowd of People [*with astonished looks on their faces*]: What a brave boy! He's killed the terrible, dangerous animal!

Narrator 2: As they spoke, the boy took a bite out of the large slice of watermelon.

The Clever Boy: This tastes delicious!

The Crowd of People: Look! Now he's eating the terrible, dangerous animal! He must be a terrible, dangerous boy!

Narrator 3: As the boy walked away from the middle of the field, waving his knife and eating the watermelon, the people ran away.

The Crowd of People [*running away from the boy*]: Don't attack us, you terrible, dangerous boy. Keep away!

Narrator 1: At this the boy laughed again.

[*The Clever Boy laughs long and hard.*]

All of the Narrators: He laughed and laughed and laughed.

Narrator 2: And then the people wondered why he was laughing, so they crept back.

The Crowd of People [*creeping back, in timid voices*]: What are you laughing at?

The Clever Boy: You're such a silly lot of people. You don't know that what you call a dangerous animal is just a watermelon. Watermelons are very nice to eat. We've got lots of them in our village...and everyone eats them.

Narrator 3: Then the people became interested.

Someone in the Crowd: Well, how do we get watermelons?

The Clever Boy: You take the seeds out of a watermelon and you plant them like this.

[*The Clever Boy puts a few seeds in the ground.*]

The Clever Boy [*with the water pail or pitcher*]: Then you give them water and look after them. And after a while, lots and lots of watermelons will grow from the seeds.

Narrator 1: So the people did what the boy showed them.

Narrator 2: And now, in all the fields of that village, they have lots, and lots, and lots of watermelons.

Narrator 3: They sell some...

Narrator 1: and they eat some...

Narrator 2: and they give some away.

Narrator 3: And that's why their village is called...

All of the Narrators: Watermelon Village.

Narrator 1: And just think. It all happened because...

Narrator 2: a clever boy was not afraid when a lot of silly people...

Narrator 3: thought something was dangerous...

All of the Cast: just because they had never seen it before.

THE END