

## HEIRLOOM

by CHARLIE JONES

**GENRE:** Drama

**SYNOPSIS:** This touching sketch is split into two scenes: one contemporary, one a flashback. In both scenes, a mother and daughter argue about the mother asserting her parental authority and keeping the daughter from doing as she pleases. While each daughter calls her mother a “grouch” and a “meanie,” by the end, each learns that her mother’s actions are driven by love. This is an excellent script for Mother’s Day.

**DIRECTOR’S TIP:** Don’t worry about making the set elaborate. Suggestions of Jill’s bedroom and Beanie’s childhood home are all the audience needs—a few chairs pushed together to suggest a bed, with some pillows thrown around for “atmosphere.” And instead of making Maw-Maw and Beanie like Carol and Cindy Brady, let them be real people, just like Mom and Jill, only from 30 years ago.

**TIME:** Over 5 minutes

**CAST BREAKDOWN:** 4

**TOPIC:** Parenting

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** Proverbs 23:22, Isaiah 66:13

**CHURCH YEAR SEASON:** Any

**SUGGESTED USE:** Mother’s Day

**CHARACTERS:**

Mom ~ A young mother

Jill ~ Age 5 or 6

Maw-Maw ~ A 1970s mom

Beanie ~ Age 9 or 10 (in the 1970s)

**PROPS:** 1) Book of children’s stories  
2) Dress for Beanie  
3) Books for Reader’s Theater ending

**COSTUMES:** Contemporary clothing, appropriate to character and time period (i.e., Maw-Maw and Beanie should wear 1970s style clothing)

**SOUND:** Four wireless mics

**LIGHTING:** General stage

**SETTING:** Stage left: contemporary home; stage right: 1970s home

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*The stage should be set for two scenes: a contemporary setting stage left and the flash-back scene stage right. Lighting can be used to focus the audience on one scene or the other. If lighting is not available, the actors should freeze when it is not their scene. Stage left: MOM is reading to JILL, who is on her lap.*

**MOM:** “The poppa bear said, *(in a deep voice:)* ‘Somebody’s been sitting in my chair.’ And the momma bear said, *(in a high voice:)* ‘Somebody’s been sitting in my chair.’ And the baby bear said, *(in a baby voice:)* ‘Somebody’s been sitting in my chair and they broke it!’” *(To JILL)* See, there’s the baby bear? And the momma?

**JILL:** Yeah. And there’s the poppa bear.

**MOM:** That’s right. *(Using deep voice:)* He’s got a big voice like this.

**JILL:** Mom, what was it like when you were a little girl?

**MOM:** Oh, probably not much different than it is now. Why?

**JILL:** Did you have a mommy?

**MOM:** Of course I had a mommy. Maw-maw is my mother. You didn’t know that?

**JILL:** Is that why she calls you Beanie?

**MOM:** Yeah, that’s why she calls me Beanie. Just like I call you Jilly Bean.

**JILL:** But why does she call you Beanie?

**MOM:** Well, when I was a little girl—about your age—she called me Jeanie-Beanie. But then she shortened it to Beanie.

**JILL:** Was Maw-Maw mean to you?

**MOM:** Mean to me? No, Maw-Maw wasn’t mean to me. Why?

**JILL:** So she wasn’t mean to you like you are to me?

**MOM:** I’m not mean to you. What makes you say that?

**JILL:** Well, you made me stop watching TV after Sesame Street.

**MOM:** Oh, so you think that was me being mean to you, huh?

*MOM and JILL FREEZE. Stage right: MAW-MAW has her back to audience. BEANIE UN-FREEZES.*