

Peacock Elementary School, Happy Valley - Goose Bay

presents

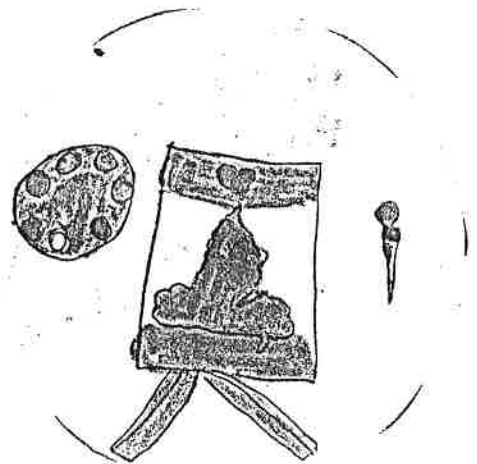
"STICK WITH IT"

CAST

Johnny
Narrator
George
Boss
Secretary
Child
Child
Wife
Singers

Pianist
Writers

Jason Urquhart
Morgan Foley
Michael Fleet
Kelly Whitty
Kate Lucas
Alison Lucas
Cathy Devenny
Shavonne Brown
Valerie Brown
Samantha LeBlanc
Crista Parsons
Tanya Hamel
Sandy Cox
Tara McLean
Joni Hunt
Kate Lucas
Kelly Whitty
Michael Fleet
Natalie Burden
Cathy McNeill



Amy Bernard
Peacock Elementary School
Happy Valley - Goose Bay

TEACHER ADVISOR

Denise Blackmore

The cast would like to thank Mrs. Deborah Watkins and her class for their time and patience and for giving the cast some insight into a world where the written word has no meaning.



Chris Hynes
St. Michael's School
Happy Valley - Goose Bay

Stick With It

by Peacock Elementary School

Written By: Kate Lucas
Michael Fleet
Kelly Whitty
Cassie McNeil
Natalie Burden

Stick With It

You've never spoken with a pen
and words all look the same.
Your a b c's are make believe
but you are not to blame

Chorus

Stick with it, stick with it
You need an education today
'cause computers and technology
are leading the way.
Stick with it, stick with it.

The words upon the written page
never speak to you.
And you stare at the letters
never knowing what to do.

Chorus

You really wear your cover well,
a shadow casts over you.
Tell yourself you're not to blame
for you are talented to.

Chorus

Hiding the truth is a part of you
It's become a part of you.
You know they'll all find out one day
then what are you to do?

Chorus

Play begins with music - stage is black - music fades and lights slowly come up on scene. Kids are singing along with taped music. sound of music fades, kids keep singing until lights come up.

Scene 1

(In the classroom) Kids are teasing as they enter the scene.

Johnny, Johnny is still in grade four
Cause he doesn't know what books are for
He's six feet tall and he sits in the back
The teacher ignores him 'cause he's so slack.

Teacher: Johnny, how did you possibly get 96% on your spelling test?

Johnny: Well, I studied hard last night, miss.

Teacher: Mmm, let me see your hands. Let me have a look around your desk. Maybe, I suppose it's possible but we'll know the truth for sure when you study hard for next week's test, won't we?

Lights out on scene, up on narrator. (Spot.)

Johnny: I was in grade four, for the third time. You see, I wasn't as privileged as the majority of the other kids in my grade, and i just kept getting pushed back. Eventually I got pushed far enough and decided that school wasn't that important anyway. I mean, that made perfect sense because where we lived a fellow could go fishing or logging, and a girl, well, she was only gonna get married anyway. so what in the world would we need schooling for? So anyway, I quit and I never did learn how to read, which was fine until...

Lights out on narrator, up on Scene 2.

Scene 2

Johnny and his friend George is on the telephone.

George: Is Johnny there please?

Johnny: Speaking.

George: Johnny, this is George.

Johnny: Oh, hi George, what's up?

George: Hey man, I got great news. They're looking for fellows down at the docks to load the cargo on and off the boats, are you interested or what?

Johnny: Yes, bye, of course I'm interested. What have I got to do?

George: Well, you've got to go over to the town hall and fill out an application form, and then bring the form down to the foreman at the docks. His name is Clayton Simms.

Johnny: Gee whiz, George bye, how am I gonna do that?

George: Use the old trick, my son, you knows that trick. Never fails.

Lights out, up on singers. They are singing the verse with "The words upon the written page".

Johnny: (As narrator) Now, it's important to note here that George and me were buddies since birth. We grew up right next door to each other and there was very little that we didn't know one about the other. Needless to say I had encountered the same type of situation before, and between me and George we were always able to figure something out.

Scene 3

Johnny walks into the town office. Seated is the secretary and he walks up to her.

Johnny: Excuse me, ma'am. I'm told there's jobs awaitin' down on the docks and I'd like to fill out one of those application form things.

Secretary: Certainly, sir, but may I ask first what happened to your hand?

Johnny: Oh yes, ma'am, I had an accident, see, I was trying to fix one of the window panes in my father's house and put me hand right through the window. Yes sir, ma'am, I got some serious deep cuts underneath this bandage. But the doctor says it'll only be another day or two and I'll be able to do the usual. Oh no, don't think this small injury is gonna keep me from working, ma'am. But I do have to ask you one small favour - do you 'spose that if I gives you my information you could fill it in on the form for me?

Secretary: Sure, no problem.

Lights down, up on singers. Verse with "You really wear your cover well".

Johnny: (As Narrator) So, as you can see, I had it all figured out as to how to cover myself and how to not ever get into a situation where I would have to read. After all,

as I got older, it got embarrassing if people found out I couldn't understand the words on the page. But even though George and me had things pretty well figured out, there would be the odd occasion when I would be caught off guard.

Scene 4

Boss comes on stage while Johnny is loading things onto the boat. (Black crates can work here as cargo.)

Boss: Johnny, I received a memo today from the head office in Ottawa concerning the idea of forming a union. I would like for you to read it over and let me know before 2:00 what you think.

Johnny takes the memo, says thanks and begins to read the French side of the paper.)

Boss: Gee, Johnny, nobody ever told me that you were able to read in French. What's going on here?

Lights down, up on singers.

Johnny: (As Narrator) So, as you can see, there is gonna come a time when your inability will be discovered. Up until that moment, anything that I was supposed to read or write upon would be handed over to my old buddy George and he would do it for me. I always bought him a beer or something and we'd consider it even. Well, it wasn't long after that incident that I was getting married, and of course now I figured I had it made because I would be with someone who loved me dearly, and of course would do anything for me. Marriage would be the perfect place to hide my problem because now I had a wife to bail me out of trouble.

Scene 5

Johnny is at home with two children. His wife is not at home with them.

Johnny: Ok, kids, it's time for bed. Go brush your teeth, put on your pyjamas and then hop into bed. I'll come up in five minutes to make sure that you are alright.

Child 1: Oh dad, please, can you read to us tonight?

Johnny: Sorry darling, but I'm really too busy tonight. Perhaps your mother will be home in time, she'll read to you then. She's best at reading stories anyway. Go on now, get ready for bed.

Johnny watches to make sure they are gone and then picks up the telephone.

Johnny: Louise, do you think you can be home in about ten minutes? The children are asking me to read that story to them and I told them that you'd be home soon to do it for me. Thanks darling, you're a doll. I love you.

Lights down. Up on singers. Verse "You've never spoken"

Johnny: (As Narrator) Well, this was the last straw. When I realized that I was never going to be able to read to my children was when I realized I had to do something about my situation. After all, what were my children going to think when they found out that I couldn't read. I certainly couldn't hide the fact that some day it was going to happen.

So, I went back to school. Well, not immediately, of course. It took me two months to really convince myself that this was my only solution, and then another two months to find out where I could go to learn to read and then another two months to find the courage to go there and actually enrol into a program. However, I did it and my only thoughts now are, why didn't I do this sooner. What problems I could have saved myself. For the first time in my life I understand that not being able to read has nothing to do with intelligence and that I had nothing to be ashamed of all along.

(Looks out at audience) Hey, if there is anybody out there who thinks he's gonna make it in the world of computers and advanced technology without an education, think twice, and stick to it because our world has changed and there are no jobs left where you can hide an inability to read and write.

The End