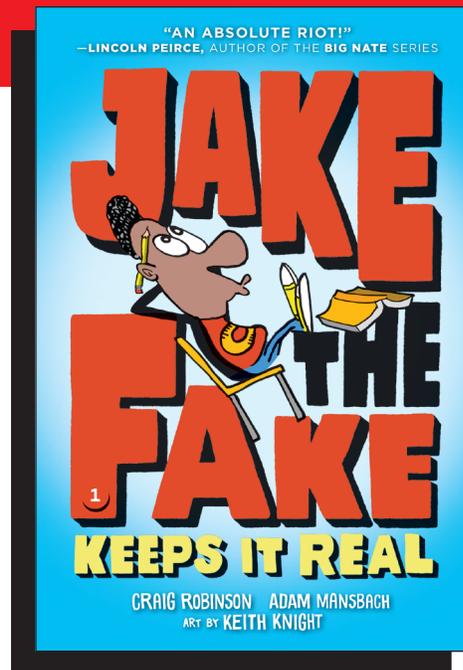


Booktalk!

Jake the Fake Keeps It Real Script

For this Book Talk you will need

- 1 actor (Jake)
- Jake: flannel pants/pajama bottoms, t-shirt
- Additional props: floor mat (to simulate bed), blanket, pillow, flashlight, copy of *Jake the Fake Keeps It Real*



Jake: *(lying in 'bed' centrestage, with the lights dimmed; Jake propping himself up on one elbow & speaking to audience, sounding nervous)*

So tomorrow's my first day of sixth grade, at the Music and Art Academy. *(pausing momentarily)* That's a BIG deal because it's a school for gifted kids. You even have to do an audition and everything *(pausing)*...in front of a panel of judges! And... *(hesitating)* well...I faked my way in.

Jake: *(pausing)* See, for MY audition I played "Song for My Father" on the piano – a song I've played seventeen gazillion times, give or take...and I play it REALLY well. *(pausing briefly)* My older sister Lisa – who normally acts like I don't even exist – actually wanted to help. She warned me ahead of time about all the sneaky, tricky stuff the judges were going to do... So I listened since (a.) she's a senior, (b.) she gets straight A's and (c.) well *(pausing)*, she basically knows everything there is to know about Music and Art Academy. And I actually aced it! ALL the judges clapped at the end... *(pausing thoughtfully)* though I'm sure they clap for every kid.

Jake: *(sitting up in bed)* But here's the thing: "Song for My Father" is the ONLY song I can really play! And, at some point – *(speaking as an aside)* unless the entire middle school curriculum consists of playing "Song for My Father" over and over – they're going to realize that I'm not such a great pianist! *(pausing)* I don't read music that well... *(pausing)* I can't really improvise... *(pausing)* Oh, and playing the piano? Not really my thing!

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Jake:

(pausing) So how do I think I'm going to survive at this school, you're wondering? *(nodding lightly)* That's a GOOD question. *(sounding dejected)* And it's PROBABLY going to keep me up all night! If you want to see what happens next, *(holding up copy of Jake the Fake Keeps It Real)*, you need to look for *Jake the Fake Keeps It Real* – it's at your Scholastic Book Fair.