



Proudly Presents

**HEADS UP, OFF,  
WHATEVER:**  
AN ORAL BOOK REPORT  
ON MARIE ANTOINETTE  
**WRITTEN BY GREGORY T. BURNS**

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# **HEADS UP, OFF, WHATEVER:** AN ORAL BOOK REPORT ON MARIE ANTOINETTE

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**Characters:**

**Tabitha**, a young girl

**Sister Stein**, a substitute teacher

**Lori**, a young girl

**Paula**, a young girl

**Bethany**, a young girl

**Jennifer**, a young girl

**Clara**, a young girl

**Location:** A Classroom at St. Mary's Sacred Heart Lady of the Madonna and Lourdes Academy

**Tabitha:** (*Finishing her book report*) ...And The Jonas Brothers' lives were never the same. And that's why they don't like the films, *Orca*, *Free Willy*, *Free Willy 2: The Adventure Home*, *Free Willy 3: The Rescue*, or the book, *Moby Dick*. The End.

**Sister Stein:** (*Applauding*) You did a wonderful job, Tabitha. Thank you for that *very* informative oral book report.

**Tabitha:** You're welcome, Sister Stein.

**Sister Stein:** I had no idea The Jonas Brothers had all *three* been swallowed by a *whale*. (*Pauses to let Tabitha's book report sink in*) Girls, I can't thank you enough for these wonderful oral book reports. (*Beat*) As your permanent substitute teacher for the rest of this semester, I'm sure all of you remember—though I frequently don't—that I've never fully recovered from my chronic case of...oh, yes, *amnesia*. (*Beat*) These oral book reports are filling my brain with all *sorts* of useful information that—after the amnesia, well—I simply *forgot*. In a way, you girls have become *my* teacher, and I must say—we've certainly heard about some interesting people today, haven't we? Lori presented an oral book report titled, Miley Cyrus: Disney Princess Gone Wild.

**Lori:** Oh, and I forgot to add that Miley's behavior has had a crushing effect on her dad, Billy Ray. (*Beat*) It's given him an *Achy Breaky Heart*.

**Sister Stein:** (*Sincerely*) And that breaks mine. (*Beat*) You girls have no idea how much your parents worry about all of you... (*Looking down at her list*) And Paula gave us a report she called,

Harry Potter, the Silky Smooth Boy Who Likes to Smoke. (*Beat*)

Are you sure all of your information is correct, Paula? I mean, come on. We're talking about Harry Potter here.

**Paula:** I'm positive, Sister Stein. The Internet said that Harry Potter was hooked on his (*Using a short 'o' on the syllable, pot*) pot-ions.

**Sister Stein:** Paula, do you think the article might have read *potions*?

**Paula:** No, Sister, the word '*pot*' was at the end of a line, and then there was a *hyphen*. Then after that, it said '*ions*' at the beginning of the next line. And I also read on the Internet that you can get *hooked* on pot. So I put the two and two together. Now, I'm sure of it. Harry Potter's name has a double meaning.

**Sister Stein:** Well, I can't tell you girls how blessed I am that your principal chose to hire me after Mr. Clump's sudden departure, but the school needs a handicapped teacher to make its quota—and here I am—a substitute teacher who is now part of an exemplary school like St. Mary's Sacred Heart Lady of the Madonna and Lourdes Academy, where we pride ourselves on guiding young impressionable girls—and at the same time—letting them flourish and grow with the all of the wonders of new technology. (*Checking the clock*) Oh, and our clock's not working, but I think we have time for one more presentation before lunch. Let's see. Who hasn't gone yet? (*Looking at her roll*) Bethany? Would you like to go next?

**Bethany:** Sure, Sister Stein, but my oral book report's a little different. Is that okay?

**Sister Stein:** Why certainly it's all right, but how is yours different? Didn't you pick a famous person or persons?

**Bethany:** Yes, Sister Stein, but everyone else picked people in the movies or on TV or on the radio. (*Pause*) I picked Marie Antoinette.

**Sister Stein:** My goodness, you chose Marie Antoinette? That's certainly an interesting choice. What made you choose her?

**Bethany:** Well, you know how our other teacher showed us that beheading video from the Internet—the one that happened overseas? Well, the other girls and I haven't been able to stop