

WOMAN What money?

RON What do you mean, 'What money?' The money in this bank, of course!

WOMAN I'm sorry, this is not a bank. This is a library.

RON What did you say – a library?

WOMAN That's right. People come here to borrow books. We don't have any money here.

RON Er, you don't have any money . . . Oh dear! . . . Sid! Sid!

SID What? Have you got the money?

RON There isn't any money. It's not a bank, Sid. We're not in a bank. This is a library!

SID A library?

RON That's right. They've only got books – lots and lots of books!

SID Books? Well, get some of those, then. We must take something, or Harry's going to be angry.

RON (To the woman) Give me lots of books!

WOMAN Have you got a library card?

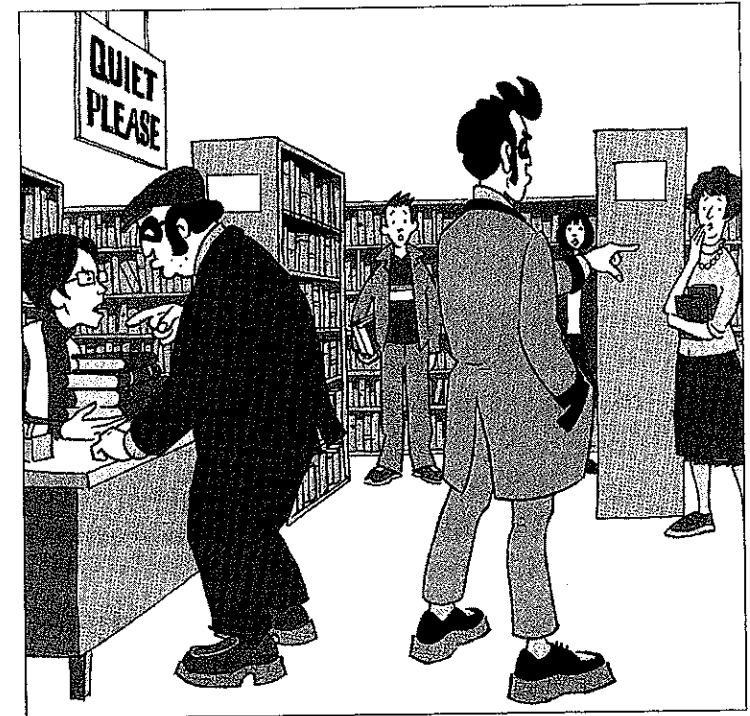
RON A card? No, I haven't.

WOMAN I'm sorry, you can't borrow books without a library card.

RON Look, you don't understand, we're not *borrowing* books, we're *stealing* them!

WOMAN I'm sorry, but you can't do that.

RON Sid, we can't steal books, she says.



'Have you got a library card?'

SID I've got a gun. Tell her that!

RON My friend's got a gun and he knows how to shoot!

WOMAN Look, it's not a problem. I can give you and your friend a library card. Then you can borrow the books and not steal them. What are your names?

RON Oh, all right. I'm Ronald Savage, and he's Sidney Dupree.

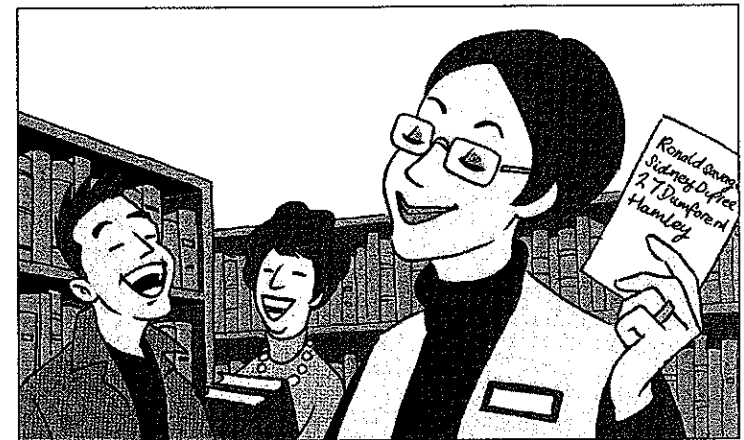
WOMAN (Writing) Ronald Savage . . . Sidney Dupree. And what's your address?

Five Short Plays

- RON 27 Dunfore Road, Hamley.
- WOMAN (*Writing*) 27 Dunfore Road, Hamley. Good, here you are. (*She gives Ron two library cards.*) Now you can borrow some books.
- RON But I don't know anything about reading. You must help me. Which books are best?
- SID Quick, Ron! I can't stand here much longer.
- WOMAN Here are some good books for you. (*She takes three books from the shelves.*) *The Great Train Robbery*, *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*, and *The Adventures of Robin Hood*. They're all very famous books.
- RON Oh, that's nice. They look interesting. Thanks.
- SID Ron, come on! Quick!
- RON It's OK, Sid, I've got the books.
- SID All right. (*To the people in the library*) We're going now, but don't move. Don't move or talk for five minutes.
- PERSON 1 Can we read?
- SID Er, all right. But you must read *quietly*, OK?
- RON Come on, Sid! Let's go. Harry and the others are waiting.
- WOMAN Goodbye, and happy reading!
- RON Oh yes, thank you. All right, Sid. I'm coming. *They run out of the library.*
- PERSON 2 Oh dear! I was so afraid!

The Robbery

- WOMAN Oh, they weren't so bad. The one called Sid – he didn't really have a gun, you know.
- PERSON 3 Perhaps. But they were robbers. They wanted to rob the bank!
- WOMAN (*Laughing*) Yes, but they came into the wrong building!
- PERSON 1 Why do you look so pleased?
- WOMAN Well, it's important for everybody to read books – not just you and me, but *everybody* . . . even bank robbers!
- PERSON 2 But you aren't going to get those books back, are you?
- WOMAN Oh yes, I am. Remember, I've got their names and their address!



'Remember, I've got their names and their address!'

INTRODUCTION

In this play a man is lying in the street. Three different people stop and look. Perhaps the man needs help. But they don't know him, so it's not their problem, is it? Then a woman in blue arrives and suddenly things are different.

CHARACTERS IN THE PLAY

Patrick

Rebecca

David

Woman in blue

Michael Scott, a man lying in the street

Doctor

Nurse

PERFORMANCE NOTES

For this play you will need a small bottle of pills, a glass of water, blue clothes for the woman, a white coat for the doctor, and perhaps special clothes for the nurse.

The Right Thing to Do

A man is lying in the street. Rebecca is walking past. She stops and looks at him, then she looks around her – there is nobody there. She starts to walk away, stops, and goes back to look at the man again. Patrick walks past and stops to look at the man.

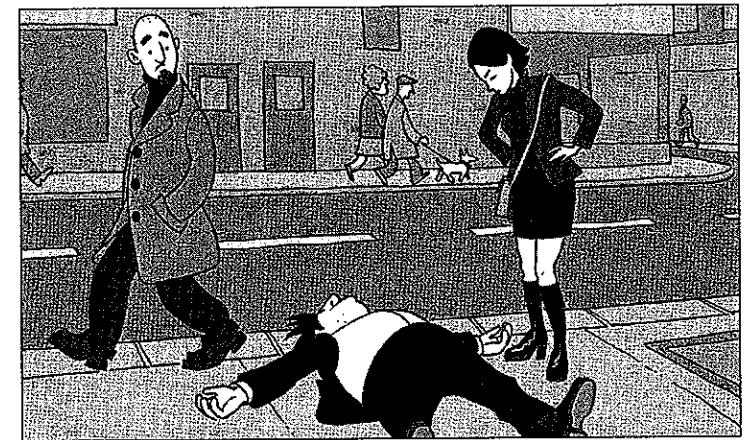
PATRICK What's the matter with him?

REBECCA I don't know.

PATRICK Is he dead?

REBECCA No, he's alive, I think.

PATRICK Are you going to help him?



'Is he dead?'