

The Calling of Samuel

Characters

Narrator

Samuel, Young boy in a sleeping bag.

Eli, Wise old man whose sight is failing.

God. A voice off stage.

Eli is sleeping on one side of the stage. Sam is lying down on the other.

God is a voice over the sound system.

Samuel to act out all the narrator says as appropriate.

Narr: One evening Samuel and Eli had settled down to sleep. It had been a long and busy day. Lots of people had come to the House of God. Eli had been busy speaking and praying with people, and Samuel had been busy sweeping and dusting and fetching and carrying. They were both very tired, so tired that, after going to bed, it was not long before they were both fast asleep. Samuel was lying in his blankets on the floor inside the House of God. The lamp was still alight and it cast long shadows around the room. Samuel was in the middle of a very nice dream when

God: Samuel, O Samuel.

Narr: Suddenly he woke up. Samuel was sure that he had heard something. A voice, it sounded like like someone had called his name. Samuel peered into the shadows all around him but no one was there, and then he remembered Eli: he probably needs me, he thought to himself, And so Samuel climbed out of his blankets and went to Eli. Eli was fast asleep. But Samuel was sure that he had called him, so he shook him by the arm until he woke up. This made Eli quite grumpy!

Sam: Here I am Eli, you called me.

Eli: What me? Did I? I was fast asleep Samuel, I think you must have been imagining things, or dreaming. Now leave me alone and go back to bed.

Narr: So Samuel did. He went back into the temple and curled up under his blankets. Samuel was just falling asleep again when:

God: Samuel, O Samuel.

Narr: He heard something. This time he was certain it was Eli calling his name so he climbed out of bed and went to Eli. Eli was fast asleep, so Samuel shook him by the arm until he woke up. This made Eli even more grumpy.

Sam: Here I am Eli, you called me.

Eli: But I was asleep Samuel, I couldn't have called you! Now look, it's been a long day, I'm very tired, so please go back to bed and stop bothering me, I need my sleep!

Narr: So Samuel went back to his bed and curled up under his blankets once again. Samuel was puzzled, so he lay awake for a long time listening very carefully. He could hear the lamp as the flame made the odd fizzing sound, he could hear birds fluttering out side. He could hear crickets cricketing outside, and he could even hear the odd mouse scurrying around looking for crumbs of food, but he couldn't