

# **Character Counts!**

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## *Promoting Character Education Through Readers Theatre, Grades 2–5*

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# Medals for Bravery

**Readability:** 3.6

**Summary:** Jolene has decided to have a bravery party for her friends. She has sent out invitations and made medals out of ribbon and buttons to give her friends for their acts of bravery.

**Staging:** The narrator should stand on the right side of the staging area. The characters should sit in a semicircle around a large round table.

**Props:** Tea sets or paper plates, paper cups, and ten ribbons with buttons on them in a box.

**Presentation:** The script should follow voice inflection as dictated by the reading. Jolene has a strong role in this script and should be a fluent reader and able to elicit the proper voice inflection response from her friends by the way she reads her lines.

**Characters:**

**Narrator**

**Jolene**—Party hostess

**Mother**—Jolene’s mother

**Lilly**—Friend of Jolene from the neighborhood

**Chico**—Classmate of Jolene

**Bennie**—Friend of Jolene from school

**Rashaad**—Classmate of Jolene

**Olivia**—Friend of Jolene from the neighborhood

**Optional Questions:**

What do you consider an act of bravery?

Who do you know who has done something brave?

Have you ever done something brave?

Were you ever rewarded for your brave act?

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## Medals For Bravery .....

**Narrator:** Jolene has been reading a book about a boy who saves his best friend from dying in a cave accident. He bravely digs his friend out from under the rubble before he goes to get help. Jolene knows some of her friends have done some very brave acts, also. She decides she would like to reward her friends for their acts of bravery that may have gone unnoticed.

**Jolene:** Mother, I want to have a bravery party.

**Mother:** I don't believe I have ever heard of that kind of party, Jolene. What is a bravery party?

**Jolene:** I would like to have my friends over and reward them for their brave acts.

**Mother:** Have all of your friends done something brave?

**Jolene:** Mother, everyone does something brave in their life. Sometimes no one notices or sometimes people just don't recognize an act as being a brave act.

**Mother:** I see. What do you want to have at your party?

**Jolene:** Nothing fancy. Just some drinks and maybe cookies and chips.

**Mother:** When do you want to have this party?

**Jolene:** How about two weeks from Saturday? That gives me time to make my invitations and my medals.

**Mother:** Your medals?

**Jolene:** Yes, I am going to take some of that ribbon Grandmother gave me and those big old brass buttons and make medals for my friends.

**Mother:** That is a great idea, Jolene! I am sure your friends will be really happy to be rewarded for being brave.

**Narrator:** Jolene worked very hard on her invitations and the medals. On the day of the party, Mother helped Jolene set up in the family room.

**Mother:** Jolene, all the plates and cups are here and your drinks and food. Where are your medals?

**Jolene:** In this box. I don't want anyone to see them until I am ready to reward them. Oh, there's the doorbell.

**Narrator:** Mother went to answer the door. As soon as all of Jolene's friends had arrived, the party began.

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**Lilly:** Jolene, on our invitations it said this is a bravery party. What does that mean?

**Jolene:** I am having this party to reward you for your brave acts.

**Chico:** I haven't done any brave act. I am just a kid.

**Bennie:** Yeah, Jolene. Only adults do brave acts.

**Jolene:** That is not true, Bennie. We all do brave acts. Since I know you have all done something brave, I wanted to reward you for what you have done.

**Rashaad:** This could be kinda fun, guys. I see kids doing brave acts, sometimes. No one ever thanks them.

**Olivia:** What brave act do I deserve a thank you for, Jolene?

**Jolene:** Let's start with you, Olivia. Remember last month when we were going to stay out overnight in the tent?

**Olivia:** That was not my idea. You made me do it and you know I am afraid of the dark!

**Jolene:** You mean you *were* afraid of the dark. Now that we stayed out all night, you aren't afraid anymore, are you?

**Olivia:** No, I guess not.

**Jolene:** See, you were very brave. You knew you were afraid but you stayed out there with me anyway. So here is a medal for being able to meet your fears face on.

**Olivia:** This is so neat, Jolene. Thank you. Is this cool or what, guys?

**Rashaad:** That is a neat medal, Olivia. Do we all get medals?

**Jolene:** Sure you do.

**Rashaad:** Tell me what you think I did that was so brave.

**Jolene:** One day we were on the playground at recess and along came Raymond and his gang of bullies who tried to get you to fight.

**Rashaad:** Oh, I remember that! They were saying awful things about my sister, Willie, and me. I wanted to bust them so bad.

**Jolene:** I know you did, but instead you walked away. That was positively brave. They could have jumped on you when you turned your back!

**Rashaad:** Maybe, but thank goodness they didn't. I didn't stand a chance against the four of them.

**Jolene:** Here is your medal for being brave enough to walk away from trouble, Rashaad.

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**Rashaad:** I thought I was being a coward.

**Jolene:** No, you weren't. You didn't go and tell on them, you just brushed them off.

**Bennie:** Was that the day Raymond and his gang got sent to the principal's office?

**Rashaad:** Yeah. When they realized they couldn't get to me, they went to pick on Teddy. Poor Teddy, he tried to fight back. His eye was black and blue for a week!

**Bennie:** Too bad he didn't follow your example and walk away.

**Rashaad:** Maybe that is the best way to stop Raymond and his gang.

**Lilly:** It is something to think about. Who is next to get a medal, Jolene?

**Jolene:** I think I'll go to Chico.

**Chico:** This should be good. I've never been afraid of anything and I've never backed out of a fight.

**Bennie:** You sound pretty proud of yourself, Chico.

**Chico:** I am. So what brave thing do you think I did, Jolene?

**Jolene:** Maybe you did one of the bravest things of all, Chico. When your brother was sick with leukemia you gave him your bone marrow.

**Chico:** That wasn't being brave. He would have died if I hadn't helped him. He's my brother, after all.

**Jolene:** When I went to my doctor I asked him what they had to do to you to get the bone marrow. He told me about putting those great big needles in your hip-bones to draw it out.

**Olivia:** That sounds awful! That was totally brave, Chico. I hate just getting a shot with a little needle.

**Bennie:** Me too. Wow, Chico, I am so proud to know you.

**Chico:** It wasn't such a big thing. Jolene's making way too big a deal about nothing. You'd do it too if it were your family.

**Jolene:** I hope I would, but I don't know. So here is your medal for being brave enough to save your brother's life.

**Chico:** Gee, thanks, Jolene. No one except family ever said anything to me about doing that. I guess I didn't think anyone else even knew.

**Jolene:** We knew. I just don't think most of us knew what it meant. Okay, Lilly, it's your turn.

**Lilly:** After hearing what Chico did, I can't think of anything I have ever done that is very brave.

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**Jolene:** Last June, when your cat Alexander the Great got hit by a car, you held him on your lap all the way to the veterinarian's.

**Olivia:** Ooh, was he bloody?

**Jolene:** Yes, he was. His eye was all smashed and he had a broken jaw. He was awful to look at.

**Lilly:** Someone had to make him comfortable while we rode to Dr. Sheik's. He was meowing so sadly.

**Chico:** Were they able to save him?

**Lilly:** Sure. He came home about a week later. He was pretty banged up and couldn't eat very well. If Jolene hadn't come to get me when it happened, he might not have made it. I think Jolene should get the medal because she really saved him.

**Jolene:** But you were the one who carried him and held him when no one else wanted to pick him up. So here is your medal for bravery.

**Lilly:** Thanks, Jolene. Here, you take it back for letting me know he was hurt and saving his life.

**Jolene:** Thanks, Lilly. I have some extra medals here, so here, you take this one and I'll keep the one you gave back to me.

**Bennie:** That's a fair deal. Okay, Jolene, you have given everyone a medal but me. I know I haven't done anything as great as these guys, so I can't wait to hear what you think I did that was so brave.

**Jolene:** Actually, Bennie, you did two things that were brave. The first one was last August. You got hit by that baseball right in the face.

**Rashaad:** Oh, that was ugly. You lost two of your front teeth.

**Bennie:** There wasn't anything brave about that. That was just a terrible accident.

**Jolene:** It was an accident, but for weeks afterwards you had to go to the dentist. You had surgery on your mouth. Then they had to implant two teeth in your jaw. You never complained once.

**Bennie:** What could I do? I sure didn't want to go through life with no teeth!

**Chico:** But the dentist. Man, I hate the dentist. Always givin' you shots and drilling. Yuck.

**Olivia:** After what you have been through, Chico, I would think the dentist would be a snap.

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**Chico:** Hate to tell you, but they put me asleep when they did that bone marrow removal so I didn't feel a thing. But when you go to the dentist, you're awake. Totally different.

**Jolene:** Here is your first medal for bravery, Bennie.

**Bennie:** Thanks, Jolene. What is the other thing you think I did that was so brave?

**Jolene:** You told the truth when you could have avoided paying for part of Mrs. Cleveland's window.

**Bennie:** I'm not very proud of myself for that, Jolene.

**Olivia:** What did you do, Bennie?

**Bennie:** Jolene, I don't think I want to talk about this. Let's just forget it, okay?

**Jolene:** No, I will tell them. I think it's an important lesson for all of us. Last month a group of guys were playing street ball.

**Olivia:** Did you break a window somewhere?

**Bennie:** No, not exactly.

**Rashaad:** Bennie, you told the truth when it happened, so why are you lying now?

**Bennie:** Well, see I didn't do it. I was on second base when Theo hit the ball that went into Mrs. Cleveland's window. But that night she called Mom about it. I hadn't told my mother the window was broken.

**Rashaad:** She called all of our moms. We all got into big trouble for that. Mrs. Cleveland demanded we all chip in and pay her for that window.

**Bennie:** Exactly. I didn't hit the ball, neither did you. So when Mom told me what Mrs. Cleveland wanted, I didn't want to lose my allowance for something I didn't think I did. When she asked me what happened, I started to tell her I was already home. I guess I did tell her that, almost anyway.

**Olivia:** You're confusing me, Bennie. Did you or didn't you tell her you weren't there?

**Bennie:** I did tell her I wasn't there, but as soon as I got the words out I knew it was wrong so I had to quickly tell her the truth.

**Jolene:** I remember when she told my mom about it. She said you were so brave to tell her the truth after you started to tell her a lie. She said she was sure it was hard for you to change your story like that.

**Bennie:** Not as hard as it would have been if she had found out the truth from someone else. I felt awful about it for days. I never should have tried to lie to my mom. But it made me so mad that I was going to have to help pay for that window.  
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**Rashaad:** I know what you mean. Still, it could have been any one of us who hit that ball through her window.

**Chico:** Did you guys have to stop playing street ball?

**Bennie:** No, but we did move closer to the end of the block where the houses aren't so close together.

**Jolene:** Here is your second medal, Bennie, for being brave enough to admit the truth.

**Bennie:** I don't deserve this medal, Jolene, but thanks anyway. I am still ashamed about it.

**Chico:** It takes a big man to admit he's not telling the truth, Bennie. Jolene's right to give you a medal for that. I don't know that I could have told the truth that easy.

**Bennie:** It wasn't easy, believe me.

**Jolene:** I made ten medals and we all have one, except Bennie who has two. That means there are three medals left. Is there someone you know who should get a medal?

**Olivia:** Now that you have given us all medals, I bet we can each think of someone who deserves a medal.

**Jolene:** If everyone can suggest someone, we could vote on who we think deserves the last three medals.

**Chico:** I think that's a great idea, Jolene. And I think your bravery party has been just super. I am certainly proud to know all of you, especially you, Jolene.

**Narrator:** After a lot of discussion, the group finally came up with three names of friends who deserved Jolene's other three medals. They decided to write a letter to each of the three winners and explain why they were getting a medal. Do you know someone who has done something very brave? Did you ever let them know that you thought they were pretty special for being brave?

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