

Run, Go Tell
A Puppet Play About Stranger Danger

Ronnie and Jackie- 7 year old best friends

Chris- A stranger

Linda- Ronnie's Mom

(Ronnie and Jackie are at the park playing hide and seek.)

Ronnie: Boy, I just love coming to play at the park. There is so much space to run and play. I LOOVE THE PARK!!!!

Jackie: I bet I love it here more than you.

Ronnie: No you don't!

Jackie: Do too.

Ronnie: Do not!

Jackie: Do too.....to infinity and beyond! *(Starts to fly around like she is Buzz Lightyear.)*

Ronnie: You can't get away that easy.....'cause I'm Sherriff Woody! Come back here you varmint! *(Calling for Bullseye.)* Come here Bullseye! *(No Bullseye.)* I said, come here Bullseye. *(Still no Bullseye.)* Oh well...*(turns to Jackie).....AHHHHHHHH!*
(Chasing after Jackie.)

Jackie: Nooooo.....stay back or I will use my blaster! *(Makes a blaster sound.)*

(Ronnie ducks and catches up with Jackie.)

Ronnie: TAG...your it!

Jackie: You missed by a mile...

Ronnie: Your it....I know, let's play hide and seek.

Jackie: Ok...who's it first?

Ronnie: You are, because I tagged you.

Jackie: Fine.

Ronnie: Go to that tree over there and count to infinity.

Jackie: Ok...wait a minute. I can't count that high!

Ronnie: All right, count to 100 then.

Jackie: Ok. I'm off! To infinity and beyond! *(Jackie wooshes off to the side of the stage and Ronnie ducks out of sight. Counting.)* One, two, skip a few, 99, 100. Ready or not, HERE I COME! *(Jackie ducks out of sight.)*

(We catch up with Ronnie who is looking for a place to hide, utilizing all the different openings in the puppet stage. Jackie will not accidentally show up.)

Ronnie: Gotta find some place fast! *(To the audience)* Jackie may not be a good counter, but he sure is a good finder. That means that I, Ronnie Rolla must be a better hider! *(Still looking around.)* Hmm...now let's see. Where to hide, where to hide. *(To the audience)* Where do you think I should hide? I don't want anyone to find me, especially Jackie! *(Puppeteer will listen to audience and respond.)* Hey! That's a great idea! Thanks everyone. *(Ronnie acts as if he is hiding.)* No one will find me here.

(Enter Chris. A stranger to Ronnie)

Chris: Excuse me...*(Ronnie let's out a scream.)* Oh sorry, did I scare you?

Ronnie: NO....well, yes, a little.

Chris: I'm sorry. I did not mean to frighten you.

Ronnie: Who are you?

Chris: Oh, how silly of me. My name is Chris. I am a friend of your parents.

Ronnie: You are?

Chris: Sure, I've known them for years. In fact, I knew you when you were just a baby. But I don't live around here anymore.

Ronnie: Where do you live?

Chris: In another state. I am here just visiting. Do you know that I have a son about your age. They are with me here at the park. Do you want to come play with them?

Ronnie: Well...*(sounding like he might do it.)* I don't know.

Chris: Come on, it would be fun. Your Mom and Dad are over there.

Ronnie: They are?

Chris: Yes siree Bob! We are having a picnic and playing catch with my dog Patches.

Ronnie: You have a dog with you?

Chris: Yeah, see the boy in the striped shirt playing with that dog?

Ronnie: Yeah?

Chris: That is my son Seth playing with Patches.

Ronnie: But, where are my parents? I do not see them anywhere.

Chris: Oh, they are back at their car getting dessert for the picnic.

Ronnie: Dessert! Oh, boy! What is it?

Chris: Chocolate cake.

Ronnie: My favorite!

Chris: Well then, come on. Your parents sent me to come get you.

Ronnie: *(Thinking)* I don't know...my parents and teachers told me never to go off with anyone I don't know.

Chris: But, I'm a friend of your parents. They sent me to come get you. The hot dogs are getting cold.

Ronnie: Ummm....*(turning to the audience)* What should I do? Should I go with him? *(Wait for responses)* No? Why not? He said he knows my Mom and Dad. They're gonna eat hot dogs and chocolate cake! I LOVE CHOCOLATE CAKE! So, I should go even though I don't know him right? *(Wait for responses.)* Still no? Are you sure? *(Wait for responses.)* All right, I won't go. Thanks for your help everyone! *(Turning to Chris)* No...I will not come with you because I don't know you and that makes you a stranger. And no one should ever go off with a stranger.

(We hear Jackie off in the distance calling for Ronnie.)

Jackie: ROOOOON...NIE! Come out, come out where ever you are.

Ronnie: *(Yelling back)* Over here!

Jackie: OOOOOOOOO KKKKKKKKKK! Your mom is with me. We have to go home, it is time for lunch.

Linda: Don't you forget that. *(Turning to Ronnie)* Ronnie, which way did this man go?

(Ronnie points in the direction Chris left.)

Jackie: Are we going after him? *(Starts to move in that direction.)*

Linda: *(Stopping Jackie)* No Jackie. I just want to let the police know so hopefully they can catch him. Do you remember what he looks like?

Ronnie: Sure do. Mrs. Jenkins also told us that if you ever feel like you are in trouble to try to remember as much detail as you can. *(Describes puppet of Chris.)*

Linda: I'm very proud of you Ronnie. Now let's go home for lunch. I will call and tell the police as soon as we get there.

Ronnie: Ok, come on Jackie.

Jackie: Tag...you're it! *(Jackie takes off running.)* To infinity and beyond!

Ronnie: Hey, no fair! *(Takes off after Jackie. Stops and turns to the audience.)* Thanks for your help today everyone! *(Pursuing Jackie)* Now et back here!

Linda: *(alone on stage; to the audience)* I'm so glad he listened. *(Linda exits.)*

Questions for the audience

(Jackie and Ronnie on stage. All of this dialogue is directed at the audience.)

Ronnie: Hi everyone. That sure was a scary situation wasn't it? *(Wait for responses.)* I'm just glad you were here to help me remember what to do. You helped me remember what my parents and teachers have taught me: NEVER go off with a stranger.

Jackie: But what if they say they know you or someone you know?

(Wait for responses.)

Ronnie: What if they offer you something you really want like candy or video games or phone?

(Wait for responses.)

Jackie: But wait...what if they tell you they lost something like a cat or a dog or even their child and they need your help to find them?

(Wait for responses.)

Ronnie: That's right everyone! If you don't know someone, they're a stranger. And if they try to get you to go off with them, then run and go tell someone you trust like a parent or a policeman or a friend. Get help as soon as you can!

Jackie: So great job to day everyone! *(Pause. Turns to Ronnie.)* Tag! *(Jackie leaves.)*

Ronnie: What?! Hey! Come back here! *(To audience)* Bye everyone...and remember, run, go tell! *(Ronnie exits.)*