



This text is from *Only a Show* by Anne Fine.

## Only a Show

Miss Henry said, “On Monday, I want every single person in the class to give a little show.”

“Everyone?”

“Give a little show?”

“What sort of show?”

“Any sort of show,” said Miss Henry. “I’m sure everyone in this room can do something.”

She picked up the chalk. “I’m going to write everyone’s name on the blackboard,” she said. “When you have given us your little show, I’ll rub it out.” Anna watched as Miss Henry’s stick of chalk squeaked its way across the blackboard, writing up names: Philip, Asha, Laura, James, Stephen, Talitha, Anna!

There it was, then. In black and white. No chance of getting out of giving a show unless she crept back into the classroom after school, and rubbed it off herself.

Anna walked home in a daze. She had just one weekend – just two whole days – to think of a good show.

It was hopeless. And asking her mother didn’t help much. Each time her mother thought of something she could do, Anna was sure she couldn’t.

“Sing a song,” Mum suggested.

“I can’t sing.”

“Recite a poem.”

“I’d be so scared, I’d get the words mixed up.”

Her little brother tried to help as well. “Tell a joke.”

“No one would laugh at it. They’d laugh at *me*.”

“Take Scruff, then. Do a puppet show.”

Simon was crazy about puppet shows. He’d always loved them, ever since he was a baby. Every single night he made Anna slip Scruff, their rabbit puppet, on her hand and give him a private show over the edge of their bunk beds.

“Good evening,” Anna would say in Scruff’s funny little rabbit voice.

“Good evening!” Simon would chant back enthusiastically.

And then, while Simon giggled, Anna would make Scruff sing a little song, or do a magic trick. And whatever it was, Simon loved it. So maybe her brother was right. Maybe she *could* do something after all.



Name:	Class:	Date:
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# Only a Show

1 What did Miss Henry want the class to do?  
\_\_\_\_\_

1 mark 2b

2 Look at the paragraph beginning: *She picked up the chalk...*  
**Find** and **copy one word** to describe the sound that the chalk made on the blackboard.  
\_\_\_\_\_

1 mark 2b

3 How did Anna feel when she saw her name on the blackboard? Tick **one**.

angry  
 worried  
 excited  
 lucky

1 mark 2d

4 *Anna walked home in a daze.*  
Why was Anna in a daze? Explain as fully as you can, using the story to help you.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2 marks 2d

5 What did Anna think of her mother's ideas?  
\_\_\_\_\_

1 mark 2b

/ 6  
Total for this page

6 Draw lines to match each idea with Anna's excuse.

- Idea
- sing a song
  - recite a poem
  - tell a joke

- Anna's excuse
- she would be scared
  - everyone would laugh at her
  - she can't do it

1 mark 2b

7 What did Simon say Anna could do? Tick two.

- sing a song
- tell a joke
- do a magic show
- recite a poem
- do a puppet show

1 mark 2b

8 Look at these lines from the story. Circle one word or phrase that shows Anna's brother is enjoying himself.

“Good evening!” Simon would chant back enthusiastically.  
And then, while Simon giggled, Anna would make Scruff sing a little song, or do a magic trick.

1 mark 2a

9 In what way does Simon help Anna?

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1 mark 2d

/ 10  
Total for this test