

Abandoned Mine Skit

Written by Cindy Michelli
Park Ranger
Division of Interpretative Education and Outreach
Capitol Reef National Park

The skit can and should be improvised and ad-libbed. Here is an outline of the action and the characters. Lee is enthusiastic, wants to explore mine, has no concern for safety, and has flashlight in a daypack. Jodi is reluctant, cautious and hesitant about entering mine and exploring it. Other children can be assigned to make the wild animal noises.

Lee: **Hey, Jodi, Isn't this just a great hike we are having!**

Jodi: Yes, Lee, it's such a beautiful day and we've already seen two eagles and a fox.

Lee: **Yeah, Yeah, Yeah; whatever. Isn't this such a cool hat, Jodi? My Daddy gave it to me to keep the sun out of my eyes and make me look like a real adventurer like Indiana Jones. What do you think? Don't I look really cool in it? He's always giving me cool stuff like this. I'll bet you never get any cool hats from your Dad. I'm his "little chip off the old block".**

Jodi: *(mumbles)* Little blockhead, if you ask me.

Lee: **Huh? I told you that this was going to be a great day! And we haven't even gotten to the cool special secret place yet. You're going to like it so much! It's going to make us rich, too. Here we are! I know that there is hidden treasure inside, left from the Spanish explorers – my Dad reads all about the lost Spanish Gold. I found this place last week, Jodi, and I've been just dying for you to come with me and explore it. I'll bet there's still tons of gold or silver in the veins and that this is the motherlode. *(jump up and down excitedly)* We'll be so RICH!**

Jodi: What is this place, Lee? Look at these signs! **DANGER!! DO NOT ENTER!! KEEP OUT!! NO TRESPASSING!!** I'm not going in! Are you Crazy??

Lee: **Come on, Jodi, what are you, chicken?** *(fold arms like wings and makes chicken noises).* **What a scardey-cat!** *(pull out of*

the pack a flashlight with weak batteries) See! I'm prepared! Everything will be just fine. (They start to enter the mine). Oh, wait! I wouldn't want to accidentally lose my hat! (takes off hat and ceremoniously places it at the entrance to the mine).

(The characters disappear from sight. The rest of the skit consists of voices coming out of the mine opening and sound effects.)

Jodi: It's awfully dark in here, Lee! How old are the batteries in your flashlight? I can hardly see a thing. We're going to get lost. This is such a stupid idea. Hey! The ground is wet! It looks deep to me.

Lee: **No, it's not! It's just a little puddle!**

Lee & Jodi: *(Splashing noises and screams).*

Jodi: This is a deep pool of smelly water! *(Splash!)* Now I'm all wet. It feels like it's burning my skin!

Lee: **It's your own fault for being so clumsy, Jodi! I only hardly got the sides of my boots wet because I was smart enough to walk along the edge of the tunnel. I can't help it if you stumbled and fell in.**

Jodi: Well, I can hardly see! It's so dark!

Lee: **Don't worry, in ten minutes or so you should start to develop your night vision.**

Jodi: I'm worried; let's go back.

Lee: **No! Look what I've found! It's an old rusty, dusty treasure chest with the Lost Spanish Gold from the seven cities of Cibola in it! If I could only break loose this old lock, we could have coins and necklaces and goblets of the finest silver and gold and precious gems and stuff. Only I can't get this stupid lock off the chest! Here, hold the flashlight while I kick it loose.**

Jodi: STOP IT! Look what it says on this old box - DYNAMITE! You're going to blow us up! Do you remember last summer in Salt Lake City; they had to evacuate the Water Park because a truck of old dynamite was parked nearby? Old dynamite becomes crystallized and is extremely unstable and can blow up on it's own with the slightest movement!

Lee: **Oh boy! What an adventure!**

Jodi: You're crazy! I'm going to get out of here!

Lee & Jodi: *(make squealing noises like wild animals in the tunnel)*

Lee & Jodi: *(scream and stamp feet like they are running)*

Lee: **What kind of a wild animal was that?**

Jodi: I'm not sticking around to find out. Let's get out of here!

Lee: **Oh, no! The batteries in this flashlight are going dead! It's so totally and completely dark!**

Jodi: Now we are really lost.

Lee: **This wall is so slimy. Where are you, Jodi?**

Jodi: Don't be a crybaby! I'm right ahead of . . . *(makes a long "falling" scream/wail that finally fades away and then makes a "thunk" sound. Moans very quietly.)*

Lee: **Jodi must have fallen into a vertical shaft. Jodi! Jodi! Are you all right? Can you hear me? I've got to get out of here and get help for Jodi! I knew that this was the wrong way out. I've got to get help. I can't fall into the shaft or we're both doomed! I'm afraid to even take a tiny step. *(make a creaking noise)* I know what that means! Miners used wooden beams because the creaking of the timbers would give warning that they were going to give out so the miners could have at least a little time to make a run for it and try to escape before the mine would collapse! Only, I can't see and I don't know which way to run! *(make a rumbling noise)*. I wonder if those miners from Pennsylvania were this afraid when they were trapped in the mine collapse last year. I'm sure more scared now that I've ever been. I want my Mommy! *(make a rumbling and then a crashing noise)***

Toss some dust (packing foam) out of the mine so that it starts to cover the hat. Dust is seen spurting out the entrance. Then silence from the mine.

End of skit.