

# **“Reality Check”**

## **A “Day in the Life” Skit**

*by Wendy Bourgault, Food For The Poor*

*Please be sure to call Food For The Poor at least 3 weeks before your event so we can send you the DVD for use at the end of this skit. You can contact our Church and School Development Office at 1-877-654-2960, ext. 6988.*

### **CHARACTERS:**

<b><i>Ms. or Mr. Reality:</i></b>	The MC – dressed in “MC” attire with earpiece
<b><i>3<sup>rd</sup> World Child:</i></b>	Dressed in colorfully ethnic shawl or jacket, wearing ragged clothes underneath
<b><i>1<sup>st</sup> World Child:</i></b>	Dressed in very stylish clothes and equipped with electronic gadgets
<b><i>Delivery Person</i></b>	

### **PROPS:**

- *Plate of Food* (meal from a fast-food restaurant – large size, on a tray) off to side
- *Bowl of Rice* (in a basket next to 3<sup>rd</sup> World Child’s chair)
- *Spoon* (on table close to 3<sup>rd</sup> World Child)
- *Bottle of Water* (on table midway between 3<sup>rd</sup> World Child and the table’s center)
- *Pitcher of Muddy Water* (on a table at the side of the room)
- *iPod and Hand-Held Video Game or Cell Phone*
- *Bluetooth* or similar device for the MC’s ear
- *Theme Music*

### **SETTING:**

Table with both students sitting at either end, all other props in their places  
1<sup>st</sup> World Child is listening to an iPod and “texting”  
3<sup>rd</sup> World Child sitting quietly

**SCENE:** *As theme music plays, Ms./Mr. Reality enters robustly, holding wireless microphone (or regular mic if available). Ms./Mr. Reality makes her/his way to the middle of the table.*

**Ms/Mr. Reality:** Welcome to “**Reality Check...a Day in the Life.**”  
I’m your host, **Ms/Mr. Reality!**

*(Addressing the contestants)*

Well, hello... You must be the precious children I heard about.  
My name is Ms./Mr. Reality...

*(Extends arm to shake the 1<sup>st</sup> World Child’s hand, but he/she is too busy texting and listening to music.)*

**1<sup>st</sup> World:** *(Doesn’t hear because of the iPod – just continues texting.)*

**3<sup>rd</sup> World:** Hello. *(In a timid voice)* Yes, I am one of the children. And I’m from a developing nation — I’m a 3<sup>rd</sup> World Child.

**Reality:** UmmHumm... *(To 1<sup>st</sup> World Child)* Excuse me... Ahhh....**Hello!!!**  
*(Waving hand)*

**1<sup>st</sup> World:** *(Pulls out 1 earphone)* Oh, sorry... Were you talking to me?

**Reality:** Yes, yes, I was talking with you. Welcome — I’m Ms./Mr. Reality, and I was wondering if we could talk....

**1<sup>st</sup> World:** Well, yeah, but I’m kinda’ busy. It’s lunchtime right now — I just ordered some lunch and it should be here soon.

*(Delivery Person enters with bag of food, but with no drink)*  
Here it is now. I can eat while we talk, right?

*(Delivery Person places bag of food in front of 1<sup>st</sup> World Person)*

**Reality:** Great — our first “Reality Check”! *(Looks up at audience)*

Let’s check the reality: This child is from the 1<sup>st</sup> World, and he/she is hungry...would he/she be able to eat? The answer is... “Yes!”  
OK — that’s your reality...Go right ahead and eat.

*(1<sup>st</sup> World Child takes food out dramatically and starts to eat; then, with a mouthful of food, looks at the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Child)*

I was starving... Aren’t you going to eat?

*(3<sup>rd</sup> World Child pulls out a cup of rice and puts it on the table where there is a spoon.)*

**Reality:** Ahhhh... It looks like we need to do a “Reality Check” here... *(Holds onto earpiece as if a message is coming through.)*

Let’s see... You were born in a 3<sup>rd</sup> World country, and so you must know that you cannot expect “luxuries” in your life like the 1<sup>st</sup> World Child *(takes the spoon)*. She/He was born in a very wealthy country...

**3<sup>rd</sup> World:** Oh, OK... But I am so hungry... I guess I’ll have to eat with my hands.

**Reality:** Wait just a moment *(pushes on ear piece)*... I’m sorry, but another “Reality Check” just came in... And the reality is that you ate yesterday, and there is a rice shortage due to high prices. Maybe you’ll get a bowl of rice tomorrow — maybe — if your parents can afford it. *(Takes the rice bowl away)*

**1st World:** *(Complaining)* Hey, that dude forgot my soda! *(Flips the phone on and calls a number)* Hey man, you forgot my soda. You will? Great. *(Delivery Person comes in with a super-size soda)*  
Cool... thanks.

**3<sup>rd</sup> World:** But I am a human being, too. I also have basic needs, just like everyone... At least I also have something to drink... *(Picks up the bottle of water)*

**Reality:** Uh, excuse me, unfortunately that’s not yours to drink. “Reality Check”...*(Presses on earpiece)*  
You are right — water **is** a reality in your life... just not **this** water. Yours is over there... *(Points toward table with murky pitcher of water.)*  
You’ll have to go get it from the river — the same one where the livestock are feeding, people are bathing, and women are washing clothes. *(3<sup>rd</sup> World Child walks a bit looking back over his/her shoulder.)*  
Yes, the same water where the sewage runs off.

**3<sup>rd</sup> World:** *(Brings back pitcher from table and pours dirty water into a glass)*  
But don’t I deserve something better? Can’t I at least have a glass of clean water? Well, I guess I’ll just have to sit here and watch...

**Reality:** Well, you can sit — but not on that chair...or at this table. *(3<sup>rd</sup> World Child stands up, feeling uncomfortable)*  
Oh, and by the way... *(Pressing on earpiece)*  
This just in...it’s time for you to go to work. You see, in order to have enough money to buy that rice tomorrow, you are going to have to work today in the fields, picking sugar cane. You won’t get paid very much

money, and it's very hard work. But if you want to eat, you must work. There's no alternative.

- 1<sup>st</sup> World** Man, I'm stuffed. (*Leans back in chair, rubbing stomach*)  
I really should head to the gym and work out, but...  
I think I'll call some friends and go hang out instead. I'm so glad I'm not taking summer classes... I hate school.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> World** Um, excuse me...I...I'd like to go to school.
- Reality** "Reality Check!" Audience poll — Would school be this child's reality?  
(*Get a few responses*) OK, let's check with the experts (*Presses on ear*)  
Here's the reality: you are from a poor country, you see, and school is free in the 1<sup>st</sup> World Child's rich country...  
(*Talking to 1<sup>st</sup> World Child*) You don't have to pay for your books, either, and a bus comes to pick you up. How lucky for you!  
(*Walking toward 3<sup>rd</sup> World Child*)  
But in your country you have to pay for school...and books...**and** you have to get to school on your own. You simply don't have the money for this — so you have to go work in the field.
- 1<sup>st</sup> World** That's not so bad... I hate school — there's so much work! I never have enough time to hang out or go to the mall and shop... I really need a new phone — there's a cool one out now with a touch-screen and video....
- 3<sup>rd</sup> World** It's so cold in here... At least I have nice warm clothes.
- Reality:** What's that? You're cold? (*Touching ear piece again*) Sorry — the reality is that the jacket you're wearing was borrowed from your neighbor, and he needs it back. Perhaps you can borrow one from someone else.  
(*Pulls jacket off child*)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> World** Wait, I'm really cold and shivering... Please — I don't have any other clothes, and I really don't feel too well after drinking that water. Can you help me?
- Reality** I understand. You see, you drank contaminated water. Now in the world's richest countries, your sickness would be cured very easily...  
But you were born in the 3<sup>rd</sup> World, and there's no medicine for you.
- 1<sup>st</sup> World** Listen, I have to run — I'm meeting some friends at the movies and it's supposed to rain, so I want to get home... Are we done here?
- 3<sup>rd</sup> World** It's going to rain? Could I stay here, then? My house has a mud floor, and it floods when it rains. I'm always afraid my house is going to wash away like my uncle's did...

**Reality** Well, I'm sorry but I also have to run... Uh, I want to beat the rush hour traffic.  
*(Turning toward audience)*  
So this ends this week's episode of "Reality Check."

**3<sup>rd</sup> World** *(Interrupting)* Wait — can you help me? Please? I'm so hungry... and I don't have a safe place to stay... Can I just stay here?

**Reality:** I'd love to help, but... My time's up, and the reality is ***I already help the poor, and I can't help everyone.*** Besides, my family and I are saving for a new flat-screen TV.

**1<sup>st</sup> World** Yeah, me too. I'd love to help out, but I'm saving for this awesome new game for X-BOX... Anyway, later.  
*(Cue theme song)*

*(Ms./Mr. Reality and 1<sup>st</sup> World Child exit, leaving 3<sup>rd</sup> World Child standing alone)*

**Reality:** Stay tuned for a word from our sponsors... and remember to check ***your*** reality!!

*Play a song such as "Lean On Me" (Mary J. Blige), "If Everyone Cared" (Nickelback), or a song with a similar message. At the same time, show the DVD supplied by Food For The Poor (with no sound), as the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Child stands alone.*

*Last Revised November 08*