

Who Wants to be a Zillionaire?

A TROOP 1018 Skit

for 9+ Scouts

Can't go wrong with a good theme, huh? This time we poke fun at "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?" In addition, we take a mighty stab at the tedious bad jokes and stale skits that are performed over and over again at every campfire (which, in turn, prompted Troop 1018 to start writing its own).

This is our longest, most intricate skit. To be honest, we've yet to performed it the way it was intended. The one time we had it well-rehearsed, a thunderstorm canceled the Friday night campfire at Summer Camp. We ended performing it in front of two camp workers just to say we did it, but it wasn't the same.

The only other time we performed it, we were on a lousy stage at a Camporee, instead of gathered around a campfire. The audience was already miserable from sitting on wet grass, our timing was off, and the (anticipated) big laugh at the end never happened because our Regis slipped on a wet spot and tumbled to the stage instead of running off like a madman.

So gather a couple of patrols together and give this a try, but be warned: This isn't a skit you can just throw together two hours before a campfire. It needs lots of practice, but I think it can be very entertaining when done right.

CAST

REGIS ... host of "Who Wants to Be a Zillionaire?"

TIM ... contestant

AUNT PRUDE ... TIM's relative, sitting in the audience

A ... person holding answer "A"

B ... person holding answer "B"

C ... person holding answer "C"

D ... person holding answer "D"

COMPUTER ... dispassionate part of the show, wears sunglasses

PHONE-A-FRIEND

(optional) ORCHESTRA/LIGHTS CREW ... group (at least 2 Scouts) that sings show's theme song and shines flashlights to create TV mood.

Setup / Props:

- Two camping chair center stage. REGIS sitting in one chair, TIM in the other. A medium sized box is under REGIS' chair.
- AUNT PRUDE sitting in front row of audience, mixed in with the regular spectators. Carries a walking stick.
- PHONE-A-FRIEND sitting in camping chair at edge of staging area, opposite side of AUNT PRUDE. Has cellphone in pocket.
- A, B, C and D are offstage. Each holds a brightly colored strip of paper with a possible answer on it.
- COMPUTER, wearing sunglasses, is offstage. Also Has cellphone in pocket.
- ORCHESTRA/LIGHTS CREW, if used, is sitting on ground at very front of staging area, holding flashlights.

Skit opens with REGIS welcoming us back from a commercial.

REGIS (addressing audience): "Welcome back to 'Who Wants to Be a Zillionaire?'"

ORCHESTRA/LIGHTS CREW stands and starts shining their flashlights all over the staging area, focusing more or less on REGIS and TIM. As they do this, they sing the popular notes from the "Who Wants to Be A Millionaire?" theme _ "BAHM, BAHM, BAHM, BAHM, BAHHHHM -- dee-dee-dee-dit." At the end of those nine notes, the CREW shuts off their flashlights and immediately sits back down.

REGIS: "We're back with our contestant, Tim."

ORCHESTRA/LIGHTS CREW once again stands, shines the flashlights, sings the theme song, etc. This time, REGIS looks a little bit annoyed that he has been interrupted. REGIS continues once the CREW has sat down again.

REGIS: "And Tim, here, has already won One Trillion Dollars, and he's only one question away from winning the grand prize of One Zillion Dollars!"

Once again, the ORCHESTRA/LIGHTS CREW stands, shines the flashlight, starts to sing the theme song, etc.

REGIS (interrupting): "Hey, cut that out. Enough, already!"

The CREW hastily retreats to their seated positions.

REGIS: "And what's remarkable about our friend Tim here is that he still has all three lifelines remaining: ask the audience, phone-a-friend and 50-50. But first, Tim, let's take a moment to learn more about you. What do you do?"

TIM: "I'm a water farmer."

REGIS: "A water farmer. Fascinating. What does that mean?"

TIM: "I farm water."

REGIS: "I see. Now do you have any friends or relatives with you in the audience to offer support?"

TIM: "Yes, my Aunt Prude is here."

AUNT PRUDE stands, limps with walking stick toward REGIS and TIM.

AUNT PRUDE (speaking in older women's voice): "Yeah, I'm Aunt Prude. My nephew here's going to win lots of money, and he's going to buy me one of them double-wide trailers and a satellite dish ..."

REGIS: "Yes, thank you very much, Aunt Prude."

AUNT PRUDE (walking back to seat): "You go get 'em, boy."

REGIS: "Well, Tim, this is it. Are you ready for your zillion dollar question."

TIM: "Yes I am, Regis."

REGIS: "Well, let's do it. Let's play, 'Who Wants to Be a Zillionaire?'"

ORCHESTRA/LIGHTS CREW stands and do its act again, only this time they finish with all of their flashlights shining directly into REGIS' face.

REGIS: "Hey, cut it out. I can't see!" (Flashlights go out.) "OK, Tim, here's your question: Since Lord Baden-Powell founded the scouting movement about 100 years ago, how many bad jokes have been told at Boy Scout campfires?
Is it A _ 5,661,217."

A runs onto stage holding sign that says "A: 5,661,217".

REGIS: "B -- billions and billions."

B runs onto stage holding sign that says "B: Billions and Billions".

REGIS: "C -- 265,942."

C runs onto stage holding sign that says "C: 265,942".

REGIS: "Or D -- six."

D runs onto stage holding sign that says "D: 6".

A, B, C and D freeze while holding signs. B and D should be kneeling, so that B's sign is below A's and C's sign is below D's.

TIM: "Well, this is a pretty tough, one, Regis. I'm going to need some help. I think I'll use my 50-50."

REGIS: "OK." (calls offstage) "Computer!"

COMPUTER enters. He wears sunglasses and a serious expression. It's clear he is all business.

REGIS: "Computer, please take away two incorrect answers."

COMPUTER walks over and slugs A and C, knocking them to the ground, then walks offstage.

REGIS: "Thank you, computer. We're now left with B -- billions and billions, and D -- six. What do you think, Tim."

TIM: "Well, I'm still not too sure. They look like a smart group out there. I'm going to ask the audience."

COMPUTER returns onstage.

REGIS: "OK audience. The computer is going to ask you which answer you think is correct. When he gives the signal, shout out either B or D."

COMPUTER gives a countdown, silently holding up 1, 2, then 3 fingers to the audience. Then spread his hands, signaling them to yell out their answers. After a few seconds, he waves his hands to cut them off.

REGIS: "OK, Tim, you heard what the audience thinks. Some were saying B. Some were saying D. What do you think?"

TIM: "You know, Regis, I'm still not sure. I think I'm going to phone my friend Harry. He's pretty smart."

REGIS: "OK, computer. Let's get Harry on the phone."

COMPUTER pulls phone out of pocket and dials number. PHONE-A-FRIEND's phone rings. COMPUTER hands phone to REGIS.

PHONE-A-FRIEND: "Hello, this is Harry."

REGIS: "Hello, Harry. This is Regis from Who Wants to Be a Zillionaire. I have your friend Tim here, and he needs your help."

PHONE-A-FRIEND: "OK, how much is he going for?"

REGIS: "Well, he's won a Trillion Dollars and he's going for the one zillion."

PHONE-A-FRIEND: "Wow."

REGIS: "Tim, when I hand you the phone, you'll have 30 seconds." (Hands TIM the phone) "Go."

TIM: "OK, Harry, in the history of Boy Scouts, how many bad jokes have been told at Boy Scout campfires? Is it Billions and Billions or six?"

HARRY: "Oh, that's simple. First you take the Nth root of the seventh square of the basic joke nominal modifier, then multiply it by e and divide it by pi. Once you've eliminated all the redundant factors and subtracted the variant multiple of the square root of negative-one, you're all done. I can say absolutely, positively, and with 100 percent certainty that the answer to your question is ..."

COMPUTER takes phone away from TIM.

REGIS: "Oops, I'm sorry, your 30 seconds are up. Tim, it's time to give us the Zillion Dollar answer. Or you can walk away with the One Trillion Dollars."

TIM: "Well, Regis, I'm going for it, and my answer is D."

REGIS: "D. OK. Is that your ... final answer?"

TIM: "No. My final answer is B."

REGIS: "Well, Tim, we have good news and bad news. The good news is ... the answer's B! You've won a Zillion Dollars!"

TIM jumps up to celebrate. AUNT PRUDE returns and joins in. ORCHESTRA/LIGHTS CREW starts singing them song and waves their flashlights.

TIM: "Wait a minute. What's the bad news?"

REGIS: "The bad news is that we don't owe you any money."

TIM and AUNT PRUDE: "Huh?"

REGIS: "See, if you had stopped at a trillion dollars, we would have owed you a trillion dollars. But now you've won a zillion -- and there's no such number as a zillion."

TIM and AUNT PRUDE (getting angry and bearing down on REGIS): "What? You can't get away with this."

REGIS (stepping back, a little fearful): "Hey, look at the bright side." (pulls box from underneath chair) "You get to take home the home version of our game."

TIM snatches box from REGIS and tries to hit him over the head with it. REGIS runs in circles around the chairs, trailed closely by TIM and AUNT PRUDE, who are yelling "Get him" and similar

cries. REGIS then runs offstage screaming, with TIM and AUNT PRUDE in hot pursuit. Skit ends. Audience applauds wildly.

FINAL NOTES

Note that the ORCHESTRA/LIGHTS CREW is optional. In fact, we had trouble assembling one because none of the Scouts wanted to do something that felt so silly. If we ever perform this skit the way it was intended, it will be cause for celebration.

And, yes, the skit is very long. It's best done early in the campfire, before attention spans start to fade.

ORIGINAL TROOP 1018 CAST:

REGIS: DAN C

TIM: TIM S (ENRIQUE L-C later took over the role)

AUNT PRUDE: JOHN D

COMPUTER: PETER M

PHONE-A-FRIEND: HARRY W