

# Friends Wear the Pants Or Do They?

by *Michele Lavery*

## **Introduction:**

Four friends win a contest and find they have all received the same prize, a pair of Model media pants. Designed by the media with all the bells and whistles and of course they only come in one size. (PERFECT is written in the label) The friends try them on only to find their bodies do not fit. Each character decides they would prefer their body to the one that might fit into the media pants as their own bodies come with its own strengths.

## **Characters:**

**Longi**- The long legged giraffe  
**Shorti** - The strong lion  
**Curvi** - The curvy elephant  
**Slimi** -The colorful snake

## **Setting:**

All friends are gathered at Longi's house in her kitchen eating their favorite foods and what a variety they have before them. Before them are yummy foods like grapes, apples, carrots, broccoli, cookies, juice, milk, muffins, dips, breads, yogurts, nuts and eggs.

*\*Use a variety of foods from the children's snack or lunches as props. Remind them there are no such thing as "bad" foods just choices that each of the characters makes to energize their bodies.*

## **SCRIPT BEGINS**

### **A knock on the door...**

**Narrator:** *Express post we have four packages for Longi's house.*

*(All the packages are exactly the same)*

*(Each package has one of the characters name on and that is how they are introduced.)*

**Narrator:** *Package for Longi the Long Legged Giraffe.  
Package for Shorti the Strong Lion.  
Package for Slimi the Snake.  
Package for Curvi the Curvy Elephant.*

Longi: "Wow we won the Model Media package from the Television site"

Shorti: "I wonder what is in the prize?"

Slimi: "Maybe a new ball for sports?"

Curvi: "Maybe a new yoga mat for relaxation?"

Longi: "Maybe a trip to the sun where we can get fresh air and play?"

Slimi: "Maybe a picnic with fresh and delicious food?"

*\* The play could be stopped here and the audience is asked what their favorite prizes might be that create a healthy environment for their bodies.*

**Narrator:** *The friends gathered and opened their prizes. They were exactly the same. Four pairs of matching pants. All the exact same color, the*

*exact same size, the exact same everything. Sent to them by the TV show that was on every channel. The inside label reads (Size Perfect).*

Longi – “Isn’t this what all the movie stars are wearing?”

**Narrator:** *Longi went first to try his on. They were far too short. The friends pushed on his head and tried putting bricks on his shoulders. There was no way Longi would fit this pair of media pants.*

Longi sighed: “I have always loved my long legs for running and stretching my neck to get the tenderest leaves off the trees. All my ancestor giraffes before me had long legs. I like my self the way I am.”

**Narrator:** *Next Shorti tried. He came out and the pants covering his eyes. They were far too long. Shorti was bumping into everything. The friends tried stretching Shorti. Pulling on his legs and arms but the pants were far too long.*

Shorti: “My body and my ancestor’s bodies have always been short. We use our powerful legs for springing and speed. I think I will send my prize back too!”

**Narrator:** *Curvi was one to be very excited. She was the eldest and she loved to dance. Va Va Va voom - her curves would swing. She could do the cha cha, the Tango, Rock and Hip hop. Her curves carried her where she wanted to go and she loved them.*

Curvi: “I can’t wait to open my package. Hey they are the same as the other pants!”

**Narrator:** *"She tugged and she pulled and could not do up the pants. Her friends pushed and poked her but she still could not fit into the pants.*

Curvi: "Wow my wonderful curves don't fit these pants."

**Narrator:** *"The others agreed. Curvi's curves did not fit. She slipped back into her curve-loving pants with happiness.*

Curvi: "I am going to send them back! These are not for me!!!!!! I love clothes that let me move and dance."

**Narrator:** *"Finally it was Slimi Snakes turn. She tentatively opened the package. Would they fit? She held them up and they dropped to her knees. There was nothing to hold them up. Her body was lean. Her friends tried squishing her down to fit her into the pants but her body sprung back to its natural shape. She was pleased that the pants did not fit as she did not like the style she had seen on TV and always had created her own trend setting ways."*

Slimi: "I like my own style. I am me. I am going to send these pants back too!"

**Narrator:** *"Each friend took one last look at the prize they had won and took something from the pants. The little something reminded them that they could take what they chose and say no thank you if they wanted to.*

Longi: "I am going to take a piece of shiny golden ribbon to remind me how much I love to run in the sunshine."

Shorti: "I am going to take a shiny button to remind me how strong and bright I am"

Curvi: "I am going to take a bell to remind me to follow my own rhythm and beat."

Slimi: "I am going to take a thread to remind me we are all connected and I have a right to be heard by all my friends even when my style is different."

***Narrator:*** *They were each different. They had inherited their bodies from their ancestors and each one was special in its own way. The friends said in a very assertive voice.*

*"We don't want to be all the same. We are each perfect in our own way. Just as we are right now. We want to express who we are. Each as individuals in our own way. Our differences make the world an interesting place to be."*

*\*Note children that are adopted and do not know their family history, can talk about who their ancestors might be or what characteristics they may have inherited from them.*

**NOTE:** The teacher can set this play up in a variety of ways depending on the skill level and needs of his/her class. For early primary teachers, ask a parent or older student if they are willing to put the play on, reading from the script. For the children who can read they can each take a part and play a character.

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## **EXTENSIONS OR ADD-ONS**

\* To involve the audience have the young students respond to the theater where the play is marked in purple text.

\* Young students may wish to make their own puppets out of paper and act out scenes from the play. Cut out each animal and tape it to a Popsicle stick or an unsharpened pencil.

When their part of the story comes up, they can wiggle around the puppet and either chant their section of the story or make the animal sound.

\* Students may wish to make their own puppet out of felt with an older buddy. The buddies can do all the cutting and gluing.

\*You may wish to bring the message into "*the human species*", by creating different human puppets and incorporating the key message. This will invite the children to take the message from the animal kingdom and adapt it to their own lives. They may ask themselves:

How am I different than my friends?

Am I able to say how I feel in my relationships?

Do I recognize that we all come in different shapes and sizes?

Do I honor individuality?

Am I able to honor myself by choosing to say yes or no thank you?

\*\* Older students may wish to create their own play based on the principles listed below. Have them try to incorporate at least three of the principle messages in their play while the audience looks for the message. The teacher could write the messages on the board so the students know what they

are looking for.

### **TV AND VIDEO EXTENSIONS**

Have the older student's film the younger students putting on their plays and play it at a parent night.

\* Have the older students digitally film their plays and put them on computer disc including text and messages. They could also hand out the *Key message* list to parents and students after watching the video.

These are the key messages that the play is hoping to incorporate.

### **KEY MESSAGES**

1. We have a right not to be teased. To be whom we are without fear. Anti bullying message.
2. We have a right to respond – each character does respond in their own way.
3. We have a right to communicate how we are feeling.
4. We have a right to say no thank you or yes please.

### **Underlying messages and questions the teacher or parent can discuss with the children**

Eat a wide variety of foods.

Enjoy eating, there are no bad foods, there are healthy choices.

Each of us is an individual.

Trust our bodies and our feelings.

Exercise.

We inherit our size and shape.

Each of us has our own strength.

The media plays a big part in influencing our culture  
We can choose how much we buy into the media.

We have a wide range of feelings and need to express them in a way that can be heard by others.

We make healthy choices rather than react to situations.

We have good sense of boundaries and can say yes or no.

We can talk to our friends about our feelings.

### **Questions to ask:**

What race and ethnicity are you?

What are your friends?

Who do you look like?