



Snaps for you!

An Interactive Performance
with Advanced English 12 students
from Avon View High School, 2019

It's obvious. Tinia is on her phone too much. But does this matter? Watch as three ghosts show Tinia the consequences of her decision to be on her phone rather than interact with those around her.

Cast

Mack—Narrator

Maggie – Tinia

Lia --Parent #1

Jacey -- Parent #2

Aly – Friend

Reuben -- Friend

Jess -- Ghost of Summer Vacation Past

Lana -- Ghost of Summer Vacation Present

Lauren -- Ghost of Summer Vacation Future

About the Performance: As Grade 12 students at Avon View High School, we recognize that technology is affecting the interpersonal relationships of young people today. This is a pressing issue. As graduating students, we want to help others consider the role of technology in the development of social skills. We want you, as our audience, to think for yourself when it comes to the role of technology in your life.

As the audience, you will be invited to create three possible endings to our play:

- a humorous ending,
- a “when things go wrong” ending, and
- a serious ending.

We will act out your three possible endings!

Staging suggestions

- 3 chairs on stage left and 5 chairs on stage right, for actors when they are not in a scene
- A podium or music stand for the narrator
- 3-5 flat student desks together, centre stage, to act as a bed
- Ring tones for sound effects

Props

- Pillow, blanket
- small ball
- playing or trading cards
- 3 ghost sheets
- Large book/folder to hold the narrator's script
- 8 cell phones

Introduction (by the teacher, or a student)

Good morning! We are all Grade 12 students at Avon View High School in Windsor and we are happy to be meeting you today. As a group, we notice that technology is affecting the way we interact with each other and we are worried about this. We want to help others, like you, consider the role of technology in the development of your social skills. We want you, as our audience, to think for yourself when it comes to the role of technology in your life.

At the end of our play, you will be invited to create three possible endings.

Mackenzie is our narrator for the play. At certain points, you will hear Mackenzie say, "Everyone snap your fingers." When you hear this, we will all snap our fingers three times. Let's practice this together. Ready? Mackenzie, what's the line?

Mackenzie says, "Everyone snap your fingers!" Cast members and audience snap three times.

Excellent! Now... enjoy the show!

Mack:

Once upon a time there was a student, named Tinia Texter, who was constantly on her phone.

Tinia walks across stage looking at phone, texting. She stops halfway to take a selfie, and then continues to walk while staring at her phone. Her friend enter - Reuben carrying cards (from stage right) and Aly carrying a ball (from stage left) They try to talk to her. She ignores them and continues to check her phone. Reuben and Aly exit stage right and left.

Mack:

She spent every day looking at her screen. Even at night she wouldn't sleep until she checked her SnapChat, Instagram, and YouTube.

Tinia walks across stage to her bed. She sits down on the bed while still staring at her phone. Lia and Jacey (Parent #1 and Parent #2) enter from stage left and come to where Tinia is sitting on her bed.

Lia:

Honey, it's bedtime, put away your phone.

Tinia:

Just one more minute! I'm almost done watching this Vine compilation!

Jacey:

Tinia, it's time to put the phone away. You need your sleep.

Lia:

Alright, just finish the video and then put it away.

Tinia finishes the video and puts her phone away. The parents exit stage left.

Mack:

Tinia kept watching videos until she fell into a deep sleep.

Tinia gets her phone back out, yawns and keeps watching videos until she falls asleep.

Mack:

As Tinia slept, the Ghost of Summer Vacation Past appeared.

Jessica:

(enters from stage right) Tinia! Tinia, wake up!

The Ghost of Summer Vacation Past gets out her phone and uses a ring tone to wake Tinia.

Tinia:

(Wakes up.) Oh my! Who are you?! (Pulls out phone and takes a duck face selfie with ghost.) Totally putting this on my story.

Jessica:

Tinia! Not the time!. Put your phone down for two seconds.

Tinia:

Wait wait, just let me post this first.

Jessica:

You can do that later. Right now we're going on a journey into your past.

Tinia:

Where? I can Google Map it!

Jessica:

Not where, Tinia, when!

Tinia:

I don't think Google Maps has a feature for that...

Jessica:

Okay, whatever

Mack: *(to audience)* Everyone snap your fingers! *(The cast and audience snap three times.)*

The friends, Reuben and Aly, enter from opposite sides of the stage, and begin passing a ball back and forth.

Jessica:

Look Tinia, we're in your past. *(Jessica indicates to her friends who are all playing and having fun.)*

Tinia:

I remember that day! That was just before I got my first phone.

Jessica:

Look at how much fun you were having. You didn't even need wifi.

Tinia:

Wait, is there wifi here? What's the password? *(Checks phone)*

Jessica:

No, Tinia! There isn't wifi. You were having fun without it.

Tinia:

(Looks up from phone) I haven't played with them in a long time. I remember when we used to have fun like that.

Jessica:

(Looks at Tinia and then at her friends.) Don't forget how you used to have fun Tinia, and don't be afraid when your other visitors stop by tonight. *(Snaps her fingers and transports Tinia back to the present day.)*

The friends exit, Reuben to stage left and Aly to stage right.

Tinia:

Other visitors?

Jessica:

Don't worry, and don't forget. *(She exits stage right.)*

Tinia checks her phone, puts it away, and goes to sleep.

Mack: Tinia fell asleep and soon after, the Ghost of Summer Vacation Present arrived.

The Ghost of Summer Vacation Present uses a ring tone to wake Tinia.

Lana:

I'm the Ghost of Summer Vacation Present. I'm here to show you what you are missing out on.

Tinia:

What do you mean I'm missing out? I have the whole world at my fingertips. What could I possibly be missing?

Lana:

Let me show you! Do you remember when you used to spend time with your friends? Well, this is what they're doing now.

Mack:

Everyone snap your fingers. *(The cast and audience snap three times.)*

Friends Reuben and Aly enter from opposite sides of the stage and begin exchanging cards, downstage.

Tinia:

Where am I? Why are they outside without me?

Lana:

They stopped inviting you to play because you're always on your phone.

Tinia:

I'm not ALWAYS on my phone!

Lana:

Well... I beg to differ

Tinia:
You have no proof!

Lana pulls out phone and types something. Tinia's phone dings.

Lana:
I dare you not to check your phone.

Tinia resists and then succumbs to looking at her phone.

Lana:
See! I knew you couldn't do it!

Tinia:
But that's not fair! How am I supposed to know what the txt said?

Lana:
You're not. You're supposed to remember that your phone will be here later. Your friends might not be. Look outside.

Lana gestures towards the audience/window.

Mack:
Outside the window, Tinia's two best friends were playing, without Tinia. They seemed to be having fun even when Tinia wasn't there.

Two friends, Aly and Reuben, are playing downstage.

Tinia:
They look so happy. Why didn't they ask me if I wanted to play?

Lana:
They did, but you never wanted to.

Lana snaps and exits. The friends exit. Tinia checks her phone and falls back to sleep.

Mack:
Tinia goes back to sleep. Soon, another ghost comes to visit her—the Ghost of Summer Vacation Future.

The Ghost of Summer Vacation Future enters the scene, looking like a grim reaper (but not too scary). The ghost uses a ring tone to wake Tinia. Tinia sees the ghost and is startled.

Tinia:
You don't look like the other ghosts...

Loran:
I am not like the others. I am a warning.

Tinia:
A warning for what?

Loran:
A warning that your actions have consequences. Do you know what will happen if you continue on this path?

Tinia:
(seeming scared) No... What will happen?

Loran:
Allow me to show you.

Mack:
Everyone snap your fingers! *(The cast and audience snap three times.)*

Tinia's parents enter from stage left, staring at their phones. They walk slowly across the stage. Tinia waves and then walks up to her parents, trying to get their attention.

Tinia:
Mom?

(The parents look annoyed)

Jacey:
(annoyed) Wait a minute, Tinia. Let me finish this Vine compilation.

Parents leave. Tinia is confused. Her friends stare at their phones.

Tinia:
Hey, Aly! What's up? Reuben, hey!

Her friends do not respond. Tinia waves her hands in front of their faces. They continue to ignore her. She taps Aly on the shoulder, no response. Finally, she shakes Reuben, and he looks up.

Reuben:
Oh, why aren't you just texting me?

Tinia:
Why won't you talk to me?!

Aly:
You never talk to us anymore. Aren't our phones more important?

The friends look back down at their phones and they exit stage left. Tinia is left looking shocked/heartbroken.

Loran:

If you put your phone before your friends and family, you'll forget what's really important. The connection to your loved ones matters more than the connection to your wife!

Tinia starts to cry. The ghost begins to leave

Tinia:

Wait! Can't I have another chance?

Loran:

That's up to you to decide... (*Snaps and exits stage right.*)

Mack:

Tinia wipes her tears and climbs back into bed. She wakes up from the dream. She reaches for her phone, and reconsiders.

Tinia:

(*Looking at the audience*) I have another chance! It was all a dream! What should I do?

Mack:

What should Tinia do?

Instruction from the Teacher / Student:

Using the forms provided to you in your group, write three lines for Tinia to say and one stage action for her to do that explains what happens in your ending.

Note: Allow the audience to provide three different endings to the play:

- a humorous ending,
- a "when things go wrong" ending, and
- a serious ending.

Using the audience's responses, the actors then perform these three endings.

Humourous Ending

Instructions: Write three lines for Tinia to say and one stage action for her to do that explains what happens in your ending.

Lines:

Stage Action:

“When things go wrong” Ending

Instructions: Write three lines for Tinia to say and one stage action for her to do that explains what happens in your ending.

Lines:

Stage Action:

Serious Ending

Instructions: Write three lines for Tinia to say and one stage action for her to do that explains what happens in your ending.

Lines:

Stage Action: