





DAY 1 DRAMA

Characters: RUTH, ZANE, CJ, JUNGLE JIM, HARPER, CASSIE

(Theme music, then Background Jungle Sounds begin.)

(Scene begins as RUTH enters from the rear of the auditorium walking at a fast pace toward the stage. She's wearing a backpack and using a walking stick.)

RUTH: *(happy)* What a grand adventure this is going to be! Ever since we saw Katharine Hepburn and Humphrey Bogart in *The African Queen*, I've been wanting to go on a jungle river cruise. It was your grandfather's favorite movie, you know. *(becomes sentimental)* Oh, how I wish he could be here right now—don't you?

(realizes her grandson, ZANE, isn't behind her)

RUTH: *(puzzled)* Zane? Oh my . . . how embarrassing! I wonder how long I've been talking to myself. *(looks around, then yells)* Zane!

(ZANE enters, also wearing a backpack.)

RUTH: What's wrong, Sweetheart? Did something happen?

ZANE: *(out of breath)* No. I just found a pet, that's all. It's a baby chameleon! Want to hold him? *(holds out cupped hands as if holding a chameleon)*

(IMPORTANT NOTE: There is no chameleon [prop] here. ZANE is simply holding his hands in such a way that the audience thinks there is one.)

RUTH: I think you know the answer to that question, young man.

ZANE: You mean you still hate reptiles?

RUTH: Well, Honey, I don't think it's something you just outgrow—like one day you wake up and can't wait to hold a lizard.

ZANE: *(laughs)* Yeah, that would be weird.

RUTH: And another thing . . . I don't hate anything God created. Every plant and animal is an absolute masterpiece. In fact, all of creation declares God's glory.

ZANE: That's not what my teacher thinks.

RUTH: I know. It's sad. How anyone can think that it all just happened by chance is beyond me. It makes no sense, and it's not even good science.

ZANE: Yeah, and you oughta know. You taught science for like 70 years!

RUTH: 70? Now, c'mon. I may be old, but I'm not that old! It was 47 years.

ZANE: Sorry. Well, it's still a long time.

RUTH: No, what really bothers me is that they teach evolution and millions of years as if it's a fact. But it's not a fact at all. It's just a belief. Always remember that!

ZANE: Oh, you don't have to worry about me, Grandma. The Bible says, "*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth,*" so that's what I believe. And it makes way more sense, too!

RUTH: Good boy.

ZANE: *(holding up the chameleon)* Hey, you think it'd be okay to take him on the cruise?

RUTH: Uh . . . no.

ZANE: I knew you were going to say that. *(starts to set the chameleon down)*

RUTH: Ahem. *(clears her throat)* Over there, please. *(points to a spot far away)*

ZANE: Okay. *(stoops down to let it go)* Goodbye, little buddy. Maybe our paths will cross again sometime.

RUTH: *(to herself)* I sure hope not.

ZANE: What'd you say?

RUTH: Oh, nothing. *(starts walking)* Shall we move along?

ZANE: Sure. But can you walk a little slower? I'm having trouble keeping up.

RUTH: Oh, I'm sorry. I wasn't even paying attention. You know, at my age, time is precious—so you don't want to waste it, if you know what I mean.

ZANE: Well, I don't think you have anything to worry about, Grams. You're in better shape than I am!

RUTH: What? I am not.

ZANE: Much better, actually.

RUTH: Now, that's ridiculous!

Day 1—The Journey Begins

Props: map, hiking backpacks

(GRANDPA and EMILY are onstage, waiting for RYAN to arrive.)

EMILY: I'm so excited for this week, Grandpa! I finally get to go with you on an adventure!

GRANDPA: I'm not sure how much of an adventure it will be—since I work at a museum, I have to see some of these historic places for myself. It's just a work trip, you know.

EMILY: That's not what Brian said.

GRANDPA: And just what did your brother say?

EMILY: He told me about his trips with you. They were epic, like in the movies.

GRANDPA: Your brother may have exaggerated a bit.

EMILY: What about when you explored the catacombs of Vilea and giant spiders chased you?

GRANDPA: *(chuckles)* Spiders chased Brian, but they were teeny-tiny. And he ran away screaming like a little girl.

EMILY: There was the time you searched for the copper scrolls of Vilcamba, and you grabbed ahold of Brian just before he stepped into a hidden pit full of spikes! They should make movies about your adventures.

GRANDPA: Those were fun trips. And we both learned a lot. That's why I like taking you kids.

SET DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION

Main Stage Set



The set for your VBS is very important. It not only serves as a setting for the drama, but also communicates the theme and helps set the mood for the entire VBS! The suggested design for *The Great Jungle Journey* set is shown above. Use it as a guide, and adapt it as necessary to your particular setting.







Set Components

Riverboat Station

The riverboat station occupies the main part of the set. Its walls should be constructed using rigid materials, such as corrugated cardboard, polystyrene insulation, luan plywood, or a combination of these materials. For best results, consider making "flats" (panels attached to lightweight wooden frames) and "jacks" (wooden supports) to prop them up. For basic instructional videos on how to build stage flats and jacks, visit [YouTube.com/answers/vbs](https://www.youtube.com/answers/vbs) and scroll down to the "Building a VBS Set" videos. The roof consists of cardboard attached to a lightweight wooden frame and covered with raffia fringe. Cover the doorway with dark fabric.



Outpost Building

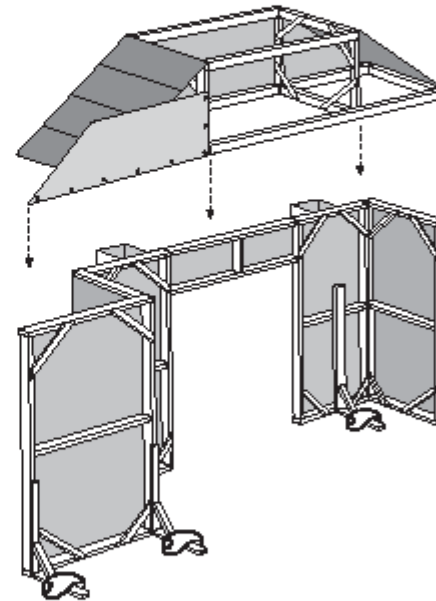
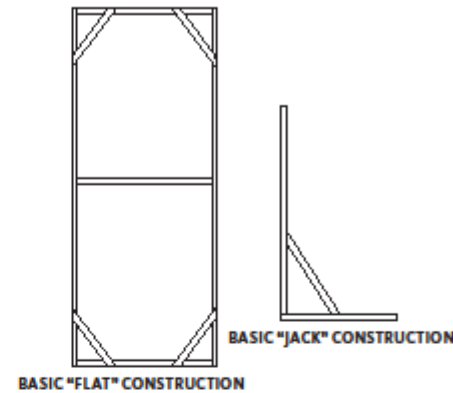
For days 2, 3, and 4 of the drama, you will need to temporarily transform the riverboat station into an outpost. This can be as simple as changing the sign and draping it with some vines and foliage. Or, you can take it a step further and change something about the building and add more foliage. Then, for day 5, it will need to revert back to the riverboat station.

Riverboat and Dock

If you're not planning to use the drama, the riverboat can be a stationary fixture just like all the other components of the set. Also, only the front section of dock (that's attached to the station) is needed. If you'll be doing the drama, however, the riverboat will need to be moveable and both sections of dock will be necessary. The boat will be coming and going during the week and the characters will be getting on and off the boat from the rear dock. The boat can be as simple as a flat (two-dimensional) boat panel supported with jacks on wheels for the actors to stand behind. Or, you can build a more elaborate three-dimensional structure using a moveable cart or platform for the actors to ride in. In any case, only the front half of the boat will be visible. The dock posts and rope can be painted cardboard or real posts wrapped with rope. Check home stores for round rough-hewn fence posts that can be cut and used for this purpose.

Flora and Fauna

Panels with jungle foliage should fill the platform side-to-side behind the riverboat station. A row of larger panels should go in back with some smaller panels in front to add depth. Then, add some trees of varying heights, lots of



colorful flowers and shrubs, and a host of wildlife. See the [Resource Download](#) for clip art images of jungle animals, flowers, shrubs, and treetops. To extend the trunks of the treetops, simply freehand the trunk lines.

Backdrop

A backdrop is an important part of the overall set. Besides covering the back wall of your platform, it can also enhance the look of your set pieces. Construct a row of high mountains with waterfalls against a deep blue background or keep it simple and go with the deep blue background alone.

Props List

Day 1

- ☐ Ruth's backpack (should be colorful)
- ☐ Optional: Ruth's walking stick
- ☐ Zane's backpack
- ☐ CJ's broom
- ☐ Jungle Jim's large envelope (with Certificate of Graduation)
- ☐ Harper's two duffle bags
- ☐ Cassie's smartphone
- ☐ Cassie's earbuds
- ☐ Tickets
- ☐ CJ's large backpack and accessories

Day 2

- ☐ Harper's camera
- ☐ Duffles and supplies
- ☐ Cassie's long tube (see NOTES)

Day 3

- ☐ CJ's toothbrush
- ☐ CJ's alarm clock
- ☐ Folding camp chairs
- ☐ Ruth's watch-type tracker
- ☐ Cassie's blanket (optional: sleep mask)
- ☐ Apple
- ☐ Duffles and supplies
- ☐ Rope (with frayed end)
- ☐ Ruth's backpack with two bananas
- ☐ Firewood

Day 4

- ☐ Fake campfire (see NOTES)
- ☐ Two folding camp chairs
- ☐ Zane's book
- ☐ Cassie's journal
- ☐ Optional: duffle bags
- ☐ Harper's Bible
- ☐ Jungle Jim's large cooler

Day 5

- ☐ Folding chairs
- ☐ Zane's flip-flops
- ☐ Zane's mangled boot (see NOTES)
- ☐ Four water bottles
- ☐ CJ's bandages (see NOTES)
- ☐ Backpacks and duffle bags

NOTES

CASSIE'S LONG TUBE

A long (60-inch) fabric roll works great for this. Just tie it off with twine in several places to keep it from unrolling. Or you can use two mailer tubes taped together. This scene needs to be adequately practiced to get the timing and positioning right.

FAKE CAMPFIRE

On a round piece of corrugated cardboard, arrange some sticks into a simple teepee fire structure. Then use a glue gun to secure the sticks to the cardboard and to each other.

Costume Suggestions

Jungle Jim

Khaki cargo shirt and shorts (or pants), hiking boots, safari hat or visor, wristwatch

CJ McGee

Khaki cargo shirt and shorts, neck bandana, hiking boots, wristwatch—closely matching Jungle Jim’s uniform, if possible, since they both work at the same company

Ruth

Solid color stretch pants, short-sleeve Hawaiian/flower print shirt, gray wig, visor, glasses, white leather sneakers

Zane

Cargo shorts, T-shirt, hiking boots

Harper

Cargo pants or capris, short-sleeve safari shirt (or vest) over T-shirt, safari hat, hiking boots

Cassie

Cargo pants or Bermuda cargo shorts, T-shirt, sneakers, ball cap

Tip Corner

- Thrift shops are a good source for inexpensive clothing and accessories.
- Check the internet for a myriad of costume ideas.

Music & Sound Effects List

Daily

- ☐ Theme music
- ☐ Background Jungle Sounds

Day 1

- ☐ Big Crash
- ☐ Boat Engine Starting
- ☐ Intercom Effect (see NOTE)

Day 2

- ☐ Boat Arriving
- ☐ Intercom Effect (see NOTE)
- ☐ Rustling
- ☐ More Rustling
- ☐ Hearing Aid Squeal
- ☐ Thunder 1
- ☐ Thunder 2

Day 3

- ☐ Reveille
- ☐ Indian Wolf Howl

Day 4

- ☐ Stomach Growl
- ☐ Boat Arriving

Day 5

(no additional sound effects)

Note

INTERCOM EFFECT

This effect can be achieved at the soundboard. Temporarily remove (EQ) all the low frequencies and some of the highs from the mic channel that CJ is using as he says his lines. Experiment until you get the sound you want.



Download sound effects from [Answers4BS.com/jungleresources](https://www.answers4BS.com/jungleresources)



Rehearsal & Production Schedule

The following schedule should be used as a guide and should not be considered a comprehensive list of “to do” items. Add to or adapt the schedule according to your situation.

Six Weeks Before VBS

- Host an orientation meeting with your entire cast.
- Distribute the daily scripts.
- Assign parts, then read through the scripts to acquaint the actors with the storyline and characters.
- Encourage actors to read scripts on their own and begin to learn their lines.
- Establish a rehearsal schedule. (Make sure cast members bring their calendars with them.) In addition, schedule an extended dress rehearsal of all five scripts on stage during the weekend just before VBS.
- Communicate expectations regarding attendance and behavior during rehearsals.
- Exchange phone numbers and email addresses.
- Encourage the actors to read the scripts daily.
- Meet with the set design and construction crew to discuss those needs.

Five Weeks Before VBS

- Focusing on one script (or two) per rehearsal, begin to block scenes (movement and positioning of characters).
- Encourage actors to read scripts on their own and learn their lines.

Four Weeks Before VBS

- Focusing on one script (or two) per rehearsal, continue to block scenes.
- Encourage actors to learn their lines.
- Purchase/collect set materials.

Three Weeks Before VBS

- Focusing on one script (or two) per rehearsal, continue to block scenes.
- Begin to limit the use of scripts by the actors.

- Discuss costume needs and assign collection of props.
- Create set pieces.

Two Weeks Before VBS

- Continue with blocking rehearsals.
- Limit use of scripts.
- Discuss rehearsal schedule for next week (the most important week of rehearsals!). Remind the cast of the extended dress rehearsal of all five scripts on stage. (Allow at least four hours, if possible.)
- Discuss progress regarding costumes and props.
- Meet with the sound and lighting crew to discuss microphones, music, sound effects, and lighting.
- Continue work on set pieces.

One Week Before VBS

- Conduct rehearsals with no scripts.
- Make sure all costumes are assembled and all props are collected.
- Install the set as early in the week as possible so practices can take place on stage.
- If possible, conduct an extended dress rehearsal of all five scripts on stage with sound and lighting.

During VBS

- Conduct run-through rehearsals on stage before each day's drama. Schedule the auditorium to be “closed” between the opening and closing assemblies for this purpose.

Tip Corner

- To help motivate actors to learn their lines, set deadlines to memorize each day's script.
- Record a complete read-through of all five scripts to use to help the actors learn their lines.
- Begin blocking as early as possible. It helps the actors learn their lines faster.
- Resist the tendency to neglect the Day 5 script because it's later in the VBS week. Your drama should end on a high note, with a strong performance!

