

# **Jonathan James and the Whatif Monster**

Based on the book by Michelle Nelson-Schmidt  
Adapted by Lauren Reeves

## **List of Characters:**

Narrator  
Whatif Monster 1  
Whatif Monster 2  
Whatif Monster 3  
Worrying Jonathan  
Tree Climbing Jonathan  
Diving Board Jonathan  
Baseball Jonathan  
Artist Jonathan  
Picky Eater Jonathan  
Bedtime Jonathan  
Running Jonathan  
Friend Jonathan  
Friend  
“Onlookers”

## **Setting:**

Each Jonathon has a separate interaction with one of the what-if monsters. These interactions could occur at different areas on the stage, or could occur one after another. The children should pantomime the action as it relates to the dialog occurring. The “Onlookers” fill the part of laughing children, cheering fans, yelling moms, etc. but are not specifically given lines. They just interact with the pantomiming Jonathan as needed. Use simplicity and imagination!

## **Narrator**

(About Worrying Jonathan)

Some Whatif Monsters like to hang out, and fill up our heads with worry and doubt. They are sneaky and quiet and quick as a blink, the words that they whisper can change how we think. Jonathan James heard those words full of dread, and all those “what-ifs” got stuck in his head.

## **Whatif Monster 1**

(To Tree Climbing Jonathan)

What if you tumble? What if there’s wind? What if you slip and your knee gets all skinned?

**Whatif Monster 2**

(To Diving Board Jonathan)

What if they giggle? What if it's chilly? What if you jump and look really silly?

**Whatif Monster 3**

(To Baseball Jonathan)

What if it's hard? What if you're bad? What if they laugh and make you feel sad?

**Whatif Monster 1**

(To Artist Jonathan)

What if it's ugly? What if it stinks? What if that's what everyone thinks?

**Whatif Monster 2**

(To Picky Eater Jonathan)

What if it's yucky? What if it's icky? What if Mom yells because you're too picky?

**Whatif Monster 3**

(To Bedtime Jonathan)

What if it's dark? What if it's scary? What if there's something giant and hairy?

**Whatif Monster 1**

(To Running Jonathan)

What if you lose? What if you're last? What if you're slow and never get fast?

**What if Monster 2**

(To Friend Jonathan)

What if she laughs? What if she runs? What if she thinks you're not any fun?

**Worrying Jonathan**

Now wait just a minute! I have something to say, after hearing 'what ifs' all through the day. I hear all your worries; I hear all your claims. But what if you're wrong?

**Tree Climbing Jonathan**

What if I climb to the *top* of that tree, and I never slip or skin up a knee?

**Diving Board Jonathan**

And what if I jump right into that pool, and everyone thinks I look really *cool*?

**Baseball Jonathan**

And what if baseball is nothing but *fun*, and I end up hitting a triple home run?

**Artist Jonathan**

And what if my drawing goes up on the wall, and everyone thinks it's the *best* one of all?

**Picky Eater Jonathan**

What if I taste some of the food, and it puts my mouth in a really *good* mood?

**Running Jonathan**

And what if I run in a really big race, and have a *great* time no matter what place?

**Bedtime Jonathan**

And what if I sleep and have the best dream... that monsters are *sweeter* than they all seem?

**Friend Jonathan**

And what if the chance I take in the end, is just how I find my very *best* friend?

(Could end with all children and whatif monsters playing gleefully.)

**The End**