

“Orville’s Show and Tell”

(Orville is standing center stage)

(Looking toward the audience as though they were a classroom full of students). Hello, class. My brother Wilbur and I have been working very hard on our project for the science fair this year. *(He turns and calls offstage.)* All right, Wilbur, you can bring ‘er on in. *(Ducking quickly)* Whoa! I said “bring ‘er in,” not...*(Ducks again)*...”fly ‘er in!” Now land that thing before we’re both assigned a three-hour layover in the principal’s office! *(coaxing)* That’s it. Bring her down slowly. Careful. Careful. *(sigh of relief)* Ah, a perfect landing!Well, almost perfect. You probably shouldn’t have landed on our teacher. *(To imaginary teacher)* But don’t worry, Miss Marsh. Those tread marks should come off with a little soap and water.

(To audience) Now then, class, this is what my brother and I call the “airplane.” We were going to call it the “Harley-Davidson,” but no matter how hard we tried, we could never get it to pop a wheelie!

Another reason we call it the airplane is because it goes up into the air. You’ve already seen how it can do that. *(Aside)* No, no, Wilbur. Don’t take it up again. I’m sure with thirty kids in this room, Miss Marsh sees enough things sailing through the air! In fact, since our last demonstration of the “paper airplane,” I believe half the class is on the Frequent Flyer program!

(To audience) Now then, allow me to point out some of the different parts of the airplane. *(Demonstrating)* You’ll notice the airplane has two wings. We tried making it with only one, but all it did was go around in circles. It was all right with us, but it sure made our stewardess dizzy!

(Aside to Wilbur) Uh, Wilbur whatever you do, don’t touch that red button over there.

(Continuing to point out the various parts to the audience) Now, this here is the cockpit. And this is the rear rudder. And this is the landing gear...I wish you could get a better view of the landing gear, but unfortunately, Miss March is still attached to it.

(Aside to Wilbur) I said don’t touch that red button!

(Turning back to audience) Now, you may be wondering what’s so great about air travel. Well, the advantages are endless. Just thing – no more running to catch the Good Humor truck, no more tardiness for school, and imagine how easy it’d be to steal second base in one of these babies! Yes, fellow students, we just might be on the threshold of a brand new era, an era of....

(Abrupt turn toward imaginary Wilbur) Wilbur! I said don’t touch that...*(He looks up and rolls his eyes as if following a airborne Wilbur)* Well, as you can see, that button controlled the ejection seat! But it’s all right. He wanted to go home for lunch anyway!