



Lemon and mint by Nick Bilbrough

A play to be performed with two groups of three actors in two different remote locations performing through ZOOM, each with an active webcam. Wherever possible actors who are not speaking perform actions to represent the words.

A1: There was once a poor family who were looking for somewhere to live.
A2: One day they arrived in a land that was covered with lemon trees. There were lemon trees in every direction.
A3: Big ones, small ones, shiny, yellow lemons glistening in the sunshine.
A1: They'd never seen lemons before.
A2: So they picked some and tried them.
A3: Wow!
A1: This is it. This is our home!
A2: We can live here forever.
A3: This will be home for our children, and our grandchildren, and for our grandchildren's children, for many years to come.
A1: So they built their homes with the wood that they found.
A2: And when they were tired they rested under the trees and laughed and sang and told stories.
A3: Life was good
.....

B1: Meanwhile there was another poor family who were also looking for a somewhere to live.
B2: One day they arrived in a land that was covered with mint. There was mint as far as the eye could see.
B3: The fresh, clean smell of mint drifting in the breeze.
B1: They'd never seen mint before.
B2: So they picked some and tried it.
B3: Wow!
B1: This is it. This is our home!
B2: We can live here forever.
B3: This will be home for our children, and our grandchildren, and for our grandchildren's children, for many years to come.
B1: So they built their homes among the mint plants.
B2: And when they were tired they sat down in the soft, fragrant mint and laughed and sang and told stories.
B3: Life was good.
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A1: The lemon farmers used the lemons to make delicious foods and drinks
A2: They made lemonade and lemon cakes and used it in their salads and their soups.
A3: And when cooking fish and meat it improved the flavour so much that they said to themselves....
A1, A2 and A3 together: How on earth did we live before lemons?
.....

B1: The mint farmers used the mint to make delicious foods and drinks.
B2: They made mint tea and mint sauce and used it in their salads and their soups.
B3: And when cooking fish and meat it improved the flavour so much that they said to themselves....
B1, B2 and B3 together: How on earth did we live before mint?
.....

A1: One day one of the children of the lemon farmers was feeling adventurous. He walked and he walked for many days until he came to a place where there were no trees.
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B1: And one of the children of the mint farmers was also feeling adventurous. He walked and he walked for many days until he came to a place where there was no mint.
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A2 and B2: Suddenly they noticed each other
A3: Hello
B3: Hi
A3: Nice to meet you
B3: Where are you from?
A3: I'm from the lemon farm. Would you like to try some lemon?
B3: I'm from the mint farm. Would you like to try some mint?
(They pass each other their foods and taste them)
A3: But the mint's so strong! Can you mix it with anything?
B3: But the lemon's so sharp! Can you mix it with anything?
A3 and B3: Let's mix them together!
A1: So they mixed the lemon and the mint with water and sugar and they created a drink called...
B1: Lemon and mint!
A2: Suddenly the other farmers arrived.
B2: They were suspicious of strangers and didn't want change.
A1: Be careful! Don't talk to strangers!
B1: Don't trust anyone! They might want to steal from you!
A2: They might want to hurt you!
B2: You need to come home!
A3: But look. We've made a new drink. It's called lemon and mint.
B3: Try it! We think you'll like it.
A1: So reluctantly they tasted the new drink.
B1: It was delicious!
A2: And soon everyone from both groups was drinking it at almost every meal..
B2: And one day they said...
All together: How on earth did we live before lemon and mint?

Palestinian children in Gaza and Syrian children in Zaatari refugee camp performing this play together through zoom <https://youtu.be/klx-VkvMSul>