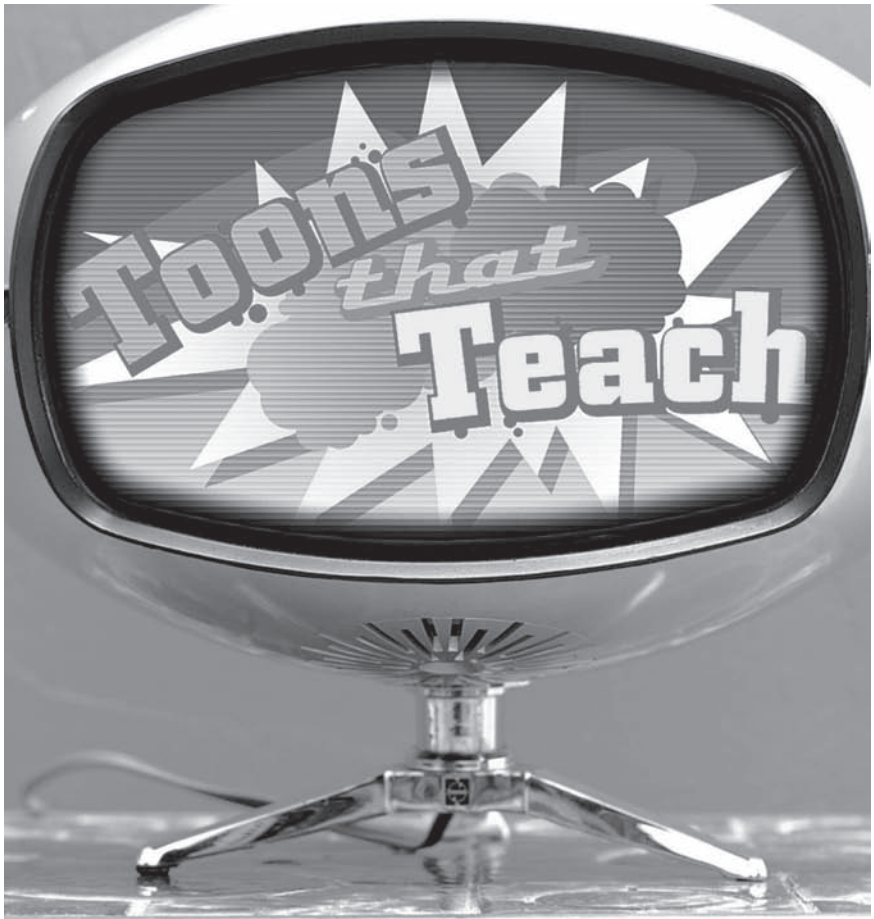


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**75 CARTOON MOMENTS TO
GET TEENAGERS TALKING**

STEVEN CASE

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Youth Specialties

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Toons That Teach: 75 Cartoon Moments to Get Kids Talking
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Youth Specialties Products, 300 South Pierce Street, El Cajon, CA 92020, are published by Zondervan, 5300 Patterson Avenue SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49530

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Case, Steve L., 1964-

Toons that teach : 75 cartoon moments to get kids talking / by Steve Case.

p. cm.

Includes indexes.

ISBN 0-310-25992-4 (pbk.)

1. Church work with youth. 2. Animated television programs--Moral and ethical aspects. 3. Animated films--Moral and ethical aspects. I. Title.

BV4447.C3787 2005

268'.67--dc22

2005002991

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Web site addresses listed in this book were current at the time of publication. Please contact Youth Specialties via e-mail (YS@YouthSpecialties.com) to report URLs that are no longer operational and replacement URLs if available.

Editorial direction by Will Penner

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Interior design by Mark Novelli, Imago Media

Cover design by Burnkit

Printed in the United States of America

05 06 07 08 09 10 / DCI / 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

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CLASSIC CARTOONS



SERIES
THE FLINTSTONES

EPISODE
THE HOT PIANO

VOLUME TITLE
THE FLINTSTONES: SEASON ONE

THEMES: Consequences, Decisions

SCRIPTURES:

- Proverbs 3:5-6: Confused? Ask God.
- Matthew 6:33: God in all things makes you fully human in all things.
- Romans 13:11-14: “Hey, over here! Remember Me?”—God

SYNOPSIS:

Fred wants to buy Wilma a gift she has always wanted—a piano. But when Fred buys the gift from a less-than-reputable source, hilarity ensues. Fred and the boys eventually get the piano to Wilma, and the boys sing “Happy Anniversary” to the loving couple.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- ▶ When was the last time you tried to take the easy way out? What happened?
- ▶ Have you ever heard the phrase “There’s no such thing as a free lunch”? What does it mean?
- ▶ Do you ever get to a point where you hear a little voice inside your head say, “You know, this is a bad idea”? Do you listen to this voice, or do you ignore it?
- ▶ Who do you consult when you make important decisions? What if you are trying to decide about something that might get you in trouble—who do you ask then?
- ▶ Have you ever made a bad decision—and then made another bad decision to try to cover the first one up? How’d that work out?



TOON TRIVIA

The “Happy Anniversary” song at the end of this episode is to the tune of “The William Tell Overture”—also known as the theme from *The Lone Ranger*.

- ▶ When could Fred have just ‘fessed up and gotten himself out of trouble? Why do you think he didn’t want to do that? (Granted, that would have made for a much shorter episode!)
- ▶ If you were offered a deal where you could get a B on every test without studying, but could never get an A, would you take that deal? Why, or why not?
- ▶ Would you rather succeed as part of a team and share the recognition, or succeed as an individual but go unnoticed?
- ▶ What were Fred’s motives?
- ▶ How many chances did Fred have to back out of the deal?
- ▶ If you were Barney, would you have quit at some point and said, “Sorry, you’re on your own”?
- ▶ Would Jesus be singing with the boys, or telling Fred he had to return the piano?

CLOSING PRAYER:

God, sometimes we do things even when we know they will get us in trouble. So many times you put up flashing warnings, but we plow right on through. Protect us when we get stupid, God. Lift us out of the holes we make for ourselves. Amen.



OPTIONAL EXTRA

The Flintstones was famous for its “stone” puns, so have a pun-off. Break the group into two teams and have players come up one a time and make puns. Each player has five seconds to respond. All puns must have something to do with rocks or stones.



SERIES
THE JETSONS

EPIISODE
A DATE WITH JET SCREAMER

VOLUME TITLE
THE JETSONS: THE COMPLETE FIRST SEASON

THEMES: Communication, Dating, Parents

SCRIPTURES:

- Proverbs 2:3-6: Seek wisdom and you will find it.
- 2 Timothy 2:7: Stay with the program. God will show you the answer.
- James 3:9-12: Garbage in = Garbage out.

SYNOPSIS:

Judy enters the “Win a Date with Jet Screamer” contest, but George tries to make sure she doesn’t win by substituting her song with Elroy’s secret code. Judy wins the big date anyway, and George follows close behind to make sure nothing bad happens.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- ▶ When is someone old enough to date? What are the rules in your family?
- ▶ Is there any current celebrity that you would like to date?
- ▶ What would you do if your mom or dad followed you on a date?
- ▶ Is it hard to communicate with your parents? What’s the hardest part?
- ▶ What do you think your parents would say is hardest about communicating with you?
- ▶ We’re actually closer to the Jetsons’ reality now than we were when your parents were dating. How have cell-phones changed the dating scene since your parents were kids?
- ▶ Have your parents ever told you stories about when they were dating? What they did? Where they went?



TOON TRIVIA

The Jetsons, like *The Flintstones*, originally aired in prime time. It went up against *The Wonderful World of Disney*. Yes, the same voice actor who did the voice of Astro also did the voice of Scooby Doo.

- ▶ Who puts up the wall that sometimes appears between parents and teens? Was it always there?
- ▶ Do your parents talk to you differently now from the way they did when you were a kid? Explain.
- ▶ How much do your parents trust you? When was the last time you gave them reason not to trust you? How long did it take to earn that trust back?
- ▶ Is George being unreasonable? Is Judy? Would you let your kid go out with Jet Screamer?
- ▶ Complete this sentence: The biggest misconception adults have about dating today is...
- ▶ Complete this sentence: The biggest thing teenagers don't understand about dating is...

CLOSING PRAYER:

Loving God, we are amazed at the differences between us. Help us understand our parents. Help them understand that we are becoming new creations, changing every day. Help them remember what that is like. Amen.



OPTIONAL EXTRA

Create your own secret code with symbols and letters, and then write out one of the suggested Scripture verses on posterboard in your code. Give your group blank sheets of paper and pencils. The first one to translate and read the verse aloud gets an ice-cream bar.



SERIES
LOONEY TUNES

EPISODE
BALLOT BOX BUNNY

VOLUME TITLE
THE GOLDEN COLLECTION

THEMES: Leadership, Politics

SCRIPTURES:

- Daniel 4:31: Kingdoms fall. Governments change.
- Romans 13:1-2: Authority deserves respect.
- 1 Peter 3:15-16: If you don't do anything to get on the cover of a tabloid, you won't end up on the cover of a tabloid.

SYNOPSIS:

Yosemite Sam is running for mayor on an anti-rabbit platform. Bugs decides to throw his hat in the ring and run against Sam. In the end both candidates are beaten by a real dark horse candidate.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- ▶ Do you consider yourself a Democrat, a Republican, or neither?
- ▶ Do you think voters are treated as if they are stupid during an election year? Explain.
- ▶ In one recent election, voters were “selling” their votes on eBay. Do you think this is right?
- ▶ How do politicians “buy” votes today? (Cigars not included.)
- ▶ Does your youth group have elected officers? Does your church? How are those elections held?
- ▶ Is holding an election for church leaders biblical? What elections do you know of in the Scriptures?



TOON TRIVIA

When Bugs says
“I speak softly...,”
he is doing an impression
of President Teddy
Roosevelt.

- ▶ Do you think politics is an honorable profession? Would you ever want to hold public office for a living?
- ▶ What issues in your community, nation, or world are you most concerned about?
- ▶ Why do candidates spend so much time trying to be “of the people”? (Kissing babies, being “folksy.”) Aren’t voters smart enough to know who’s faking?
- ▶ When Bugs says “I speak softly...,” he’s quoting a famous U.S. president. What do you think that statement means? Is it a good policy for a nation to follow? What about for an individual?
- ▶ The sign in Bugs Bunny’s office says “Loyal, Loveable, and Literate.” What qualities do you look for in a leader? (Bonus point if you name a quality that starts with “L.”)
- ▶ What is a “dark horse”?
(A dark horse is a candidate who is relatively unknown or wins unexpectedly. The phrase came from the practice of painting a racehorse so that it would receive better odds.)
- ▶ What qualities do the Scriptures tell us to look for in a leader?
- ▶ Are you a leader? What kind of leader are you?
- ▶ (Optional Question) Were you surprised by the way the cartoon ended? Was this too violent? This was one reason some *Looney Tunes* were edited in the 1980s. Do you think any kids’ cartoon today would end with Russian Roulette? Why, or why not?

CLOSING PRAYER:

God, make us leaders. Guide the leaders of our church, our nation, and our world. Make them wise. Give them ears to hear the people and honor to earn their trust. Amen.



OPTIONAL EXTRA

Hold an election within your youth group, not for leader of the group but for something silly, like Snack Time: Oreos or Chips Ahoy. Have two of your more vocal students square off in a debate. Allow the rest of your group to ask the questions. Hold an election and buy the winning treats for the next meeting.