

What Does *That* Mean?

A church drama based on the Royal Ambassador Pledge

Cast: Pastor or other adult church leader (not the RA leader)
Group of Royal Ambassadors, several of whom have individual speaking parts.
(Note: if there are not enough RAs to cover each part individually, have the boys ‘double up.’)
Several people on the platform, in the choir, or near the front of the church to hold up “thought balloons” during the drama. They raise the thought balloons when the RAs ‘freeze’ and lower them when they begin to speak again as a group.

Materials: Several large “thought balloons” with the question, “What does *that* mean?” written on it. (In print cartoons, a thought balloon looks something like a puffy cloud with a string of bubbles attached.) These can be constructed from foam board, available at office supply stores.

Notes: **Have the boys memorize their parts if at all possible.** Emphasize that they need to speak in a normal voice, just LOUDER and MORE SLOWLY. They need to speak loudly enough to be heard on the back row by a slightly hard-of-hearing grandmother. They need to speak more slowly so that their words are clearly understood, and to counteract our tendency to talk faster when we’re nervous.
Do not say the pledge “to” an RA flag. In fact, it might be best not to even have the RA flag displayed during this drama. The RA pledge is a personal pledge (to God) rather than a ‘pledge to the flag.’

Pastor: “We’re glad today to have our Royal Ambassador group share with us the commitments they make. They will recite the RA Pledge.

Group: “As a Royal Ambassador...” [FREEZE—“thought balloon” holders raise their balloons until the RA group speaks again]

Boy 1: “Whenever I hear the name Royal Ambassador, I remember that our name is based on the Bible. II Corinthians 5:20 says, ‘We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God.’ From that verse, we get our RA motto, ‘We are Ambassadors for Christ.’ That’s what Royal Ambassadors is trying to do—help boys and their leaders become representatives of Christ Jesus the King.”

Group: “...I will do my best...” [FREEZE—“thought balloon” holders raise their balloons until the RA group speaks again]

Boy 2: “Doing my best is a *promise*. When you promise to do something, you do it, even if it’s hard.

Group: "...to become a well-informed, responsible follower of Christ..." [FREEZE—"thought balloon" holders raise their balloons until the RA group speaks again]

Boy 3 (needs to be an RA who is a Christian): "Not every boy in RAs is a Christian. But all of us are learning about Him. We learn Bible verses, and we learn to live like the Bible says we should. And when you do become a Christian, like I did, RAs helps you grow spiritually and to be on mission with Jesus."

Group: "...to have a Christlike concern for all people..." [FREEZE—"thought balloon" holders raise their balloons until the RA group speaks again]

Boy 4: "That means I'll care about folks like me, but it also means I'll really make sure I care about folks who are different from me."

Group: "...to learn how the message of Christ is carried around the world..." [FREEZE—"thought balloon" holders raise their balloons until the RA group speaks again]

Boy 5: "It's great when we learn about our International missionaries and our North American missionaries. And sometimes we learn about missionary kids and pray for them and their parents. But the best thing I've learned in RAs is, "I can do it, too!"

Group: "...to work with others in sharing Christ..." [FREEZE—"thought balloon" holders raise their balloons until the RA group speaks again]

Boy 6: "Wasn't it great when we _____? (fill the blank with a recent RA mission project, such as "...raised money for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering with our bike-a-thon."

Boy 7: "Yeah, that was fun, but my favorite was when _____. (fill the blank with a different recent RA mission project, such as "...we worked with the GAs and collected cans of food and made scripture tracts to take to the homeless shelter.")

Group: "...and to keep myself clean and healthy in mind and body." [FREEZE—"thought balloon" holders raise their balloons until the RA group speaks again]

Boy 8: "That mean's I'm going to live right!"

Boy 9: "Speak truth!"

Boy 10: "And right wrong!"

Boy 11: "Follow Christ the King!"

Group: "Because that's what God made us for!"

[If desired, the RA Pledge may be recited again without break, by the RAs or the entire congregation.]