

SHIELDS

~~START~~

(Light comes up on MISS SHIELDS behind her desk. RALPH's light dims to black and he exits.)

MISS SHIELDS *(addressing class)*. It's nearly time to go home, so let me give you next week's homework assignment. There will be no book report on Friday. *(Offstage cheering from a host of children.)* Instead, I want you to turn in a written theme on the following Monday, applying what we've learned in this unit: margins, spelling, paragraphing, everything. *(Offstage groans from a host of children.)* It will count heavily toward your final semester grade. Choose an appropriate subject and limit it properly. Now, what are the four purposes of a theme?

CHILDREN'S VOICES *(in unison)*. "To inform, to describe, to persuade, to tell a story."

MISS SHIELDS. That's right. For this assignment, write a theme to inform or persuade. Your choice. Single page. Watch your margins. Since it's the holiday season, this will

be your only homework assignment for all of next week. But with two weekends and five school days, I expect excellent work. Questions? *(Bell rings.)* Dismissed.

~~STOP~~