**1ST READING: PLAYLET - 'A SAD DAY'**

‘Welcome to my world!’ God said to Adam. ‘It’s good, isn’t it?’

‘Welcome to my garden!’ God said to Eve. ‘This is the most beautiful place of all. And I want it to be your home. **TAKE CARE OF THE** **ANIMALS FOR ME.** Take care of the plants. And eat whatever you like. There are plenty of trees to pick from.’

Adam and Eve didn’t know what to say. They looked at the garden. They looked at each other. And then they smiled the world’s first smile.

Life was going to be perfect here. Just perfect.

‘There’s just one more thing,’ God said. ‘Do you see that tree over there? The one in the middle of the garden? Well, the fruit on that tree is not good for you. If you eat it, you will make me very unhappy. And you will have to leave this beautiful place.’

Adam and Eve looked at each other again. With so many trees to chose from, that hardly seemed to be a problem. And for a long time, they were content with soft juicy pears, sweet thick-skinned oranges, and round ripe melons.

Then, one day, the serpent came to visit.

‘Tell me,’ the serpent said to Eve, ‘which trees are you allowed to eat from?’

‘Every tree!’ Eve smiled. ‘Except the one in the middle of the garden.’

‘Oh?’ said the crafty serpent. ‘And why is that?’

‘Because it would make God unhappy,’ Eve answered. ‘And we would have to leave this beautiful place.’

‘Ridiculous!’ laughed the serpent. ‘God does not want you to eat that fruit because he knows it would make you as clever as him. You know all about being good. But God has told you nothing about what it means to be bad. Eat the fruit, and you will know all about that, too!’

Eve thought that the fruit looked delicious. She had sometimes wondered what it tasted like. And it wasn’t really fair of God to keep things from them.

So she picked a piece. ***(Pick apple.)***And took a bite. ***(Take bite.)*** And gave Adam a taste as well.

And, right away, they discovered what it meant to do something bad. ***(Turn Adam and Eve picture around.)***

Their stomachs churned with guilt.

Their faces turned red with shame.

And instead of running to meet God when he next visited the garden, they ran away to hide.

‘I know what you have done,’ God called out sadly. ‘Now you will have to leave this beautiful place.’

‘Goodbye,’ God said to Adam.

‘From now on, you will have to scratch at the earth for the food you eat.’

‘Goodbye,’ God said to Eve. ‘Your life will be hard, too.’

‘And when your lives end,’ God said finally, ‘you will go back to the ground from which you came.’

Adam and Eve looked at each other.

Then they walked sadly out of the garden.

They had learned what it means to be bad.

And they had changed God’s good world for ever.

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**PROPS AND CHARACTERS NEEDED**

***(FROM LEFT TO RIGHT ACROSS STAGE -***

***SEE PHOTOS)***

***Life-size cardboard double-sided, head and shoulders, picture of Adam and Eve propped up on stand. Happy faces on one side and sad red faces on reverse. (Person to reverse it.)***

***Children wearing different animal masks and crawling or walking around the garden on ‘all fours’.***

***Life-size cardboard cut-out of tree with cardboard apples fixed on with Velcro.***

***Serpent (behind tree and holding slithering toy serpent in front of tree) to read red writing.***

***Narrator (at side of tree) to read non-highlighted writing.***

***God (out of site) to read yellow writing.***