

Yo -Yo GEM

Setting:

- house of THE Bergomungha and his sister Berthamungha
- framed photos of THE Berghomungha and Berthamungha hang on the "wall"
- small treasure chest sits on the floor in front of stage, curtains are split in the middle so that they can be draped around a frame over the chest to represent the basement (hang a piece of black material behind to hide the puppeteers)



Characters:

Wanda: - about 7-8 years old
- speaks with a slight lisp
- cries easily

Bertha: - scary looking fanged lady
- speaks a little gruffly with a hiss but is actually very kind

Props:

- Small yo-yos (enough for audience if giving them out) with a happy face on one side and a sad face on the other. Around the edge on one side are the words "God is good. He Cares for me." On the other side are the words "G-E-M. God Encourages Me."
- One large yo yo made from 2 frisbees with the front and back decorated that same as the small ones. This should be mounted on a pole so that it can be turned around as Wanda looks at it.
- cardboard carving knife and letter for Bertha to attach to her hand
- small stuffed puppy for Wanda to cuddle

Overview: Wanda is upset and afraid. She has been sent to stay at Bertha's house on the other side of the pond because her mother is very ill. Wanda is a furry Dandhan and she has heard tales of what these scary Munghan creatures like Bertha will do to tasty little Dandhans.

Continuing the GEM theme from the first play, Bertha uses the "yo-yo" as a symbol of the ups and downs that we all face in life. It is a reminder of another of G.E.M. - God Encourages Me. He helps us get from the "downs" back to the "ups".

Yo -Yo GEM

Music intro

As music fades Wanda appears holding a stuffed toy.

Wanda: (looking at pictures on the wall and pointing at the fangs)
Wow look at those big white fangs! They 're so sharp, they could chomp a little Dandhan like me with no problem. Sammy at school says that these nasty Munghans eat us Dandhans for midnight snacks! I'm glad The Bergomungha is away on business, he's really scary. Miss Bertha seems nice so far, but she could be just waiting till the Bergomungha gets home. (starts walking toward front of stage)
How could Dad send me away here all by myself? Toby gets to stay home just 'cause he's older. It's not fair! Why did Mom have to get so sick? Everything bad happens to me!
(door Slams) Oh! (to stuffed toy in her arms) Shhhhhh! At least I have my puppy with me.
(gets to front of stage and notices audience)
Oh, hi I'm glad you guys are there.
(pauses, sighs, leans on front rail)
Ever feel like a yo-yo, up, down, up, down? Remember when I was so upset because I couldn't play soccer very well? I was mad and sad all at the same time. Until my big brother Toby came home and told me that I was just the way God made me - I'm one of God's Extra-special Me's. Then I felt so happy and glad. Toby started calling me GEM as a nickname.
(pause) Now my Mom is really sick and I get shipped off over here into the lions' den - well they're not lions, but with those big fangs (pointing at photos) they might just as well be - I could still end up being a munchy Munghan meal!

Wanda cont.: (stage whisper to audience)

Hey, wanna see what I found when I was snooping around in the basement? C'mon follow me downstairs, but be real quiet so Miss Bertha doesn't hear us.

(goes down below and pokes her head out of the curtains over top of the treasure chest)

See, look at this. It's a treasure chest just like the one Toby has. But I bet it doesn't have gems inside. Know what I think? I think it has (gulps) bones - yup, I bet it has all the bones of the Dandhans they ate for snacks! Should I open it up? (just as Wanda reaches for the lid she hears Miss Bertha call her name and she jumps back inside the curtain)

Bertha: (not seen, yelling loudly and sternly) Wanda. Wanda what are you doing down there?

Wanda: Oh no, here she comes!

Bertha: (heavy footsteps heard pounding down the stairs)
You found my treasure chest? My treasure! Help me drag that back here, we may need that later.

Wanda: (under her breath as they drag the chest back in through the curtains.) Oh, no!

Bertha: Now, run along upstairs. I have to check the oven and then I'll be right up. We'll have a nice chat. You've been so upset about your Mom and I've been so busy with preparations for you we haven't gotten to know each other yet. (Bertha goes off thinking out loud) Now, let me see I need to get the spices and sharpen the carving knife and
(voice trails off , hear Wanda running up the stairs)

Wanda: (out of breath as she appears on stage) I'm sooooo scared! I wish Toby was here. He'd know what to do. Maybe the GEM song will make me feel better. (weakly starts to sing chorus)
I'm a GEM, I'm a GEM one of God's extra-special Me's
I'm a GEM, I'm a GEM one of God's extra-special Me's
(urks and stops singing abruptly when Bertha speaks)

Bertha: (enters quietly holding carving knife as Wanda sings second line)
Wanda, I like that song. It's delicious to hear you singing about how you are one of God's Extra-special Me's. I'm a GEM too you know.

Wanda: (doubtful) You are? But your fangs.....

Bertha: Yes, aren't they wonderful? God just knew that they would be perfect for the kind of food that we Munghans eat.

Wanda: (cringes away from Bertha, whimpering)
I wanna go home, I wanna go home.

Bertha: There, there now Wanda. I know how terrifying it is to be far away from your family and all but - oh, that reminds me ... Toby knew how upset and worried you would be, so he sent you an e-mail. Stay right there while I run down and print it for you. (exits)

Wanda: (rubbing tears from her eyes) Wow! God must have heard me all the way over here in Mungha-Mungha! Thank you God, thank you Toby. But, wait a minute - we don't have a computer. Ours got broken. How could Toby send me an e-mail? Is this some kind of a trick? Can I trust Miss Bertha?

Bertha: (entering with printed e-mail) Here we go then. Your eyes are still a little watery from crying, dear. Would you like me to read it to you?

Wanda: Yes please, Miss Bertha.

Bertha: (reading from page)

"Hi GEM! I knew you would be really sad and feeling kind of alone. I can't come and see you right now, so this is the next best thing. My friend Robin has a nice new computer and he let me use it to send you this e-mail. Anyway, I just wanted to let you know that Mom is getting a little better - but you know what it's like, she's up and down -one day better - next day not so good. She sends her love and she misses you a whole bunch.

Wanda: Poor Mommy, I'm glad Toby is there to help her. Is there more from Toby?

Bertha: Yes. Listen.

"I've had my own little yo-yo ride this week. I failed my test because I couldn't study enough and I had to give up my spot on the Basketball team because I can't stay after school anymore. Boy, was I in a foul mood! Mom reminded me the other day that we need to trust God. He's always there in the ups **and** the downs. She told me to go talk to God and tell Him how I'm feeling ... and He's there to listen. So I did and you know what? Mom was right. Nothing of our situation changed right away, but I felt better. You could say that it started my yo-yo going back up. Mom said she could see my sunny smile coming out again. It's probably pretty hard for you to smile right now Wanda, but remember, God is there with you no matter what. See you soon.

p.s. You do know that the story about Munghans eating Dandhans **isn't** true - don't you?"

Bertha *cont.*: (sounding hurt) What? Is that what you Dandhans think about us? Did you believe that Wanda?

Wanda: (sheepishly) Uh, well, uh no of courseum maybe somebody told me (cut off by Bertha's laughter)

Bertha: (laughing) Goodness little Dandhan, no wonder you looked petrified every time I came near you! I thought you were just afraid because you were in a strange place.
(pausing, walks closer to Wanda) Do you trust your brother?

Wanda: (nodding up and down emphatically) Uh huh.

Bertha: Would he lie to you?

Wanda: (shaking head) Uh-uh. Well, not on purpose.

Bertha: So would your smile come back if I promised you that Munghans never eat Dandhans?

Wanda: (relieved) That's soooo good! Are you really a GEM too?

Bertha: Of course. God knew that some day He would need me to be here to do things for Him like look after you while your Mom is sick. It's part of the plan.

Wanda: Plan, what plan?

Bertha: God's plan to look after those who trust Him.

Wanda: God sure is busy making plans!

Bertha: (giggling) Yes, but He's never too busy to be there for you in the good times **and** the bad. He's always waiting to hear from you when you need Him. Just like He was there for Toby. God listened when Toby told him how he was feeling. Do you think God helped your brother?

Wanda: I guess so. He sounded like he was feeling better. But things still aren't fixed yet, with my Mom n' stuff.

Bertha: No, sometimes it takes a long time for things to change and sometimes they don't work out the way we think they should. Toby will still have times when he's sad or times when he's glad - we all will - but God is there for us. Trust Him. God is good. He cares!

Wanda: So I can talk to God and tell Him when I'm sad?

Bertha: Sure!

Wanda: Mad?

Bertha: Of course!

Wanda: Afraid?

Bertha: Indubitably!

Wanda: (not sure what that means) Ah .. confused?

Bertha: Certainly!

Wanda: Happy?

Bertha: He'd love it!

Wanda: Hungry?

Bertha: No doubt, but perhaps I could help you with that for Him.

Wanda: (giggling) He made sure that you were here to feed me - not to eat me! (both laugh together)

Bertha: (remembering something, swings her arm up to put her hand on her head, shouts and scares Wanda again)
My treasure chest! (Wanda jumps) Oops sorry dear, I didn't mean to scare you. It's just that I forgot all about the treasure chest you found in the basement.

Wanda: Ooooooh, Toby has a Treasure Chest. His was all full of gems. He shared them with his friends to remind them that they were GEMs too. Is that what you have in yours?

Bertha: Not quite, but I do have something in there that reminds me about another GEM. Do you want to come down and see?

Wanda: O.K.
Both exit to basement.
Lid creaks as the chest opens behind the curtain.

Wanda: (laughing) That's not treasure - not like Toby's pretty gems.

Bertha: Oh, but it is treasure, Wanda. Let's take one upstairs and I'll show you.

Both return, Wanda holding what appears to be a big yellow happy face.

Wanda: (plays with it turning it from side to side)
This sure is a weird treasure Miss Bertha. It's just these funny yellow happy faces that you see everywhere. They're just stuck on a (looking at the object again) yo-yo?

Bertha: Yes, that's what it looks like, but if you look closely, you'll see that it's much more.

Wanda: (examines it some more , looks confused) Yo-yo string I guess it's different because it's not just the happy face - it's got a sad face too.

Bertha: That's right, just like you and me. The yo-yo has it's ups and downs too, happy, sad and sort of in-betweens. You're still missing one more thing though.

Wanda: I am?

Bertha: Uh huh, check around the edges of the sad face . It says "God is good. He Cares for me."

Wanda: Wow! I didn't even see that hiding there. Let me see
(reading slowly) "God is good, He cares for me."

Bertha: It's there all the time with the happy and sad faces. That's why it's my treasure. It reminds me that whether I'm having an up day or a down day, God is always with me. He is good and He cares.

Wanda: Know what? I knew that, but sometimes I forget. That's probably why Toby sent me the e-mail. I just get so caught up with what's happening I forget about God.

Bertha: You're not the only one Wanda. That's why I made my yo-yo GEM Reminder.

Wanda: Uh, Miss Bertha this doesn't look like a gem. Aren't gems all sparkly and glittery?

Bertha: It's a GEM Reminder Wanda, it doesn't have to be sparkly or glittery. If you look at the other side of the yo-yo there are some more words.

Wanda: (reading letters one at a time) G-E-M . Hey it says GEM.

Bertha: Right, That stands for God Encourages Me. G-E-M.

Wanda: Oh.... so God enc - enc -- What's that word again?

Bertha: Encourages - gives us help, gives us hope when we're unhappy or discouraged or (pauses) afraid that someone will eat us!

Wanda: Im sorry Miss Bertha ... (gets brain wave) hey, that's what Toby's e-mail did for me - it encouraged me. Do you think God told Toby to encourage me?

Bertha: You've got the idea Wanda.

Wanda: I get it! *God Encourages Me* - that's another GEM in the Treasure Chest! And..... that's why you made the Yo-yo GEM Reminders - so we won't forget that God is always there.

Bertha: Exactly, Wanda. Now, before we have dinner, could you please help me to push the Treasure Chest back into it's spot so I can share some GEM Reminders with my friends?
as they exit the music fades in

Wanda: O.k. - and thanks Miss Bertha.

Bertha: For what?

Wanda: For not eating me!

Treasure Chest slides back out in front of the curtains.

G.E.M.S

C.G. Rogers

Vocal

2 2 D A7

7 D D A7

11 D G D A7

15 D G

19 D A7 D G

23 D A7 D

27 G D A7 D

31 G D A7 D

God made me just the way He
God made you to do just what He

wants me to be God made me just the way He
wants you to do. God made you to do just what He

wants me to be. Short legs, round nose, two hands
wants you to do. Play sports, draw cartoons, be wise

and wiggl y toes. - - - - - I'm a GEM.
and he - lp your sis ter.

I'm a GEM, one of God's Ex tra spe cial Mes I'm a GEM
You're _____

I'm a GEM one of God's Ex tra spe cial Mes.
You're _____

I'm a GEM You're a GEM, one of God's Ex tra spe cial Mes.

I'm a GEM, You're a GEM, one of God's Ex tra spe cial Mes.