"The Smartest Game Show"
by August Dickman
3rd Place, Short Play 10-12
Play- *The Smartest* Game Show

Scene- Live T.V. Game Show Stage

Characters-

**Mr. Jazz**- Talk show host. He is dignified, classy, always in control until this episode. He is wearing a tuxedo with a red bow tie.

**Granny**- Naughty, elderly lady, flirtatious with Mr. Jazz. She is wearing a cardigan, long skirt, saggy panty hose, uses a walker with a basket in front holding knitting needles, yarn, and a flask. Reading glasses are at the tip of her nose.

**Frankie**- Eighteen year old boy who is a nervous, wreck nerd. He is extremely smart. He is thin, tall and has a head full of frizzy, curly blond hair. He has suspenders and wears huge glasses.

**Trevor**- Male college student, football jock, very full of himself, not intelligent, a ladies’ man. He is wearing jeans, a letterman jacket, and tennis shoes. He carries a comb in his pocket.

**Olive**- 12 year old, sweet girl next door type, pretty but not too pretty. She is wearing a simple dress with blue flowers, a jean jacket, and white converse tennis shoes.

**Security Guard**- Man thirty-five years old, Jack of all trades, muscular build. He is Mr. Jazz’s right hand man.
The Smartest Game Show

Mr. Jazz- (enters stage and waves to the audience, using a dramatic deep Elvis but classier voice) Hello, and welcome to The Smartest. I’m your host Mr. Jazz. For you who are just joining the show, The Smartest, is a game show where four contestants battle it out with their brains.

Now let’s welcome our first contestant, Granny!

Granny- (Walks onto the game show stage, using a walker, has yarn and knitting needles in a basket attached to the front of her walker, she speaks with an old cracking voice, and takes her place behind her buzzer) Hello Mr. Jazz, how are you today?

Mr. Jazz- Hello Granny! Would you like to tell the audience a little bit about yourself?

Granny- Well, I have 75 cats and an addiction to popcorn. And underneath all this (looks down at her clothes) there’s a body full of tattoos, Mr. Jazz. (Giggles and moves eyebrows up and down flirtatiously)

Mr. Jazz- (looks surprised and embarrassed) Okay, let’s move on.

Contestant two come on out. Welcome Frankie!

Frankie- (walks out and trips then pushes up his large glasses, talks nervously and unsure of himself) I’m fine. I’m fine. I’m fine.

Mr. Jazz- Well, you sure know how to make an entrance Frankie. (chuckles) Would you like to tell us a little bit about yourself?
Frankie- (talks with a stutter and fast because of nerves) Um, Um, well, uh, I like science, and math, and geography, and well about everything that has to do with learning. That’s about it Mr. Jazz.

Mr. Jazz- Thank you Frankie. Let’s welcome in our third contestant Trevor!

Trevor- (walks in and waves with both hands, finds a girl in the audience and snaps his finger, points to her, and winks) Mr. Jazz you are looking sharp this evening, but not as sharp as me. Before you ask, I’ll let you know a lot about myself. Ladies, I do have a girlfriend, but if you’re pretty enough that can change. I’m the quarterback for the winning team the Bulldogs at Jefferson University. On Friday nights you’ll find me at the football stadium practicing, even though I don’t need to. I like Pina Coladas and getting caught in the rain and....

Mr. Jazz- OKAY! (cutting off Trevor) Thank you Trevor. Let’s welcome last but not least, Olive!

Olive- (walks onto stage smiling, she looks normal compared to all the other contestants, she says cheerfully) Hello!

Mr. Jazz- Hello Olive! Tell us about yourself.

Olive- (speaking humbly) Well, most of the time I’m at school, since I am only 12. On the weekends, I like to ride my bike and take care of my garden. I like to walk my dog, and on Sundays I volunteer at the
nursing home.

Granny- I thought you looked familiar!

Mr. Jazz- So Olive I think you are the youngest contestant we have ever had on the show. Are you nervous?

Olive- Well I think everyone is nervous when trying something different (looks at Frankie who is shaking like a leaf) So yes, I am nervous, but I know I can do this.

Mr. Jazz- Okay, everyone we have our four contestants. Now let’s begin. Everyone here knows how the game works. You all have buzzers. I will ask the question, whoever buzzes in first gets a chance to answer the question. If they do not answer correctly or they do not know the answer, then anyone else can buzz in. (Pulls out a card from his suit jacket) The category for today’s show is Children’s Literature. Let’s start off with an easy question. In what award winning children’s book, is the first line- “Where’s Papa going with that ax”?

(you hear a buzzer go off)

Mr. Jazz- Granny, your answer.

Granny- Oh let me see here, (takes a big sigh, looks around like she’s thinking) I’m between Peter Pan or Charlotte’s Web. Which is it Mr. Jazz?

Mr. Jazz- You tell me Granny.

Granny- Okay, fine, I see how it is with you Mr. Jazz. I think it’s Peter
Pan. Mr. Jazz am I right? (leans towards Mr. Jazz, batts her eyelashes)
Mr. Jazz-I’m sorry Granny, but you are incorrect.
Trevor- (buzzes in) I hope all of these questions are not this easy. I’ll let you slip by on this one Mr. Jazz. The answer is- Star Wars.
Mr. Jazz- Too bad Trevor, but that also is incorrect. (You hear another buzzer go off)
Mr. Jazz- Frankie your answer please.
Frankie- (stutters again out of nerves) The book you’re speaking of is E.B. White’s 1952 Charlotte’s Webb. The awards you’re talking about are the Newberry Honor Award and the Laura Ingalls Wilder award. (pauses and gulps) I think.
Mr. Jazz- Well done Frankie. You are correct.
Olive- Good job Frankie.
Trevor- Whatever! (rolls his eyes, pulls out a comb from his pocket and fixes his hair)
Granny- (pulls out one of her knitting needles and angrily shakes it at Frankie) Cheater!
Mr. Jazz- One point for Frankie. Next question. (looks at his card) In what piece of literature is the children’s nanny described as ‘Practically perfect in every way?’
Granny- (buzzes in first) Where’s the dad gum bathroom in this place?
Mr. Jazz- Can you hold it Granny? We’re in the middle of a live tv
production here.
Granny- When I say I need to go, I need to go, Mr. Jazz! (shakes her needle at him) I’ll be back Mr. Jazz don’t worry. (scurries off stage with her walker)
Mr. Jazz- Granny, Granny!? Oh no, I think we lost her. (looks down shaking his head)
Granny- (can be heard off stage yelling) Get out of my way!
Mr. Jazz- Looks like we are one contestant short. Why don’t we just continue. (buzzer goes off) Olive?
Olive- *Mary Poppins*
Trevor- This thing is rigged. I buzzed in first, but she gets to answer the question!
Mr. Jazz- Trevor, I’m afraid Olive did buzz in first, and Olive you are correct.
Trevor- I’m sick of this game!
Mr. Jazz- Don’t worry Trevor. I’m sure you’ll get the next one. Next question- What year was the book *Wizard of Oz* published?
Trevor- (buzzes in first) Finally this thing works! Mr. Jazz *Wizard of Oz* is not a *book*. (chuckles) It is a movie.
Frankie- (buzzes in, laughing hysterically, and with full confidence)
Dude, it was a book first. Originally named *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* was written by L. Frank Baum, and it was published in Chicago on May
17, 1900. George M. Hill Company was the original publisher. The
illustrator was W. W. Denslow.

Mr. Jazz- Wow! (long pause)
Frankie- Well, did I get it right?
Trevor- Incorrect! (mocking Mr. Jazz’s voice)
Olive- (smiling) I’m glad your confidence is back Frankie.
Frankie- (is surprised and becomes a bundle of nerves again, and begins
to stutter) Oh, uh, I could be wrong.
Mr. Jazz- Your answer is correct. Let’s review points. Frankie is in the
lead with two. Olive has one. And Trevor, well, he has zero. Next
question- What is the name of the sequel to Roald Dahl’s book Charlie
and the Chocolate Factory? (buzzer sounds) Olive, your answer please.
Olive- Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator
Mr. Jazz- Correct!
Trevor- Oh my god, this entire thing is a joke! You don’t even know
what you’re talking about. Charlie and the Chocolate Factory is a movie
not a book! I’m not putting up with this. I demand a new buzzer and a
new category. This show is rigged! (throws buzzer down on the floor)
Nonsense, I just can’t even believe.....
Mr. Jazz- SECURITY! (a very large and buff man wearing a security
uniform walks out, grabs Trevor, and carries him out)
Trevor- Get your dirty hands off of me!
Mr. Jazz- Oh no, we’ve lost another contestant. What is going on today? This has never happened before. I’m so sorry everyone.

Granny- (reappears on stage, walks towards Mr. Jazz) I just wanted to let everyone know the bathroom is now available. I’m afraid I’m going to have to go ahead and leave. My Uber is here. His name is Roberto (eyebrows go up and down and she chuckles) Sorry Mr. Jazz, (pats his shoulder) It’s just not going to work out between us. It’s not you. It’s me. Good riddance everyone. (scurries off with walker, pauses to take out a flask from her basket, takes a swig) I’m coming Roberto! (Exits stage)

Mr. Jazz- Well, let’s continue. This is our final question. What state was Wilson Rawls, author of the book Where the Red Fern Grows, born?

Frankie- (stutters, shaking and very nervous) Did you say that this is the last question?

Mr. Jazz- Yes. This is the last question. The score is 2 to 2. So this will determine our winner.

Frankie- I’m not feeling too good. (he grabs his stomach, leans over, and begins to vomit, stumbles off stage)

Olive- Oh no!

Mr. Jazz- JANITOR! (the security guy walks out, still wearing his security uniform but now also has on a pink apron, he wheels out a mop and bucket, quickly cleans floor and leaves) Well, this has been an
interesting show. I’m very sorry everyone.

Olive- (buzzes in) Oklahoma!

Mr. Jazz- What?

Olive- The answer to the question is Oklahoma. Wilson Rawls was born in Oklahoma.

Mr. Jazz- (looking exhausted) We have a winner! (security guard leans out from behind stage curtain, and throws out a hand full of confetti, studio music starts up, security guy walks across the stage with a poster that reads “applause”.) Well, that’s our show. I’m your host Mr. Jazz.

Thank you for watching *The Smartest* and goodnight!