

Jonas Salk and the Polio Vaccine

Pick five students to perform aloud pages 6–9 from the book. Prior to a public performance, have students look through the pages and identify their character. Students can then use the scripts provided on this CD-ROM to practice their parts. Suggested props: lab coats, glasses for Jonas Salk, ties for the male scientists, beakers or test tubes.

READER'S THEATER

Instructor's copy

Main Script

Scene One: The scientists are in the laboratory, having a discussion.

Narrator: The National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis (NFIP) soon began looking for experienced research scientists to lead their polio research. In 1942, Dr. Jonas Salk and Dr. Thomas Francis were working on an influenza, or flu, vaccine for World War II soldiers. Before then, no one had been able to develop a successful flu vaccine.

Francis: Other scientists have made live virus vaccines. But those vaccines sometimes caused the flu, Jonas.

Salk: So, do you think we'll have better luck with a killed virus vaccine?

Francis: Even if the virus is dead, the body should see it as an invader.

Salk: Then the immune system would make antibodies to fight the disease. And the vaccine wouldn't be able to give people the flu.

Scene Two: Later, in the laboratory

Francis: We're making progress, but our vaccine must protect against more than one strain of flu.

Salk: That's why we have to cram the vaccine with every strain we can lay our hands on.

Narrator: After several years of research and testing, Salk and Francis developed the first successful flu vaccine.

Scene Three: Several years later, in another laboratory . . .

Narrator: Because of Salk's success with the flu vaccine, the NFIP asked him to conduct polio research. Salk opened a research laboratory at the University of Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania. He hired a staff of scientists to assist him with the project.

Salk: To defeat polio, we must first understand it. We must find every type of polio virus that exists. This task will be tedious. Are you up for the challenge?

Female scientist: I certainly am, Dr. Salk. This work is important.

Narrator: For three years, Dr. Salk's team studied blood samples from polio patients.

Scene Four: In the same laboratory as in scene two . . .

Male scientist: Dr. Salk, we have determined that there are 100 different polio strains. All of those strains can be grouped into three main types.

Salk: I see. We need a vaccine that will protect people against all three types of polio.

Narrator: In July 1950, the NFIP gave Salk funding to begin research on a polio vaccine. Salk wasn't the first scientist to try to develop a vaccine.

Salk: Past attempts at a vaccine have been made from live viruses. But the live virus sometimes infects healthy people with polio. Our vaccine must be different. We will use a killed virus. I won't risk giving people polio.

Dr. Jonas Salk

Scene One: The scientists are in the laboratory, having a discussion.

Narrator: The National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis (NFIP) soon began looking for experienced research scientists to lead their polio research. In 1942, Dr. Jonas Salk and Dr. Thomas Francis were working on an influenza, or flu, vaccine for World War II soldiers. Before then, no one had been able to develop a successful flu vaccine.

Francis: Other scientists have made live virus vaccines. But those vaccines sometimes caused the flu, Jonas.

Salk: So, do you think we'll have better luck with a killed virus vaccine?

Francis: Even if the virus is dead, the body should see it as an invader.

Salk: Then the immune system would make antibodies to fight the disease. And the vaccine wouldn't be able to give people the flu.

Scene Two: Later, in the laboratory

Francis: We're making progress, but our vaccine must protect against more than one strain of flu.

Salk: That's why we have to cram the vaccine with every strain we can lay our hands on.

Narrator: After several years of research and testing, Salk and Francis developed the first successful flu vaccine.

Scene Three: Several years later, in another laboratory . . .

Narrator: Because of Salk's success with the flu vaccine, the NFIP asked him to conduct polio research. Salk opened a research laboratory at the University of Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania. He hired a staff of scientists to assist him with a project.

Salk: To defeat polio, we must first understand it. We must find every type of polio virus that exists. This task will be tedious. Are you up for the challenge?

Female scientist: I certainly am, Dr. Salk. This work is important.

Narrator: For three years, Dr. Salk's team studied blood samples from polio patients.

Scene Four: In the same laboratory as in scene two . . .

Male scientist: Dr. Salk, we have determined that there are 100 different polio strains. All of those strains can be grouped into three main types.

Salk: I see. We need a vaccine that will protect people against all three types of polio.

Narrator: In July 1950, the NFIP gave Salk funding to begin research on a polio vaccine. Salk wasn't the first scientist to try to develop a vaccine.

Salk: Past attempts at a vaccine have been made from live viruses. But the live virus sometimes infects healthy people with polio. Our vaccine must be different. We will use a killed virus. I won't risk giving people polio.

Dr. Thomas Francis

Scene One: The scientists are in the laboratory, having a discussion.

Narrator: The National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis (NFIP) soon began looking for experienced research scientists to lead their polio research. In 1942, Dr. Jonas Salk and Dr. Thomas Francis were working on an influenza, or flu, vaccine for World War II soldiers. Before then, no one had been able to develop a successful flu vaccine.

Francis: Other scientists have made live virus vaccines. But those vaccines sometimes caused the flu, Jonas.

Salk: So, do you think we'll have better luck with a killed virus vaccine?

Francis: Even if the virus is dead, the body should see it as an invader.

Salk: Then the immune system would make antibodies to fight the disease. And the vaccine wouldn't be able to give people the flu.

Scene Two: Later, in the laboratory

Francis: We're making progress, but our vaccine must protect against more than one strain of flu.

Salk: That's why we have to cram the vaccine with every strain we can lay our hands on.

Narrator: After several years of research and testing, Salk and Francis developed the first successful flu vaccine.

Scene Three: Several years later, in another laboratory . . .

Narrator: Because of Salk's success with the flu vaccine, the NFIP asked him to conduct polio research. Salk opened a research laboratory at the University of Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania. He hired a staff of scientists to assist him with a project.

Salk: To defeat polio, we must first understand it. We must find every type of polio virus that exists. This task will be tedious. Are you up for the challenge?

Female scientist: I certainly am, Dr. Salk. This work is important.

Narrator: For three years, Dr. Salk's team studied blood samples from polio patients.

Scene Four: In the same laboratory as in scene two . . .

Male scientist: Dr. Salk, we have determined that there are 100 different polio strains. All of those strains can be grouped into three main types.

Salk: I see. We need a vaccine that will protect people against all three types of polio.

Narrator: In July 1950, the NFIP gave Salk funding to begin research on a polio vaccine. Salk wasn't the first scientist to try to develop a vaccine.

Salk: Past attempts at a vaccine have been made from live viruses. But the live virus sometimes infects healthy people with polio. Our vaccine must be different. We will use a killed virus. I won't risk giving people polio.

Female Scientist

Scene One: The scientists are in the laboratory, having a discussion.

Narrator: The National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis (NFIP) soon began looking for experienced research scientists to lead their polio research. In 1942, Dr. Jonas Salk and Dr. Thomas Francis were working on an influenza, or flu, vaccine for World War II soldiers. Before then, no one had been able to develop a successful flu vaccine.

Francis: Other scientists have made live virus vaccines. But those vaccines sometimes caused the flu, Jonas.

Salk: So, do you think we'll have better luck with a killed virus vaccine?

Francis: Even if the virus is dead, the body should see it as an invader.

Salk: Then the immune system would make antibodies to fight the disease. And the vaccine wouldn't be able to give people the flu.

Scene Two: Later, in the laboratory

Francis: We're making progress, but our vaccine must protect against more than one strain of flu.

Salk: That's why we have to cram the vaccine with every strain we can lay our hands on.

Narrator: After several years of research and testing, Salk and Francis developed the first successful flu vaccine.

Scene Three: Several years later, in another laboratory . . .

Narrator: Because of Salk's success with the flu vaccine, the NFIP asked him to conduct polio research. Salk opened a research laboratory at the University of Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania. He hired a staff of scientists to assist him with a project.

Salk: To defeat polio, we must first understand it. We must find every type of polio virus that exists. This task will be tedious. Are you up for the challenge?

Female scientist: I certainly am, Dr. Salk. This work is important.

Narrator: For three years, Dr. Salk's team studied blood samples from polio patients.

Scene Four: In the same laboratory as in scene two . . .

Male scientist: Dr. Salk, we have determined that there are 100 different polio strains. All of those strains can be grouped into three main types.

Salk: I see. We need a vaccine that will protect people against all three types of polio.

Narrator: In July 1950, the NFIP gave Salk funding to begin research on a polio vaccine. Salk wasn't the first scientist to try to develop a vaccine.

Salk: Past attempts at a vaccine have been made from live viruses. But the live virus sometimes infects healthy people with polio. Our vaccine must be different. We will use a killed virus. I won't risk giving people polio.

Male Scientist

Scene One: The scientists are in the laboratory, having a discussion.

Narrator: The National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis (NFIP) soon began looking for experienced research scientists to lead their polio research. In 1942, Dr. Jonas Salk and Dr. Thomas Francis were working on an influenza, or flu, vaccine for World War II soldiers. Before then, no one had been able to develop a successful flu vaccine.

Francis: Other scientists have made live virus vaccines. But those vaccines sometimes caused the flu, Jonas.

Salk: So, do you think we'll have better luck with a killed virus vaccine?

Francis: Even if the virus is dead, the body should see it as an invader.

Salk: Then the immune system would make antibodies to fight the disease. And the vaccine wouldn't be able to give people the flu.

Scene Two: Later, in the laboratory

Francis: We're making progress, but our vaccine must protect against more than one strain of flu.

Salk: That's why we have to cram the vaccine with every strain we can lay our hands on.

Narrator: After several years of research and testing, Salk and Francis developed the first successful flu vaccine.

Scene Three: Several years later, in another laboratory . . .

Narrator: Because of Salk's success with the flu vaccine, the NFIP asked him to conduct polio research. Salk opened a research laboratory at the University of Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania. He hired a staff of scientists to assist him with a project.

Salk: To defeat polio, we must first understand it. We must find every type of polio virus that exists. This task will be tedious. Are you up for the challenge?

Female scientist: I certainly am, Dr. Salk. This work is important.

Narrator: For three years, Dr. Salk's team studied blood samples from polio patients.

Scene Four: In the same laboratory as in scene two . . .

Male scientist: Dr. Salk, we have determined that there are 100 different polio strains. All of those strains can be grouped into three main types.

Salk: I see. We need a vaccine that will protect people against all three types of polio.

Narrator: In July 1950, the NFIP gave Salk funding to begin research on a polio vaccine. Salk wasn't the first scientist to try to develop a vaccine.

Salk: Past attempts at a vaccine have been made from live viruses. But the live virus sometimes infects healthy people with polio. Our vaccine must be different. We will use a killed virus. I won't risk giving people polio.

Narrator

Scene One: The scientists are in the laboratory, having a discussion.

Narrator: The National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis (NFIP) soon began looking for experienced research scientists to lead their polio research. In 1942, Dr. Jonas Salk and Dr. Thomas Francis were working on an influenza, or flu, vaccine for World War II soldiers. Before then, no one had been able to develop a successful flu vaccine.

Francis: Other scientists have made live virus vaccines. But those vaccines sometimes caused the flu, Jonas.

Salk: So, do you think we'll have better luck with a killed virus vaccine?

Francis: Even if the virus is dead, the body should see it as an invader.

Salk: Then the immune system would make antibodies to fight the disease. And the vaccine wouldn't be able to give people the flu.

Scene Two: Later, in the laboratory

Francis: We're making progress, but our vaccine must protect against more than one strain of flu.

Salk: That's why we have to cram the vaccine with every strain we can lay our hands on.

Narrator: After several years of research and testing, Salk and Francis developed the first successful flu vaccine.

Scene Three: Several years later, in another laboratory . . .

Narrator: Because of Salk's success with the flu vaccine, the NFIP asked him to conduct polio research. Salk opened a research laboratory at the University of Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania. He hired a staff of scientists to assist him with the project.

Salk: To defeat polio, we must first understand it. We must find every type of polio virus that exists. This task will be tedious. Are you up for the challenge?

Female scientist: I certainly am, Dr. Salk. This work is important.

Narrator: For three years, Dr. Salk's team studied blood samples from polio patients.

Scene Four: In the same laboratory as in scene two . . .

Male scientist: Dr. Salk, we have determined that there are 100 different polio strains. All of those strains can be grouped into three main types.

Salk: I see. We need a vaccine that will protect people against all three types of polio.

Narrator: In July 1950, the NFIP gave Salk funding to begin research on a polio vaccine. Salk wasn't the first scientist to try to develop a vaccine.

Salk: Past attempts at a vaccine have been made from live viruses. But the live virus sometimes infects healthy people with polio. Our vaccine must be different. We will use a killed virus. I won't risk giving people polio.