



# Sketchboard Messages with Dramas

Compiled by Andrew Garvey-Williams

## Introduction

The following presentations are all tried and tested in street and event situations. They are an attempt to combine simple mime / drama with gospel preaching in a way that will communicate clearly and also hold people's attention. When a preach just follows after a drama sketch we have found that the crowd walked off without staying to hear the message. By weaving the drama into the message, we have found that people's attention was held to the end.

The outlines are guidelines and you need to adapt the presentation for your audience and to incorporate your own ideas, illustrations and personality. Practice well to ensure that it all flows well. Do work to keep the presentation short and direct.

Refer to our booklet 'Sketchboard Preaching' for more information on using and preaching with the sketchboard. Further drama ideas can be found in the booklets 'Dramas 1' and 'Dramas 2'. Sketchboard messages could be adapted to fit many of those dramas. Work on your own ideas.

ANDREW GARVEY-WILLIAMS

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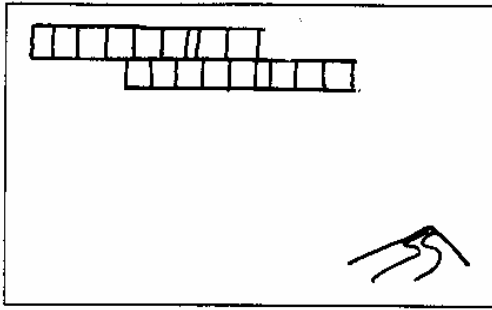
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## Something Beautiful



Shopping? Looking for **<SOMETHING>**? But, of course, not any old thing, but something **<BEAUTIFUL>**. Perhaps a present for someone special or for yourself because you think you deserve a treat!! So many people are obsessed these days with beauty. People spend thousands to get something beautiful or to look beautiful. Advertisers tell women that they must be beautiful ... and young! Let me introduce you to Julie.

*Enter Julie - very full of herself ...*

Julie thinks that she is something beautiful ... the life of the party

*Mime simple party action ...*

At work the boss would not survive without her ...

*Mime an efficient secretary ...*

After work, she is to be found in the gym working out and perfecting her beautiful body ...

*Mime aerobics ...*

She even has time to get in touch with the spiritual ...

*Mime yoga position ..*

In fact, Julie, you are so beautiful that I would like to paint your portrait!!!

*Julie looks pleased and adopts a pose ...*

I want to paint the real you, Julie. (Pretend to study the pose. Then take red brush and **bang the brush in the middle of the board** making a red mess.)

*Julie shocked ...*

The Bible says that God looks on the inside, not just the outside. You can look good compared to other people.

*As you speak, Julie gets lower and lower.*

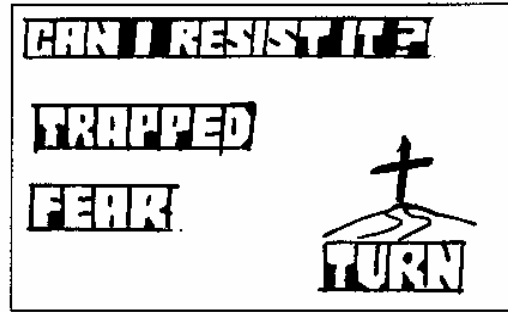
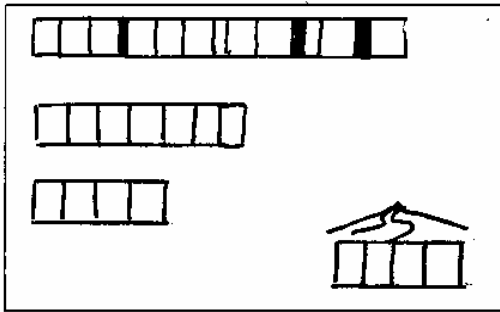
You can impress me, but compared to God not one of us is very good or measures up to His standard. We all miss the mark. God is here **<'>** and we are here **<.>**. We cannot reach His standard - perfection. There is a barrier that divides us **<÷>** from Him. That is the wrong things that we have done; the failures and things that we are ashamed of; the ugly things that we wish we could cover over or change.

There was no man good enough for God, so He stepped into the world Himself in Jesus. Jesus lived the only perfect life - totally plus **<+>**. His life was beautiful in God's eyes. We took that perfect life and slammed it up on a cross **<†>**. We made a mess of His perfect life. But God took that mess and made it into something beautiful **<change mess into a flower>**. He raised Jesus back to life **<↶>** and set Him at His right hand. Jesus is alive. He now has the power of life and death.

□The Bible tells us that Jesus died the good for the bad. He died in our place taking the punishment that we deserve for all our wrongs. That means we can be forgiven and the mess of our wrongs and hurts covered over and dealt with. We have to ask His forgiveness and to turn around to follow him. Then He can turn the mess in our lives into something beautiful. (Reach out and lift up Julie). Explain how to receive Jesus and make appeal.

*Lift Julie up*

## Can I Resist It?



Enjoying your shopping? I hate shopping. I always spend more than I should. I see something and think I just have to have that. Then I think, 'What would my bank manager think!' or, perhaps, **<CAN I RESIST IT?>**.

Within us all is a selfish desire that always wants what we shouldn't have or that is not good for us. **<I>**, the big 'I', 'Me!' The advertisers know how to exploit this. They know how to get us to buy what we don't want or need. 'It's naughty, but nice!', they say as they show us a picture of a cake with loads of cream. Forget the diet or the cholesterol! Sadly, we often give in ... watch!

When we do what we know we shouldn't, we often get **<TRAPPED>**. The alcoholic starts with one drink, the drug addict with one 'experiment'. Explain how others are trapped by fear or guilt, etc. Perhaps use an illustration from your own life. God has set certain rules for us to live our life by to get the best out of life - the Maker's Instructions. When we are tempted to go against these rules because of our own selfishness, we get in trouble. We separate ourselves from God. We are here **<-|>** and God is here **<-|->**. Our selfishness has created a barrier stopping us from enjoying the life God wants us enjoy. When we do wrong we deserve punishment and this leads to **<FEAR>**. I have met people who have done things in the past and have seemingly got away with it, but they live day to day afraid that one day it will catch up with them. Wouldn't it be great if someone could just come and set them free? Watch ...

God wants us to be free. In the old slave markets, the only way a slave could go free was if a free man paid the price for him and bought him. We are enslaved to our own sinful, selfish desires and the guilt that they bring. In Jesus, God came to earth and lived a life free of sin. He had nothing to trap him. He was the only truly free man that has lived, because he never sinned.

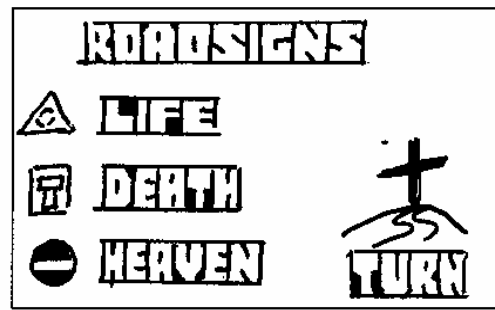
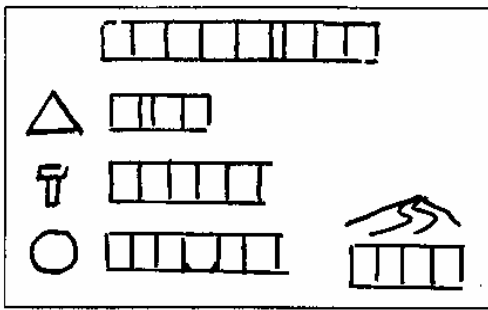
□ We put Jesus on the cross **<†>**. On the cross Jesus paid the price to set us free from our slavery. The Bible says that Jesus -the good - died for us - the bad. He took the punishment that we deserve. He died in your place and mine, so that we don't need to be punished and can be forgiven. In the slave market the slave had to receive the gift of freedom. We have to receive Jesus' gift by admitting that we have disobeyed him and that we need his forgiveness; by believing that he died for us in our place; and by **<TURN>**ing our lives over to him to follow him. Make appeal.

A chair stands in front of sketchboard with 'Do not Touch' sign on it.

Person walks on and notices chair. Thinks about touching the chair. Looks around to see if anyone is watching. Runs fingers over chair, but doesn't actually touch, etc. Eventually gives in and touches chair with one hand. Tries to leave, but hand is stuck to chair. Tries to pull away, but cannot get loose. Puts other hand on chair to push it off. That hand gets stuck too. Tries pushing off with a foot, then the other foot. Both feet get stuck and whole body is caught on chair. Freeze in dejection.

Person on chair resumes struggling. Stops and looks up as though he has just heard someone calling their name. Can't see anyone. Resumes struggling. Looks up as if hearing voice again. As though not thinking, lifts up hand and points to himself as though to say 'Me?' Suddenly realises that his hand is free. Moves his other hand and then feet. Jumps off chair rejoicing in his freedom. Comes back to sign and gestures to audience that they should not touch the chair.

## Roadsigns



Good afternoon. I want to talk about something without which there would be absolute chaos! **<ROADSIGNS>** Imagine a country with cars and no roadsigns or traffic laws. Roads signs are no good unless people obey them, so I have a little test for you. Who can tell me what sign this is. **<Paint Roundabout>**. Roundabouts remind me of **<LIFE>**. Let me explain. Take Jeff...

Jeff is a good worker ....

Jeff is a good husband....

Jeff is a good father.....

Every day Jeff gets up.. gets dressed.. gets washed.. grabs a bowl of cereal.. reads the paper.. kisses the wife.. and the kids.. catches the 8.05 train to work.. works all day.. gets home and flops in front of the telly.. goes to bed.

Each day is the same...

Like a roundabout , each day is the same. There has to be more to life and yet many of us have the same experience just trying to survive each day. God wants us to have life and have life to the full, but often it seems that we are here **<- >** and life is over here **<- >** and there is a great barrier between us and life **<-|->**.

Can you tell me what this sign is? **<Paint 'Dead End' sign>** This reminds me of the sure end for us all. Something we don't talk about much. **<DEATH>** Let's get back to Jeff...

One day Jeff has a rare day off. He wakes up... gets dressed... gets washed... and then remembers it's his day off!! He goes in the garden.... to water his petunias... when suddenly! ... They call the ambulance, but it is too late!!! Ahhh ... poor Jeff.

Let's look at my last sign. What is this? **<Paint 'No Entry' sign>** Many wonder if there will be a 'No Entry' sign to this place **<HEAVEN>** when they die. Let's watch....

Sorry Jeff, you just weren't good enough! God is perfect and the Bible says that there is no-one good enough to meet his standards to be let into heaven. If this is us and this is God **<point on board to -|->** there is a door closed to us. Even the smallest disobedience to God's laws in our lives keeps us out of a perfect heaven. There was one person who was good enough though - Jesus. He lived a perfect life, but we put him on a cross **<†>**. Death couldn't hold him and He was good enough to go into heaven. God raised him back to life. The Bible tells us that Jesus was punished on the cross - not for anything wrong that he had done, but to take the punishment that we deserve, so that we can be forgiven and declared clear of all charges against us. Jesus has opened the door to heaven for us by taking our punishment. To enter in we have to admit that we are not good enough and that we need Jesus to forgive us. We need to ask Jesus to forgive us and then **<TURN>** from our way of living to follow and obey him. Make appeal.

*Jeff enters*

*Mime work action*

*Mime kissing wife*

*Rock baby. Baby sick on shoulder!*

*Do a simple mime action for each activity*

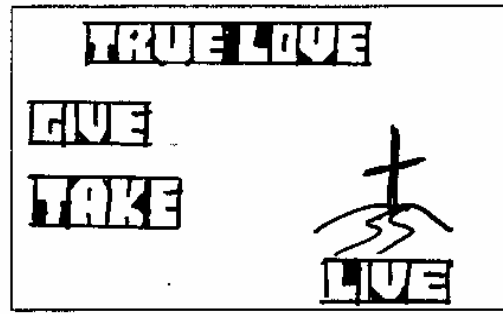
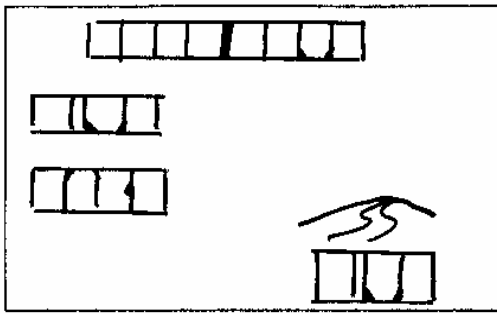
*Repeat whole sequence of actions without the narration and faster.*

*Mime each action .....*

*Waters flowers.... Heart attack! Collapse! Freeze lying on floor.*

*Jeff wakes up. Looks around in wonder. Smooths his clothes and his hair. Knocks on imaginary door. Gestures to be invited in. Refused. Mimes the action for 'good worker'?(as above). Not good enough - shakes head. Mimes action for 'good husband'? Not enough. Mimes 'good father'? Not enough. Steps back as though door shut in his face. Turns away dejected. Freeze.*

## True Love



What is the main theme of most pop songs and novels? <LOVE> Eternal love, unrequited love, romantic love, right through to passionate love - it is talked about everywhere and sells millions of books and CDs. But what is <TRUE> love? I guess that deep down we all want to be loved and to love. For some it is a fantasy that they escape into, but they feel it will never happen to them. I have noticed that there are two kinds of lovers: Those that <GIVE> and those that <TAKE>. See if you can spot them in our little dramas.

Giving your heart in a relationship makes you vulnerable (give divorce statistics). Selfishness breaks up many relationships as one or both takes expecting the other to give. Self <|> builds a barrier between people <-|->. What else can she give her heart to? Work?

What about religion? Now there is a worthy thing!

Well satisfaction isn't guaranteed! The Bible says that true love never fails or gives up. There is only one person who truly loves us - and it isn't your Mum. It is God - the one who made us. He wants to show us true love and for us to enjoy life to the full. For this reason He gave us guidelines and laws so that we could live with Him and each other. However, each one of us has turned our back on Him and ignored Him at some point in our life. We have disobeyed Him and that rebellion separates us from the one who loves us. It makes a barrier between us (point to <-|->).

God loved us so much that He acted to break down this wall. He came to earth as a man in Jesus. He lived a perfect life, showing the love of God to those that did not deserve love or who felt unloved. However, we took that life and nailed it to a cross <†>.

Even in that death Jesus shows us the full extent of his love. The Bible tells us that on the cross Jesus died in our place taking the punishment that we deserve for disobeying God. He died the good - the blameless - for the bad - us, the guilty. God raised him back to life - that means that he is alive today and he can still reach out to us in love.

□ He is for us - on our side. His love is not just taking or passing, it is eternal and unchanging. He holds out his hand to us. He will receive any who come humbly to him admitting their need of his forgiveness. In response to his love it is right that we <GIVE> him our life. As we serve him, we really begin to <LIVE> (Change 'G' to 'L'). Make appeal.

*Girl enters with beating heart in hands - mimed or red balloon. She holds it tenderly and looks around for someone to give it to. Man walks on. Asks for her heart. She gives it to him and he plays with it throwing it into the air and catching it. Girl tries to rescue it, but eventually he drops it on the floor and stamps on it. Man walks off. Girl picks up pieces. Freeze*

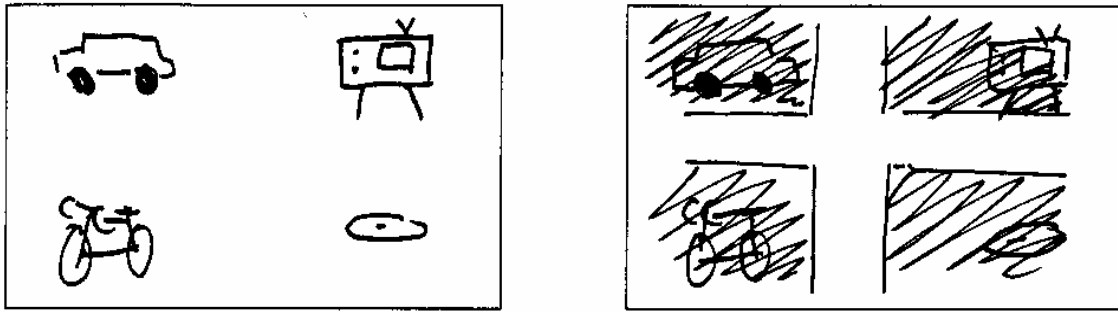
*Do similar mime with girl giving her heart to work - factory line, etc. Boss plays with her heart as she works away. Boss inspects her work and is not satisfied. Angrily throws her heart back at her.*

*Mime giving heart to religious guru. As girl adopts yoga position, guru plays with heart. As she tries to achieve 'enlightenment', she gets frustrated and grabs her heart back. Freeze on floor.*

*Enter Jesus figure. He asks for pieces of her heart. At first girl ignores and is suspicious. She has been hurt too often. She then turns hostile and shakes fist at Jesus. She crucifies him. She turns crouching, sheltering her heart.*

*Jesus comes off cross and reaches out to girl.*

## Do You Love Me?



This sketch has three people: 1) the questioner, 2) God and 3) someone who can draw. The questioner asks God for things. As he asks God for things the person doing the drawing sketches the item on the sketchboard. God is a voice off-stage. As God refuses to give the requests to him, the artist crosses out the item - usually with increasing exasperation on the part of the artist.

1 God, do you love me?

2 Yes

1 Do you God? Do you really? Really, really, really? Then God, please God, may I have a car? Please say yes, God. I've always wanted a car.....

2 No

1 Oh. Well then, God, if I can't have a car, then may I have a bike? Then I could get around. A red mountain bike with ten gears. Please say yes....

2 No

1 Oh, God. If not a bike, what about a telly, God? Please God. If I can't go out, then I need to do something at home. Please God, please say yes.

2 No

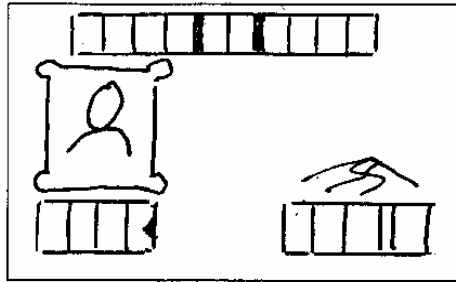
1 (Becoming increasingly angry) Well then, what can I have? May I have a CD then? Just an itsy-witsy CD. You can't object to that, surely?

2 No

1 (Really angry now) Do you care for me at all? What have you ever given me? Can you tell me of one thing you have given me that has been worth having?

*The artist crosses out each picture in turn, leaving a cross in the middle of the sketchboard. Points to cross and then both freeze.*

## Face To Face



Hi. As you can see I am a world-famous artist. In fact, I want to talk about the most famous one of these <FACE> in the art world.

See if you recognise her: <  -> (wait for response).

The story goes that the man who asked Leonardo to paint Mona wasn't happy with it and refused to pay for it. I am sure it was a good likeness of her, but perhaps if Leonardo had painted a big flattering smile on her instead of the famous enigmatic smile, the man might have bought it. We often don't like the truth about ourselves. We are not willing to come face <TO FACE> with the truth about ourselves. We all have things about ourselves that we don't like - things that are negative or <->. You don't like the way you look (give other examples). We are worried that they will <÷> divide or separate us from others. They won't like us. So we try all things to look <+> positive and good. We put on <MASKS> (explain the kind of masks people wear). Trouble with masks is that they sometimes fall off. Perhaps in a crisis ...

Or perhaps you choose to take the mask off to let someone close into the truth about yourself...

Being unmasked is painful. We have to trust and know that the other really loves us before we can be really honest. Some people even try to put on religious masks to try and convince God how good they are and cover up their faults....

The trouble is we cannot hide anything from God. He knows everything! How embarrassing! God wants us to be honest with Him to take off our masks.

There was one man who'd no need of a mask - Jesus. He was a perfect man and totally acceptable to his Father. No shame. He also knows everything about us - all our faults. And yet he loves us and wants to deal with the wrong negative things in our lives - to remove them and give us a new start. He can do this because he died for us on <†> the cross. He died not for any wrong he had done, but to take the punishment and blame for our wrongs - cancelling out our sins, so we don't need to be ashamed, but can start a new life with him.

□ But if we continue to hide behind our masks, he can do nothing for us. The only way to come Face to Face with God is through Jesus. To <ADMIT> our wrongs and failures, our rebellion against God and our need of Jesus. Make appeal.

*Two people enter wearing masks. They come in from different sides and not looking at each other. They bump into each other and fall over knocking masks off face. they look at each other and scream. Run from each other.*

*Mime a wedding ceremony. Preacher acts as priest. Man in mask comes and stands in front of priest. Woman in mask comes in and stands next to him. Quick mime of wedding ceremony. Preacher says "You man kiss the bride". Man and woman turn to kiss and take off mask. They look at each other and scream!*

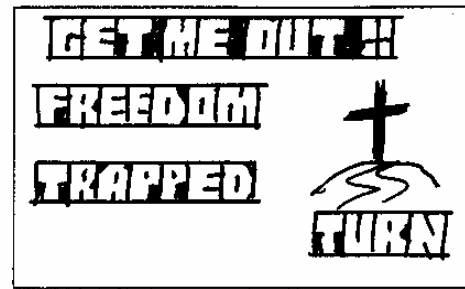
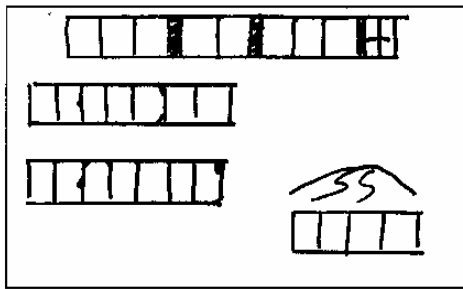
*Two people with masks act out various religious duties and observances*

*Preacher picks up a black rubbish sack and reaches out to remove masks from mimes. Removes one mask and puts it into bag - person hides face in shame. Turns to the other who refuses and shrinks back.*

*Reach out to first mime and lift them up. Other mime cowers away.*

□

## Get Me Out



Introduce the presentation either by referring to the person caught in the cage and how limited he must feel. Or refer to any hostage crisis or imprisonment current in the news. Have you ever felt trapped? Perhaps not by bars like our friend here, but circumstances, situations, problems, regrets for things that we have done (maybe a quick example). Perhaps you might cry out **<GET ME OUT!>**. If only you could get a break, a holiday,... It seems that you are here **<- >** and life seems to be somewhere here **<- ->** and there seems to be a great big wall **<- | ->** stopping you from enjoying life. You look for **<FREEDOM>**. There has to be more to life!! When God made us he intended us to have life and life to the full and yet for many of us life isn't that special. God intended us to be free. He gave us all we needed and even His 'Maker's Instructions' in the Bible so that we could get the most out our relationship with Him and with each other. Unfortunately mankind thought he knew better than God and ignored Him and did their own thing. That is why so many people end up feeling **<TRAPPED>**. Our rebellion has put a barrier between us and God (refer to -| - on the board) and cut us off from the one who can give us life! Well, suppose someone was to give you a way out! ..... Watch....

I don't think any of us would deny that the guy is a fool! He's offered a way out and yet remains in his cage. Yet there are many people today who are in a similar position. God offers us a gift of life. That gift is in Jesus. Jesus lived a perfect life. He was the most free human being that ever lived. Nothing held him or trapped him – he had no regrets, no guilt, no shame. He was free because he obeyed His Father. We took that life and nailed it to a cross **<†>**. Even then death could not trap him and he was raised back to life. He is alive today and can give life to any who come and humbly ask him and follow him. On the cross, the Bible tells us that Jesus died not for anything wrong that he had done, but rather he took the punishment that you and I deserve for all those times that we have done wrong and, in our selfishness, turned our back on God. God offers us forgiveness and life, it is a fool who would not even consider it. Watch....

What holds you back from receiving God's gift? All you need to do is receive it like a gift. Admit that you have tried to live life without God and that you need Jesus. Believe that Jesus died on that cross taking the punishment for all your wrongs. Believe that he is alive now to give you life. Commit your life to him. That means to **<TURN>** from living your life your way and to turn and follow him. Make appeal.

*A cage is set up (made of bamboo or wood) and person sits inside. Allow a bit of time for curiosity to build up in passers-by. Person inside could attract some attention by acting as an animal or by even talking quite normally to people who pass.*

*One or two others come on and gesture to the person in the cage how free they are and how good it is on the outside. They try to persuade him to come out and be free. The captive resists all attempts. He gestures that the cage is safe, you cannot be sure of the outside. He is comfortable with his cage and dusts the bars to keep them clean. Anyway, perhaps the outside doesn't really exist! Friends leave. Captive freezes.*

*Friend(s) return. Again offers to lift the cage off. Captive agrees. As they lift the cage off the ground about 15 cm. The captive suddenly changes his mind and pulls the cage down. Friend leaves.*



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