

FLORENCE AND ENDURANCE

John	Hi, everyone. Say, 'Hi,' to the people, Pete and Jenni.
P & J	Hi, everyone.
John	Do you know what arm wrestling is? It's where two people use every ounce of strength to push their opponent's over. I've got Mini-Jenni here and we're going to show you what I mean. John and Mini-Jenni arm wrestle. M-J wins!
Jenni	Good one, Mini. Do it for the girls. Pete, take note. Girl power.
Pete	That John must be a wimp. You'd never beat me like that, Jenni.
Jenni	Don't you believe it, Pete. Girls aren't the weaker sex, you know.
John	Anyway, folks. I'd like to move on quickly from that humiliation. Today we're going to do something different. We're going to stage a play!
Jenni	It's a play about ... GIRL POWER! It's called 'Florence' and it's about how one girl endured all kinds of pressure to do what she felt was right. (Show picture of Florence)
John	Jenni's going to be Florence.
Pete	And I'm going to be her dad. Huh. John. Why did you cast me as an old man? I'm young and strong and youthful. I'm out of character.
John	Because we need a dad. Don't worry, Pete, later in the play you'll be a soldier. This is the story of a young woman who experienced strong opposition. She wasn't an arm-wrestler, but she did have to stand against people who wanted her to go in a

	<p>different direction. The lady's name was Florence.</p> <p>Florence! - Scene 1 appears on screen</p>
Pete	<p>Florry, love, we're a wealthy family. We own two enormous homes, have servants and go on exotic holidays overseas. Money is never a problem for us. So why do you spend all your time studying these complicated books? You'll never have to do a day's work in your life. You should be like me. Practice extreme sports like hand gliding and snow boarding. Practice for the life of leisure.</p>
Jenni	<p>I need to study, dad. I've got plans.</p>
Pete	<p>Plans? Plans? What plans, Flo?</p>
Jenni	<p>Well, most people aren't like us. Most people are very poor. When I grow up I want to be a nurse and look after the sick.</p>
Pete	<p>Look after the sick! Ugh! You can't do that. You might catch something.</p>
Jenni	<p>No, dad, nursing is a very worthwhile career. I feel it's what God wants me to do.</p>
Pete	<p>It's such a dirty job, Florry. And we're rich, posh people - it's below our status in society. It's not what your mum would want you to do. She wants you to marry a nice rich young man and have lots of children.</p>
Jenni	<p>No, I've already told mum. She said she's ashamed of me. When I told her I was determined she stopped talking to me. She said she wanted grandchildren and she couldn't go out in public if her daughter was a nurse. She hasn't said a word to me since.</p>
John	<p>Florence was very bright. If she was doing 'A' levels she'd get A's in English, Italian, French, Biology and Maths. Her mum and dad made it very difficult for</p>

	<p>her. They nagged her. They introduced her to rich young men hoping she'd fall in love. But she endured their treatment and pressure and became a nurse.</p> <p>Florence! Scene 2 appears on screen</p> <p>Jenni has a nurses hat on (cardboard band with a red cross on the front?)</p>
Jenni	<p>In 1844, when I decided to become a nurse, hospitals were dark, dirty, smelly and poorly run. You lot (pointing at camera) are so lucky to have the National Health Service.</p>
Pete	<p>Perhaps you can understand your mother's point of view a bit better now, Flo! I bet you regret what you've done working in that dirty place full of poor people with terrible diseases. Do you want to come back home, get married and have lots of kids?</p>
Jenni	<p>I ignored you, dad and I followed my dream and became a nurse and then a matron in a London hospital. And I improved everything. People survive in my wards because I keep the place clean. Until I came doctors - all men of course - didn't realise how dirt caused diseases.</p>
John	<p>She was very good at her job. Because of the way she nursed fewer people died. ? Oh dear. There's a war. It's in a place called Crimea. Florence, we need nurses because we have lots of wounded men and lots of them are dying.</p> <p>Florence! Scene 3 appears on screen</p> <p>Pete has a helmet on</p>

Pete	Hurray! Now I can be a soldier. That feels more comfortable. Wow the Crimean war....Now.....this is 1854 and we don't have women in war zones. Keep out Florence! Go away! Women have never been nurses in war. You should go back to your mum and dad, get married and give them lots of grandchildren.
Jenni	There aren't just a few wounded here. There aren't just hundreds. There are thousands. <u>Thousands!!!</u>
Pete	Well, you aren't going to get your hands on them Florence. Clear off.
Jenni	And it's all so dirty. No wonder they're dying. It's so unhygienic it's more dangerous here than on the battlefield. (Show picture of hospital mess)
Pete	What! Are you saying that we men can't look after our own?
Jenni	You're not making a very good job of it. I need to bring some of my nurses from London. We'll sort it all out.
Pete	WHAT! More Women? No way. I've told you Jenni I mean Florence - War's no place for women.
Jenni	Listen, I am a determined person. I've already worked my way through the pressure of my parents and the doctors in London who thought they knew better than me. My nurses are coming. THE END comes up on screen

	Jenni and Pete take off head gear
John	So....Florence had to fight long and hard to have the rule about women being allowed in military hospitals changed before she was finally allowed to go and take other nurses with her. She became known as the 'lady with the lamp'.
Pete	Humph! I have to admit, she did a good job. Saved loads of lives.
John	After the end of the Crimean War, Florence spoke up for improved sanitation in British military hospitals and she also established nursing colleges to train professional nurses.
Pete	So we have her to thank for all the trained nurses we have today - is that right John.
Jenni	Yes - Girl power!
John	<p>Yes. Girl power. And endurance. This was, of course, Florence Nightingale. She saw how people lived in poverty and the need for the sick to be cared for. She probably knew the bit in the Bible where Jesus said, "Come into heaven because you gave me food when I was hungry, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was sick and you took care of me. She heard God's call.</p> <p>Whether it's God's call or something else we know is right and proper, sometimes it takes courage and endurance to follow through.</p> <p>Be brave and do what's right.</p> <p>Now, how about a big hand for our two tremendous actors.</p> <p>(John stoops down and picks up a cardboard big hand</p>

and waves it)

What's next, Sue?



