

REACH OUT



FINDING YOUR PLACE IN THE COMMUNITY

Week 7: Act well your part; there all the honor lies

This is the motto of the International Thespian Society. If you've been inducted as a Thespian, then you recognize this saying from doing buttons on induction day, but have you ever stopped to think about what this phrase actually means? Let's break it down into its parts.

First, *act well your part*. We know that an actor is a performer who creates a character onstage and tells a story to an audience with that character, so on that level, *acting well your part* could simply mean doing a good job on stage. Consider another definition of the word act: to take action; to do something. When we *act*, we take *action*, we *actually* do something with our lives, we are *proactive*, we *activate* our minds and our bodies to complete *activities* and *interact* with others. So *acting well your part* means more than just being a good actor onstage; it means doing what needs to be done to the best of your ability. *Your part* describes the way you fit into the world or into your community, so *acting well your part* means using your talents, skills, and abilities to benefit others.

The second part is *there all the honor lies*. To honor someone is to give them the highest respect and esteem, treating them with great worth. When you speak to them, you consider your words carefully and act with courtesy and politeness. When they speak to you, you give their words valuable weight and significance. You willingly go out of your way to accommodate their needs and desires out of deep respect. Honor describes the noble way we should treat other people.

Let's put it all together. If you *act well your part* by using your talents and skills to willingly serve others with quality, then you become a person worthy of *honor*, respect, and value. The same is true in reverse. If you act *honorably* to other people, they will honor you through their *actions*.

Challenge: Act well your part; there all the honor lies

If you haven't yet received a Drama Dept bracelet, please come see Mr. Sandner. Inside the bracelet is the motto above. Now that you know its deeper meaning, work to live that meaning in everything you do. *Act well your part* by doing your best in everything you do. This includes classwork, homework, projects, and work on a production. If you do your best, your grades should be passing, you shouldn't be missing assignments, and your efforts onstage and backstage should be evident to everyone around you. Evaluate your efforts, and make adjustments where you have been falling short.

Secondly, choose to begin showing greater *honor* to those around you beyond your normal tendency. Begin by listening more attentively and respectfully to others. Let people see how you give greater weight to their words and requests. Show them that they are receiving higher esteem in your eyes than before.