

# Simple 'The Whipping Boy' Costume Ideas for Kids

These easy, creative, and school-appropriate costumes are inspired by Sid Fleischman's \*The Whipping Boy\*. They're perfect for homeschool reading parties, literature fairs, or classroom book days — all made from simple household items!

## Prince Horace ('Prince Brat')

- Fancy shirt (button-up or white T-shirt with puffed sleeves)
- Bright scarf, sash, or ribbon as a royal belt
- Dark pants
- Crown made from gold paper, foil, or cardboard
- Optional: toy sword or cardboard 'royal decree' scroll
- Walk proudly with 'royal attitude' — chin up and hands on hips!

## Jemmy (The Whipping Boy)

- Plain brown or beige shirt
- Dark pants rolled up at the ankles
- Rope belt or string tied around waist
- Old towel or blanket as a small cape
- Optional: fake book or feather 'quill' pen to show he's learning for the prince
- Smudge cheeks lightly with brown eyeshadow for a scrappy look

## Hold-Your-Nose Billy (Highwayman)

- Dark hoodie or black/brown shirt
- Dark pants
- Bandana or scarf over lower face like a bandit mask
- Toy bag or pillowcase 'loot sack'
- Optional: cardboard dagger or toy sword
- Pinch your nose and talk funny to stay in character!

## Cutwater (Billy's Partner)

- Dark vest or long-sleeve shirt
- Old hat (paper hat works fine)
- Bandana or scarf around neck

- Belt with cardboard knife tucked in
- Optional: small pouch or bag for 'loot'

### **Captain Nips (Tavern Owner)**

- Plain shirt (white or beige)
- Apron made from towel or pillowcase tied around waist
- Cap or handkerchief tied on head
- Mug or cup as a 'tavern tankard'
- Optional: paper sign reading 'Captain Nips' Tavern'

### **Royal Guard / Soldier**

- Red or dark shirt
- Black pants
- Belt or sash
- Cardboard shield and sword
- Paper 'helmet' painted silver or gray
- Optional: royal crest printed or drawn and taped to shirt

### **Petunia (The Dancing Bear)**

- Brown shirt and pants or leggings
- Paper or felt ears on a headband
- Tail: brown sock stuffed with tissue and pinned to back
- Black paper circle or eyeliner dot for a nose
- Optional: ribbon or paper flower collar to make her performer-style

*Tip: Keep costumes simple and comfortable. These ideas encourage creativity, storytelling, and imagination while celebrating \*The Whipping Boy\*!*