

Closet Costume Rescue Cards

Print US Letter at actual size, single-sided. Cut dotted borders or use on your phone.

Times are approximate once supplies are gathered. Accessories and makeup are optional.

01 / 5 MINUTES

The off-duty cat

WEAR Black top + black trousers or leggings.

ADD Add a headband with two folded paper ears, or skip the ears and do your best cat pose. Makeup is optional.

WARM Short sleeves and your usual comfortable shoes.

COLD Black sweater or coat over your base.

TOGETHER Let your child name your cat. Each person invents one very dramatic meow.

02 / 3 MINUTES

The very expressive mime

WEAR Striped top + dark trousers.

ADD Add a beret only if you own one. White face paint is completely optional; expressions do the work.

WARM Use a striped T-shirt.

COLD Layer a cardigan or coat over stripes.

TOGETHER Take turns acting out a household task without words. Can anyone guess folding laundry?

03 / 3 MINUTES

Rosie the Riveter

WEAR Denim or blue button-up shirt + jeans.

ADD Roll up the sleeves and tie a bandanna around your hair if you have one. Finish with a confident flex.

WARM Use a lightweight blue shirt.

COLD Add a warm layer under the shirt.

TOGETHER Ask everyone to name something hard they learned to do. Celebrate with a family flex.

04 / 5 MINUTES

The weekend scarecrow

WEAR Plaid shirt + jeans or overalls.

ADD Add a hat you own and paper patches taped to the shirt after checking the tape on a hidden spot. No straw required.

WARM Wear the plaid shirt open over a tee.

COLD Layer plaid over a sweatshirt.

TOGETHER Hold a ten-second scarecrow freeze contest. Make yours as wobbly as you like.

Closet Costume Rescue Cards

Print US Letter at actual size, single-sided. Cut dotted borders or use on your phone.

Times are approximate once supplies are gathered. Accessories and makeup are optional.

05 / 3 MINUTES

The vacationing tourist

WEAR Bright shirt + shorts or trousers.

ADD Add a sunhat, crossbody bag or folded paper map. Keep the map pocket-sized so your hands stay free.

WARM Use your favorite summer shirt.

COLD Put the bright shirt over a warm base.

TOGETHER Give a silly guided tour of your hallway. The laundry pile is an ancient mountain range.

06 / 2 MINUTES

The pajama party guest

WEAR Pajamas + secure outdoor shoes.

ADD Carry a small book if useful; skip slippers and trailing robes outdoors. Bedhead is already styling.

WARM Wear a lightweight pajama set.

COLD Use warm pajamas and your normal coat.

TOGETHER Share one funny dream or invent a dream you would like to have tonight.

07 / 3 MINUTES

The artist on a deadline

WEAR Plain shirt + old apron or button-up.

ADD Carry a small sketchbook. Add paper color swatches to the apron instead of painting clothes. No brush needed.

WARM Wear a tee under the apron.

COLD Layer the apron over a sweater.

TOGETHER Draw each other in thirty seconds. Reveal your masterpieces together; no judging allowed.

08 / 2 MINUTES

The neighborhood coach

WEAR Sweatshirt or team tee + joggers.

ADD Add a baseball cap and a folded paper game plan. You can leave the whistle and equipment at home.

WARM Use a tee and comfortable bottoms.

COLD Use a sweatshirt and warm coat.

TOGETHER Invent a family cheer and one ridiculous victory move. Everyone gets a turn leading.

Closet Costume Rescue Cards

Print US Letter at actual size, single-sided. Cut dotted borders or use on your phone.

Times are approximate once supplies are gathered. Accessories and makeup are optional.

09 / 5 MINUTES

The breaking-news reporter

WEAR Button-up or blazer + any comfy bottoms.

ADD Write PRESS on a paper badge and tape it to a lapel. Use a rolled paper microphone indoors, or simply pretend.

WARM Wear a light button-up.

COLD Wear a blazer under your coat.

TOGETHER Interview each other: What is the most important candy news? What is the pumpkin forecast?

10 / QUICK CHOOSER

Choose your costume

START Find one outfit you already like wearing.

MATCH Black: cat. Stripes: mime. Denim: Rosie. Plaid: scarecrow. Bright shirt: tourist.

MORE OPTIONS Pajamas: party guest. Apron: artist. Joggers: coach. Blazer: reporter.

STOP RULE Pick the first idea that works. Skip any missing accessory; no shopping needed.

11 / CONNECTION CARD

Five minutes together

INVITE Ask: Want to help me become a character? Watching or passing is fine.

MAKE Choose one tiny job: name the cat, draw a badge or invent a cheer.

PLAY Do a short interview, silent charade or silly pose together.

KEEP IT EASY Speaking, pointing, drawing and gestures all count. No photo or video required.

12 / FINAL CHECK

Ready to head out

COMFORT Can you walk, sit, see and use your hands easily? Choose secure shoes.

WEATHER Add your usual coat or light layer. Keep hems clear of your feet.

EVENING WALK Bring lights or reflective gear. Dark costumes need help being seen.

FINISH Leave loose or awkward props home. Grown-ups handle cutting; keep small craft pieces away from little children.