



CLICKETY CLACK

STAGING THE
PRODUCTION

BY

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CLICKETY CLACK SYNOPSIS

David's family has little money. Now that he is 16, it is time for him to leave his home in the village and look for work in Castle Town, on the other side of the forest

On his journey there, he tries to rescue a man who has been beaten by robbers. Despite his help, the man dies and then, to his horror, David finds himself surrounded by hungry wolves. Although he is terrified, he buries the poor man and prays for his soul throughout the night.

In the morning, when he wakes, the wolves have gone. He resumes his journey and meets a fellow traveller who offers to be his guide. The friend warns him to take care because there are no longer any young men in Castle Town. They have all been bewitched by the beautiful Princess Sophie.

The Princess, herself, is under the spell of a jealous Wizard, who will not let anyone else love her. He has forced her to ask each of the young men three questions. No-one has got a single question right. They have all perished and their bones hang in the courtyard and go Clickety-Clack, Clickety Clack in the breeze.

As soon as David enters the town the Women in Black warn him to leave. A coach draws up with the beautiful Princess inside and David immediately falls in love with her and is under the spell. Before she leaves, the Princess invites him to visit the castle to answer the first question.

With the help of his guide, David manages to answer all three questions and break the spell of the Wizard.

The King and Queen hold a celebration party to thank their hero. David's family are invited. He wants to introduce his friend and guide to them. David finds him outside, alone, on the balcony. He thanks him for his help. To his surprise, the Guide thanks him and reveals that he was the person that David had prayed for in the forest.

CHARACTER PARTS

SPEAKING PARTS	TOTAL NO. WORDS	SCENES THEY APPEAR IN	INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP SONGS
NARRATOR (Could be split into four parts)	734	Every scene	
DAVID	733	1,2,3,5,7,9 & 10	What am I to do?
MUM	51	1 & 10	Write a letter and make it better
DAD	63	1 & 10	ditto
TOM	43	1 & 10	ditto
JOAN	35	1 & 10	ditto
PAUL the Guide	271	2, 3,4,5,6,7,8,9 & 10	Company for me
PRINCESS SOPHIE	250	3,4,5,6,7,8,9	This Boy
WIZARD	405	4,6,8	Cutie Pie
QUEEN	133	5,7,9	3 Questions
KING	67	5,7,9	ditto
Handmaiden	59	3, 5,7,9	ditto
Guard 1	35	5,7,9	ditto
Guard 2	27	5,7,9	ditto
NON SPEAKING PARTS			
Women in black		3,5,7,9	6 choruses of Oh Woe is me!
Wolves		2	
Creatures of the forest		2	Walk in the forest
Robbers		2	
Royal Tumpeters		3,5	
Royal Coach drivers		3	

Character descriptions, costumes and make-up

NARRATORS	The story tellers. Can read their lines but it looks better if they say them.
DAVID	Main character in the play. Very big part to learn. 16 yr old. Bit of a joker, keen and full of energy.
MUM	Loving family. Very sad to see David leaving home.
DAD	As above
TOM	As above. Small child , very attached to his brother.
JOAN	As above Teenage sister
PAUL the Guide	Paul is beaten by the robbers in the 2nd scene and is a ghost/guide to David throughout the rest of the play. Quiet person, calm and mature.
PRINCESS SOPHIE	Betwitched by the Wizard. Sad about the death of all the young men. Speaks in a flat tone until the Wizard is dead.
WIZARD	In love with the Princess whom he has betwitched. Jealous and evil. Kills all the young men that fall in love with the Princess.
QUEEN & KING Handmaiden & Guards	Anxious about the Princess and the death of all the young men in town.
Women in black	Wailing chorus of 6 women very concerned about another young man entering the town.
6 Wolves	Hungry, howling wolves circle David in the forest as he prays for the soul of the beaten man.
Creatures of the forest	Could use younger children dressed as birds, rabbits, squirrels etc for this.
2 Robbers	Evil. They rob and beat Paul in the forest.
Royal Trumpeters	They introduce the Royals whenever they appear
Royal Coach drivers	They transport the Princess in scene 2.

Costumes:

Actors: Traditional fairytale style clothes. Long flowing dresses for the girls. Black hooded cloaks for Women in Black. Cloaks, breeches, frilly shirts and waistcoats for the men. Velvets, satins and lots of gold and silver for the Royals. Wolves – leotards and leggings with tails and wolf furry-eared head dresses.

Choir: Black tee shirts with skeleton badges. Small skeletons on white card, tacky backed and stapled onto black head bands

Make-up:

Cast only: Light make-up for the girls, glittery for the Royals, moustaches for the men. Wizard – greenish face with dark eyes and black lips. Wolves: Black noses, whiskers and dark eyes

Check that children are not allergic to make-up.

AUDITIONS

You could use the excerpt below, or select your own.

Children need to have heard the story first.

Give them a couple of chances to read through the lines.
For those who cannot read, give them a simple line to repeat so that they can feel included.

Pick only those children whose voices can be heard at the back of the hall for your speaking parts.

Princess: ***(Flat tone)*** You have come.

David: ***(Very keen)***
Yes my darling. I have come. You are
so lovely. Ask me the question so
that I can love you!

Princess: **What am I thinking about?**

David: ***(Slowly)*** I know! You are thinking
about your **PINK GLOVES.**

Princess: ***(In shock.)*** Ahhhh!

SONGS and MUSIC

PHOTOCOPIABLE SONG SHEET

CD WITH

- VOCAL TRACKS FOR PRACTICE
- BACKING TRACKS FOR ACTUAL PERFORMANCE
- LINK-UP MUSIC
- SOUND EFFECTS

MUSICAL SCORE

SONGS in order of appearance :

Write a letter and make it better – Family and Choir

Walk in the forest - Younger children + Choir

What am I to do? Solo for David

Company for me – Solo for Paul

Clickety-Clack – Wailing women in black repeat chorus.

Three Questions - Choir

This song is sung three times, using one verse only each time. i.e. 3 questions, 2 questions, one question.

Two Questions - Choir

Cutie Pie! - Solo for the Wizard

One Question – Choir

This Boy – Solo for Princess Sophie

Free Again – Finale

Songs can be solos or backed by choir.

All stage performers that are singing need to have a simple routine for each song so that they don't look wooden.

SPECIAL EFFECTS (on the CD)

Birds singing

Scream for help

Wolves howling

Clock chiming midnight

Trumpet Fanfare

Realisation music.

DANCE

From my experience:

Walk in the Forest You could get your younger children to dress up as birds and forest animals to sing this song.

Clickety Clack The Wailing women look good if their repeat performances are synchronised. Simple steps, lots of swaying and arm movements.

The ***3 Questions*** song in three parts, has more impact if it is danced. The same dancers coming on for a repeat performance can be quite effective. I did it with castanets and Spanish style dancing; it worked well, especially with a big “ole” at the end of each version.

All the other songs should be staged with simple movements as well so that the children do not remain wooden throughout the performance.

SCENERY AND PROPS

Suggested Background: Towering Castle

Scene One: Kitchen table laid for breakfast
Chairs
Food parcel for David.
Rucksack with picnic in it + blanket
Sleeping bag and tent
Teddy

Scene Two: 2 clubs for robbers
Bracken to cover the body and a wooden cross.

Scene Three: Stage Coach – Hardboard painted one side

Scene Four: Wizard's Coven – Hardboard, painted rocks
Cauldron, Wand, Spell Book

Scene Five: Pink sofa
Smelling salts

Scene Six: Wizard's Coven again

Scene Seven: Blue sofa + smelling salts

Scene Eight: Wizard's Coven again – Sack and sword.
Papier mache Wizard's Head

Scene Nine: Yellow sofa
Sack with Wizard's head in it.

Scene Ten: Hardboard painted balcony.
Balloons and banners