

## SCENE ONE: GEPETTO'S WORKSHOP

Guiliana: Buon Giorno. My name is Guiliana and I am married to the very lovely Geppetto. He is the most lovely man in the whole wide world. We were in love as teenagers you know but his mother didn't like me, (*cries*) I don't know why and she forbid him to marry me. Lucky we met again when we were older and she was no longer around (*Looks around and pokes her tongue out.*)

It's a sad story because we didn't have the bambinis. You know - children (*cries again*). Well I didn't but Geppetto did. A little boy, although he was not a normal boy like you. (*points to someone in audience*).

Usually, you have the baby like this (*Puts finger in mouth and does popping noise, then waaahs like a baby.*) But not 'im. Oh no, this boy was not a bit normal, he was a toy that Geppetto made out of a wooden log. That's not normal is it?

My lovely Geppetto got this log from his friend Maestro Cherry. He didn't tell him it was a talking log. Yeah! A piece of wood that speaks! Odd eh! If he had a been my friend, I would have mentioned it, but not him and that was the start of all the trouble.

You go and see what a palaver this talking log has caused. (*Under her breath*) You stupid man Maestro Cherry.

*Geppetto is working on his carving*

Geppetto: Well, who would have believed that a log could speak? Not me, that's for sure. This is truly amazing. It keeps making funny little noises. When I rub it with the sandpaper it giggles – listen!

It's as if it is ticklish.

When I have finished making this wooden puppet, who knows what adventures we could have if it can speak. Why, we could tour around the world together, me and my little wooden boy doing shows for little children. How lovely! We could make money and never be poor again.

Now, let me give it a little mouth.

Pinocchio: Hurry up, toy maker! I want to get out of here.

Geppetto: Oh, my goodness. You CAN speak!

Pinocchio: Oh course I can speak. Hurry up and finish me off. I want to learn how to walk.

Geppetto: Listen little puppet. I am impatient for you to be finished too, so keep still and my job will be easier.

Pinocchio: Oh, all right.

Geppetto: I have always wanted a little boy and here you are.

Pinocchio: But I am not real, I am just made of wood.

Geppetto: It's true, but I will teach you how to be a good little boy and make sure you have a very good education. Then, even though you are made of wood, you will behave like a real little boy and we will both be happy, Pinocchio.

Pinocchio: What did you call me?

Geppetto: Pinocchio, that is your name now and I am Geppetto, your Father.

Pinocchio: Yuk, Pinocchio. That's a silly name. Can't I have a better name than that?

*(Asks the audience what names they have and picks one)* That's the name I want!

Geppetto: No, you are Pinocchio. You will grow to love your name.

Pinocchio: No, I won't and I can't move!

Geppetto: Let me free you and I will teach you to walk.

*(He takes his hand and they walk across the room)*

Come on, one foot in front of the other, that's it Well done!

*(Pinocchio is very unsteady on his feet)*

Pinocchio: Will it take me long?

Geppetto: No, soon you will be able to run.

*(Pinocchio starts to pick up speed and starts to squeal with joy)*

Well done! See! You are almost like a real little boy, Pinocchio. Wait until you have been to school and worked hard on your studies, you will be a very clever little boy.

Pinocchio: But I don't want to work hard, Father. I just want to play and have fun.

Geppetto: These are foolish words, Pinocchio. If you want to be a good boy, you will have to learn to listen well, always be truthful, have respect for others and work hard at school.

Pinocchio: I was not born to work *(running out of the door)* I was born to have fun!

Geppetto: *(Looking dazed)* You were not born at all, Pinocchio. I made you. Come back little Pinocchio! Listen to your father!

*(Geppetto exits holding his head in his hands in despair)*

Guiliana: You see what I mean? This wooden boy is bonkers! *(Under her breath)* Stupid, ungrateful boy. Imagine if somebody as lovely as my Geppetto made you. You wouldn't run away, would you? No, only an idiot would do that. Put up your hand if you are an idiot! *(Checks for idiots)*. Good I am glad to see I am in the company of good children.

What did the stupid boy do next? He told the crowd in the village that Geppetto was cruel to him and now my lovely Geppetto is in prison. *(Cries)* He wouldn't be cruel to anyone. He's a kind and lovely. If I was that boy's mother, he would behave himself. How he has the nerve to return to Geppetto's house, I don't know!

**ENTER PINOCCHIO**

Pinocchio: *(Looks around the place for something to eat)*  
Geppetto is in prison and I have no food. I am starving.

Cricket: (V/o) Boys who do not obey their fathers will grow up to be donkeys.

Pinocchio: Who said that?

Cricket: I did?

Pinocchio: Where are you I can't see you?

Cricket: I am on the wall.

Pinocchio: I can hear you.

Cricket: Up a bit, left a bit. That's it.

Pinocchio: You're an insect.

Cricket: A Cricket, actually.

Pinocchio: How did you get in here?

Cricket: It's my home and has been her for the last 100 years.

Pinocchio: Well, it's my home now.

Cricket: (*Disgusted*) So I gather. Poor Geppetto!

Pinocchio: It's not my fault Geppetto made me.

Cricket: You should be glad he did and grateful.

Pinocchio: Grateful? He wants me to work. I wasn't born to work.

Cricket: Silly, boy! You weren't born at all. You were made.

Pinocchio: I want to be real.

Cricket: Get real sonny! You're wooden with not a lot between the ears.

Pinocchio: What do you mean!

Cricket: I mean you haven't got a brain. Real people have brains.

Pinocchio: I want a brain!

Cricket: Well you won't get one being lazy.

Pinocchio: But I am a child, I just want to have fun.

Cricket: Yeah! Yeah! We all want to have fun but you're especially lazy.

Pinocchio: Lazy?

Cricket: Laziness is a dreadful disease that needs to be cured in childhood otherwise it will never stop.

Pinocchio: Shut up!

Cricket: Manners, boy! You will be a drifter and a good for nothing!

Pinocchio: Stop it, now!

Cricket: Do what your Father says or become a donkey! Hee haw! Hee Haw!

Pinocchio: (*Picks up a mallet and throws it at the cricket*).

Cricket: (*Groans*)

Pinocchio: What have you got to say for yourself now, oh wise Cricket!

*(Silence. Pinocchio looks for the Cricket).*

Pinocchio: Oh my goodness, I have killed it. Oh, dear! I am sorry little Cricket. I didn't mean to kill you. I am so hungry, it's making me do terrible things. I must get some food.

*(Pinocchio exits)*

Guiliana: Oh my goodness. Now the boy is a murderer! That cricket was a lovely and wise and now he's a no more.  
Huh! Now you are starving, Pinocchio. Good!  
Imagine the nerve of the boy. He goes knocking on people's doors for food. That's a begging in my book. Everyone is poor around here.  
Fortunately, no one gives him any, except a bucket of water over the head. Ha ha ha. Serves 'im right. He's come back home and put his feet on the stove and burned them because they're made of wood. He's a not very bright this boy. Now he can't walk. Lucky for him Geppetto has been let out of prison.

*Off stage*

Geppetto: Pinocchio! Oh Pinocchio, please let me in!

Pinocchio: I can't walk. My feet have been burned on the stove trying to keep warm.

Geppetto: Crawl and open the door and I will make you some new feet.

Pinocchio: *(Crying)* Thank you Geppetto.

*(He crawls to the door. Geppetto enters)*

Geppetto: Oh Pinocchio, I have really missed you, Are you all right?

Pinocchio: I have missed you too Geppetto. I am sorry I have been so unkind to you and the Cricket!

Geppetto: What has happened to my dear friend the Cricket.

Pinocchio: *(Crying)* He's dead! I threw the mallet at him. I didn't mean to kill him.

Geppetto: *(Holds his head in his hands in despair)* No No!

Pinocchio: He said I would become a donkey if I didn't obey you.

Geppetto: He was right!

Pinocchio: I promise I will be good from now on. I will do my best to listen to you, tell the truth, respect others and go to school.

Geppetto: Will you, my little friend? That would make me so happy.

Pinocchio: I will need some school books though.

Geppetto: Yes, yes. You shall have them. I will get them for you. You go to bed upstairs now and get some proper rest. Then you shall go to school tomorrow.

Pinocchio: O.k.

*(Pinocchio exits)*

Geppetto: All I have is this coat on my back. I will sell it to get the money for the books.

*(Cricket comes to life)*

Cricket: Hello Geppetto. You've got your hands full there.

Geppetto: I thought you were dead.

Cricket: No, only fooling that naughty child. He's a very naughty boy, you know.

Enter Guiliana:

Guiliana: I agree Cricket. He's a very naughty boy.

Cricket, Geppetto and Guiliana sing

## **SONG: HE'S A VERY NAUGHTY BOY**

He's a very naughty boy!  
A very naughty boy!  
He's a very, very, very naughty boy!

Geppetto: Oh! What a disappointment to have a child so bad.  
Guiliana: Especially as he is the only child you've ever had.  
Geppetto: He doesn't ever listen to a single word I say.  
Guiliana: He's worn you out,  
Geppetto: Brought me to tears  
Guiliana: And turned your poor hair grey.  
Both: Turn my poor hair grey.

Both:  
He's a very naughty boy!  
A very naughty boy!  
He's a very, very, very naughty boy!

Geppetto: Good boys are obedient. They never tell a lie.  
Guiliana: They go to school, don't play the fool, are never, ever sly.  
Geppetto: Naughty boys are difficult. They're cruel and disobey.  
Guiliana: They muck about,  
Geppetto: They scream and shout  
Guiliana: And leads their mates astray.  
Both: Lead their mates astray.

All:  
He's a very naughty boy!  
A very naughty boy!  
He's a very, very, very naughty boy!

repeat

He's a very, very naughty boy.

Guiliana: You can see why I love the man. He's so kind. My Geppetto has sold the only coat he owns to buy books for Pinocchio to go to school. Ah! It's freezing though! What's Geppetto going to do to keep warm?

Pinocchio has promised Geppetto faithfully that he will go to school, but he can't keep a promise. Do you know how I know? That ungrateful boy sold his school books to buy tickets for the Grand Marionette Theatre that rolled into town for the season. As soon as he heard the music playing he soon quickly forgot all about school and went to see the show.

That lazy, unkind boy will break my poor Geppetto's heart and he will become a donkey! Hee Haw!

