

Page 1/ Teacher Script/ MISERY'S TREE

(READER 1 TURNS TOWARD AUDIENCE AND BEGINS TO READ):

READER 1: Once upon a time in the fruit growing Okanagan area of British Columbia, there lived an old woman whose name was Misery.

(READER 1 REMAINS STANDING. READER 2 TURNS TOWARD AUDIENCE AND BEGINS TO READ):

READER 2: She was called Misery because she had lived a long miserable life of disappointments, broken promises, and shattered dreams.

(READER 2 REMAINS STANDING. READER 3 TURNS TOWARD AUDIENCE AND BEGINS TO READ):

READER 3: Poor old Misery lived in a tiny rundown shack with her old brown dog.

(READER 2 JUMPS UPON CHAIR AND PRETENDS TO BE A DOG. READER 2 SAYS, "arff arff!" READER 1 LOOKS AT READER 2 AND SAYS, "Down boy, down!" READER 2 LOOKS GUILTY, JUMPS FROM CHAIR AND STANDS AS BEFORE. READER 4 TURNS TOWARD AUDIENCE AND BEGINS TO READ):

READER 4: Very few people came to call on the old lady, but when they did come a

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(ON THE WORDS "tap-tap-tapping", READERS 1, 2, AND 3 REACH OUT A HAND AND MIME TAPPING UPON AN IMAGINARY DOOR. THEY DO THIS IN TIME WITH THE SPOKEN WORDS).

tap-tap-tapping at her door, Misery always called out,

(READERS 1, 2, 3, AND 4 TURN HEADS IN UNISON TO LOOK AT TALL STOOL. READER 5 ENTERS READING AREA PRETENDING TO BE AN OLD WOMAN. READER 5 HOBBLER TO STOOL, PICKS UP FOLDER, OPENS FOLDER, LOOKS AT AUDIENCE AND READS):

5/MISERY:

"GO ON HOME AND LET ME BE. STAY AWAY FROM MISERY!"

(READER 5 STRUGGLES TO SIT UPON THE TALL STOOL. WHEN READER 5 IS SEATED, READING CONTINUES. READER 6 TURNS TOWARD AUDIENCE AND READS):

READER 6:

This they did, and Misery felt more miserable than ever.

(AT THIS POINT, ALL EXCEPT READER 5 ARE STANDING IN FRONT OF THEIR CHAIRS. READER 5 SITS UPON THE TALL STOOL).

(READER 2 SITS AS NEXT LINE IS READ).

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READER 2: The old woman owned one prized possession. It was a magnificent apple tree which she had planted in her childhood. The tree grew, blossomed, and bore fruit behind her shack.

(READER 4 SITS AS NEXT LINE IS READ).

READER 4: But even the tree gave her more pain than pleasure, because when its fruit was ripe, all the children from the nearby township came running to Misery's shack and

(ON THE WORDS "tap-tap-tapped" ALL READERS EXCEPT READER 5 REACH OUT A HAND AND MIME TAPPING UPON AN IMAGINARY DOOR. THEY DO THIS IN TIME WITH THE SPOKEN WORDS).

tap-tap-tapped at her door.

(READER 6 SITS AS NEXT LINE IS READ).

READER 6: The children hoped to be given some of the delicious apples but, as usual, Misery called out,

(READERS TURN HEADS IN UNISON TO LOOK AT READER 5).

5/MISERY: "GO ON HOME AND LET ME BE. STAY AWAY FROM MISERY!"

(READER 1 SITS AS NEXT LINE IS READ).

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READER 1: And when the children heard this, they just ran around the shack and helped themselves! This, of course, made Misery more miserable still.

(READER 3 SITS AS NEXT LINE IS READ).

READER 3: Now, as the story is told, one day Misery heard a

(ALL READERS EXCEPT 5 MIME TAPPING AS BEFORE).

tap-tap-tapping at her door and, as usual, called out,

(READERS TURN HEADS IN UNISON TO LOOK AT READER 5).

5/MISERY: "GO ON HOME AND LET ME BE. STAY AWAY FROM MISERY!"

READER 2: But the tapping continued.

READER 4: Finally Misery opened the door (just a crack) and there she saw an old man with a long white beard kneeling on her doorstep and begging for food.

(READER 3 JUMPS OFF CHAIR AND KNEELS IN FRONT OF IT, PRETENDING TO BE THE OLD MAN).

READER 6: Well, Misery had lived a long miserable life, but she felt sorry for the old man who looked even more miserable than she.

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(READER 3 LAYS FOLDER UPON THE FLOOR AND LOOKS AS MISERABLE AS POSSIBLE).

READER 6: And so she shared her crusts of bread, bits of cheese, and red juicy apples with him.

(READER 3 MIMES EATING).

READER 1: When the old man had eaten his fill,

(READER 3 PICKS UP FOLDER).

he said,

3/OLD MAN: "Because you have been so kind to me, I have the power to grant you one wish. What will it be?"

READER 2: Misery had to think about that.

(READER 5 LOOKS PUZZLED AND SCRATCHES HEAD).

She had lived a long miserable life and was beyond a desire for earthly possessions.

READER 4: Finally, however, an idea came into her head and she wished,

(READER 5 STRUGGLES OFF STOOL AND STANDS IN FRONT OF IT).

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5/MISERY: "WHEN OTHERS STEAL FROM MISERY
AND TAKE THE APPLES FROM HER TREE,
I WISH THEM STRICKEN WITH BAD LUCK
FOR WHERE THEY'VE TOUCHED THE TREE,
THEY'VE STUCK!
AND THEY'LL STICK THERE 'TIL MISERY
DECIDES IT'S TIME TO SET THEM FREE!"

(READER 3 RISES, STILL PRETENDING TO BE AN OLD MAN).

3/OLD MAN: "It is done!"

READER 6: said the old man. And away he went.

(READER 3 SITS).

(READER 1 STANDS).

READER 1: The next morning Misery walked around her shack and

(READER 1 LOOKS OUT INTO AUDIENCE AND POINTS
TOWARD AUDIENCE).

there she saw sticking to the branches of her apple tree -

(READER 2 STANDS AND POINTS TO SAME SPOT).

READER 2: a crowd of children and their babysitters,