

(PROPS OR COSTUME PIECES MAY BE USED TO IDENTIFY EACH CHARACTER IN THE STORY. FOR EXAMPLE: A CROWN FOR THE QUEEN, A MAID'S HAT FOR THE LADY-IN-WAITING, A VEST OR TUNIC FOR THE PAGE, A WOODEN SPOON FOR THE CHEF, AND A PUPPET OR SHORT COLORFUL STAFF WITH JINGLE BELLS ATTACHED FOR THE JESTER. THESE PROPS OR COSTUME PIECES WILL BE USED ONLY WHEN THE READER IS PLAYING A SPECIFIC CHARACTER).

(READER 1 STANDS).

READER 1: Once in a land now called Saskatchewan, where the stars twinkled brighter than in any other part of the world,

(READER 2 STANDS).

READER 2: there lived a queen who loved jewelry.

(READER 3 STANDS).

READER 3: The queen owned rubies and sapphires,

(READER 4 STANDS).

READER 4: necklaces of gold and jade,

(READER 5 STANDS).

READER 5: pendants of platinum and ivory,

Page 2/ Teacher Script/ THE QUEEN'S STAIRWAY

(READER 6 STANDS).

READER 6: rings encrusted with diamond chips,

READER 1: pearl bracelets,

READER 2: and silver chains which reached the floor.

READER 3: The queen owned more trinkets than there are fish in the sea, shells on the beach, or birds in the sky.

(ALL READERS SIT. WHEN ALL READERS ARE SEATED COMFORTABLY AND QUIETLY, THE READING CONTINUES).

READER 4: Still, the queen was not satisfied.

(READER 1 PLACES CROWN ON HEAD AND STANDS)

She stood in her chambers looking at hundreds of jewelry boxes overflowing with precious gems. The queen sighed,

(QUEEN ADDRESSES FOLLOWING LINE DIRECTLY TO AUDIENCE).

READER 1/QUEEN: "If only I could possess the most unique and exotic piece of jewelry in the world! Then I would be envied by all other queens. I would be the most envied queen ever born! Well, anything's possible if you put your head to it! I must think of a way!"

(QUEEN SCRATCHES HEAD AND THINKS, THEN SNAPS HER FINGERS AS THOUGH SHE HAS HAD A BRIGHT IDEA).

READER 4: So the queen put her head to it and decided upon a plan.

(1/QUEEN LOOKS UP INTO SKY AND IMAGINES HER STAR NECKLACE).

READER 5: She would pluck a star from the sky and hang it around her neck on a golden chain!

READER 6: No other queen owned jewelry made from a real star. It was a perfect plan.

(READER 2 STANDS, PUTS ON MAID'S HAT, AND CURTSIES TO AUDIENCE).

The queen sent for her Lady-in-Waiting.

(1/QUEEN TURNS SLIGHTLY TOWARD READER 2 AND SAYS):

READER 1/QUEEN: "Go down into the courtyard, reach up, and pluck a star from the sky,"

READER 6: demanded the queen. But the Lady-in-Waiting replied,

(2/LADY LOOKS HORRIFIED).

READER 2/LADY: "No, no, with due respect. I won't do it!"

(THE FOLLOWING LINE MUST BE SAID IN PERFECT UNISON WITH ENERGY AND ENTHUSIASM. REHEARSE READERS UNTIL THE LINE CAN BE READ SMOOTHLY EACH TIME IT REAPPEARS IN THE SCRIPT).

ALL: IT CAN'T BE DONE!

(1/QUEEN JABS FINGER IN THE AIR AS THOUGH MAKING AN IMPORTANT PRONOUNCEMENT).

READER 1/QUEEN: "Anything's possible if you put your head to it, so put your head to it!"

(1/QUEEN SITS IN A REGAL FASHION).

READER 3: The Lady-in-Waiting ran down to the courtyard, reached up, and tried to pluck a star from the sky.

(2/LADY MIMES RUNNING AND MOVES SLIGHTLY DOWNSTAGE FROM HER CHAIR. SHE REACHES UP, SHE STRAINS, SHE JUMPS).

READER 4: She jumped as high as she could.

(2/LADY GOES BACK TO CHAIR, CLIMBS UPON IT, AND REACHES UP AGAIN).

READER 5: She stood upon the garden wall.

Page 5/ Teacher Script/ THE QUEEN'S STAIRWAY

(2/LADY SHAKES HER HEAD "NO").

READER 6:

But no matter what she tried, she could not touch the stars.
Finally, she ran to the Page who was sleeping in the ballroom.

(2/LADY JUMPS DOWN FROM CHAIR AND SLIGHTLY FACES
READER 3 WHO HAS PUT ON VEST OR TUNIC AND IS NOW
SNORING FROM HIS POSITION ON THE STOOL).

(2/LADY SHOUTS):

READER 2/LADY:

"Wake up you lazy lout! You must pluck a star from the sky. This
is an order from the Queen, herself!"

(3/PAGE MIMES WAKING UP WITH A START).

READER 1:

The Page awoke, thought for a moment, then stammered sleepily,

(3/PAGE STRUGGLES TO HIS FEET).

READER 3/PAGE:

"No, no, with due respect. I won't do it!"

(READ FOLLOWING SMOOTHLY AND WITH ENERGY):

ALL:

IT CAN'T BE DONE!

(2/LADY JABS FINGER IN AIR JUST AS THE QUEEN HAS DONE
BEFORE).

Page 6/ Teacher Script/ THE QUEEN'S STAIRWAY

READER 2/LADY: "Anything's possible if you put your head to it. So put your head to it!"

(2/LADY SITS. 3/PAGE MOVES DOWNSTAGE AND MIMES CLIMBING. HE REACHES TOWARD THE SKY, BUT DOESN'T SUCCEED AND SHAKES HIS HEAD IN DISGUST).

READER 4: The Page climbed to an upper balcony, reached up, and tried to pluck a star from the sky.

(3/PAGE CLIMBS TO FIRST RUNG OF STOOL AND REACHES UP AGAIN).

READER 5: He stood upon a foot stool.

(3/PAGE CLIMBS TO TOP OF STOOL, BALANCES HIMSELF, AND TRIES AGAIN).

READER 6: He pushed the King's throne onto the balcony and balanced himself on the very top.

READER 1: But no matter what he tried, he could not touch the stars.

(3/PAGE JUMPS TO FLOOR AND SLIGHTLY FACES READER 4).

Finally, he ran to the Palace Chef who was preparing chocolate pudding in the kitchen.