

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Spotlight on Performance Script

# Happy Days

### Costume/Prop Suggestions

Ms. Stella Round is a very, very elderly lady who has lots of spunk especially when she talks about the “good old days.” She could be in a floral-print dress with a cardigan. She might also have a pair of glasses attached to a string around her neck, and wear her gray hair up in a loose bun. Principal Slacking is an ill-tempered curmudgeon who only comes to life when he gets what he wants. He should be dressed in a dark-colored suit with a bland tie. Doctor Pruvit is an overly eccentric professorial-type scientist. An overdone faux accent of some variety would work well. He should be dressed in a lab coat or suit jacket and wear glasses. He should also have a pen and a chart or clipboard for notes. Abel is the the doctor’s able assistant. He should be dressed in a lab coat and look somewhat like Dr. Pruvit. He should have a cart or trolley on which he can carry a monitor or other machine. The size of the Group of Students can vary to fit any number of students you would like to use. They should dress in everyday school clothes—jeans, khakis, skirts, sweaters, t-shirts, and so on. They should have song folders. The size of the Group of Scientists can be adapted as necessary. They should look like Dr. Pruvit and Abel, with lab coats or suit jackets, pocket protectors, pens, and notebooks.

### Set Suggestions

Dress up the stage to resemble a regular classroom. Stage left can be sectioned off and set up to look like the principal’s office. Stage right should be set up to look like a laboratory. It should have monitors of some kind, anything that looks “scientific,” that can be used by Dr. Pruvit and Abel when they are conducting their experiments. These monitors can be either real or something more abstract-looking and made out of cardboard, tin cans, or other such items. The monitors should be accompanied by beeping noises and possibly flashing lights. The sound effects can be created by human voices (recorded), cell phones, electronic keyboards, computers, and so on.

### Script Begins

*(Following Ms. Stella Round’s cue, the show opens as she and students in classroom sing. They are full of fun and enthusiasm.)*

**Ms. Stella Round:** *(smiling)* Hit it!

***Song 1: Cum-ma-la Be-stay, p. 370***

**Ms. Stella Round:** That was marvelous! Why it was almost as good as the first music class I ever taught when I was just a young . . .

*(She and the students are interrupted by a knock, which is their cue to freeze. Focus moves to stage left where Dr. Pruvit and his assistant Abel are knocking on Principal Slacking's door.)*

**Principal Slacking:** *(extremely rudely)* Go away!

*(Dr. Pruvit knocks again, this time more persistently.)*

**Principal Slacking:** *(irritated)* Who is it? What do you want?

*(Dr. Pruvit enters without being asked and begins speaking.)*

**Dr. Pruvit:** Greetings. I'm Dr. Pruvit, and this is my assistant, Abel.

**Principal Slacking:** Don't you mean, your *able* assistant?

**Dr. Pruvit:** *(a bit flustered)* Actually, no. I mean my assistant, Abel. You see, my assistant Abel is able. One is a proper noun, a given name. The other is an adjective. Now moving on . . . We're here from the HMBP Institute conducting research on "the happiness factor."

**Principal Slacking:** And this has exactly *what* to do with me?

**Dr. Pruvit:** *(speaking a bit more slowly)* I'm getting there. As I said, I'm Dr. Pruvit and this is my assistant, Abel. We're here from the HMBP—Hypotheses Must Be Proven—Institute conducting research on "the happiness factor."

**Principal Slacking:** *(mocking)* The *happiness* factor, huh? I don't think I'm familiar with that.

**Dr. Pruvit:** *(sarcastically and slightly under his breath)* Shocking.

**Principal Slacking:** What was that?

**Dr. Pruvit:** Oh nothing.

**Principal Slacking:** Look, I'm a busy man. I've got a school to run. I've got a bubble-gum situation to take care of here in a minute.

**Abel:** Dr. Pruvit, you might want to mention the sizable . . .

**Dr. Pruvit:** Oh, yes, Principal. I do apologize for disrupting your demanding schedule, but our institute is willing to make a *sizable* contribution to any of your programs that

might need some extra funding. Of course, if none of your programs are in need of any extra funding . . .

**Principal Slacking:** (*clearing his throat and taking a more pleasant tone*) Well, it never hurts to talk things out. Have a seat.

**Dr. Pruvit:** Abel and I are here to conduct research on “the happiness factor” and we need some, shall we say . . . participants. All we . . .

**Principal Slacking:** (*interrupting*) Look, I’m a bottom line kind of guy. Tell me about this sizable contribution. You see, our football field is in need of . . .

**Dr. Pruvit:** Consider your football field taken care of. I need a classroom of, let’s see . . . (*checking his notes*) sixth graders.

**Principal Slacking:** Walk this way.

(*Principal Slacking leads Dr. Pruvit and Abel to the music room.*)

**Principal Slacking:** Ms. Round, Ms. Stella Round, may I introduce you to Dr. Pruvit?

**Dr. Pruvit:** The pleasure is all mine, Ms. Round.

**Principal Slacking:** Stella Round has been here at our school longer than any of us. Stella, we have a slight change of plans today. Your class has had a great honor bestowed upon it today. You’ve been asked to participate in a ground-breaking, top-secret, high-level research project for the (*stumbling over his letters*) PHMBPH.

**Dr. Pruvit:** (*a bit annoyed*) That’s HMBP.

**Principal Slacking:** (*speaks aside to Dr. Pruvit but in a loud enough voice so that everyone can hear*) With an operation as covert as this, I thought we shouldn’t reveal the real name.

**Dr. Pruvit:** (*playing along*) Yes, of course.

**Ms. Stella Round:** I hardly know what to say. Not since I was just a young girl back in the good old days, have I felt so highly honored . . . and grateful. Students, I knew that all of our hard work would pay off. (*She trails off as Dr. Pruvit and Abel start hooking the students up to all kinds of devices and monitoring machines.*)

**Dr. Pruvit:** OK. Ready? Now, be happy!

(*Nothing happens.*)

**Dr. Pruvit:** I said, be happy!!

**Ms. Stella Round:** May I try something?

**Dr. Pruvit:** Well, of course.

**Ms. Stella Round:** Students, turn to the second song in your folders. This is one we used to sing back in the good old days. Hit it!

*(When they begin singing, all the machines register intense change and set off the sound and light effects.)*

***Song 2: Cripple Creek, p. 372***

**Dr. Pruvit:** *(in disbelief)* These results are astounding. The happiness factor is off the charts. I can hardly wait to turn over this research to the institute.

**Ms. Stella Round:** We have lots of rehearsing to do today, may we continue? Students, on this next piece, let me hear even more gusto.

***Song 3: Leila, p. 376***

**Dr. Pruvit:** Even more amazing. I like that gusto. Simply amazing. I must beg a favor of you.

**Principal Slacking:** That's *another* favor.

**Dr. Pruvit:** Of course, *another* favor. My colleagues at the institute won't believe this. They must see it firsthand.

**Principal Slacking:** Yes, well, maybe that could be arranged sometime.

**Dr. Pruvit:** No, I mean they must see it now.

**Principal Slacking:** That would be up to Stella.

**Dr. Pruvit:** Ms. Round?

**Ms. Stella Round:** You can call me Stella.

**Dr. Pruvit:** Stella, I believe that our institute—well, the foundation that funds our institute—could make a sizable contribution to the music program if we could take a little field trip now and do a little performance.

**Ms. Stella Round:** A *sizable* contribution to the *music* department?

**Dr. Pruvit:** A *sizable* contribution to the *music* department.

**Ms. Stella Round:** It's really short notice. But a sizable contribution to the music department speaks volumes to me. Principal Slacking, what do you think?

**Principal Slacking:** Well, it would require making a lot of last minute arrangements . . .

**Dr. Pruvit:** How is your soccer field looking these days?

**Principal Slacking:** But I think we could probably make it work. What about you students? What do you think?

**Students:** (*speaking at different turns but with the same sentiment*) Pleeeeeeease! Can we? Can we?

**Dr. Pruvit:** I'll take that as a yes. (*The happiness monitors once again go off the charts.*) Abel, pull up the bus, please.

(*Everyone cheers with delight.*)

**Abel:** (*motioning to an imaginary bus door*) The bus is waiting.

**Ms. Stella Round:** Hit it!

(*As the students are getting on the bus, riding, and walking into the research facility, they sing "Doctor Jazz." They eventually reach stage right to a room full of monitors similar to the one that Able had.*)

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>Song 4: Doctor Jazz, p. 376</i></b></p>
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**Dr. Pruvit:** (*addressing his colleagues at the institute*) My friends, my colleagues, my fellow men and women of science. An important breakthrough has taken place today. It seems that a new discovery has taken place in our understanding of the happiness factor. These young minds are about to reveal a new level of happiness never reached before in our institute.

**Scientists:** (*mumbling and murmuring among themselves*) What is going on? What could this be?

(*Dr. Pruvit exchanges a look with the Ms. Stella Round.*)

**Dr. Pruvit:** Hit it!

***Song 5: La Bamba, p. 381***

*(Everyone in the place goes crazy, singing and dancing. The monitors register once again, this time off the charts.)*

**Students:** *(together)* And they all lived more happily than ever . . . ever after.