

Name _____ Date _____

Spotlight on Performance Script

Zoo-Rific!

Costume/Prop Suggestions

Mrs. Nice, the teacher, should be dressed conservatively. Pull her hair back and add glasses to the end of her nose and a pencil on her ear. The children should each be dressed according to their personalities. A few suggestions are given. Melody is a sweet girl who loves music; she could wear a music shirt. Donald is big in stature and somewhat grumpy; he could wear a football jersey. Kenny is small in stature and studious; he could wear horn-rimmed glasses. Joey is the average student and liked by all. Samantha is a Prima Dona; she should be tall with long hair.

Set Suggestions

Set the stage like the inside of a classroom. Add a chalkboard, desks, flags, charts, and so on. You could include pictures of zoo animals on the walls.

Script Begins

(Please note: This script is created for a small cast but can be expanded to fit any number of children you would like to use.)

(Mrs. Nice lectures the children as they listen attentively.)

Mrs. Nice: *(in a nasal voice)* Finally children, before we take our field trip to the zoo tomorrow, I want you to research the zoo animal of your choice. Write a short paper on your selection. There is one catch...this animal needs to mirror your personality in some way. You may begin.

(She exits the stage.)

Melody: *(shrugging out)* Hmm, where to start? There are so many animals I like!

Donald: Why do we have to do a dumb old research project anyway? Why can't we just go to the zoo?

Kenny: Mrs. Nice is just trying to help us learn more.

Donald: I guess you're right.

Samantha: I know *exactly* what I'm researching. Horses!

Joey: Why's that, Samantha?

Samantha: (*striking a glamorous pose*) because they're tall, beautiful and have long hair...just like me!

(*All the students laugh together as Samantha gallops across the stage.*)

Song 1: Four White Horses, p. 301

(*After the song, Joey excitedly enters the stage waving a piece of paper in his hands.*)

Joey: (*waving the paper in the air*) I found it! I found it!

Samantha: Found what, Joey?

Joey: The information on bats. It's right here!

Melody: What does it say?

Joey: (*reading from the paper*) It says that although they can fly, bats are not birds. They are mammals. In fact, they are the only mammal that can fly. They can be found in almost every part of the world. It says 70 percent of bats eat insects with some catching up to 600 mosquitoes in just one hour!

Kenny: Boy, could we use a bat around my house!

Donald: But Joey, how in the world does that kind of animal represent your personality?

Joey: Well, it also says that bats are nocturnal, meaning they stay up all night. I like to do that, too!

Song 2: Leatherwing Bat, p. 304

Melody: I can't wait to visit the zoo aviary.

Donald: The avi-what?

Samantha: Aviary! You know, giant bird cage.

Joey: So which bird best represents your personality?

Donald: Wait! I know this answer...the cuckoo bird, right?

(*All of the students laugh.*)

Melody: No, Donald. Not the cuckoo bird.

Kenny: So which one?

Melody: Well, I think the Yellow Cardinal is fascinating. It can be found in South America and is very rare! But most importantly, it likes to sing and so do I.

Song 3: Chú, chú, chú, p. 302

Samantha: How about it, Kenny? Have you figured out what animal you're researching?

Kenny: Yes, I think I have.

Joey: And what's that?

Kenny: I like the pachyderms.

Donald: Why doesn't anyone speak English around here! What in the world is a pachyderm?

Melody: It's an animal with thick skin. You know, elephants, rhinos, and hippos. Which do you like the best, Kenny?

Kenny: The elephant! It's the largest animal that lives on land. Some elephants can weigh as much as a school bus. They use their long trunks for breathing and smelling and can carry up to three gallons of water in these long snouts.

Samantha: I'm having a really hard time figuring out how those characteristics best fit you.

Kenny: Well, it just so happens that elephants love water and are very good swimmers, *(pointing to himself)* just like me!

Song 4: Yanai, p. 305

Melody: It's your turn, Donald. What zoo animal are you researching?

Donald: Well, I've been rather crabby today so I thought I'd find out about crustaceans.

Joey: Now you're using words we don't know.

Kenny: If I remember correctly, a crustacean is an animal best-known for its hard outer shell.

Donald: You're right, Kenny. I particularly like the Hermit Crab.

Samantha: Tell us why, Donald.

Donald: Well, this animal carries its home on its back. That would mean it could sleep any time it wanted! These crabs are skillful scavengers and feed on just about anything they find. That means they eat everything. Now that's my kind of animal.

Song 5: Caranguejo, p. 306

(Mrs. Nice enters.)

Mrs. Nice: Well, children, have you finished your reports?

All Students: Yes, Mrs. Nice.

Mrs. Nice: And which zoo animals did you choose?

Samantha: I picked horses!

Joey: And I think I'm like a bat.

Melody: Birds best fit my personality.

Kenny: Elephants are my choice.

Donald: I researched a crab, Mrs. Nice.

Mrs. Nice: And what have you learned today?

Donald: Well, I learned that all of these critters are unique and important.

Mrs. Nice: Yes, each is special just like all of you!

Donald: Do you know what, Mrs. Nice? I've had a zoo-rific time today!

Song 6: A Place in the Choir, p. 308