

Lucy – It’s a beautiful picture, Edmund. It looks like a real dragon-ship.

Edmund – Running before a fast wind, heading off to adventure and glory, I’ll be bound. Not like being stuck here for the holidays. In this dreadful house. With our dreadful uncle and our even more dreadful aunt. And that entirely dreadful cousin, Eustace. Eustace Clarence Scrubbs. What a name! It suits him perfectly.

Lucy – Such a very Narnian ship.

Pause

Edmund – Oh, Lucy, don’t you just long to go back to Narnia?

Lucy – (*dreamily*) The land behind the wardrobe. Oh, I miss Narnia so much . . .

Edmund – And Aslan?

Lucy – And Aslan most of all.

Edmund – The question is, does it make things worse, having to look at a Narnian ship when you can’t do anything about it, or . . .?

Lucy – Or is even just looking at it better than doing nothing at all. What was it we were told? “Don’t try to get back to Narnia, it’ll happen when you least expect it.”

Eustace, who has been listening, enters

Eustace – “Some kids who played games about Narnia

Got gradually barmier and barmier

Then one fine day, they were taken away

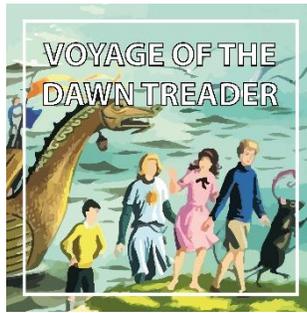
And locked up in the looney-bin.”

How about that then?

Edmund – It doesn’t rhyme, Eustace.

Eustace – It doesn’t matter, Edmund. All you two have done since you came here to stay is talk about Narnia. Fine cousins you are – no fun at all. What is this soppy Narnia, anyway?

Lucy – Well, it’s a whole land full of wonderful people: lions, leopards, dwarfs, fauns, satyrs, cats, dogs and mice.



Scene 2

Ages 10-18

Characters: Lord Bern (brave Lord),

Gumpas (Evil Slave Governor) ,

Pug (evil slaver), Caspian (King of Narnia)

Bern – On your knees, every man jack of you. On your knees to the King of Narnia.

Gumpas – Who?

Caspian – Slave-trader, your life is forfeit.

Pug – Why Sir?

Caspian – Because I abolished the foul and inhuman practice of slave-trading on the islands half an hour ago. On pain of instant death.

Pug – But I didn't know, Sir.

Caspian – Ignorance of the law is no excuse, slaver. On your knees and beg for mercy.

Bern – Every slave in this market is free.

Caspian – By my royal decree.

Gumpas – Your Majesty, I must protest.

Caspian – Tell me, Governor Gumpas, what need do we have for slaves, Governor?

Gumpas – To sell them for export. The Lone Islands are a centre, a major centre for exporting slaves.

Bern – Rubbish! You sell slave in order to put money –

Gumpas – Be silent, Lord Bern.

Bern – into Pug's pockets and to put money into your own private accounts.

Gumpas – I protest, Sire. I have documents, statistics, accounts, books and diagrams that prove –

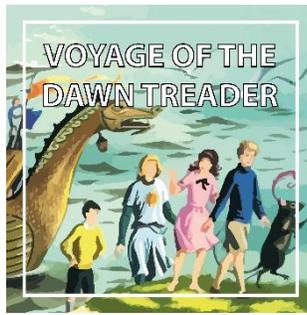
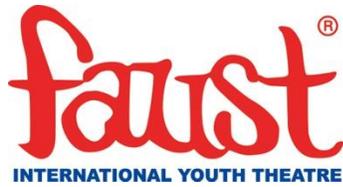
Caspian – That show how you exchange slaves for food, grain, wine, timber for the benefit of the people of the islands?

Gumpas – Well no, Sir, not exactly Sir.

Caspian – Well no, Sir, not at all, Sir. The traffic in slaves is abolished. And so, Governor Gumpas, are you.

Gumpas – I beg your Majesty's pardon?

Caspian – My royal decree is that the Lord Bern is the new Governor – no – is now Duke of all the Lone Islands and rules on my behalf until I or my successor commands differently. The island is free.



Scene 3

Ages 8-11

Characters:

Chief (Is very stupid but the leader),

Thumpers 1,2,3 (the chiefs even more stupid minions)

Chief's voice – Mates, now's our chance!

Thumper 1's voice – That's it, now's our chance!

Thumper 2's voice – He's right. He's right. The Chief's right again.

Thumper 3's voice – You never said a truer word. He's never wrong mates.

Chief's voice – What I say is, we must get down to the shore between those strangers and their boat. Then we can catch them all when they try to put to sea.

Thumper 1's voice – That's it, catch them all when they try to put to sea.

Thumper 2's voice – He's right again. The Chief's always right.

Thumper 3's voice – And he's never wrong. No, never.

Thumper 4's voice – You never made a better plan, Chief. Never made a better plan.

Thumper 2's voice – He's right, you know. He's right.

Thumper 3's voice – Who is?

Thumper 2's voice – Why he is.

Thumper 3's voice – Who?

Thumper 2's voice – Why, he.

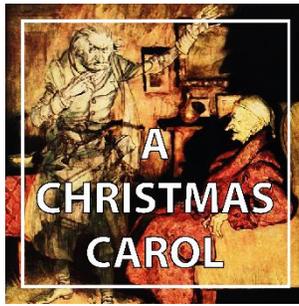
Chief's voice – Lively now, lads, lively. Look to your weapons. Off we go.

Thumper 4's voice – Right again, Chief. You never gave a better order. Just what we were going to say ourselves. Off we go.

The Thumpers set off, with Thumpers 2 and 3 still trying to sort out

Thumper 3's voice – But who is?

Thumper 2's voice – Why he is, of course.



Ebenezer Scrooge and Bob Cratchit enter and are seated at their desks. Ebenezer Scrooge is the cold-hearted boss, Bob Cratchit is his employee. Bob Cratchit is listening to the carol outside and is enjoying it. Scrooge hits his clerk for doing so. Scrooge walks over to the window

Scrooge Damn blast that noise! Cease your squawking!
The carol stops. All Ghosts exit the same way they entered.

Can't a man be busy with his accounts without suffering this infernal din?

Cratchit It is Christmas Eve, Sir.

Scrooge Christmas Eve! Pah! The end of the year accounts must be settled, Christmas Eve or no, Cratchit. If a man owes me money he'll settle his account on Christmas Eve as well as any day.

Cratchit Yes, Mr Scrooge.

The clock strikes five o'clock.

Cratchit Mr Scrooge?

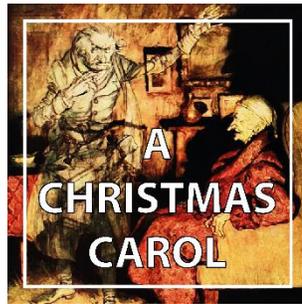
Scrooge No.

Cratchit I was just going to observe that it was five o'clock, Mr Scrooge.

Scrooge And your time is seven o'clock. Which means, if you will allow me to observe it, that you are still two hours in my debt for the day's work.

Cratchit Might I be allowed, just the once, Sir, to slip out to the toyshop which closes at, I believe, six, Sir? I saw something cheap and bright in the window for my boy Tim.

Scrooge Toyshop? Bah! Hang your Tim, Sir, for all I care. Seven o'clock is your time and not a second sooner.



Scrooge is at home on Christmas Eve, having declared he hates Christmas and has no love for the poor. Jacob Marley, a ghost who used to be Scrooge's business partner and friend, has appeared to Scrooge to warn Scrooge to change his ways.

Jacob In life, I was your partner Jacob Marley. You don't believe in me.

Scrooge I don't.

Jacob Why do you doubt your senses, Scrooge?

Scrooge Humbug. I'm dreaming you. You don't exist. It was that morsel of cheese I gobbled. You're just a figment of the cheese! Humbug.

We hear a great mournful groan from Jacob Marley.
Agh. Mercy!

Jacob (*shouting*) Do you believe in me or not?

Scrooge I do. I must. But why do spirits walk on earth and why do they come to me?

Jacob It is required of every man that the spirit within him should walk abroad among his fellow men. And if that spirit goes not forth in life, it is condemned to do so after death. Ohh.

Scrooge You are chained. Tell me why.

Jacob I wear the chain I forged in life. I made it Link by link and yard by yard. Would you know the weight and length of your own chain, Scrooge? It was as heavy as this and as long as this seven Christmases ago. Tonight yours is a heavy chain indeed!

Scrooge How do you know that?

Jacob I have watched you, for my sins!

Scrooge Speak comfort to me, Jacob.

Jacob Comfort you may get but not from me. It is not permitted for me to tell you more than this. In life, my spirit never roamed beyond the narrow limits of our money-changing hole but now travel I must- an eternal journey.

Scrooge You mean you have journeyed in this way for seven years?

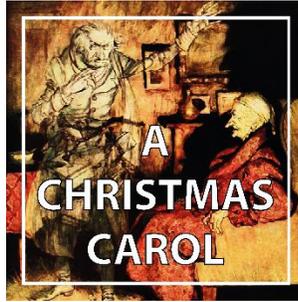
Jacob No rest. No peace. Endless sorrow.

Scrooge You travel fast?

Jacob On the wings of the wind but always bound within this chain.

Scrooge But you were always a good man of business, Jacob.

Jacob Business? Mankind was my business. The common good was my business. To think I walked through crowds of my fellow creatures with my eyes turned downwards. If but my eyes had been lead to see the misery around me, which it was within my power to remove. But, like yours Scrooge, these eyes saw nothing.



It is Christmas morning. Scrooge wakes up and is changed by what he has seen on Christmas Eve. He wants to be a good person and embrace Christmas. He goes to the window.

Scrooge What a beautiful day. Sun. Oh golden sun. And snow!

A boy and girl enter.

Scrooge You two. Young man, young lady! Young shavers in the street! What day is it?

Boy Eh?

Scrooge What day is it, my fine fellows?

Girl Today? Why Christmas Day.

Scrooge It's Christmas Day. I haven't missed it. The Spirits have done it all in one night. They can do anything they like. Of course they can. Of course they can. Hello, my fine fellows

Boy Hello.

Scrooge Do you know the poulterers in the next street?

Girl I should hope I do.

Scrooge An intelligent child. A remarkable child. Do you know whether they've sold the prize turkey that was hanging up there - not the little prize turkey – the big one.

Boy What? The one as big as me?

Scrooge What a delightful boy. It's a pleasure to talk to him. Yes, my buck.

Girl It's hanging there now.

Scrooge Is it? Then go and buy it.

Boy Of course

Scrooge Go and inform the poulterer that I will purchase it. Stand by it till I come. I'll give you instructions where to take it. You'll take a cab of course and there'll be five shillings for yourself. Now what do you say? Will you run this errand, my fine herberts?

Girl Run it? Five shillings? You watch us!

The Boy and Girl runs off, whooping.