

The Seven Little Penguins

Infant Script

by

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AUTHOR'S NOTE

“Dedicated to the children and staff of Allfarthing School”

The Seven Little Penguins was written especially for the children of Allfarthing Primary School, Wandsworth, as an alternative to the traditional Christmas nativity production one year. Many parents, members of staff and children came to tell me how much they had enjoyed the songs and performances.

There is scope within this story for a large number of children to take part. The songs are easy and enjoyable to learn. The lively CD backing tracks are useful for practising the songs, and I would also highly recommend using them for the performance itself! However, piano parts are provided if you prefer.

Costumes, scenery and props ideas, instrumentation and stage directions are only given as a guide. Please simplify or adapt them as necessary for your children and stage area... and be as creative as you wish!

I hope that you and your pupils will have as much fun putting on **The Seven Little Penguins** as I had writing it and seeing it performed by the children of Allfarthing. Have a great show... and please let me know how it went!

Fran Carpenter

STORY SYNOPSIS

This is the story of seven little penguins who live in an igloo in a snowy, far away land.

On this particular day young Goggles becomes upset at being left behind by his older brothers and sisters. They cheer him up with his favourite sardine ice cream, and go off to fish.

But whilst they are away, Goggles has unwanted visitors - Snitch the Snow Fox and Nick and Nock the Polar Bears, the notorious local robbers! Goggles hides as the robbers fill their sacks with goodies!

When they have gone, Goggles goes to tell the other penguins, but they are nowhere to be found. All he finds are a beautiful shoal of fish and a whale dancing magically beneath the ice! He decides to find the robbers by himself and bravely sets off into the snow.

Later, the other penguins wonder where Goggles has gone and enrol the help of PC Blubber, the 'limerick-speaking' walrus policeman.

Goggles discovers a creepy cave and has fun listening to his echo, not realising that it is made by mischievous icicles playing musical games.

Goggles eventually finds the robbers' lair but is soon discovered by them! Just in time the icicles appear and capture the robbers, forming icy prison bars around them! The penguins, icicles and PC Blubber all celebrate with a song and a dance!

CAST LIST

Solo parts - speaking/singing/dancing:

The Penguins

- Goggles:** Young penguin, wears goggles and colourful clothes, main character, needs to be a strong singer.
- Welly:** Wears new wellies.
- Flip-Flop:** Wears flip-flops & sunglasses
- Waddle:** Waddles a lot, but is a sensible penguin.
- Icy:** Wears a cardigan and has a hot water bottle, always cold.
- Kipper:** Loves fish, wears a silly hat with a fish on top.
- Diver:** Wears flippers and a snorkel.

The Robbers

- Snitch:** 'The boss', a white snow fox with furry ears and bushy tail.
- Nick & Nock:** Small white polar bears with small furry ears and padded tummies. A bit silly.
- PC Blubber:** A walrus, speaks in limericks, policeman's helmet and uniform, with cardboard tube 'tusks' fitted to the side of the helmet, or tusks painted on face. Padded tummy.
- Icicles 1-5:** Five speaking Icicles. Glittery silver/white T-shirts/leotards/leggings, with tall, glittery/silver pointed hats.

Group parts – singing/dancing/playing instruments:

- Other Icicles:** Dressed as speaking Icicles.
- The Whale:** Like a Chinese Dragon style costume, a large piece of black material covering all children decorated with eyes, teeth, fin, white killer whale markings. Children can wear black leggings.
- The Fish:** Coloured leotards/T-shirts & leggings, possibly silver/coloured scales/fins/tails – different shapes /sizes.
- The Band:** Black and white, bow ties, or dressed as arctic animals or sea creatures. Play tuned & untuned percussion.
- The Choir:** Dressed similarly to the orchestra. Sing all chorus parts. Could perform actions to songs.

SCENERY & PROPS

The first half of the story is set inside the penguins' igloo and around the ice hole, and the second half is set in an icy cave. However, most scenery and props can stay in place for the whole play, except for the igloo wall, which will probably need to be removed by adults before the cave scenes.

The overall backdrop can be dark blue, with silver or white paper 'icicles' hanging along the top, longer at the sides than in the middle, in order to create an 'arched cave' effect. A Christmas tree will create a seasonal feel, placed in front of the backdrop in the centre.

Benches can be placed along the back of the stage area for the icicles to sit on, and further benches on either side of the stage for the other characters. The orchestra will be best placed sitting on PE mats on the floor to one side if they have more than one instrument each.

In front of the back drop, to the right, is a free-standing 'igloo wall' or part of a wall (photocopier paper boxes, 'sewn' together with string for extra durability then painted white, work well). The wall has one or two removable 'ice bricks' for the robbers to push out from behind. The wall can be removed by adults once the robber's igloo scene is finished.

In front of the backdrop to the right is a free standing 'icy boulder', about 1m high, behind which Goggles can hide. A group of small cardboard boxes fixed together (again, 'sewn' with string) draped with a white sheet or crepe paper looks effective!

To the front of the stage RT is an 'ice hole', a silver cardboard circle on the floor, with two or three fishing nets nearby (stuck in a weighted bucket of old plasticine), ready for the 'note-finding' scene.

The following small props will also be needed:

Extra fishing nets for some of the penguins to carry for first song

A penguin's 'teddy' (polar bear if possible)

A penguin's 'dolly' (toy penguin if possible!)

A snowball (ball covered in white crepe paper or white fur fabric)

An 'ice cream cone' (cardboard or felt cone and cotton wool/fur fabric 'ice-cream')

Ice cream tub with label 'Sardine Ice-cream'

A large fish (made from orange felt or card)

Old sports trophies/cups and other objects for robbers to steal - anything!

Duster - for Goggles' housework

3 sacks for robbers (bin liners or vegetable sacks full of old newspaper, with room for a few stolen goods on top!)

Double-sided note ('Gone to lunch'/'Gone to find robbers') - easily attachable to a fishing net in the bucket

SIMPLE IDEAS FOR 'THE BAND'

These instruments might be used by the 'band' to accompany songs and dances and to create sound effects:

- 'Seven little penguins are we'** - Maracas, tambourines (to tap to beat in choruses only)
- 'Oh Goggles, don't you cry'** - Triangles/Indian bells to play at the beginning of each bar (not during spoken parts)
- 'Funny little song'** - Wood blocks, guiros to tap to beat (choruses only, not over solo)
- 'Grab this, grab that'** - Claves, wood blocks tap to beat, chime bars playing the rhythm of the words "grab this, grab that" on F# & D (choruses only)
- 'Dance of the fish & whale'** - Triangles & bells for fish; vibraslap, wobble board, ocean drum for whale
- 'Song of the icicles'** - Jingle bells (choruses only)
- Icicles 'jumping forward' music** - Children's coloured handbells or chime bars, notes DEFGA

SCENERY - Inside the igloo & outside at the ice hole

(Seven little penguins waddle on from stage LT and perform song & dance.)

TRACK 1: SEVEN LITTLE PENGUINS ARE WE!

Musical intro *(Penguin dance)*

SOLOS, SPOKEN: I'm Welly! I'm Flip-Flop! I'm Waddle! I'm Icy!
I'm Kipper! I'm Diver! I'm Goggles, that's me!

ALL, SPOKEN: We all live together in our cosy little igloo,
'Cos seven little penguins are we!

Musical interlude *(Penguin dance)*

ALL, SUNG: WE'RE ALL BROTHERS AND SISTERS, YOU SEE,
WE'RE AS HAPPY AS PENGUINS CAN BE!

GOGGLES: I LOVE THEM AND THEY LOVE ME!

ALL, SUNG: SEVEN LITTLE PENGUINS ARE WE!

GOOD FRIENDS, GOOD FRIENDS!
'COS, SEVEN LITTLE PENGUINS ARE WE!
GOOD FRIENDS, GOOD FRIENDS!
'COS, SEVEN LITTLE PENGUINS ARE WE!

Musical interlude *(Penguin dance)*

SOLOS, SPOKEN: I'm Welly! I'm Flip-Flop! I'm Waddle! I'm Icy!
I'm Kipper! I'm Diver! I'm Goggles, that's me!

ALL, SPOKEN: We all live together in our cosy little igloo,
'Cos seven little penguins are we!

Musical interlude *(Penguin dance)*

ALL, SUNG: NOTHING BETTER THAN FISHING, YOU KNOW,
EVERY MORNING, THAT'S WHERE WE GO!
WE LIKE LIVING IN THE ICE AND THE SNOW!
'COS SEVEN LITTLE PENGUINS ARE WE!

GOOD FRIENDS, GOOD FRIENDS!
'COS, SEVEN LITTLE PENGUINS ARE WE!
GOOD FRIENDS, GOOD FRIENDS!
'COS, SEVEN LITTLE PENGUINS ARE WE!

Musical ending *(Penguin dance)*

WADDLE: *(Excitedly)* What a lovely day for fishing!

GOGGLES: *(Sheepishly)* Can I come?

DIVER: *(Showing off)* I'm going to catch a big fish today!

GOGGLES: Can I come?

WELLY: *(Showing wellies)* I'm going to wear my new wellies!

GOGGLES: Can I come?

ICY: *(Shivering)* I think I'll wear an extra cardy. It was cold yesterday.

OTHER PENGUINS: It's always cold here, silly!!

(They all laugh. Goggles looks cross.)

GOGGLES: *(Shouts)* CAN... I... COME?!!

(Others finally take notice of him, but shake their heads.)

FLIP-FLOP: Oh, Goggles, you can't come! You're too small.

(Goggles starts to cry, loudly.)

WADDLE: *(Comforts him)* Oh no, not again!

TRACK 2: **'OH GOGGLES, DON'T YOU CRY!'**

ALL: OH, WILL YOU STOP, MY LITTLE ONE,
THIS IS NOT MUCH FUN, OH MY LITTLE ONE,
OH WILL YOU STOP, MY LITTLE ONE,
OH, GOGGLES, DON'T YOU CRY!

NOW WOULD YOU START TO SMILE,
EVEN FOR A LITTLE WHILE...

WADDLE, SPOKEN: If I gave you a... Teddy?!

(She pulls out a teddy.)

ALL: A TEDDY?
GOGGLES: BOO HOO!
ALL: A TEDDY?
GOGGLES: WAH HAA!
ALL: A TEDDY?
GOGGLES: BOO HOO, WAH HAA!
ALL: A TEDDY?
GOGGLES: BOO HOO!
ALL: A TEDDY?

GOGGLES: WAH HAA!
ALL: OH, GOGGLES, DON'T YOU CRY!

(Other penguins (possibly in pairs) offer Goggles different things in further verses of the song. Suggestions are: Kipper: a dolly, Icy: a snowball. Children may have good ideas of their own. Goggles rejects these, until Flip-Flop suggests...)

ALL: OH, WILL YOU STOP, MY LITTLE ONE,
 THIS IS NOT MUCH FUN, OH MY LITTLE ONE,
 OH WILL YOU STOP, MY LITTLE ONE,
 OH, GOGGLES, DON'T YOU CRY!

NOW WOULD YOU START TO SMILE,
 EVEN FOR A LITTLE WHILE...

FLIP-FLOP, SPOKEN: If I gave you an... Ice cream?!

(He pulls out an ice cream cone and a tub of ice cream labelled 'Sardine Ice-cream'.)

ALL: AN ICE CREAM?
GOGGLES: YIPPEE!
ALL: AN ICE CREAM?
GOGGLES (SHOUTS) HOORAY!
ALL: AN ICE CREAM?
GOGGLES: YIPPEE! HOORAY!
ALL: AN ICE CREAM?
GOGGLES: YIPPEE!
WADDLE: AN ICE CREAM?
GOGGLES: HOORAY!
ALL: OH, GOGGLES, DON'T YOU CRY!

(Goggles eats ice cream happily as others pick up nets and rods and prepare to go fishing.)

WADDLE: See you later, Goggles!

KIPPER: And remember, don't open the door to strangers.

(Goggles nods, slurping.)

ALL OTHERS: Bye!

(The other penguins waddle off stage LT in a line, waving. Goggles looks around.)

GOGGLES: *(Sighing)* Oh well, I'd better get cleaning!