

# The Snow Queen

by **Hans Christian Andersen**  
adapted by **Sheila Laughton**

**This script belongs to:**

---

Perusal Copy

**You may not reproduce this script in any way without prior written permission. All rights are strictly reserved.**

**If you'd like to put on this play, a fee is payable whether or not it is presented for profit and whether or not admission is charged.**

For more details about putting on this play, please visit:  
[themaninthemoon.co.uk/scripts](http://themaninthemoon.co.uk/scripts)

# The Snow Queen

This play was first presented by **The Man In The Moon** on 15 December 2011

## Cast in Order of Appearance

**The Historiefortæller are the storytellers (Narrators) in the play**

*They have been numbered 1 to 6 in this script, although you are welcome to share these lines with as many (or few) actors as you'd like*

<b>Troll</b>	<b>Hollyhock</b> , <i>another flower</i>
<b>Young Kay</b>	<b>Narcissus</b> , <i>another flower</i>
<b>Grandmother</b>	<b>Cuthbert</b> , <i>a Raven</i>
<b>Young Gerda</b>	<b>Princess Gretel</b>
<b>The Snow Queen</b>	<b>Prime Minister</b>
<b>Older Kay</b>	<b>Breda</b> , <i>Cuthbert's Fiancée</i>
<b>Polar Bear Guard</b>	<b>Prince Jasper</b>
<b>Morton</b> , <i>a villager</i>	<b>Young Robber Boy</b>
<b>Kristen</b> , <i>a villager</i>	<b>Robber 1, 2 &amp; 3</b>
<b>Lars</b> , <i>a villager</i>	<b>Grammaella</b>
<b>Sun</b>	<b>Marguerite</b> , <i>a Robber</i>
<b>Swallows</b>	<b>Pigeon 1 &amp; 2</b>
<b>River</b>	<b>Bulldog 1 &amp; 2</b>
<b>Rose</b> , <i>a flower in the Enchantress' garden</i>	<b>Bae</b> , <i>a Reindeer</i>
<b>The Enchantress</b>	<b>The Lappish Man</b>
<b>Older Gerda</b>	<b>The Finnish Lady</b>
<b>Tiger Lily</b> , <i>another flower</i>	<b>Snowflakes</b>
<b>Elderflower</b> , <i>another flower</i>	<b>Baby Polar Bear 1 &amp; 2</b>
<b>Holly</b> , <i>another flower</i>	<b>Baby Penguin 1 &amp; 2</b>

## Director's Note

There are 44 named speaking roles in the play. Many of the smaller roles in the cast can easily be doubled up, tripled or more.

The play runs approximately 50 minutes.

# Being An Actor

You're now an **actor** about to begin rehearsing a **play** of **The Snow Queen**.

**Rehearsing** or **rehearsals** are the words that actors use when practising for the show. It's an exciting time and is a lot of fun too.

Before you get started, you might like to read this section about putting on a play. It will also help you learn some of the words we use in the theatre. You'll be talking like a real actor in no time at all.

## The Script

This book is your **script**. It tells you what your **character** says and does in the play:

**Troll** (*roaring in a small but mighty voice*) I can hear you, you know. I may be small but I can still be very evil. Would you like me to show you? (*He pulls out a teddy bear and tears it in half*) Now, can we get on?

You can see the character names are in **bold** and **stage directions** (*what you do*) are in *italics*. You don't say the stage directions out loud.

## Who's Who

Different people work very hard to put on a play. The **director** is in charge of the creative parts of the show. The **producer** looks after the **budget** (money), booking the theatre and rehearsal rooms and makes sure that everything's in the right place at the right time.

There will also be **designers** for the **costumes** (what you wear), **lighting** and **scenery**.

The **Stage Manager** makes sure that rehearsals and performances run smoothly.

## The Parts of the Theatre

The **stage** is where you do your acting. The **wings** are the spaces just **off-stage** left and right where actors wait before they make their entrance.

The area behind the stage is called **backstage**. The place where the audience sits is called the **auditorium**.

The place where you get into costume and make-up is called the **dressing room**. You must always be really quiet when you're backstage.

## Stage Directions

When you start rehearsing the play, the director will tell you which side of the stage you need to come on from and where you should stand. Sometimes they will ask you to move to different places whilst you're saying your lines.

Stage right and left are as the actor looks at the audience. **Downstage** is closest to the audience. **Upstage** is furthest away, towards the back of the stage.

	<b>Upstage Right (USR)</b>	<b>Upstage Centre (USC)</b>	<b>Upstage Left (USL)</b>	
<b>The Wings</b>	<b>Stage Right (SR)</b>	<b>Centre Stage (CS)</b>	<b>Stage Left (SL)</b>	<b>The Wings</b>
	<b>Downstage Right (DSR)</b>	<b>Downstage Centre (DSC)</b>	<b>Downstage Left (DSL)</b>	

**The Audience**



## Rehearsals

You'll have a **read-through** at your first rehearsal when everyone sits together and reads the script for the first time.

After this, you'll start **blocking** the play where everyone finds out where they come on from and the different things they'll do. It's a great idea to **write all this down in your script** to help you remember. You should always write in pencil, just in case you need to change it later (sometimes you might find a better way of doing it). Once you've finished blocking, you'll begin **run-throughs**.

After a few rehearsals and once you've learnt your lines, you'll be **off-book**. If you forget a line, the **stage manager** will give you a **prompt** (remind you of your line).

Once you get to the theatre, you'll have a **technical** (or tech) **rehearsal**, where you practise with the lights and sound.

Finally, you'll have a **dress rehearsal**, which you'll do in your full costume and make-up. The last rehearsal before you have an audience. Exciting!

Rehearsals/performances usually start with a warm-up to get your voice and body ready.

During the show, your director might give you notes after the performance about anything that didn't go quite right, or something they might like you to change.

## Learning Your Lines

The hardest part of being in a play is learning your **lines** (the things you say). Sadly, there's no magic way of doing this, you just need to practise – a lot!

Here are some helpful tips. Remember, the sooner you do it, the more fun you'll have at rehearsal:

- \* Read your lines out loud to yourself. Hearing them spoken helps you to remember.
- \* Ask a friend for help. They can read the other characters and correct any mistakes that you make.
- \* Do a little bit at a time. First thing in the morning and bedtime is a great time to practise.
- \* Record your scenes. You can listen to it on your headphones while you're out and about – maybe leave gaps for you to say your own lines.
- \* Learn your **cues**. The line before yours is called the **cue line**. It's important to know this, or you won't know when it's your turn to speak.

## Enjoy The Show!

We hope that you've found this interesting. There are lots of new things to learn, and you'll pick them up easily during rehearsals. Don't forget to ask questions if there's something that you don't understand.

We hope that you have a brilliant time putting on **The Snow Queen**.

**Break a leg** – that's what people in the theatre say to wish each other good luck!

# Act One

## Scene One – The Troll

**Historiefortæller 1** Once upon a time, many, many years ago, there was an evil old Troll who lived deep, deep in the forest.

**Historiefortæller 2** He was enormous. Everyone who met him was filled with fear. He was the most...

*The Troll enters. He is not very big*

**Historiefortæller 1** Hang on. I thought that you said he was enormous?

**Historiefortæller 2** (*not noticing the Troll*) He was enormous. He was the most...

**Historiefortæller 1** Ahem. (*Points to the Troll who is really very small. The Troll is not amused*)

*All the Historiefortællers look at the Troll, muttering, "It must be a casting mistake", or "maybe the real Troll's on holiday" etc.*

**Troll** (*roaring in a small but mighty voice*) I can hear you, you know. I may be small but I can still be very evil. Would you like me to show you? (*He pulls out a teddy bear and tears it in half*) Now, can we get on?

**Historiefortæller 1** Of course. I never said you were too small. (*Quickly*) Once upon a time, many years ago, there was an evil, small, troll who lived deep in the forest.

**Historiefortæller 3** He was bored and fed up as everyone in the world was so happy.

**Troll** (*grumpily*) I can't put up with all this happiness any longer. It's enough to make me want to crush some heads. But what can I do? It must be something really wicked to make everyone really sad. That would make me very happy.

**Historiefortæller 4** He thought and thought until his head ached, but no idea came to him. One day, as he was admiring his hairy warts in the mirror, a horrible, despicable idea came to him.

**Troll** (*brightly*) I know. I'll build a mirror that turns beautiful images into horrible ones. That will make everyone really sad and, if I'm lucky, they'll end up arguing and fighting. I'm such a clever, evil Troll.

*He begins to make the magic mirror*

**Historiefortæller 5** Once the mirror was completed, he tricked people into looking at their reflections. Everything seemed ugly and distorted.

*The Troll begins to show the Historiefortæller's his mirror and enjoys their reaction when they see their reflections*

**Historiefortæller 6** Soon, good neighbours became enemies, beautiful gardens died through lack of care and everything fell into disrepair.

**Historiefortæller 1** This made the Troll very happy indeed. Many years passed and the Troll began to feel bored and fed up again.

**Historiefortæller 2** One evening as he walked through the village, he heard the Guardians singing.

*Beautiful singing is heard from the sky*

**Troll** (*grumpily*) They're always soooooo happy.

**Historiefortæller 3** An evil thought came into his mind.

**Troll** I know. I'll cast a spell that will take my special mirror up to the skies. When the Guardians look into it, they'll stop singing and start crying. That will make me very happy again.

*The mirror is magically carried up to the skies*

**Historiefortæller 4** As the mirror got closer to the Guardians in the sky, the sounds of their voices made it begin to vibrate. Suddenly, it smashed into millions of pieces.

**Historiefortæller 5** Some of the pieces floated down to earth and entered the hearts of people, making them forget how to be nice. Many of the other pieces were caught by someone else... The Snow Queen.

**Historiefortæller 6** Many years passed, and people forgot about the Troll and his evil mirror. It soon just became another story that parents told their children to frighten them.

**Historiefortæller 1** (*to Historiefortæller 6*) Parents tell their children stories just to frighten them?

**Historiefortæller 2** Yes, like if you're pulling a silly face and the wind changes, you'll be stuck like it forever.

**Historiefortæller 3** (*pointing to another Historiefortæller*) They really must have been pulling a really silly face when the wind changed direction.

**Historiefortæller 4** We know what you were thinking when the wind blew.

**Historiefortæller 5** Erm, I think that might just be their actual face.

**Historiefortæller 6** Awkward.

**Historiefortæller 1** Can we get back to the story please?

**Historiefortæller 2** OK. (*Beginning again*) Kay and Gerda's family lived in a pretty village. It was so crowded that there was no room for any gardens. The only space they had to play was in the village square.

**Historiefortæller 3** Gerda's Grandmother had made a small garden on the roof of their house. Every night the children would sit in their pretty garden smelling the beautiful roses, begging Grandmother to tell them a story.

## Scene Two – The Grandmother

*We see Grandmother, Kay and Gerda sitting in their roof garden*

**Young Kay** Please tell us a story. I know, the one about the Snow Queen.

**Grandmother** But you've heard it so many times before.

**Young Gerda** (*nervously*) I don't like the Snow Queen. She sounds evil and very selfish.

**Young Kay** Don't worry Gerda. I'll protect you. If she comes near us, I'll throw her on to the stove until she melts.

**Grandmother** Hush, Kay, you shouldn't say things like that. You never know when she might be listening. She could be outside at this very moment!

**Young Gerda** But Grandmother, she couldn't come inside, could she?

**Grandmother** Not while I'm here to protect you.

**Young Kay** Gerda, don't be silly, it's only a story.

**Historiefortæller 4** Grandmother was a wise woman who could work good magic. She knew in her heart that the Snow Queen was real.

**Grandmother** There are some things that cannot be explained, Kay. It's enough that I believe she exists. I don't need any proof. You must be careful what you say, Kay.

**Young Kay** The Snow Queen doesn't frighten me. Just let her show her face here.

**Historiefortæller 5** Unfortunately for Kay, the Snow Queen was listening.

*There is a wintry gust of wind that sends shivers through the room*

**Historiefortæller 6** The roses faded. Summer became autumn and autumn turned into winter. The air grew colder as the days drew in. Grandmother often stood gazing out of the window up towards the sky.

We are now inside Grandmother's house

**Young Gerda** Grandmother, what's wrong? You seem so worried.

*Grandmother is lost in thought. She doesn't hear Gerda*

**Young Kay** (*eagerly*) I hope it snows tomorrow and if I see the Snow Queen I'll send her packing.

**Grandmother** (*angrily turning towards Kay*) Kay, be quiet. How dare you speak about things you don't understand? It's said that many boys like you have disappeared over the years. They all boasted that they'd destroy the Snow Queen if they saw her. (*Calmer*) I pray you will never meet her for she would crush your spirit and make you do her will.

*Kay and Gerda are both shocked by Grandmother's outburst*

**Grandmother** Now, go to bed both of you. I'll be up shortly to tuck you in.

*Kay exits, leaving Grandmother and Gerda alone*

**Young Gerda** Would she really take Kay away, Grandmother?

**Grandmother** Go to bed, dear heart, and don't worry. The Guardians will watch over you and keep you safe.

*We see Kay and Gerda sleeping. The Snow Queen menacingly appears*

**Historiefortæller 1** That night, Kay had a terrible nightmare that the Snow Queen was looking for him. He thought he saw her peering through his bedroom window and smiling as she beckoned to him.

**Historiefortæller 2** During the night it snowed so much that everywhere looked like a white wonderland.

*Kay and Gerda rush down to Grandmother. They are going to play in the snow*

**Grandmother** I have never known it snow as much as this before. Wrap up warm, my darlings. I don't like the look of that sky one bit. Now, go and play, both of you. I'll make some lovely soup for lunch and maybe a special chocolate cake.

**Young Kay** (*rushing out*) Come on, Gerda, let's go and make a snowman by the river.

**Young Gerda** And have a snowball fight. Grandmother, will you come and see our snowman when it's finished?

**Grandmother** (*looking distracted*) No, my dear, I have things to do. Have fun in the snow, but make sure you stay together.

**Historiefortæller 3** The children ran down to the river. It was frozen solid. They

built a magical snowman.

*By the river*

**Young Kay** Gerda, do you believe in the Snow Queen?

**Young Gerda** Why?

**Young Kay** I had a dream last night. I heard a loud knock on my window and when I looked, an evil smiling face was looking in at me. I went to the window, looked out and saw a cold figure beckoning me to follow her... I wanted to open the window. I wanted to go to her. She seemed so real.

**Young Gerda** Kay, it was only a dream. You know that Grandmother will keep us safe. (*Changing the subject*) Come on; let's make angels in the snow.

**Historiefortæller 4** The children lay in the deep snow, making angels. As Kay looked up into the dark snow-filled sky, he felt something in his eye.

*One of the Historiefortæller gently places a piece of broken mirror in Kay's eye*

**Young Kay** (*suddenly*) Ouch. There's something in my eye.

**Young Gerda** Let me look. (*She does*) I can't see anything. Stop rubbing it. Let's go and see Grandmother, she'll make your eye feel better. She might even make us hot chocolate and tell us another story. (*She slips her hand into Kay's*)

**Young Kay** (*spitefully, with a sudden change of character*) Get off. I think Grandmother's stories are stupid and are just for babies like you.

**Young Gerda** Why are you being so horrible? (*She bursts into tears and runs off*)

**Young Kay** (*calling after her*) That's right, run back to Grandmother. (*Mocking her*) You're just a silly baby. I'm going to get my sledge and then I'm going to play with the older boys in the square.

*Kay runs after her*

**Historiefortæller 5** Kay ran home to fetch his sledge. Gerda got there before him but had said nothing about their argument to Grandmother.

*At Grandmother's house*

**Young Kay** I'm off to the square. You can't come; you're just a silly girl who spoils all my fun. I'll see you later.

**Grandmother** Don't forget your scarf. And remember, be back before the snow turns into a blizzard.

**Young Kay** Why? I think the snowflakes are beautiful. (*He runs off*)

**Historiefortæller 6** Kay stormed off towards the square. He thought about how babyish Gerda was. He was angry with Grandmother. How dare she tell him when to come home? He hated living in the village where nothing ever happened. He wanted to find somewhere more exciting.

**Grandmother** (*worried*) Gerda, what happened this morning?

**Historiefortæller 1** Gerda told her about Kay's eye and what he had said to her. Grandmother went white, grabbed her shawl and rushed off towards the square.

**Historiefortæller 2** Kay joined the other boys and had lots of fun playing in the square. As the snow turned into a blizzard, everyone began to go home. Before he even realised, Kay was all alone.

*A woman, wrapped in furs, appears in a beautiful sleigh drawn by reindeer*

**Snow Queen** Boy, you look so tired. Why don't you tie your little sledge to the back of my sleigh and I'll pull you around the square.

**Historiefortæller 3** Kay blinked. Why hadn't he noticed the magnificent sleigh before? What a good idea. He did what the woman said and tied his sledge securely to hers.

**Historiefortæller 4** They went faster and faster until Kay suddenly realised that they were flying through the air. He clung onto his sledge, afraid that he would fall off.

**Snow Queen** (*calling to Kay*) Are you cold, little boy? I have lots of warm furs here in my sleigh. Don't be afraid. Come and tell me about yourself.

**Historiefortæller 5** As if by magic, Kay found himself sitting in the sleigh beside the woman who was wrapped up in lovely warm furs.

**Snow Queen** Are you feeling better now? Tell me about yourself.

**Young Kay** Yes, thank you. I have a friend called Gerda, we live... (*He's forgotten*)

That's funny, I can't remember. Anyway, I love puzzles and my friend... What's her name? Oh... Well whatever her name is, we like to listen to the stories her Grandmother tells us. They are about an evil Snow Queen who... Oh, I can't remember...

**Historiefortæller 6** The further they travelled, the more Kay began to forget. He turned to the driver and gasped. Gone was the fur-covered woman and in her place was the beautiful... Snow Queen.

**Snow Queen** So little Kay, do you still want to throw me on the stove? (*She laughs evilly*)

*They disappear into the distance as Grandmother finally makes it to the Square*

**Grandmother** *(desperately. Realising that she is too late)* Kay!

### Scene Three – The River

**Historiefortæller 1** As the years passed, Kay became very accustomed to life in the Snow Queen's palace. She even began to call him her prince. To keep him occupied whilst he sat at her feet, she had given him a puzzle made out of pieces of glass and ice.

*Older Kay is trying to solve the puzzle*

**Snow Queen** If you can piece the puzzle together and find the hidden word I will grant you anything you ask.

**Polar Bear Guard** Majesty, what if he solves the puzzle? You know you are bound by the old prophecy to keep your promise, or you will die.

**Historiefortæller 2** The Snow Queen knew that the longer Kay tried to solve the puzzle, the less likely he would be able to. If Kay had not been under her spell he would have noticed that there was no laughter in her palace and that everyone spoke in whispers.

**Historiefortæller 3** Kay did not realise that he was slowly turning to ice under the Snow Queen's spell.

*Time has passed. We are back at Grandmother's house. Grandmother and Gerda are having breakfast*

**Grandmother** Have you been up to our roof garden and seen the snowdrops Gerda? They are so beautiful. You've hardly eaten anything, dear.

**Young Gerda** I'm not hungry, Grandmother. I haven't been up to the roof garden since Kay disappeared. It's just not the same without him. I wish it were just a horrible nightmare and I would just wake up. *(She bursts into tears)*

**Grandmother** I know, dear heart, but he's lost to us if he's gone with... *(Her voice trails off)*

**Young Gerda** With who? *(Grandmother turns away)* Now that it's spring I must go and search for Kay.

**Grandmother** My dearest Granddaughter. You know I would never stop you doing anything you want, but I don't think that you'll ever find him.

**Young Gerda** You are so wise, but I just won't accept that he's lost forever. I know I'd

feel it in my heart. Besides, you have always taught us both that no matter what, there is always hope. We must never give up.

**Grandmother** Then you must go and search for Kay. But be careful, there are many things that you don't understand in the world.

*Gerda hugs her and then waves goodbye. She heads towards the river*

**Grandmother** Dear Guardians, protect my little Gerda. She is so young and only sees good in the world. Keep her safe, under your ever-constant watch.

*Grandmother exits, wiping away a tear*

**Historiefortæller 4** Gerda was going to ask the river if it had seen Kay. Everyone knew that the river loved gifts, so Gerda took it a very special one, her best red shoes.

*The villagers (including Morton, Kristen and Lars) are waving goodbye to Gerda*

**Historiefortæller 5** The villagers gathered to wave Gerda goodbye. Everyone had helpful advice, but no one believed that she would find Kay or that she would even return.

**Morton** Good luck Gerda; I'm sure you'll find him.

**Kirsten** Ask the birds, they see everything.

**Lars** (*When she's gone by*) Well that's the last we'll see of her. (*Dramatically*) She's doomed I say, doomed.

**Morton** You should have been an actor, Lars, not a farmer. You're such a drama queen.

**Historiefortæller 6** But Gerda heard none of their comments. She was too busy thinking who might know where Kay had gone.

**Young Gerda** Sun, that is so warm. Have you seen Kay?

**Sun** (*sleepily*) No, I haven't, young Gerda. I have been asleep for such a long time. Ask the swallows, they may have seen him in their travels.

**Young Gerda** Swallows that fly so far, have you seen my dear friend, Kay?

**Swallows** We haven't seen him. Why don't you ask the river?

**Historiefortæller 1** Gerda walked down to the river's edge and climbed into Kay's little boat. She was very nervous. Everyone knew how fierce the river flowed when it was angry.

*Gerda rows out to the middle of the river*

**Young Gerda** Dear River, have you seen Kay? Did he drown in your murky depths? I will give you my very best red shoes if you will tell me.

*She throws the red shoes into the river*

**River** How dare you suggest that my depths are murky? Do you really think I would drown Kay? He was always so respectful and polite to me when he rowed his boat. Here, you can keep your red shoes. I'm going to teach you a lesson.

*The shoes hit Gerda. The rage of the River sweeps Gerda and the little boat deep into the dark forest*

**Historiefortæller 2** Gerda kept her eyes tightly shut as the boat sped further and further down the river and deep into the forest

**Historiefortæller 3** Well that's the end of her, she'll never survive. We might as well go home. I could do with an early night.

**Historiefortæller 4** We're not even half way through the play. Don't write her off just yet...

**Historiefortæller 3** OK, OK. I was only joking. *(They take a deep breath)* Finally, the boat came to a stop. Gerda opened her eyes and saw a beautiful cottage surrounded by pretty spring flowers.

## Scene Four – The Enchantress

**Rose** We have a visitor, Mistress.

*An old lady straightens up from the flowerbed and transforms into a beautiful young woman. A beautiful garden begins to grow*

**Enchantress** Hello, little girl. Don't be afraid. Come into my garden and stay a while.

**Young Gerda** Grandmother said that I shouldn't talk to strangers.

**Enchantress** Well, she's quite right, little girl. We needn't be strangers. My name is Anya. Welcome to my home. You look so very tired. Why don't you tell me what you're doing here?

*Gerda enters the garden and sits beside the Enchantress*

**Young Gerda** My dear friend Kay disappeared last winter in the terrible blizzard. Grandmother thinks he's dead, but I won't accept that. I'm going to search for him.

**Enchantress** You poor child. It's getting very late and you look so tired. Why don't you stay here tonight? I can send a message to your Grandmother so that she won't worry. I would welcome the company.

**Young Gerda** Your roses smell just like Grandmother's. I do miss her. Every night she used to brush my hair and tell me a story.

**Enchantress** Then let me brush your hair and tell you about my beautiful flowers.

**Historiefortæller 5** The Enchantress picked up her magic brush. With each stroke Gerda began to forget about Kay and what she was doing on her journey.

**Historiefortæller 6** As time passed and the garden blooms changed, the Enchantress's loneliness faded and she grew very fond of her young guest.

**Historiefortæller 1** But at times she feared that Gerda's memory would return if she smelt the roses. She knew that if it did, Gerda would set off again on her quest, leaving her lonely again.

**Historiefortæller 2** The Enchantress couldn't allow this to happen. She raised her crooked stick and cast a spell causing the beautiful roses to sink beneath the earth.

*The roses crumple to the ground*

*Meanwhile, Grandmother is looking out of her window*

**Grandmother** Wherever you are, my darling girl, remember your home and the scent of our beautiful roses.

**Young Gerda** (*waking*) Anya, I had the strangest dream. I swear that I could hear a kind old lady telling me to remember the roses.

**Enchantress** What a silly dream, Gerda. Come here, and let me brush your hair.

**Historiefortæller 3** Gerda began to cry, but didn't know why. Where her tears fell, flowers appeared again and she found herself remembering. She noticed that she had grown.

**Older Gerda** How long have I been here? Why can't I remember any more?

**Rose** You have been here a long time. As long as our scent has been hidden beneath the earth.

**Older Gerda** I don't understand. I'm sure there's something I've forgotten.

**Rose** Ask the other flowers, for I am forbidden to say.

**Historiefortæller 4** Gerda began to ask the other flowers who were all eager to tell their stories.

**Tiger Lily** (*dreamily*) High up on a roof, I sway in the soft breeze, waiting for the one who looks after me. She always seems so sad.

**Elderflower** (*interrupting*) Your story's boring! My story is about a hero, brave and

strong. Nothing frightens him. He promises to protect his friend from the woman who is cruel and evil.

**Holly** As the seasons change, I appear bringing hope for what might be. Next to me, the snow angels made by children full of hopes and dreams begin to thaw.

**Historiefortæller 5** As the flowers told their stories, Gerda didn't notice that the Enchantress was becoming a wizened old woman again. Her magic was weakening.

**Hollyhock** A friend searches for someone who is lost, but fears that they will never find them. They are under a spell. The memories of times past remind them of the home that they left behind.

**Older Gerda** Please, please explain what you mean. I don't understand.

**Holly** (*shrugging their shoulders*) How should I know?

**Rose** We are under the Enchantress's spell but each story we tell contains a clue. In a courtyard an old woman sits in the fading sun, waiting for her Granddaughter to return. The air is cold and the season's about to change. She has the last rose of summer in her hand.

**Narcissus** Don't you want to hear my story? I can see myself. How perfect I am. Up in an attic a little girl and boy are sleeping. A face is looking at them through the window. It isn't as beautiful as my face. I am so...

**Older Gerda** (*realising*) It wasn't your face. It was hers. I remember now, the Snow Queen. My friend Kay is missing. Grandmother thinks that the Snow Queen has taken him. I know why I'm here now. I'm on a quest to find my friend Kay.

*The Enchantress screams, 'Gerda, no!' and turns back into the old lady we saw when Gerda arrived*

**Historiefortæller 6** The spell was broken. Gerda ran from the garden leaving a lonely old woman behind.

## Scene Five – Cuthbert Raven

**Historiefortæller 1** She felt the cold snow crunching beneath her feet. She ran and ran until she was so exhausted that she had to sit down. A strange large black bird hopped in front of her.

**Older Gerda** What a strange bird.

**Cuthbert** How rude. Me strange? Look at you. No wings, no feathers.

**Older Gerda** I'm human and humans don't have wings or feathers.

**Cuthbert** No, just straggly hair, dirty faces, clothes that don't fit and no bird sense at all it seems. There will be blizzards soon. Shouldn't you return to your nest?

**Historiefortæller 2** Gerda burst into tears and explained that she had escaped from an Enchantress who had cast a spell on her. The more the raven tried to calm her, the more she cried until Cuthbert forgot his manners, slapped her hard and said:

**Cuthbert** Look. Stop that wailing. You've given me a headache and I've forgotten what my fiancée sent me here for. How am I going to break that to her? She's quite a birdzilla.

**Older Gerda** Your fiancée?

**Cuthbert** Yes, it means that we're going to be married.

**Older Gerda** My name's Gerda.

**Cuthbert** I'm Cuthbert, the raven. You'll have to come with me. I can't leave you to freeze out here. Besides, you need to explain to Breda, my fiancée, why I forgot what she asked for, whatever it was, for our wedding. Climb on my back.

**Historiefortæller 3** As they flew back to the palace, Gerda explained about Kay.

*Cuthbert and Gerda fly through the air*

**Older Gerda** And Kay disappeared that terrible day. He must have been kidnapped, as all he had with him was his knapsack and sledge. Besides, he'd never have left Grandmother, or me.

**Cuthbert** Was he short, dark haired, vacant-looking and carrying a brown knapsack?

**Older Gerda** Yes, he was always daydreaming about all the adventures he would have. He kept all of his favourite things in that knapsack.

**Cuthbert** I think I know him. He's about to marry Breda's mistress, the Princess...

**Older Gerda** He's about to do what?!

**Cuthbert** You are obviously a halfwit. You don't seem to understand anything that I say. *(Slowly)* He... is... go... ing... to... mar... ry... our... prin... cess.

**Older Gerda** There's no need to be rude.

**Cuthbert** Do you want me to tell you this story or not? Princess Gretel is very beautiful. She always gets what she wants. She also has a real temper. When Breda told her we wanted to be married, she said...

*The story comes to life with Cuthbert acting as the Narrator*

**Princess Gretel** Why should you find love when I can't? I want to find a prince and to live happily ever after.

**Cuthbert** She called all her courtiers together and issued a proclamation that was sent to every corner of the kingdom. Unfortunately she wouldn't settle for just any old prince.

**Messenger** The Princess wants it to be known that she is looking for a husband. He must be intelligent, handsome, brave and rich and give her everything that she desires.

**Cuthbert** Hundreds of would-be princes showed up.

**Princess Gretel** Well, have my suitors arrived, Mr Prime Minister? Are they handsome?

**Cuthbert** The poor Prime Minister was too afraid to tell her they were some very odd shapes and sizes. He said:

**Prime Minister** There are so many that they are now lining up past the castle keep. The news of your beauty and wisdom has obviously spread far and wide.

**Princess Gretel** Breda, send Cuthbert to go and look at my suitors. I don't trust my Prime Minister when he won't look me in the eye.

**Cuthbert** Unfortunately they were a mixed bunch, not at all regal. Many boasted about how they would tame the Princess. For the next few days the picky Princess met, shouted at and dispatched her suitors one by one until only four were left. One was a young lad with a knapsack.

**Older Gerda** Are you sure it was a knapsack?

**Cuthbert** I was coming to that, little Miss Impatience. I didn't pay that much attention to his appearance. For Princess Gretel and the young suitor, it was love at first sight.

**Older Gerda** But supposing it isn't Kay? I don't want to ruin your princesses wedding by blundering in.

**Cuthbert** *(under his breath)* Or my wedding... *(Out loud)* Breda will know what to do.

**Historiefortæller 4** By the end of the raven's story they had arrived at the palace.

*Cuthbert spots Breda approaching and starts wildly looking for somewhere to hide*

**Breda** *(angrily)* So, where have you been? Where are the feathers and berries that I sent you for?

**Cuthbert** Well, I, er... sort of forgot them. *(Changing the subject)* How radiant you

look, my love.

**Breda** Don't you "my love" me. You're a good for nothing fiancée. (*She notices Gerda*)  
And who is this?

**Older Gerda** I'm Gerda and your Cuthbert is a hero. I would have frozen to death if he hadn't found me. You have obviously taught him well.

**Breda** He is rather special. But tell me why you are here?

**Historiefortæller 5** Breda softened towards Gerda as Cuthbert explained her plight.

**Breda** My dear young lady, yours is a very touching story and I will of course do everything, as the Princess's personal confidante, to gain you admittance to the royal couple. Would it help if you saw him when he was sleeping? I hope you don't embarrass me, I mean us, if it is Kay, by bursting into tears?

**Historiefortæller 6** They all agreed this would be a good idea and settled down for a chat about weddings, Enchantresses and living at court. They dined on fish, white bread and chocolate.

**Historiefortæller 1** Later that night they crept up the stairway towards the sleeping Prince's room. Before letting Gerda enter the royal bedrooms, Breda said:

**Breda** I trust that when you find your Kay you will remember those who helped you. A royal raven wedding would be very acceptable.

*Cuthbert looks embarrassed at his fiancée's request*

**Historiefortæller 2** As Gerda approached the bed she stopped. If it really was Kay, he'd be marrying the princess and never coming home. What would she say? What would she do? Suddenly she heard a voice.

**Grandmother** (*as if a memory*) Follow your heart and the words will come. If it is Kay then he is alive and happy. As a special friend, be happy for him and let him know we love and miss him.

**Historiefortæller 3** As she crept closer to the sleeping boy, Gerda gasped. For a moment, it did indeed look like Kay, but as she peered closer, she realised it wasn't him. Gerda ran outside and began to cry, she hadn't found Kay after all.

*Gerda runs outside, crying*

**Breda** (*heartlessly*) Well, she can stop all that boo-hooing. I want to start planning my wedding.

**Historiefortæller 4** The boy asleep in the bed, who was going to marry Princess Gretel, was in fact called Prince Jasper.

**Historiefortæller 5** Will there be a raven royal wedding? Will Gerda ever find Kay?

**Historiefortæller 6** To find out you'll just have to come back for the second part.

**Interval**

Perusal Copy

## Act Two

### Scene One – Princess Gretel

**Historiefortæller 1** The next morning, the ravens told the royal couple about Gerda's search for Kay. Gerda said how she had hoped the Prince and Princess would give Cuthbert and Breda the raven royal wedding they had both dreamt of, for helping her find Kay.

**Princess Gretel** Please don't be sad, Gerda. I only wish there had been as a happy an ending for you as there has been for me and my prince, Jasper

**Prince Jasper** But there is something we can do. Gerda, you said that if I'd been Kay, you would have asked us to give our dear ravens a royal wedding as a thank you?

**Older Gerda** Yes, but you're not Kay.

**Historiefortæller 2** Breda nudged Cuthbert and they stood there looking sad and forlorn.

**Princess Gretel** Well, I can't have my favourite companion looking so miserable so, by our royal decree, you shall both be married tomorrow. A beautiful home will be built for you in our private garden. Then Cuthbert can accompany Gerda on her quest knowing that his wife is safe.

**Prince Jasper** That is very kind of you, my dear. We could provide Gerda with a coach, warm clothes and money to continue her search. I also think Breda should have her own servant to keep her company.

**Historiefortæller 3** For once in her life, Breda was speechless. Cuthbert looked gratefully at the royal pair.

**Breda** I'm speechless.

**Cuthbert** Well, that's a first.

**Princess Gretel** Summon the royal tailor, our best chef and our head gardener – tell them that there's going to be a royal wedding.

**Prince Jasper** Cuthbert and I will sort out their new home and organise the guest list. Cuthbert, do you know where we can contact the Scarecrow Master to perform the service?

*Jasper and Cuthbert exit*

**Historiefortæller 4** The Princess, Gerda and Breda were so busy organising everyone that they didn't notice that the prince and groom had slipped out.

**Historiefortæller 5** The next day all the courtiers, birds and animals arrived for the wedding. The service was beautiful and the bride radiant. No one in her family had ever had such an important wedding before. Breda sat there preening herself.

**Prince Jasper** My Lords and Ladies can I have your attention please? On behalf of my soon-to-be-wife, the Princess Gretel, I would like to welcome you to our dear ravens' wedding. Please take your seats for the speeches.

**Historiefortæller 6** Everyone sat down. Gerda stood quietly behind the bridal party. She was happy for her new friends but felt sad that neither Kay nor her Grandmother were with her.

**Princess Gretel** Before Cuthbert makes his speech, my dear Prince and I have an announcement to make. In recognition of Cuthbert helping a lost and frightened young girl and agreeing to help her in her quest, we have decided to make him, and our dear friend Breda, the Duke and Duchess of Birdsville.

*Everyone cheers*

**Historiefortæller 1** Everyone cheered. Cuthbert got up and began to thank the princess for such a wonderful day. His speech lasted a very long time as his new wife kept interrupting him.

**Historiefortæller 2** As the guests danced, Gerda and her new friends discussed how best to continue the search for Kay. Prince Jasper insisted that she used their golden coach as it was the fastest one they had.

**Historiefortæller 3** They were so busy deciding which route to take that they didn't notice a small ragged boy listening to their plans.

*The Young Robber Boy can be seen in the shadows*

**Breda** Just make sure you don't do anything brave or meet any pretty ravens. You are a married bird now and don't forget to eat or...

**Princess Gretel** (to Cuthbert) Take care and please bring back regular news to us.

**Prince Jasper** And we will keep you informed of any news we hear.

## Scene Two – The Robbers

**Historiefortæller 5** It took several days to reach the kingdom's boundary. Everyone they met knew of their search and wanted to help. The coach was filled with gifts, food, warm clothes and maps.

**Cuthbert** I will fly ahead and see what I can find out.

**Older Gerda** Keep warm and safe, Cuthbert. I don't want to lose another friend.

**Historiefortæller 6** The raven hugged her and flew off. Gerda fell asleep, unaware that she was being watched.

**Historiefortæller 1** Deep in the forest, a group of robbers sat around a campfire. They were laughing and talking about their daring robberies. In the shadows sat Marguerite, the robber king's daughter.

**Young Robber Boy** (*running in*) I've seen a beautiful golden coach.

**Historiefortæller 2** No one listened to him as the robbers continued their boasts of their daring deeds.

**Young Robber Boy** (*shouting*) I'VE SEEN A GOLDEN COACH.

*The other robbers stare at him*

**Robber 1** What like the goose you found that laid the golden eggs?

**Robber 2** (*laughing*) Tasty that was. Especially with the giblet gravy.

**Robber 3** (*joining in*) Or like the talking gingerbread man that was going to make our fortune until the fox ate it.

**Grammaella** (*entering*) I told you all that you are too soft on the boy.

*She goes up and grabs the Young Robber Boy by the ear*

**Young Robber Boy** But it's true and there's even a talking raven who's a duke.

**Robber 1** And I'm Old King Cole.

**Historiefortæller 3** Grammaella was the meanest of all the robbers. She raised her large wooden spoon to beat the poor boy, when out of the shadows Marguerite appeared. She liked the young lad.

**Marguerite** (*softly*) Let him go.

**Grammaella** Says who?

**Marguerite** Me. Do you have a problem with that? (*Her hand goes to the knife in her belt*)

**Historiefortæller 4** Now all the robbers knew how tough Marguerite was, and how one word to her father about their disloyalty or lack of respect would lead to a beating, or worse. Marguerite could out ride, out shoot and was cleverer than any of them.

**Grammaella** The boy's just full of stupid stories.

**Marguerite** (*threateningly*) And your point is?

*The robbers back away. Gramaella throws the boy to the ground and goes away muttering*

**Young Robber Boy** I did see a golden coach and they are seeking a lost boy. I heard them talk about it when I sneaked into the castle.

**Marguerite** Well, my fine band of robbers, you'd better go and see. It would be such a shame if there was a coach and you missed the chance to rob it? I wonder what my father would say?

**Historiefortæller 5** The robbers followed the lad and quickly captured the coach. Gerda's screams were cut off as a hand covered her mouth. She opened her eyes to see a fierce looking young girl brandishing a knife.

*Gerda faints and is carried back to the Robbers' camp*

**Historiefortæller 6** Cuthbert arrived back just in time to see the robbers strike. Realising that he was no match for them, he thought it best to keep a watchful eye on Gerda from a distance until the right opportunity arose.

*Back at the camp*

**Marguerite** A good haul, my fine gang of robbers. Let's return to our castle and wait for my father's return. Just make sure none of you touch the girl, she's my prisoner.

**Historiefortæller 1** The robbers travelled all night and the following day. Gerda kept quiet for fear of upsetting them. When they reached the castle, Marguerite left her. Gramaella dragged Gerda out of the coach.

**Gramabella** (*drawing out a long dirty knife*) How plump she looks, just as if she has been fattened up on nuts. What a dainty dish she'd make. I say we should eat her.

*Gramabella grabs Gerda by the hair. Gerda screams. Suddenly Gramabella cries out in pain*

**Gramabella** Who bit me? I'll give you the hiding of your life.

*She swings around to see Marguerite glaring at her, brandishing a large broom. She drops Gerda*

**Marguerite** I told you that she's my property. She will be my servant. No harm will come to her unless I say so. You all know that my father has taught me to fight well. I'm not afraid of any of you.

**Older Gerda** (*to Marguerite*) Thank you for saving me.

**Marguerite** They won't kill you unless I tell them to. (*Laughing*) I'll only do that if you make me angry. By your coach and clothes you must be a princess. You shall be my friend until my father returns and ransoms you.

**Historiefortæller 2** Gerda dried her eyes and looked about her. The castle had obviously been a grand residence until it had fallen into disrepair. Gerda wondered who had lived there before the robbers.

**Historiefortæller 3** Two large bulldogs stood guard in front of the keep. They growled at Gerda as she passed.

**Historiefortæller 4** In the middle of the hall a huge fire was burning. Soup was boiling in a large cauldron and hares and rabbits were roasting on a spit.

**Marguerite** Tonight you shall share my room and help me tend my animals. They're my only friends. No one is allowed to touch them unless I say. So make sure you don't let any of them escape.

**Older Gerda** Are those pigeons in the rafters? Why are they chained to those poles?

*Marguerite grabs one of the pigeons and shakes it*

**Older Gerda** Don't do that. You are hurting it. *(She takes the bird and it starts to coo)* See, if you're gentle he may sit on your hand. Let's unchain them.

**Marguerite** But won't they fly away?

**Older Gerda** My Grandmother says that we should always be kind to everyone, especially the creatures around us. What's that moving in the corner and making that awful noise? Is it hurt?

**Marguerite** That's my favourite. *(Menacingly)* Come here Bae or it will be the worse for you.

*Bae the reindeer comes out of the shadows*

**Older Gerda** Why, it's a reindeer! I've never seen a real reindeer before. He seems very frightened by you. Why have you tied that heavy ring around his neck?

**Marguerite** I don't want him to run away. I wouldn't hurt him, he's my favourite. My mother used to talk about the reindeer that lived near her village.

**Older Gerda** Why don't you let me take the horrible ring off him and then you can tell me about your mother?

**Historiefortæller 5** Gerda listened as Marguerite told her about her parents and how her father lost interest in everything when her mother died. He never laughed and would disappear for months on end. She didn't know where to, but he was always sad when he returned.

**Historiefortæller 6** Gerda taught Marguerite how to care for her animal friends. They never tried to escape. The girls would play all day with Bae, who grew

stronger and happier.

**Historiefortæller 1** At night, Gerda would tell Marguerite about Kay and her long search to find him. The pigeons loved to listen to Gerda's stories.

**Pigeon 1** We have seen this boy Kay that you speak of. He was sitting by the Snow Queen in her sleigh.

**Pigeon 2** The Snow Queen is evil. Her sleigh swooped low over the trees, where we lay shivering in our nests. She laughed as she sprinkled a thin layer of snow over us.

**Older Gerda** I thought that the Snow Queen was just a story. If she has kidnapped Kay, I must rescue him. Will your robbers help me?

**Marguerite** I don't think so, they only look out for themselves. Perhaps there's another way though. How can we find out where she has taken Kay?

**Pigeon 1** She has taken him to her castle in Lapland. Why don't you ask Bae to take you? He should know the way. He was born there.

**Bae** The Snow Queen has her summer palace near where I was born. The ice and snow are glorious. You can dance about freely over great glistening fields. Her winter palace is near the North Pole on an island called Spitzbergen. Those who enter are never seen again.

**Marguerite** Bae, could you take Gerda there?

**Bae** Who better than I? Her snow holds no fear for me.

**Historiefortæller 2** That night, all the animals gave Gerda advice about how she could save Kay. None of them wanted her to leave as they feared Marguerite would tie them up again.

**Marguerite** *(to the animals)* Please forgive me for being so mean and selfish. I felt so lonely after my mother died. I was afraid you would leave me like she did. I shouldn't have been so horrible. You can all have your freedom if you want.

**Bulldog 1** But we don't want to leave you. You know when we visit our families we always come back to you. You feed us and don't beat us. When it's cold we sleep in your room. You are so kind to us now.

**Marguerite** Gerda, you must go and rescue Kay. I will help you to escape. Tomorrow all the men will be busy sorting out our camp for my father's return. They won't have time to keep an eye on you. You can slip out unnoticed.

**Bulldog 2** *(shivering)* What about Gramaella? She spies on everyone.

**Marguerite** Gramaella is always by the cooking pot. She likes a noggin to keep out

the cold. I'll take out a flagon of my father's best wine for the men and tell her she mustn't touch it. She won't be able to stop herself having a drink. When she falls asleep you and Bae can escape.

**Bulldog 2** And if she doesn't, we can bite her in return for the beatings she's given us.

**Older Gerda** But won't your father be angry with you?

**Marguerite** Yes, but I'll tell him Gramaella drank his best wine and fell asleep whilst I was helping the men prepare for his return.

**Historiefortæller 3** Marguerite hugged Gerda and Bae promised to return as soon as he could.

**Marguerite** Don't forget me, Gerda.

**Historiefortæller 4** Marguerite's plan worked and Gerda escaped unseen. Her father was very angry with Gramaella for drinking his best wine.

### Scene Three – The Lappish Man

**Historiefortæller 5** Gerda clung onto Bae as he sped along. After what seemed like hours they stopped and hid among the snow-covered pine trees.

**Older Gerda** Thank you for helping me get to Lapland, but how will we find Kay?

**Bae** We will ask the Lappish Man. My family have been friends with him for years. He is wise and will be able to advise us. Do you think the robbers have followed us?  
(*He shivers*)

**Older Gerda** I don't think so. Marguerite will send them in the wrong direction. I hope she doesn't get into trouble for helping us.

*They hear a noise in the woods*

**Older Gerda** What's that?

**Bae** It's the robbers. They'll kill me and...

**Older Gerda** It's only the wind, perhaps we should keep moving, just in case they follow us. Are we nearly there?

**Bae** Once we see the Northern Lights we will be safe. Climb onto my back and hold on tight.

**Historiefortæller 6** The friends travelled for many days until they came to an odd-looking dwelling. It seemed to be all roof, with just a tiny door. Bae called out and the door opened. Out climbed an old man. He was carrying a carved stick, which

he waved at them.

**Lappish Man** I've been expecting you. Come in out of the cold. I have fish cooking on the stove and freshly made bread. Bae, is that really you? My, how you have grown! You must be Gerda?

**Older Gerda** How do you know my name?

**Lappish Man** I have an old friend of yours visiting who told me all about you and your escape from the robbers. He's been watching to make sure no one harmed you. He was told by one of the pigeons that you were on your way to Lapland.

*He whistles and Cuthbert comes out. He bows*

**Cuthbert** This kind man has said he'll write a letter to her friend who lives near the evil Snow Queen's palace.

**Lappish Man** You poor creatures still have a long way to go. You'll have to travel hundreds of miles across icy terrain until you reach Finland. For it's there that the Snow Queen is taking a vacation and using her evil blizzard flakes to keep people away. I'll jot down a message to my dear friend on this dried codfish. Don't you dare eat it, Cuthbert. My friend will help you. She has been fighting the Snow Queen for years. Take my sleigh. It will be easier for you to travel.

**Historiefortæller 1** After Gerda warmed up, the kind Lappish Man wrapped her in a blanket and the friends set off. After a few miles, Cuthbert collapsed into the sleigh.

**Cuthbert** Brrrr. It's too cold for me to fly any further.

**Bae** Don't worry, Cuthbert. This is my home so the cold doesn't worry me. Keep warm in the sleigh and I'll soon have us there. It's great to feel the wind in my fur.

**Historiefortæller 2** Gerda and Cuthbert fell asleep as day turned to night. On and on they travelled as the skies crackled and the beautiful northern lights flashed over their heads. At last they reached the Finnish Lady's house.

## Scene Four – The Finnish Lady

**Bae** Wake up, my friends, we're here. I'll knock on her chimney, as I can't see a door.

**Finnish Lady** Come in, my dears and have something to eat. You must be frozen. My home is warm and cosy.

**Historiefortæller 3** As they ate a delicious meal, which seemed to suit them all, Gerda studied the old woman and her home. There were shelves filled with books and parchments. Some shelves had potions on them and others, strange looking

creatures.

**Older Gerda Bae**, is she a witch? (*Cuthbert moves nearer to them*)

**Bae** (*laughing*) No, she is a wise woman who is much respected here. Let's tell her about Kay and our adventures. I'm certain that she will help.

**Historiefortæller 4** For the next couple of hours the old woman listened to their story. She confirmed that Kay was at the Snow Queen's palace. When they had finished, she took Bae to one side.

**Bae** You are such a wise woman. I know that you can tie all the winds of the world together with a bit of cotton. If a sailor unties one knot, he gets a favourable wind. If he unties another, he gets a gale. If he unties them all, he gets a tempest that rages and flattens trees in the forest. Won't you give this little girl something to drink that will give her the strength of twelve men or a spell to help her rescue Kay from the clutches of the Snow Queen?

**Finnish Lady** (*laughing*) Twelve strong men? Little good that would do her.

*She goes to a shelf and fetches an old parchment and unrolls it*

**Finnish Lady** This was foretold centuries ago. As I have said, little Kay is with the Snow Queen. He thinks that he's in the best place in the world, but that's because he has a splinter of the Troll's mirror in his eye. As it gets closer to his heart, the more he will become her one of her creatures. He will become evil and lost to us all. Gerda must cause the splinter to melt somehow. (*She looks over at Cuthbert and Gerda sadly*)

**Cuthbert** (*to Gerda*) Are you sure she's not a witch who's looking for recipes to make us into? She's giving us a very strange look.

**Bae** Why was this foretold and how do Cuthbert and I fit into helping Gerda?

**Finnish Lady** When the Troll's mirror was destroyed by the Guardian's song, many pieces fell towards the earth. Some were caught by the Snow Queen. One piece entered the Snow Queen's heart and froze it. Seeing this, the Guardians were sad and came down to earth to try and save her. But she had become too cruel and delighted in making people's lives a misery. It was too late. All that the Guardians could do was cast a spell, that if ever she made a promise it had to be kept. If she fails to keep a promise that she's made, the Snow Queen will die.

**Bae** So, how do we fit in?

**Finnish Lady** Someone pure of heart must confront the Snow Queen and save a friend. Many will help that person on their journey, but if they enter the Snow Queen's palace with that person, they will die. The secret is having a kind heart.

But we must never tell Gerda. If she doesn't reach the Snow Queen and rid little Kay of those splinters, it's not only him who will be lost forever. We will too because the Snow Queen's magic will become too powerful for us to stand. You must take Gerda to the palace then return here to safety.

*The Finnish Lady moves towards Gerda and Cuthbert*

Gerda, it is time for you to leave. The Snow Queen's palace lies twelve miles from here. Bae will take you to a tree with red berries, this is the secret entrance. Then Bae and Cuthbert must return here. From there you must go on alone.

*Before Cuthbert can object she pushes them out of the door and slams it shut*

**Older Gerda** Please wait! My coat and mittens are inside.

**Bae** There is no time, Gerda. Get into the sleigh if you wish to save Kay.

*They journey through the forest.*

**Historiefortæller 5** At last they reached the tree with red berries.

**Bae** This is where Cuthbert and I must leave you. Good luck.

**Cuthbert** Hold on. Call yourself a friend. You can't let Gerda face that awful woman on her own.

**Bae** You don't understand. We can't...

**Cuthbert** Come on Gerda, let's leave this coward behind. I won't desert you.

*They enter the secret passage*

## Scene Five – The Snow Queen

**Historiefortæller 6** Bae watched sadly as Gerda and Cuthbert disappeared into the secret passage. At the other end of the long tunnel was a huge snow-covered landscape.

**Historiefortæller 1** Out of nowhere, hundreds of snowflakes appeared and swirled around them.

**Snowflakes** Go back while you can. She knows you are here. To ice you will turn.

**Historiefortæller 2** As the friends got nearer to the castle, the flakes grew bigger.

**Snowflakes** Go back while you can. She knows you're here. The boy he is lost. So why should you care?

**Historiefortæller 3** Gerda opened her eyes and for a moment thought the flakes

were the souls of those the Snow Queen had taken over the centuries. The pair got closer to the castle.

**Historiefortæller 4** The evil flakes took on terrible shapes, some like ugly porcupines; others had leering faces, or looked like knots of hideous snakes. But the worst of all was a huge Troll that buffeted against them.

**Cuthbert** It's so cold; I can't go on any further.

*The snowflakes whisper, "We will freeze you", "Your friend is lost", "Lie down and rest"*

*Cuthbert sinks to the floor*

**Cuthbert** My feathers are frozen. I'm so tired. I must sleep.

*Gerda tries to carry Cuthbert but he is too heavy*

**Older Gerda** We must keep going. I'm tired as well. All is lost. *(In despair)*  
Grandmother, please help me.

*A figure appears in the swirling snow. She smiles and reaches out her hand*

**Grandmother** Don't be afraid. I am here my dear. Take my hand and I will lead you to safety. Remember, not all is as it appears.

**Historiefortæller 5** A warm glow surrounded the pair and the blizzard disappeared. They found themselves inside a huge glacial hall.

**Cuthbert** I have never seen so many polar bears or penguins before.

**Older Gerda** *(laughing)* You've never seen any polar bears or penguins before.

**Cuthbert** No, but I've seen pictures. I wonder why they're walking on two legs.

**Baby Polar Bear 1** Because that's how we walk, silly. But don't make such a noise, or she'll hear you and then we'll be in terrible trouble.

**Historiefortæller 6** Gerda and Cuthbert felt very sorry for the little creatures who looked so sad.

**Older Gerda** Why do you look so miserable?

**Baby Polar Bear 2** Because we're forbidden to do anything but serve her. You won't see any of us playing 'paw and seek' or having fun. If we disobey her, she'll turn us into ice.

**Older Gerda** You poor things. I'm looking for my friend Kay who was brought here by her.

**Baby Penguin 1** If she has him, then he's no longer human. I heard my parents

talking. They said for centuries she brought boys here to teach them to become her prince. No one survives, as her breath and touch turns them to ice.

**Baby Penguin 2** You can see them under her lake of memories. We can take you there if you like?

**Older Gerda & Cuthbert** (*with fear*) No thank you.

**Older Gerda** I just want to find Kay.

**Baby Polar Bear I** Well if he's not frozen yet, he will be sitting at her feet in the throne room. We'll take you there. But you must be very quiet.

**Historiefortæller I** Cuthbert and Gerda followed their new friends through many icy chambers until they reached a small window.

**Baby Penguin I** Look down there. Is that Kay?

**Older Gerda** He's grown. But yes, it is Kay!

**Snow Queen** Kay, I will soon be going on a state visit. It's about time I visited those horrible humans and taught them a lesson. They need to be reminded of my power. Now, don't look sad. You still have your puzzle to solve. Stand up so that I can look at you.

**Older Kay** This puzzle is so hard. Are you sure there's a word hidden in it?

**Snow Queen** Yes, (*she smiles*) and I promise that if you solve it I will grant any wish you desire.

**Polar Bear Guard** Is that wise, your majesty? Remember the ancient prophecy. If you don't grant his wish then you will die.

**Snow Queen** (*angrily*) Of course I remember it, you idiot. But who has managed to solve the puzzle over the last eons of time? This human's lasted longer than the others but now he is also turning blue. Shame. I liked this one.

**Older Kay** What do you mean? I don't understand... I promise I'll solve the puzzle to please you. You are my Queen and I will follow you everywhere. But sometimes I feel a pain here in my heart and that I've forgotten someone who's very important to me.

**Polar Bear Guard** That's not good, your Majesty.

**Snow Queen** Be silent, guard. Now, Kay, darling boy, you must ignore those feelings and think only of me. (*She ruffles his hair*) Don't worry too much about finding the hidden word, just...

*Suddenly from out of the shadows*

**Older Gerda** Leave him alone, you horrible old woman. Kay! It's me, Gerda.

**Snow Queen** Who are you? Who dared to let you in my palace. Guards, seize her and that odd-looking bird.

**Cuthbert** How dare you?! Gerda, hold me back before I...

**Snow Queen** Do what? Something brave? Like die?

*She breathes on Cuthbert who falls down dead*

**Older Gerda** No! You wicked old...

**Snow Queen** Enough, fool! Did you think that you could walk into my palace and take what from me what is mine? *(She laughs)* Now, you will die knowing you will not save him, for he will soon be ice and mine forever.

**Older Kay** *(dreamily towards Gerda)* I feel as if I should know you.

**Snow Queen** Kay, my dear child, come to me and I will warm you.

**Older Gerda** You may kill me as you have my dear friend, Cuthbert, but Kay will never be in your power again. You are just a lonely old woman who has never loved anyone or anything. Kay, look at me. Remember the stories Grandmother told us. The love, the warmth and the sunshine. Remember...

**Older Kay** Warmth? Sunshine? Grandmother? Gerda, you are Gerda!

**Snow Queen** How dare you interfere little girl? Kay, go and sit by my throne. Now!

*The Snow Queen pushes Kay towards the throne but he falls and drops his puzzle box. Suddenly he realises*

**Older Kay** *(looking down at his puzzle box, he sees the magic word)* Leave her alone. The puzzle word is: Eternity.

**Historiefortæller 2** The moment Eternity left Kay's lips, the ice melted in his heart and he was human again.

**Polar Bear Guard** You've solved it. You've solved the puzzle. She must now grant anything you want or she will definitely perish.

**Snow Queen** *(sarcastically)* Thank you for pointing that out. He is right, Kay; the Guardians decreed it eons ago, when the Troll's mirror broke.

**Older Kay** Gerda, what shall I ask for?

*Gerda whispers in his ear*

**Older Kay** *(smiling)* I want you to unfreeze Cuthbert and give us all our freedom.

**Snow Queen** (*defeated*) I will grant what you ask. Anything else?

**Older Kay** Yes. You should let your courtiers be happy, the polar bears and penguins. Listen to their counsel, they are loyal and won't leave you. The kinder you are the better it will be.

*The Snow Queen breathes again on Cuthbert*

**Historiefortæller 1** This unaccustomed act of warmth warmed the Snow Queen's frozen soul. As the ice melted in her heart, she was released and rose to take her place amongst the Guardians.

**Cuthbert** (*dazed*) Where am I? I had the most peculiar dream. I thought I was dead.

**Older Gerda** You were!

**Older Kay** What a strange bird. Who are you?

**Older Gerda** This is my dear friend Cuthbert, the raven.

*Cuthbert bows*

**Older Kay** I want to go home and see Grandmother. I can't wait to hear about all your adventures.

**Historiefortæller 3** After a few days, Gerda, Kay and Cuthbert set off on their journey home. By the tree with red berries they found Bae waiting for them.

**Older Gerda** I knew you wouldn't leave us.

**Bae** I couldn't say what the Finnish Lady told me for fear of changing what would happen. I have come to take you home.

**Historiefortæller 4** Soon they reached Prince Jasper and Princess Gretel's palace.

**Bae** This is where I must leave you as I promised to return to Marguerite.

**Prince Jasper** (*puts his arm around Bae*) Then you should come inside as well. Everyone who's helped Gerda is waiting, including Marguerite the ex-robber girl.

**Older Gerda** Ex-robber girl? I don't understand.

**Prince Jasper** We have made peace with the robbers and our realm is now a safe place to live.

**Historiefortæller 5** Inside the palace, Gerda watched as her friends gathered around Kay telling him their part in her epic adventure.

**Historiefortæller 6** She should have felt happy, but all she could think of was Grandmother. If only she was here to celebrate Kay's return as well.

*The crowd part and Grandmother walks forward, arms outstretched*

**Grandmother** Welcome home, my darlings, welcome home.

**Curtain**

Perusal Copy

# Useful Theatre Words

## Speak Like An Actor

**Act:** A group of scenes.

**Aside:** When an actor says their lines to the audience, not to another actor.

**Audition:** A bit like a team try out, to see which role would best suit you.

**Auditorium:** The part of the building that is used for performances. Sometimes called the House.

**Applause:** When the audience claps the actors.

**Backdrop:** A big curtain, painted as scenery, hung at the back of the stage.

**Backstage:** The wings, dressing rooms and other parts of the theatre out of the audience's view.

**Black Out:** When all the lights on the stage are turned off.

**Blocking:** An early rehearsal where the Director decides how everyone is going to move around the stage.

**Book:** Another word for the script.

**Cameo:** A small but important role, sometimes played by a famous actor.

**Cast:** The actors in a play.

**Character:** The part an actor takes in the play.

**Costume:** What an actor wears.

**Corpsing:** When an actor laughs on stage but isn't supposed to.

**Cue:** The words or action signalling something to happen on stage.

**Curtain Call:** When all the actors come on stage for a bow.

**Debut:** An actor's first-ever performance.

**Director:** The person in charge of everything that happens on stage.

**Down-Stage:** Moving towards the audience.

**Dressing Room:** Where an actor gets ready for the performance.

**Dress Rehearsal:** The final rehearsal that the actors do in costume before an audience comes to watch.

**Ensemble:** A group of actors performing together, sometimes playing smaller roles.

**Finale:** The final scene of a play.

**Front of House:** The area outside the auditorium, that the audience use before the show and during the interval.

**Fourth Wall:** An imaginary wall between the actors and the audience.

**Improvisation:** An unrehearsed performance.

**Intermission or Interval:** The break between acts (time for ice cream!).

**Monologue:** A long speech spoken by one actor.

**Off-Stage:** The area that the audience can't see.

**Performance:** When you do the play in front of an audience.

**Plot:** The story of a play.

**Premiere:** The first performance of a play.

**Props:** The things an actor uses in the play.

**Projecting:** Making sure that you are loud enough to be heard.

**Prompt:** To help an actor with a forgotten line.

**Rehearsal:** When you practise for the performance.

**Rostra:** A raised platform or piece of scenery.

**Scene:** Uninterrupted action within a play.

**Script:** The words an actor says in the play.

**Sight Line:** The different view that the audience has of the stage.

**Soliloquy:** When a character says their thoughts out loud.

**Spotlight:** A special light to shine on a particular actor.

**Stage Manager:** The person who makes sure that the performance runs smoothly.

**Tab:** The word that is used for the theatre curtains.

**Technical Rehearsal:** The rehearsal in the theatre when you make sure that the sound, lights and special effects all work.

**Thespian:** An old fashioned word for an actor.

**Understudy:** An actor ready to step in if needed e.g. If an actor's sick.

**Up-Stage:** Moving away from the audience.

**Wings:** The spaces off-stage, at the side.





Perusal Copy