***Audition piece – Grandma*** *(Stage directions in brackets and italics)*

Oh! Hello everybody! I didn’t notice you there. My name is Petunia Begonia Anemone Christmas-cactus Riding Hood, but you can call me Grandma! Everybody does. Especially my own little Granddaughter Little Red Riding Hood. I’ve just finished writing her a letter! Would you like to hear it? \*Clears throat\* Ahem…

To my Dearest Little Red – brackets – Riding Hood.
How are you doing, schnookums? I do hope you are good.
Myself, I am just dandy! I’ve cleaned the house – spick and span!
*(Bookcase collapses, books tumble to the floor)*
Hm. I am just about to do the cleaning all over again...

I know how much you love to help your Grandma with her chores,
I wonder if you might visit, and bring some baking of yours!

Just go past the big rock on the left, then forward seven trees,
Up the rickety wooden stairs, then crawl on hands and knees
Through the clearing thirteen paces, turn around five times,
Pinch your nose, stand on one leg, cry COCK A DOODLE DOO as a chicken you mime…

Remember our secret knock on the knocker
*(door knocker falls off)*Our secret ring on the bell
*(Bell falls off)*
I tell you what, when you get here, just… yell.

But beware that Wizard and Wolf, who want to knock down my beautiful cottage!
Be sure to watch yourself – and don’t fall victim to their evil plot…idge.

I hope I see you very soon, in my cottage in the wood.
Yours, with all my love, Grandma… Brackets, Riding Hood.

***Audition – Blue, Red, Woodcutter***

BLUE
You know, Red, I really don’t think we should have taken that Wolf’s advice…

RED
Oh, shush Blue. Look –there’s the Badminton Court, just like he said!

BLUE
RED, WAIT! Look at the sign! We’re not in Littleton anymore! We’re in… BIGgleton! Where everyone is BIG! We should get out of here – big things are scary and we should get back home. I need to look after my sheep…

RED
Oh, don’t be silly, not all big things are mean! Look at that wolf – he was lovely!

BLUE
Oh no he wasn’t. *(etc.)* AH! Look – here comes something really big now!

*(Footsteps, and then the WOODCUTTER arrives – he is very tall, carrying huge logs of wood and an enormous axe)*

RED
Oh, I’m sure it’s not…oh, wow… he IS big, isn’t he…

BLUE
Yes he is… I think we should run away before we end up on the wrong end of that big axe!

RED
Oh, don’t be so scaredy, Blue! I think we should say hello!

BLUE *(Shouting)*
NO DON’T SAY HELLO!

WOODCUTTER
Did someone say… *(Woodcutter turns, sees Red. Says the following with a suggestive ‘ding dong’)* Hel-lo…

RED
Hello…

BLUE *(Trying to look manly but in a super high pitched voice)*
Hi.

WOODCUTTER
What can I do for you two very small people on this very fine day?

RED
Oh, well we’re looking for my Grandma’s house…

WOODCUTTER
Well what does it look like? Perhaps I’ve seen it on one of my long walks cutting wood.

RED
Oh, well… It has a door on the front… and windows on the side… and a roof-

WOODCUTTER
I know just the one you mean! It’s just past the badminton court beyond those trees. Why, I’ll go with you and show you the way!

RED
Oh would you?

BLUE *(Monotone and with a sarcastic punching the air)*Woo.

RED
That’s so kind! Are you sure? We don’t want to put you out.

WOODCUTTER
Of course it’s no trouble! Why, helping lost little people in the woods is my third favourite thing to do! After cutting wood of course, that’s number one!

RED
Oh, I’m sure you’re very good at cutting lots of things…

WOODCUTTER
Oh no, no, miss. Only Wood. Clue’s in the name. The Wood - Cutter. Anything else and I’m completely useless! No jack of all trades, me. I have a specialism and I stick to it. The best woodcutter in the whole of Biggleton.

BLUE
Wait, you said helping people through the woods was your THIRD favourite thing, and woodcutting is your FIRST – what’s your second favourite thing?

WOODCUTTER
My second favourite thing? Why, *(looks at RED)*, it’s singing very romantic duets of course.

BLUE
I had to ask…

***Audition – Wizard and Big Bad Wolf***

WIZARD
Oh ho, ho, what a wonderful day it is to be evil… I wonder what evil things I have to do today… *(checks list)* Let’s see, not putting my phone on silent during a pantomime *(switches phone on)* check! Crossing the road when the green man has already started to flash – ooh I like that one! sharing fake news stories on Facebook *(takes out his phone again, ‘bleep bloops’ a bit)*… oh, I love my life.

*(Doorbell)*

Come iiiiin.

WOLF *(Bowing)*
Ah, my Dark leader, Lord Volde-

WIZARD
Sshh, no, you’re not allowed to call me that anymore.

WOLF
Why not? Is it because it’s so evil and horrible a name that people are scared even to utter it?

WIZARD
No, no, no – it’s much more evil than that... *(Dramatic pause)* International Copyright Law! *(Thunder and lightning)* You know how much trouble we got in with Snow White? There are lawyers at every door!

WOLF
Well, Vo- I mean ‘Dark Lord’… I happened to find out today some news about a certain little red hooded riding girl…

WIZARD
*(Pause)* Who’s that then?

WOLF
Little Red Riding Hood…

WIZARD
OH! Excellent! That was the last and most evil thing on my list to do today… *(presents blueprints of a big evil looking castle)* That little girl’s Grandma refuses to let me tear down her house to make room for a brand new evil mansion and torture dungeon annexe… It really is quite selfish of her. I mean, it wouldn’t take much – the place is practically falling apart already… So what did you find out?

WOLF
Well, Little Red is going to go visit her grandma – TODAY. It will be the perfect opportunity to follow her, sneak up, and gobble them both up with nobody noticing! With both of them gone, no one will be able to stop you from building your mansion!

WIZARD
Wonderful! How did you find all this out?

WOLF
Oh, a little birdy told me…

WIZARD
Oh, go on, you can tell!

WOLF
No, seriously, a little birdy told me.

WIZARD
Huh.

WOLF
So, what do you reckon about Grandma, Dark Lord? Shall I go cut the life of that Oldie Short?

WIZARD
DID YOU JUST SAY VOLDEM-

WOLF
NO. OLDIE SHORT. Cut that Oldie’s life short…

WIZARD
Oh, then yes – absolutely. Do your worst, Wolfy!

***Audition – Queen, King, Sidney, Terry***

QUEEN
Oh deary me, I think we might be lost… *(Clocks the audience)* Oh, and they must be lost too! Are you all following us?

SIDNEY
Where are we?

TERRY
I don’t know, but it sure is dark and scary…

KING
Well this sign says we’re –

QUEEN
*(Pushing him out the way)* Oh look! This sign says we’re right by the wizard’s castle!

SIDNEY
Oh no! Not the wizard’s castle!

TERRY
All kinds of scary things lurk near there… ghosts, and skeletons…

SIDNEY
And monsters and gremlins…

TERRY
And dragons and Americans…

QUEEN
Oh don’t be silly, you two. There’s no such thing as Americans.

TERRY/SIDNEY/KING
Phew!

QUEEN
Still, we should stick together just in case. I tell you what, shall we sing a song to keep our spirits up?

TERRY/SIDNEY/KING
Yeah!

QUEEN
Oh alright then – when I’m all scared I like to sing about all the things that make me feel happy! Are you ready? We’ll be out of this castle in no time!

***Audition – Kevin and Prisoners 1, 2*** *(Kevin’s voice, and Blue’s hand puppet)*

PRISONER 1
Oh, shut up! Some of us are trying to sleep!

KEVIN
Oh, sorry – we didn’t see you there…

PRISONER 2
Oh, that’s very flattering isn’t it. Hear that, Beryl? We’re just part of the scenery. Just because we’re prisoners doesn’t mean we’re not people.

PRISONER 1
Yeah! Whatever happened to Human Rights?

PRISONER 2
I guess they’re right next to the HUMAN LEFTS!

KEVIN
So what are you doing in here, then?

PRISONER 1
Oh, I got twelve months for stealing a calendar...I’m telling you, my DAYS ARE NUMBERED! Of course that’s nothing, though, Beryl here is a serial killer!

KEVIN
Really?!

PRISONER 2
It’s true, why I’m so hungry this morning I could MURDER A BOWL OF CORNFLAKES!
Nah, really I’m in here for taking all my rubbish, and carefully sorting out the garden waste and recyclables… I lived a life of ORGANISED GRIME!

KEVIN
So that’s it then? We’re stuck here forever with no chance of escape?

PRISONER 1
Oh no, someone escaped once. But he had an unfair advantage you see – he was so tiny that he could slip out of the chains, and he could read minds so he knew when the guards left the doors unlocked – so now there’s a SMALL MEDIUM at LARGE!

KEVIN
You know, I’ve heard people go mad in prison and I’m beginning to see why…

***Audition – Three Pigs Ant, And and Dec, Wolf, Red***

WOLF
If I’m going to do this evil thing, I’m going to need some evil henchmen… and I know just the three... he he he hoooOOOOOOWWWLLLL . Where have those three got to… Ant! And! Dec!

*(Three pigs bumble on)*

Ah, there you are!

PIGS *(together)*
Yes, here we are!

ANT
Ant! *(Salute)*

AND
And! *(Salute)*

DEC
Dec! *(Salute)*

PIGS
At your service! *(They bow)*

WOLF
Oh do be quiet, now - your job is to do everything I say – got that?

PIGS
*(Silence)*

WOLF
I said Got that?... Well??? Answer me!

ANT
*(silence… then)* Um, you said be quiet, Sir…

WOLF
Oh for goodness’ sake… Look. Just follow me closely, alright?

PIGS
Yes, boss!

WOLF
Ah, Little Red, allow me to introduce my… friends… This is Ant, And, Dec.

PIGS
Pleased to meet you!

RED
So let me get this right… Ant, and Dec… and you are?

DEC
No, Dec I am. And *he* is.

RED
And he is what?

AND
Nah, What’s our cousin.

RED
Who’s your cousin?

ANT
Nah, Who’s our Dad. Then there’s Uncle Why and Auntie Wherefore…

WOLF
Look, this is getting silly. This pig is named Ant, this pig is named And, and this pig is named Dec. Understand?

RED
OOOOoooh…. That seems unrealistically confusing.

WOLF *(To audience as much as Red)*
You ain’t seen nothing yet.