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Product Code: Y609-A

Pinocchio

Based on the book by Carlo Collodi

Adapted for the stage
by Sage Golding

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CHARACTERS

Flexible casting 10-30+

3F / 6M / 21 Flexible

Note: Doubling possible. Most roles may be played either gender

GEPPETTO: *A toy and puppet maker*

BIANCHI: *A City Council Member*

ADOLFO: *A little boy*

PEASANT WOMAN: *Mother of Adolfo*

SIGNORE CHERRY: *A carpenter*

PINOCCHIO: *A puppet boy*

BLUE FAIRY: *A clumsy fairy, who isn't very good at being a fairy*

CRICKET: *A pretentious insect*

TOWNSPEOPLE: *Various community members of Florence*

CHILDREN: *Various children of Florence*

MARINA, ILARIA, IDA AND ORLANDO

MILKMAID: *A milk seller*

CANDY MAKER: *A candy seller*

FIRE EATER: *The scary owner of the Great Puppet Theater*

PUNCHINELLO: *Puppet version of the classic Commedia dell'Arte character;
loves to over-act*

HARLEQUIN: *Puppet version of the classic Commedia dell'Arte character;
rather dim-witted*

FOX: *A con-artist*

CAT: *A con-artist*

BLACKBIRD: *Tries to warn Pinocchio*

INN GUESTS: *Various people at the Red Crayfish Inn*

INN KEEPER: *The owner of the Red Crayfish Inn*

CHARACTERS

Continued

THUG #1: *A robber, tough and intimidating*

THUG #2: *A robber, tough and as dumb as a rock*

WOODPECKER #1: *A very large woodpecker*

WOODPECKER #2: *Also a very large woodpecker*

PRIME MINISTER DEPRETIS: *The Prime Minister of Italy*

PARROT: *A wise guy*

PIGEON: *Loving but forgetful*

CANDLEWICK: *A tough street kid*

COACH WOMAN: *Gathers children for the Land of Plenty*

FISHER MAN: *A very old man of the sea*

TIME

1883

PLACE

Florence, Italy

Pinocchio

Adapted by Sage Golding

ACT I SCENE ONE

AT RISE: *Evening. Interior of Geppetto's puppet shop and toy store. We see the old man GEPETTO working on a wooden horse. BIANCHI, a City Council Member, enters the shop.*

BIANCHI

Good evening Geppetto!

GEPETTO

(Quickly getting to his feet)

Good evening Signora Bianchi! What a pleasure to have you in my shop!

BIANCHI

From the looks of it I have been the only one to visit in awhile. When is the last time you sold anything?

GEPETTO

My shop is always full of boys and girls; it's just late in the day.

BIANCHI

Yes, but are they buying anything?

GEPETTO

I don't mean to be rude, but it doesn't always have to be about money.

BIANCHI

You need to eat don't you.

GEPETTO

I get by. *(Trying to change subject)* Is there something special I can suggest for you today. If you don't see it here just tell me what you wish for *(Picks up chisel and wood)* and I will bring it to life for you.

BIANCHI

Actually I need a doll for my niece.

GEPETTO

I have just the thing. *(He grabs a fairy doll that is dressed all in blue with blue hair)* This is my blue fairy, she is "blue" because she has wished so long to be with a little girl or boy who will love her and take care of her.

BIANCHI

She is beautiful Geppetto. Truly magical, I'll take it!

GEPETTO

Wonderful.

A little boy, ADOLFO, in tattered clothes enters cautiously and curiously.

BIANCHI

Could you...

GEPETTO

It's okay. Come in. Come in. (*ADOLFO enters*) Can I help you find something special?

ADOLFO

No sir.

BIANCHI realizes that GEPETTO is now focused on the child so she smiles at GEPETTO letting him know it is okay to tend to the boy.

GEPETTO

What is your name?

ADOLFO

Adolfo signore?

GEPETTO

No need for "signore." My name is Geppetto.

ADOLFO begins to wonder the store and GEPETTO follows him with delighted eyes. ADOLFO eventually discovers a toy dog which he begins to pet it.

ADOLFO

What's his name?

GEPETTO

He doesn't have a name.

ADOLFO

No name! That's sad.

GEPETTO

They have to get their names from the boy or girl who falls in love with them. *(He picks up a piece of wood and begins to carve it)* You see, I whittle away at the wood until I find what is inside and then the toy lives with me until the right child comes along and gives it a name.

ADOLFO

I really like his brown fur. It's like the brown of a pine nut. Hey, that would be a perfect name for him - pine nut.

BIANCHI

What an odd name for a dog?!

GEPETTO

What a perfect name for a brown dog!

ADOLFO

Can I hold the dog while I look around the store signore Geppetto?

GEPETTO

Why certainly! I am sure pine nut would love the attention.

Returning back to help BIANCHI and a PEASANT WOMAN enters. Her clothes are tattered and torn.

PEASANT WOMAN

Excuse me signore have you seen a little... *(Seeing ADOLFO)*...There you are! I told you to stay by me. You scared me half to death.

ADOLFO

I really wanted to come look inside.

PEASANT WOMAN

Florence is a big city and I get nervous enough coming in to town.

ADOLFO

Sorry.

PEASANT WOMAN

(To GEPETTO)

I'm sorry signore.

GEPETTO

Sorry for what?

PEASANT WOMAN gently takes the toy dog and puts it down and begins to move ADOLFO towards the door.

PEASANT WOMAN

It's time to go now.

ADOLFO

But could I just...

PEASANT WOMAN

(Whispering)

Honey you know we don't have money for things like that.

ADOLFO

I know.

ADOLFO and PEASANT WOMAN begin to leave.

GEPETTO

(Having heard what she whispered, he picks up the dog) Um you forgot something.
(Giving the dog over to the boy) You forgot pine nut.

PEASANT WOMAN

Signore we can't...

GEPETTO

Not another word. I cannot keep him, this dog has a name now, and therefore he must be taken home. *(To Adolfo)* You named him and so now you must take him.

PEASANT WOMAN

That is so kind but...

BIANCHI

It isn't worth arguing with him. Let the boy take the dog.

PEASANT WOMAN

But how can we pay you?

GEPETTO

Simply promise me that the boy will love the dog.

ADOLFO

(Hugging the dog)

I promise!

GEPETTO

There we have it then!

PEASANT WOMAN

Thank you so much signore. God bless you!

ADOLFO

(Runs and hugs GEPETTO)
I'll take good care of him.

BIANCHI hands GEPETTO some money.

BIANCHI

There is some extra there for you.

GEPETTO

This is way too much.

BIANCHI

Just take it Geppetto you need it. You are by far the best toy maker in Italy, you deserve better than this *(Gesturing to the shop)*, but you will never make ends meet by giving your toys away!

GEPETTO

I can only take your money for the doll you have bought.

BIANCHI

Then say its prepayment for a future doll.

GEPETTO

Thank you. You are too kind but...

BIANCHI

It is poor customer service to argue with your patrons *(BIANCHI gives GEPETTO a loving smile. BIANCHI gathers up the wrapped doll and heads to the door)* I will see you later Geppetto! *(BIANCHI exits)*

GEPETTO moves to his work bench when the front door opens and a man holding a log rushes in a quickly slams the door, blocking it with his body. It is SIGNORE CHERRY who has wild hair, a reddish nose and a comical look of madness. CHERRY looks out the door and then quickly shuts it. He then runs to a window and abruptly draws the drapes closed. GEPETTO is not startled or surprised by this entrance.

GEPETTO

Good evening Signior Cherry!

CHERRY

(Crossing to GEPETTO and whispering abnormally loud)
Did anyone follow me?

GEPETTO

(Casually looking at the front door)
It appears not.

CHERRY

(Continuing in the loud whisper)
We must be very quiet!

GEPETTO

Okay.

CHERRY

Something amazing has happen.

CHERRY runs to the door and looks out again, then flips the "Open" signed to "Closed".

GEPETTO

(As if addressing the toys)
I guess we are closed.

CHERRY

Geppetto something very amazing has happened.

GEPETTO

(Obviously not believing in the "mermaid" conspiracy he is about to address)
As amazing as the "mermaid" you were certain the city officials were hiding?

CHERRY

Shh!

GEPETTO

(Obviously not believing the "apple" conspiracy as well)
Or how you were certain the grocer had poisoned the apples with a sleeping potion.

CHERRY

Luckily, I figured that out before it was too late!

GEPETTO

(With sarcasm that CHERRY does not catch)
And we will be forever grateful to you.

CHERRY

(Leaning into GEPETTO)
This is an enchanted log.

GEPETTO

An enchanted log.

CHERRY

Shh! *(As if he is certain someone is listening)* Ha, ha. No, not an enchanted log? You must have misheard me; I said a distracted jog.

GEPETTO

(Playing along)
Good cover.

CHERRY

(Leaning in again)
This log is enchanted. I was cutting firewood to fuel the time machine that I'm working on and something amazing happened.

GEPETTO

Time machine?

CHERRY

As I tried to cut this piece again it cried out.

GEPETTO

Woodn't you know.

CHERRY

Yes. It clearly yelled "stop."

GEPETTO

So, a voice *barked* out "stop."

CHERRY

All I can figure is it's enchanted.

GEPETTO

(Giggling)
You've got me *stumped*.

CHERRY

And then it clearly said "Please don't hit me with an ax."

GEPETTO

(Giggling even more)
We will certainly have to get to the *root* of this mystery.

CHERRY

I'm telling you the truth! This is some sort of possessed log!

GEPETTO

(Hardly able to contain himself)

I'm going to go out on a *limb* here and agree.

CHERRY

(Realizing what GEPETTO is doing)

Are you done?

GEPETTO

(Suddenly dropping it)

Yep.

CHERRY

(Secretive again)

I brought you the log because I think that maybe if you start carving it into something we can find out what evil spirit has possessed it.

GEPETTO

How do you know for certain its evil?

CHERRY

How often have you ever heard of a good spirit possessing something?

GEPETTO

Umm... *(Not sure how to respond to the absurd statement)*...good argument.

CHERRY

I'm going to leave this with you. But if anyone asks, you did not get it from me.

GEPETTO

Okay, I promise.

CHERRY

You do know how to defend yourself don't you?

GEPETTO

Against a log? I think I'll be okay.

CHERRY

I better get out of here before anyone gets suspicious.

CHERRY looks around the room and tries to discreetly leave but in doing so ultimately draws even more attention to himself.

GEPETTO

(Purposely startling CHERRY)

Goodnight! *(CHERRY yelps)* Signior Cherry! *(CHERRY exits. GEPETTO talking to his puppets)* Did you hear that? A talking log? Sometimes I must say I worry about Signore Cherry. Wouldn't it be nice though if this wood was enchanted? *(Picking up the log)* I know what I would wish for, a son. *(Looking at one of the puppets)* What are you saying, I'm too old? I may have a few grey hairs, but I've got plenty of life in me. *(Inspecting the log)* What would my son be like? I bet he would be smart and caring and full of energy? *(Re-thinking)* Oh, all I care is that we can be there for each other and be happy? *(Looks at the log longingly and laughs)* Oh dear, now I'm acting like Cherry. *(Inspecting log)* I wonder what is in there.

GEPETTO gets his carving tools and begins to carve the log. The lights change and transition music plays to show the passage of time. When the transition stops, we see a small boy puppet, PINOCCHIO, sitting on the work bench, he is nearly complete with the exception of his mouth, which has yet to be painted on and his hat, which GEPETTO is currently sewing by hand.

GEPETTO, *Continued*

There finished! And just in time, my eyes are so tired. *(Places the hat on PINOCCHIO)* Oh dear! How could I have forgotten his mouth? *(GEPETTO takes some paint and draws a mouth on to PINOCCHIO)* Now you are done my little...my little...Pinocchio.

PINOCCHIO

Thanks!

GEPETTO leaps back and yells.

PINOCCHIO, *Continued*

Why are you frightened?

GEPETTO

I've gone crazy! I must be too tired!

PINOCCHIO

Nope you're not crazy.

GEPETTO

Okay Geppetto, he isn't talking.

PINOCCHIO

I'm not?

Nope, you're not. GEPETTO

Then what am I doing? PINOCCHIO

Nothing. GEPETTO

Okay. PINOCCHIO

They BOTH sit there in awkward silence.

Am I still not talking? PINOCCHIO

Yep. GEPETTO

Okay. PINOCCHIO

Another moment of awkward silence.

GEPETTO
(Walking backwards)
I'm just going to get into my pajamas, climb into bed and get some sleep because obviously I have over worked myself.

Okay. PINOCCHIO

Good. GEPETTO

Good. PINOCCHIO

GEPETTO
(Rubs eyes vigorously)
You're still here.

PINOCCHIO
(Rubs eyes vigorously)
You're still here.

GEPETTO

I've never had a conversation with one of my puppets before.

PINOCCHIO

Really, I've heard you talking to them all night.

GEPETTO

Yes, but typically they don't respond. Cherry was right, you did talk!

PINOCCHIO

Yep, neat huh?

GEPETTO

Ah...I...um...I've gone crazy...that's what it is...no it's the fume from the paints...I haven't had proper ventilation.

PINOCCHIO

What's ventilation?

GEPETTO

It's when you...wait this is really happening. But how?

Suddenly the workshop begins to shake and bright light appears through the drapes of the closed window.

GEPETTO, *Continued*

Now what?

There is the crash sound of someone hitting the window.

BLUE FAIRY, *Offstage*

Oomph. That was off.

BLUE FAIRY struggles with window, she is still unseen.

BLUE FAIRY, *Offstage, Continued*

Alright how do I do this? (*Rattling window*) I can fly, but I cannot figure out a window? (*Another crash sound*) That's going to bruise.

BLUE FAIRY moves to the door which is locked, so she knocks. GEPETTO freezes and says nothing. FAIRY knocks again and no answer.

Hello? BLUE FAIRY

I think someone is at the door. PINOCCHIO

The door suddenly pops open and the BLUE FAIRY falls in. BLUE FAIRY is very disheveled and looks more like a nerd than a fairy. GEPETTO stares at her in disbelief.

What? You were expecting someone else? BLUE FAIRY

I must be really tired. GEPETTO

Hello, I'm the Blue Fairy. BLUE FAIRY

Hi, I'm Geppetto. GEPETTO

Oh I know I read your file. BLUE FAIRY

My file? GEPETTO

Oh yes. Here it is. *(Hands him a sparkling file)* BLUE FAIRY

This says Raphaelle. GEPETTO

Oops sorry. BLUE FAIRY

She removes her giant bag from her shoulder and snatches the folder back. FAIRY is digging through the bag and pulling out random objects. Eventually pulls out some gum.

Gum? BLUE FAIRY, *Continued*

GEPPETTO

No thanks.

BLUE FAIRY

I know it's in here.

GEPPETTO

It's no big deal. I think I'm just going to head to bed, I don't think I feel good.

BLUE FAIRY

Oh I think I have a thermometer? *(Starts digging in her bag)*

GEPPETTO

(Trying to sneak out)

I'm fine. Really, I just need to go lie down.

BLUE FAIRY

Hey wait I have to tell you what's going on? First I am a magic fairy, Blue Fairy to be specific. Behold my fairy magic. *(Waves her wand and a shelf falls)* Oops sorry. *(Looks into the tip of the wand)* Eww, there's some earwax in there. Sorry about that every time I get really nervous, *(puts wand in her ear)* I wriggle it around like that. Actually it's really rather soothing... *(Wiggles it in her ears and rolls her eyes back in pleasure then offers the wand to GEPPETTO)*...wanna?

GEPPETTO

No thanks.

BLUE FAIRY

(Wiping the wand off on her dress)

Well, I am here to let you know what is going on.

GEPPETTO

That would be nice.

BLUE FAIRY

(Opening a scroll and reading)

"Congratulations name here" *(Looking at scroll confused)* Sorry, "Congratulations Geppetto you are fortunate enough to have your wish come true. As a result of your years of unconditional love to so many and your consistent drive to improve the lives of others. The Fairy Guild has chosen to allow you to have your wish of insert wish to come true." *(GEPPEPETTO looks confused)* Oh sorry, "the Fairy Guild has chosen to allow you to have your wish of having a son come true." *(FAIRY looks at GEPPETTO who is staring at her blankly)* Pretty cool, huh?

GEPPETTO

Um...

BLUE FAIRY

(Gesturing to PINOCCHIO)
Here's your son!

PINOCCHIO

Hi.

FAIRY

Now I know he looks like a puppet and in all purposes he is a puppet, but he can talk and think and behave just like a real boy. He's even potty trained!

PINOCCHIO

Yep, I'm dry!

GEPPETTO

Pinocchio you're my son?

PINOCCHIO

Yep.

GEPPETTO hugs PINOCCHIO excitedly.

BLUE FAIRY

Careful don't get a sliver *(Laughs at herself hysterically and PINOCCHIO and GEPPETTO separate from their hug and give her an odd look)* Sorry, a little wood humor. *(PINOCCHIO AND GEPPETTO look at her blankly and FAIRY looks at her bare arm)* Look at the time. I really best be going.

PINOCCHIO

Excuse me Miss Blue Fairy lady? But I'm a puppet, not a real boy?

FAIRY

Yes, that's right.

PINOCCHIO

I want to be a real boy.

FAIRY

That's easy, all you have to do is...um...hold on *(Digging in her bag again and finds some papers)* ...here it is. *(Reading)* "You must prove yourself worthy and you will be granted your wish of being a real boy. In order for you to be a real boy and a real family; you must first want it but then second you must show that you are willing to work hard to make it happen." *(To PINOCCHIO)* Being a family is hard work.

GEPPETTO

She is right, Pinocchio.

BLUE FAIRY

Well, it looks like my job here is done for now. Stay out of trouble Pinocchio.

GEPETTO

Speaking of “trouble,” would it be any trouble to get you to see if you can use your magic to fix my shelves.

BLUE FAIRY

Not a problem, stand back.

BLUE FAIRY waves her wand and with a flash of lights, a giant CRICKET appears. [A giant, very proper character played by a male or female.]

GEPETTO

Oh my gosh! What is that?!

BLUE FAIRY

It appears to be a cricket. There must have been one over there where I aimed my wand. Hey, at least you don't have roaches, right?

CRICKET

My word! How did all of you get so small?

PINOCCHIO

We didn't, you got bigger.

CRICKET

Well, this won't due.

BLUE FAIRY

Here let me try and fix it *(Raises her wand)*

GEPETTO

Wait! Are you sure you know what you are doing?

BLUE FAIRY

(Raising wand again and then pausing)

Um, actually no.

GEPETTO

For fear of accidently splatting this cricket, I think it best we wait on the magic.

PINOCCHIO

Splatting?! Fun!

GEPPETTO

No not fun.

PINOCCHIO

(Abruptly changing mood in agreement)

Oh, not fun.

CRICKET

Can someone explain to me what is going on?

GEPPETTO

I have never met a cricket that could talk?

BLUE FAIRY

Do you meet a lot of crickets?

CRICKET

We all talk, but most people aren't listening well enough to hear what we are saying. They just hear us in the background and dismiss our words as chirps. Excuse me signorina...?

BLUE FAIRY

Blue Fairy.

CRICKET

Signoria Blue Fairy. How exactly do I become small again?

BLUE FAIRY

I'm going to have to figure that out and get back to you.

CRICKET

Oh, well in the meantime then I will just try and blend in.

GEPPETTO

You can stay here with me until she gets things figured out. In the mean time you can be the stores sort of mascot.

CRICKET

(Disgusted)

Yew, I do not mascot. I'm not some sort of corporate mascot or spokesperson. How tacky.

BLUE FAIRY

(To GEPPETTO)

Do you want me to try and fix the shelf again?

GEPPETTO

No that's fine. I can do that.

BLUE FAIRY

Alright, now you remember Pinocchio you must be honest, behaved and listen to Geppetto so that you can become a real boy.

PINOCCHIO

I know I can do it! I'm sure it is easy for all boys and girls to behave and always make the right decision.

BLUE FAIRY

(Patting PINOCCHIO on the head)

You'll learn. Well, I really must run but I will be back.

CRICKET

Hey what about me?!

BLUE FAIRY takes out a large scroll of paper and jots down a note.

CRICKET, *Continued*

What's that?

BLUE FAIRY

My "to do" list. *(Finishes writing)* See you.

BLUE FAIRY opens the curtains to the window and then steps back and runs as if to leap out the window. She hits it and falls to the ground.

GEPPETTO

Maybe you should try the front door.

BLUE FAIRY

Maybe.

BLUE FAIRY goes to the front door and tries to pull it in.

GEPPETTO

Push.

BLUE FAIRY pushes, the door opens and she exits. PINOCCHIO, GEPPETTO and CRICKET look back and forth at each other not sure what to say.

GEPETTO

(After an awkward silence)
Well, she seemed nice.

CRICKET

Yes.

GEPETTO

(Another awkward silence and then speaks)
This is all rather unexpected.

CRICKET

Yes.

GEPETTO

Pinocchio?

PINOCCHIO

Yes Dad?

GEPETTO

Just checking.

BLACK OUT.

ACT I
SCENE TWO

AT RISE: *Morning. Interior of Geppetto's puppet shop and toy store. PINOCCHIO and CRICKET are both sleeping and almost look like toys among the other toys in Geppetto's' shop. CRICKET is wearing a "sleep mask." GEPETTO enters wearing his pajamas.*

PINOCCHIO

Good morning.

GEPETTO

(Yells and almost jumps out the window)
You were real!

PINOCCHIO

I think so.

CRICKET

(Who is lying down and wearing a sleep mask over his eyes, sits up)
Yes he's real and he snores too. You want to talk about sounding like sawing wood.
(Grabbing sides of his head) Ugh!

GEPETTO

I think I need some coffee. *(He moves to go make coffee)*

CRICKET

Any chance I could put in an order for a latte?

GEPETTO looks at CRICKET like we wants to say something, but cannot find the words.

CRICKET, *Continued*

Okay a coffee's fine, but could you go a little heavy on the cream and sugar?

GEPETTO

(Not believing his ears)
Sure.

GEPETTO exits.

PINOCCHIO

Good morning Cricket.

CRICKET

My name is actually Carlo.

PINOCCHIO

Okay, Cricket.

CRICKET

When do you suppose this Blue Fairy is going to come back and return me to my normal size?

PINOCCHIO

Maybe when she makes me a real boy?

CRICKET

Oh dear.

Returning with two cups of coffee, handing one to CRICKET. CRICKET sips his coffee as GEPETTO stares in amazement.

GEPETTO

Unbelievable, I now have a son and a pet.

CRICKET

(Spitting out the coffee in a “spit take”)

Um, I am no pet, signior.

GEPETTO

Sorry. I cannot believe I have a son and a 5-foot-tall cricket.

CRICKET

Actually I’m [insert actors real height].

GEPETTO crosses to PINOCCHIO and looks him over. A smile grows on his face.

GEPETTO

Can you stand?

PINOCCHIO

I think so.

PINOCCHIO begins to try and stand.

GEPETTO

Careful.

PINOCCHIO, wobbly, gets to his feet assisted by GEPETTO.

GEPETTO, *Continued*

Oh you did it!

PINOCCHIO

I did it!

GEPETTO

(Gives PINOCCHIO a big hug, lifting him into the air)

I’ve waited years for this moment.

PINOCCHIO

For me to stand?

GEPETTO

No, to have a son.

CRICKET

I think you may have wanted to have been more specific with your wish and maybe asked for a son who wasn't so flammable.

PINOCCHIO

I do want to be a real boy.

GEPETTO

Some day that will happen as long as you stay honest and true. Oh dear, are you hungry?

PINOCCHIO

No, I am a puppet remember.

GEPETTO

Oh yes.

CRICKET

I on the other hand...do you have any crepes or...oh...a croissant would be nice.

GEPETTO

How about some jam and bread?

CRICKET

A scone?

GEPETTO

Jam and bread. *(Exits)*

PINOCCHIO

(Beginning to walk slightly)

This feels funny. I never thought walking would feel like this. *(Almost losing his balance)*

Whoa! *(Regaining balance)* There that's better.

GEPETTO enters with small plate with bread covered in jam.

CRICKET

He's walking now.

GEPETTO

Incredible! You are so smart and quick! Wait! *(To CRICKET)* What is today?

CRICKET

Um...remember I'm a cricket.

GEPETTO

It's Tuesday. That means you need to go to school.

School?
PINOCCHIO

GEPETTO
It is where all boys and girls go to learn math, reading, science and all the other things they need to know to be successful and smart.

PINOCCHIO
Sounds fun.

GEPETTO
And there will be lots of others boys and girls there for you to make friends with!

PINOCCHIO
(Excitedly)
And puppets?!

CRICKET
Awkward. *(Sips coffee and turns away)*

GEPETTO
Well you see Pinocchio; you are the only puppet boy that I know. At least the only one I know who has no strings and can move around on his own. But there are all different types of kids in school, I am sure you will have no problem making some friends. *(GEPETTO goes to a small box and gets some coins)* Oh dear, that won't be enough?

GEPETTO exits the room.

CRICKET
(To PINOCCHIO)
He certainly is a nice man. I do hope that you remember that and be nice to him.

PINOCCHIO
I will.

CRICKET
I mean even when you don't agree with what he says.

PINOCCHIO
I will.

CRICKET
I do hope so. I lost my father when I was very young to a clog.

PINOCCHIO
A clog?

CRICKET

(Rather over-dramatic)

I think it was a size nine... *(beginning to cry in a very over-the-top manner)*...he never saw it coming.

GEPETTO

(Returning with a small bag of coins)

Okay Pinocchio we need to get you off to school! *(Removing some coins from the bag)* I have to work on some special orders today while you are at school, but I am certain you can get there on your own and it is close enough to our home that it would be very difficult for you to get into that much trouble.

CRICKET

He's a boy isn't he?

GEPETTO

(Giving CRICKET a look of disapproval and then handing PINOCCHIO some coins)

Here is some money for school books. You will need to stop at the book store on your walk to school. You will know that is the book store because it will be full of books.

PINOCCHIO

(Walking to the door)

Okay. *(Stops)* Geppetto?

GEPETTO

Yes?

PINOCCHIO

What's a book?

GEPETTO

Oh dear. *(Grabs a book off a table)* This is a book. Just tell the bookseller you need school books and then give him those coins. The seller will give you some money back. *(Goes to front door and opens it)* The book store and the school are over there. If you get lost just follow all the other kids.

PINOCCHIO

(To CRICKET)

Are you coming with me?

GEPETTO

Pinocchio, I think the townspeople might be little terrified to see a 5-foot-tall cricket making its way down the street.

CRICKET

(Sarcastic)

Oh, but they will be fine with seeing a talking walking puppet?

GEPETTO

Okay good point. *(To CRICKET)* Maybe you can hide and watch him from the trees and bushes. Pinocchio is small enough that it won't be so alarming. *(The sound of a school bell is heard)* Alright, now you best be going so you aren't late. Now remember, go to the book store and then directly to school. Follow the other kids. *(To CRICKET)* And you don't get discovered.

CRICKET

(Turning face to the side and striking a runway-model pose)
With a face like this it's hard to believe I haven't been discovered.

GEPETTO

(Rolling eyes)
It's time to go. Pinocchio you go out through the front and Cricket head out through the back door so you can follow the tree line. *(GEPETTO hugs PINOCCHIO)* Be safe Pinocchio. I will see you right after school.

PINOCCHIO exits the house.
BLACKOUT.

ACT I SCENE THREE

AT RISE: *The streets of Florence, Italy; there are various store fronts and carts filled with various wares. Various VENDORS are calling out for people to come buy their goods. There are TOWNS PEOPLE and CHILDREN moving quickly through the streets. PINOCCHIO looks around amazed.*

MILKMAID

Fresh milk and cheese! Cream!

PINOCCHIO wonders up to her at first unnoticed. MILKMAID looks down and sees him and is startled by his appearance.

MILKMAID

Excuse me young boy? Would you like some milk?

PINOCCHIO

Sure!

MILKMAID
How much?

PINOCCHIO
How much what?

MILKMAID
Milk.

PINOCCHIO
(Very excited)
How much can I get?

MILKMAID
As much as you want.

PINOCCHIO
How much do I need?

MILKMAID
(Suddenly very short)
Look kid, I don't have time to play games, either you want milk or you don't.

PINOCCHIO
I thought people liked games?

MILKMAID
Do you even have any money?

PINOCCHIO
My money is for my books, that is what Geppetto said.

MILKMAID
Well then stop wasting my time boy. *(Abruptly ignoring PINOCCHIO)* Milk! Fresh milk and cheese!

PINOCCHIO continues to move through the streets. He sees CHERRY and goes to him.

PINOCCHIO
Hello!

CHERRY
(Turns and sees PINOCCHIO and jumps)
Who are you?! What do you want? I don't have any money!

PINOCCHIO

Don't you remember me? You cut me off of a tree.

*CHERRY looks at him confused.
PINOCCHIO stiffens, pretending to be a
log again.*

CHERRY

(Now recognizing PINOCCHIO)

You are the enchanted piece of wood!

PINOCCHIO

Yep!

CHERRY

I've gone crazy! I've officially gone crazy!

PINOCCHIO

You have?

CHERRY

First, I cut down a tree and the log talks to me. Now I am standing in the street having a conversation with the log that is now a talking puppet. I've gone crazy.

PINOCCHIO

Is that bad?

CHERRY

Is that bad? He asks is that bad? *(To a nearby WOMAN and CHILD he screams)* Did you hear that, the talking puppet asks me if going crazy is bad?

*The WOMAN and CHILD scream and
exit, pursued by CHERRY who is yelling
and pulling his hair.*

CANDYMAKER

Candy! Candy canes! Lollipops! Carmel apples!

PINOCCHIO

(Noticing the brightly colored lollipops)

What are those?

CANDYMAKER

(Noticing PINOCCHIO and is startled by his appearance)

Owe! These? These, boy, are lollipops!

PINOCCHIO

What do you do with them?

CANDYMAKER
What were you born yesterday?

PINOCCHIO
Yes.

CANDYMAKER
(Startled and then speaks)
You eat them.

PINOCCHIO
Can I have one?

CANDYMAKER
Sure. Which one would you like?

PINOCCHIO
(Pointing to one)
That one.

CANDYMAKER
That will be one copper piece please.

PINOCCHIO
Copper piece?

CANDYMAKER
Money kid. This stuff isn't free.

PINOCCHIO
Oh no. I have to buy books for school.

CANDYMAKER
Well if you aren't buying anything move along. You are blocking my goods. Candy! Rock candy! Lollipops!

PINOCCHIO walks away confused and shaking his head. HE then stops as a group of CHILDREN come passing by laughing and hurrying along.

PINOCCHIO
Hey, where are you all going?

MARINA
To the Great Puppet Theater.

ILARIA
Are you performing there?

PINOCCHIO
No, should I be?

ILARIA
You are a puppet aren't you?

PINOCCHIO
Yes, but I don't perform there.

IDA
Where are your strings?

PINOCCHIO
I don't have any.

IDA
Then how do you stay up?

PINOCCHIO
By my legs!

ORLANDO
You should go with us to the puppet show. What's your name?

PINOCCHIO
Pinocchio.

MARINA
What a weird name. My name is Marina.

ILARIA
Ilaria here.

IDA
I'm his sister Ida.

ORLANDO
I'm Orlando, are you sure you aren't just pulling our leg?

PINOCCHIO
Why would I pull your leg? That doesn't seem very nice.

ILARIA
Are you coming or what? We are going to miss the start of the show!

IDA

Come on Pinocchio! Come with us!

CRICKET pops out from behind something and tosses a pebble in the direction of the kids missing everyone.

PINOCCHIO

Well Geppetto did say to follow the kids, so I guess this would be okay. Sure!

CRICKET pops out from behind something and tosses a pebble harder in the direction of the kids and misses.

ILARIA

Come on!

CRICKET pops out from behind something and whips a pebble in the direction of the kids hitting IDA.

IDA

Owe! What was that?!

CRICKET throws another pebble and hits ORLANDO.

ORLANDO

Oh! Ouch! That hurt! Who's throwing stuff?

PINOCCHIO

I think I know who it is. Sorry could you wait one quick moment?

ORLANDO

You got about 45 seconds and then we are out of here.

PINOCCHIO

Is that a long time?

MARINA

No!

PINOCCHIO crosses to the hiding CRICKET.

PINOCCHIO

Cricket please stop throwing rocks at my friends.

CRICKET

Come here! (*PINOCCHIO moves closer*) Closer. (*PINOCCHIO moves a little closer*) Closer. (*PINOCCHIO moves closer and CRICKET bops him on the head*) What are you doing! You are supposed to be buying your books and getting to school!

PINOCCHIO

I'm going to theater.

CRICKET

Nothing good can come of going to the theater! You are supposed to be going to school!

PINOCCHIO

Geppetto said to go with the kids and those kids are going to the theater.

CRICKET

I think Geppetto meant go with the kids to school, not to go with the delinquents to the theater.

PINOCCHIO

I will go after the show.

CRICKET

Remember what the Blue Fairy said and remember we want to stay on her good side because someday I would really like to be returned to my original size.

ORLANDO

We are going! See you.

PINOCCHIO

I'm coming! Sorry Cricket.

CRICKET

Sorry to me? (*PINOCCHIO walking away*) You are the one who is going to be sorry. (*Yelling*) I haven't even read good reviews of that puppet show! Theater critic Dominic Papatola said of the show "the performances were wooden and lifeless"!

PINOCCHIO, MARINA, ILARIA, IDA and ORLANDO make their way to the door of "The Great Puppet Theater," where they are greeted by FIRE EATER. FIRE EATER is a severe and menacing looking man who is oddly missing his eyebrows. A sign reads "Now Showing: Macbeth."

FIRE EATER

Come one! Come all! Our next show is about to begin! Come see the best in puppetry! Children and families will love it! Come one! Come all! Get your seats fast!

*MARINA, ILARIA, IDA and ORLANDO
make their way into the theater each
paying their money. PINOCCHIO tries to
pass without paying.*

FIRE EATER, *Continued*

Wait a minute! Where do you think you are going! You need to pay! One silver piece!

PINOCCHIO

Sorry. I didn't know.

FIRE EATER

You didn't know? How could you not know? What were you born yesterday?!

PINOCCHIO

Yes.

*FIRE EATER looks at him bewildered.
PINOCCHIO then hands his bag of coins
to FIRE EATER.*

PINOCCHIO, *Continued*

Take what you need sir.

FIRE EATER

The name is Fire Eater. Have you ever heard of me?

PINOCCHIO

Just now.

FIRE EATER

I gained the nick name from my amazing fire eating skills. I was a star! Until my eyesight got bad! I strongly advise against eating fire when you can't see well!

PINOCCHIO

Nice to meet you signior Fire Eater. (*Pointing to FIRE EATER's eye brows*) Why don't you have...

FIRE EATER

(Taking a silver coin as well as a couple others)

Sorry, I've forgot to mention the breakfast tax. So I will need to take some more.

PINOCCHIO

Okay.

FIRE EATER

Come closer boy! (*Takes out a large magnifying glass*) Come closer! (*Inspecting PINOCCHIO*) Oh my! You are a puppet! But where are your strings? Is your puppeteer in the tree?

PINOCCHIO

I don't think I have a puppeteer. (*Pointing to FIRE EATER's eye brows*) Where did your...

FIRE EATER

No puppeteer! (*Clearly getting an idea and changing his tone*) You look like a smart boy.

PINOCCHIO

Thanks, someday I will be a real boy!

FIRE EATER

Marvelous! I think I know what you need ...you need "celebrity"!

PINOCCHIO

Does it hurt?

FIRE EATER

No, it is wonderful!

PINOCCHIO

How do I get some?

FIRE EATER

I can get it for you.

PINOCCHIO

How much does it cost?

FIRE EATER

For you? Free. I will make you a celebrity. All you need to do is join my show! Become a performer at the Great Puppet Theater!

PINOCCHIO

I need to go to school.

FIRE EATER

You don't need to go to school. There are lots of people who have become very successful without ever learning.

PINOCCHIO

Really?

FIRE EATER

Oh yes! Just trust me. Don't I look like someone who you can trust?

FIRE EATER opens his eyes really wide and smiles a very toothy grin. This makes him appear even more suspicious.

PINOCCHIO

(Moving close inspecting his face)

Where are your eyebrows?

FIRE EATER

It is not nice to ask personal questions. *(Pause)* Look, I can make you rich and famous! Just come and live with me and be in my show. I will make you the star! I will even give you your own trunk. You won't have to share with any other puppets.

PINOCCHIO

I already live with Geppetto.

FIRE EATER

Is that your agent?

PINOCCHIO

Is an agent your Dad?

FIRE EATER

He can be, but it usually isn't advised. *(Suddenly getting frustrated)* Look...

PINOCCHIO

Pinocchio.

FIRE EATER

Look Pinocchio. This is a once in a life time chance. Join my theater!

PINOCCHIO

No thanks. Can I go see the show now?

FIRE EATER

(Angry)

Fine!

THEY exit. BLACKOUT.

ACT I SCENE FOUR

AT RISE:

PINOCCHIO joins his new friends who are already sitting. There is a great fanfare of music and the curtains to the puppet theater open.

PUNCHINELLO appears and is wearing traditional PUNCHINELLO garb.

PUNCHINELLO

(Very dramatic and theatrical)

The raven himself is hoarse
That croaks the fatal entrance of Duncan
Under my battlements. Come, you spirits
That tend on mortal thoughts,
And fill me from the crown to the toe top-full
Of direst cruelty!

A set piece, with CRICKET clearly behind it, starts to scoot across the puppet stage, and CRICKET tries to get PINOCCHIO's attention without drawing attention to himself. This ultimately is drawing more attention to himself.

PUNCHINELLO, *Continued*

Make thick my blood;
Stop up the access and passage to remorse,
That no compunctious visitings of nature
Shake my fell purpose, nor keep peace between
The effect and it!

PUNCHINELLO, noticing the moving set piece, tries to casually push it offstage by scooting it with his side.

PUNCHINELLO, *Continued*

Come to me and take my milk for gall,
You murdering ministers,
Wherever in your sightless substances
You wait on nature's mischief!

HARLEQUIN enters. He is very dimwitted.

HARLEQUIN

Ahh...Punchinello I don't remember this part. Why is the set piece moving?

PUNCHINELLO

(Speaking through clinched teeth in an angry whisper)
Get off the stage Harlequin! *(Continuing the previous dialog)*

HARLEQUIN

Umm...okay. (*Exits*)

PUNCHINELLO

Come, thick night,
And pall thee in the dunkest smoke of...

CRICKET accidentally lets go of the set piece which falls revealing himself. CRICKET covers himself as if he is naked.

PINOCCHIO

Cricket?

AUDIENCE

(*Seeing PINOCCHIO*)

Oh my! It's a puppet with no strings! Amazing!

HARLEQUIN

Was that supposed to happen?

PUCHINELLO

No, that was not supposed to happen! What is going on here? Does no one have respect for the legitimate stage? I was "in the moment" and now it is ruined! Stage Manager!

HARLEQUIN

We don't have a Stage Manager.

PUCHINELLO

I finally have a role that can really showcase my skills and I'm upstaged!

HARLEQUIN

Is this something that should go in my Sense Memory Journal?

PUCHINELLO

(*Throws a prop at HARLEQUIN*)

I cannot work in these conditions! Where is my publicist?! I am the lead and everyone wants to look at some freakish Cricket and a puppet with no strings!

HARLEQUIN

A puppet with no strings!

PINOCCHIO

My name is Pinocchio.

PUCHINELLO

(Mocking)

“My name is Pinocchio.” Hey, I don’t remember buying a ticket to see you perform, so sit down!

HARLEQUIN

(Very friendly; goes out to audience and greets PINOCCHIO)

Hello, I’m Harlequin. It is amazing that you have no strings!

PINOCCHIO

Thank you.

HARLEQUIN

You should come be in our play.

PINOCCHIO

No thanks, I have to go to school after the show.

HARLEQUIN

That’s too bad.

PUCHINELLO

(To CRICKET)

Could you please move your insect self off my stage? You are in my light!

CRICKET

Sorry. *(In a whisper while moving off-stage)* Pinocchio, Fire Eater is planning to kidnap you, I overheard him plotting.

PINOCCHIO

(Overly loud)

What?!

PUCHINELLO

Are there no ushers in this theater?! *(Pause)* I must re-center myself. *(Breathes deeply; over dramatic)*

That my keen knife see not the wound it makes,
Nor heaven peep through the blanket of the dark,
To cry 'Hold, hold!'

FIRE EATER sneaks in carrying a giant sack and snatches PINOCCHIO dragging him off.

PINOCCHIO

Help! Help!

*HARLEQUIN enters the puppet stage
and is holding a skull out ala "Hamlet."*

To Be or Not to Be...
HARLEQUIN

Wrong play you idiot!
PUCHINELLO

My bad. (*Exits*)
HARLEQUIN

BLACKOUT.

**ACT I
SCENE FIVE**

AT RISE: *Back stage at the Great Puppet Theater.
PINOCCHIO is in a giant cage.
HARLEQUIN and PUNCHINELLO are
hanging on a nearby wall. FIRE EATER
is counting money.*

Please signior. Please let me out!
PINOCCHIO

Every time you talk I have to start counting again! Counting is hard enough for me without having to hear you cry and complain!
FIRE EATER

My father, Geppetto, will be looking for me. I need to get home.
PINOCCHIO

You work for me now puppet boy!
FIRE EATER

Harlequin and Punchinello please help me out!
PINOCCHIO

Sorry Pinocchio, we are sort of limited with our movement here.
HARLEQUIN

Your puppet friends cannot help you out of this one! I gave you the chance to join me and now I am not going to give you the choice.
FIRE EATER

PINOCCHIO

I won't perform for you! You can't make me.

FIRE EATER

Fine, then my fire is growing dim and I am almost out of wood. You should serve me well than as fuel.

PINOCCHIO

(Beginning to cry)

Oh I should have listened to my father and gone right to school. Now what am I going to do.

FIRE EATER

(Opening the cage and grabbing PINOCCHIO)

Let me grab my ax to cut you into smaller pieces.

PINOCCHIO

Please signior Fire Eater. My father Geppetto has wished his whole life to have a son! Please don't punish him for me being naughty. I will go back to him and never leave him again if you give me a chance. Geppetto will be alone if I don't come back and it will break his heart.

FIRE EATER

You should have thought of that before you ran off!

PINOCCHIO

Everyone deserves to love and be loved in return.

FIRE EATER is chocked up a bit from this comment.

PUNCHINELLO

(Very over dramatic)

Please take me instead! Don't burn the boy. He has his whole life ahead of him and he has a family. Please let me be a martyr.

HARLEQUIN

Isn't that the stuff that goes between bricks?

PUNCHINELLO hits HARLEQUIN in the head, scolding him for making such a ridiculous remark. FIRE EATER begins to cry.

PINOCCHIO

What's wrong signior Fire Eater?

FIRE EATER

I know how Geppetto feels. No one deserves to be alone. And to have a friend willing to sacrifice himself is just too much!

PUNCHINELLO

Are you saying my performance elicited an emotional response? Bravo me!!!

FIRE EATER

Oh Pinocchio, I will let you go. My own miserableness has caused me to take it out on others.

HARLEQUIN

Sounds to me like you got yourself a serious case of low self-esteem.

FIRE EATER

(Hugs whole cage and cries)

Oh Pinocchio!

PINOCCHIO

That's okay.

*FIRE EATER continues to cry.
CRICKET pops up from a hiding place in
the room.*

CRICKET

Remind him to let you out.

PINOCCHIO

Cricket!

FIRE EATER

What? Where? I hate bugs!

PINOCCHIO

No...I mean...ticket! I am so glad I bought a ticket! A ticket to your great theater! Now can you please let me out?

FIRE EATER

Oh sorry. *(Unlocking the cage and letting PINOCCHIO out)* Here are some gold pieces for your troubles, make sure Geppetto gets it.

PINOCCHIO

Wow, look how shiny they are!

FIRE EATER

Now go before I change my mind!

*PINOCCHIO exits and FIRE EATER
goes to PUNCHINELLO and picks him
up. While he does this, CRICKET sneaks
out.*

PUNCHINELLO

What are you doing?!

FIRE EATER

I told you I needed firewood.

PUNCHINELLO

(Carrying PUNCHINELLO offstage)

I just said that for dramatic effect!

BLACKOUT.

**ACT I
SCENE SIX**

AT RISE: *CRICKET and PINOCCHIO outside the theater. It is evening.*

PINOCCHIO

Oh Cricket that was terrible! I want to go home!

CRICKET

I think that is the smartest thing you ever said. Are you going to start listening to me now? I mean unlike you, I wasn't born yesterday! I may be a cricket, but I've had a tough life and you can learn a lot from me. *(This monologue becomes increasingly over dramatic)* My father wanted me to be a competitive high jumper and all I wanted to do was play music. There was something about the violin that always electrified me. But then I thought, would I be disappointing my father? I mean I never was good at athletics, but I just wanted my father's respect. During the day I would leap with the other crickets, but at night I secretly began to play the violin. Do you know how hard it is to secretly play a violin?

A CAT pretending to be blind, and a FOX pretending to have a bad foot, enter. PINOCCHIO, no longer listening to CRICKET, begins to move curiously closer to the CAT and FOX. CRICKET is completely unaware that PINOCCHIO has wondered off.

CRICKET, *Continued*

Always coming up with stories about where I "really" was and trying to make excuses for what those strange sounds my father heard were!

PINOCCHIO

Hello there.

CRICKET

(Realizing PINOCCHIO has wondered off)

Oh for gracious sake! *(CRICKET leaps behind something to hide)* This is why I don't want children.

FOX and CAT move by PINOCCHIO, at first not stopping. Then BOTH freeze as they realize he is a puppet with no strings.

FOX

Oh hello there boy.

CAT

Oh sorry. I didn't see you.

PINOCCHIO

That's okay.

CAT

I didn't see you since I am blind.

PINOCCHIO

That's okay.

CAT

That means I cannot see.

PINOCCHIO

Okay.

CAT

Cause if I could see I would have commented on you being a puppet with no strings.

FOX

(Smacking CAT)

Yes, Cat he gets it!

BLACKBIRD enters eating a piece of bread. He notices CRICKET. BLACKBIRD smiles as he realizes how much bigger CRICKET is than the piece of bread in his hands. CRICKET screams and is chased off by BLACKBIRD. There is a loud smack sound and a bird squawk offstage. CAT, FOX and PINOCCHIO pause to look in the direction of the sound.

BLACKBIRD enters rubbing his eye like he got punched. BLACKBIRD sulks over to his piece of bread, sits and starts to eat again.

PINOCCHIO

How did you hurt your foot?

FOX

My foot? (*Suddenly remembering it was wrapped*) Oh yes! Owe. (*Acting as if it hurts*) Why that, oh I was attacked by a Piranha.

BLACKBIRD looks up, suddenly interested in this strange conversation.

PINOCCHIO

Really? Wow!

FOX

Yes it was a land Piranha. Very rare, but very angry.

PINOCCHIO

Oh my (*Looking around for a Piranha*)

FOX

Are you by any chance named Pinocchio?

PINOCCHIO

Why yes I am! How did you know?

FOX

I ran into your father Geppetto.

CAT

And I'm psychic.

PINOCCHIO

Really? That's amazing.

FOX

Do you know what gullible means?

PINOCCHIO

Nope.

FOX

Good, just checking?

CAT

Your father is very worried about you Pinocchio.

FOX

A good son wouldn't run off like you did and be out until the night.

PINOCCHIO

I didn't stay out on purpose.

FOX

Oh, we aren't accusing you of anything? *(To CAT)* Are we accusing him of anything?

CAT

Oh no. Us, accusing anyone of anything? Never.

FOX

Even with my crippled foot and my friend here being struck with blindness because of starvation, we are not about accusations. Instead we are about genuine concern for the safety of a young boy named Pinocchio.

PINOCCHIO

That's really nice.

CAT

We know.

PINOCCHIO

You are blind because of starvation?

CAT

Yes.

*CAT begins to cry obvious fake tears.
BLACKBIRD shakes his head in disbelief
and moves closer to them.*

FOX

Don't cry my dear friend; I am sure we will be able to find the money someday to get you food and me the life-saving surgery to save my foot.

PINOCCHIO

To "save" your foot?

FOX

(Hobbling over to PINOCCHIO and putting his hand over his shoulder)
That's right Pin. Can I call you Pin?

PINOCCHIO

(Not really liking that)
Umm?

FOX

Listen, Pin. I have a life-threatening case of onychocryptosis.

BLACKBIRD laughs. FOX coughs dramatically as if suddenly taken weak.

PINOCCHIO

Oh my goodness what is that?

BLACKBIRD

It means he has an ingrown toe nail.

FOX

Cat and I are out trying to find jobs so that we can earn money honestly.

CAT

Honesty is very important to us you know.

BLACKBIRD laughs uncontrollably until he realizes that the other three are watching him.

PINOCCHIO

Well I've got some money you can have. *(Takes out a few coins)* I don't know if it's enough to get you your surgery, but I think it could get cat some food.

FOX

(Quickly snatching the coins from PINOCCHIO's hand)
Every little bit helps my wooden friend.

CAT

I am already starting see a little better just thinking about the food.

PINOCCHIO

Really!

BLACKBIRD

Good grief!

FOX

(To BLACKBIRD)
Would you mind your own business?

BLACKBIRD

Hey pay no attention to me, I am just standing over here eating my bread.

FOX

Well “eat your bread” farther over there. *(To PINOCCHIO)* You know Pin, did I ask you if I can call you that?

PINOCCHIO

(Again, not liking that idea)

Yes, you did but...

FOX

Super! Well as I was about to say Pin, you have caused your father a great deal of pain and suffering. You better have something pretty amazing to offer him so that he will forgive you for making him worry so much.

CAT

(Sounding almost scripted)

Oh dear Fox. Pin is our new friend we should help him out of this mess.

FOX

(Also sounding almost scripted)

Yes Cat. He has helped us, what can we do to help him?

PINOCCHIO

You guys can help me?

FOX

Do you have any more money?

PINOCCHIO

Only the five gold pieces that the Fire Eater gave me.

CAT

(Overly excited)

Whoa!

FOX

(Quickly trying to cover CAT's outburst)

Um...Cat is...just so excited because you have the perfect amount of gold coins for...the Field of Miracles.

PINOCCHIO

Really?!

BLACKBIRD

(Not believing his own ears)

Seriously?

CAT

Oh yes, the Field of Miracles! Why didn't I think of that?

FOX

Maybe because of your blindness.

CAT

Yes, that's it.

FOX

Luckily, we are not terribly far from the Field of Miracles. At Field of Miracles you can grow money?

BLACKBIRD

He can't believe this?!

CAT

(To PINOCCHIO)

Excuse me.

CAT quickly runs after BLACKBIRD who quickly runs off pursued by the CAT.

FOX

If you plant the five gold coins it will grow into one thousand gold coins.

PINOCCHIO

Well, I don't know...I think I better just go home.

BLACKBIRD runs across the stage pursued by CAT. PINOCCHIO turns his head towards CAT, sees this and instantly stops running and reaches his hands out in front of himself as if searching for something. He is poorly playing blind again.

FOX

Did I say one thousand gold coins? *(PINOCCHIO turns back towards FOX and CAT again sprints off)* I meant to say two thousand gold coins.

PINOCCHIO

Really?

The sound of a cat fighting.

FOX

Yes, Geppetto and you could buy a nice home with that and fill it with everything you and him need to be happy. *(CAT enters and looks very disheveled)* I was just trying to convince him to go to the Field of Miracles

CAT burps loudly and a bunch of feathers come out of his mouth. [This can be done by putting black bird feathers in CAT's pocket and during the previously line he can discreetly put some in his hand and then blow them out of his hand when he "burps."]

CAT

Excuse me.

FOX

Oh, that was pretty fowl!

CAT and FOX laugh.

PINOCCHIO

Two thousand gold pieces? That is a lot of money is it?

FOX

Is that a lot of money? Oh yes.

CAT

You and Geppetto will never need to worry about anything ever again.

PINOCCHIO

Can I be home by tomorrow?

FOX

Sure, if we leave right now. We can stay tonight at the Red Crayfish Inn and then get to the fields early in the morning.

PINOCCIO

Is it hard to grow money?

CAT

Oh, of course not!

FOX

You will let us take you then?

PINOCCHIO

Sure, I know I can trust you and because you are helping me. I will give you a lot of my coins. You two are so good. I am glad I met you.

CAT

We are glad we met you too.

FOX

Well gentlemen, we best be moving.

PINOCCHIO, CAT and FOX begin to exit. CAT and FOX laugh wildly.

CAT

You won't regret this one bit!

*CAT and FOX continue to laugh wildly as they exit. **BLACKOUT.***

**** INTERMISSION ****

ACT II
SCENE ONE

AT RISE: *PINOCCHIO, CAT and FOX arrive at the Red Crayfish Inn, INN GUESTS are sitting at the tables laughing and talking. The INN KEEPER approaches them.*

INN KEEPER

What can I do for you tonight?

FOX

We would like a room for the night?

INN KEEPER

Not a problem. Would you like me to take you up there now?

CAT

After we sit down here for awhile.

INN KEEPER

Just grab a seat over there. My waitress tonight just disappeared, but I imagine she'll be back in a moment.

FOX

Oh before I forget, could you be so kind as to wake us up at midnight tonight so we can continue our journey?

PINOCCHIO

We are going to the Field of Miracles to plant my money and grow more!

INNKEEPER

(Thinking PINOCCHIO is crazy)

Neat kid.

FOX

Can you wake us up at midnight?

INNKEEPER

Sure.

CAT, FOX and PINOCCHIO sit at a small open table.

FOX

Well, I don't know about you, but I am not very hungry so I don't plan to eat much.

CAT

Me neither. I will get something light.

PINOCCHIO

But what about your blindness?

CAT

What about it?

PINOCCHIO

I thought you were blind from hunger?

CAT

(Suddenly remembering)

Oh yes. I didn't say I wasn't eating, I just said I'm keeping it light. You really shouldn't eat after 9PM.

PINOCCHIO

Oh.

FOX

Where is that waitress?

*CRICKET appears dressed as a waitress.
He wears wig made of a mop or broom
head and heavy lipstick.*

CRICKET

(In a falsetto voice)

Hey boys what can I get you tonight?

FOX

Hey good looking. Any other specials tonight, besides you?

CRICKET

Are you getting fresh? *(Leaning down to PINOCCHIO and dropping the falsetto voice)* You need to get out of here!

PINOCCHIO

Cricket?

CRICKET

Where? *(Stops foot on floor pretending to squish a bug)* There, got it. What's your pleasure gentleman?

FOX

Usually, I prefer blondes but tonight I might make an exception.

CRICKET giggles in a girlish manner and punches FOX playfully on the shoulder. He then abruptly drops his voice lower.

CRICKET

(To PINOCCHIO)

I'm about this close to grabbing your wooden little legs and making a wish!

CAT

I would like to order your catfish special, with a baked potato, side of greens with butter, a slice of apple pie and large glass of your best ale.

CRICKET

Certainly. The fish here is excellent. It's the chef's specialty. *(Giggles like a girl and then abruptly drop down to PINOCCHIO)* Seriously move it.

FOX

I will order the same, but could you also include a steak with mine.

CRICKET

(Rushed)

Sure.

FOX

Could you put extra sour cream on my potato?

CRICKET

Certainly. *(Giggles)*

FOX

And put it on our room tab.

FOX smacks CRICKET on the butt. CRICKET lets out a yelp and abruptly drops down to PINOCCHIO.

CRICKET

(To PINOCCHIO)

I'm placing this order and then you better be out front.

FOX

So, what time do you get off work?

CRICKET giggles, playfully; starts to play with FOX'S face, and then punches him full force in the jaw.

FOX

Now that's my kind of woman!

CRICKET

(Giggles like a girl and then abruptly drop down to PINOCCHIO)

I'll be out front!

CAT

She seems to have taken a liking to you there, Pin!

FOX

Well gents, I need to speak with the owner of this fine establishment. I'll be right back. *(To PINOCCHIO)* Now don't go sneaking off now.

FOX laughs and then crosses to the INN KEEPER. There is general room noise as the guests of the inn eat and talk. FOX is clearly telling the INN KEEPER of some "plan." The INNKEEPER at first looks confused, but then agrees. FOX shakes his hand and then returns to the table.

FOX, *Continued*

What a nice fellow. I know, I'm not hungry, but for the sake of time I hope our food gets here soon.

FOX crosses his arms and the LIGHTS FADE TO BLACK.

ACT II SCENE TWO

AT RISE:

The Red Crawfish Inn the following morning; we hear a rooster crow. The INN KEEPER is sweeping the floor and is wearing clothes that signify it is the next day. PINOCCHIO comes running in looking as if he just got up.

PINOCCHIO

What time is it?

INN KEEPER

About 7a.m.

PINOCCHIO

I must not have heard you wake us up at midnight.

INN KEEPER

Your friend said not to wake you.

PINOCCHIO

What?

INN KEEPER

Your fox friend told me not to wake you and the two of them left in the middle of the night.

PINOCCHIO

(Upset) I'm so confused.

INN KEEPER

He did catch me on his way out the door to say he will still meet you at Field of Miracles at day break.

PINOCCHIO

Why would they leave in the middle of the night?

INN KEEPER

Oh and here is your bill for the food and the room.

PINOCCHIO

Food? But I don't even eat.

INN KEEPER

You don't, but your friends sure do.

INN KEEPER hands PINOCCHIO the bill.

PINOCCHIO

(Pulls out coin bag and gives INN KEEPER some money)

How do I get to the Field of Miracles?

INN KEEPER

You start by going out the door of the inn and you follow the path. Stay on the path for a long time and then you will see it. It's clearly marked. Just be careful, you are walking through some dangerous streets! Honestly, if I were you I would just turn around and head back the way you came. I think you are just walking into trouble.

PINOCCHIO

Thanks for your help and concern.

PINOCCHIO exits the inn. BLACKOUT.

ACT II
SCENE THREE

AT RSE: *A trail in the woods. Although it is daytime, the sun is still rising so things are dark and the shadows cast strange shapes. PINOCCHIO walks along nervously.*

PINOCCHIO

I wonder how long “a long time is.” (*Continues to walk and hears strange animal sounds making him even more worried*) I am so scared. I wish I knew exactly where I was going. (*CRICKET appears and walks up behind him unnoticed; he has purplish lipstick on*) I wish I listened to Geppetto. I wish...

CRICKET

You listened to Cricket!

PINOCCHIO

Cricket! (*Hugs CRICKET*) I’m so glad to see you.

CRICKET

Do you know I waited out front for you all night?

PINOCCHIO

You did? Can you help me find the Field of Miracles?

CRICKET

Absolutely not! You need to turn yourself around and head back home! You’re on a bad stretch of path here. There are robbers and all sorts of other hoodlums around here.

PINOCCHIO

I need to plant my gold pieces in the Field of Miracles.

CRICKET

Come here.

PINOCCHIO steps closer and CRICKET begins to examine his head.

PINOCCHIO

What are you doing?

CRICKET

Seeing if you’re cracked! What are you talking about Field of Miracles! It isn’t safe for you out here (*Looking around nervously*) and for me either for that matter.

PINOCCHIO

I need to turn my gold coins into thousands of coins, so Geppetto will forgive me and take me back.

CRICKET

You don't need money for him to take you back! *(Some evil laughs are heard; CRICKET and PINOCCHIO quickly grab each other)* Oh dear!

PINOCCHIO

What was that?

CRICKET

(Whispering)

I told you it wasn't safe here.

Two THUGS enter.

THUG #1

Well what do we have here?

THUG #2

(Trying to figure out what they are)

Yah, seriously what do we have here?

THUG #1

Is the circus in town?

THUG #2

Ha! That's a good one! Or is there a fair in town?

THUG #1

That doesn't even make sense!

THUG #2

(About to make a point, then fails)

Yah, it doesn't.

THUG #1

Is there a costume party we didn't get an invitation to?

THUG #2

Yah, maybe a wedding invitation we didn't get?

THUG #1

Again, not making sense.

THUG #2

(Aggressive thinking he is making a point)
Yah...no it doesn't!

THUG #1

Bet you two figured out by now you are in a whole lot of trouble.

CRICKET

Yes definitely.

THUG #1

Good, I always love when I get to see real fear in people eyes. Is your fear real?

CRICKET

Very.

THUG #1

(To PINOCCHIO)
What about you chop sticks?

THUG #2

Yah, what about you fork?

THUG #1

(To THUG #2)
Seriously what is your deal? He looks like he is made of wood, like chop sticks. Where do you get "fork"?

THUG #2

You eat with a fork...

THUG #1

(Waiting for a response and nothing)
Nice, I am really finding you despicable right now.

CRICKET

Do you want us to leave while you two sort this out?

THUG #1

No!!!!

CRICKET

Just asking, thought you two needed alone time.

THUG #1

We are just fine. *(To THUG #2)* Right?

THUG #2

(Not sure how to answer)

No. *(THUG #1 glares at him)* Maybe. *(THUG #1 glares hard and rolls up sleeves)* Yes. Yes we're good.

PINOCCHIO

Are you going to hurt us?

THUG #2

Yep.

THUG #1

That is the smartest thing you've said all day.

THUG #2

(Cracks his knuckles)

Ready?

CRICKET

Oh, that is so bad for you. It makes your knuckles get all swollen looking and it's...
(Realizing he is being glared at by the THUGS who both have raised their fists)...but I bet you don't really care.

THUG #1

Nope.

THUGS accost CRICKET and PINOCCHIO and tie them up.

THUG #1

Where is your money?

CRICKET

Signior, I am a cricket.

THUG #1

Not a good answer.

THUG #2

What about you boy?

PINOCCHIO

Um...I... *(Starts sobbing)* ...please someone help us! Oh I am so sorry I have been a bad boy!
Please help us! Anyone!

There is a loud bang and a puff of smoke which knocks the THUGS to the ground.

THUG #2

What was that?

THUG #1

I don't know, but get up!

BLUE FAIRY, *Offstage*

(Voice booming and low)

Beware! You are trespassing on haunted grounds. You must leave or be destroyed!

THUG #2

I really don't want to be here!

THUG #1

There is two of us and only one of... *(BLUE FAIRY enters under a giant piece of mossy fabric. Unseen below the fabric, she has one arm outstretched and a mega phone in the other)...it!*

BLUE FAIRY

Leave now or suffer beyond eternity!

THUG #1

I've changed my mind. Let's go!

THUG #1 and THUG #2 run off.

PINOCCHIO

Please don't eat us!

CRICKET

I have so many more things I have yet to accomplish!

BLUE FAIRY removes her covering.

BLUE FAIRY

It's just me.

PINOCCHIO

Oh, Blue Fairy! You made it just in time!

CRICKET

Can you untie us?

BLUE FAIRY

Oh sure. *(Waves her wand)* Just hold very still.

CRICKET

Whoa! How about just doing it by hand.

BLUE FAIRY unties CRICKET and PINOCCHIO.

BLUE FAIRY

Alright Pinocchio you have some explaining to do!

PINOCCHIO, with little or no breaths, tries to explain in run-on sentences.

Note: for the comedy to work, it should also build in emotion and speed, ending with PINOCCHIO in tears.

PINOCCHIO

Well you see I was on my way to school and ended up meeting up with some kids and they said “hey you should come with us” and then I thought well Geppetto said to follow the kids so I followed them to the puppet theater and then things got really bad. I ended up getting kidnapped, but then I got out thanks to this other puppet who thought she was a really good actor but she wasn’t. Then the Fire Eater who had no eyebrows but didn’t want to talk about it gave me gold coins and this blind cat and fox with some foot disease needed my help and then they ran out on me, at least I thought, and then these thugs came and beat me up and tied me up and I know I’m just a puppet so it really shouldn’t have hurt, but since I think I’m technically part real boy and part puppet it still did hurt and then I started crying and there was this bang and poof of smoke and then you were here and... *(Covers his face crying and turns upstage)*

BLUE FAIRY

Well. *(Pause)* Where is the money your father gave you for your books?

Note: PINOCCHIO’s back is still to the Audience. During this time PINOCCHIO’s nose grows. One possible way to do this is to have longer, cone-shaped noses hidden in his shirt. Use his constant crying and his hands covering his face, mask adding sections of nose onto his nose.

PINOCCHIO

I still have it.

There is a magical sound as his nose begins to grow.

BLUE FAIRY

Where are the gold pieces?

PINOCCHIO

They got lost.

Again, there is another magical sound.

BLUE FAIRY

Is that the truth?

PINOCCHIO

They got dropped in the woods somewhere.

Again, there is a magical sound as his nose grows.

BLUE FAIRY

You aren't looking at me when you talk to me which makes me think you aren't being honest.

PINOCCHIO

I accidentally swallowed them.

More sounds.

CRICKET

What?! You are cracked!

BLUE FAIRY

Pinocchio, I want you to turn around and look at me.

PINOCCHIO turns and looks at BLUE FAIRY, revealing to the Audience for the first time his now long nose.

CRICKET

Whoa!!

BLUE FAIRY

Just as I expected! You were lying.

PINOCCHIO

No, I'm just not giving you all the information.

BLUE FAIRY

Pinocchio a lie is a lie. Call it what it is. You have to live in the truth Pinocchio.

CRICKET

I'd listen to her; she might turn you into a pencil. Like one of those big novelty pencils that you can get at like the zoo or a carnival...

BLUE FAIRY

Are you done?

CRICKET

Yep. Sorry.

BLUE FAIRY

How can you become a real boy if you cannot be honest Pinocchio? You need to at least try to be a good boy! A stumble here and there I understand, but you fell off the cliff.

PINOCCHIO

But I didn't fall off a cliff.

CRICKET

She's being figurative. It is using heightened language or analogy to (*BLUE FAIRY looks at him*) I'm talking too much again aren't I? Sorry nervous habit. I just...I'll stop talking now.

BLUE FAIRY

Pinocchio do you get what I am saying?

PINOCCHIO

Yes. I am sorry. I spent Geppetto's money but I still have the gold coins.

BLUE FAIRY

Now that wasn't that hard was it?

PINOCCHIO

No, I just didn't want to get in more trouble.

BLUE FAIRY

Telling lies often leads to more trouble.

CRICKET

Wow, there are a lot of lessons in this part. (*FAIRY looks at him; nervously shaking it off*) Eck, there I go again. It was like a "thought," but then it just came out. (*BLUE FAIRY raises wand in a threat*) I'm done.

BLUE FAIRY

Pinocchio it is time for you to head home!

PINOCCHIO

What am I going to do about my nose?

BLUE FAIRY digs in her bag and pulls out a whistle and blows it. It makes a bird noise.

BLUE FAIRY

This should help.

Two large WOODPECKERS enter.

CRICKET

Those are the biggest woodpeckers I've ever seen!

BLUE FAIRY

Well, that's a big nose.

The WOODPECKERS surround PINOCCHIO and begin pecking at his nose and in doing so secretly remove the fake long nose. After they finish, they stop and look at CRICKET hungrily.

CRICKET

Hey what are you two looking at? I'm not your breakfast! Shoo! Shoo!

CRICKET makes some karate moves and sounds. WOODPECKERS laugh and then fly off.

BLUE FAIRY

Have you learned your lesson Pinocchio?

PINOCCHIO

Yes, to be honest.

BLUE FAIRY

Well unfortunately now I need to run! I have lots of things to do! I know you can do it Pinocchio!

CRICKET

Hey wait! What about returning me to my normal size?

BLUE FAIRY

Still working on that. Tootles!

BLUE FAIRY exits. PINOCCHIO begins walking in the direction that got him in trouble in the first place.

CRICKET

Hey pine legs! Where are you going?

PINOCCHIO

To the Field of Miracles to make Geppetto rich!

CRICKET

Did you not hear the Blue Fairy say you need to go home?

PINOCCHIO

I did hear her and as soon as I get Geppetto all the gold I will go straight home.

CRICKET

Agh! You're killing me here. I am done you are on your own! I'm heading back to Geppetto's and waiting for the Blue Fairy.

PINOCCHIO

Cricket please come with me?

CRICKET

No. Sorry. Good luck!

CRICKET storms off in the opposite direction.

PINOCCHIO

Cricket? Cricket? Cricket!

PINOCCHIO drops his head sadly. The sound of FOX and CAT laughing is heard and then the two enter from the direction of the Field of Miracles. FOX's foot is no longer wrapped and CAT is no longer pretending to be blind.

PINOCCHIO, *Continued*

Fox? Cat?

FOX

(Shocked to see him)

Pinocchio? We can explain everything! *(Scrambling)* Yes see...

PINOCCHIO

There is nothing to explain. I am just so happy that the food cured Cat's blindness.

CAT

What? Oh yes my blindness. It's a miracle!

FOX

A miracle!

CAT

And your foot!

FOX

Oh yes! My foot! All this walking healed my foot!

CAT

We are so lucky to have met you.

FOX

I assume you knew that we left early to get the ground ready for you at the field right?

PINOCCHIO

That was nice. *(Suddenly saddened)* But I don't have all five gold coins anymore because I had to pay our bill at the Inn and I really need to go home.

FOX

That's okay we will just add some extra salt to the mix and you will be fine.

PINOCCHIO

But I really need to go home.

CAT

Pin, bad news. Fox and I just heard that the land at the Field of Miracles has been sold. After tomorrow morning you won't be able to plant there anymore.

PINOCCHIO

But I really need to go home, I am sure Geppetto is worried about me.

FOX

This is your last chance Pinocchio, you can never come back and do it after today, but you are right you probably should go home. I'm sure Geppetto would understand you missing out on your chance to make the family rich.

CAT

I'm sure he would eventually work through the disappointment.

PINOCCHIO

Can you help me get home right after all the coins grow?

FOX

It would be an honor and a privilege our gullible little friend.

PINOCCHIO, CAT and FOX exit.
BLACKOUT.

ACT II

SCENE FOUR

AT RISE:

The lights return to reveal the insides of Geppetto's shop. GEPPETTO is packing and gathering supplies for a trip. PRIME MINISTER DEPRETIS enters the shop.

He has white hair and a long white beard. GEPETTO quickly stops what he is doing and gives his full attention, not because he recognizes him but because he wants to provide him good service.

GEPETTO

Welcome! Is there anything I can help you find today?

DEPRETIS

You came highly recommended to me.

GEPETTO

Well thank you. Sorry things are a bit of a mess right now.

DEPRETIS

In the middle of a big project?

GEPETTO

Well yes, but I wish I could say it was a wonderful horse or doll but sadly I'm about to go search for me son. He is been gone for nearly two days and I need to go find him.

DEPRETIS

My goodness. That is terrible.

GEPETTO

There are so many people out looking for him already, but I just cannot sit here and do nothing any longer.

DEPRETIS

(Taking a scroll out of his pocket) I think that would be a wise idea. I have an order here that I would like to be filled and a proposal for your consideration.

GEPETTO

I am sorry sir but my boy has to take priority now. Any other time I would be happy to serve you.

DEPRETIS

Oh there is no rush on it. Take care of it when you get back. All my contact information is in there. I also have enclosed pre-payment so I wouldn't just leave this out when you leave.

GEPETTO

Well thank you.

DEPRETIS

Like I've said, I heard great things about you and now I am seeing for myself they are true. Best of luck and let me know if there is anything I can do. Now get going and find your son.

DEPRETIS hands *GEPETTO* the scroll.
BLACKOUT.

ACT II
SCENE FIVE

AT RISE: *A field; CAT and FOX are laying down sunning themselves. PINOCCHIO appears to be filling in a hole with dirt. A PARROT sits peacefully and watches PINOCCHIO work.*

FOX
Make sure you pat it down now.

CAT
Then pour the water on it.

PINOCCHIO pours a bucket of water on the spot.

PINOCCHIO
Now what?

FOX
Now you have to take off and come back in twenty minutes or later.

PINOCCHIO
But I want to see it grow?

CAT
You can't!

PINOCCHIO
Why not?

FOX
Well everyone knows "a watched spot never grows." It's a famous saying.

CAT
Yep. It sure is. What were you born yesterday?

PINOCCHIO
No, actually two days ago.

FOX

Um...never mind...well, scoot then. (*Starting to guide PINOCCHIO away*)

PINOCCHIO

Don't you have to go, too?

FOX

No, it isn't our money. Therefore we can stay.

PINOCCHIO

Oh. Well, where will I go?

CAT

You'll find something. Hurry we have to make sure this grows quick before the new landowner puts up a fence.

PINOCCHIO leaves looking rather dejected. BLACKOUT AND TRANSITION MUSIC plays to show the passing of time. The lights come up and PINOCCHIO comes running in. CAT and FOX are gone. However, the PARROT is still sitting staring over the field.

PINOCCHIO

Hey I'm back! I am sure it has to have been at least twenty minutes! Hey Fox! Cat! Fox? Cat? Hmm? No tree of money? I don't understand.

PARROT

Maybe it needs more water?

PINOCCHIO

Oh you scared me! You talk?

PARROT

You're surprised?

PINOCCHIO

A little.

PARROT

This from a talking puppet.

PINOCCHIO picks up the bucket

PINOCCHIO

Parrot, should I use a little or a lot more?

Try a lot, then a little.

PARROT

(*Watering the spot*)
A lot, then a little.

PINOCCHIO

PINOCCHIO sits down next to the spot and watches intently.

What's it doing?

PARROT

Getting muddy.

PINOCCHIO

I thought you weren't supposed to watch it? Cover your eyes.

PARROT

(*Covering his eyes*)
How will I know if it grows?

PINOCCHIO

I'll tell you.

PARROT

Thanks!

PINOCCHIO

(*Waiting in silence for a minute*)
Still, nothing. Wait! My grandfather told me about a dance people did that helped the plants grow? I think it might work. But you need some wings.

PARROT

Wings? But I only have arms.

PINOCCHIO

Here pluck a couple of my feathers!

PARROT

PINOCCHIO plucks a couple of PARROT's feathers and he screams out in agony.

PARROT, *Continued*

Oh my gosh! Oh the pain! Oh the misery. (*PINOCCHIO looks horrified by what he has done*) Just kidding, didn't hurt at all. Now hold them like wings, extend them out with your arms outstretched and repeat after me. Turn around three times over the spot where you planted.

PINOCCHIO does so and the sight of it makes PARROT laugh.

PINOCCHIO

What's so funny?

PARROT

Sorry just a bit of gas. Now flap your arms and say "Owata."

PINOCCHIO

Owata.

PARROT

"Goo."

PINOCCHIO

Goo.

PARROT

"Siam."

PINOCCHIO

Siam.

PARROT

Now say all three of those words three times while you turn and flap your arms and that should do it!

PINOCCHIO

(Turning and then starting slow and speeding up as he talks)

Owata...Goo...Siam. (*PARROT starts to giggle*) Owata...Goo...Siam (*PARROT starts to giggle harder*) Owata goo siam.

PARROT

(Bursts out laughing)

Faster again!

PINOCCHIO starts to say it faster and spin. PARROT is overcome by laughter.

PARROT, *Continued*

Okay stop! Stop! (*Breathless from the laughter*) I can't keep doing this to you. (*Laughing*) I am a bad bird! (*Hitting self*) Bad bird! Look Pinocchio, there are no gold coins. After you left, that Fox and Cat dug them up and took off with them. You were fooled and ripped off.

PINOCCHIO

What? But they were my friends.

PARROT

If you run around with crooks and bullies they are eventually going to turn on you or take advantage of you.

PINOCCHIO

What just happened?

PARROT

It's called a life lesson.

PINOCCHIO

Well that's stupid.

PARROT

Yep.

PINOCCHIO

Now what do I do?

PARROT

Don't you have a home?

PINOCCHIO

I did.

PARROT

Then go back to it. You obviously aren't ready to be on your own.

PINOCCHIO

I am not even sure which way to get back to Geppetto's. He lives in his toy shop.

PARROT

Simply follow this road that way. It's going to take you at least another day to get home though and for goodness sake don't get off track!

PINOCCHIO

Thanks Parrot!

*PINOCCHIO gives PARROT a big hug and exits as **LIGHTS FADE OUT.***

ACT II
SCENE SIX

AT RISE: *Another part of the walk path, early evening. We see PINOCCHIO walking and he seems very tired.*

PINOCCHIO
Owe my feet are splintering. I wish I knew how much longer I had to go. I don't know if I will ever get home.

PINOCCHIO sits and starts crying. A PIGEON enters and sees him crying and sits next to him.

PIGEON
Hey fellow what you doing?

PINOCCHIO
Crying.

PIGEON
(Crouches down next to PINOCCHIO and also starts crying)
Boo woo.

PINOCCHIO
Why are you crying?

PIGEON
Because you were.

PINOCCHIO
That's silly.

PIGEON
Is it?

PINOCCHIO
You aren't sad are you?

PIGEON
I don't think so.

PINOCCHIO
Then you don't need to cry. I was crying because I want to get home. My name is Pinocchio.

PIGEON
Hi Pinocchio. I don't have a name. I'm a pigeon.

PINOCCHIO

You don't have a name?

PIGEON

Nope, there are too many Pigeons and too few names. It's just easier to not have names. Why are you sitting here?

PINOCCHIO

I'm trying to get home.

PIGEON

Usually when I want to get home I fly. I find just sitting there doesn't work well. You don't get very far.

PINOCCHIO

I mean I was taking a break and then I need to try and find home again.

PIGEON

I'm trying to find someone who is looking for his home too.

PINOCCHIO

Really?

PIGEON

Yep, this nice man, who feeds me and my friends every day, has a son who disappeared. He thinks his son might be lost and trying to find his way home. He is a puppet boy.

PINOCCHIO

Well I'm a puppet boy!

PIGEON

Really! Do you know a puppet boy that is lost?

PINOCCHIO

Yes me!

PIGEON

That's amazing! There are two lost puppet boys?

PINOCCHIO

Was this man's name Geppetto?

PIGEON

Yes!

PINOCCHIO

That's my Dad's name!

PIGEON

Well what are the chances of that? Two lost puppet boys who both have a Dad with the name Geppetto!

PINOCCHIO

Geppetto is looking for me! I'm the boy who you are looking for.

PIGEON

But that boys name is Pinocchio.

PINOCCHIO

But that is my name.

PIGEON

Hello Pinocchio, I don't have a name. I'm a pigeon. There are too many Pigeons and too few names. It's just easier to not have names.

PINOCCHIO

I know.

PIGEON

You must know a lot about Pigeons.

PINOCCHIO

(Shaking his head at the silliness of the pigeon)

Do you know how I get home to Geppetto's?

PIGEON

(Points in the direction PINOCCHIO was walking)

That way. But Geppetto isn't there.

PINOCCHIO

What?

PIGEON

He has been looking for you for days on foot and couldn't find you so he borrowed a boat and is now searching for you at ports and islands.

PINOCCHIO

Oh no! How will I find him? *(Sits and starts crying)*

PIGEON

(Also, sits and starts crying)

Boo woo.

PINOCCHIO

Now why are you crying?

I don't know.

PIGEON

Suddenly the sound of LAND OF PLENTY KIDS' laughter is heard Offstage.

What is that?

PINOCCHIO

Kids!

PIGEON

PIGEON starts to leave.

Where are you going?

PINOCCHIO

I may be forgetful but I do know I don't like large groups of kids!

PIGEON

Look it's a pigeon! Watch I'll catch it!

CANDLEWICK, *Offstage*

See!

PIGEON

PIGEON runs off.

Don't go! I need your help!

PINOCCHIO

CANDLEWICK, a scrappy tough-looking kid enters holding a sling shot and shoots it in the direction PIGEON has just run off. [CANDLEWICK should be wearing some type of hat that can help cover his ears for the transformation he makes later.]

Dang it, missed!

CANDLEWICK

That wasn't nice.

PINOCCHIO

What? (*Turns and sees PINOCCHIO*) Whoa! What the heck are you?

CANDLEWICK

PINOCCHIO

A boy.

CANDLEWICK

What kind of boy? (*Looking PINOCCHIO up and down,; knocks on his head*) You're made of wood!

PINOCCIO

I'm a puppet.

CANDLEWICK

How do you work?

PINOCCHIO

I don't know, how do you work?

CANDLEWICK

As little as possible. (*Laughs at himself; PINOCCHIO doesn't get the joke*) The name is Candlewick.

CANDLEWICK offers his hand to PINOCCHIO. PINOCCHIO looks at CANDLWICK's hand, not sure of what he is supposed to do so he pokes it.

CANDLEWICK, *Continued*

You shake it. (*PINOCCHIO takes CANDLEWICK's hand and rattles it back and forth like shaking something off*) What are you doing? You've never shaken a hand before?

PINOCCHIO

I guess not.

CANDLEWICK

It's like this. (*Takes PINOCCHIO's hand and shakes it the correct way then leans in and whispers*) You skippin'?

PINOCCHIO

Nope. I'm just standing here.

CANDLEWICK

Not skipping but skippin' — like skippin' school?

PINOCCHIO

I haven't been to school.

CANDLEWICK

You managed to get out of it. Nice. My kind of kid.

PINOCCHIO

I spent my money for schoolbooks on other stuff.

CANDLEWICK

You and I are going to get along great.

Laughter of LAND OF PLENTY KIDS is heard again off stage.

PINOCCHIO

Who are all those kids?

CANDLEWICK

We are all going to the Land of Plenty, just stopping to have a lunch break. You should join us— There's tons of great food over there.

PINOCCHIO

I don't eat, I'm a puppet. What is the Land of Plenty?

CANDLEWICK

You never heard of it? Oh man you would love it!

PINOCCHIO

What's it like?

CANDLEWICK

I've never been there but it sounds great.

PINOCCHIO

Well, I'm trying to find my dad and get home.

CANDLEWICK

You should come with us and on the way you can look for him. We got a carriage to carry all of us so you don't even have to walk. Wait till you meet the Coachwoman, you will love her. She swears, spits and doesn't wash her hands after the bathroom! She lets us do whatever we want.

PINOCCHIO

My feet do hurt. A break from walking would be nice.

CANDLEWICK

She's told us all about the Land of Plenty. There are rides, shows, games, music, parties all night long and no rules and no school! I can't wait.

COACH WOMAN, *Offstage*

Candlewick? Candlewick?

CANDLEWICK

I'm over here!

COACH WOMAN

(Entering)

Where you going? Don't wonder off.

CANDLEWICK

I'm just talking to this kid here and trying to get him to go with us.

COACH WOMAN

What's your name kid?

PINOCCHIO

Pinocchio.

COACH WOMAN

You should come with us. You will love it. The Land of plenty has everything a boy would want and more.

PINOCCHIO

Really?

COACH WOMAN

I got room for just one more kid on my carriage, so you got to decide now!

PINOCCHIO

But I need to find my dad.

CANDLEWICK

Kid, I told you we will look for him on the way.

PINOCCHIO

(To COACHWOMAN)

Can we?

COACH WOMAN'S tone conveys she obviously has no intention of really doing so, but PINOCCHIO doesn't catch on.

COACH WOMAN

Sure, Candlewick here has a keen eye and can help you look. If we see your Dad we can take him too.

PINOCCHIO

That would be great!

CANDLEWICK

Come on kid go with us. It is everything you ever wanted on one island.

PINOCCHIO

(Thinking a moment)

Okay, I'll do it.

COACH WOMAN

Great! You won't regret it, I promise you! I'm going to go back to the other kids and make sure none have wandered off. *(Wanders off)*

PINOCCHIO

She sure seems worried about you all wandering off. That is nice that she worries about you.

CANDLEWICK

I guess. All I care is that when we get to the Island of Plenty all the adults will get out of my business and leave me alone. I'm sick of adults telling me what to do and soon I can do whatever I want, whenever I want! Come on let me take you over to the rest of the gang so you can meet 'em.

*PINOCCHIO and CANDLEWICK exit
as LIGHTS FADE OUT.*

ACT II SCENE SEVEN

AT RISE:

We hear the sounds of waves and see a very old FISHERMAN sitting on the edge of the stage fishing. Note- this can allow you to set up the Land of Plenty on the rest of the stage.

FISHERMAN

(Calling out)

Fish? Oh fish? It's getting late and I still need some dinner. My wife is expecting me home soon and I can't go empty handed. *(GEPETTO enters behind him pulling a small raft)* Are you listening?

GEPETTO

Sir?

FISHERMAN

(Startled and then thinking GEPETTO's voice is one of the fish)

Oh my goodness? You speak? Oh my magic fish, please grant my wish.

GEPETTO

Excuse me?

FISHERMAN

(Speaking louder)

Of sorry, I will speaker louder. Can you please grant my wish?

GEPPETTO

(Taps the FISHERMAN's shoulder)

Sir.

FISHERMAN

(Startled at first then whispers)

Quiet, I think I am about to capture a magic fish.

GEPPETTO

(Confused; not sure if he should tell him the voice was him)

Sir, that wasn't a magic fish you heard.

FISHERMAN

How can you be so sure, you just got here?

GEPPETTO

(Feeling this is a lost cause, changes the subject)

I'm hoping you can help me.

FISHERMAN

Sorry, I found him first you cannot have any of my wishes.

GEPPETTO

Don't worry. What I was wondering, have you seen a little boy with *yellow [*can be changed to fit the color of your Pinocchio's hair] hair and big bright eyes that answers to the name Pinocchio? He looks like a puppet.

FISHERMAN

Um...I haven't seen anyone come by here today.

GEPPETTO

Oh dear. Then I guess I have no other choice but to check another port.

FISHERMAN

I wouldn't go into the water here. There is a giant shark in these parts.

GEPPETTO

I have a raft; my feet won't even go into the water.

FISHERMAN

Oh this is the greatest shark you have ever seen! This shark could swallow you and your little raft without even having to chew. I would advise against it.

GEPETTO

I have to find my son at any cost.

FISHERMAN

Hope you find your boy before the shark finds you.

GEPETTO

Thanks.

GEPETTO exits with the small raft.

FISHERMAN

Fishy? Fishy? Where did you go? I heard you out there and I've got to go.

BLACKOUT.

ACT II SCENE EIGHT

AT RISE:

The Land of Plenty is revealed. There is a sign that reads "Land of Plenty: Be Seen and Be Heard." It looks like an amusement park however has other odd attractions like: "Run with Scissors," "Break Mom's Best Dishes," "Mud on the Carpet," "Swearing Room," "Food Fight." There are signs for free candy, free cake and free Root Beer. Feel free to add other fun ones you think up. The Land of Plenty KIDS are running around and playing. The sounds of carnival music and breaking dishes are heard.

COACH WOMAN

Have fun kids! It's all yours! Eat all you want! Play all you want! Break what you want! (Laughs; a group of KIDS run by) Are you having fun? (KIDS yell in agreement) Then have more.

*COACH WOMAN laughs as she exits.
PINOCCHIO and CANDLEWICK enter.*

CANDLEWICK

What do you think?

PINOCCHIO

It's amazing!

CANDLEWICK

No school! Eat what you want! Do what you want.

ORLANDO walks by and CANDLEWICK gives him a major snuggie pulling his underwear to the middle of his back. ORLANDO reacts and then runs off.

CANDLEWICK, *Continued*

It doesn't get any better than this.

PINOCCHIO

Now what should we do?

COACH WOMAN

Look over here! *(Rolls in a target)* Who wants to play? I've got some great prizes.

CANDLEWICK

Great! Where are the bows and arrows?

COACH WOMAN

We don't need those for this. You use your own ammo. *(Puts her finger in her nose)*

CANDLEWICK

Just when I thought it couldn't get any better here.

COACH WOMAN

Whoever hits the bull's-eye gets a piece of chocolate.

KIDS start flicking "boogers" at the target and COACH WOMAN hands out chocolates to the kids who hit the bull's-eye. [The KIDS should find creative ways to do this; over the shoulder, spin, leap or any other ways that could be fun and creative. Add a cartoon like sound every time one is flicked. Some kids should miss while others hit the target.] CANDLEWICK takes the greatest amount of time to prepare and aim – he is like a booger-flicking master.

CANDLEWICK

(Digs deep into his nose)

This is going to be a big one!

CANDLEWICK Keeps digging in his nose and finally gets enough and with great flair flings it at the target. The booger makes a whistling “curve ball” sound and then hits the target. ALL cheer! PINOCCHIO steps up for his turn, puts his finder in his nose and sadly, discovers nothing.

PINOCCHIO

I guess puppets can’t make ammo.

CANDLEWICK steps up to PINOCCHIO and then digs in his own nose to give PINOCCHIO some of his own boogers.

CANDLEWICK

That’s what friends are for! (*Digs deeper*) I’m gonna get a good one for you Pinocchio! (*Digs even deeper*) I think I touched my brain!

Laughing, CANDLEWICK removes his finger from his nose and gives a “booger” to PINOCCHIO. PINOCCHIO flicks the “booger” and hits the target. ALL cheer! BLACKOUT.

ACT II SCENE NINE

AT RISE: *Land of Plenty, later the same evening. The lights come back up and the KIDS move sluggishly across the stage as if they have eaten and played too hard.*

KID #1

Oh, I think I ate too much!

KID #2

I hope I never drink Root Beer again.

KID #3

I just want to lie down somewhere and sleep.

PINOCCHIO and CANDLEWICK enter; both looking a bit beaten down.

PINOCCHIO

I think we broke at least 100 dishes in there! Now what should we do?

CANDLEWICK

Pinocchio this is seriously the best fun I have ever had in my life! I never want to leave here!

COACH WOMAN enters laughing.

COACH WOMAN

You don't have too, all of you can stay! Stay as long as you would like. I will need your help with something though boys. There is a man who runs the circus who needs an entertainer and Pinocchio, I noticed that you are quite a little dancer.

PINOCCHIO

Well, I don't want to brag but... *(Dances a little)*

COACH WOMAN

And Candlewick, I know a farmer who could use some extra muscle around the farm.

CANDLEWICK

(Wearing a yet to be revealed donkey tail)

You can go dance your little heart out Pinocchio, but sounds like too much work to me. Why would I want to help this farmer guy when I could stay here?

COACH WOMAN

All of you are soon going to be going to new homes where you will help whenever you are asked and won't say a word! I promise.

CANDLEWICK

(To PINOCCHIO)

Do you hear this? She thinks just cause she talks loud that means we have to listen. *(Starting to scratch his head, as if getting really itchy)* Hey, I am holding you to your word! You said you were going to take us to a place where boys and girls could do what they want for as long as they want.

COACH WOMAN

Oh, I most certainly did and my word is still good. *(CANDLEWICK is scratching his head more intensely)* A place where "kids" can do what they want, but soon that won't apply to any of you.

PINOCCHIO

Soon the Blue Fairy is going to make me a real boy.

COACH WOMAN

(Really annoyed)

Yes, I know you've told us all about fifty times! *(Mockingly imitating Pinocchio's voice)* "Wee, look at me, soon I'm going to be a real boy!"

CANDELWICK

(Laughs loudly and then bray's like a donkey)

What the...?

CANDLEWICK steps forward and reveals his tail.

PINOCCHIO

(Pointing)

You have a tail?

CANDLEWICK

Yes I will have quite a story to tell!

CANDLEWICK starts to scratch his head even more intensely.

PINOCCHIO

No, you really have a tail behind you!

CANDLEWICK

What?

CANDLEWICK brays like a donkey and pulls his hat off revealing donkey ears. Suddenly there are the sounds of KIDS screaming and braying. The look of the Land of Plenty suddenly changes and becomes terrifying and dangerous.

COACH WOMAN

(Crossing to CANDLEWICK and grabbing one of his donkey ears)

You see Candlewick, the Land of Plenty is an island where girls and boys can stay as long as they wish...but the island does not welcome donkeys and they must be sold to the highest bidder!

COACH WOMAN belts out an evil laugh. KIDS frantically enter, in various stage of donkey transformation. PINOCCHIO realizes he also has a tail.

PINOCCHIO

(Crossing to COACHWOMAN)

You cannot do this!

COACH WOMAN

Why, who you going to tell...your Daddy! *(Again laughs evilly; the commotion of KIDS, as partial donkeys, grows)* Bring in the cages and start to gather them up!

A siren alerting the donkey gatherers turns on. PINOCCHIO runs to the edge of the stage.

COACH WOMAN, *Continued*

Where you going to go Pinocchio? This place is surrounded by water.

PINOCCHIO

I would rather drown than be turned into a donkey!

CANDLEWICK falls behind something and then instantly comes back out as a donkey [This will likely have to be done as a double.]

PINOCCHIO, *Continued*

Candlewick!

CANDLEWICK DONKEY comes running towards PINOCCHIO and PINOCCHIO leaps as if jumping off the stage into the water below. There is an instant BLACKOUT and we hear a splash of water and the sounds of PINOCCHIO struggling in waves.

PINOCCHIO, *Continued*

(In the BLACKOUT)

Help! Someone help! Geppetto somebody! Oh Blue Fairy I must find Geppetto! I must...get to...land.

ACT II SCENE TEN

AT RISE: *In front of the act curtain we see the FISHERMAN sitting fishing.*

FISHERMAN

Fishy? I know you are out there. Soon I will have to look at eating all vegetables. My wife isn't going to like that. *(Reacts as if something has his line)* Oh my, got something! Come here! Come here!

FISHERMAN pulls the fishing line as if trying to reel in a big catch. He has caught PINOCCHIO, who now has donkey ears. FISHERMAN drags PINOCCHIO in the rest of the way.

FISHERMAN, *Continued*

Now that is a fish!

FISHERMAN tries to measure the length/height of PINOCCHIO using his hands. He then holds his hands in front of himself so he can see just how long this fish is that he caught. He reacts with amazement.

FISHERMAN, *Continued*

Wow! Now that is a fish!

PINOCCHIO

(Coughing and spitting up water)

Oh. Thank you.

FISHERMAN

You are the enchanted fish I heard earlier!

PINOCCHIO

Nope. I am an enchanted puppet.

FISHERMAN

Yes you are a fish.

PINOCCHIO

No, I am a puppet.

FISHERMAN

You are a talking fish and now you must grant my wish or I will cook you and eat you.

PINOCCHIO

Neither of those options seems realistic.

FISHERMAN

My wife will never believe this!

PINOCCHIO

She won't believe it because it isn't true. I am not a fish.

FISHERMAN

I have been sitting here all day with my hook in the water waiting for a fish. I finally get a tug on my line, I pull my line in from the water and you are on the end. You are a fish.

PINOCCHIO

Thank you for saving me, but really I'm a boy.

FISHERMAN

First you were a puppet and now you are a boy! What kind of fish are you?

PINOCCHIO

I'm not a fish. I am made of wood.

FISHERMAN knocks on PINOCCHIO'S head. There is a "clunk" sound.

FISHERMAN

Yuck. You would not be good for eating. I'm throwing you back.

PINOCCHIO

Throwing me back?!

FISHERMAN

It's called catch and release.

*FISHERMAN tosses PINOCCHIO and instantly **THE LIGHTS GO OUT** and we hear a splash. The act curtain opens to reveal a black lit stage and various glowing sea creatures are swimming about. A PINOCCHIO PUPPET, who also glows, goes swimming by. After some time of swimming with the small sea creatures, a GIANT SHARK PUPPET enters pursuing PINOCCHIO PUPPET and eventually swallows PINOCCHIO PUPPET. **BLACKOUT.***

This is Not the End of the Play
Ending Intentionally Omitted for Security Purposes