

Once Upon a CRIME

By Flip Kobler and Cindy Marcus

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 **Pioneer**
DRAMA SERVICE

ONCE UPON A CRIME

The Trial of Goldilocks

By FLIP KOBLER and CINDY MARCUS

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(In Order of Appearance)

	<u># of lines</u>
GOLDILOCKS	78
.....the defendant; either sweet and innocent or evil and cruel depending on who you believe	
TOM THUMB	82
.....prosecutor with a huge Napoleon complex	
HANSEL.....	84
.....brother with a directional problem	
GRETEL	66
.....sister with a gingerbread problem	
PAPA BEAR.....	58
.....grumpy old bear who would rather be hibernating	
MOMMA BEAR	54
.....his wife, who wants to surprise him... desperately	
BABY BEAR.....	43
.....not a baby, okay? Geez, he's nearly four and a half	
JUDGE FARMER.....	50
.....judge; good ole southerner	
HENNY PENNY	90
.....defense attorney; mother hen who tends to rhymey-wimey	
THE COW	59
.....bovine fitness nut; pilates instructor on steroids	
BAILIFF	6
.....keeper of the truth	
JACK	17
.....cow's former BFF; guilty about the breakup	
THE WOLF.....	56
.....big and bad or cool and slick, depending on who is telling the story	
GRANNY	40
.....old lady who can't see	
LITTLE RED.....	34
.....girl with the goodies and a short temper	

SETTING

Time: Once upon a time.

Setting: Fairytale Court, forest and a cottage in the forest.

SET DESCRIPTION

UPSTAGE is a courtroom with a judge's bench, witness stand, two tables for the attorneys, a bailiff's chair and a small gallery of chairs from which the witnesses will be called. When each character's story is reenacted, the action takes place DOWNSTAGE. DOWN LEFT is a small cottage with a table, three chairs and three small beds. DOWN RIGHT is a forest with trees or bushes or a simple backdrop.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

Scene One: Tom Thumb's opening statement

Scene Two: The cow's version of the story

Scene Three: Hansel's version of the story

Scene Four: Hansel's cross-examination

Scene Five: The wolf's version of the story

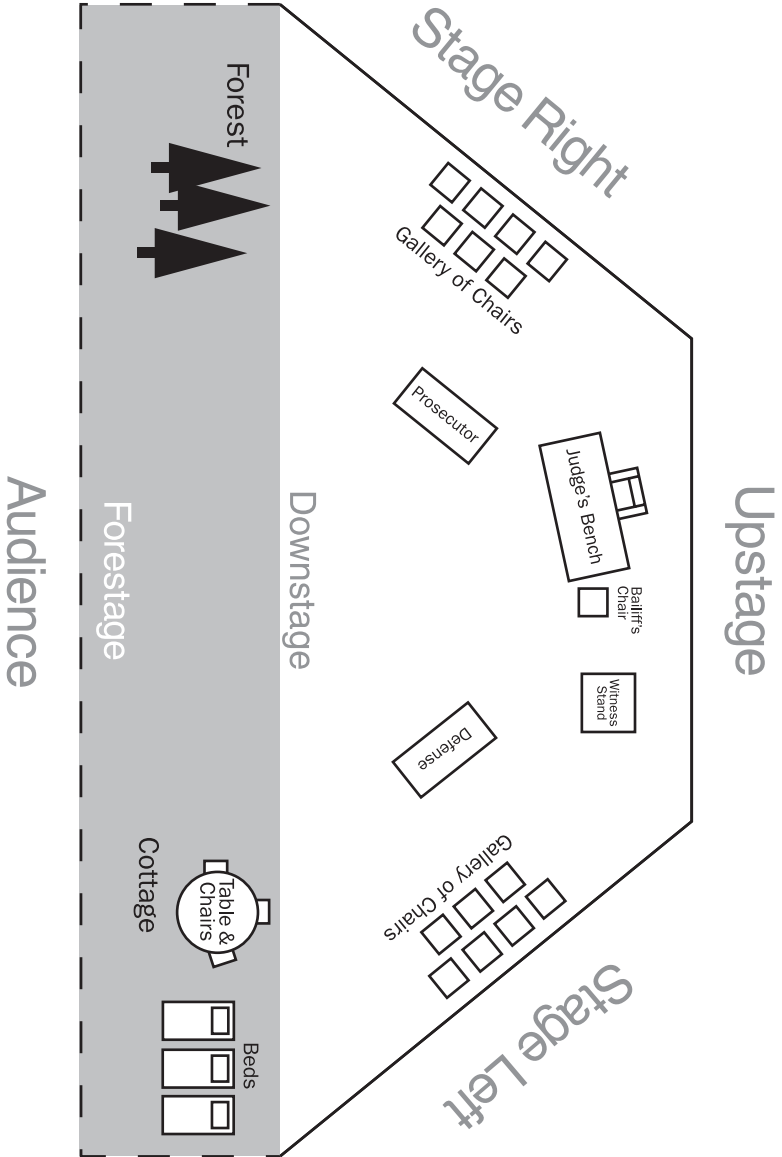
Scene Six: Baby Bear and Goldilocks's version of the story

Scene Seven: Closing arguments and verdict

FLEXIBLE CASTING

With simple line changes, TOM THUMB, BABY BEAR, JUDGE FARMER, BAILIFF and THE WOLF may be played as either male or female. If TOM THUMB is played by a female, she should be named THUMBELINA.

SET DESIGN



ONCE UPON A CRIME

The Trial of Goldilocks

Scene One

1 LIGHTS UP DOWNSTAGE. UPSTAGE, in the darkness, court is in session and ALL of the characters are in their places in the courtroom. (NOTE: As characters are needed for the reenactments, they will exit the courtroom to immediately re-enter according to stage directions.)

5 All except for TOM THUMB and GOLDILOCKS, that is. GOLDILOCKS stands in the forest DOWN RIGHT, looking sweet and innocent. TOM THUMB addresses the AUDIENCE from DOWN CENTER.

TOM THUMB: Once upon a time, there was a girl named Goldilocks.

GOLDILOCKS: Hi!

10 **TOM THUMB:** And Goldilocks looked sweet and innocent.

GOLDILOCKS: Aw, gee.

TOM THUMB: But she wasn't.

GOLDILOCKS: What?

TOM THUMB: She was evil.

15 **GOLDILOCKS:** Hey, now!

TOM THUMB: She was selfish and cruel.

GOLDILOCKS: No, I'm not.

TOM THUMB: Yes, you are.

GOLDILOCKS: But I'm not.

20 **TOM THUMB:** Who's telling this story?

GOLDILOCKS: But you're telling it wrong.

TOM THUMB: You'll get your chance. Now, Goldilocks, or as she was known to her friends, Cruella McGreedy the third, from Me'sville—

GOLDILOCKS: Nobody ever called me that.

25 **TOM THUMB:** —had an evil laugh.

GOLDILOCKS: I do not.

TOM THUMB: I said an evil laugh. (*GOLDILOCKS crosses her arms and looks away.*) We need to hear you laugh.

GOLDILOCKS: No.

30 **TOM THUMB:** You have to laugh, or I'll have you arrested for contempt of story.

GOLDILOCKS: Fine. Mwa-ha-ha.

TOM THUMB: And she liked to wring her hands. (*GOLDILOCKS doesn't.*) Go on. Wring. (*GOLDILOCKS wrings her hands.*) One day, Goldilocks was walking through the forest, humming to herself... Go on. Hum.

35 **GOLDILOCKS:** Hmmm-mmm-mmm.

- 1 **TOM THUMB:** A dark evil hum.
GOLDILOCKS: (*Changes to a dark evil hum.*) Hmmm-mmmm.
TOM THUMB: And shooting birds with her slingshot.
GOLDILOCKS: I never did that.
- 5 **TOM THUMB:** You'll get your chance. This is my story.
GOLDILOCKS: (*Pulls out a slingshot and starts shooting.*) Ha-ha! Got you, stupid bird! I am the meanest, cruelest person ever.
TOM THUMB: She came upon a brother and sister in the forest.
HANSEL: (*ENTERS DOWN RIGHT with GRETEL, who is carrying flowers.*
- 10 *These two siblings are so sweet we may get a cavity just watching them.*) Hiya, I am Hansel.
GRETEL: Und I am Gretel.
HANSEL: She is Gretel, ja.
GRETEL: He is the bestest, bravest, smartest brother in all the world.
- 15 **HANSEL:** I am, ja. Und she is the sweetest, kindest sister that ever was.
GRETEL: I love you, Hansel.
HANSEL: I love you, Gretel. (*Sees GOLDILOCKS.*) Excuse me, miss.
GOLDILOCKS: (*Mean and cruel.*) What do you want?!
- 20 **GRETEL:** Would you like to smell our flowers?
HANSEL: Flowers, ja. Smell our flowers.
GOLDILOCKS: No. Flowers are dumb and stinky, and you are silly and dumb for liking dumb and stinky things. (*Rips the flowers out of GRETEL'S hands and stomps on them.*) Mwa-ha-ha. Now get out of here, or I'll hit you with my slingshot. (*HANSEL and GRETEL EXIT*
- 25 *DOWN RIGHT, screaming in terror.*) I hate kids.
TOM THUMB: (*PAPA BEAR, MOMMA BEAR and BABY BEAR ENTER DOWN LEFT and cross DOWN RIGHT.*) Then she passed a family of bears in the woods who were out for a stroll. (*GOLDILOCKS hides behind a bush or tree.*)
- 30 **MOMMA BEAR:** Here we are, walking in the forest.
BABY BEAR: Just out for a stroll.
MOMMA BEAR: Enjoying the fresh air.
PAPA BEAR: I am so happy to be here!
BABY BEAR: Me too, Papa.
- 35 **PAPA BEAR:** This is the greatest day ever!
BABY BEAR: I love you, Papa.
PAPA BEAR: I love you, too, Junior. I have the best child.
BABY BEAR: Awww.
PAPA BEAR: The prettiest wife.

- 1 **MOMMA BEAR:** Awww.
- PAPA BEAR:** My life is perfect.
- MOMMA BEAR:** Because we are the happiest family ever.
- PAPA BEAR:** (*Pulls them into a bear hug.*) You betcha. (*The BEARS*
- 5 *EXIT DOWN RIGHT.*)
- GOLDILOCKS:** (*Comes out of hiding.*) I hate bears. They're stupid and stinky and have trouble with advanced mathematics.
- TOM THUMB:** That's when Goldilocks came upon a cottage in the forest.
- 10 **GOLDILOCKS:** (*Crosses DOWN LEFT to the cottage.*) Oh my goodness. What a stupid, dumb ol' cottage!
- TOM THUMB:** Goldilocks tried the door.
- GOLDILOCKS:** (*Pulls on the doorknob of the cottage door. [Or mimes it if there isn't an actual door.]*) It's locked. Who'd lock a shabby old
- 15 house like this?
- TOM THUMB:** So Goldilocks kicked in the door.
- GOLDILOCKS:** Hie-ya! (*Performs a karate kick on the cottage door.*)
- TOM THUMB:** She went into the cottage.
- GOLDILOCKS:** It's so small. And who did the decorating? It's so ugly. I
- 20 may go blind because of how ugly the decorating is.
- TOM THUMB:** Goldilocks smelled something on the table.
- GOLDILOCKS:** What is that awful stench? It smells like dog burps.
- TOM THUMB:** She found three bowls of porridge.
- GOLDILOCKS:** (*Notices the bowls on the table.*) Is that what this is? I
- 25 thought maybe a vulture threw up.
- TOM THUMB:** So Goldilocks tried the porridge.
- GOLDILOCKS:** (*Tries a bowl.*) Ow! This one is too hot. I burned my tongue. My tongue is going to fall out because it's so burnt.
- TOM THUMB:** So she tried another.
- 30 **GOLDILOCKS:** (*Tries another.*) This one is too cold. It's freezing. I'm going to catch pneumonia because it's so cold.
- TOM THUMB:** (*Tries the third bowl.*) She tried the last bowl.
- GOLDILOCKS:** Now this one is just right. And I'm going to eat it all because I'm so selfish and greedy.
- 35 **TOM THUMB:** Then she sat on a chair.
- GOLDILOCKS:** Ow. This one is too hard. I'm gonna bruise because of how hard this chair is.
- TOM THUMB:** So she tried another chair.
- GOLDILOCKS:** This one is too soft. I may have dislocated a vertebra
- 40 because of how soft this chair is.

- 1 **TOM THUMB:** So she tried the last chair.
GOLDILOCKS: This one is just right. But I hate stupid chairs in this dumb old house so I'm going to break it. (*Slides the chair OFF LEFT. SOUND EFFECT: CRASH.*) That'll teach that chair to be so... chairy.
- 5 **TOM THUMB:** Goldilocks went into the bedroom looking for the family jewels and hidden money.
GOLDILOCKS: (*Moves toward beds.*) Most people hide money in their mattresses. Let's see if they did. (*Tries to lift a bed.*) This one is too hard. How can they sleep on this? (*She lies on another.*) This one is too soft. (*Lies on the third.*) This one is just right.
- 10 **TOM THUMB:** Exhausted from being evil and mean, Goldilocks fell asleep.
GOLDILOCKS: (*Snores like a Stooge.*) Snnnnnxx—I'm evil-I'm evil-I'm evil-I'm evil. Snnnnnnxxxx—I'm evil-I'm evil-I'm evil-I'm evil. Snnnnnnxxxx.
- 15 **TOM THUMB:** The bears returned.
PAPA BEAR: (*ENTERS DOWN RIGHT with MOMMA BEAR and BABY BEAR. They cross DOWN LEFT to the cottage.*) We're home, my loving family that I love so much.
- 20 **TOM THUMB:** And were shocked at what they saw.
PAPA BEAR: Someone broke down the door.
TOM THUMB: That's breaking and entering.
PAPA BEAR: Someone's been eating my porridge.
MOMMA BEAR: Someone's been eating my porridge.
- 25 **BABY BEAR:** Someone's been eating my porridge, and they ate it all up!
TOM THUMB: That's grand theft porridge.
PAPA BEAR: Someone's been sitting in my chair.
MOMMA BEAR: Someone's been sitting in my chair.
BABY BEAR: (*Looks and points OFF LEFT.*) Someone's been sitting in my chair. And they broke it!
- 30 **TOM THUMB:** That's vandalism.
PAPA BEAR: Someone's been sleeping in my bed.
MOMMA BEAR: Someone's been sleeping in my bed.
BABY BEAR: Someone's been sleeping in my bed. And they're still there!
- 35 **GOLDILOCKS:** (*Wakes up.*) Ahhh! (*Runs OFF DOWN RIGHT, screaming. BEARS EXIT DOWN LEFT.*)
TOM THUMB: (*Addresses the AUDIENCE.*) That's trespassing, loitering and invasion of privacy. Goldilocks has broken laws and terrorized the forest. She needs to be brought to justice, which is why she
- 40

1 is on trial for her crimes. And that's why you must bring forth a verdict of guilty!

End of Scene One

Scene Two

LIGHTS UP on the courtroom as TOM THUMB steps into the scene. GOLDILOCKS and the BEARS have rejoined the court. JUDGE FARMER
5 sits in the judge's seat. HENNY PENNY and GOLDILOCKS sit at the defense table. The rest of the CAST, including the BEARS, sits in the gallery section.

HENNY PENNY: Objection!

TOM THUMB: Goldilocks is a villain, and her name must be stricken
10 from the title of her story.

HENNY PENNY: Objection, Your Honor.

JUDGE FARMER: On what grounds?

HENNY PENNY: He's making my client look guilty.

TOM THUMB: She is guilty.

15 **JUDGE FARMER:** The prosecutor, I say, the prosecutor is allowed to make an opening statement.

HENNY PENNY: But his opening statement was a little short on evidence.

20 **TOM THUMB:** Why you looking at me when you say short? You think I'm short?

HENNY PENNY: I didn't mean that.

TOM THUMB: You want to fight about it? I'll fight you right now.

JUDGE FARMER: (*Pounds his gavel.*) Order, I say, order in the court. Objection is overruled.

25 **GOLDILOCKS:** But I didn't do those things.

JUDGE FARMER: Miss Penny, silence your client.

GOLDILOCKS: But that's not the way it happened.

HENNY PENNY: I know, dear.

30 **JUDGE FARMER:** Miss Penny, you can now make your opening statement.

GOLDILOCKS: Yeah, tell 'em what really happened.

35 **HENNY PENNY:** Not to worry, dear. I know just what to say. (*Moves toward the GALLERY.*) Ladies and gentlemen and fictional characters of the jury, I am Henny Penny. I am the attorney for the defensey-wensey. You've heard the prosecutor tell his side of the story-wory. Now I'm going to tell you the truth. (*Pause.*) She didn't do it. Thank you. (*Waddles back to her seat.*)

GOLDILOCKS: That's it? That's your opening statement?

1 **JUDGE FARMER:** Mister, I say, Mister Prosecutor, call your first witness.
TOM THUMB: Your Honor, the prosecution calls the cow.
THE COW: *(Moves from the GALLERY and jogs to the middle of the courtroom. She's dressed in the black and white patches of a bovine, but also leg warmers and a headband and has a workout towel draped around her neck.)* That's me. Heads up! Coming through.
5 Oh, that's good. Feel the burn. *(Does a few jumping jacks, then starts to stretch.)*

JUDGE FARMER: Take the, I say, take the stand.
10 **THE COW:** Gotta warm up, Your Honor. That's the key to a healthy body. And everybody likes a healthy body, right? *(A few neck stretches and then she steps into the witness stand.)*

JUDGE FARMER: Bailiff, swear in the witness.
BAILIFF: Raise your right hand. *(THE COW does. BAILIFF yells in her face.)* Tell the truth! *(Quietly and calmly returns to his chair.)*
15 **THE COW:** Um. Okay.
TOM THUMB: Can you state your name for the record?
THE COW: Cow. The Cow.
TOM THUMB: And will you tell the court what you were doing on the
20 night in question?
THE COW: I was jumping over the moon. *(Gasps from the GALLERY. THE COW puffs up like a proud peacock.)*
TOM THUMB: Jumping over the moon?
THE COW: That's right.
25 **TOM THUMB:** Very impressive.
THE COW: The trick is to start small. You know, fences, fallen trees. But with the proper diet and exercise regiment, I worked my way up to the moon. And so can you. Just believe in yourself as much as I believe in you! *(To the GALLERY.)* Who's ready to get sweaty?
30 *(THE COW stands and starts doing jumping jacks.)*
TOM THUMB: And what did you see?
THE COW: Everything. You can see a lot when... *(Proud.)* ...you jump over the moon. *(Sits.)*
TOM THUMB: Can you tell us what you saw?
35 **THE COW:** I saw a dish running away with a spoon. Bo Peep's sheep—spoiler alert—they're in Mexico. Red Rover refused to send anyone over.
TOM THUMB: What did you see about the defendant?
THE COW: Oh, well, yeah. I saw Goldilocks over there walking through
40 the forest, shooting birds with a slingshot.

1 **GOLDILOCKS:** That's a lie.
JUDGE FARMER: Silence, I say silence in the courtroom.
TOM THUMB: Anything else?
JUDGE FARMER: She talked to a couple of kids.

5 **GRETEL:** That was us.
HANSEL: Ja, that was us. Ja.
THE COW: But I couldn't hear them, they were too far away.
TOM THUMB: The moon is far away.
THE COW: But I'm jumpin' over it, then I see her hide when a bunch
10 of bears come into the forest.
TOM THUMB: And then?
THE COW: Then she went into a cottage. After a while she came out
screaming with the bears chasing her.
TOM THUMB: She was running away?

15 **THE COW:** Yes. She runs pretty fast, but she could use some cardio
work.
TOM THUMB: Thank you. No further questions.
JUDGE FARMER: Miss Penny, I say, Miss Penny, your witness.
HENNY PENNY: Thank you, Your Honor-wonor. Miss Cow?

20 **THE COW:** The.
HENNY PENNY: I'm sorry-worry?
THE COW: I don't go by Miss. I prefer The.
HENNY PENNY: All righty-wighty. I won't take much time. I'll keep this
short.

25 **TOM THUMB:** Why you lookin' at me when you say that? You want to
step outside right now?
HENNY PENNY: You say you saw my client.
THE COW: I did.
HENNY PENNY: From the moon.

30 **THE COW:** Over it.
HENNY PENNY: You must have great eyesight.
THE COW: I eat a lot of carrots for my eyes. Spinach for strong
muscles. Calcium for healthy bones—
HENNY PENNY: Still that's a long way off. How can you be sure it was
35 my client-wient?
THE COW: The hair. She has very distinctive hair. Gold and all that.
Plus it was a full moon.
HENNY PENNY: Ah yes. The moon. Not everyone can jump over it.
THE COW: I currently hold the gold medal.

- 1 **HENNY PENNY:** Could you show us?
THE COW: (*Gets nervous.*) What?
HENNY PENNY: Could you show us how you jump over the moon?
TOM THUMB: Objection. This isn't relevant.
- 5 **HENNY PENNY:** It will be, Your Honor-wonor.
JUDGE FARMER: I will, I say, I will give you a little leeway.
TOM THUMB: Why you looking at me when you say little? You want to fight me now, too?
JUDGE FARMER: Overuled.
- 10 **HENNY PENNY:** Now, The Cow, show us all how you jump over the moon.
THE COW: I couldn't. I mean, it takes a long time. I don't want to hold up the court.
HENNY PENNY: Okey-dokey. How about you just jump over the building?
THE COW: The building?
- 15 **HENNY PENNY:** Sure.
THE COW: I don't think that's a good idea. I'm actually not feeling all that well.
HENNY PENNY: Just a little leap over the roof.
THE COW: I don't know if it's the flu or just a bad cold.
- 20 **HENNY PENNY:** I'll tell you what. Why don't you just jump over my pencil-wencil? (*HENNY PENNY puts a pencil on the floor. She pulls THE COW out of the witness box and leads her to the pencil.*)
THE COW: I might've pulled a muscle.
HENNY PENNY: Just leap over the pencil.
- 25 **THE COW:** My hamstring is killing me.
HENNY PENNY: I'm afraid I must insisty-wisty.
THE COW: I can't.
HENNY PENNY: You must.
THE COW: I won't.
- 30 **HENNY PENNY:** Your Honor?
JUDGE FARMER: The Cow, you are ordered to jump over that pencil or be held in contempt of court.
THE COW: But, Your Honor...
JUDGE FARMER: Jump!
- 35 **THE COW:** I can't! (*Breaks into tears.*) I can't, okay. I can't jump.
TOM THUMB: Objection! She's badgering the witness.
HENNY PENNY: The witness is a cow, not a badger. Isn't that right, Miss Cow?
THE COW: Yes.

- 1 **HENNY PENNY:** And there's more, isn't there, Miss Cow? You're certainly not The Cow.
- THE COW:** No. Fine, I'm not The Cow. I'm not. I'm Jack's cow. (*Gasps from the GALLERY. Now JACK stands.*)
- 5 **JACK:** Bessie? Bessie, is that you?
- THE COW:** Oh, sure, now you know my name.
- JACK:** What are you doing?
- THE COW:** Telling the truth, Jack.
- HENNY PENNY:** Will you tell us the truthy-wuthy?
- 10 **THE COW:** Jack was my master. I thought we were friends. Buddies! I even scratched "Bessie and Jack, best friends forever" in a tree.
- HENNY PENNY:** What happened?
- THE COW:** He sold me. For three lousy beans! (*Gasps from the GALLERY.*) Seriously! I give more milk than that before breakfast.
- 15 I sleep outside. I eat grass! I cost, like, nothing. I'm totally low maintenance, and he sells me for three lousy beans.
- JACK:** (*Shouts from the GALLERY.*) They were magic beans!
- THE COW:** I was going to teach you to make ice cream.
- JACK:** Magic beans. Magic!
- 20 **THE COW:** So maybe I had gotten kinda skinny. It's not like there was a lot of grass in the little backyard.
- TOM THUMB:** Were you lookin' at me when you said little?
- THE COW:** And maybe I wasn't in the best shape, but there wasn't a lot of room to exercise in that teeny tiny backyard.
- 25 **TOM THUMB:** Oh, teeny and tiny. You want to fight about it?
- THE COW:** So I was weak and out of shape, and he just casts me aside. For three lousy beans!
- JACK:** What part of magic are you not getting?
- THE COW:** So I changed my diet. Started working out. Complete
- 30 makeover.
- HENNY PENNY:** And you started telling people you could jump over the moon?
- THE COW:** Yes. And people loved me for it. I even had a little dog laugh to see such sport.
- 35 **HENNY PENNY:** And you became famous-wamous?
- THE COW:** Yes.
- HENNY PENNY:** But you can't actually jump over the moon?
- THE COW:** No.
- HENNY PENNY:** So you didn't actually see Goldilocks that night, did you?

1 **THE COW:** No. No, I did not.

HENNY PENNY: No further questions, Your Honor.

JUDGE FARMER: The witness, I say, the witness can step down. (*THE COW returns to the GALLERY, limping and wincing at her sore back.*)

5 *JACK is there to meet her.)*

JACK: Look, I'm sorry. Okay?

THE COW: I don't want to talk about it.

JACK: They were magic beans, okay? Magic. They made this beanstalk and—

10 **THE COW:** I don't want to talk about it.

HENNY PENNY: Your Honor, we ask that all charges be dropped on account of this witness being a liar-wiar.

TOM THUMB: Objection, Your Honor. We have other witnesses.

JUDGE FARMER: Motion, I say, motion denied. Mister Thumb, call
15 your next witness.

TOM THUMB: Your Honor, we call Hansel to the stand. (*HANSEL comes forward, goes the wrong direction and nearly walks OFFSTAGE.*)
Hansel. This way.

HANSEL: Sorry. I was a little confused.

20 **TOM THUMB:** Little? You mean me? Were you talking about me?
'Cause we can settle this right now.

HANSEL: Nein, I meant me. (*Steps into the witness box.*)

BAILIFF: Raise your right hand. (*Screams.*) Tell the truth! (*Returns to his seat.*)

25 **HANSEL:** Ja, ja, okay. Holy schneckles.

TOM THUMB: State your name.

HANSEL: I am Hansel.

TOM THUMB: Hansel, in your own words, tell us what happened the day in question.

30 **HANSEL:** Oh ja, sure. Well, my sister and I were in the woods. (*LIGHTS FADE to BLACK on the courtroom.*)

End of Scene Two

Scene Three

LIGHTS UP DOWNSTAGE. GRETEL has moved from the GALLERY and is now DOWN RIGHT picking flowers in the forest. HANSEL ENTERS DOWN RIGHT and they reenact the story as he tells it.

35 **HANSEL:** Hellooooooo! Lovely sister of mine, where are you?

GRETEL: I am over here, dear brother.

HANSEL: Picking flowers I see.

- 1 **GRETEL:** Ja, what else would I be doing in the woods? There's no other reason to be here.
- HANSEL:** I love the way you pick flowers.
- GRETEL:** Thank you. I picked them for you.
- 5 **HANSEL:** For me?
- GRETEL:** To let you know how much I love you.
- HANSEL:** That is so thoughtful.
- GRETEL:** I think about you all the time, because I love you so.
- HANSEL:** *(To the AUDIENCE.)* Then, a girl came into the forest. *(Sees GOLDILOCKS as she ENTERS DOWN RIGHT.)* Excuse me, miss.
- 10 **GOLDILOCKS:** *(Mean and cruel.)* What do you want?!
- GRETEL:** Would you like to smell our flowers?
- HANSEL:** Flowers, ja. Smell our flowers.
- GOLDILOCKS:** No. Flowers are dumb and stinky, and you are silly and dumb for liking dumb and stinky things. *(Rips the flowers out of GRETEL'S hands and stomps on them.)* Mwa-ha-ha. Now get out of here, or I'll hit you with my slingshot. *(HANSEL and GRETEL scream and run, hiding behind a tree or bush as GOLDILOCKS crosses to the cottage.)*
- 15 **HANSEL:** *(To the AUDIENCE.)* So we ran off. A little while later we heard the girl kick in a door. *(GOLDILOCKS quickly reenacts the scene as HANSEL describes it.)*
- GOLDILOCKS:** Hi-ya!
- HANSEL:** Then she went inside and we heard—
- 20 **GOLDILOCKS:** Ow! Too hot. Too cold. Ah, just right.
- HANSEL:** And then—
- GOLDILOCKS:** Too hard. Too soft. Ah, just right. But I hate chairs! *(SOUND EFFECT: CRASH.)*
- HANSEL:** And then—
- 25 **GOLDILOCKS:** Too hard, too soft, just right.
- HANSEL:** Then we saw a family of bears. Coming back from— *(BEARS ENTER DOWN RIGHT.)*
- PAPA BEAR:** —our walk in the woods.
- HANSEL:** They went into the cottage. And then—
- 30 **GOLDILOCKS:** Ahhhhhh! *(Runs from the cottage, screaming, and EXITS DOWN RIGHT.)*
- PAPA BEAR:** *(Shakes his paw at her.)* And don't you ever come back here again! *(LIGHTS FADE to BLACK.)*

End of Scene Three

Scene Four

1 LIGHTS UP on the courtroom, where the trial continues and everyone has returned to their places. HANSEL is back in the witness box.

TOM THUMB: Thank you. *(To HENNY PENNY.)* Your witness.

HENNY PENNY: Why, thank you ever so. Now, Mister Hansel-wansel.

5 **HANSEL:** Ja?

HENNY PENNY: You said you and your sister were in the forest picking flowers.

HANSEL: Ja, that's right.

HENNY PENNY: What kind of flowers were they?

10 **HANSEL:** Pretty ones.

HENNY PENNY: Yes. Did they look anything like these? *(Whips out a bunch of flowers and thrusts them in HANSEL'S face.)*

HANSEL: Oh nein! Nein. Achoo! Achoo, achoo, achoo, achoo!

HENNY PENNY: Is there a problem?

15 **HANSEL:** Nein. Achoo, achoo, achoo!

HENNY PENNY: Isn't it true, Hansel-wansel, that you are allergic to flowers?

HANSEL: Nein. I don't know what you're talking about. *(HENNY PENNY shoves the flowers right in his face. HANSEL sneezes like crazy.)* All right. All right, ja. Ja, I am allergic to flowers.

20 **HENNY PENNY:** So you weren't in the forest picking flowers at all, were you?

HANSEL: Ja. *(HENNY PENNY threatens to shove the flowers again.)* I mean... nein. We were not picking flowers.

25 **HENNY PENNY:** So what were you doing in the forest that day?

HANSEL: Um... ah... I... *(Threatened with flowers in his face again, he blurts out—)* My sister was hungry!

GRETEL: *(Leaps to her feet in the GALLERY.)* Shut up!

HANSEL: It's true.

30 **GRETEL:** I was only hungry because we were wandering around all night.

HANSEL: You're always hungry.

GRETEL: Because you got us lost again and we didn't have anything to eat.

HANSEL: I wasn't lost.

35 **GRETEL:** You're always lost.

HANSEL: Liar. You are a liar.

GRETEL: You get lost on the way to the bathroom.

HANSEL: Oooh! Your pants are on fire.

- 1 **GRETEL:** And you used up all the bread to drop bread crumbs.
HANSEL: So we wouldn't get lost.
GRETEL: But the birds ate the bread. (*To the GALLERY.*) And it was a
really good pumpernickel too, where the crust is real hard but the
5 inside is all soft and gushy. But Magellan here gave it to the birds!
HANSEL: I didn't give. The birds took it.
GRETEL: Gee, I wonder why. You couldn't stop and ask for directions?
HANSEL: I wasn't lost.
TOM THUMB: Objection, Your Honor.
- 10 **JUDGE FARMER:** Order, I say, order in the court.
HENNY PENNY: So you lied to the court when you said you were
picking flowers?
HANSEL: Nein. Ja. Maybe.
HENNY PENNY: And did you go into the cottage?
- 15 **HANSEL:** Nein.
HENNY PENNY: Are you lying now?
HANSEL: Nein.
HENNY PENNY: Isn't it true that you and your sister have a history of
breaking into other people's houses?
- 20 **HANSEL:** It was just that one time.
GRETEL: Hansel, shut up!
HENNY PENNY: (*Holds up a folder.*) Your Honor, I have here a
statement from the Brothers Grimm that states these two broke
into a gingerbread cottage.
- 25 **HANSEL:** It was her. She wouldn't stop eating it.
GRETEL: Hansel, shut up!
HANSEL: I said, "Don't eat the gingerbread," but she wouldn't listen.
She had to stuff her face with the gumdrops and peppermint and
the little corny candy that comes in three colors.
- 30 **GRETEL:** I was hungry.
HANSEL: You're always hungry!
HENNY PENNY: And it says here you pushed that homeowner into an
oven.
HANSEL: She was a witch!
- 35 **HENNY PENNY:** That's felonious witch-roasting without a permit,
breaking and entering, and perjury. How can this court believe
anything you say?
HANSEL: But we saw her in the forest!
HENNY PENNY: No more questions-westions.

- 1 **JUDGE FARMER:** You may step down. (*HANSEL heads back to his seat next to GRETEL in the GALLERY.*)
- GRETEL:** I can't believe you ratted me out.
- HANSEL:** You have a problem.
- 5 **GRETEL:** I can stop anytime I want.
- HANSEL:** You need to get into Gingerbread Anonymous.
- GRETEL:** I hate you.
- HANSEL:** I hate you more.
- HANSEL/GRETEL:** Jerk. (*They sit, folding their arms, back to back,*
- 10 *stewing.*)
- JUDGE FARMER:** Mister Thumb, we are running short on time—
- TOM THUMB:** Why are you looking at me?
- JUDGE FARMER:** I didn't mean you. Call, I say, call your next witness.
- TOM THUMB:** Your Honor, the prosecution calls the wolf.
- 15 **THE WOLF:** (*Steps out of the GALLERY, shooting thumbs up on his way to the witness box. He's slick and cool with sunglasses.*) Hey! Yo! Wazzup? How you doin'?
- BAILIFF:** Raise your right paw. (*Shouts.*) Tell the truth! (*Returns to his seat.*)
- 20 **THE WOLF:** You got it, dawg.
- TOM THUMB:** State your name for the record.
- THE WOLF:** People call me Wolf.
- TOM THUMB:** In your own words, tell us what you saw on the day in question.
- 25 **THE WOLF:** Sure thing, slick. No prob. (*LIGHTS FADE on the courtroom.*)
- End of Scene Four

Scene Five

- LIGHTS UP DOWNSTAGE. THE WOLF now leans against a tree DOWN RIGHT, playing with a yo-yo.
- THE WOLF:** (*To the AUDIENCE.*) So I'm in the forest, just minding my own business, when these two kids come along.
- 30 **GRETEL:** (*ENTERS DOWN RIGHT with HANSEL.*) We are lost.
- HANSEL:** We are not lost.
- GRETEL:** We are always lost. You couldn't find a river if you were standing on the bottom of it.
- HANSEL:** I'm telling Mom you're being insulting.
- 35 **GRETEL:** I get cranky when I get hungry.
- HANSEL:** Is that why you're always grumpy?
- GRETEL:** Hardee har har! Why'd you let the birds eat our bread crumbs?

- 1 **THE WOLF:** *(Switches to a golly-gee-wiz, super nice guy act.)* Hiya, kids.
Is there anything I can do to help?
- HANSEL:** Nein.
- GRETEL:** Ja. Do you know how to get to—
- 5 **HANSEL:** We don't need directions!
- GRETEL:** You got a sandwich on you?
- THE WOLF:** Jeepers, no.
- GRETEL:** Pie? Any kind of pie?
- THE WOLF:** Golly no.
- 10 **GRETEL:** Gum? Mint? Stamp I could lick?
- THE WOLF:** Gosh, I'm so sorry. I don't.
- GRETEL:** Figures.
- HANSEL:** Come on, I think it's this way.
- GRETEL:** Are you sure?
- 15 **HANSEL:** Don't start with me. *(EXITS DOWN RIGHT with GRETEL.)*
- THE WOLF:** *(To the AUDIENCE.)* I felt really bad I couldn't help those kids out. I wish I could've given 'em a hand. That's what I do. I give. I'm a giver. So the next thing I know, the sweetest little old lady you ever seen comes by.
- 20 **GRANNY:** *(ENTERS DOWN RIGHT, shlumping along with a walker. She squints a lot and walks straight into a tree.)* Oh, excuse me, young man. I didn't see you there.
- THE WOLF:** *(To the AUDIENCE.)* I could tell right away she couldn't see so good.
- 25 **GRANNY:** *(To the tree.)* What's that, young man? Speak up! My ears aren't what they used to be.
- THE WOLF:** *(To the AUDIENCE.)* So I decided to help. That's what I do, I'm a helper. *(To GRANNY.)* Golly, Missus G! Can I give you a hand?
- GRANNY:** Red? Is that you?
- 30 **THE WOLF:** No. It's not Red.
- GRANNY:** Hello, Red.
- THE WOLF:** I'm not Red.
- GRANNY:** Red, where have you been?
- THE WOLF:** Right here.
- 35 **GRANNY:** Little Red Riding Hood, what have I told you about hanging about in the forest? There are wolves out here.
- THE WOLF:** Gee, Missus G. I know, 'cause—
- GRANNY:** Speak up, Red.
- THE WOLF:** *(Loud.)* I said I know 'cause—

- 1 **GRANNY:** No need to shout, Red. Did you know I've broken my glasses?
THE WOLF: Jeepers! I'm sorry to hear that.
GRANNY: I think I need to take a nap. And it's time for my pills.
THE WOLF: *(To the AUDIENCE.)* She looked really weak and tired. I knew
5 there was this cottage nearby, so I took her there. *(To GRANNY.)*
Here we go, Missus G. We'll have you right as rain in just a few
minutes. *(Crosses DOWN LEFT to cottage with GRANNY.)*
LITTLE RED: *(ENTERS DOWN RIGHT with a basket.)* Granny? Is that you?
GRANNY: Who's there?
10 **LITTLE RED:** It's me. Little Red.
GRANNY: *(To THE WOLF.)* I thought you were Little Red.
LITTLE RED: No, Granny. I'm Little Red. That's a wolf.
GRANNY: That's just what a wolf would say. *(To THE WOLF.)* Run, Red, run!
LITTLE RED: No, Granny. I'm Red. You run.
15 **GRANNY:** You can't fool me. You won't separate me from my
granddaughter. I'm not that stupid. *(Pulls THE WOLF behind her.)*
Stay close, Red.
LITTLE RED: Granny, I'm Red. See, I have your basket of goodies.
THE WOLF: Whoa! There are goodies in there?
20 **GRANNY:** *(To THE WOLF.)* Did you give your goodies to the wolf?
LITTLE RED: No, Granny.
THE WOLF: Would you like to give your goodies to the wolf?
LITTLE RED: Hey, back off!
GRANNY: Don't you talk to my granddaughter that way, you big bad wolf!
25 **LITTLE RED:** No, Granny. I'm Little Red.
THE WOLF: *(To the AUDIENCE.)* I could see things were getting
confusing. And I wanted to straighten it out. That's what I do. I'm
a straightener. But before I could, I heard this commotion from
inside.
30 **GOLDILOCKS:** *(ENTERS DOWN LEFT. Quickly reenacts the furniture
scene.)* Hot! Cold! Too hard! Too soft! Ahhhh, just right. But I hate
chairs. Die, you stupid chair! You evil but adorable little chair that
a bear has no use for but still has for unknown reasons. *(SOUND
EFFECT: CRASH. The BEARS ENTER DOWN RIGHT.)*
35 **GRANNY:** What was that?
THE WOLF: *(To the AUDIENCE.)* Just then these bears come back
from—
PAPA BEAR: —our walk in the woods.
THE WOLF: *(To the AUDIENCE.)* They didn't see us as they went into
40 the house. Next thing I know, we hear—

1 **GOLDILOCKS:** Ahhhhhh! (*Runs OFF DOWN RIGHT, screaming. PAPA BEAR shakes his paw at her.*)

PAPA BEAR: And don't you ever come back here again. (*LIGHTS FADE to BLACK.*)

End of Scene Five

Scene Six

5 LIGHTS UP on the courtroom, where the trial continues and everyone has returned to their places. THE WOLF is back in the witness box.

TOM THUMB: And you're sure it was the defendant?

THE WOLF: Absolutely. It was her all right.

TOM THUMB: No further questions.

10 **JUDGE FARMER:** Miss Penny, you may proceed.

HENNY PENNY: Thank you. Now, Mister Wolf, isn't it true you've made a deal with the prosecutor in exchange for your testimony today?

TOM THUMB: Objection! This has no bearing on the case.

HENNY PENNY: It goes to his believability, Your Honor.

15 **JUDGE FARMER:** Overruled.

HENNY PENNY: Mister Wolf?

THE WOLF: (*Back to his slick, cool self.*) Yeah? So? What of it?

HENNY PENNY: In exchange for your testimony, the prosecutor has agreed not to press charges on your own crimes.

20 **THE WOLF:** Hey, I'm just here to help. It's what I do. I'm a helper.

HENNY PENNY: Yes, but you're also a burglar. You stole Little Red's goodies. You broke into Granny's house. You threatened her with bodily harm. You destroyed the homes of three innocent pigs. You, sir, are a career criminal.

25 **THE WOLF:** I'm a wolf.

HENNY PENNY: And we cannot believe anything you say.

THE WOLF: Yeah, but—

HENNY PENNY: No further questions.

JUDGE FARMER: You may, I say, you may step down. (*THE WOLF returns to the GALLERY.*)

30 **TOM THUMB:** (*Stands.*) We have no further witnesses, Your Honor. The prosecution rests.

JUDGE FARMER: Miss Penny, I say, Miss Penny. It's up to you. Call your first witness.

35 **HENNY PENNY:** Thank you, Your Honor. We call Baby-waby Bear.

BABY BEAR: All right.

MOMMA BEAR: No! He's just a baby.

BABY BEAR: (*Whines.*) Mom!

1 **MOMMA BEAR:** Your Honor, please, he's too young.
BABY BEAR: Mom! Geez, you're embarrassing me!
MOMMA BEAR: Mommy's looking out for you, precious.
PAPA BEAR: Oh, for heaven's sake, Doris. Let the boy talk.

5 **BABY BEAR:** Whoo-hoo! (*Runs to the stand. BAILIFF is there.*)
BAILIFF: Raise your right paw. (*BABY BEAR raises left paw.*)
MOMMA BEAR: Your right paw, sweetie.
BABY BEAR: (*Whines.*) Mom!
BAILIFF: (*Shouts.*) Tell the truth! (*Returns to his seat.*)

10 **BABY BEAR:** I promise.
MOMMA BEAR: Speak up, honey.
BABY BEAR: Mom, please.
PAPA BEAR: Let the boy be, Doris.
HENNY PENNY: (*Approaches BABY BEAR.*) Hello, Baby Bear.

15 **BABY BEAR:** Hiya, Miss Penny. I'm a witness!
HENNY PENNY: Baby Bear, how old are you?
BABY BEAR: I'll be four and seven eighths next Tuesday afternoon.
HENNY PENNY: Four and seven eighths. My, you're practically ancient.
BABY BEAR: Ha-ha. Yeah.

20 **HENNY PENNY:** Maybe I should call you "old bear." I wonder-dunder if
you could tell us what happened.
MOMMA BEAR: (*Stands.*) Objection!
BABY BEAR: Mom!
PAPA BEAR: Doris, sit down.

25 **MOMMA BEAR:** But he's just a little baby.
BABY BEAR: Mom!
JUDGE FARMER: Overruled. (*MOMMA BEAR sits again.*)
HENNY PENNY: Go ahead, old bear.
BABY BEAR: Well, it's just like everybody said. We came back from
30 our walk in the woods and found our front door broken in.
HENNY PENNY: Did you actually see Goldilocks break your door?
BABY BEAR: Ah, well, no.
HENNY PENNY: I see. Go on.
BABY BEAR: And then we saw that somebody had eaten our porridge.

35 **HENNY PENNY:** Terrible-werrible. Did you see Goldilocks eat it?
BABY BEAR: Well, not exactly like with my own eyes and stuff. But
we did see my broken chair. That was my favorite chair. It had gum
under the seat.
MOMMA BEAR: Objection!

1 **BABY BEAR:** (*Whines.*) Mom!
PAPA BEAR: Doris!
MOMMA BEAR: What? You don't object to your son putting gum on the furniture?

5 **HENNY PENNY:** Did you see Goldilocks break your chair?
BABY BEAR: No. But I did see her in the bed. You bet I saw that. Dad scared her good, and she ran outta there. It was so funny.
HENNY PENNY: Thank you. That's all.
JUDGE FARMER: Mister Thumb?

10 **TOM THUMB:** No questions, Your Honor.
JUDGE FARMER: All right. You may, I say, you may step down.
HENNY PENNY: Oh, just one more question, Your Honor. Baby Bear, why did you go for a walk in the woods?
BABY BEAR: (*Suddenly scared.*) What?

15 **MOMMA BEAR:** Objection!
PAPA BEAR: Doris!
MOMMA BEAR: He doesn't have to answer that.
HENNY PENNY: I'm afraid he does. Baby Bear, the incident we are talking about happened in January. Shouldn't you be hibernating through the winter?

20 **BABY BEAR:** Ummm.....
MOMMA BEAR: Don't answer that.
HENNY PENNY: Most bears sleep through the winter. Why wasn't your family asleepy-weepy?

25 **BABY BEAR:** Ahhh...
MOMMA BEAR: Your Honor, please.
JUDGE FARMER: The cub, I say, the cub must answer the question.
MOMMA BEAR: No.
HENNY PENNY: You are under oath.

30 **JUDGE FARMER:** Answer the question.
MOMMA BEAR: He's just a baby!
HENNY PENNY: Perhaps his mother is right, Your Honor. Maybe he is just a baby.
BABY BEAR: I am not! I can answer if I wanna. We weren't hibernating, because my mom wanted to throw my father a surprise birthday party!

35 **PAPA BEAR:** What?!
MOMMA BEAR: Oh, no.
PAPA BEAR: I knew it. I knew it! What did I say?
MOMMA BEAR: That you hate surprise parties.

- 1 **PAPA BEAR:** I hate surprise parties, I said.
MOMMA BEAR: I know, dear.
PAPA BEAR: You told me you weren't throwing a surprise party.
MOMMA BEAR: I only said that because you were so upset.
- 5 **PAPA BEAR:** (*Really upset.*) I wasn't upset.
MOMMA BEAR: You know how you get.
PAPA BEAR: How do I get?
MOMMA BEAR: You get upset—
PAPA BEAR: I'm not upset!
- 10 **MOMMA BEAR:** When you don't get enough sleep.
PAPA BEAR: I didn't get any sleep because you woke me up!
JUDGE FARMER: Order, I say, order in the court.
MOMMA BEAR: I just wanted to show you how much you're loved.
PAPA BEAR: By waking me up?
- 15 **JUDGE FARMER:** Order in my court.
MOMMA BEAR: By throwing you a great party. The best party ever.
Balloons, catering... I even hired a party planner.
PAPA BEAR: What party planner?!
GOLDILOCKS: Me! (*Gasps from the GALLERY.*)
- 20 **JUDGE FARMER:** (*Whacks his gavel.*) Order, I say, order in the court.
HENNY PENNY: Your Honor, we call Goldilocks to the stand.
(*GOLDILOCKS takes the stand. BABY BEAR returns to the GALLERY.*)
BAILIFF: (*Approaches GOLDILOCKS.*) Raise your right hand. (*Shouts.*)
Tell the truth! (*Returns to his seat.*)
- 25 **GOLDILOCKS:** Oh, I will all right.
HENNY PENNY: Now, Goldilocks, you've heard what's been said in
this court.
GOLDILOCKS: You bet I have.
HENNY PENNY: And what do you have to say about it?
- 30 **GOLDILOCKS:** It's a lie! (*Shocked reactions all around. JUDGE FARMER
whacks his gavel again.*) It's all just a big tall tale.
TOM THUMB: Tall? You lookin' at me? Flattery will not help your case.
HENNY PENNY: So, Miss Goldilocks. Can you tell us what happened,
in your own words?
- 35 **GOLDILOCKS:** Yes. I had received a letter from Momma Bear.
HENNY PENNY: What was the letter regarding?
GOLDILOCKS: She wanted me to plan a surprise party for her husband.
That's what I do. I'm a party planner.
HENNY PENNY: And what happened on that day?

1 **GOLDILOCKS:** Well, I went into the forest to meet with Momma Bear
at her cottage. (*LIGHTS UP DOWNSTAGE. GOLDILOCKS crosses*
DOWN RIGHT to the forest. [NOTE: Those who participate in the
5 *reenactment can also EXIT now: HANSEL, GRETEL, THE WOLF,*
LITTLE RED, GRANNY and THREE BEARS.]) It was a lovely day, and
I remember hearing the birds chirping. Oh, what a beautiful bird
song. I could see a little bird in the tree above. Hello, little bird. Are
you hungry little one? Oh look! Here's some bread. (*Stoops and*
picks up a bread crumb.) Come get it, little bird. But I could tell the
10 bird was injured and couldn't fly.

HENNY PENNY: And how did you knowy-wowy?

GOLDILOCKS: I'm a fairytale character. It's what we do.

HENNY PENNY: Please go on.

GOLDILOCKS: The injured bird couldn't come down, but he was
15 starving. So I helped. Here you go, little bird. (*Takes out a slingshot*
and shoots the bread crumb into the air.) Good catch, little one.

GRETEL: (*ENTERS DOWN RIGHT with HANSEL.*) All the bread? All of it?
I'm starving.

HANSEL: (*Searches the ground.*) It's got to be here somewhere.

20 **GRETEL:** It was the good pumpernickel. I can't believe you got us lost.

HANSEL: We are not lost.

GRETEL: Again.

HANSEL: We are not lost.

GRETEL: We are always lost, and I'm hungry.

25 **HANSEL:** You're always hungry.

GRETEL: I have low blood sugar.

HANSEL: You have low will power.

GRETEL: I cannot believe we are related.

HANSEL: The bread crumbs have to be here somewhere.

30 **GOLDILOCKS:** Oh, dear.

GRETEL: Did you eat our bread crumbs?

GOLDILOCKS: No. But I did feed them to a bird. I didn't know they
were yours. I'm so sorry.

GRETEL: I told you birds would eat them.

35 **HANSEL:** Yes, you're a genius. You can see the future. Why don't you
play the lottery?

GOLDILOCKS: I am so sorry. Can I help?

GRETEL: Yes, can you tell us how to get to—

HANSEL: We don't need directions!

40 **GRETEL:** You've got to be kidding.

1 **HANSEL:** Come on.

GRETEL: I'm starving!

HANSEL: Urgh!

GRETEL: Ugh! (*HANSEL and GRETEL EXIT DOWN RIGHT.*)

5 **GOLDILOCKS:** (*Crosses DOWN LEFT to the cottage.*) I went to the cottage. (*Mimes knocking on the door. SOUND EFFECT: KNOCKING.*) Hello? Mrs. Bear? Are you home? It's me, Goldilocks. We have an appointment. Hello? Anybody home? The door was open, so I went inside. (*She does so and looks around.*) Mrs. Bear? Are you
10 here? I knew she couldn't be far away. There was still porridge on the table. And some of it was still hot. I thought she must've just stepped out so I decided to wait. When I heard a commotion outside... (*Moves just outside the cottage into the forest.*)

LITTLE RED: (*ENTERS DOWN RIGHT with GRANNY and THE WOLF.*) No,
15 Granny. I'm Little Red. That's a wolf.

GRANNY: That's just what a wolf would say. (*To THE WOLF.*) Run, Red, run!

LITTLE RED: No, Granny. I'm Red. You run.

GRANNY: You can't fool me. You won't separate me from my
Granddaughter. I'm not that stupid. (*Pulls THE WOLF behind her.*)
20 Stay close, Red.

LITTLE RED: Granny, I'm Red. See, I have your basket of goodies.

THE WOLF: Whoa. There are goodies in there?

GRANNY: (*To THE WOLF.*) Did you give your goodies to the wolf?

LITTLE RED: No, Granny.

25 **THE WOLF:** Would you like to give your goodies to the wolf?

LITTLE RED: Hey, back off.

GRANNY: Don't you talk to my granddaughter that way, you big bad wolf!

LITTLE RED: No, Granny. I'm Little Red.

THE WOLF: Give me the goodies! (*GOLDILOCKS scurries back into the
30 cottage.*)

LITTLE RED: Run! (*LITTLE RED and GRANNY run into the cottage and
mime locking the door behind them, leaving THE WOLF outside.*) I
think we're safe.

GOLDILOCKS: Mrs. Bear? Is that you?

35 **LITTLE RED:** Who are you?

GOLDILOCKS: Who are you?

GRANNY: (*To GOLDILOCKS.*) Why, Red, dear, it's me. It's Granny.

LITTLE RED: No, Granny. I'm Red.

GRANNY: I thought you were the wolf.

40 **THE WOLF:** No, I'm the wolf. Open the door!

- 1 **GOLDILOCKS:** I'm Goldilocks.
GRANNY: Would you like some goodies?
THE WOLF: Yes, please.
GRANNY: I'm not talking to you.
- 5 **GOLDILOCKS:** Are you here for the party?
THE WOLF: There's a party now?
LITTLE RED: No.
THE WOLF: Why wasn't I invited?
LITTLE RED: *(Screams at THE WOLF.)* There is no party!
- 10 **THE WOLF:** Then what are the goodies for? Is it bring your own goodies?
GOLDILOCKS: Um, I don't know what's going on.
THE WOLF: I'll take the goodies. Open the door!
LITTLE RED: No.
GOLDILOCKS: I'm just here for the party.
- 15 **GRANNY:** *(To GOLDILOCKS.)* Red, dear, are you throwing me a party?
LITTLE RED: Granny, I'm Red.
GRANNY: So no party then?
THE WOLF: I like to party. Open the door.
LITTLE RED: No. Go away.
- 20 **THE WOLF:** Open this door or I'll huff, and I'll puff, and I'll blow the door down.
GRANNY: *(To GOLDILOCKS.)* Don't worry, Red.
GOLDILOCKS: I'm not Little Red.
GRANNY: Oh, all right, Big Red. Kids grow up so fast these days.
- 25 **LITTLE RED:** Granny, I'm Little Red.
THE WOLF: And I will count to three. One!
LITTLE RED: We gotta hide.
THE WOLF: Two!
GRANNY: Come on, Red. *(Grabs GOLDILOCKS.)*
- 30 **GOLDILOCKS:** I'm not Red! *(GRANNY drags her to the beds. LITTLE RED drops the goodies and hides under one set of covers, GRANNY hides under another set and GOLDILOCKS hides under the third.)*
THE WOLF: Three! *(Mimes breaking down the door. Rubs his sore shoulder where he broke down the door.)* Ow! Come out, come out,
35 wherever you are.
GRANNY: *(Still under the covers.)* There's no one here.
THE WOLF: I just want the goodies. Where are they? *(Looks around the cottage.)* Where are the goodies? Oh goodies, where are you?
(HANSEL and GRETEL ENTER DOWN RIGHT, crossing LEFT.)

1 **GRETEL:** I'm telling you I smell goodies!
HANSEL: You can't just break into somebody's house again.
GRETEL: Maybe she's an evil witch.
HANSEL: You need help.

5 **GRETEL:** Look, the door's open. (*Moves into the cottage with HANSEL and instantly finds the basket of goodies.*) See, I told you. Goodies!
THE WOLF: Put down the basket, kid.
HANSEL: That's not a witch.
THE WOLF: Give me my goodies.

10 **GRANNY:** (*From under the covers.*) They're not his!
GRETEL: Get your own.
THE WOLF: I'm going to count to three— (*HANSEL and GRETEL try to escape, but THE WOLF blocks them. They run around the room, under the table, over the chairs. THE WOLF chases them, going after*
15 *the goodies. At one point, he grabs Baby Bear's chair and flings it OFF LEFT. SOUND EFFECT: CRASH.*)
GRETEL: You broke a chair!
THE WOLF: (*Grabs the basket of goodies.*) Ha-ha!
GRETEL: My goodies.

20 **THE WOLF:** They're my goodies. Get your own. (*Moves to the door.*) There's some porridge there. Knock yourself out. (*Crosses and EXITS DOWN RIGHT.*)
GRETEL: (*Hesitates a moment, then starts slurping out of the bowls.*) Ow! Too hot.

25 **HANSEL:** Are you kidding me?
GRETEL: (*Grabs a second bowl.*) Too cold.
HANSEL: You have a problem.
GRETEL: I can quit anytime I want. (*Grabs the third bowl.*) Oooh, just right. (*Gobbles up the porridge.*)

30 **HANSEL:** I hear something.
GRETEL: Ja?
HANSEL: Ja. (*BEARS ENTER DOWN RIGHT.*)
PAPA BEAR: There. We went for a walk. Are you happy?
MOMMA BEAR: Maybe we should walk a little more.

35 **PAPA BEAR:** I don't want to walk anymore.
HANSEL: Come on, come on. Hurry.
GRETEL: (*Eats faster.*) Urgmmm, grhmmm!
PAPA BEAR: I didn't want to walk at all.
MOMMA BEAR: Maybe you and junior could go for a walk.

- 1 **BABY BEAR:** Yeah, Dad. Come on. We'll walk. It'll be like a birthday walk, 'cause it's your birthday.
- PAPA BEAR:** Is that what this is all about? (*Turns to his family. During the following, HANSEL and GRETEL tiptoe out of the cottage, cross*
- 5 *UPSTAGE of the BEARS and EXIT DOWN RIGHT, all without the BEARS noticing them.*) My birthday. No. No, no!
- MOMMA BEAR:** What is it, dear?
- PAPA BEAR:** Is that why you woke me up in the middle of winter? Is that why we went for a walk?
- 10 **MOMMA BEAR:** What, dear?
- PAPA BEAR:** If I walk back into that house and bunch of characters jump out and yell "Surprise!" I am not going to be happy.
- LITTLE RED:** (*Pokes her head out of the covers.*) Granny!
- GRANNY:** Is that the wolf?
- 15 **LITTLE RED:** No, Granny. It's me. Red. We have to get out of here.
- GRANNY:** I just need a little nap.
- PAPA BEAR:** If I find anybody in my house, I swear to Grimm I'm gonna eat them.
- LITTLE RED:** This isn't our house. They're going to eat us.
- 20 **GRANNY:** Don't worry, the wolf is gone.
- LITTLE RED:** Not the wolf. The bears. The bears are going to eat us.
- GRANNY:** I don't know why I thought living in the forest was a good idea. (*Just as HANSEL and GRETEL did before, GRANNY and LITTLE*
- 25 *RED tiptoe out of the cottage, cross UPSTAGE of the BEARS and EXIT DOWN RIGHT without the BEARS noticing them.*)
- MOMMA BEAR:** (*Nervous.*) You don't like surprise parties?
- PAPA BEAR:** I hate surprise parties.
- MOMMA BEAR:** Even if they're for you?
- PAPA BEAR:** Especially if they're for me!
- 30 **MOMMA BEAR:** How about just a little surprise?
- PAPA BEAR:** I hate all surprises. Hate them, hate them, hate them!
- MOMMA BEAR:** Of course, dear. Will you excuse me just a moment. (*Sprints into the cottage, just as GOLDILOCKS gets out of the bed.*)
- GOLDILOCKS:** Oh, Mrs. Bear, there you are.
- 35 **MOMMA BEAR:** You can't be here!
- GOLDILOCKS:** The door was open. I have so many ideas for the party—
- MOMMA BEAR:** No party. No party! He can't find you here. Hide! (*Shoves GOLDILOCKS back into the bed and under the covers. She turns to act*
- 40 *natural just as PAPA BEAR and BABY BEAR cross into the cottage.*)

- 1 **PAPA BEAR:** I just want to go back to sleep and— (*Looks around.*)
What happened here? Someone’s been eating my porridge.
- MOMMA BEAR:** Really? How strange!
- BABY BEAR:** Someone’s been eating my porridge, and they ate it all up.
- 5 **PAPA BEAR:** And look at this. Someone’s been sitting in my chair.
- MOMMA BEAR:** No. That’s impossible. You must be imagining it.
- BABY BEAR:** (*Whines.*) Mom, look. Someone’s been sitting in my
chair, and they broke it!
- PAPA BEAR:** Are you sure there’s no surprise?
- 10 **MOMMA BEAR:** No surprise. No surprise at all!
- PAPA BEAR:** Someone’s been sleeping in my bed.
- BABY BEAR:** And someone’s been sleeping in your bed, Momma.
- MOMMA BEAR:** Noooooo.
- BABY BEAR:** And somebody’s been sleeping in my bed. And that
15 someone is still there. (*Whips the covers off GOLDILOCKS. PAPA
BEAR roars. GOLDILOCKS screams and runs OFF DOWN RIGHT as
the LIGHTS FADE to BLACK.*)

End of Scene Six

Scene Seven

LIGHTS UP on the courtroom, where the trial continues and everyone
has returned to their places. GOLDILOCKS is on the stand again.

- 20 **GOLDILOCKS:** And that is exactly what happened, Your Honor.
- JUDGE FARMER:** Well, my, I say, my goodness.
- HENNY PENNY:** Thank you. And with that, Your Honor, the defense
rests.
- JUDGE FARMER:** You may, I say, you may step down. (*GOLDILOCKS
25 returns to her seat.*) Mister Thumb, are you ready with your closing
argument?
- TOM THUMB:** (*Stands and picks up a book.*) I am, Your Honor. I
have here a copy of the book “Goldilocks and the Three Bears.”
Goldilocks. Her name, right there in the title. As we know, titles are
30 reserved for heroes, not villains. She is no hero. A hero—as defined
by Fairypedia—is honest, brave and true. Did she confess to her
crimes? No! If you believe her story, which I find hard to swallow, she
would have you believe that what happened was not her fault. She
is a victim. Well, by the very nature of being a victim, she cannot be
35 a hero. Ladies and gentlemen and cows, a guilty vote will remove
her name and send a clear message to other fairytale characters
out there that they need to step up and behave like a hero if they
want to be a hero. You must vote guilty. (*Sits.*)

1 **JUDGE FARMER:** Miss Penny.

HENNY PENNY: *(Stands.)* Thank you, Your Honor. What is a hero? The honorable prosecuting attorney would have you think that only a character that slays dragons and saves damsels can be a hero. And for this they get the glory. They get the girl or the guy. But is that what a hero is? Think about it. Isn't that just glory mongering? I believe that a hero is willing to do the thankless jobs that keep the story going, but don't have costumes and ancillary products. Little Red, who saved you from the wolf?

10 **LITTLE RED:** The woodsman.

HENNY PENNY: And what was his name?

LITTLE RED: Uh.... I think.... Gee, I don't know.

HENNY PENNY: Exactly. He doesn't need a name. He just did what was right. And what of the coachmen? Did they get to go to the ball? No. They were willing to give their identities so the girl in the pretty dress could have her moment. A hero is the cow who was willing to be sold so Jack could climb a beanstalk. Heroes are about sacrifice. About doing the tough job when no one else will. *(Sits.)*

20 **JUDGE FARMER:** Hear ye, I say, hear ye, hear ye. As Judge of District Court for Fairytales, Folklore, and Nursery Rhymes, I declare it time to render a verdict. *(This can be done one of two ways. JUDGE FARMER can ask the AUDIENCE by their applause if she is guilty or innocent, or he can make up his own mind and declare a verdict. Use one of the followings endings, depending on which verdict is announced.)*

25 IF GOLDILOCKS IS FOUND INNOCENT

JUDGE FARMER: I do declare the defendant, Goldilocks... not guilty! *(The GALLERY erupts in cheers, lots of back pats and milling about.)*

GOLDILOCKS: *(Crosses to HENNY PENNY.)* Thank you.

HENNY PENNY: It was my pleasure-weasure.

30 **TOM THUMB:** *(To GOLDILOCKS.)* Congratulations. I'm glad you're innocent.

GOLDILOCKS: Why, thank you. It takes a big man to say that.

TOM THUMB: Big man? Me? Yeah, that's right. I am a big man. A big, big man. *(Struts OFF, being a big big man.)*

35 **JACK:** *(To THE COW.)* Did you really sacrifice yourself so I could climb the beanstalk.?

THE COW: You wanted an adventure. I wanted you to have it.

JACK: That's the bravest thing I ever heard.

THE COW: Oh, Jack.

40 **JACK:** I love you.

THE COW: I love you, too. *(JACK and THE COW hug.)*

1 **GRETEL:** So you're not the bad guy?
HANSEL: I wasn't keeping sweets from you.
GRETEL: I know.
HANSEL: I just worry about high blood pressure, obesity and diabetes
5 that can come from a high sugar diet.
GRETEL: *(To HANSEL.)* You were looking out for me?
HANSEL: I want you to be healthy und happy.
GRETEL: I love you.
HANSEL: Ja, I love you, too. *(HANSEL and GRETEL hug.)*
10 **PAPA BEAR:** *(To MOMMA BEAR.)* Have I really been that unhappy
lately?
MOMMA BEAR: I thought a surprise party would make you smile.
BABY BEAR: We miss your smile, Dad.
PAPA BEAR: Oh, I love you guys. *(The BEARS hug.)*
15 **HANSEL:** I love you.
GRETEL: I love you, too.
JACK: I love you.
THE COW: I love you, too.
LITTLE RED: I love you, Granny.
20 **THE WOLF:** I love you, too, Granny.
GRANNY: And I love you, Red.
LITTLE RED: No, Granny, I'm Red.
PAPA BEAR: I love you.
MOMMA BEAR: I love you.
25 **BABY BEAR:** I love you more.
JUDGE FARMER: *(Bangs his gavel.)* Court, I say, court is dismissed!
(LIGHTS SLOWLY FADE to BLACK.)

IF GOLDILOCKS IS FOUND GUILTY

JUDGE FARMER: I do declare the defendant, Goldilocks... guilty!
(Shocked gasps from the GALLERY. JUDGE FARMER pounds his
30 *gavel.)* I realize, I say, I realize that this may come as a shock to
many of you, but we uphold the rule of law here. And this may
be a new day for fairytale characters. No longer shall characters
be given their own story, but they'll have to earn their place in
the title. I hereby, I say, hereby bring down the highest sentence
35 possible for this case. Goldilocks's name shall be stricken from
the title. The story shall forever be known as, "The Three Bears."
(Bangs the gavel.)
BABY BEAR: How come we don't get our name in the title?

- 1 **JUDGE FARMER:** You do, I say, you do, son. The Three Bears.
BABY BEAR: But that's not our name. It's not fair! (*More gasps from the GALLERY.*)
MOMMA BEAR: (*Tries to cover.*) He didn't mean anything.
- 5 **BABY BEAR:** Yes, I did. How can some of us ever earn a title if no one knows who we are?
THE COW: He's right. How come I have to be just The Cow?
GRANNY: And why am I just called Granny? I had a life before I had kids, you know. I dated and everything.
- 10 **THE WOLF:** And what's with The Wolf? And it's always big and bad. Why does it have to be "The Three Little Pigs and the Big Bad Wolf"? Why can't it be "Brian, Gretchen and Steve's Funny Adventure with Kevin"?
BABY BEAR: We're all heroes of our own story and deserve names. (*Now the GALLERY is ALL talking at once. Bang goes the gavel.*)
- 15 **JUDGE FARMER:** Order! I say, order in my court. Baby Bear is right.
BABY BEAR: Malcolm. My name is Malcolm.
PAPA BEAR: He was named after my father.
JUDGE FARMER: Malcolm is right. And from this day forward, I decree that all characters, big or small—
- 20 **TOM THUMB:** Hey—
JUDGE FARMER: I didn't mean you.
TOM THUMB: It's okay. I have a name.
HENNY PENNY: And heroes come in all sizes-wizes.
JUDGE FARMER: All characters will have a name. (*Cheers from ALL. Bang goes the gavel. GALLERY stands and starts to mill.*)
- 25 **JACK:** (*Crosses to THE COW.*) I'm sorry. I didn't realize what you'd done for me.
THE COW: How could you know? The story was called "Jack and the Beanstalk." No mention of me.
- 30 **JACK:** But you made a heroic sacrifice for me. And the world needs to know that, too. What do you want to be called?
THE COW: I'm not sure.
JACK: How about Bessie? Or Flossie? Or Elsie?
THE COW: No, no—ooh. I know. Beyoncé!
- 35 **JACK:** Seriously? Okay. I'm sorry I never appreciated what you did for me.
THE COW: I'm sorry, too.
THE WOLF: (*Pulls GRANNY and LITTLE RED aside.*) I'm sorry I stole your goodies.
LITTLE RED: I'm sorry I never asked your name.
- 40 **THE WOLF:** And I'm sorry I tried to eat you.

- 1 **GRANNY:** (*Pats THE WOLF'S arm.*) That's all right, dear. I had Little Red to protect me.
- THE WOLF:** No, that's me, Granny.
- GRANNY:** Elvira.
- 5 **THE WOLF:** No kidding. Kevin. And I am sorry. (*Now GOLDILOCKS crosses to THE THREE BEARS.*)
- GOLDILOCKS:** I'm sorry I didn't take better care of your house.
- MOMMA BEAR:** It's all right.
- GOLDILOCKS:** No. You trusted me. And I let you down.
- 10 **BABY BEAR:** I'm sorry your name was taken off the title.
- GOLDILOCKS:** It's okay, Malcolm. I'm going to earn my title. Just you watch. One day people will know Goldilocks is a true hero.
- JUDGE FARMER:** (*Bangs his gavel.*) Court, I say, court is dismissed! (*Cheers. ALL are introducing themselves to each other as the*
- 15 *LIGHTS SLOWLY FADE to BLACK.*)

IF IT IS A HUNG JURY

- JUDGE FARMER:** I do render the following verdict of... undecided. It is a hung jury. (*Gasps and moans from the GALLERY. Bang goes the gavel.*) Order, I say, order in my court. I am shocked that we were
- 20 not able to come to a decision. But the law is clear. I declare this to be a mistrial. Goldilocks is free to go.
- PAPA BEAR:** That's not fair. What about my house?
- JUDGE FARMER:** You can always appeal.
- PAPA BEAR:** What?
- 25 **JUDGE FARMER:** Go to trial again. Start over.
- PAPA BEAR:** No. Winter's coming. I didn't get my full hibernation last year. Now I won't get it this year. How is this fair? Where's the justice? Those responsible should be held accountable. There should be punishment—
- 30 **MOMMA BEAR:** Then punish yourself! (*Gasps from the GALLERY.*)
- PAPA BEAR:** What? How dare you speak to me like that!
- MOMMA BEAR:** I've never dared. That's the problem. We never dare to do anything. We stay at home. Or we hibernate. Where's the fun? Where's the life?
- 35 **PAPA BEAR:** We had fun.
- MOMMA BEAR:** When's the last time? Huh? When's the last time we went anywhere or did anything?
- BABY BEAR:** We wanted to give you a party, Papa, 'cause we wanted to see you smile again.

- 1 **MOMMA BEAR:** So it didn't go the way we wanted, at least we tried.
We are too young to be acting so old.
- PAPA BEAR:** Am I really such an old fuddy duddy?
- ALL:** Yes!
- 5 **PAPA BEAR:** I didn't realize. I am sorry. Can I make it up to you?
- MOMMA BEAR:** Could we go on a vacation? My cousin Smokey's
been asking us to come see the national forests for years.
- PAPA BEAR:** Leave? But who would watch our house?
- GOLDILOCKS:** I'd like to.
- 10 **PAPA BEAR:** No.
- GOLDILOCKS:** Please. I realize I didn't act very heroically. And I
should've taken care of the house, whether it was my fault or not.
But I'd really like to make it up to you. (*BABY BEAR and MOMMA
BEAR look at PAPA BEAR.*)
- 15 **PAPA BEAR:** All right. (*Hugs all around.*)
- JACK:** (*To THE COW.*) I didn't realize what a sacrifice you made for me.
- THE COW:** That's okay.
- JACK:** No. You allowed yourself to get sold so I could have an
adventure. I'd like to make it up to you. (*They hug.*)
- 20 **GRETEL:** (*To HANSEL.*) You weren't trying to keep the sweets for
yourself, were ya?
- HANSEL:** Nein. I just didn't want you to get sick, or obese, or get the
diabetes. I love you.
- GRETEL:** I love you, too. (*They hug.*)
- 25 **THE WOLF:** (*Crosses to GRANNY and LITTLE RED.*) Sorry about stealing
your goodies. And trying to eat you.
- GRANNY:** (*Pats LITTLE RED'S arm.*) That's all right, dear. You can't help
it. You're a wolf.
- LITTLE RED:** Granny, it's me.
- 30 **JUDGE FARMER:** (*Bangs his gavel.*) Court, I say, court is dismissed!
(*LIGHTS FADE to BLACK.*)

END OF PLAY

PRODUCTION NOTES

PROPERTIES ON STAGE

Courtroom: Judge's bench, gavel, witness stand, two tables for the attorneys, bailiff's chair, small gallery of chairs, folder on the defense attorney's table, fairytale book on the prosecutor's table.

Forest: Tress, bushes, rocks, flowers, simple backdrop.

Cottage: Table, three chairs, three small beds with covers, three bowls, three spoons. (Note: After each reenactment, the cottage's onstage properties must be reset.)

PROPERTIES BROUGHT ON

Scene One:

Slingshot (GOLDILOCKS)

Flowers (GRETEL)

Scene Two:

Pencil (HENNY PENNY)

Scene Three:

Flowers (GRETEL)

Scene Four:

Flowers, folder (HENNY PENNY)

Scene Five:

Yo-yo (THE WOLF)

Basket (LITTLE RED)

Scene Six:

Slingshot (GOLDILOCKS)

Basket (LITTLE RED)

SOUND EFFECTS

Crash, knocking.

COSTUME SUGGESTIONS

Aside from the following specifics, characters should be dressed in typical fairytale attire, as simply or detailed as desired.

THE COW should be dressed in black and white patches, but also leg warmers and a headband with a workout towel draped around her neck.

THE WOLF wears sunglasses.

GRANNY uses a walker.

SCENE CHANGES

Scene breaks between courtroom scenes and reenactments are included for rehearsal purposes and to allow a transitional moment for the actors to move from the courtroom to the forest/cottage scenes, but the action should continue as quickly as possible.