

NESSIE AND THE TERRIBLE TROLL

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Cast of Characters

SEAN, 12 year old boy

AWK-AWK, a talking seal with a ball balanced on his head

TROLL

NESSIE

MERMAID

PEGLEG VIKING

HOOK-HAND VIKING

BARNACLE BEARD VIKING

FISH CHORUS A

FISH CHORUS B

Opening scene: shore of Loch Ness. Dark green water. Occasional log pokes up. Boat goes by, leaving wake. Awk-Awk the seal balances a red ball on his head as he waddles along the shore. Sean kicks at pebbles.

A log pokes up, Awk-Awk points at it. He jumps, bouncing his ball.

AWK-AWK

There she is!

Sean turns to look.

SEAN

That's not Nessie! It's just a log. You promised you'd introduce me to the Loch Ness Monster. You said she was your friend.

Boat goes by, leaving a wake. Awk-Awk points to the wake. He jumps, bouncing his ball.

AWK-AWK

I see Nessie!

Sean turns to look.

SEAN

That's not Nessie! That's just the wake from the boat. Quit teasing me. We have to go home tomorrow. I don't want to go home without meeting Nessie.

FISH CHORUS A

Watch out! Here comes the troll!

AWK-AWK

Always listen to the Fish Chorus.

FISH CHORUS B

Why are fish so smart?

FISH CHORUS A

They're always in schools.

Troll comes stomping down the lake shore.

TROLL

Smash! Bash! Crash a rock!
I'm going to drain the Loch!

SEAN

You can't drain Loch Ness! Nessie lives here!

TROLL

I'm going to catch that beast
and put an end to her roaming.
I'll cook her in a giant feast
in soup all thick and foaming.

Mermaid waves to audience from
lake. None of the characters on
stage are facing the lake, so
none of them see her. Mermaid
has a ball like Awk-Awk's but
it's blue. Note - each ball has
a different sound effect. Awk-
Awk's gets a drum beat.
Mermaid's gets tinkling bells.

SEAN

Nobody could drain Loch Ness! That's silly! Where would you
put all that water?

TROLL

Don't you ever call me silly.
I'm a terrible troll.
Loch Ness is mighty chilly.
But I can drain it like bowl.

AWK-AWK

That's just a bunch of bluster.

TROLL

See that meter on the shore.
It measures water in Nessie's lair
When it falls, there is no more
Nessie had better beware.

(Troll indicates meter on
stage right)

My pumps are powered with dank grey fog
They'll drain Loch Ness to an empty bog

FISH CHORUS B

We don't like fog.

FISH CHORUS A

What happens when you throw a pink rock into Loch Ness?

FISH CHORUS B

It gets wet.

Troll stamps one foot, causing
Awk-Awk and Mermaid to lose their
balls.

We hear the beat-beat of Awk-Awk's ball as it hits the ground, and the tinkle of Mermaid's as it washes in the waves of Loch Ness. Still, Awk-Awk and Mermaid do not see each other.

AWK-AWK

Oh, awk! Gravity!

Waves in the lake make the balls trade places. Mermaid grabs Awk-Awk's ball and dives under. Awk-Awk picks up Mermaid's ball and puts it on his head.

TROLL

Smash! Bash! Crash a Rock!
I'm going to drain the Loch!

Troll stomps off, causing a mini-earthquake. A wave splashes Sean and Awk-Awk. Awk-Awk loses ball again. We hear the bell sound.

AWK-AWK

Oh, awk! Gravity!

SEAN

We have to stop the troll from draining the loch.

Mermaid surfaces again. Giggles.
Holds up red ball.

MERMAID

Nessie will know what to do. Do you want to see Nessie?

SEAN

You bet I do! More than anything!

MERMAID

Then you'll do what I say?

AWK-AWK

This is no time for your mermaid games. We need Nessie to save the loch. And I need my ball back.

SEAN

Please get Nessie to come see us..

Mermaid giggles.

AWK-AWK

Mermaids are full of tricks.

SEAN
(to Mermaid)
This is no time to play tricks.

MERMAID
(giggles)
It's always time to play tricks.

SEAN
Can we get Nessie up here? We need her help!

Mermaid giggles.

SEAN (CONT'D)
(to Awk-Awk)
How do we get her
to help us? (meaning mermaid)

AWK-AWK
We'll see Nessie without her.

Awk-Awk stomps flipper. Ball
falls off his head. More tinkling
sound.

AWK-AWK (CONT'D)
Oh, Awk, Gravity!

SEAN
What do we have to do for you, so you'll fetch Nessie?
Whatever it is, we'll do it!

Mermaid giggles.

AWK-AWK
No! Don't!

FISH CHORUS B
Don't listen to the mermaid.

FISH CHORUS A
What happens when you throw a brown rock into Loch Ness?

FISH CHORUS B
It sinks to the bottom.

SEAN
(to Mermaid)
Just tell me what to do.

AWK-AWK
You can't! I'll do it!

Sean takes blue ball and balances
it on his own head.

MERMAID

(giggles)

I'll show you Nessie if you'll get my jeweled comb back from
the Viking Ghosts who stole it.

Mermaid ducks under water with
red ball.

SEAN

That doesn't sound hard.

AWK-AWK

You haven't met the Viking Ghosts. They live at the bottom
of the loch. One has a peg leg. One has a hook for a hand.
And one has barnacles in his beard.

Mermaid pops up again and
splashes Sean.

MERMAID

And you can't breathe under water.

SEAN

I could try to hold my breath.

MERMAID

You can't ask the Vikings for my comb while you are holding
your breath!

AWK-AWK

That settles it. You can't go.

SEAN

I need to see Nessie! The loch is in danger! So somebody
has to go.

FISH CHORUS B

Humans should stay on land.

FISH CHORUS A

What lies at the bottom of the loch and shakes?

FISH CHORUS B

A nervous wreck.

AWK-AWK

Okay. I'll do it. I'll need to take that ball with me.

SEAN

Why? I'm having fun with it.

AWK-AWK

I'm a seal. I'd look ridiculous without a ball on my head.

SEAN

Silly seal!

(Sean puts ball on Awk-Awk's head.)

Hurry up! The loch is draining!

Cut to scene under the loch.

Bottom of Loch Ness is divided into three areas - Troll's cave with Rube Goldberg machine, Viking's Lair above the cave, and Nessie's Grotto. Each is illuminated when action takes place there.

Troll's cave: Troll is digging, putting rocks into a hopper of a Rube Goldberg type contraption attached to the meter.

In Nessie's Grotto: Mermaid is singing. Nessie approaches.

MERMAID

(singing and smoothing hair, holding red ball)

Mistress Mary, quite contrary, how does your garden grow?
With silver bells and cockle shells and pretty maids all in a row.

NESSIE

What a pretty song! And your hair looks lovely today.

(Pause)

What happened to your fancy jeweled comb?

MERMAID

(angrily)

The Vikings stole it.

She bounces red ball. Drum sound.

NESSIE

I'm sure they'll give it back if you sing for them. Pegleg can never resist your songs.

TROLL

If she sings for thieves
she rewards them for stealing
"It all belongs to me"

TROLL (CONT'D)

is every thief's feeling.

And there is another thing:
I triply hate to hear her sing!

NESSIE

Mermaids sing. Vikings steal. That's the way the world is.
Why not enjoy it?

TROLL

I hate the world in this cold lake,
Mermaid, Monster and Viking!
That gold was meant for me to take.
Nothing here is to my liking!

NESSIE

Poor Troll, you're having a bad day. And so is our mermaid -
with her comb stolen. And she has the wrong ball.

FISH CHORUS A

Nessie is having the worst day of all.

FISH CHORUS B

What did one octopus say to the other octopus?

FISH CHORUS A

I want to hold your hand hand hand hand hand hand hand hand.

MERMAID

Awk-Awk promised to get my comb back for me.

TROLL

Oh no, not that awful seal!
He must not come down here!
He's as clumsy as an eel
He'll stumble on my draining gear!

Smash! Bash! Crash a Rock.
I'm going to drain the Loch!

Troll picks up a sledge and
smashes rocks in his cave.

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