

PLUM LUCK

A short dramedy for young audiences by
Lojo Simon

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

RIVER, a hearing child.

ANTS, non-speaking roles for multiple actors.

FROG

CAT

DOG

GONE FISHIN', a Spanish-speaking child.

WREN, a child with a disability.

Characters are not gender-specific and may be played by actors of any gender. Pronouns in the script merely serve as placeholders and may be changed without permission according to production casting. Diverse casting is encouraged.

SETTING

Outdoors, where we see a very tall plum tree with a single plum high in the branches. Optional set pieces might include grass, a pond, bushes and flowers that both serve the story and help guide young actors in basic blocking. Set need not be realistic. A production also could be staged outdoors.

NOTES

Originally written for 1 day/1 play, a project of Write Local. Play Global. in celebration of ASSITEJ World Day of Theatre for Youth and Children.

(RIVER sleeps on a picnic blanket under a plum tree. Next to him is a large picnic basket filled with food. A line of ANTS enters. The first comes across River's picnic basket. The others follow. They line up. The ant closest to the basket picks up various food items, one at a time, and hands them down the line, where, on the other end, the food is carried off to the ants' nest. In no time at all, the picnic basket is empty. The last ant eats some food, leaving a trail of crumbs behind. River wakes to discover his empty basket. River follows the trail of crumbs, but the ants are gone. River spies a ripe plum high in the tree.)

RIVER: A plum!

(FROG enters.)

FROG: Ribbit. Ribbit.

RIVER: Hello, Frog.

FROG: Ribbit.

RIVER: I wonder, can you tell me how to get that plum?

FROG: Ribbit.

RIVER: I'm very hungry.

FROG: Croak. Ribbit.

(Frog jumps. River looks on. Frog jumps again.)

RIVER: Oh, I see! I can jump to get the plum.

(River jumps.)

FROG: Ribbit.

(River jumps.)

RIVER: Ribbit.

(Frog jumps three times. River jumps three times.)

Ribbit, ribbit, ribbit.

FROG: Croak.

(No matter how high River jumps, he can't reach the plum.)

RIVER: I'll never jump high enough to reach the plum. But thank you for trying to help me.

FROG: Croak.

(CAT enters. Frog jumps away toward a pond to escape the cat.)

RIVER: Excuse me, Cat, maybe you can help me.

(Cat rubs up against River's legs.)

CAT: Meow.

RIVER: I'm trying to get that plum.

(Cat circles round River's legs. Cat purrs.)

CAT: Meow.

(Cat licks her paws. River licks his hand.)

RIVER: Meow.

(Cat purrs. Cat stretches her front paws on the tree trunk.)

Oh, I see. I can stretch to get the plum.

(River stretches his arms high as he can on the tree trunk...)

Meow.

(...but no matter how much he stretches he can't reach the plum.)

I'll never stretch high enough to reach the plum. But thank you for trying to help me.

CAT: Meow.

(DOG enters. Dog carries a Frisbee. Cat runs away to hide from the dog.)

RIVER: Hey there, Doggie.

DOG: Woof.

RIVER: Got a Frisbee, have you?

(Dog drops the Frisbee at River's feet.)

DOG: Woof woof.

(Dog runs around, eager to play.)

RIVER: I'd play with you if I could, but I'm very hungry.

DOG: Woof woof.

RIVER: I'm trying to get that plum up there.

DOG: Woof woof woof.

(Dog picks up Frisbee and runs around.)

RIVER: That's a great idea! I'll throw the Frisbee to knock down the plum!

(River throws the Frisbee at the plum but misses.)

Woof.

(Dog retrieves the Frisbee. River throws it again but misses.)

Woof. Woof.

(Dog retrieves it.)

DOG: Woof. Woof woof.

(River throws it again but misses.)

RIVER: Woof.

(Dog retrieves it. This is fun for the dog, but the plum remains out of reach.)

I'll never throw the Frisbee high enough to reach the plum. But thank you for trying to help me.

DOG: Woof.

(Dog runs off with the Frisbee and finds a quiet place to lie down and rest. GONE FISHIN' enters carrying a fishing pole.)

RIVER: Oh, hello! Are you going fishing in the pond?

GONE FISHIN': Que?

RIVER: I saw your fishing pole, and I was wondering—

GONE FISHIN': No hablo ingles.

(Gone Fishin' walks past the tree toward a nearby pond.)

RIVER: Wait! Can you help me get that plum up there?

(River points to the plum. Gone Fishin' looks up, considers the problem and hands River the fishing pole.)

That's a long fishing pole. Maybe I can use it to knock down the plum.

(River tries to reach the plum. The pole is too short. Gone Fishin' takes a turn trying to reach the plum.)

GONE FISHIN': Oomph.

RIVER: Ooomph.

(No matter how much they try, neither can reach the plum.)

I'll never reach high enough to get that plum. But thank you for trying to help me.

(Gone Fishin' walks toward the pond, stops, sits and checks his fishing gear. River checks his picnic basket. It is still empty.)

Everyone tried to help me. The frog jumped. The cat stretched. The dog shared the Frisbee, and the kid going fishing shared the fishing pole. But nothing worked. I'm still hungry. How can I get that plum?

(WREN appears high in the tree. From their hiding places, Frog, Cat, Dog and Gone Fishin' shout to River.)

FROG: Ribbit!

CAT: Meow!

DOG: Woof!

GONE FISHIN': ¡Mira!

(River looks up and sees Wren. River waves to her.)

RIVER: Hello up there!

(Wren waves.)

Have you been up there all along?

(Wren shrugs and smiles.)

I've been so busy down here, I didn't see you. I've been trying to get that plum.

(Wren points to the plum.)

Can you reach it?

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