



AN ADORABLE PLAY FOR YOUNG CHILDREN
INSPIRED BY EDWARD LEAR'S
CLASSIC POEM

THE OWL & THE PUSSY CAT



WHAT HAPPENS WHEN AN OWL & A PUSSY CAT
GO TO SEA? ADVENTURE!

Includes classic nursery rhymes: Row row row your boat, 1,2,3,4,5 once I
caught a fish alive, Head, shoulders knees and toes, & Mary had a Little
lamb.

BY SARAH MAYO TIGHE

THE OWL AND THE PUSSYCAT

This short play has been written for very young children between the ages of 2 - 6.

The language is purposefully repetitive to help the audience follow the simple story. Nursery rhymes (that the children already know) have been incorporated as a tool for interaction.

Total running time: around 10 minutes.

CHARACTERS

Narrator

Owl

Pussycat

Boy

Crocodiles (as many as you want)

Mary

SETTING AND PROPS

The setting is very simple, and few props are needed. The boat can be a cardboard boat, an imaginary boat, or perhaps a couple of actors dressed up as a boat.

Scene: The Owl and the Pussy Cat are sitting down, lounging around. The narrator stands to one side of the stage.

NARRATOR

Once upon a time there was an owl...

OWL

Hello, I am an owl. Hoot!

NARRATOR

And a pussycat..

PUSSYCAT

Hello, I am a pussycat. Meow!

NARRATOR

And they were bored.

OWL

I'm bored!

PUSSYCAT

I'm bored too! Let's do something!

OWL

What can we do?

NARRATOR

They thought about something they could do.

OWL

We could jump like frogs!

PUSSYCAT

Good idea!

NARRATOR:

Whenever the owl and the pussy cat were sad, or happy, or angry or bored, they would jump like frogs. They were very good at jumping like frogs. They jumped very high and very far, and somehow, it always made life interesting...

The owl and the pussycat jump across the stage like frogs until they suddenly stop.

OWL

What's that?

NARRATOR

The owl and the pussycat had found a river. And floating on the river was a small boat.

PUSSYCAT

It's a boat!

They begin examining it.

OWL

What lovely boat! Red and shiny like an apple...

PUSSYCAT

I wonder who it belongs to?

Out comes a BOY holding a fishing line. He is in pain, holding a sore finger and moaning.

OWL

Excuse me! My name is owl.

PUSSYCAT

And I am pussycat.

BOY

And I'm a BOY. Boo hoo!

NARRATOR

Owl and Pussycat met a BOY. The BOY was sad.

OWL

Why are you sad?

BOY

I was fishing, and then something terrible happened.

OWL

Oh dear! What happened?

BOY

(Using actions)

One two three four five
Once I caught a fish alive
Six seven eight nine ten
Then I let it go again

OWL

Why did you let it go?

BOY

Because it bit my finger so!

CAT

Which finger did it bite?

BOY

This little finger on my right. Boo hoo!

NARRATOR

The BOY was sad because a fish bit his finger. Luckily, the OWL knew just what to do!

OWL

I'll fix your finger.

He reaches into his pocket and pulls out a Band-Aid. Then he wraps it around the BOYs' finger. The BOY wiggles his finger.

BOY

It doesn't hurt anymore! Thank you, owl, Thank you, pussycat,

He hugs them.

NARRATOR

The BOY was so happy that he wanted to do something nice for the owl and the pussycat.

BOY

Would you like to ride in my boat?

OWL and PUSSYCAT (unison)

Oh yes!

BOY

Here are the paddles.

The owl and the pussycat step into the boat. It wobbles! They sit down.

BOY

Just one thing! Big crocodiles live in this river. They are long, green and have big teeth! Be very careful of the crocodiles because they are always hungry!
Goodbye Owl. Goodbye pussycat. Come back in time for dinner!

NARRATOR

The owl and the pussycat said goodbye to the BOY and began to row down the river.

OWL + PUSSYCAT

Row, row, row your boat
Gently down the stream
Merrily, merrily merrily merrily.
Life is but a dream!

NARRATOR

They were having a lovely time rowing down the stream and didn't notice that someone was behind them.

The crocodiles moves onto the stage.

CROCODILE 1

Well, well, well, well - an owl and a pussycat! Floating down my river! My favorites!

CROCODILE 2

I'm going to eat their heads!

CROCODILE 3

I'm going eat their shoulders

CROCODILE 4

I'm going to eat their knees

CROCODILE 1

I'm going to eat their toes.

CROCODILES

Heads, shoulders knees and toes, knees and toes
heads shoulders knees and toes knees and toes and
eyes and ears and mouth and nose!
heads shoulders knees and toes knees and toes!

NARRATOR

The big green crocodiles began to follow the owl and the pussycat as they rowed down the river.

OWL & PUSSY CAT

Row row row your boat,
gently down the stream
merrily merrily merrily merrily
life is but a dream!

NARRATOR

Soon, it was very hot, and the owl and the pussy cat wished they'd brought along something cold to drink.

OWL

I'm thirsty!

PUSSYCAT

Me too!

NARRATOR

Suddenly, they saw another boat coming towards them.

OWL

Look! A boat!

PUSSYCAT.

Maybe they'll have something cold we can drink! Let's go and see!

NARRATOR

As they rowed towards the boat, they saw that, inside, there was a little girl and a small fluffy white lamb.

OWL

Hello!

GIRL

Hello!

PUSSY CAT

What's your name?

GIRL

I'm Mary, and this is my little lamb.

NARRATOR

The owl and the pussy cat spoke to Mary. For Mary had a little lamb, its fleece was white as snow – and everywhere that Mary went, the lamb was sure to go! Fortunately, Mary had something else on her boat - two bottles of ice cold lemonade!