



Munsch at Play

Eight Stage Adaptations for Young Performers

Plays by Irene N. Watts

Original Stories by Robert Munsch

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Contents

Preface • 7



Angela's Airplane • 9



Stephanie's Ponytail • 18

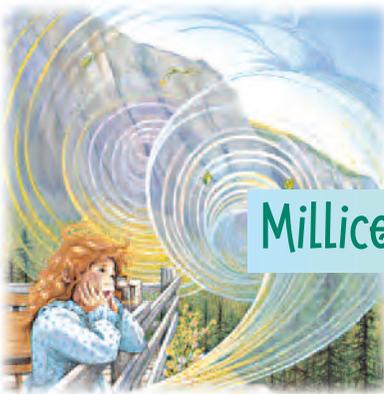


Mortimer • 29

50 Below Zero • 36



Mud Puddle • 44



Millicent and The Wind • 55

Murmel, Murmel, Murmel • 64



The Paper Bag Princess • 72

★ Preface ★

 The following adaptations of some of the most well-loved Robert Munsch stories have been retold and performed in a variety of styles by students of all ages for many years. Children have improvised in groups or as a class, using mime and movement as an alternative to designed set pieces. They have experimented with innovative casting and performed the stories in groups as small as four and larger than twenty!

Groups have used more than one narrator and enjoyed multi-casting.

Performances have taken place indoors and out, on stages, in corridors, classrooms, gymnasiums, and in tents.

These adaptations have challenged students to come up with innovative ideas in every form of presentation, from standard proscenium to theater in the round.

The art of narrative and timing—especially when there is audience participation, the use of sound and silence, many opportunities for arts, crafts, stage design, and costuming, and the use of “found” materials—have enriched the dramatic experience and enhanced class collaboration.



Storytelling through drama, and working together in large groups where everyone has an important role to play, has been as satisfying to the participants as it has to the audience. Performers as young as seven and eight have worked as happily and harmoniously as teenagers, and often in a drama club, as part of a mixed age group.

The following suggestions for casting, staging, set design, props, and costumes are intended as a starting point—one possible way. You and your students will discover many others. Let the power of Robert Munsch's stories and your own creativity be your guide.

Running Time

Each play can be performed in 8 to 10 minutes, but much depends on the space, kinds of participation, costuming, and changes and size of cast. Presentations, if two or three of the stories are put together, can be given in 20 to 30 minutes, allowing for a change-over of cast.

Enjoy!

Irene N. Watts

Angela's Airplane



CAST

- Narrator
- Father
- Angela
- Wings (two)
- Airplane Lights (two)
- Radio Voice
- Airport Personnel: luggage handlers, firefighters, traffic cop, ambulance people, air stewards, travelers, businesspeople, families—variety of ages
- Doctor
- Truck Driver
- Secretary
- Nurse



STAGING

The CAST sits on the floor around the playing area in a half-circle. Their focus is on the NARRATOR and the actors.

Exits and entrances are created by characters entering the playing area and returning to their places when finished.

An exit may be as simple as a character facing upstage away from the audience.

ANGELA and her FATHER are seated next to each other at the start of the play.

SET DESIGN

A barstool, chair, or box for the NARRATOR is set downstage right or left (close to the audience).

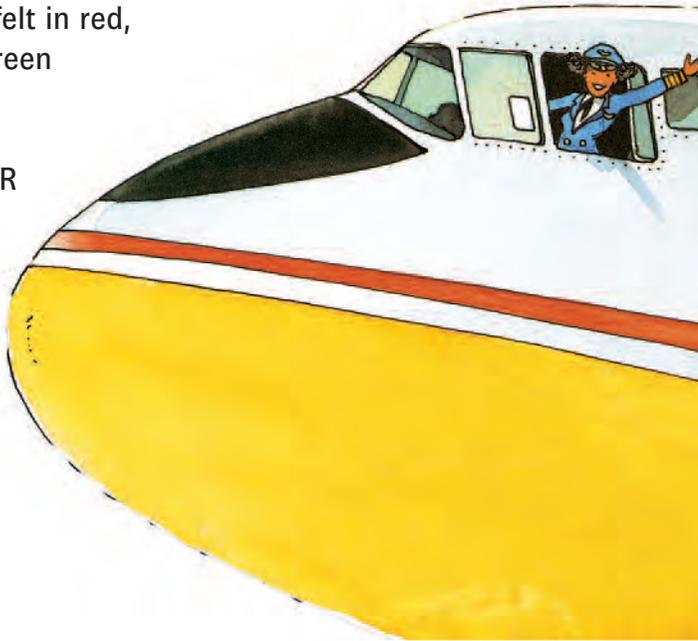
A small stepladder for ANGELA, center, with steps facing upstage (away from the audience), represents the airplane.

One bench or two boxes/chairs, is placed on *each* side of the airplane (stepladder).

A hat/coat stand is placed upstage right or left (or hats may be placed on the floor in front of the cast).

PROPS AND COSTUMES

- the button board: large circles, painted or made of felt in red, yellow, black, and green
- two flashlights
- two cutout wings
- hats/caps for FATHER and AIRPORT PERSONNEL



NARRATOR: This story is called *Angela's Airplane*. One day, Angela's father said:

FATHER: I'm taking you to the airport.

(The CAST appears as designated characters in the airport. The two actors playing WINGS sit on either side of the stepladder. The two actors responsible for AIRPLANE LIGHTS sit beside them and help to support the WINGS.)

NARRATOR: They started off looking at stuff together.

(ANGELA is busy examining the scene and does not see her FATHER exit. FATHER returns to his place and removes hat.)

NARRATOR: But then a terrible thing happened ... Angela's father got lost.

ANGELA: Where's my dad?

(She looks for him.)

NARRATOR: Angela looked everywhere for her father.

CAST: On top of airplanes, under airplanes, beside airplanes.

ANGELA: I can't find him anyplace.

NARRATOR: Angela decided to look inside an airplane.

ANGELA: I've never been inside an airplane before. I'll try this one.