



## Performance Notes for The King's Choice

### THREE WAYS THAT STUDENTS AND TEACHERS CAN UTILIZE THIS PLAY

1. *Students can read the play aloud while sitting in the classroom.* Ask the readers to skip all bracketed stage directions. You may prefer to rotate your actors to give all students a chance to read the speaking parts.
2. *Students can perform the play in the classroom.* Clear an area that can be used as the stage. Have the audience sit on the floor in front of the stage. Students in the play can make simple costumes and/or sets as described below. When the scene change, the characters "on stage" simply walk to the back of the room where they wait until their next appearance "on stage."
3. *Students can perform the play on stage.* Refer to the production notes that follow. Ask the actors to enter from the back of the room and move through the audience as they approach the stage.



### COSTUMES

- NARRATOR – Plain, simple clothing.
- KING – A red robe that is easy to remove, and a crown. Under the robe, he should wear a simple shirt and pants that are a bit tattered. This will be his woodcutter's costume. During Scene 2, the KING will remove his robe to become a woodcutter.
- QUEEN – Nice dress or robe, and a crown.
- COUNCILORS – Can all wear khaki shirts and pants. You can also have them each wear something different to help the audience separate them, such as different colored belts or sashes.
- FAIRY – Sparkly or sequined dress or outfit. Wings, if possible.



## PROPS

### Scene 1

- A sword for KING to have at his side. This can be a plastic sword or a sword cut out of cardboard. It can be held at his side with a belt, which goes over his robe and is easy to remove.
- A doll wrapped in a blanket to represent the INFANT.
- Small rattle for KING to shake.
- Something small and white to represent COUNCILOR ERIK'S tooth. Or he can just pretend to hold up a tooth.
- A fork and small meatball for COUNCILOR LARS. The meatball can be real- he can carry it in a cup and then actually eat it, or you can make a fake meatball from cardboard or crumpled up paper, and attach it to a fork. In this case, he can just pretend to take a bite and chew.
- A golden shield for COUNCILOR OSCAR. You can make this out of cardboard and make a cardboard handle on the back.
- A mirror and comb for COUNCILOR SIMON.

### Scene 2

- A toy horse for KING to ride. Or you can make a fake horse using a broom handle and cardboard. Remove the handle from the broom. Draw a horse head, about a foot long, onto cardboard, using a black sharpie, so the details will stand out. Cut it out and attach it to one end of a broom handle.
- A branch made from cardboard for KING to "run into". A stagehand can hold the branch out, and the KING gallops into it.
- A magic wand for FAIRY. You can make this out of paper or cardboard, or you can use a stick for the base and decorate it with yarn, ribbon, and paper.
- Woodcutter's Cottage. This can be simple- cut from cardboard and painted to resemble a wood cottage. Stagehands bring it on during KING'S change and hold it until the end of Scene 3, and then take it off.
- An axe for KING, when he becomes a woodcutter. This can be plastic or cut from cardboard.

### Scene 3

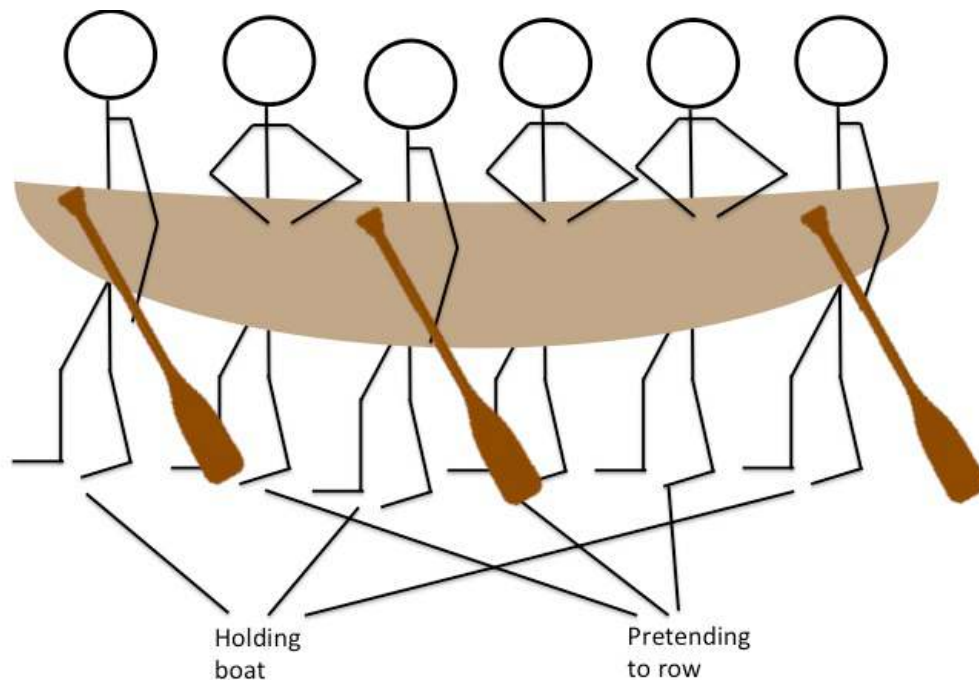
- A boat for the COUNCILORS to use. This can be made from a big piece of cardboard. Cut out the shape of a canoe-style boat. It should be long enough length-wise that all six COUNCILORS can stand behind it in a row. If you can't



make it that long, make it at least long enough for 3 of the COUNCILORS to stand behind it, and the other 3 can stand next to them (creating two rows).

The boat should be short enough height-wise that the COUNCILORS can hold the boat up with their arms. Most of their legs and their feet can show at the bottom.

They can walk the boat on, with a few of them carrying it and a few of them pretending to row. You can even make oars out of cardboard for those who are rowing. When the storm comes, those who are carrying it can move the boat back and forth, as the actors move their bodies, to give the appearance of rough waters.



#### Scene 4

- N/A

#### Scene 5

- Bowls and plates of food. The bowls and plates can be filled with fake food items, either plastic, or made from paper.



## SETS

To make scene transitions earlier, the stage can be split into three sections. You can make a backdrop that shows the three locations, or just rely on set pieces. The three



locations are:

- 1) Castle Hall, on one side of the stage.
- 2) The forest, in the middle of the stage.
- 3) The Lake, on the other side of the stage.

- **Scene 1** – Castle Hall consists of two thrones. Use high-backed chairs and cover them in red fabric.
- **Scene 2** – Forest consists of trees and bushes, which can be made out of cardboard boxes. You can paint small boxes to resemble bushes, and paint larger boxes to resemble clusters of trees. Another option would be to cut flat trees out of cardboard and use excess cardboard to create a brace to help them stand up.
- **Scene 3** – Lake is show more with action than set. As the COUNCILORS bring on the boat, you can have stage hands bring on a long piece of blue flowy fabric and wave it back and forth in front of the boat.
- **Scene 4** – Castle hall- Same as Scene 1.
- **Scene 5** – Castle hall- Same as Scene 1 & 4.