

Munsch Upon a Time

Stories of Robert Munsch adapted by Debbie Patterson

Containing the stories:

David's Father

The Fire Station

Give Me Back My Dad

The Paperbag Princess

It's My Room

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The Opening Dance Party (9 minutes)

The Ninjas enter to upbeat circus music

They wave to the audience, saying words of welcome/thanks for coming, improv moves/dancing.

(Music fades to a faint background level, continues during the Ninjas' lines)

Ninja 1: Welcome everyone to Grande Prairie Live Theatre's performance of Munsch Upon A Time by the Award Winning Playwright, Debbie Patterson.

N2: We are so excited that you are here.

N3: How many of you are excited to see 5 Robert Munsch Stories live on this stage today?

(Pause for audience reaction)

N4: Wow, I think they are all here to see our version of Robert Munsch.

N5: But wait, before we get to the play I want to dance.

N6: Me too, I am wearing my special Robert Munsch dancing shoes.

N1: Let's find out if anyone else wants to dance.

N2: Does anyone want to dance with us?

N3: Come on up on stage.

N4: Or dance in the aisle

N5: Or dance at your seat

N6: Come on everyone get up and dance.

(Dance music starts runs for 6 minutes)

(4 Ninjas leave the stage, 2 down each aisle, to get kids to come up on stage and to get kids and adults dancing in the aisle and in their seats. They dance in the aisles interacting with the audience)

2 Ninjas remain on the stage dancing with whoever comes up on stage and asking kids and adults to come up on stage to dance

The Ninjas adlib as they interact with those dancing and the rest of the audience)

(At the end of 6 minutes the music changes less dynamic, slower and the Ninjas adlib thanking everyone for their great dancing, asking them to go back to their seats, asking if they had a great time, etc.)

N1: That was so much fun.

N2: How about the audience?

N3: Did you all have fun?

N4: Are you ready for the show?

N5: Before the show gets going there is one more thing we need to do.

N6: Please welcome to the stage GPLT Board Member(Use their official Board position title) (insert name) who has a few words of welcome.

(Board Member enters shakes the Ninjas hands. The Ninjas exit.

Board Member gives their speech and exits)

Blackout with special intro music)

Characters:

The Professor: Earnest and obsessed

Patsy: The life of the party, fun-loving, thrill-seeking

Fullerton: Uptight and anxious

Location: A Science Centre lecture hall

The professor begins his lecture.

PROF

Time. We all live within it but do we really understand it? Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, I am here to demonstrate my amazing new invention which will obliterate, yes, obliterate any notion you may have had about what time is and how it works. Now I know some of you are sitting there thinking smugly, "I bet he's going to show us a time machine," But NO! I am not going to show you a time machine, I will show you TWO time machines. This one, on my right, goes into the past. The other, on my left travels forward into the future. They are both calibrated to boomerang back here to this time and place. I will send an assistant forty years into the past to find a specimen to bring back to us, while another assistant does the same forty years in the future. Unfortunately, my two regular assistants are both home sick today; one with a rather nasty case of the hiccups and the other with-- well I'd rather not say. Certainly, both their afflictions are due to natural causes and have nothing whatsoever to do with having been human guinea pigs in a time travel experiment. Nevertheless, in their absence, the experiment can continue but I will need two volunteers, two intrepid individuals who are willing to take a risk in the name of science! Who's it going to be?

The professor chooses two kids and brings them up on stage.

PROF

Welcome to you both. (to one kid) What is your name? (The kid says their name and the professor repeats it. Then to the other kid) And what is your name? (The kid says their name and the professor repeats it.) Ladies and gents, please give these brave - some may say foolish, but I say brave - volunteers a hand! You will each go into one of these time machines. If all goes well, once you arrive at your destination a person will appear in your time machine with you. Tell that person "Come with me. Don't worry, I'm a trained professional." This will put their mind at ease. The time machine will then boomerang - at least in theory - back to this time and you will emerge victorious with a willing specimen from another time. (This next bit will need to be loose and ad-libby. Basically, you need to identify who the kid is at the theatre with. In a school show you can ask who their teacher is or who their best friend is.) Who are you here with? Parents, grandparents, friends? Can you point them out? Oh hello! Do you have any final words for them? Not that you won't come back or anything, but you never know for sure. Anything can happen! (Let the kids speak if they want. You can respond if you want, the parents might pipe up as well. Anything can happen!) Right, now let's get on with it. First

_____, come with me. You are going to the past, to the year 1987. Just step into this machine. Wave goodbye to all of this and godspeed, good luck, please come back!

He shuts the door of the past machine and it makes a noise.

PROF

That sounds promising. Right, now _____, to the future with you. Off to the year 2067. How old are you? Well, the next time you find yourself in the year 2067 you will be forty _____ years old. Imagine that! Now step inside here, Wave goodbye to your people. And may your journey be a safe one.

He shuts the door of the future machine and it makes a noise.

PROF

So far so good.

There is an awkward moment.

PROF

They'll be fine, nothing to worry about.

The past machine makes a new sound.

PROF

Uh oh! I mean, Ah, just as I expected.

The door pops open and the volunteer steps out with Patsy.

PROF

It worked! Well I'll be!

PATSY

Whoa, check out the groovy pad. And a bunch of cool kids! What is this place little buddy?

PROF

Hello! Hello and welcome! I'm Professor Pim and you are?

PATSY

I'm Patsy.

PROF

Patsy! Wonderful. And you've already made the acquaintance of my assistant _____? _____, your work here is done, thank you for your top-notch assistance. Let's give _____ a hand!

The professor leads the volunteer back to their seat. The future machine makes a noise.

PATSY

Far out!

The door pops open and the volunteer steps out with Fullerton.

PROF

Two for two, it's my lucky day!

FULLERTON

For heaven's sake let me out of this obsolete piece of technology. I don't have time for these shenanigans. What on earth do you think you're--

PROF

Welcome!

FULLERTON

Welcome?! You call this a welcome? This young punk appears to have taken me hostage. You little vermin, you germ, you--

PATSY

Cool it, daddy-o. No need to blow your top.

PROF

Yes, please spare my young assistant your anger. I am Professor Pim. _____ is merely helping me out with a scientific experiment. And you've done a bang up job, _____. Thank you so much for your help. A round of applause for _____.

The professor leads the volunteer back to their seat.

PATSY

Hey man, my name's Patsy. What's yours?

She extends her hand to shake his.

FULLERTON

Oh no. No no no no no.

PATSY

What's the matter?

FULLERTON

Not without gloves, what are you, mad? Wait, is this your scientific experiment? We all share disgusting germs and see who gets sick first?

PROF

Heaven's no!

FULLERTON

(to audience) And where are your facemasks? This is completely unsanitary!

PROF

Fascinating!

PATSY

What are you talking about?

FULLERTON

Where are your parents? How utterly irresponsible, sending you out into the world like this.

PATSY

Relax, the kids are fine, mister—

FULLERTON

Fullerton. You can call me Mr. Fullerton.

PATSY

Radical. This cat over here is Professor Pim.

PROF

And let me assure you, Mr. Fullerton, my scientific experiment has nothing to do with germs. I assure you this environment is quite sanitary. My field is time travel. I'm just about to embark upon a scientific lecture on the malleable nature of time.

PATSY

Oh, I don't think so

FULLERTON

Excuse me?

PATSY

You think these crazy cats want to hear a lecture? Boring! Trust me, I'm a storyteller, I know what kids like to hear, and it ain't lectures

PROF

Nevertheless, that is what we're here to do.

PATSY

Let's let the people decide if they'd rather hear a boring old lecture - yawn - or a ripping good story. What do you say kids, lecture? Or story? (she gets them to applaud loudly for "story") The people have spoken.

FULLERTON

Is this going to take very long?

PATSY

I promise you; this will make the time fly.

PROF

I must say I'm intrigued to learn what sort of story you might tell, so please, lead on.

PATSY

Great! Okay here's a good one, it's called David's Father.

David's Father

PATSY

Julie was skipping home from school. She came to a large moving van.

PROF

Oh yes, I know this one! 'A man came out carrying a spoon – only it was as big as a shovel.'

FULLERTON

Yes, yes, amazing! Then it goes, "Another man came out carrying a fork – only it was as big as a pitchfork."

PATSY

Right on you guys! Let's do this together.

PROF

A third man came out carrying a knife – only it was as big as a flagpole.

PATSY

Yikes, I don't want to get to know these people at all. She ran all the way home and hid under her bed till dinner time.

The next day Julie was skipping home from school again.

FULLERTON

A boy was standing where the moving van had been.

Hi, my name's David. Would you like to come and play?

PATSY

Julie looked at him very carefully. He seemed to be a regular sort of boy, so she stayed to play.

PROF

At five o'clock, from far away down the street, someone called:

Julie, come and eat.

PATSY

That's my mother.

PROF

Then someone called:

DAVID!!!

FULLERTON

That's my father.

PROF

Julie jumped up in the air, ran around in a circle three times, ran home and locked herself in her room till it was time for breakfast the next morning.

PATSY

The next day Julie was skipping home and she saw David again.

FULLERTON

Hi Julie, do you want to come and play?

PATSY

Julie looked at him very carefully. He seemed to be a regular boy, so she stayed and played until it was almost five o'clock.

FULLERTON

Julie, please stay for dinner.

PROF

But Julie remembered the big knife, the big fork and the big spoon.

PATSY

Well, I don't know, maybe it's a bad idea. I think maybe no. Good-bye, good-bye, good-bye.

FULLERTON

Well we're having cheeseburgers, chocolate milk shakes and a salad.

PATSY

Oh? I love cheeseburgers. I'll stay, I'll stay.

PROF

So they went to the kitchen.

FULLERTON

There was a small table with cheeseburgers, milk shakes and salads.

PATSY

On the other side of the room there was an enormous table.

FULLERTON

On it were a spoon as big as a shovel,

PROF

a fork as big as a pitchfork

FULLERTON

and a knife as big as a flagpole.

PATSY

David, who sits there?

FULLERTON

Oh, that's where my father sits. You can hear him coming now.

PROF

David's father sounded like this:

BROUM BROUM BROUM

He opened the door. David's father was a giant. On his table there were 26 snails, three fried octopuses and 16 bricks covered with chocolate sauce.

PATSY

David and Julie ate their cheeseburgers

PROF

and the father ate the snails.

FULLERTON

David and Julie drank their milk shakes

PROF

and the father ate the fried octopuses.

PATSY

David and Julie ate their salads

PROF

and the father ate his chocolate covered bricks.

Julie would you like a snail?

PATSY

No.

PROF

Julie would you like an octopus?

PATSY

No.

PROF

Julie would you like a chocolate covered brick.

PATSY

No but please, may I have another milk shake?

PROF

So David's father made her another milk shake.

PATSY

David, you don't look very much like your father.

FULLERTON

Well I'm adopted.

PATSY

Oh, well do you like your father?

FULLERTON

He's great, come for a walk and see.

PATSY

So they walked down the street. Julie and David skipped

PROF

and the father went:

BROUM BROUM BROUM

PATSY

They came to a road and they couldn't get across.

FULLERTON

The cars would not stop for David.

PATSY

The cars would not stop for Julie.

PROF

The father walked into the middle of the road, looked at the cars and yelled:

STOP.

FULLERTON

The cars all jumped into the air, ran around in a circle three times and went back up the street so fast they forgot their tires.

PATSY

Julie and David crossed the street and went into a store.

FULLERTON

The man who ran the store didn't like serving kids. They waited five minutes, 10 minutes, 15 minutes.

PROF

Then David's father came in. He looked at the storekeeper and said:

THESE KIDS ARE MY FRIENDS!

FULLERTON

The man jumped up into the air, ran around the store three times and gave David and Julie three boxes of ice cream,

PATSY

11 bags of potato chips

FULLERTON

and 19 life savers, all for free.

PATSY

Julie and David walked down the street and went around a bend.

FULLERTON

There were six big kids from grade eight standing in the middle of the sidewalk. They looked at David.

PATSY

They looked at Julie and they looked at the food.

FULLERTON

Then one big kid reached down and grabbed a box of ice cream.

PROF

David's father came round the bend. He looked at the big kids and yelled:

BEAT IT.

FULLERTON

They jumped right out of their shirts. They jumped right out of their pants and ran down the street in their underwear.

PATSY

Julie ran after them, but she slipped and scraped her elbow.

PROF

David's father picked her up and held her. He put a special giant bandage on her elbow.

PATSY

Well David, you do have a very nice father after all, but he is still kind of scary.

FULLERTON

You think he's scary?

ALL

Wait till you meet my grandmother.

They do a little end-of-story thing.

FULLERTON

Remarkable! How did you all know this story?

PATSY

It's a pretty famous book.

PROF

I read it all the time when I was a kid.

FULLERTON

You read books?

PROF

Of course, doesn't everybody?

FULLERTON

Nobody reads books anymore, too dangerous. Analog content is a thing of the past.

PROF

Fascinating!

PATSY

That's crazy talk, Bubba!

FULLERTON

Clearly you have no regard for the dangers of viral infection.

PATSY

What are you talking about?

FULLERTON

Your refusal to give up that ancient practice of handshaking.

PATSY

I'm just being friendly.

FULLERTON

By giving me the opportunity to touch all the germs crawling all over your disgusting hand?!

PATSY

Whoa! What have you got against my hands? Relax!

FULLERTON

It's that irresponsible attitude that will kill us all. Vaccination, Sanitation, Isolation! These are the keys to protecting ourselves and others.

PROF

Is that why no one reads books?

FULLERTON

It's tragic; passed from hand to hand, books are perfect incubators for deadly disease. Once a book has been tainted, it has to be destroyed.

PATSY

You destroy books? That's horrible!

FULLERTON

Not as horrible as spreading disease.

PATSY

I don't spread—

FULLERTON

Oh yes you do!

PROF

Mr. Fullerton, you have a great appreciation of books, do you?

FULLERTON

I've dedicated my life to the preservation of analog content devices. I run the only analog content facility in the country.

PROF

You mean a library?

FULLERTON

That's what they used to be called.

PROF

And Patsy, you love books too, don't you?

PATSY

Of course!

PROF

Well isn't that wonderful? We all share a love of books. Do you have a favourite book?

PATSY

There are so many, I couldn't dream of choosing just one.

PROF

What about you?

FULLERTON

I remember having just one book when I was young. It was about two children who visit a fire station.

PROF

The Fire Station!

PASTY

I know that one.

The Fire Station

PATSY

Michael and Sheila were walking down the street. As they passed the fire station Sheila said:

Michael! Let's go ride a fire truck.

PROF

Well, I think maybe I should ask my mother and I think maybe I should ask my father and I think maybe...

PATSY

I think we should go in.

PROF

Then she grabbed Michael's hand and pulled him up to the door.

PATSY

Sheila knocked: BLAM-BLAM-BLAM-BLAM-BLAM.

FULLERTON

A large fireman came out and asked: What can I do for you?

PROF

Well maybe you could show us a fire truck and hoses and rubber boots and ladders and all sorts of stuff like that.

FULLERTON

Certainly.

PATSY

And maybe you will let us drive a fire truck?

FULLERTON

Certainly not.

PROF

They went in and looked at ladders and hoses and big rubber boots.

PATSY

Then they looked at little fire trucks and big fire trucks and enormous fire trucks. When they were done Michael said:

PROF

Let's go.

PATSY

Right, let's go into the enormous fire truck.

FULLERTON

While they were in the truck the fire alarm went off: CLANG-CLANG-CLANG-CLANG-CLANG.

PROF

Oh, no!

PATSY

Oh, yes!

PROF

Then she grabbed Michael and pulled him into the back seat.

FULLERTON

Firemen came running from all over.

PROF

They slid down poles

PATSY

and ran down stairs.

FULLERTON

Then they jumped onto the truck and drove off.

PROF

The firemen didn't look in the back seat.

PATSY

Michael and Sheila were in the back seat.

FULLERTON

They came to an enormous fire. Lots of yucky-coloured smoke got all over everything.

PROF

It coloured Michael yellow, green and blue.

PATSY

It coloured Sheila purple, green and yellow.

FULLERTON

When the fire chief saw them he said:

What are you doing here!

PATSY

We came in the fire truck. We thought maybe it was a bus. We thought maybe it was a taxi. We thought maybe it was an elevator. We thought maybe...

FULLERTON

I think maybe I'd better take you home.

PATSY

He put Michael and Sheila in his car and drove them away.

PROF

When Michael got home he knocked on the door. His mother opened it and said:

FULLERTON

You messy boy! You can't come in and play with Michael! You're too dirty.

She slammed the door right in Michael's face.

PROF

My own mother, she didn't even know me.

He knocked on the door again.

FULLERTON

His mother opened the door and said,

You dirty boy! You can't come in and play with Michael. You're too dirty, You're absolutely filthy. You're a total mess. You're... oh, my!... Oh, no!...YOU'RE MICHAEL!

PROF

Michael went inside and lived in the bathtub for three days until he got clean.

PATSY

When Sheila came home she knocked on the door. Her father opened it and saw an incredibly messy girl.

FULLERTON

You can't come in to play with Sheila. You're too dirty.

He slammed the door right in her face.

PATSY

Ow. My own father and he didn't even know me.

She kicked and pounded on the door as loudly as she could. Her father opened the door and said:

FULLERTON

Now stop that racket, you dirty girl. You can't come in to play with Sheila. You're too dirty. You're absolutely filthy. You're a total mess. You're...Oh, my!...Oh, no!...YOU'RE SHEILA!

PATSY

Right, I went to a fire in the back of a fire truck and I got all smoky. I WASN'T EVEN SCARED.

Sheila went inside and lived in the bathtub for five days until she got clean.

PROF

Then Michael took Sheila on a walk past the police station.

If you ever take me in another fire truck, I am going to ask the police to put you in jail.

PATSY

JAIL! Let's go look at the jail! What a great idea!

PROF

Oh, no!

PATSY

Sheila grabbed his hand and pulled him into the police station.

They do a little end-of-story thing.

FULLERTON

This is uncanny. Your familiarity with these stories is remarkable. This is a very curious place.

PATSY

You said it, brother! Like why is everyone dressed so crazy? Don't get me wrong, I'm having a great time telling stories to you guys, just being in the moment, you know? But my curiosity is getting the better of me.

FULLERTON

It's almost as if-- Wait, what did you say your name was?

PROF

Professor Pim.

FULLERTON

You're Professor Pim? THE Professor Pim.

PROF

Oh no, I'm not famous or anything, just an amateur time travel tinkerer.

FULLERTON

What year is this?

PROF

2027

PATSY

Say what? That's forty years from now.

FULLERTON

Then it's true, you really did invent time travel.

PROF

So it would seem, since you and Patsy are here.

PATSY

I think I need to sit down.

FULLERTON

This is amazing, such an honour to meet you!

PROF

Wait, what? Am I a big deal?

FULLERTON

You have no idea, do you? You're legendary. Of course your story wouldn't be nearly as compelling if tragedy hadn't... um... nevermind

PROF

Tragedy? What tragedy?

FULLERTON

I really shouldn't say.

PROF

TELL ME!

FULLERTON

All your data was lost in the Great System Crash of 2031 and no one has been able to replicate it since. No one was able to dream it up or remember what you did.

PROF

Why didn't I replicate it myself?

FULLERTON

Well that's, um, that's part of the tragedy.

PROF

Go on.

PATSY

Dude, maybe this should remain a mystery.

PROF

Tell me!

FULLERTON

You were gone.

PATSY

I was afraid of that.

PROF

Gone as in GONE?

FULLERTON

You had gone-- back, or forward in time. No one knows. But wherever it was, you couldn't return, because of the crash. We, the people of the future, live in hope that you'll show up; it could happen any time. Then you'll be able to replicate your device and your great discovery will be available to humanity once again.

PROF

Amazing. My little time machines are famous.

PATSY

Buddy, you're famous!

PROF

Nonsense.

PATSY

You are so, weren't you listening? You're the cat's pyjamas.

PROF

Imagine that!

PATSY

And I'm in the year 2027 this is totally blowing my mind!

FULLERTON

So this is the time machine?

PROF

That's one of them. That machine travels to the past. Patsy, you arrived in that one.

PATSY

Radical!

PROF

This machine travels to the future.

PATSY

I've gotta check this out.

She runs into the future machine.

PROF

Actually, that's not such a great idea.

PATSY

You just throw this switch?

FULLERTON

This will take me to the past?

He enters the past machine, distracting the professor.

PROF

Mr. Fullerton! That's not exactly advisable.

FULLERTON

Poppycock, the great crash won't happen for another four years. I have time to do a bit of exploring, surely.

Prof runs over to past machine.

PATSY

See ya!

Patsy throws the switch and the future machine makes a noise. Prof runs over to the future machine.

PROF

Oh no!

FULLERTON

Ta ta!

Fullerton throws the switch and the past machine makes a noise.

PROF

Oh dear this is terrible. (remembers audience, tries to put a positive spin on it) Or, rather, this could be... interesting. I didn't exactly plan for an extra trip, so uh, I'm not absolutely sure there's enough fuel to bring them back here again. And then they'll need to return to their own times, which I'm almost certain I won't be able to accomplish. Oh my goodness this is really quite horrible

The future machine begins to rumble.

PROF

Oh please please please let this be Patsy coming back.

Patsy emerges from the future machine.

PATSY

That was amazing! They have these little things, about the size of a deck of cards, with screens on them and everyone just stares at them all the time.

PROF

Actually we have those now.

PATSY

No way! Do you have the flying skateboards?

PROF

I wish!

The past machine begins to rumble. Fullerton emerges with an armload of books.

FULLERTON

Remarkable!

PROF

You're back!

FULLERTON

It's amazing, look at all these untainted analog content devices!

PATSY

Where?

FULLERTON

Here!

PATSY

Books?

FULLERTON

There are virtually no books in 2067. Or rather, most of the books are virtual. I'm bringing these back with me.

PROF

Wait a minute, that might not be a great idea.

PATSY

No fair! If he gets books, I want a flying skateboard

PROF

No no no no no! You can't just take things from one time to another! You'll upset the whole nature of the progression of life on earth.

FULLERTON

But...

PROF

No buts! You can't begin to imagine the danger you're posing.

FULLERTON

Germs?! (He drops the books)

PROF

Not what I was thinking of, but sure.

Fullerton runs about shaking his hands as if to rid himself of book cooties. Maybe he hyperventilates a bit. Professor takes a tube of hand sanitizer from his pocket.

PROF

Oh for goodness sakes, here.

FULLERTON

Ahhh modern conveniences!

He begins to rub hand sanitizer all over his hands, forearms, neck, behind his ears, etc.

PATSY

Wow. He really has a thing about germs, hunh?

PROF

Lots of people do.

PATSY

Is everyone in the future all paranoid and uptight like him?

PROF

I hope not. (He starts flipping through the books.) Can you imagine living in a world without books?

PATSY

I know, it would be awful! Poor guy. (distracting him from his paranoia) Hey, Mr. Fullerton, did you ever see this book? It's a good one.

FULLERTON

What?

PATSY

This book, Give me Back my Dad.

PROF

It's a classic!

FULLERTON

It is?

PATSY

Absolutely!

PROF

Why don't you put down the hand sanitizer and come help us tell this story.

FULLERTON

Oh, I don't know, I may have missed a spot.

PATSY

That's fine, just join in when you're ready.

She starts to tell the story and Fullerton is hooked right away.

Give me back my dad

PATSY

One day, Cheryl and her father decided to go ice fishing. They got on the snowmobile, put all their stuff in the sled on the back, and went bouncing over bumps and across lakes until they came to a very good place to fish.

FULLERTON

This place, said Cheryl's father, is the best place to fish in the whole world. But the fish are smart. You've got to be really smarty to catch these fish.

PATSY

Phooey! I'm smarter than any fish.

So her father got out an ice drill and drilled an enormous hole. They chopped the ice and drilled some more and then they were done.

FULLERTON

WOW! Really thick ice! Now we can fish.

He got out a hook and line and bait and said to Cheryl:

You fish down this hole, but be very careful because these fish are smart.

PATSY

Phooey! I'm smarter than any fish.

She jigged her line up and down and up and down and up and down and up and down.

I want to catch a fish.

FULLERTON

Be patient.

PATSY

So Cheryl jigged her line up and down and up and down and up and down and up and down.

I want to catch a fish.

PROF

Then up out of hole came a candy bar with a line on it.

PATSY

Look at that! It's a candy bar.

FULLERTON

DON'T TOUCH THAT!

PATSY

But Cheryl grabbed the candy bar and was pulled right down underneath the ice.

FULLERTON

Cheryl's father yelled down the hole.

Give me back my baby!

PROF

A big fish stuck its head out of the water.

We caught this kid fair and square. You can't have her back.

FULLERTON

GRRR! (father)

Cheryl's father got an idea. He put a very small piece of bait on a line and jigged it up and down and up and down and up and down and up and down and all of a sudden he pulled up a very small baby fish.

PROF

The big fish stuck its head out of the water and said:

Give me back my baby!

FULLERTON

Well, I'll give you back YOUR baby if you will give me back MY baby.

PROF

Grrrr.

FULLERTON

Cheryl's father tossed the little fish back and Cheryl came flying up out of the hole.

PATSY

Brrrrrrrr, it's cold.

And right away she started turning into an icicle.

FULLERTON

Her father picked her up, ran to the shore and got a fire going in the Labrador tent.

PATSY

Soon Cheryl was warm and dry like a piece of toast.

FULLERTON

Now, we are going back out there. Don't pick up anything the fish throw out of the hole. These are smart fish.

PATSY

Right!

They went back out and Cheryl jigged her line up and down and up and down and up and down and up and down.

I want to catch a fish.

PROF

A candy bar with a line on it came up out of the hole.

PATSY

Oh no, I'm not that dumb.

She jigged her line up and down and up and down and up and down and up and down.

I want to catch a fish.

PROF

Up came a bag of popcorn with a line on it.

PATSY

Oh no, I'm not that dumb.

She jigged her line up and down and up and down and up and down and up and down.

I want to catch a fish.

PROF

Then up came a television.

PATSY

WOW! That looks pretty nice. But I'm not that dumb.

Cheryl jigged her line up and down and up and down and up and down and up and down.

I want to catch a fish.

PROF

She waited some more and up came a \$50,000 bill with a line on it.

FULLERTON

Fifty thousand dollars!

He grabbed it and got pulled underneath the ice.

PATSY

GRRRR!

She yelled down the hole.

Give me back my daddy!

PROF

The baby fish stuck its head up out of the water and said

Hey! We caught him fair and square and you can't have him back.

PATSY

Cheryl got an idea. She put a huge piece of bait on the lined and she jigged her line up and down and up and down and up and down and up and down.

I've got to catch a daddy fish.

All of a sudden, a big fish grabbed the bait and Cheryl pulled him in.

PROF

The baby fish stuck its head out of the water and said

Give me back my daddy!

PATSY

Well, I'll give you back YOUR daddy if you give me back MY daddy.

PROF

Grrrrr.

PATSY

Cheryl threw the daddy fish back into the water and Cheryl's father came flying up out of the hole.

FULLERTON

Brrrrr, it's cold.

PATSY

He started turning into an icicle. Cheryl pulled her father to the tent and put wood into the stove till he was warm and dry.

FULLERTON

Like a piece of toast.

PATSY

Daddy, why did you grab the money? I thought you were smarter than a fish.

FULLERTON

I am smarter than a fish. And I know that YOU are smarter than any fish, and I knew you would get me out. And I still have the money!

PATSY

Right.

FULLERTON

And they went back to town and bought Cheryl her very own snowmobile.

They do a little end-of-story thing.

PATSY

I'd like to have my own snowmobile, but what I'd love is one of those flying skateboards!

FULLERTON

They're a menace to the airways!

PROF

What are flying skateboards?

PATSY

Come on, I'll show you!

She begins to lead him towards the future machine.

PROF

Oh, no thank you. I think I'd rather--

PATSY

What are you, scared?

PROF

No no, I just don't think I should--

FULLERTON

Haven't you tried it yourself?

PROF

(lying) Of course I have. No, I simply think I should conclude my lecture on time.

PATSY

Puh-lease! Haven't we agreed that these kids don't want to be lectured?

PROF

Actually, that's something you've asserted, however--

PATSY

Come on, it's easy! You just step in here. Then we flip the switch.

She's ushered him into the future machine. When she flips the switch there's a powering down sound.

PATSY

That's weird.

PROF

That's what I was afraid of.

FULLERTON

What's going on?!

PROF

The time machines are out of fuel. The fuel cells were drained by your last trips. I hadn't planned on you two going to each others' times.

PATSY

Do you have other fuel cells?

PROF

Unfortunately...

FULLERTON

What?! Haven't you got a blithium conflab mega-micro zap-tube?

PROF

A what?

FULLERTON

No, of course you don't.

PROF

You know 2027 is not such a bad time to live in....

PATSY

No way!

FULLERTON

I want to go home.

PATSY

Me too!

PROF

It will take at least two years to develop new fuel cells. This is the first time these machines have been used successfully, this was just a test case.

FULLERTON

We're your genetically engineered ethical lab rats?

PATSY

You mean guinea pigs.

PROF

I'm afraid so.

PATSY

Look, buster, you dragged me here, you have to help me get home.

PROF

There is one other possibility.

FULLERTON

What's that?

PROF

It's never been tested before, but in theory--

PATSY

Spit it out!

PROF

To get to the past, you need to remember. To get the the future, you need to dream.

PATSY

Got it!

She gets in the past machine and concentrates really hard. Maybe she takes Fullerton's books with her.

FULLERTON

It can't be that easy.

PATSY

Don't be a doubter, just try it!

Fullerton crosses to the future machine.

PROF

It might not be quite as straightforward as that.

PATSY

Quiet, I'm concentrating on remembering.

FULLERTON

I'm not sure I know how to dream.

PATSY

Don't be ridiculous!

FULLERTON

It's true, I spend all my time thinking about the past.

PATSY

Oh my gosh you're right: I spend all my time thinking up new things, I can't remember my own name sometimes.

PATSY AND FULLERTON

WE'RE DOOMED!!!

PROF

Don't panic! I have an idea. We can use a story to help us.

PATSY

How?!

FULLERTON

What?!

PROF

A story that hearkens back to the past, but looks to the future.

PATSY AND FULLERTON

Paper Bag Princess!!!

PROF

That's the one!

PATSY

Great idea!

FULLERTON

Let's do it

Paper Bag Princess

PATSY

When Elizabeth was a beautiful princess, she lived in a castle and had expensive princess clothes.

PROF

She was going to marry a prince named Ronald.

PATSY

Oh Ronald, I feel a song coming on!

I'm so lucky—

PROF

She's so lucky—

PATSY

To be marrying a prince,

PROF

Like meeee.

PATSY

It's a dream—

PROF

(For her)

PATSY

To be wife to a prince,

PROF

Like meeeeeee.

PATSY

My life will be filled with joy and laughter

This is my happily ever after,

Ever since

I said "I do" to a prince.

PROF

Like Meeeeeeee!

FULLERTON

Unfortunately, a dragon smashed her castle, burnt all her clothes with his fiery breath, and carried off Prince Ronald.

PATSY

Elizabeth decided to chase the dragon and get Ronald back. She looked all over for something to wear, but the only thing she could find that wasn't burnt was a paper bag. So she put on the paper bag and followed the dragon.

If I wasn't already burnt, I'd be steaming!

Smoke coming out of my ears, yelling and screaming.

So look out dragon, I'm on your track,

The Prince is mine and I want him back.

Dragon, you decided to mess

With the wrong princess!

I'm not going to take it anymore,

I am woman, hear me roar!

PROF

He was easy to follow because he left a trail of burnt forests and horses' teeth.

PATSY

Finally, Elizabeth came to a cave with a large door that had a huge knocker on it. She took hold of the knocker and banged on the door.

FULLERTON

Well, a princess. I love to eat princesses, but I have already eaten a whole castle today. I am a very busy dragon. Come back tomorrow.

PROF

He slammed the door so fast that Elizabeth almost got her nose caught.

PATSY

Elizabeth grabbed the knocker and banged on the door again.

FULLERTON

Go away. I love to eat princesses, but I have already eaten a whole castle today. I am a very busy dragon. Come back tomorrow.

PROF

He slammed the door so fast that Elizabeth almost got her nose caught.

PATSY

Elizabeth grabbed the knocker and banged on the door again.

FULLERTON

Look, kid:

*I've had a dozen flying buttresses,
A pea and forty mattresses,
A throne a crown a sceptre and a mace.
I have a bellyful of courtiers,
Though bodyguards are sportier,
And fleeing footmen are more fun to chase.
So until I have digested
All the things I have ingested
It would be inadvisable
And make me much more sizable
Though you seem quite delectable
I'd become unrespectable
If I should assert
I've room for desert
So run along before you find
I've changed my mind.*

PROF

He slammed the door so fast that Elizabeth almost--

PATSY

Wait! Is it true that you are the smartest and fiercest dragon in the whole world?

FULLERTON

Yes.

PATSY

Is it true that you can burn up ten forests with your fiery breath?

FULLERTON

Oh, yes.

PROF

And he took a deep breath and breathed out so much fire that he burnt up fifty forests.

PATSY

Fantastic!

FULLERTON

I know, right?

PROF

And the dragon took another huge breath and breathed out so much fire that he burnt up one hundred forests.

PATSY

Magnificent.

PROF

I'm just getting warmed up!

FULLERTON

And the dragon took another huge breath, but this time nothing came out. The dragon didn't even have enough fire left to cook a meatball.

PROF

Awkward.

PATSY

Dragon, is it true that you can fly around the world in just ten seconds?

FULLERTON

Why yes.

PROF

And the dragon jumped up and flew all the way around the world in just ten seconds. He was very tired when he got back.

FULLERTON

Ten seconds. Personal best! Boo yeah!

PATSY

Fantastic! Do it again!

FULLERTON

Really?

PATSY

Absolutely!

FULLERTON

No sweat!

PROF

So the dragon jumped up and flew around the whole world in just twenty seconds. When he got back he was too tired to talk, and he lay down and went right to sleep.

PATSY

Hey, you guys, can you help me yell? On a count of three: one, two, three: Hey, Dragon.

PROF

The dragon didn't move at all.

PATSY

Let's try again. One, two, three: Hey, Dragon.

PROF

Nothing! She lifted his ear and put her head right inside.

PATSY

As loud as you can! One, two, three: Hey Dragon!

PROF

The dragon was so tired he didn't even move.

PATSY

Elizabeth walked right over the dragon and opened the door to the cave.

PROF

There was Prince Ronald.

*Here I am! In all my stately glory,
Here I am, the hero of my story.
I prevailed over the dragon's fiery wrath
The score's prince one and dragon none-- you do the math.
The dragon's vanquished, therefore I'm the best,
And Elizabeth, Boy, are you a mess!*

You smell like ashes, your hair is all tangled, and you are wearing a dirty old paper bag. Come back when you are dressed like a real princess.

PATSY

Ronald, your clothes are really pretty and your hair is all neat. You look like a real prince but you are a bum.

They sing the wedding march to "bum" but replace the last line with:

They didn't get married after all.

They do a little end-of-story thing. The future and past machines spring to life. Maybe they light up or maybe there's a sound cue of some sort. Maybe both, plus a wind machine. Patsy and Fullerton get sucked into their respective time machines.

FULLERTON

Whoa!

PATSY

I think it's woooooorrrking!

They are immediately transported. The professor is left alone on stage.

PROF

Well, that was certainly dramatic. I had no idea it would be so effective. I must make a note of this. Well, thank you all for being part of this little experiment. Things didn't go exactly as planned, but things seldom do, I suppose. I hope you will—what the....

The past machine begins to rumble. Patsy emerges in a new outfit.

PATSY

Are you still here?

PROF

What do you mean, still here? You just left a minute ago.

PATSY

Crazy, man! I left a week ago.

PROF

How did you get back here?

PATSY

It's easy, I'll show you.

She gets in the past machine and transports.

PROF

I'm confused!

The future machine begins to rumble. Fullerton emerges in a new outfit, maybe a beard.

FULLERTON

Well would you look at that!

PROF

What?

FULLERTON

I was just remembering that time a couple of months ago when I travelled back to the past and we were telling stories and suddenly, here I am.

PROF

Here you are!

The past machine rumbles and Patsy emerges in a new outfit.

PATSY

You still here? Hey, Fullerton, you came back!

FULLERTON

It's like a reunion.

PROF

It's like we never left.

PATSY

Let's tell one more story, for old time's sake.

PROF

Why not!

FULLERTON

And let's get some of these kids involved.

PATSY

Yeah, the poor things have been sitting here for a month listening to the professor drone on and on.

PROF

Actually it's only been a few minutes, but nevermind. Do you two know It's My Room?

PATSY

Love it!

FULLERTON

A great idea.

It's My Room

PATSY

LOOK! Said Matthew's mom. We're going to have a big new trailer! You get your OWN room.

PROF

Well, will there be lots of people in my room like in our old trailer?

PATSY

NO!

PROF

Well, will there be just me in my room?

PATSY

YES!

PROF

YES, YES, YES, YES, YES! Said Matthew.

How about dogs and cats and horses?

PATSY

NO! there will not be dogs and cats and horses. This is a room just for you and you alone.

PROF

YES, YES, YES, YES, YES! Said Matthew.

That day Matthew and his mom moved into the new trailer.

WOW! Finally a room just for me!

PATSY

But the next day his mother said:

My brother from back home, the one with the two sons, is thinking of moving here and they will be visiting for a while.

PROF

NO! NO! NO! NO! NO! NO!

PATSY

Come on, it will just be for a little while.

FULLERTON

I need two cousins! Who's it going to be?

Fullerton takes two kids from the audience.

So the two cousins came to sleep in Matthew's bed. It took Matthew a week before he could sleep without dreaming about stinky toes.

PATSY

A week later his mother said "Oh Matthew, my sister is going to move here and her dogs are going to have to stay in your room for a while.

PROF

NO! NO! NO! NO! NO! NO! Those are the dogs that ate the mailman and they will probably eat me while I am asleep.

PATSY

Nobody liked that mailman, said his mother, and my sister needs help, so you will have to share for just a little bit.

FULLERTON

Are there any dogs in the house? I need at least four dogs!

Fullerton recruits four kids to be the dogs.

So the dogs came and slept in Matthew's bed. It took him a week before he could sleep without dreaming that he was being eaten by large ugly dogs.

PATSY

A few weeks later his mother said:

My five cousins are moving here and they are bringing bunk beds, and they will be in your room for just a while.

PROF

NO! NO! NO! NO! NO! NO! They all snore and I do not want them in my room.

PATSY

HA! You snore, and they are my cousins, and that's that.

FULLERTON

Cousins? Anyone want to be a snoring cousin?

Fullerton recruits some cousins.

PROF

Matthew decided to sleep under the trailer.

FULLERTON

But mosquitoes and blackflies came out and almost ate him alive.

Fullerton ropes in some kids to be mosquitoes and blackflies.

PROF

I have had it! It's my room and not a hotel.

Matthew went into the trailer and took a package of pork chops out of the refrigerator. Then he walked down the road, past the trucks, to the dump.

At the dump he yelled:

YO bears! PORK CHOPS!

FULLERTON

Three bears followed Matthew. Where are my bears?

Fullerton grabs three bears from the house.

PROF

He ran back home, opened the door, and threw in the pork chops. The bears ran in after the pork chops.

FULLERTON

Matthew's relatives and the dogs and the mosquitoes and blackflies yelled:

BEARS! AHHHHHHHHHHHHH!

And they all ran out of the trailer and didn't come back.

PATSY

When Matthew's mother got back, she was happy to hear that the relatives had left.

PROF

So Matthew decided not to tell her that he was now sleeping with...

FULLERTON

BEARS!

Come on you guys let's all be bears! Let's do the big bear boogie! Hit it!

Music magically plays to give order to the chaos of the twenty or so kids on stage all transforming into bears.

FULLERTON

Shake your big bear head,

Wave your big bear paws,

Bounce your big bear bootie,

Show your big bear claws!

Freestyle!

They freestyle dance for 8 or 16 bars.

The big bear boogie

Is ending now.

So my big bear buddies,

Take a big bear bow!

PATSY

Let's have a big hand for all our volunteers!

PROF

You were wonderful!

FULLERTON

Thanks you guys, you can go back to your seats now.

PROF

And you two can go back to your own times now! Thanks for coming to play with us!

PATSY

Thank you! And if I ever want to visit the future again, I know all I have to do is dream.

FULLERTON

And I can remember!

PROF

And if I want to have a great time right here and now, I'll tell some stories!

PATSY

Thanks a lot everybody!

They bow and exit.