Pinocchio

By
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Based on the Story by
Carlo Collodi

Pinocchio was first presented by The Children's Theatre Company for the 2012-2013 season.

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CAST:

All the cast enter as painters who then agree to tell the story of Pinnochio.

1 Plays The Cricket/ The showman/A Fairy/The Coachman/An Old man.

2 Plays Gepetto/ The Fox/ A Donkey

3 Plays The Policeman/The Cat/Lampwick

4 Plays Pinnochio

5 is the Musician (*playing as many instruments as possible*)
The stage is set as if the whole place is about to be painted. Dust sheets cover surfaces, there is a scaffold tower. The place is littered with wooden trestles, planks, paint cans, stepladders, saws, rope, hammers, paintbrushes etc. All of which become the various objects and places in the telling of Pinocchio. The whole is lit by a ghost light. A painter enters. He is humming a little tune and carrying a lunchbox. He flips the big light switch to turn on the lights. He places his lunchbox on a sloping plank as he goes about his busines the box slides down the plank, he catches it just before it hits the floor and suddenly sees the audience.

1 Oh! You frightened me! Who are you? What are you all doing here? The theatre is closed. You see the ladders and paint cloths? We are here to paint the theatre for the next show... so I am afraid you will have to leave, and I have to get to work. So, ah...goodbye! Ciao, arrivederci.... *(Striking ghost light, coming back on stage)* You are not leaving. Do you still think there was a show today? Do you have tickets? Let me see them. Oh, Pinocchio. You have come to see the story of Pinocchio. It’s a very good story. One of my favourites. It’s a bit scary but... *(Seeing date on ticket)* That’s today. Oh dear, oh my goodness. I am so sorry, there must be some misunderstanding. There is no show. Oh dear, oh dear. Wait. Let me call the other painters and see what I can do. *(Picks up telephone, dials some numbers. To audience)* It’s a very long number. Pick up the phone. *(Painters enter behind I)* Pick up, pick up, pick up. They never answer the phone. Come on, come on. I know you are there. Answer the phone please. Pick up the phone. Pick It up! Pick up, Pick up, Pick up...

2 Hello.

*(I doesn’t see the other painters, he talks into the phone)*

1 Hey!

2 What’s going on? Who are all these children?

1 They have come to see the show Pinocchio but there is no show.

2 They will have to leave.

1 Before they go, I thought we should have some fun with them. To make up for there being no show. What do ya say?

2 We’ll be right over.
(I realizes 2 is right behind him)

1/2  Hey!

2  We have to finish painting this whole place today. They will have to go.

1  I have an idea! We could tell you the story of Pinocchio. We all know it.

2  We have work to do!

1  Who is the boss here?

3/4  You are.

1  Who is the boss here?

2  …You are.

1  And I decide when we work. You got your violin?

5  Si!

1  (To audience) Shall we do that? Shall we tell you story of Pinocchio?

2  It will take too much time.

3  Can I tell them?

1  Off you go.

2  Make it quick.

3  It’s all about a little girl called Gretel, who plants a giant and it grows into a beanstalk.

2  No.

3  Now I remember. It is about seven dwarves who chase a wolf
called Red Riding Hood through the forest and her hair turns into gold.

That’s not it. I will tell you the story. It’s about a wooden puppet called Pinocchio who has a lot of adventures. The end.

The end?

It’s a very short story. Right, let’s start work. You lot had better leave now, otherwise you will get covered in paint.

Stop there.

No.

Stop there!

No!

Stop. The story is about Pinocchio and his papa Gepetto. And you! You will be Gepetto.

Me? Gepetto?

Yes. You.

For them. It might be fun.

It might not.

Do it!

Yes, do it!

Do it! Do it! (Continue chanting)

Come here. The sooner we start. Sit down. 

(To audience) Is everybody ready? This is Gepetto. He is an old man. A very cold, old man. (To 5) Play something cold. Gepetto’s feet are cold, his fingers are cold, his heart is cold. Winter knocks at the door of Gepetto’s tiny house, raps on the window, dances an icy tarantella, under the door and across the floor.
C C C C C C Cold.

**Gepetto**

I’m so cold.

His only friend is a little cricket *(crr crr)* that hops around *(crr crr)* *(I rubs two sandpaper blocks together to make cricket sounds, puppets the sound of the little cricket hopping around Gepetto)* trying to keep warm. *(crr crr)*

**Gepetto**

Come here, my little friend.

*(Gepetto kisses and puts imaginary cricket in his pocket)*

*(crr crr)* There you go.

Gepetto is so cold, and he has only one piece of wood left to burn.

Awwww.

You.

Me?

You.

I don’t want to be in it.

I do, I do.

I won’t know what to do.

It’s easy. I will tell you. Come here *(Sets 4 up on table)* You are a piece of wood.

A piece of wood?

A piece of wood.

Me. What about me?

You are a neighbour.

*(Dissappointed)* A neighbour?
1 A very dull neighbour.

3 But…

1 And you are asleep. And now, Gepetto, you take a thin blanket and wrap it around your narrow shoulders. And then, taking a small axe in your hand, in your shivering hand, you begin to split the last log.

2/3/4 No!

3 She is my friend.

5 He will hurt her.

1 Gepetto is freezing to death, and these children have come to see a show. Get on with it! (Gepetto goes to chop the wood)

3 I can’t look.

2 Now?

1 Now!

4 Please don’t hurt me!

2 She spoke. She is supposed to be a piece of wood.

1 (To 2) Split the wood.

(2 goes to split the wood)

4 Don’t hurt me!

2 There. What was that?

1 It’s the story.

Gepetto Oh. (As 2 raises his axe again)

4 Please!
Gepetto I heard something. A tiny voice. Must be my imagination! (2 raises his axe again)

4 No!

Gepetto I heard it again. Where did that tiny voice come from… there’s nobody here. Just a piece of wood. Perhaps there is someone inside. If there is, I will find them. Coming to get you. Ready or not. (Gepetto tickles 4, she giggles)

Gepetto Wait… I have an idea. If this piece of wood can giggle like a baby, maybe it could also run and dance and sing. I will carve it into a puppet, a little wooden puppet boy to warm my heart and keep me company in these cold dark days. I will do it, I will start work right away. (Gepetto picks up a hammer chisel, and starts work on the piece of wood)

Gepetto Working

3 Look! Look!

Gepetto Cutting

3 Gepetto is making a little puppet.

Gepetto Chopping

1 Gepetto is hard at work!

Gepetto Sawing
Woodchips flying, flying, flying
Working, cutting, chopping, sawing
Woodchips flying, flying, flying

1/3 (while singing 1/3 help turn 4 into Pinnochio adding knee and elbow pads, a newspaper hat, a pair of work gloves while Gepetto paints red spots on pinnochio's cheeks)He's at work he's hard at work. Making his own little boy

1/3/Gepetto Chipping away at the arms
Shaping his tough wooden legs
Cheeky smile, ruby red lips
Making his own little boy.

Gepetto

Turning, shaping, sanding, smoothing

1/3/Gepetto

Sawdust flying, flying, flying
Turning, shaping, sanding, smoothing
Sawdust flying, flying, flying
(I throwing wood chips into the air)
Head and hands
Legs and arms

Gepetto

Ten little fingers and ten little toes.

3

It’s a pretty good puppet, no?

Gepetto

Pretty good? He’s perfect! He's a little wooden boy. My very own little wooden boy. And I love him. I shall call him Pinocchio. We shall have such fun together.

3

Tell him who you are.

Gepetto

Pinocchio, I made you. I am your papa.

Pinocchio

Papa.

Gepetto

Papa. He called me Papa. My handsome little puppet. And this is my friend (crr crr) the cricket. (Imaginary Cricket hops to 1) Listen, Pinocchio (crr crr), listen to the noise the cricket makes (crr crr) when it rubs its legs together. (crr crr)

Pinocchio

Cricket.

Gepetto

Wait. Something’s missing. What is it?

Cricket

(crr crr) I know.

Gepetto

What do you know? You are only a cricket.

Cricket

I know what's missing. What runs but has no legs?

Gepetto

I don’t know. Is this a riddle?
Cricket: Yes it is.

Gepetto: I give up. What runs but has no legs?

Cricket: A nose. He has no nose.

Gepetto: A nose. He has no nose. You must have a nose.

Pinocchio: Why?

Gepetto: Everyone has a nose. See? *(Touches his own nose)*

Pinocchio: See. *(Pokes Gepetto’s nose a bit too hard)*

Gepetto: Ow!

*(Pokes again and again)*

Pinocchio: See!

Gepetto: Ow!

Pinocchio: See!

Gepetto: Stop that. It hurts. *(Puts a breadstick in Pinocchio’s hand, up to his face)* There. Now you have a nose. *(Pinocchio turns, almost hitting Gepetto with the breadstick)* Oh, no. Too long.

Pinocchio: Why too long?

Gepetto: Because it sticks out too far. *(Gepetto snaps off a bit of breadstick)* Perfect!

Pinocchio: Perfect.

Gepetto: Oh, I’m hungry. *(Eats breadstick)*

Pinocchio: Oh, I’m hungry. *(Eats breadstick)*
Gepetto  It’s your nose. Don’t eat it, take it out!
(Pinocchio spits breadstick out)
Don’t spit at your Papa. You need some manners.

Pinocchio  You smell funny. What’s that thing coming out of your nose?

Gepetto  It’s not important.

(Takes off his glasses and blows his nose. Pinocchio puts on Gepetto’s glasses)

Pinocchio  I'm papa. Look at me. (blowing his nose)

Gepetto  Give me back my glasses.

Pinocchio  I'm Papa. I'm Papa.

(Gepetto reaches for glasses, Pinocchio won’t give them back)

Gepetto  You rascal! You are only just finished, and already you disobey your Papa!

Pinocchio  Why is your face all red?

Gepetto  Because I am angry. Now give me back my glasses.
(Pinocchio throws them on the floor)
That’s bad my boy, very very bad.

Pinocchio  Bad. Very very bad.

(Gepetto turns to pick up glasses and Pinocchio kicks him up the backside)

Gepetto  Ow! Stop that! Legs are for walking, not for kicking. Now if you are good-

Pinocchio  Good?

Gepetto  If you are good, I will teach you how to walk. Are you going to be good?

Pinocchio  Going to be good! Going to be good! Going to be....
Gepetto Stop that.

Pinocchio Stop that. Stop that!

Gepetto Shhhhh!

Pinocchio Shhhhh!

Gepetto Pinocchio!

*(Bringing Pinocchio down from the table)*

Give me your hand. And the other one. Now, put your foot here. Careful, take it slow. Good.

Pinocchio Good.

Gepetto And the other one here, now step, like that. Not too fast. Very good.

Pinocchio Very good.

Gepetto And another, and again. One foot before the other…


*(Zooming around faster and faster, walking up and over everything)*

Gepetto You are doing it. *(To audience)* He is really doing it! You clever little puppet.

Pinocchio Clever little puppet. *(To audience)*

Gepetto Careful, Pinocchio! You are walking. You are really walking. Like a real boy.

*(Pinocchio stops dead)*

Pinocchio Like a real boy.

Gepetto Almost like a real boy. Don’t forget you are a puppet. But Papa loves his little puppet boy.
Pinocchio  A real boy. I want to be a real boy

Gepetto  Real boys have to go to school every day, carry schoolbooks, do lessons.

Pinocchio  Let’s go to school now. You come with me, Papa.

Gepetto  I am too old for school. You would have to go on your own, and play with the other boys.

Pinocchio  I want to play with you, Papa. Don’t want to go by myself. Don’t make me.

Gepetto  You don’t have to go at all. You are not a real boy.

Pinocchio  But I want to be a real boy.

(Pinocchio moves away a step and sulks)

Gepetto  Come here, you silly.

(Pinocchio moves away one step)

Gepetto  Pinocchio, come here. (Pinocchio moves away two steps) Pinocchio. Don’t make me chase you.

Pinocchio  Chase me. Chase me.

(Chase sequence)

Gepetto  Pinocchio, don’t go out the front door! Mr. Policeman! Catch that puppet before he runs away!

3  (Very pleased) Me? Policeman?

Gepetto  Yes! Use the whistle!

(3 blows whistle, Pinocchio keeps running. 3 blows whistle louder)

Policeman  You are in a lot of trouble.
Gepetto You are coming back inside. Right now.

(Pinocchio has a tantrum throws himself on the floor and refuses to move)

Pinocchio No! Don’t want to go home, don’t want to go home!

Gepetto Pinocchio, that’s bad! Very, very bad. Come back inside.

5 The poor puppet is right not wanting to go back inside. This man chased him all over the house.

Gepetto He wanted me to!

5 If we leave this poor puppet in his hands, who knows what might happen.

Gepetto That poor puppet is my little Pinocchio.

Policeman Right. Sir, come with me.

Gepetto I made him. I love him.

Policeman You are under arrest.

Gepetto Me?

Policeman You.

Gepetto Pinocchio! How can this be happening? It’s not possible! I love my little Pinocchio. Pinocchio!

Pinnochio papa (waving)

Gepetto He ran away from me.

Policeman You should look after him better, then he would not run away.

Gepetto Pinocchio!

1 And Gepetto was locked away.
The end. Right let’s get on with painting this place. The story’s over.

Shhh! The story is only just beginning.

The naughty Pinocchio was left all alone

Not a thought for his poor papa, who had to spend a night in jail.

What happens now?

Wait and see.

(Keeps moving around from place to place)

What’s that?

What’s easy to get into but hard to get out of?

What?

What’s easy to get into but hard to get out of?

Don’t know.

Trouble. And that’s what you are. Trouble. Not very clever are you?
Pinocchio: I am. Papa said.

Cricket: “Papa said.” What goes up and down but never moves?

Pinocchio: Don’t know.

Cricket: “Don’t know.” Come on. What is it? Up and down and never moves. A staircase. You see, not very clever. And running away from your papa is not very clever. (gives sandpaper blocks to 3)

Pinocchio: Stop moving around. You make me dizzy.

Cricket: How many letters in the alphabet?

Pinocchio: Don’t know.

Cricket: Don’t know. 11. T, H, E, A, L, P, H, A, B, E, T. The Alphabet! 11! If you won’t go to school—

Pinocchio: (Fingers in ears) Not listening!

Cricket: It will always be “Don’t know,” “Don’t know.”

Pinocchio: Not listening, not listening.

Cricket: You will never learn the answers to anything.

Pinocchio: Not listening, not listening, not listening.

Cricket: You will never be a real boy.

(Pinocchio cautiously takes hands away from his ears)

Cricket: What do you want most in the world?

Pinocchio: I want to be a real boy, and I want to go to school and play with other boys.

Cricket: Poor Pinocchio, I am sorry for you.

Pinocchio: Why?
Cricket Because you are just a puppet, and you will always be a puppet.

Pinocchio No. I will be a real boy

Cricket You are made of wood, little timber tonsils.

3 I do the sound effects.

(3 taps cricket blocks together with Cricket’s knocks on Pinocchio’s head)

Cricket See? Wood. You don’t know much do you? Little wooden head.

(Taps Pinocchio’s head again)

Pinocchio Stop that. (Pinocchio grabs paint roller, goes after cricket)

Cricket And with that, he tried to squash the cricket! Missed. Missed again.

(Gepetto knocks on the door)

Pinocchio Stay still, will you!

Cricket Missed again!

(More knocking)

Pinocchio Where are you now?

Cricket Here

Pinocchio Where?

Gepetto Pinocchio, let me in.

Cricket Here!

Pinocchio Where?

Gepetto Wait till I get my hands on you. Making your papa climb through
his own window.

**Pinocchio** Stop jumping around!

*(Pinocchio brandishes paint roller, Gepetto appears)*

**Gepetto** What are you doing? Are you going to hit your papa on the head?

**Pinocchio** No.

**Gepetto** Well, what are you doing?

**Pinocchio** Nothing.

**Cricket** He was going to hit me on the head. Squash me flat as a pancake.

**Pinocchio** He said I will never be a real boy.

**Gepetto** You must not squash the cricket, he is my friend.

**Pinocchio** I don’t like him.

**Gepetto** Where are your manners?

**Pinocchio** *(Looking in his pockets)* I don’t know. I haven’t got any.

**Gepetto** Say “sorry.”

**Pinocchio** Sorry.

**Gepetto** And mean it.

**Pinocchio** And mean it.

**Gepetto** No, you must mean it when you say sorry.

**Pinocchio** Sorry.

**Cricket** What has four eyes but cannot see?

3 I know! I know!
Pinocchio  I don’t know.

Cricket  “Don’t know,” “Don’t know.” The Mississippi has four eyes but can’t see.

Pinocchio  Come here!

(Cricket hops away, Pinocchio chases after him)

Gepetto  Pinocchio! Four eyes but can’t see. Mississippi. He's clever that cricket.

Pinocchio  I don’t like him.

Gepetto  Pinocchio! *(Gepetto hits hammer down loudly.)* Pinocchio.

Pinocchio  I want to go to school.

Gepetto  You want to go to school?

Pinocchio  Yes, school. Then I will be a real boy. I will, won’t I?

Gepetto  Maybe.

Pinocchio  I will, I will, I will. That’s what the cricket said.

Gepetto  Maybe, if you work real hard.

Pinocchio  I will work hard, Papa, I will. Let’s go now.

Gepetto  Do you promise to go to school?

Pinocchio  Yes, Papa. I promise!

Gepetto  But, without me?

Pinocchio  …Yes, Papa.

*(Pinocchio stops in his tracks)*

Gepetto  You promised.
Pinocchio: I haven't got a school book.

Gepetto: We are too poor for books.

3: I have a book.

1: You have a book?

3: Si.

Gepetto: Let me see.

(3 holds up the phone book)

3: See.

Gepetto: Very well. Do you really want a book?

Pinocchio: Yes, Papa.

Gepetto: I have no money. Will you take my jacket in exchange for the book?

1: It’s snowing, you'll freeze to death without a coat.

Gepetto: Never mind. The book is important, it is for my little Pinocchio.

3: Here. Take the book. I hope that puppet thanks you.

(They make the exchange. Pinocchio snatches the book and looks at it upside down.)

3: “Thank you, Papa.”

Pinocchio: How does it work?

(Gepetto turns it the right way up)

Gepetto: You have to read it. These are words. They will teach you at school. Now, off you go.

1: And with that, the little puppet
3 Stepped out

1/3 Into the freezing cold air

**Gepetto** Proudly holding his brand new schoolbook in his little wooden hand.

1 While his papa

3 Shivering in his shirtsleeves

1 Waved him goodbye.

**Gepetto** Goodbye, Pinocchio. *(Waving goodbye)*

3 Say goodbye to your Papa.

**Gepetto** Goodbye! *(Proudly)* His first day at school.

*(Pinocchio ignores him and heads off through the audience)*

**Pinocchio** I am so excited. I am going to school, on my own. I am going to learn to read, like a real boy and I am going to play with other boys, real boys. Papa is too old to go to school. Oh. What’s that noise? What is it? *(Asks audience)* Music! I like it. I like it very much. Where's it coming from? I want to listen to it forever.

*(Pinocchio ignores him and heads off through the audience)*

*(Playing a carnival tune, Pinocchio maybe sings along a bit, climbing over the audience towards the sound)*

Oh, school. I forgot I have to go to school. But I really want to stay and listen to the music. It sounds so good. What shall I do school or music? School or Music? *(To audience)* What shall I do, school or Music? All right school it is. I promised Papa I would go to school. Good. School. Off I go to school. No! No, no, no! I want hear the music. I will hear the music. I can go to school another day. Music it is.

**Pinocchio** *(To the ticket seller)* Hullo! Hullo! Why are you playing that music?
Ticketseller: Read the poster.

Pinocchio: Poster! I don’t know how to.

Ticketseller: Can’t read. It says in great big letters

1 'Today! Grand Puppet show'.

Pinocchio: Puppet show.

(Pinocchio goes towards the show)

Ticketseller: Eh. Eh! It costs money to watch.

Pinocchio: Money?

Ticketseller: Si. Two pennies

Pinocchio: I don't have any pennies. Can you give me some?

Ticketseller: Why should I give you money?

Pinocchio: You can have my jacket.

Ticketseller: You don’t have a jacket.

Pinocchio: Oh. My hat?

Ticketseller: I have a hat.

Pinocchio: I want to see the show.

Ticketseller: Two pennies.

Pinocchio: I've got a book.

(2 and 3 appear from behind puppet show cloth)

3 That's his new schoolbook.

Ticketseller: Show me.
His papa swapped his only coat to get him that book.

Ticketseller

All right. I take it.

What about his poor papa, shivering in the cold.

Ticketseller

It’s good for lighting fires.

Fires? It’s a book.

I take it. You can go in, but don’t tell the boss.

The Boss?

Roll up! Roll up for the grand Puppet show.

That’s him.

Pinocchio has forgotten all about his poor papa.

(To 3) It’s how the story goes!

I don’t remember this bit.

I do. (To Pinocchio) In you go.

(2/3 become puppets wearing stuff from the decorators equipment, 1 is operating the puppets from above with mimed strings)


Awww!

Do you want to know her name? Her name is Mine. Do you know why? Because she is mine. All mine. My own little baby. (Throwing it in the air) Whee!

(Catching baby) She's not yours. She's mine.
(Taking baby back) She's not, she's mine!

Mine.

Mine.

Mine.

Mine. (etc.)

Give that baby to me.

(Tosses baby out of the puppet booth, Pinocchio catches it) What baby?

What have you done with it? Where is it?

I've got the baby. (2/3 stop as they hear Pinocchio's voice)

Was that the voice of a puppet?

It was. There, look.

Hey! Puppet! What's your name?

Pinocchio

Pinocchio.

Pinocchio! What a great name. Come up here.

And throw yourself into the arms of your wooden brothers. We are all puppets here.

You! Puppet! What are you doing?

I wanted to watch the show and listen to the music. They asked me to come up here.

Why?

Because he's a puppet.

I can see that. Wait. Look at him, he has no strings. A puppet that can
move without strings… that would be a very special attraction. People would come from miles to see him. Hey, puppet. You want to be in the show?

**Pinocchio**  
In the show. Yes. Yes. I do.

**Judy**  
He could be the pirate.

**Showman**  
He should be the pirate.

**Pinocchio**  
What’s a pirate?

**Punch**  
He wears a black patch, waves a great sword, and goes “aaargh!”

**Pinocchio**  
He wears a black patch, waves a great sword and goes “aaargh!”

**Showman**  
Very good! Do it again!

**Pinocchio**  
Aaaaaaargh!

**Showman**  
Again!

**Pinocchio**  
Aaaaaaargh!

*(Pinnochio becomes a full blown fighting pirate, a tour de force of pirateing)*

**Showman**  
No strings and he dance like a dervish. Tremendous. Everyone clap for Pinocchio! Well done, Pinocchio. The crowd loves you.

**Pinocchio**  
It was such fun, everybody clapped me. I like it here. I want to stay with you all forever.

**Showman**  
You can. You are the best puppet pirate we have ever seen.

**Pinocchio**  
The best puppet pirate?

**Showman**  
Yes. The best ever.

**Pinocchio**  
I don’t want to be a puppet. I want to be a real boy.

**Showman**  
A real boy. *(Laughs)* You are a puppet. You can start work straight
Pinocchio But I have to go to school!

Showman No buts! You have to stay here.

Pinocchio But...

Showman You are going to be in my show and you are going to earn me a lot of money. Lock him in the cage and don’t let him out.

Judy But he is only a puppet.

Punch He is our friend.

(Showman puts him in a cage)

Pinocchio Let me out.

Showman No.

Pinocchio I want to go home.

Showman No.

Pinocchio I want to see Papa.

Showman No.

Pinocchio Papaaaaa!

Showman And don’t start crying! Please. No tears.

Pinocchio Tears?

Punch When you are upset, you cry.

Pinocchio Cry?

Judy Yes, water comes out of your eyes. When people cry, it makes him sneeze.
Punch And he can't stop. It means he feels sorry for you.

Judy And he will let you go home.

Punch So cry, Pinocchio, cry.

Pinocchio I can’t. I am made of wood.

Judy Pretend. Like this…

(Punch and Judy demonstrate crying)

Showman Atchoo! Stop that.

(Everyone stops crying)

Punch Now you, Pinocchio!

Pinocchio Papaaaaaaaa! (Crying)

(Punch and Judy join in, too)

Showman Atchoo. No more. Tell him to stop!

(Momentary crying pause. They begin again, louder)


Pinocchio My papa is so poor, he had to sell his only coat to buy me a book.

Showman Atchoo. Stop, it’s too sad! He’s poor? Take these five gold coins and go!

Pinocchio Five gold coins.

Punch/Judy You’re rich!

Pinocchio Rich?!  
1 Then Pinocchio said goodbye.
Pinocchio  Goodbye!

1  To his two new friends.

Pinocchio  Goodbye, friends!

Judy  Goodbye!

Punch  Good luck!

And with that, the little puppet set off for home. But he did not go far before he met—

Fox  A fox. Who was lame in one leg.

And

Cat  A cat. Who was blind in one eye.

(Cat mimics Fox’s leg action)

Fox  Your eye. *(hits Cat)*

Cat  Oh. Right.

(Fox and Cat begin general begging improvisation)

Cat  Food? Can anyone spare some food?

Fox  Got my foot caught in a hunter’s trap.

Cat  No you didn’t! *(Whacks Cat.)*

Fox  Yes, I did. That’s what I want them to think!

(Stops, hears Pinocchio’s jingling coins) What was that?

Cat  I don’t know.

Fox  Money!

Cat  I haven’t got any.
Fox  Not you. Him.

Cat  Oh!

Fox  We’re going to eat out tonight! Quick, get a bucket!

Cat  What do I do now?

Fox  Hide!

Cat  Aw. It’s a little puppet.

Fox  *(Drops bucket, making a loud noise.)* Hullo, friend.

Pinocchio  Hullo.

Cat  Do you know him?

Fox  Of course not. I'm pretending.

Cat  Oh. Hullo, friend.

Pinocchio  Hullo. Do I know you?

Fox  You do now.

Pinocchio  My name’s Pinocchio.

Fox  Pinocchio. Where are you going Pinocchio?

Pinocchio  Home. To see my papa.

Fox  Your papa?

Pinocchio  Yes. He sold his only coat to buy me a book.

Fox  Oh, yes. We know him well.

Cat  We do?

Fox  We do. We saw him standing outside, shivering in his shirtsleeves.
Cat: We did?

Fox: We did.

Cat: Oh, yeah, brrr.

Pinocchio: Poor Papa. But never mind, from now on he will shiver no more.

Fox: Why’s that?

Pinocchio: Because I have five gold coins. Look! 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. I’m rich!

Fox: And what are you going to do with all that money?

Pinocchio: First, I’m going to buy a beautiful new coat for my papa. Then I will buy myself a school book.

Cat: A school book?

Pinocchio: Yes. I am going to study hard and papa will be very proud of me.

Fox: Just a moment. Look at me. It’s because of my foolish passion for study that I lost the use of my leg.

Cat: And look at me. Because of my foolish passion for study, I lost the sight in one of my eyes.

Fox: How would you like to double your fortune?

Cat: Yes, please.

Fox: Not you! (Whacks Cat) Him.

Pinocchio: How do you mean?

Fox: Would you like turn those five miserable coins into one hundred coins. A thousand even?

Cat: Maybe ten thousand.

Pinocchio: Ten thousand gold coins! Yes, please. Papa would be so proud of
me. But, how?

Fox Well, dear friend. Can I call you that?

Pinocchio Yes. You are my friends.

Fox Well, dear friend. Instead of going home, you must come with us.

Cat You must come with us!

Pinocchio Where are you going?

Cat Uhhh… We are going to… uhhh…

Fox *(Whispering)* Tricksville.

Cat *(Whispering)* Tricksville.

Fox Don’t whisper it.

Cat *(Yelling)* Tricksville!

Pinocchio Tricksville? What do we do when we get there?

Cat Well, uh… In Tricksville there is…

Fox A Field.

Cat A Field.

Fox Of Miracles.

Cat There is?

Fox A Field of Miracles.

Cat Hallelujah!

Fox Where we will turn your five miserable coins into 10,000 coins!

Pinocchio I shall keep some, and give the rest to you as a present.
A present to us! Heaven forbid! We do not work for gain.

Yes, we do.

No, we don’t. We do everything for other people.

We do?

Yeah, we do!

What good people you are.

Yeah, we are, aren’t we?

Let’s start right away.

All right, dear friend. There's no hurry. It’s a long way to Tricksville, and it’s too late to travel now. Early in the morning we shall get up and set off for the Field of Miracles. Let’s rest and eat a little supper at this Inn. (To Cat) He can pay for our supper, and then when he is asleep we shall steal the rest of his gold coins. Innkeeper!

Good evening, sirs. What would you like to eat?

I am too excited to eat. I am going to straight to bed.

Me too. Just fetch me a little tomato soup and a few fish in a nice cheese sauce....... Maybe some chicken legs...... With a couple of plates of bacon and a dozen sausages............A big dish of roast potatoes and plenty of salt and pepper........To finish I'll have a bucket of strawberries And a tub of icecream.

Is that all?

Yes. And maybe a little chocolate.

And you, sir?

I am on a very strict diet. So I'll have the same as her, but no salt and pepper.

Having eaten, they all fell fast asleep.
Psst. Cat. Wake up. *(Yelling)* Cat!

Cat?! Where? Where's the cat?

You are the cat.

Sorry. I forgot. Meow!

That stupid puppet is asleep.

*(Fox/Cat creep up on Pinocchio)*

The pockets. Search them.

*(Cat starts searching his own pockets)*

Not yours! His!

What am I looking for?

The gold coins.

What gold coins?

Look under his pillow!

But just as his fingers felt for Pinocchio’s gold… Time to get up!

*(Fox and Cat jump and run in opposite directions, Cat towards the Innkeeper)*

Run! Come on!

Time to get up.

Cat? Fox? Where are my friends?

Friends?

Where are they?

Up and gone.
Pinocchio  I must catch up with them.
Innkeeper  You must pay for your supper.
Pinocchio  I didn't have any.
Innkeeper  But your so-called friends did. One gold coin.

*(Pinocchio hands over a coin)*

Pinocchio  I still have four left.
Innkeeper  Can I give you some advice? Keep the rest of your gold safe. Forget your friends, go home instead.
Pinocchio  Tomorrow these four gold coins will be ten thousand, and I will be rich. Then I will go home.
Innkeeper  Never trust anyone who promises to make you rich in a day. They are either crazy or liars. Listen to me. Go Home.
Pinocchio  No.
Innkeeper  It is very late.
Pinocchio  I must go find them.
Innkeeper  The night is dark.
Pinocchio  I'm not scared.
Innkeeper  Be careful. It’s a dangerous road. There may be robbers.
*(Pinocchio leaves)* Goodbye, and good luck.

Pinocchio  *(Going through audience)* A dangerous road, I don’t know what that is. I don’t know what a robber is, but if I see one, I won’t talk to it. I will walk past and look the other way. Soon I will find my friends Cat and Fox and then I will be rich.

*(Through this speech he is moving back towards Fox and Cat, who are disguised as robbers)*
Fox: Now’s our chance to get the rest of them gold coins! When he walks past, I’ll go, “Boo!” And you say, “Give us your money!”

Cat: “Give us your money!” Got it.

Fox: Boo!

Cat: Help! *(Scared, Cat jumps into Fox’s arms)*

Fox: Get down! *(To Pinocchio)* You.

Cat: Me?

Fox: No, him!

Cat: Him, who?

Fox: Him, him!

Cat: Oh. Him. What do I say now?

Fox: Give us your money!

Cat: I haven’t got any.

Fox: No, tell him.

Cat: Oh! Yeah. I haven’t got any.

Fox: No, let me do it. *(Whacks Cat)* You. Give us your money.

Cat: I told you, I haven't got…

Fox: Shhhh!

Pinocchio: Are you robbers?

Cat: Er... are we? *(Cat looks at Fox, who nods)* Yeah! We are. We're robbers.

Fox: And we are very fierce. Grrrr!
Cat    Don’t do that. It frightens me.

Fox    Give us your money!

Cat    Well, all right, I will, if you’re going to shout at me.

Fox    Don’t start that again! *(Whacks Cat)* *(To Pinocchio) Hey! Where are you going?*

Pinocchio    I am walking by and looking the other way.

Fox    Stop! Stop right there. Give us your money. Come here! Search him. Look through his pockets.

*(Pinocchio mimes putting coins in his mouth)*

Cat    What am I looking for?

Fox    The gold coins!

Cat    *(Searches Pinocchio, unsuccessfully)* Nothing!

Fox    Where did you put the gold coins?

*(Pinocchio is trying to speak around money in his mouth)*

Pinocchio    I haven't got any gold coins!

Fox    So, you hid them under your tongue.

*(Pinocchio shakes his head)*

Cat    Spit them out.

*(Pinocchio shakes his head)*

Fox    Tickle him.

Cat    I can’t. I'm shy.

Fox    Tickle him. *(Cat does, to no avail)* Shake it out of him. *(cat*
does Pinocchio refuses to open his mouth)

Fox

Hold it! Open your mouth!

(Trying to prise open his mouth with a foot)

Useless… He's never going to open his mouth.

(I begins dropping woodchip snow on Cat’s head)

Cat

It’s starting to snow. I'm getting cold. Can we go?

Fox

Why not. First, tie the puppet to that tree. We'll come back later. When he gets cold his teeth will chatter and the coins will fall out. After that, I don’t care if he freezes to death. (Cat ties Pinocchio up)

Come on.

1

And the little puppet was left all alone, tied to a tree, freezing in the cold, cold night.

1/2/3/5

Oh dear, no, Oh dear, oh dear

Soft snow, soft, soft snow is falling

Falling on the poor puppet

Slowly, slowly dying

Dying in the cold, cold night

2

What happens now?

1

No idea.

2

You are supposed to know the story

1

I can’t remember.

3

We can’t just leave Pinocchio dying here in the snow.

2

Think of something!

1

I can’t.

2

I know. I’ve got it. We need a good fairy.

3

Of course. A fairy. They always turn up just when things are going wrong.
2 And make everything all right.

3 Like in Cinderella. Who will be the fairy?

(1 and 2 both raise their hands)

1 I will be the fairy. (2 sulks off) But first, I will need a dress. A lovely dress. (1 ties his jacket around his waist)

Lovely. And beautiful hair, all fairies have beautiful hair. (3 passes him a mop head) What do you think?

3 Very pretty.

1/Fairy We forgot the magic wand.

3 Ta da!

(3 passes him a paintbrush)

Fairy Abracadabra. (As he waves his wand, sparks fly)

1 Ah! How did that happen?

3 I don’t know! Do it again.

Fairy Abracadabra. (I Waves paint brush again, more sparks)

I did it again! It really is magic.

3 You really are a fairy.

2 It was me! I made the flash. Look!

(More sparks, 2 has been using a metal grinder out of sight of the others)

1 Oh!

Pinocchio Papa… papa… I am so cold.

2 (to 1, he has a harness in his hands) Can you fly?
Fairy Not really.

2 Not really?

1 Not at all.

2 Not at all. You must fly. All fairies fly.

Fairy I don’t want to.

2 You want to help the puppet.

Fairy Yes.

2 Then you must fly.

Pinocchio Papa…

3 We must hurry. Pinocchio needs looking after. He is dying.

2 Come here.

(They fix the fairy to the hoist)

Fairy I don’t like it.

2 Up you go.

Fairy Help!

2 Fly. Flap.

Fairy I'm scared.

2 Don’t be scared

Pinocchio (Very faintly) Papa… Papa...

3 (To the fairy) Do something!

Fairy Pinocchio!
Pinocchio  Papa?

Fairy  Pinocchio!

Pinocchio  You are not my papa.

Fairy  I am your good fairy. Untie him. I am here to make you feel better. *(Pinocchio collapses)* He needs medicine.

Pinocchio  Medicine?

Fairy  Yes, medicine. Hurry! *(3 grabs a thermos)*

3  Is it magic?

*(More sparks)*

Fairy  It is now.

Fairy  Now Pinocchio, dear, drink the medicine and you will feel much better.

Pinocchio  What if I don’t like the taste?

Fairy  Do you want to feel better?

Pinocchio  Yes, but…

Fairy  Then drink it up. Afterwards, I'll give you a lump of sugar to take the taste away.

Pinocchio  First, I want the sugar.

Fairy  Then you promise to drink the medicine?

Pinocchio  Yes, I promise.

*(3 gives him the sugar, he eats)*

Fairy  All right. Now, quickly, drink it down.

Pinocchio  Give me one more lump of sugar.
Fairy One more, but that’s the last. Now drink your medicine!

Pinocchio I can’t drink it now.

Fairy Aaaaggh! I am trying to help you. Just drink the medicine!

3 Temper, temper.

2 You are the good, kind fairy. Remember!

Fairy Yes, I remember! But if he doesn’t drink the medicine, he will die!

2 Shh!

Fairy Why can’t you drink it, my dear?

Pinocchio It smells funny.

Fairy I am going to count to three and then I will very gently say “Hold your nose and down it goes.” Then Pinocchio, you will hold your nose and swallow your medicine. You won’t taste a thing. Alright? On 3. 1, 2, 3: Hold your nose and down it goes!

Pinocchio I can’t!

Fairy (to 2,3) Again, again. 1, 2, 3: Hold your nose and down it goes.

Pinocchio I don’t want to!

Fairy (To audience) Everybody! 1,2,3: Hold your nose and down it goes.

(Pinocchio holds his nose and drinks the medicine)

2 It worked. He's done it. He's done it.

3 He has swallowed the medicine.

Pinocchio Uuuurgh! Spicy! Spicy!

Fairy How do you feel?
(Pinocchio suddenly perky)

Pinocchio  Better! Much better!

Fairy  Quite sure?

Pinocchio  Fit as a fiddle! (Pinocchio charges around the stage)

Fairy  Pinocchio! My dear. You promised to go to school, but you broke your promise. Why didn’t you go to school?

2/3  Why didn’t you go to school?

Pinocchio  I couldn’t find it.

2  No sooner had this little lie slipped from Pinocchio's lips

3  Than his nose grew 12 inches.

(2 holds a roll of wallpaper up to Pinocchio's nose)

Pinocchio  What’s happened to my nose? It's grown.

(Tries to shake it off, hitting 2 and 3)

Make it short again.

Fairy  I can’t unless you tell me the truth. Why didn’t you go to school?

2/3  Why didn’t you go to school?

Pinocchio  School was closed.

2  At this second lie

3  Pinocchio's nose grew even longer.

(2 extends wallpaper roll)

Pinocchio  Help. Get it off me!

(Pinocchio swings nose back and forth, hitting 2/3 again)
Fairy  Why didn’t you go to school?

2/3  Why didn’t you-

Pinocchio  I did! I did go to school!  
(Pinocchio’s nose grows again)  
Help. I don’t like it!  
(Pinocchio spins nose in a circle, 2 and 3 duck)

Fairy  You must tell the truth.

Pinocchio  I will, I will.

Fairy  Now, why didn’t you go to school?

Pinocchio  I didn’t go to school because I listened to some music. I was put in a cage. A man gave me five gold coins for my papa. A fox and a cat were going to make me rich, then some robbers tried to steal my money. They tickled me, turned me upside down and tied me to that tree.

Fairy  Is that the truth?

Pinocchio  Yes.

Fairy  (To audience) Everybody! Is that what happened?

Audience  Yes!

3  And with that…

(2 pushes wall paper in, tosses back to Fairy)

Pinocchio  My nose is back.

Fairy  Now Pinocchio, go home to your poor papa.

Pinocchio  Papa…

Fairy  Yes. Your papa, sitting at home waiting for you to come back.

Pinocchio  Papa.
Fairy Waiting to hear all about your first day at school.

Pinocchio But... I didn't go to school.

Fairy Tell him what happened, tell him the truth. He will understand.

Pinocchio I will do it.

*(Pinocchio heads off)*

Fairy Not that way, this way. At the fork in the road, take the path over the hill and you will find your papa. Don’t go through the woods.

Pinocchio Over the hill, not through the woods.

*(Pinocchio goes)*

Fairy Tomorrow, you go to school?

Pinocchio I will.

1 But just as Pinocchio reached the fork in the road

Fox The hill is so steep, the woods are quicker.

Pinocchio Fox, is that you?

Fox It is.

Cat I am here, too.

Pinocchio Fox. Cat. My friends.

Fox We are so happy to see you. Aren’t we?

Cat We are.

Fox Old friend, where have you been? What happened to you?

Pinocchio I have been tickled, turned upside down and tied to a tree by robbers.
Cat: That was us.

Fox: *(Whacks Cat)* What did those bad people want?

Pinocchio: My gold coins. But I hid them in my mouth.

Cat: Yuck! Nasty.

Pinocchio: I only have four now, but I am going to keep them safe and take them home to my papa.

Fox: Wait.

Cat: Wait! What for?

Fox: Do you still want to be rich to make a thousand gold coins?

Pinocchio: Yes. Yes, I do. But...

Fox: Well, you have to bury them right away.

Pinocchio: Bury them?

Cat: Yes! Right there in the Wood of Miracles.

Pinocchio: He said “Field” before.

Cat: Did he? Did you?

Fox: It was a field, and now it is a wood, the trees have grown so quick. It is a miracle.

Cat: Hallelujah!

Fox: Your tree covered in gold coins will grow just as quickly.

Cat: Your papa will be so proud of you.

Pinocchio: He will. He will. Let’s do it now. Let’s bury them now.

Fox: First we must go into the woods.

*(They skip/walk away to the first two bars of yellow brick road)*

*Pinocchio by Greg Banks  44*
Here we are.

**Pinocchio**

That was quick. *(To Cat)* What do I do now?

**Cat**

First you must…

*(Fox is miming digging a hole)*

Pull on a rope… No... Er... You poke a pig with a big stick...

No, you shake a donkey by the tail!

*(Fox throws his hands up in the air in despair)*

You wave your hands in the air.

**Fox**

No!

**Cat**

And shout, “No!”

**Fox**

You dig a little hole!

**Cat**

Yeah, of course, you dig a little hole. I knew that.

*(Pinocchio does this)*

**Fox**

Then you take the gold coins.

**Cat**

Thank you.

*(Cat puts out hand, Fox sprays Cat with water)*

**Fox**

And put them in the hole, and cover them with earth.

*(Pinocchio does this)*

**Cat**

Then, when you have gone, we steal them.

**Pinocchio**

Steal them?

**Fox**

STILL them, still them. Make them all nice and quiet, still them.

**1**

I don’t think Pinocchio should do this!

*(Fox squirts 1 with water)*

**Fox**

Then you water the ground. *(Fox keeps squirting, directed now at*
We leave the magic to work. Come back in fifteen minutes you will find a huge tree covered in gold coins. Your papa will be so proud of you.

**Pinocchio**  I want it to grow now.

**Cat**  Me, too!

**Fox**  Just fifteen minutes.

**Pinocchio**  I can’t wait so long.

**Fox**  Come along, now. It won’t grow if you watch it.

**Pinocchio**  Grow tree. Grow.

**Cat**  Grow tree. Grow. Grow tree, grow!

**Fox**  Cat, come on!

**Cat**  Bye, tree!

1  Fifteen minutes. Just enough time for a little break! Don’t be late back, and we see if the tree has grown.

**INTERVAL**

*(During the interval stage crew dressed as renovators, make necessary adjustments the set and remove the coins)*