



Sample Pages from Winnie-the-Pooh

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WINNIE-THE-POOH

A PLAY IN TWO ACTS ADAPTED BY
Lindsay Price

FROM WINNIE-THE-POOH BY
A. A. Milne



Winnie-the-Pooh

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Characters

IM + IW + 8 Any Gender + Additional Narrators

Christopher Robin: (M) Our Storyteller-in-Chief.

Rabbit Friend: (Any Gender) A narrator.

Rabbit Relation: (Any Gender) A narrator.

Pooh: (Any Gender) A bear of very little brain, but of very big heart. And is a pretty good thinker when the situation calls for it.

Piglet: (Any Gender) A very small pig who feels that every story should be about them.

Rabbit: (Any Gender) Doesn't really want to talk to anyone. Thinks they're smart.

Owl: (Any Gender) Thinks they are EXTREMELY smart. Atrocious spelling.

Kanga: (W) A kangaroo mother who knows she can't take her eye off of Roo for obvious reasons.

Roo: (Any Gender) A baby kangaroo with a tendency to tumble into things they shouldn't.

Eeyore: (Any Gender) A grey donkey with a tendency to see the worst in everything.

Rabbits Rabbits Rabbits!

The book frequently mentions that Rabbit has many friends and relations and they make appearances throughout. I made the decision to add them as narrators to the play. Each story identifies one Rabbit Friend and one Rabbit Relation as narrators. These numbers could easily be multiplied (as rabbits are wont to do). Feel free to add as many Rabbit Friends and Rabbit Relations as you like to act as narrators. You could give each story their own "Rabbit Friend & Rabbit Relation" pair. It's up to you and your casting needs.

Gender Note

I have purposefully degendered the characters. They are all (except for Kanga) identified as male in the original text. In this play, Kanga is identified as female. Christopher Robin is identified as male, primarily because he shows such demonstrative love and affection for Pooh that I thought it was important to keep this character male. Every other character should be considered as playable by any gender.

Casting Note

It is my intention that this play be cast with a diverse group of actors. DO NOT attempt to match the movies in any way. Those looks are owned by

Disney. The text of the *Winnie-the-Pooh* book is in the public domain but the Disney movies are still very much protected by copyright.

The characters are mostly all toys. This play takes place in the world of imagination. So be imaginative.

Copyright Note PLEASE READ

The character of Tigger is not in the public domain as of 2022. Do not add stories with Tigger or ask to add Tigger to the play. Tigger is still protected by copyright as he does not appear until later books.

Set

Obviously you are free to decide on your own direction with the set. If you're looking for suggestions consider the following.

A variety of risers/platforms. You want plenty of places for the characters to sit and watch the action.

Set dressing that is decidedly two-dimensional: all trees, rocks, and signage is clearly painted onto panels. Colours should be forest colours and everything should look rustic, so if you're using standard black acting cubes, they should be painted or dressed to look like they belong in a drawing of a forest. There should be a lot of set dressing but lean toward drawings like those you would find in a book.

You'll also want a couple of tables (dressed appropriately) or areas with all of the props within easy reach for Rabbit Friend and Rabbit Relation. Any and all props should have the same look, rather than actual three-dimensional objects.

See the Appendix for a suggested prop list.

Blackouts

Please don't use blackouts between scenes. I'll say it again, PLEASE don't use blackouts between scenes. They take the audience out of the world of the play. Use music, use the provided blocking transitions. Have your props nearby so Rabbit Friend and Rabbit Relation can access them. There are no costume changes and no major set changes. Therefore, blackouts are unnecessary and untheatrical. You may have guessed that I do not support blackouts as a method of transitioning between scenes. You would be right.

Costumes

Be careful with your character looks and costumes. As previously mentioned, the looks in the movie are owned by Disney. The looks of the characters that are in the public domain are those that are in the original text (which you can find at Project Gutenberg at [gutenberg.org](https://www.gutenberg.org)). So the sky's the limit with your costumes! Play and experiment rather than try to recreate someone else's look. It could be something simple as t-shirts with the character names printed on them. It could be sweatshirts and

sweatpants in specific colours (gray for Eeyore, tan for Pooh, pink for Piglet). The only character who needs a specific costume piece is Kanga. She should wear a hoodie with a big front pocket to substitute for her pouch. The great thing about doing this play is that the characters are part of the common knowledge of your audience. You only need to address a character as Pooh and everyone knows who the character is supposed to be.

Full length/One Act Versions

What's included in this collection is the theatrical version of all ten *Winnie-the-Pooh* stories in order as they are in the original text. You may change the order (after the introduction) to one that suits your production best. I have made suggestions in the Appendix to create a 30 minute version. Having said that, feel free to choose and combine whichever stories you want (within this collection) to make a one act. You do not need to obtain special permission to choose stories (within this collection) to make your own version of a one act.

Cut Permissions

You may cut full stories (in their entirety) for time. If you wish to make cuts within stories, please forward a specific list with page numbers to the publisher.

Introduction

Pastoral music plays. Lights come up. The location is a forest.

Characters (except for CHRISTOPHER ROBIN, RABBIT FRIEND, and RABBIT RELATION) pop out from behind trees and bushes, stretching their arms as if just waking up. They all wave to one another. They move out into the open toward centre stage, greeting one another, hugging (in character, some would be more “huggy” than others), and form a tableau. They realize some folks are missing and gesture offstage, waving and gesturing to them to enter.

RABBIT FRIEND and RABBIT RELATION scamper on and stand with the group. They are welcomed. CHRISTOPHER ROBIN enters and waves to the group who all wave enthusiastically back.

Music fades.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: *(to group)* Hallo my friends! Are we all here? Are we ready? *(to audience)* Oh hallo, you're new. Are you here for the stories? Welcome! Let me show you around. *(pointing to the far right)* There's my house, you'll know it by the green door. *(pointing)* Owl is by the Hundred Acre Wood. *(pointing)* Edward Bear's on the other side of the Six Pine Trees.

POOH: *(stepping forward)* Christopher Robin?

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: Yes?

POOH: I'd like to have an exciting name all to myself. Other than Edward Bear.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: Why, it's Winnie-the-Pooh of course.

POOH: So it is. I should have remembered. It's on account of being a bear of very little brain.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: *(warmly, hugging POOH)* You're just fine.

PIGLET pushes through the hug between CHRISTOPHER ROBIN and POOH.

PIGLET: What about me? When's my story?

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: *(an arm around PIGLET)* Piglet, the whole thing is about you.

PIGLET: (*a little petulant*) It's about Pooh.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: Yes, and Pooh. And everyone.

PIGLET: Oh.

RABBIT: (*moving forward*) Is it really about us?

ROO: (*jumping up*) What about me? What about me? (*and falling over*)

KANGA: Oh Roo.

OWL: (*flying around*) This reminds me of the time when I had an embroilment with a *Buteo regalis*. Let me tell you –

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: (*interrupting*) We should get on with things. It's time for the first story, don't you think?

EEYORE: I'm sure I won't be in any of them.

PIGLET: Who's it about? Me?

ROO: (*jumping*) Me, me, me! (*and falling*)

KANGA: Oh Roo.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: The first one's about Pooh.

PIGLET: Oh...

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: But there are many others. There's the one where you and Pooh try to catch a Heffalump –

PIGLET: I forgot about that!

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: That's why we want to tell stories. So it's more real and not just remembering.

POOH: That's how I feel. I never remember.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: (*to the RABBIT FRIEND and RABBIT RELATION*) Shall we? Let's go!

RABBIT FRIEND and RABBIT RELATION scamper to the side. They nod to each other, perhaps they have a handshake. The others watch intently.

RABBIT RELATION: Once upon a time, a very long time ago now,

RABBIT FRIEND: About last Friday,

RABBIT RELATION: Winnie-the-Pooh lived in a forest all alone under the name of Sanders.

ROO: (*jumping*) Christopher Robin! Christopher Robin! What does that mean?

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: It means there was a name over the door in gold letters, and Pooh lived under it.

POOH: Oh I'm glad you said that, I wasn't quite sure.

EYORE: Are (*gesturing to the audience*) they really going to be here for the whole time? That won't end well. It never does.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: I'll keep an eye on them. Ok?

Transition right into the next story (meaning no music plays to connect these sections).

Full length transition to Story One: RABBIT RELATION, RABBIT FRIEND, CHRISTOPHER ROBIN gather together. The other characters, except for POOH, gradually fade upstage. You can decide if they'll stay there for the stories, or if everyone not involved makes their way slowly offstage. If they're exiting the stage, I'd suggest they do so one at a time, again, very slowly. Don't draw attention from the story. They should be focused on the action until the moment they leave.

Story One

RABBIT RELATION: In Which,

RABBIT FRIEND: Pooh Meets Some Bees,

POOH waves to the audience.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: And the stories begin!

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN moves to the side and watches. POOH moves in the opposite direction of CHRISTOPHER ROBIN and looks up.

RABBIT RELATION: One day while out walking, Pooh came to an open place in the middle of the Forest. And in the middle of this place was a large oak tree.

RABBIT FRIEND moves a chair or cube into place nearby POOH.

RABBIT FRIEND: And from the top of the tree, there came a loud buzzing noise.

RABBIT RELATION starts to buzz like a bee. Buzz for the remainder of POOH's next line.

POOH: (*looking up*) That buzzing noise means something. You don't get a buzzing noise like that, buzzing and buzzing, without it meaning something. (*RABBIT RELATION circles POOH and buzzes*) And the only reason for making a buzzing noise that I know of is because you're a bee. And the only reason for being a bee that I know of is making honey. And the only reason for making honey is so I can eat it.

POOH begins to slowly climb and by climb I mean gets up on the chair or cube and mimes the rest.

POOH: Isn't it funny. How a bear likes honey? Buzz! Buzz! Buzz! Oh bother...

RABBIT FRIEND: Pooh climbed and climbed. (*to POOH*) Just a little further...

POOH: (*huffing a little from all the climbing*) I thought of another poem.

RABBIT FRIEND: Do share.

POOH: It's a very funny thought, that if bears were bees,
They'd build their nests at the bottom of trees.
And that being so, if the bees were bears,
We shouldn't have to climb up all these stairs.

RABBIT FRIEND: Pooh was getting rather tired by this time, so that's the reason for the Complaining Poem.

RABBIT RELATION: (*like an announcer*) Capital C – Complaining.
Capital P – Poem.

RABBIT FRIEND: After so much climbing, Pooh was nearly at the Bees' nest.

POOH: (*miming one more step up*) If I stand on that branch...

RABBIT FRIEND & RABBIT RELATION: Crack!

POOH: (*flailing*) Oh help!

POOH falls back off the chair in slow motion and continues to flail as if falling. If you wanted you could have RABBIT RELATION and RABBIT FRIEND hold up and move cardboard cutouts of branches around POOH as if POOH is bouncing from branch to branch.

RABBIT RELATION: That's a ten foot bounce.

POOH: (*flailing*) If only I hadn't –

RABBIT FRIEND: That's a twenty foot bounce.

POOH: (*flailing*) You see, what I meant to do –

RABBIT RELATION: That's a thirty foot bounce. Head over heels too.

POOH: (*flailing*) Of course it was rather –

RABBIT FRIEND: That's very quickly through six branches.

POOH: It all comes, I suppose, goodbye last branch! (*finally flops onto the ground*) It all comes of liking honey so much. Oh, help! (*puts a hand to nose*) Gorse prickles. (*sighing and getting up*)

RABBIT RELATION: Pooh crawled out of the gorse-bush, brushed away the prickles and began to think again.

POOH: Christopher Robin!

RABBIT FRIEND: So Winnie-the-Pooh went to Christopher Robin, who lived behind a green door in another part of the Forest.

POOH and CHRISTOPHER ROBIN meet centre stage.

POOH: Good morning, Christopher Robin.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: Good morning, Pooh.

POOH: I wonder if you've got such a thing as a balloon about you?

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: A balloon? What do you want a balloon for?

POOH: (*looking around to make sure nobody is listening and in a deep whisper*) Honey!

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: But you don't get honey with balloons.

POOH: I do.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: Well, yesterday I was at a party at Piglet's and I got a big green balloon. One of Rabbit's relations had a big blue one but left it behind, being really too young to go to a party in the first place. So I have the green one and the blue one. Which one would you like?

RABBIT RELATION: Pooh thought carefully.

POOH: (*thinking and pacing*) When you go after honey with a balloon, the big thing is not to let the bees know you're coming. Now, if you have a green balloon, they might think you were part of

the tree, and not notice you, and if you have a blue balloon, they might think you were part of the sky, and not notice you, and the question is: Which is most likely?

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: Wouldn't they notice you underneath the balloon?

POOH: They might or they might not. You never can tell with bees. *(has an idea!)* I shall try to look like a small black cloud. That will deceive them.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: Then you better have the blue balloon.

RABBIT FRIEND: And so it was decided. They both went out with the blue balloon and Christopher Robin took his slingshot with him, in case.

NOTE: The slingshot is a gun in the original story, like a pop gun for kids. This was not unusual at the time the story was written. Use what works best for your situation and community standards.

POOH: Now I need some mud!

POOH dives to the ground and rolls around.

RABBIT RELATION: Pooh rolled in the mud while Christopher Robin blew up the balloon.

RABBIT FRIEND hands a cardboard cutout of a blue balloon on a string to CHRISTOPHER ROBIN.

POOH: *(getting up)* That should do it. Look at the balloon! *(grabs the balloon)*

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: I'm going to let go!

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN lets go and POOH "floats" away.

POOH moves to stand on the chair/cube. Alternatively, they could also move to one of the riser platforms. Whatever you have that puts POOH above CHRISTOPHER ROBIN.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: You're floating! Hooray!

RABBIT FRIEND: Pooh floated gracefully up into the sky, and stayed there – level with the top of the tree and about twenty feet away from it.

POOH: Isn't that fine? What do I look like?

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: You look like a bear holding onto a balloon.

POOH: Not like a small black cloud in a blue sky?

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: Not much.

POOH: Perhaps from up here it looks different.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: Are you going to get closer?

POOH: It appears there's no wind. I can see the honey, I can smell the honey, but I can't quite reach the honey.

RABBIT FRIEND: After a little while Pooh called down to Christopher Robin.

RABBIT FRIEND starts to buzz quietly on and off.

POOH: (*loud whisper*) Christopher Robin!

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: Hallo!

POOH: Shhh! I think the bees suspect something!

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: What sort of thing?

POOH: I don't know. But something tells me that they're suspicious!

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: Perhaps they know you're after their honey?

POOH: It may be that. You never can tell with bees. Christopher Robin!

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: Yes?

POOH: Have you an umbrella in your house?

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: I think so.

POOH: I wish you would bring it out here, and walk up and down with it, and look up at me every now and then, and say 'Tut-tut, it looks like rain.' If you did that, it would help the deception.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: (*to self with a smile*) Silly old bear! (*loudly*) I'll go get my umbrella.

RABBIT RELATION hands a cardboard cutout umbrella (or an actual umbrella) to CHRISTOPHER ROBIN.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: I'm back!

POOH: There you are! I was beginning to get anxious. I have discovered that the bees are definitely suspicious. The important bee to deceive is the Queen Bee. Can you see which is the Queen Bee from down there?

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: No.

POOH: A pity. Now, walk up and down with your umbrella. I shall do what I can by saying a little cloud poem, such as a cloud might say. Go!

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN walks back and forth, looking up at POOH.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: Oh dear, tut-tut, it looks like rain. Oh dear. Look at that.

POOH: How sweet to be a cloud
Floating in the blue!
Every little cloud
Always speaks aloud.
How sweet to be a cloud
Floating in the blue!

RABBIT FRIEND now begins to buzz loudly, circling around POOH.

RABBIT RELATION: The bees were still buzzing as suspiciously as ever. Some of them even left their nests and flew around the cloud. One bee sat down on the nose of the cloud for a moment, and then got up again.

RABBIT FRIEND “pinches” POOH and moves away. The buzzing fades.

POOH: Christopher – ow! – Robin!

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: Yes?

POOH: I have come to an important decision. These are the wrong sort of bees.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: Are they?

POOH: I think they would make the wrong sort of honey.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: Would they?

POOH: Yes. I think I shall come down.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: How?

RABBIT FRIEND: Pooh hadn't thought about this.

POOH: If I let go of the string, I will fall – bump – I don't like the sound of that. Christopher Robin, you must shoot the balloon with your slingshot. Have you got your slingshot?

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: Of course I have. But if I do that, it will spoil the balloon.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN gives the umbrella to RABBIT RELATION.

POOH: But if you don't, I shall have to let go, and that would spoil me.

RABBIT FRIEND gives CHRISTOPHER ROBIN the slingshot.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: Ok... careful... aim...fire!

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN shoots at the balloon. POOH jumps.

POOH: Ow!

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: Did I miss?

POOH: You didn't exactly miss, but you missed the balloon.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: Sorry! *(trying again)* Careful... aim... fire!

RABBIT FRIEND takes the balloon away. POOH "floats" down from wherever they are standing to land beside CHRISTOPHER ROBIN. POOH's arms are up in the air.

RABBIT RELATION: This time Christopher Robin hit the balloon! The air came slowly out and Pooh floated down to the ground.

POOH: Oh my arms!

RABBIT FRIEND: Pooh's arms were so stiff from holding on to the string of the balloon all that time, they stayed up straight in the air for more than a week.

POOH: Oh no, there's a fly. *(blowing at the fly)* Oh my nose. *(blowing at the fly)* Go away fly! *(blowing at the fly)*

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: *(with great affection)* Silly old bear.

Music plays.

Full length transition to Story Two: POOH moves to the side with their arms in the air. Starts to “exercise” by reaching up and then touching their toes. RABBIT FRIEND, RABBIT RELATION and CHRISTOPHER ROBIN stand side by side, centre stage.

Story Two

Music fades.

RABBIT RELATION: In Which,

RABBIT FRIEND: Pooh Goes Visiting,

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: And Gets Into a Tight Place.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN moves upstage and watches.

RABBIT FRIEND: Winnie-the-Pooh, or Pooh for short,

RABBIT RELATION: Started out the day with a new tune during Stoutness Exercises.

POOH: (*stretching up high*) Tra-la-la, tra-la-la... (*bending down to touch the toes with effort*) Tra-la-la, tra-la-oh, help!

RABBIT RELATION: Pooh continued to hum through breakfast and the morning walk.

POOH moves around the stage, enjoying the walk.

POOH: (*make up a tune*) Tra-la-la. Tra-la-la. Rum-tum-tiddle-um. Tiddle-iddle, tiddle-iddle. Rum-tum-tiddle-um.

RABBIT FRIEND and RABBIT RELATION set up a cube or chair centre stage. POOH will eventually position themself on the surface of the cube/chair on their belly.

RABBIT FRIEND: Suddenly in the middle of the morning walk there was a sandy bank and in the bank was a large hole.

RABBIT FRIEND mimes a circle (the hole) in the space above the cube. POOH stops on one side of the cube. POOH will do everything right to left (or left to right depending on how you block it) rather than front to back.

POOH: (*stopping*) Aha! Rum-tum-tiddle-um! If I know anything about anything, that hole means Rabbit. And Rabbit means company.

And company means food. (*leaning on the cube and calling, as if down a hole*) Is anybody at home?

As POOH talks above, RABBIT scampers downstage and sits with their back to the cube, on the other side.

RABBIT RELATION: There was a scuffling noise from inside the hole, and then silence.

POOH: (*loudly*) What I said was, 'Is anybody at home?'

RABBIT: (*not looking at POOH*) No! You needn't shout so loud. I heard you quite well the first time.

POOH: Bother! Isn't there anybody here at all?

RABBIT: Nobody.

POOH: (*standing up, thinking*) There must be somebody there, because somebody must have said 'Nobody.' (*bending over again*) Hallo, Rabbit, isn't that you?

RABBIT: (*using a different voice*) No.

POOH: But isn't that Rabbit's voice?

RABBIT: I don't think so. It isn't meant to be.

POOH: Oh! (*stands up, thinks, and bends over again*) Well, could you kindly tell me where Rabbit is?

RABBIT: Rabbit has gone to see Pooh Bear, who is a great friend.

POOH: But this is Me!

RABBIT: What sort of me?

POOH: Pooh Bear.

RABBIT: Are you sure?

POOH: Yes!

RABBIT: (*standing up and turning around*) Oh, well, then, come in.

POOH (with the help of RABBIT FRIEND and RABBIT RELATION if need be) scoots on their belly across the cube, and crawls into RABBIT's hole.

RABBIT: You were quite right. It is you. Glad to see you.

POOH: Who did you think it was?

RABBIT: Well, I wasn't sure. You know how it is in the Forest. One can't have anybody coming into one's house. One has to be careful. *(claps hands)* What about a mouthful of something?

RABBIT RELATION hands a tray to RABBIT with tea mugs, small jars and plates. RABBIT puts it on the cube, transforming it into a table. Add a couple of chairs if need be.

RABBIT FRIEND: Pooh always liked a little something at eleven o'clock in the morning, and was glad to see Rabbit getting out the plates and mugs.

RABBIT RELATION: And when Rabbit said...

RABBIT: Honey or condensed milk with your bread?

POOH: *(loud)* Both! *(and then backtracking a little)* But don't bother about the bread, please.

They sit. RABBIT hands POOH two jars and POOH begins to eat.

RABBIT FRIEND: And then there was no talking.

RABBIT RELATION: At last, Pooh got up with a rather sticky voice...

POOH: *(shaking RABBIT's paw)* I must be going.

RABBIT: *(politely)* Must you?

POOH: *(looking hard in the direction of the larder)* I could stay a little longer if there was... if you...

RABBIT: As a matter of fact, I was going out myself.

RABBIT removes the tray and gives it to RABBIT FRIEND. If you're using them, RABBIT RELATION removes the chairs.

POOH: *(sighing)* Oh well, then, I'll be going. Goodbye.

RABBIT: Well, goodbye, if you're sure you won't have any more.

POOH: *(quickly)* Is there any more?

RABBIT: No, there isn't.

POOH: *(sighing)* I thought not. Goodbye.

POOH scoots across the cube on their belly, as if exiting RABBIT's home, much slower than the first time.

RABBIT RELATION: Pooh started to climb out of the hole, pulling and pushing...

POOH: There's my nose, and my ears, and my front paws, and my shoulders, and... (*gets stuck halfway and can't go forward*) Oh, help! I better go back. (*POOH can't go back*) Oh, bother! I shall have to go on. (*POOH can't go forward*) I can't do either! Oh, help and bother.

RABBIT looks at the back end of POOH and circles around to the front end of POOH.

RABBIT FRIEND: Now by this time, Rabbit was ready to go out and found the front door full.

RABBIT: Oh!

RABBIT RELATION: And went out the back door, circling round to Pooh.

RABBIT: Hallo, are you stuck?

POOH: N-no. Just resting and thinking and humming to myself. Tra... la... la...

RABBIT: Here, give us a paw.

POOH gives a paw. RABBIT "pulls" and pulls and pulls...

POOH: Ow! You're hurting!

RABBIT: The fact is, you're stuck.

POOH: (*crossly*) It all comes of not having front doors big enough.

RABBIT: (*sternly*) It all comes of eating too much. I thought at the time, only I didn't like to say anything, that one of us was eating too much, and I knew it wasn't me. I shall go and fetch Christopher Robin.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN comes forward.

RABBIT RELATION: When Christopher Robin came back with Rabbit he said –

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: (*lovingly*) Silly old bear.

RABBIT RELATION: In such a loving voice that everybody felt quite hopeful again.

POOH: I was beginning to think that Rabbit might never be able to use the front door again. And I should hate that.

RABBIT: So should I.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: Use the front door? Of course Rabbit will be able to use the front door.

RABBIT: Good.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: If we can't pull you out, Pooh, we might push you back.

RABBIT: But then Pooh will be in my house. And of course, nobody is more glad to see Pooh than I, but there would still be the issue...

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: Then there's only one thing to be done. We shall have to wait.

POOH: (*anxiously*) Wait? How long?

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: About a week, I should think.

POOH: I can't stay here for a week!

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: You can stay here all right, silly old bear. It's getting you out which is difficult.

RABBIT: I hope it won't snow. And I say, you're taking up a good deal of room in my house – do you mind if I use your back legs as a towel-horse? Because there they are – doing nothing – and it would be convenient to hang the towels on them.

POOH: (*gloomily*) A week! What about meals?

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: No meals, I'm afraid. But we will read to you.

POOH: Would you read a sustaining book, as such would help and comfort a Wedged Bear in great tightness?

RABBIT RELATION: (*like an announcer*) Capital W – Wedged. Capital B – Bear.

*RABBIT moves around to the back end of POOH.
RABBIT FRIEND hands CHRISTOPHER ROBIN a
cardboard cutout of a book.*

RABBIT FRIEND: So for a week Christopher Robin read to the North end of Pooh, and Rabbit hung washing on the South end.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: What do you think, Pooh? Let's try now.
(hands book to RABBIT FRIEND)

POOH: Ok...

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: (to RABBIT) Get all your friends and relations, Rabbit!

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN grabs POOH's hands, RABBIT grabs onto CHRISTOPHER ROBIN, RABBIT FRIEND grabs onto RABBIT, and RABBIT RELATION grabs on to RABBIT FRIEND. If you are using multiple RABBIT FRIENDS & RABBIT RELATIONS, have them all run in to help. Everyone mimes pulling.

RABBIT RELATION: Christopher Robin took hold of Pooh's front paws and Rabbit took hold of Christopher Robin, and all Rabbit's friends and relations took hold of Rabbit, and they all pulled together...

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: Pull! Pull! Pull!

POOH: Ow! Oh! Bother!

EVERYONE: Pop!

POOH moves off the cube and tumbles to the ground along with everyone else.

RABBIT FRIEND: Christopher Robin and Rabbit and all of Rabbit's friends and relations went head-over-heels backwards...and on top of them came Winnie-the-Pooh – free!

Everyone cheers.

POOH: Thank you, friends! I think it's time for a little something. (runs upstage)

RABBIT RELATION: And Pooh went off home as fast as possible. Humming proudly all the way.

Music plays. Full length transition to Story Three: RABBIT FRIEND, RABBIT RELATION and CHRISTOPHER ROBIN are grouped together. POOH continues walking in a wide circle around the stage. PIGLET is either sitting upstage, or enters to sit upstage.

Story Three

RABBIT RELATION grabs a cardboard “plank” or piece of wood on which is written TRESPASSERS W.”

Music fades.

RABBIT RELATION: In Which,

RABBIT FRIEND: Pooh and Piglet Go Hunting,

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: And Nearly Catch a Woozle.

The three shift their focus to PIGLET. PIGLET is very happy about this.

RABBIT FRIEND: Piglet lived in a grand house in the middle of a beech tree, which was in the middle of the Forest.

RABBIT RELATION holds up their plank. They find a place to display it nearby PIGLET. (You want something so that the audience can see the plank and the writing.)

RABBIT RELATION: Next to the house was a piece of broken board which had “TRESPASSERS W” on it.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: (*sits beside PIGLET*) When Christopher Robin asked Piglet what it meant –

PIGLET: It’s my grandfather’s name and has been in the family for a long time.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: But you can’t be called Trespassers W...

PIGLET: Yes, you can, because my grandfather was. It’s short for Trespassers Will, which is short for Trespassers William. My grandfather had two names in case he lost one. Trespassers after an uncle, and William after Trespassers.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: (*carelessly*) I’ve got two names.

PIGLET: Well there you are, that proves it.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN hugs PIGLET. POOH walks across the front of the stage.

RABBIT RELATION: One fine winter’s day when Piglet was brushing away the snow in front of the house, there was Winnie-the-Pooh, walking round and round in a circle.

PIGLET crosses to POOH. CHRISTOPHER ROBIN sits and watches.

PIGLET: Hallo! What are you doing?

POOH: Hunting.

PIGLET: Hunting what?

POOH: *(mysteriously)* Tracking something.

PIGLET: *(hesitantly)* Tracking what?

POOH: That's what I ask myself. I ask myself, "what?"

POOH continues moving in a wide circle about the stage. PIGLET follows behind.

PIGLET: What do you think you'll answer?

POOH: I shall have to wait until I catch up with it. *(stopping)* Now, look there. *(pointing to the ground)* What do you see?

PIGLET: *(looking)* Tracks! Paw-marks. *(squeaking, and jumping back)* Oh, Pooh! Do you think it's a-a-a-Woozle?

POOH: *(continues moving in a wide circle about the stage)* It may be. Sometimes it is, and sometimes it isn't. You never can tell with paw-marks. I'm going to keep tracking.

PIGLET: *(thinking)* Oh...Oh... *(deciding to be brave)* Wait for me!

Music plays. PIGLET runs after POOH, catches up. The two circle back to the front of the stage. POOH comes to a sudden stop and examines the ground. Music slowly fades during the following.

PIGLET: *(stopping)* Wh-wh-what's the matter?

POOH: It's a funny thing, but there seem to be two animals now. This – whatever-it-was – has been joined by another – whatever-it-is – and the two of them are now proceeding in company. Would you mind coming with me, Piglet, in case they turn out to be Hostile Animals?

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: *(like an announcement)* Capital H – Hostile. Capital A – Animals.

PIGLET: Hostile... Animals. *(trying to be brave)* I have nothing to do until Friday. I would be... delighted? To come? In case it really is a Woozle.

POOH: You mean, in case it really is two Woozles.

PIGLET: I still have nothing to do until Friday.

The two continue moving in a wide circle around the stage.

RABBIT FRIEND: They came upon a small area of larch trees,

RABBIT RELATION: And it seemed as if the two Woozles, if that's what they were, had been going round the trees.

RABBIT FRIEND: So round went Pooh and Piglet after them.

PIGLET: *(moving)* My Grandfather Trespassers W did a lot of tracking in his day.

POOH: I wonder what a Grandfather is like.

PIGLET: He had to stop.

POOH: Do you think it's two Grandfathers we're after now?

PIGLET: He suffered from stiffness and shortness of breath in later years.

POOH: I wonder if I could take one home and keep it. *(looking at the ground and stopping suddenly)* Look!

PIGLET: *(with a frightened jump)* What? What? *(and then trying not to show they were scared, jumps up a couple more times, as if exercising)* One and two and one and two!

POOH: The tracks! A third animal has joined the others!

PIGLET: Pooh! *(trying to be brave and failing)* Do you think it's another... Woozle?

POOH: No.

PIGLET: Oh good!

POOH: It makes different marks. It is either Two Woozles and one Wizzle, or Two Wizzles and one Woozle. Let us continue to follow them.

PIGLET: Really?

Music plays. More ominous now. The two continue to move, but much more slowly and cautiously. They look around as they go.

PIGLET: Pooh?

POOH: Yes?

PIGLET: (*not feeling brave*) Are you anxious at all now?

POOH: A little. (*stage whisper*) Three animals indicate possible Hostile Intent.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: (*stage whisper*) Capital H – Hostile. Capital I – Intent.

PIGLET: I wish my Grandfather were here instead of elsewhere.

POOH: I wish we could meet Christopher Robin, suddenly but accidentally, because I like him so much, and...(*looks at the ground*) Oh. Oh.

PIGLET: Wh-What?

POOH: Do you see, Piglet?

PIGLET: Do I have to?

POOH: Look at the tracks. Four sets of paws.

PIGLET: (*losing all bravery*) Four animals? Four? (*stepping back*) I think... (*stepping back*) I think I have remembered something. I have just remembered something that I forgot to do yesterday and shan't be able to do tomorrow. (*stepping back*) I really ought to go back and do it now.

POOH: Do it this afternoon, and I'll come with you.

PIGLET: (*quickly*) It isn't the sort of thing you can do in the afternoon. It's a particular morning thing, that has to be done in the morning, and, if possible, between the hours of – what time is it?

POOH: About twelve.

PIGLET: (*stepping back*) Between, as I was saying, the hours of twelve and twelve oh five. So, really, dear old Pooh, if you'll excuse me – (*wheeling around*) What's that?

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN stands and whistles. Music fades.

POOH: It's Christopher Robin.

PIGLET: Ah, then you'll be alright. Goodbye!

PIGLET runs away as quickly as possible without looking or saying anything.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: (to *PIGLET*) Hallo! (crossing to *POOH*) Silly old bear, what were you doing? First you went round the larch trees twice by yourself, and then Piglet ran after you and you went round again together, and then you were going round a fourth time –

POOH: Wait a moment. Wait. (thinking, holds up a hand, leans over and places a hand on the ground as if into one of the tracks) Yes. I see now. Well. I have been foolish and deluded and a bear of no brain at all.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: (hugging *POOH*) You're the best bear in all the world.

POOH: (sighing) Am I? (brightening) Anyhow, it is nearly time for lunch.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: So it is! Let's go. (hugs *POOH* again)

RABBIT FRIEND: And so it was, and that's exactly what they went home and did.

*Music plays. Full length transition to Story Four:
RABBIT FRIEND, RABBIT RELATION, CHRISTOPHER
ROBIN and POOH group together.*

Story Four

EEYORE, who is missing a tail, either enters slowly, or moves slowly from upstage. EEYORE stops at the end of the title and looks out with an all-body sigh.

Music fades.

RABBIT RELATION: In Which,

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: Eeyore Loses a Tail.

RABBIT RELATION: And Pooh Finds One.

RABBIT FRIEND: The old grey donkey, Eeyore, stood alone in a thistly corner of the Forest, thinking.

*RABBIT FRIEND, RABBIT RELATION and
CHRISTOPHER ROBIN move to the side and watch.*

EEYORE: Why? Wherefore? Inasmuch as which?

POOH: (crossing to *EEYORE*) Hallo, Eeyore.

RABBIT RELATION: Eeyore was glad to be able to stop thinking.

EEYORE: (*gloomy*) How do you do?

POOH: (*cheerful*) Very well, and how are you?

EEYORE: (*shaking head*) Not very “how.” I don’t seem to have felt at all “how” for a long time.

POOH: I’m sorry about that. Let’s have a look at you. (*Walks around EEYORE. Stopping.*) Why, what’s happened to your tail?

EEYORE: What has happened to it?

POOH: It isn’t there!

EEYORE: Are you sure?

POOH: Well, either a tail is or isn’t there. You can’t make a mistake about it. And yours isn’t there!

EEYORE: Then what is?

POOH: Nothing.

EEYORE: Let’s have a look. (*turns around one way, trying to look behind, turns around the other way and finally looks between the legs*) I believe you’re right. (*gloomy*) That accounts for a good deal. It explains everything. No wonder.

POOH: You must have left it somewhere.

EEYORE: Somebody must have taken it. (*gloomy*) How like them.

POOH: Eeyore, I will find your tail.

POOH starts marching in place

EEYORE: Thank you. You’re a real friend. (*gloomy*) Not like some. (*moves upstage*)

RABBIT FRIEND: So Winnie-the-Pooh went off to find Eeyore’s tail.

RABBIT RELATION: It was a fine spring morning in the Forest.

RABBIT FRIEND: Up and down marched Pooh, down open slopes of heather,

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: Over rocky beds of streams, up steep banks of sandstone,

RABBIT FRIEND: And into the Hundred Acre Wood.

RABBIT RELATION: For it was in the Hundred Acre Wood that Owl lived.

OWL “takes off” and flies around the stage. Or enters and flies around the stage.

POOH: (*moving across the stage*) If anyone knows anything about anything, it’s Owl who knows something about something. Or my name’s not Winnie-the-Pooh. Which it is. So there.

OWL sets down on the side of the stage POOH is moving toward.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: Owl lived at a residence which was grander than anybody else’s because it had both a knocker and a bell-pull.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN sits and watches. RABBIT FRIEND and RABBIT RELATION move to stand centre stage. RABBIT FRIEND holds a bell pull, which looks a lot like a donkey tail. (See APPENDIX for description) RABBIT RELATION holds a cardboard cutout of a door knocker.

If you want to have the notices, put them on pieces of cardstock and hang them with string around the necks of RABBIT FRIEND and RABBIT RELATION.

RABBIT RELATION: (*holding up a bell pull*) Underneath the knocker there was a notice which said: PLES RING IF AN RNSER IS REQIRD. (*puzzled at what they just said*) What? (*realizing*) Oh! Please ring if an answer is required.

RABBIT FRIEND: (*holding up a knocker*) Underneath the bell-pull there was a notice which said: PLEZ CNOKE IF AN RNSR IS NOT REQID. Cnoke? Plez cnoke?

RABBIT RELATION: Please Knock.

RABBIT FRIEND: Oh!

RABBIT RELATION: These notices had been written by Christopher Robin, who was the only one in the Forest who could spell.

They both look at each other and give a “sort of” gesture for CHRISTOPHER ROBIN’s ability to spell.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: (*reacting*) Hey!

RABBIT FRIEND: For Owl, wise in many ways...

OWL: I can read and write and spell my own name. W-O-L.

RABBIT FRIEND: ...went all to pieces over delicate words like MEASLES and BUTTERED TOAST.

POOH stops marching and looks at the bell pull and the knocker.

POOH: *(reading)* Please ring if an answer is required. *(reading)* Please knock if an answer is not required.

POOH pulls the bell pull being held by RABBIT RELATION, who makes a bell sound. POOH then knocks the knocker held by RABBIT FRIEND who stamps on the floor for the knock.

POOH: Owl! I require an answer!

OWL: *(turning to POOH)* Hallo, Pooh. How's things?

POOH: Terrible. Eeyore, who is a friend of mine, has lost their tail. Could you kindly tell me how to find it?

OWL: Well, the customary procedure in such cases is as follows –

POOH: What does Crustimoney Proseedcake mean? I am a bear of very little brain, and long words bother me.

OWL: It means the Thing to Do.

RABBIT FRIEND: *(like an announcement)* Capital T – Thing and Capital D – Do.

OWL: The Thing to Do is as follows. First, issue *(say it sort of like a sneeze)* a reward. Then –

POOH: Just a moment, what you were saying? You sneezed as you were going to tell me.

OWL: I didn't sneeze.

POOH: Yes, you did, Owl.

OWL: Excuse me, Pooh, I didn't. You can't sneeze without knowing it. What I said was, 'First issue a reward.'

POOH: You're doing it again.

OWL: A reward! We write a notice to say that we will give a large something to anybody who finds Eeyore's tail!

POOH: I see, I see. *(looking around)* Talking about large somethings, I generally have a small something about now – about this time in the morning...

RABBIT FRIEND: Pooh looked wistfully at the cupboard in the corner of Owl's parlour, hoping Owl would take the hint.

POOH: A mouthful of condensed milk with perhaps a lick of honey?

RABBIT RELATION: Owl did not take the hint.

OWL: (*not listening*) We write out this notice, and we put it up all over the Forest.

POOH: (*sighing*) A lick of honey, or – or not, as the case may be.

OWL continues "talking" – gesturing and talking without sound. POOH keeps nodding and shaking their head in turn as OWL "talks."

RABBIT RELATION: Owl went on and on, and on and on, and on and on...

RABBIT FRIEND: Using longer and longer and longer words, until at last –

OWL: And the person to write out this notice is Christopher Robin. Christopher Robin wrote the ones on my front door. Did you see them, Pooh?

RABBIT FRIEND: For some time now Pooh had been saying "Yes" and "No" in turn, to all that Owl was saying. And having said,

POOH: (*nodding head*) Yes, yes.

RABBIT FRIEND: – last time, now said –

POOH: (*shaking head*) No, not at all.

RABBIT FRIEND: Without really knowing what Owl was talking about.

OWL: Didn't you see them? Come and look.

They turn to RABBIT RELATION and RABBIT FRIEND who hold up the bell pull and the knocker.

RABBIT RELATION: Pooh looked at the knocker and the notice below it, and at the bell-pull and the notice below it.

POOH: (*to self*) That bell-pull, the more I look at it, the more I feel I have seen something like it, somewhere else, sometime before...

OWL: Handsome bell-pull, isn't it?

POOH: It reminds me of something, but I can't think what. Where did you get it?

OWL: I came across it in the Forest. It was hanging over a bush. I thought at first somebody lived there, so I rang it, and nothing happened, and then I rang it again loudly, and it came off in my hand, and as nobody seemed to want it, I took it home, and –

POOH: (*realizing*) Oh! Owl, you made a mistake. Somebody did want it.

OWL: Who?

POOH: Eeyore. My dear friend Eeyore is very fond of it.

OWL: Fond of it?

POOH: Attached even. (*taking the tail*) I'm going to return it.

RABBIT FRIEND and RABBIT RELATION cross back to CHRISTOPHER ROBIN.

OWL flies off as POOH crosses centre stage. EEEYORE moves downstage.

RABBIT FRIEND: Pooh carried the tail back to Eeyore...

POOH gives the tail to EEEYORE who hugs POOH and exits, dancing, with the tail.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: And when Christopher Robin nailed it on its right place again, Eeyore frisked happily about the Forest.

RABBIT RELATION: And Winnie-the-Pooh came all over funny, and had to hurry home for a little snack.

POOH: (*dancing and sort of singing*) Who found the Tail? Pooh! At a quarter to two!

RABBIT FRIEND: It was quarter to eleven.

POOH: I found the Tail!

Music plays.

Full length transition to Story Five: POOH dances to centre stage and is joined by CHRISTOPHER ROBIN who hugs POOH. PIGLET scampers on or moves downstage to join the two. RABBIT FRIEND and RABBIT RELATION scamper to stand behind POOH and PIGLET.

Story Five

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN, POOH and PIGLET walk in place. RABBIT RELATION and RABBIT FRIEND continue behind them, peeking out from behind the group to do the title.

Music fades.

RABBIT RELATION: In Which,

RABBIT FRIEND: Piglet Meets a Heffalump.

RABBIT RELATION and RABBIT FRIEND stay behind the group.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: I saw a Heffalump today, Piglet.

PIGLET stops. Everyone stops.

PIGLET: What was it doing?

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: Lumping along. I don't think it saw me.

PIGLET: *(trying to have a good story)* I saw one once. At least, I think I did. *(and failing)* Only perhaps it wasn't.

POOH: So did I.

RABBIT RELATION peeks out from behind the group.

RABBIT RELATION: Said Pooh, wondering what a Heffalump was like.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: *(carelessly)* You don't often see them.

PIGLET: Not now.

POOH: Not at this time of year.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: Here's my turnoff. *(hugging POOH and PIGLET)*
See you tomorrow!

PIGLET & POOH: *(waving)* Bye Christopher Robin!

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN, RABBIT RELATION and RABBIT FRIEND wave at POOH and PIGLET. PIGLET and POOH continue moving to the other side of the stage.

RABBIT RELATION: At first they stumped along the edge of the Hundred Acre Wood...

RABBIT FRIEND: Talking in a friendly way about this and that...

PIGLET: This!

POOH: And that.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: Then they came to a stream and helped each other across the stepping stones...

PIGLET: If you see what I mean, Pooh.

POOH: It's what I think myself, Piglet.

RABBIT RELATION: And as they came to the Six Pine Trees...

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: That was when Pooh looked around to make sure no one was listening.

POOH looks around.

PIGLET: What are you doing, Pooh?

POOH: Piglet, I have decided something.

PIGLET: What have you decided?

POOH: I have decided to catch a Heffalump.

There is a pause. Make it a pause! Count to 10.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: Pooh was waiting for Piglet to say something like –

PIGLET: How?

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: Or,

PIGLET: Pooh, you couldn't!

RABBIT FRIEND: But Piglet said nothing. Because Piglet was wishing –

PIGLET: (*a little petulant*) I wish I had thought of it first...

POOH: I shall do it, by means of a trap. A Cunning Trap –

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN, RABBIT FRIEND & RABBIT RELATION:
Capital C – Cunning, Capital T – Trap.

POOH: – so you will have to help me.

PIGLET: How shall we do it?

POOH: That's just it. How?

They sit and think.

POOH: We should dig a very deep pit, and then the Heffalump will come along and fall into it.

PIGLET: Why?

POOH: Why what?

PIGLET: Why would they fall in?

POOH: Well... *(they stand up and sit down again in thought)* Oh! The Heffalump will be walking along, humming a little song, and looking up at the sky, wondering if it will rain. So they won't see the very deep pit until it's too late.

PIGLET: Supposing it's raining already?

POOH: I hadn't thought of that. *(they stand up and sit down again in thought)* Oh! If it is raining already the Heffalump will be looking at the sky wondering if it will clear up and won't see the very deep pit until it is too late.

PIGLET: This is a Cunning Trap.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN, RABBIT FRIEND & RABBIT RELATION:
Capital C – Cunning, Capital T – Trap.

POOH: The Heffalump is as good as caught! But, there is one other thing which has to be thought about: *(they stand up and sit down again in thought)* Where should we dig the very deep pit?

PIGLET: The best place is somewhere where a Heffalump would be, right before they fall into the pit.

POOH: But, then they'll see us digging it.

PIGLET: Not if they're looking at the sky.

POOH: They'll suspect if they happen to look down. It isn't as easy as I thought. I suppose that's why Heffalumps hardly ever get caught.

PIGLET: That must be it.

They sigh. Stand. And sit again in thought.

POOH: If only I could think of something. A very clever brain could catch a Heffalump.

They sigh. Stand. And sit again in thought.

POOH: Suppose, you wanted to catch me, how would you do it?

PIGLET: Well, I should make a trap. And put a jar of honey in the trap. And you would smell it.

POOH: *(standing excitedly as if actually going after the honey)* And I would go in after it, only carefully so as not to hurt myself, and I would get to the jar of honey, and lick round the edges first of all, pretending that there wasn't any more, you know, and then I should walk away and think about it a little and then come back and start licking in the middle of the jar, and then –

POOH slips into a happy dream humming and dancing about with a jar of honey. PIGLET runs over and shakes POOH, who continues swaying and dreaming about honey.

PIGLET: Never mind about that! There you would be, and there I should catch you. *(pacing away)* Now, what do Heffalumps like? I think acorns. We'll get a lot of – *(turning back to POOH)* I say, wake up, Pooh!

POOH: *(jolting with a start)* Honey! Honey is a much more trappy thing than haycorns. *(yes haycorns, not acorns)*

PIGLET: I don't think so. It's definitely acorns.

POOH: It's definitely honey.

RABBIT RELATION: They were just going to argue about it when Piglet remembered that –

PIGLET: *(facing front)* If we put acorns in the trap, I will have to find the acorns. But if we put in honey, then Pooh will have to bring it.

RABBIT FRIEND: And at the same moment Pooh remembered the exact same thing.

POOH: *(facing front)* Oh!

PIGLET: *(turning back, at the same time as POOH)* All right, honey.

POOH: *(turning back, at the same time as PIGLET)* All right, Haycorns.

PIGLET: Honey. I'll dig the pit, you go and get the honey.

POOH: Very well.

The two shake hands and turn in different directions. CHRISTOPHER ROBIN gives PIGLET a cardboard cutout of a shovel. During the following PIGLET turns their back to the audience and begins to shovel (or mimes shoveling).

Meanwhile, RABBIT RELATION gives POOH a chair. POOH stands on the chair and reaches up, as if reaching for a jar of honey (it has to be a sturdy chair!). RABBIT FRIEND stands by the chair with a cardboard cutout of a honey jar that has HUNNY written on it.

NOTE: See APPENDIX regarding the HUNNY jar mask idea for POOH. Regardless if you use it, you'll need something to cover POOH's head when the time comes.

RABBIT RELATION: Pooh got home, went to the larder, stood on a chair and took down a large jar of honey from the top shelf. It had HUNNY written on it...

RABBIT FRIEND gives POOH the jar. POOH sits on the chair.

POOH: But to be sure, I should look at it. *(looking in the jar)* It looks like honey, but you never can tell. I remember my uncle saying once that he had seen cheese this colour. *(puts tongue into the jar – make it work, everyone knows it's a cardboard cutout – and takes a lick)* Yes. That's honey. No doubt about that. And honey I should say, right to the bottom of the jar. Unless, of course, somebody put cheese at the bottom for a joke. Perhaps I had better go a little further... *(sticks head into the jar and pulls it out)* just in case *(does the action again)* ...in case Heffalumps don't like cheese... *(does it again)* ...same as me... *(does it again)* Ah! I was right. It is honey, right the way down.

RABBIT FRIEND: Having made certain of this, Pooh took the jar back to Piglet, who was at the bottom of the very deep pit.

If PIGLET has a shovel, they return it to CHRISTOPHER ROBIN.

POOH stands on the chair as PIGLET sits on the ground beside the chair. In this way, when standing on the chair, POOH is on the edge of the pit and PIGLET is deep inside it.

PIGLET: *(peers up)* Got it?

POOH: *(looks down)* Yes but it isn't quite a full jar...

POOH passes the jar to RABBIT RELATION who gives it to PIGLET. PIGLET looks "inside" the jar.

PIGLET: No it isn't! Is that all you've got left?

POOH: Yes...

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN sits beside PIGLET and takes the "jar." He holds up the jar (so it's not lying flat on the floor). POOH steps off the chair on the side away from PIGLET. RABBIT FRIEND & RABBIT RELATION help PIGLET to stand, get up on the chair and step off the other side beside POOH.

RABBIT RELATION: *(during the above action)* So Piglet put the jar at the bottom of the Pit, climbed out, and they went off home together.

PIGLET: Good night, Pooh. We meet at six o'clock tomorrow morning by the Pine Trees, and see how many Heffalumps we've got in our trap.

POOH: Six o'clock, Piglet. Good night.

PIGLET: Good night.

PIGLET moves upstage to a riser and lies down. POOH lies down beside the chair.

RABBIT FRIEND: Some hours later, as the night was beginning to steal away, Pooh woke up suddenly with a sinking feeling. *(POOH sits up)*

POOH: Oh! I've had this sinking feeling before. I know what it means. I am hungry.

POOH gets up and stands on the chair.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: *(peeking out behind the jar)* So Pooh went to the larder, and stood on a chair and reached up to the top shelf, and found – nothing.

POOH: That's funny. I know I had a jar of honey there. A full jar, full of honey right up to the top and it had HUNNY written on it, so that I should know it was honey.

RABBIT RELATION helps POOH down. POOH and RABBIT RELATION and RABBIT FRIEND begin to pace. CHRISTOPHER ROBIN watches.

RABBIT FRIEND: It's very, very, funny,

POOH: 'Cos I know I had some honey.

RABBIT RELATION: 'Cos it had a label on, saying HUNNY!

RABBIT FRIEND: A goluptious full-up pot too,

POOH: And I don't know where it's got to, no, I don't know where it's gone – Oh!

POOH stops suddenly causing the RABBIT FRIEND and RABBIT RELATION to either crash into each other or jump.

POOH: It's in the Cunning Trap –

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: Capital C – Cunning. Capital T – Trap.

POOH: – to catch the Heffalump! Bother. It all comes of trying to be kind to Heffalumps.

POOH lies down and tries to sleep again.

RABBIT RELATION: Pooh got back into bed, but couldn't sleep.

POOH: *(rolling around)* One sheep... two sheep... three sheep... One Heffalump... two Heffalumps... three Heffalumps... oh no that's worse! All the Heffalumps are heading straight for my pot of honey and eating it all!

RABBIT RELATION: When the five hundred and eighty-seventh Heffalump was licking its jaws:

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: *(as Heffalump)* Very good honey this, I don't know when I've tasted better.

POOH: *(scrambling up)* That's enough!

POOH begins to run around the chair.

RABBIT RELATION: Pooh jumped out of bed, ran out of the house and straight to the Six Pine Trees.

POOH: *(stopping in front of the chair)* The Pine Trees look so cold and lonely. *(stepping up on the chair)* And the pit –

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: The very deep pit.

POOH: Seems deeper than it was...Is the honey actually down there? *(sniffs)* Ah yes!

POOH climbs down off the chair and sits down beside CHRISTOPHER ROBIN. He hands POOH the HUNNY pot, and moves out of the way to continue watching. POOH looks into the jar.

POOH: Bother! A Heffalump has been eating it. Oh, no, I did. I forgot. Still, there seems to be a little left at the very bottom of the jar... if I can get my head in... if I can just reach the bottom...

POOH puts their head completely into the jar. RABBIT FRIEND "attaches" the jar mask to POOH's head. Once done, POOH freezes. (See the APPENDIX.)

RABBIT RELATION: At the same time, Piglet woke up.

PIGLET sits up.

PIGLET: Oh! (*bravely*) Yes. (*more bravely*) Quite so.

RABBIT FRIEND: But the word Piglet was really thinking about was –

RABBIT RELATION, RABBIT FRIEND, CHRISTOPHER ROBIN:
Heffalumps.

PIGLET: (*not brave at all*) What is a Heffalump like? Is it fierce? Does it come when you whistle? And how does it come? Is it fond of pigs at all? If it is fond of pigs, does it make any difference what sort of pig? I don't know. Shouldn't I know if I'm going to see my first Heffalump in about an hour? (*trying to be brave*) Of course, Pooh will be with me, and it is much more friendly with two. But... (*and failing*) suppose Heffalumps are very fierce with pigs and bears? Wouldn't it be better to pretend to have a headache, and so I can't go up to the Six Pine Trees this morning? (*trying to be brave*) But then suppose that it is a fine day, and there is no Heffalump in the trap, here I'd be, in bed all morning, simply wasting my time for nothing. What should I do? (*having an idea*) Oh!

RABBIT RELATION: And then Piglet had a clever idea.

PIGLET: I will go up quietly to the Six Pine Trees now, peep cautiously into the trap, and see if there is a Heffalump there. And if there is, I will go back to bed, and if there isn't, I won't.

PIGLET moves slowly downstage toward the chair, not the side POOH is on.

PIGLET: (*trying to be brave*) I think there won't be a Heffalump in the trap. There won't be a Heffalump in the trap. There might be a Heffalump in the trap. (*and failing*) What is that noise?

There is definitely a noise in the trap because POOH starts moving around.

PIGLET: (*not brave at all*) Oh, dear, oh, dear, oh, dear! That must be a Heffalump, Heffalumping about like anything! (*turns to run*) I should go. I really should go. (*turns back, trying to be brave*) But... I've never seen a Heffalump. Shouldn't I see what they're like? (*PIGLET gets up on the chair*) If I creep very, very slowly and look down...

PIGLET freezes. POOH is rolling around (make sure you stay facing front because of the jar) and trying to get the jar off their head.

RABBIT RELATION: At the same time, Pooh had been trying to remove the honey jar.

POOH: Oh my head! Oh bother! Oh help! Ow!

RABBIT FRIEND: The more Pooh tried to shake the jar, the more tightly it stuck.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: Pooh tried bumping the jar against things, but couldn't see, which was a problem.

POOH: Ow! My head!

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: Pooh tried climbing out of the trap but couldn't find the way.

POOH: I can't see anything but jar! (*roars in sadness and despair*)

RABBIT RELATION: It was at this exact moment that Piglet looked into the Pit.

PIGLET unfreezes mid-panic, jumps off the chair on the other side and runs in circles. POOH freezes.

PIGLET: Help, help! A Heffalump, a Horrible Heffalump! Help, help, a Herrible Hoffalump! Hoff, Hoff, a Hellible Horralump! Holl, Holl, a Hoffable Hellerump! Christopher Robin!

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: (*running to PIGLET*) Whatever's the matter, Piglet?

PIGLET: (*breathing hard*) Heff – a Heff – a Heff – a Heffalump!

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: Where?

PIGLET: (*pointing*) Down there.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: What did it look like?

PIGLET: Like – like – It had the biggest head you ever saw, Christopher Robin. A great enormous thing, like – like nothing. A huge big – well, like a – I don't know – like an enormous big nothing. Like a jar.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: I shall go and look. Come on.

RABBIT RELATION: Piglet wasn't afraid if Christopher Robin wanted to look, so...

*CHRISTOPHER ROBIN steps on the chair while
PIGLET looks on in terror.*

PIGLET: (*grabbing CHRISTOPHER ROBIN's leg*) Do you hear that? Do you hear?

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: (*peering down*) I can hear something.

POOH unfreezes and continues wrestling with the jar.

RABBIT FRIEND: It was Pooh going head-to-head with a tree-root.

PIGLET: (*moaning and diving to the floor to hide behind the chair*) Isn't it awful?

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN begins to laugh.

RABBIT RELATION: While Christopher Robin was laughing –

RABBIT RELATION & RABBIT FRIEND: Crash!

RABBIT FRIEND: – went the Heffalump's head against the tree root!

*RABBIT RELATION and RABBIT FRIEND take either
side of the jar-mask and remove it from POOH.*

RABBIT RELATION & RABBIT FRIEND: Smash!

RABBIT RELATION: – went the jar, and out came Pooh's head again!

POOH: Oh my. That is so much better. (*looking up*) Hallo Christopher Robin!

PIGLET: (*standing up*) Is that... That sounds like... Oh. Dear.

*PIGLET opens their mouth to say something and runs
off instead. CHRISTOPHER ROBIN steps off the other
side of the chair. POOH steps up onto the chair and
then off the other side.*

RABBIT RELATION: Piglet ran straight off home and went to bed with a headache.

RABBIT FRIEND: Christopher Robin and Pooh went to breakfast.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: (*hugging POOH*) Oh, Bear. How I do love you!

Music plays.

Full length transition to Story Six: CHRISTOPHER ROBIN with his arm around POOH, RABBIT FRIEND and RABBIT RELATION group together.

Story Six

EEYORE enters slowly. After the title EEYORE stops and slowly looks out at the audience.

Music fades.

RABBIT RELATION: In Which,

RABBIT FRIEND: Eeyore Has a Birthday,

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: And Gets Two Presents.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN hugs POOH and moves upstage to sit. RABBIT FRIEND, RABBIT RELATION and POOH turn to watch EEYORE.

EEYORE: (*looking down*) Pathetic. That's what it is. Pathetic.

RABBIT FRIEND: Eeyore, the old grey donkey, stood by the side of the stream, and looked in the water.

EEYORE slowly stumps across the stage. RABBIT FRIEND, RABBIT RELATION, and POOH counter cross upstage of EEYORE.

RABBIT RELATION: Eeyore turned and walked slowly down the stream for twenty yards, splashed across it, walked slowly back on the other side, and looked in the water again.

RABBIT FRIEND, RABBIT RELATION and CHRISTOPHER ROBIN sit and watch.

EEYORE: (*gloomy sigh*) As I thought, no better from this side. But nobody minds. Nobody cares. (*gloomy*) Pathetic, that's what it is.

POOH: (*crossing to EEYORE*) Good morning, Eeyore.

EEYORE: Good morning, Pooh Bear. If it is a good morning, which I doubt.

POOH: Why, what's the matter?

EEYORE: Nothing, Pooh Bear, nothing. We can't all, and some of us don't.

POOH: Can't all what?

EEYORE: Gaiety. Song-and-dance. Here we go round the mulberry bush.

POOH: Oh! (*pause*) What mulberry bush is that?

EEYORE: (*gloomily*) Bon-hommy. (*explaining*) French word meaning bonhommy. I'm not complaining but there it is.

POOH: (*sitting*) I've never been good at riddles, being a bear of very little brain. I know a fly can't bird but a bird can fly. I know a fish can't whistle, but I can't either.

(*starts chanting*) Cottleston, Cottleston, Cottleston Pie,
A fly can't bird but a bird can fly.

Ask me a riddle and I reply:

Cottleston, Cottleston, Cottleston Pie.

EEYORE: That's right, sing. Umty-tiddly, umty-too. Here we go gathering nuts and may. (*gloomy*) Enjoy yourself.

POOH: What is the matter?

EEYORE: Is anything the matter?

POOH: You seem so sad, Eeyore.

EEYORE: Sad? Why should I be sad? It's my birthday. The happiest day of the year.

POOH: (*standing*) Your birthday?

EEYORE: Can't you see? Look at all the presents I have had. Look at the birthday cake. Candles and pink sugar.

POOH: (*looking around*) Presents? Birthday cake? Where?

EEYORE: Can't you see them?

POOH: No.

EEYORE: (*deadpan*) Neither can I. Joke. Ha, ha!

POOH: (*puzzled*) But is it really your birthday?

EEYORE: It is.

POOH: Oh! (*cheerfully*) Many happy returns of the day, Eeyore.

EEYORE: And many happy returns to you, Pooh Bear.

POOH: But it isn't my birthday.

EEYORE: No, it's mine.

POOH: But you said many happy returns...

EEYORE: Well, why not? You don't want to be miserable on my birthday, do you?

POOH: (*not seeing*) Oh, I see.

EEYORE: It's bad enough, being miserable myself, what with no presents and no cake and no candles, and no proper notice taken of me at all...

RABBIT FRIEND: This was too much for Pooh.

POOH: Don't go anywhere! I'll be right back!

POOH starts to run in circles. EEYORE moves upstage to sit on a riser.

RABBIT FRIEND: Pooh hurried home quick.

POOH: (*running*) I must get poor Eeyore a present of some sort at once. I can always think of a proper one afterward.

PIGLET and RABBIT RELATION move downstage. RABBIT RELATION holds a door knocker.

RABBIT RELATION: When Pooh arrived at home, Piglet was jumping up and down trying to reach the knocker.

RABBIT RELATION holds the knocker up, keeping it out of PIGLET's reach.

POOH: Hallo, Piglet.

PIGLET: (*jumping*) Hallo, Pooh.

POOH: What are you trying to do?

PIGLET: (*jumping*) I'm trying to reach the knocker.

POOH: Let me do it for you.

POOH uses the knocker, RABBIT RELATION stamps on the floor to simulate the knocking.

POOH: I have just seen Eeyore in a Very Sad Condition.

RABBIT FRIEND: Capital V – Very.

RABBIT RELATION: Capital S – Sad.

RABBIT FRIEND: Capital C – Condition.

POOH: It's Eeyore's birthday and nobody has taken notice and you know how Eeyore is and – what a long time whoever lives here is taking to answer the door.

POOH uses the knocker again. RABBIT RELATION stamps on the floor to simulate knocking.

PIGLET: But Pooh, it's your house!

POOH: Oh! So it is. Let's go in.

RABBIT FRIEND: The first thing Pooh did was go to the cupboard to see if there was a small jar of honey left. *(handing a cardboard cutout of a small jar to POOH)*

POOH: I'm giving this to Eeyore as a present. What are you going to give?

PIGLET: Couldn't I give the jar, too? From both of us?

POOH: No. That would not be a good plan.

PIGLET: All right, then, I'll give a balloon. I've got one left from my party.

POOH: That, Piglet, is a very good idea. It is exactly what Eeyore wants. Nobody can be uncheered with a balloon.

RABBIT RELATION: So Piglet trotted home and Pooh went off in the other direction with the jar of honey.

POOH and PIGLET go off in different directions. PIGLET moves upstage to the risers. POOH slowly crosses the stage.

RABBIT FRIEND: Halfway through the journey, a sort of funny feeling began to creep all over Pooh.

POOH: Dear, dear. I didn't know it was late as that. It's time for a little something.

POOH sits and peers into the honey jar.

POOH: Lucky I brought this with me. Many a bear go out on a day like this, never thinking to bring a little something. *(begins to eat)*

RABBIT RELATION: Pooh began to eat and didn't stop until the entire jar was gone.

POOH: (*standing up*) Where was I going? Ah, yes, Eeyore... (*looks at the jar and realizing*) Bother! What shall I do? I must give something. (*thinking*) Well, it's a nice pot, even if there's no honey in it. If I wash it clean and get somebody to write Happy Birthday on it, Eeyore could keep things inside, which might be useful.

OWL flies forward or enters flying and lands by POOH.

POOH: Good morning, Owl.

OWL: Good morning, Pooh.

POOH: Many happy returns of Eeyore's birthday.

OWL: Oh, is that what it is?

POOH: What are you giving Eeyore?

OWL: What are you giving?

POOH: I have a useful pot to keep things in, and I wanted to ask you –

OWL: (*taking the jar*) Is this it?

POOH: Yes, and I wanted to ask you –

OWL: Somebody has been keeping honey in it.

POOH: You can keep anything in it. It's useful like that. And I wanted to ask you –

OWL: You ought to write Happy Birthday on it.

POOH: That was what I wanted to ask you! Because my spelling is wobbly. It's good spelling but it wobbles, and the letters get in the wrong places. Would you write Happy Birthday on it, from me?

OWL: It's a nice pot. Couldn't I give it too? From both of us?

POOH: No. That would not be a good plan. I'll wash it first, and then you can write "Happy Birthday."

RABBIT FRIEND: Owl licked the end of a pencil, and wondered how to spell "birthday."

OWL: Can you read, Pooh? There's a notice about knocking and ringing outside my door, which Christopher Robin wrote. Could you read it?

POOH: Christopher Robin told me what it said, and then I could.

OWL: Well I'll tell you what this says and then you'll be able to.

RABBIT FRIEND takes the original jar. RABBIT RELATION gives OWL a cardboard cutout of a jar with writing on it that says "HIPY PAPY BTHUTHDTH THUTHDA BTHUTHDY."

RABBIT RELATION: This is what Owl wrote: Hippy Papy B-thu-thdth Thu-thda B-thu-thday.

OWL: I'm saying Happy Birthday.

POOH: (*impressed*) It's a nice long one.

OWL: Well, actually of course, I'm saying A Very Happy Birthday with Love from Pooh. Naturally it takes a good deal of pencil to say a long thing like that.

POOH: (*not seeing*) Oh, I see.

OWL gives POOH the new jar and flies away. POOH stands holding the jar in a freeze.

RABBIT FRIEND: At the same time, Piglet had gone back home to get Eeyore's balloon.

PIGLET moves downstage quickly, holding a big red balloon (or a cutout of a big red balloon). Once downstage, PIGLET jogs in place.

PIGLET: If I run as fast as I can and get to Eeyore before Pooh, I should be the first one to give a present. And that way it will be like I thought of it without being told by anybody. Eeyore will be so pleased and is that a rabbit hole? Whoa!

RABBIT FRIEND takes the balloon as PIGLET falls on the ground. RABBIT FRIEND pops the balloon.

RABBIT FRIEND: (*if needed*) BANG!

There is a pause.

PIGLET: Oh! Did the whole world blow up? Or perhaps only the forest part of the world? Or is it only me? Am I on the moon or somewhere else where I'll never see Christopher Robin or Pooh or Eeyore again? (*cautiously getting up*) Oh! I'm still in the Forest! Well, that's funny. I wonder what that bang was. I couldn't have made such a noise just falling down. (*looking around*) And where's my balloon? And what's that small piece of damp rag?

RABBIT FRIEND hands a small piece of burst balloon to PIGLET.

PIGLET: Oh, dear! Oh, dear, oh dearie, dearie, dear! Well it's too late now. Perhaps Eeyore doesn't like balloons so very much.

EEYORE moves forward.

PIGLET: Good morning, Eeyore.

EEYORE: Good morning, Piglet. If it is a good morning, which I doubt. Not that it matters.

PIGLET: Many happy returns of the day.

EEYORE: Meaning me?

PIGLET: Of course, Eeyore.

EEYORE: My birthday?

PIGLET: Yes.

EEYORE: Me having a real birthday?

PIGLET: Yes, Eeyore, and I've brought you a present.

EEYORE: Meaning me again?

PIGLET: Yes.

EEYORE: My birthday still?

PIGLET: Of course, Eeyore. I brought you a balloon.

EEYORE: (*almost bordering on glee*) A balloon? You did say a balloon? One of those big coloured things you blow up? Gaiety, song-and-dance, here we are and there we are?

PIGLET: Yes, but I'm afraid – I'm sorry, Eeyore – but when I was running along to bring it to you, I fell down.

EEYORE: How unlucky! You ran too fast, I expect. You didn't hurt yourself?

PIGLET: No, but I – I – oh, Eeyore, I burst the balloon!

EEYORE: (*deflating*) My balloon? (*PIGLET nods*) My birthday balloon?

PIGLET: Yes, Eeyore. (*handing over the small broken balloon*) Here it is. (*trying to be cheerful and failing*) With – with many happy returns of the day...

EEYORE: Is this it? (*PIGLET nods*) My present? (*PIGLET nods*) The balloon?

PIGLET: Yes.

EEYORE: Thank you, Piglet. (*gloomy*) I see it was supposed to be a red balloon – when it was a balloon. My favourite colour... How big was it?

PIGLET: Big. About as big as me.

EEYORE: (*gloomy*) My favourite size.

POOH unfreezes and runs over to the others.

POOH: Hallo! Hallo there! Many happy returns of the day!

EEYORE: (*gloomily*) Thank you, Pooh, I'm having them.

POOH: I've brought you a little present.

EEYORE: I've had it.

POOH: (*overly cheerful*) It's a useful pot. Here it is. (*handing over the jar*) And it's got A Very Happy Birthday with Love from Pooh written on it. And it's for putting things in.

EEYORE: (*excited*) Why, I believe my balloon will go into that pot!

POOH: Oh, no, Eeyore. Balloons are much too big to go into pots.

EEYORE: (*proudly*) Not mine. Look, Piglet!

Everyone watches as EEYORE puts the broken balloon in the jar, takes it out, and puts it in.

POOH: So it does! It goes in!

PIGLET: And it comes out!

EEYORE: Doesn't it? It goes in and out like anything.

POOH: I'm glad I thought of giving you a useful pot to put things in.

PIGLET: And I'm glad I thought of giving you something to put in a useful pot.

EEYORE, POOH and PIGLET hug.

RABBIT FRIEND: And everyone was happy.

Music plays. Something more exciting and with movement.

Full length transition to Story Seven: There is an explosion of character movement. If your blocking strategy has been for characters to be offstage unless they're in a story, all the characters should come onstage now and either form an upstage seated tableau or be involved in one of the outline movements. If they have been onstage for the show, they should stand up and move positions.

EEYORE moves upstage and sits. ROO runs on or around in excitement stumbling and getting up, with KANGA following behind nervously. PIGLET and RABBIT move together talking with great animation. They end up on a far side downstage. CHRISTOPHER ROBIN and POOH talk together. RABBIT RELATION and RABBIT FRIEND end up downstage centre. At the end of the movement ROO joins RABBIT RELATION and RABBIT FRIEND.

Story Seven

Music fades.

RABBIT RELATION: In Which,

RABBIT FRIEND: Kanga and Roo Come to the Forest.

ROO: (squeaking) And Piglet has a Bath!

ROO jumps and falls.

KANGA: Oh Roo.

ROO scrambles up and runs to the opposite side of the stage from PIGLET and RABBIT. ROO continues to play on the far side of the stage with KANGA watching.

RABBIT FRIEND: Nobody seemed to know where they came from, but there they were in the Forest: Kanga and Baby Roo.

POOH: (beside CHRISTOPHER ROBIN) How did they come here?

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: In the usual way, if you know what I mean, Pooh.

POOH: Oh!

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN hugs POOH and moves upstage to sit and watch.

RABBIT RELATION: But Pooh didn't know.

POOH: I wonder if Piglet knows.

POOH joins PIGLET and RABBIT. RABBIT is pacing back and forth. RABBIT RELATION and RABBIT FRIEND watch.

RABBIT RELATION: At Piglet's house there was also Rabbit.

RABBIT: What I don't like about it is this, here are we – you, Pooh, and you, Piglet, and Me – and suddenly –

POOH: And Eeyore.

RABBIT: And Eeyore – and then suddenly –

POOH: And Owl.

RABBIT: And Owl – and then all of a sudden –

POOH: Oh, and Eeyore, I was forgetting.

RABBIT: *(trying to make a point)* Here – we – are – all – of – us, and then, suddenly, we wake up one morning, and what do we find? We find a Strange Animal among us.

RABBIT FRIEND: *(stage whisper)* Capital S – Strange. Capital A – Animal.

RABBIT: An animal of whom we had never ever heard before! An animal who carries her family in her pocket! Suppose I carried my family about with me in my pocket, how many pockets should I want?

PIGLET: Sixteen?

RABBIT: Seventeen! And one more for a handkerchief, that's eighteen. Eighteen pockets in one suit! I haven't time.

POOH: I think it's fifteen.

RABBIT: What?

POOH: Fifteen.

RABBIT: Fifteen what?

POOH: Your family.

PIGLET: Never mind, Pooh. The question is, what are we to do about Kanga?

POOH: Oh.

RABBIT: The best way would be to steal and hide Baby Roo. And then when Kanga says, “Where’s Baby Roo! We say (*with a defining pose and a strong point*) Aha!

POOH: (*standing to practice with the pose and point*) Aha! Aha! Aha!... Of course, we could say Aha! even if we hadn’t stolen Baby Roo.

RABBIT: Pooh, you haven’t any brain.

POOH: (*cheerfully*) I know.

RABBIT: We say (*pose and point*) Aha! so that Kanga knows that we know where Baby Roo is. (*pose and point*) Aha! means, ‘We’ll tell you where Baby Roo is, if you promise to go away from the Forest and never come back.’ Now don’t talk while I think. (*pacing*)

RABBIT RELATION: Pooh went into a corner and tried saying Aha! in the right sort of voice.

POOH: (*pose and point*) Aha! Aha!

RABBIT RELATION: Sometimes it did mean what Rabbit said, and sometimes it didn’t.

POOH: I suppose it’s practice. I wonder if Kanga will have to practice too so she understands it.

PIGLET: There’s just one thing. Christopher Robin said that a Kanga was generally regarded as one of the (*looking around first and then stage whispering*) Fiercer Animals.

RABBIT RELATION: Capital F – Fiercer. Capital A – Animals.

PIGLET: (*trying to be brave*) I am not frightened of fierce animals in the ordinary way, but it is well known that if one of the fiercer animals is (*whispering*) deprived of its young, (*being loud in trying to be brave*) it becomes as fierce as two of the fiercer animals. In which case Aha! is perhaps a foolish thing to say.

RABBIT: Piglet, you haven’t any pluck.

PIGLET: It is hard to be brave when you’re only a very small animal.

RABBIT: It is because you are a very small animal that you will be useful in our adventure.

PIGLET: Oh!

RABBIT: Besides, Kangas are only fierce during the winter months, being at other times of an affectionate disposition.

POOH: What about me? I suppose I shan't be useful?

PIGLET: (*trying to be generous, and failing*) Never mind, Pooh, another time perhaps.

RABBIT: Without Pooh, the adventure would be impossible.

PIGLET: (*disappointed*) Oh...

RABBIT: Now listen: here is my plan all laid out.

RABBIT RELATION and RABBIT FRIEND hold up a large cardboard sign with said plan. RABBIT moves over to the plan and lays it out.

RABBIT RELATION & RABBIT FRIEND: THE PLAN TO CAPTURE BABY ROO. Number 1: General Remarks.

RABBIT: Kanga runs faster than any of us, even me.

RABBIT RELATION & RABBIT FRIEND: Number Two: More General Remarks.

RABBIT: Kanga never takes her eye off Baby Roo, except when safely buttoned up in her pocket.

RABBIT RELATION & RABBIT FRIEND: Number Three: Therefore...

RABBIT: If we are to capture Baby Roo, we must get a long start, because Kanga runs faster than any of us, even me.

RABBIT RELATION & RABBIT FRIEND: See number one. Number Four: A Thought.

RABBIT: If Roo had jumped out of Kanga's pocket and Piglet had jumped in, Kanga wouldn't know the difference, because Piglet is a very small animal.

RABBIT RELATION & RABBIT FRIEND: Number Five.

RABBIT: Like Roo.

RABBIT RELATION & RABBIT FRIEND: Number Six.

RABBIT: But Kanga would have to be looking the other way first, so as to not see Piglet jumping in.

RABBIT RELATION & RABBIT FRIEND: Number Seven:

RABBIT: See Two.

RABBIT RELATION & RABBIT FRIEND: Number Eight: Another Thought.

RABBIT: But if Pooh was talking to her excitedly, she might look the other way for a moment.

RABBIT RELATION & RABBIT FRIEND: Number Nine.

RABBIT: And then I could run away with Roo.

RABBIT RELATION & RABBIT FRIEND: Number Ten.

RABBIT: Quickly.

RABBIT RELATION & RABBIT FRIEND: Number Eleven.

RABBIT: And Kanga wouldn't discover the difference until afterwards.

*There is a pause. PIGLET and POOH join RABBIT.
They're not exactly sure about the plan.*

PIGLET: And – afterwards?

RABBIT: How do you mean?

PIGLET: (*trying to be brave and failing*) When Kanga does discover the difference?

RABBIT: Then we all say Aha! (*with pose and point*)

PIGLET: All three of us?

RABBIT: Yes.

PIGLET: (*relief*) Oh!

RABBIT: Why, what's the trouble, Piglet?

PIGLET: Nothing, as long as we all three say it. As long as we all three say it, I don't mind. But I shouldn't care to say (*pose and point*) "Aha!" by myself. It wouldn't sound nearly so well. By the way, you are quite sure about what you said about the winter months?

RABBIT: Yes, yes. Well, Pooh, you see what you have to do?

POOH: Not yet.

RABBIT: You have to talk very hard to Kanga so she doesn't notice anything.

POOH: Oh! What about?

RABBIT: Anything you like.

POOH: You mean like telling her a little bit of poetry?

RABBIT: That's it. Splendid. Now come along.

RABBIT RELATION: They all went out to look for Kanga.

RABBIT, POOH and PIGLET cross the stage to KANGA and ROO. RABBIT FRIEND and RABBIT RELATION follow along and sit nearby.

RABBIT FRIEND: Kanga and Roo were spending a quiet afternoon in a sandy part of the Forest.

ROO: (*jumping*) Look at me jumping! Ah! (*falls*) Mouse-hole. (*gets up*)
Look at me jumping! Ah! (*falls*) Mouse-hole. (*gets up and repeats*)

KANGA: One more jump, dear, and then we must go home.

POOH: Good afternoon, Kanga.

KANGA: Good afternoon, Pooh.

ROO: (*jumping*) Look at me jumping! Ah! (*and falling over.*)

POOH: Hallo, Roo!

ROO: Mouse-hole.

KANGA: We were just going home. Good afternoon, Rabbit. Good afternoon, Piglet.

RABBIT: Good afternoon.

PIGLET: Hallo, Roo.

ROO: (*jumping*) Look at me jumping! Ah! (*and falling over*) Mouse-hole.

They all watch ROO continue to jump and fall over. KANGA is extremely focused on ROO. RABBIT exaggeratedly winks at POOH twice, who doesn't respond. RABBIT shoves POOH.

POOH: Oh! Kanga, I don't know if you are interested in poetry at all?

KANGA: (*focused on ROO*) Hardly at all.

POOH: Oh...

KANGA: Roo, dear, one more jump and then we must go home.

ROO jumps and falls.

RABBIT: (*loud whisper*) Go on.

POOH: Talking of poetry, I made up a little piece. It goes like this. Er
– now let me see –

ROO jumps and falls. Continues to do so throughout.

KANGA: (*does not look away from ROO*) Fancy! No Roo, dear –

RABBIT: You'll like this piece of poetry.

PIGLET: You'll love it.

RABBIT: You must listen carefully.

PIGLET: So as not to miss any of it.

KANGA: (*does not look away from ROO*) Oh, yes?

RABBIT: How did it go, Pooh?

POOH: On Monday, when the sun is hot
I wonder to myself a lot:
“Now is it true, or is it not,”
“That which is which and which is what?”
On Tuesday, when it hails and snows,
The feeling on me grows and grows
That hardly anybody knows
If those are these or these are those
On Wednesday...

KANGA: (*interrupting, and clearly not listening*) Yes it is, isn't it? One
more jump, Roo, dear, and then we really must be going.

RABBIT gives a hurrying-up nudge to POOH.

POOH: (*talking fast*) Talking of poetry, have you ever noticed that tree
right over there?

KANGA: (*does not look away from ROO*) Where?

POOH: (*pointing behind KANGA's back*) Right over there.

KANGA: (*does not look away from ROO*) No. (*referring to her pouch*) Now
jump in, Roo, dear, and we'll go home.

RABBIT: You ought to look at that tree right over there.

POOH: I can see a bird in it from here. Or is it a fish?

RABBIT: You ought to see that bird from here. Unless it's a fish.

PIGLET: It isn't a fish, it's a bird.

RABBIT: So it is.

POOH: Is it a starling or a blackbird?

RABBIT: That's the question. Shall I help you, Roo? (*helps ROO*)

RABBIT RELATION: And then at last Kanga did turn her head to look.

KANGA: (*turning away from ROO*) A fish in a tree?

RABBIT: In you go, Roo!

PIGLET makes a jumping motion and RABBIT FRIEND runs up with a doll-sized version of PIGLET and puts it into KANGA's hoodie pocket. PIGLET runs to stand behind KANGA. RABBIT takes ROO by the hand and the two run to the other side of the stage.

RABBIT FRIEND: Piglet jumped into Kanga's pocket,

RABBIT RELATION: And off scampered Rabbit with Roo as fast as possible.

KANGA: Why, where's Rabbit? (*to her pocket*) Are you all right, Roo, dear?

PIGLET: (*standing behind KANGA*) Squeak!

POOH: Rabbit had to go away, suddenly.

KANGA: And Piglet?

POOH: I think Piglet thought of something at the same time. Suddenly.

KANGA: Well, we must be getting home. Goodbye, Pooh.

RABBIT FRIEND: And in three large jumps she was gone.

KANGA stays in place and does the upper body action of jumping. POOH, RABBIT FRIEND and RABBIT RELATION all take giant steps backwards as if KANGA is jumping away from them.

POOH: I wish I could jump like that.

POOH moves upstage and turns their back to the action. RABBIT FRIEND and RABBIT RELATION end up centre stage.

RABBIT RELATION: There were moments when Piglet wished that Kanga couldn't jump like that.

PIGLET: (*jumpily and jerkily*) This... take... if is... shall... really...to flying... I never... it! (*yep those are the words*) Oooooo! Ow!

RABBIT RELATION: And that happened all the way to Kanga's house.

PIGLET: Oooooo-ow! Oooooooo-ow! Oooooooo-ow!

KANGA removes the doll from her pocket and hands it to RABBIT FRIEND. PIGLET steps out from behind KANGA.

RABBIT FRIEND: Of course as soon as Kanga unbuttoned her pocket, she saw what had happened. Just for a moment, she was frightened. Just for a moment.

KANGA: (*turning to RABBIT FRIEND*) Christopher Robin would never let any harm happen to Roo. If they are having a joke with me, I will have a joke with them. (*turning to PIGLET*) Now then, Roo, dear. Bedtime.

PIGLET: (*weak, woozy pose and point*) Aha!

KANGA: (*cheerfully*) Bath first.

PIGLET: (*weak, woozy pose and point*) Aha! Why am I the only one saying Aha?

RABBIT RELATION: Piglet looked round anxiously for the others. But the others weren't there.

ROO jumps and RABBIT claps. They are playing and having the time of their lives.

RABBIT: (*happily*) Rabbit was playing with Baby Roo at home, and feeling more fond every minute.

POOH: (*jumping*) Pooh had decided to be like Kanga, and was still at the sandy place on the top of the Forest, practicing jumps.

KANGA: (*thoughtfully*) I think it would be a good idea to have a cold bath this evening. Would you like that, Roo, dear?

PIGLET: (*trying to be brave*) Kanga, I see that the time has come to speak plainly.

KANGA: Funny little Roo.

KANGA mimes getting a bath ready. RABBIT RELATION and RABBIT FRIEND bring over a cardboard cutout of a bathtub.

PIGLET: I am not Roo. I am Piglet!

KANGA: (*soothingly*) Yes, dear, yes, and imitating Piglet's voice too! So clever.

PIGLET: Can't you see? Haven't you got eyes? Look at me!

KANGA: (*severely*) I am looking, Roo, dear. And you know what I told you yesterday about making faces. If you go on making faces like Piglet's, you will grow up to look like Piglet – and then think how sorry you will be. Now then, into the bath, and don't let me have to speak to you about it again.

KANGA tips PIGLET into the "bath." PIGLET falls behind the cutout. KANGA begins scrubbing PIGLET with a large flannel.

PIGLET: Ow! Let me out! I'm Piglet!

KANGA: Don't open your mouth, dear, or the soap goes in. There! (*PIGLET gets a mouth full of soap*) What did I tell you?

PIGLET: (*sputtering*) You – you – you did that on purpose.

KANGA: Now you're all clean!

KANGA pulls PIGLET out of the "bath" and receives a towel from RABBIT FRIEND. KANGA vigorously rubs PIGLET dry. RABBIT FRIEND and RABBIT RELATION remove the tub.

KANGA: Next, there's your medicine, and then bed.

PIGLET: W-w-what medicine?

KANGA: To make you grow big and strong, dear. You don't want to grow up small and weak like Piglet, do you? Well, then!

RABBIT FRIEND: At that moment there was a knock at the door.

KANGA: Come in.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN moves downstage.

PIGLET: Christopher Robin, Christopher Robin! Tell Kanga who I am! She keeps saying I'm Roo. I'm not Roo, am I?

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: (*shaking head*) You can't be Roo because I've just seen Roo playing at Rabbit's house.

KANGA: Well! Fancy that! Fancy my making a mistake like that.

PIGLET: There you are! I told you so. I'm Piglet.

RABBIT RELATION gives KANGA a spoon, or a cardboard cutout of a spoon.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: (*shaking head again*) But, you're not Piglet. Piglet is quite a different colour.

PIGLET: I – I – the bath! It was the bath!

KANGA: (*slipping the spoon into PIGLET's mouth*) There's your medicine! (*PIGLET starts coughing*) It really has quite a nice taste when you get used to it. Christopher Robin, I knew this wasn't Piglet. But then, I wonder who it can be?

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: Perhaps it's some relation of Pooh's.

KANGA: Agreed.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: I should call it Pootel. Henry Pootel for short.

PIGLET: No, no, no!

RABBIT RELATION: And with that Henry Pootel saw the door was open and ran as fast as possible all the way home.

PIGLET runs across the stage, dives to the ground, and starts rolling around.

PIGLET: I need to get back to my own comfortable colour!

*CHRISTOPHER ROBIN and KANGA shake hands.
Everyone moves downstage centre.*

RABBIT FRIEND: So Kanga and Roo stayed in the Forest.

ROO: And every Tuesday I spend the day with my great friend Rabbit. (*jumps and falls*) Mouse-hole.

KANGA: And every Tuesday I spend the day teaching Pooh how to jump.

PIGLET: And every Tuesday I don't go anywhere.

RABBIT RELATION: So they were all happy again.

Music plays.

Full length transition to Story Eight: KANGA, PIGLET, RABBIT and CHRISTOPHER ROBIN move upstage. RABBIT RELATION, RABBIT FRIEND, and ROO stay downstage centre, and POOH starts moving in a wide circle.

Story Eight

Music fades.

RABBIT RELATION: In Which,

ROO: *(overly excited!)* Christopher Robin Leads an Expedition to the North Pole!

ROO falls over and scrambles back upstage to KANGA. RABBIT FRIEND & RABBIT RELATION move to the side. POOH is walking.

RABBIT FRIEND: One fine day Pooh was stumping up to the top of the Forest.

POOH: *(singing and walking – make up a song)* “Sing Ho! For the life of a bear.” That’s a good start, but what about the second line? Ho! Ho!...Ho! Perhaps it would be better, if I sang Hi for the life of a bear. *(singing)* “Sing Hi! For the life of a bear.” No, that’s not better at all. I shall sing the first line twice, and perhaps if I sing it quickly I shall find myself singing the third and fourth lines before I have time to think of them.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN moves downstage wearing big boots.

POOH: Hallo Christopher Robin.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: Hallo, Pooh!

POOH: Oh!

RABBIT RELATION: As soon as Pooh saw the Big Boots on Christopher Robin –

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: *(like an announcement)* Capital B-Big. Capital B-Boots.

POOH: An adventure is going to happen!

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: We are going on an expedition.

POOH: Going on an expotition? (*wrong on purpose*) I don't think I've ever been on one of those. Where are we going on this expotition?

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: Expedition, silly old bear. It's got an 'x' in it.

POOH: Oh! I know.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: We're going to discover the North Pole.

POOH: Oh! What is the North Pole?

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: (*carelessly*) It's a thing you discover.

POOH: Oh! I see. Are bears any good at discovering it?

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: Of course! And Rabbit and Kanga and all of you. That's what an expedition means. A long line of everybody. You'd better tell the others to get ready. And we must bring provisions.

POOH: Bring what?

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: Things to eat.

POOH: Oh! I thought you said provisions. I'll go and tell them.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN hugs POOH and moves to the side to watch. RABBIT moves downstage.

RABBIT FRIEND: The first person Pooh met was Rabbit.

POOH: Hallo, Rabbit! Is that you?

RABBIT: Let's pretend it isn't, and see what happens.

POOH: I've got a message for you. We're all going on an expotition (*wrong on purpose*) with Christopher Robin!

RABBIT: What is it when we're on it?

POOH: A sort of boat? I think.

RABBIT: Oh! That sort.

POOH: Yes. And we're going to discover a Pole or something. Or was it a mole? Anyhow we're going to discover it.

RABBIT: We are, are we?

POOH: Yes. And we've got to bring po – things to eat with us. In case we want to eat them. Now I'm going down to Piglet's. Tell Kanga, will you?

*RABBIT moves to sit with CHRISTOPHER ROBIN.
POOH moves to PIGLET.*

RABBIT RELATION: Piglet was sitting on the ground, blowing happily at a dandelion, and wondering whether it would be this year, next year, sometime or never.

PIGLET: (*wondering*) I think it will be... never! Now if I could remember what "it" is.

POOH: (*sitting*) Piglet! We're going on an expotition, (*wrong on purpose*) all of us, with things to eat. To discover something.

PIGLET: (*anxious*) To discover what?

POOH: Something.

PIGLET: (*trying to be brave*) Nothing fierce?

POOH: Christopher Robin didn't say anything about fierce. It has an 'x.'

PIGLET: It isn't their necks I mind, it's their teeth. But if Christopher Robin is coming I don't mind anything.

Everyone moves or enters to gather in a line with CHRISTOPHER ROBIN including RABBIT FRIEND & RABBIT RELATION. Note: If you have been using multiple RABBIT FRIENDS and RELATIONS, include them all and divide up the lines among them.

RABBIT FRIEND: In a little while they were all ready at the top of the Forest.

RABBIT RELATION: First came Christopher Robin and Rabbit, then Piglet and Pooh; then Kanga, with Roo, and Owl; then Eeyore...

RABBIT FRIEND: And, at the end, in a long line, all Rabbit's friends-and-relations.

RABBIT: (*a little exasperated*) I didn't ask them. They just came. They always do. They can march at the end.

RABBIT FRIEND and RABBIT RELATION make a face at RABBIT and line up behind EYORE, who isn't happy to see them.

EEYORE: (*gloomy*) It's unsettling. I didn't want to come on this expo – what Pooh said. I only came to oblige. But here I am; and if I am at the end of the expo – what we're talking about – then let me be the end. But if, every time I want to sit down for a little rest, I have to brush away half a dozen of Rabbit's smaller friends and

relations first, then this isn't an expo – whatever it is – at all, it's simply a confused noise. That's what I say.

OWL: I see what Eeyore means. If you ask me –

EEYORE: I'm not asking anybody, I'm telling everybody. We can look for the North Pole or we can play 'Here we go gathering Nuts and May' with the end part of an ants' nest. It's all the same to me.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: (*gesturing*) Come on!

OWL: Come on!

RABBIT: We're starting! (*running to the head of the line*)

EEYORE: All right. We're going. Only don't blame me.

The group is on the move. This can be done with everyone moving in place, or moving in a wide circle. It depends on your space.

RABBIT RELATION: So off they went to discover the Pole. And as they walked, they chattered to each other of this and that, all except Pooh.

POOH: (*to PIGLET*) This is the first verse.

PIGLET: First verse of what?

POOH: My poem.

PIGLET: What poem?

POOH: This one.

PIGLET: Which one?

POOH: If you listen, Piglet, you'll hear it.

PIGLET: How do you know I'm not listening?

POOH: They all went off to discover the Pole,
Owl and Piglet and Rabbit and all;
It's a thing you discover, as I've been told
By Owl and Piglet and Rabbit and all.
Eeyore, Christopher Robin and Pooh
And Rabbit's relations all went too –
And where the Pole was none of them knew...
Hey ho! For Owl and Rabbit and all!

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN stops suddenly.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: Hush! We're coming to a (*stage whisper*)
Dangerous Place.

RABBIT FRIEND: (*stage whisper*) Capital D – Dangerous. Capital P –
Place.

POOH: (*turning to PIGLET*) Hush!

PIGLET: (*turning to KANGA*) Hush!

KANGA: (*turning to OWL*) Hush!

ROO: (*to no one*) Hush! Hush! Hush!

OWL: (*turning to EYORE*) Hush!

EYORE: (*turning back*) Hush!

RABBIT RELATION: All of Rabbit's friends and relations said 'hush!'
hastily to each other all down the line until it got to the last one
of all.

RABBIT FRIEND: And the last and smallest friend and relation was so
upset to find everyone saying 'Hush' to them that...

RABBIT RELATION: (*as the smallest friend and relation. In a high voice*)
I'm going to bury myself in a crack in the ground and stay there
for two days until the danger is over! And then I'm going to go
straight home and live quietly with my aunt forever or my name
isn't Alexander Beetle!

RABBIT FRIEND: They had come to a stream which twisted and
tumbled between high rocky banks.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: You see? Dangerous. It's just the place for an
ambush.

*CHRISTOPHER ROBIN starts to creep slowly along
and all the others follow suit.*

POOH: (*whispering to PIGLET*) What sort of bush? A gorse-bush?

OWL: My dear Pooh, don't you know what an ambush is?

PIGLET: (*severely*) Owl. Pooh's whisper was a perfectly private whisper
and there was no –

OWL: (*interrupting*) An ambush is a sort of surprise.

POOH: So is a gorse-bush sometimes.

PIGLET: An ambush, as I was about to explain to Pooh, is a sort of surprise.

OWL: If people jump out at you suddenly, that's an ambush.

PIGLET: It's an ambush, Pooh, when people jump at you suddenly.

POOH: A gorse-bush sprung at me suddenly one day when I fell out of a tree. It took six days to get all the prickles out.

OWL: We are not talking about gorse-bushes.

POOH: I am.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN stops suddenly.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: Halt!

Everyone stops suddenly.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: I think we ought to eat our provisions so we won't have so much to carry.

Everyone finds a place to sit and begins to eat.

POOH: Eat our what?

PIGLET: What we've brought.

POOH: That's a good idea.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: Have you all got something?

EEYORE: All except me, as usual. I suppose none of you are sitting on a thistle by any chance?

POOH: I believe I am. *(looks)* Yes, I was. I thought so. *(gives it to EEYORE)*

EEYORE: Thank you, Pooh, if you've quite finished with it. It doesn't do any good you know, sitting on them. Takes the life out of them. Remember that another time, all of you. A little consideration, a little thought for others, makes all the difference.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN whispers to RABBIT.

RABBIT: Yes, of course.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN and RABBIT walk off a little ways to talk. No one pays them any attention, quietly chatting to each other.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: I didn't want the others to hear.

RABBIT: (*importantly*) Quite so.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: It's – I wondered – it's only – Rabbit, I suppose you don't know... What does the North Pole look like?

RABBIT: (*has no idea*) Well. Now you're asking me.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: I did know once only I've sort of forgotten.

RABBIT: It's a funny thing, but I've sort of forgotten too, although I did know once.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: I suppose it's just a pole stuck in the ground?

RABBIT: (*agreeing*) Sure to be a pole. Because of calling it a pole, and if it's a pole, well, I should think it would be sticking in the ground, because there'd be nowhere else to stick it.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: Yes, that's what I thought.

RABBIT: The only thing is where is it sticking?

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: That's what we're looking for.

During the above, PIGLET lays on the ground. ROO moves off to the side as if playing by the stream.

RABBIT RELATION: They went back to the others. Piglet was sleeping peacefully. Roo was washing in the stream, for the first time without Kanga's help.

RABBIT FRIEND: And Owl was telling Kanga an interesting anecdote full of long words like Encyclopedia and Rhododendron to which Kanga wasn't listening.

EEYORE: (*watching ROO*) I don't hold with all this washing. This modern behind-the-ears nonsense. What do you think, Pooh?

POOH: Well, I think –

RABBIT RELATION: But we shall never know what Pooh thought, for there came a sudden squeak from Roo, a splash and a loud cry of alarm from Kanga.

ROO gives a loud cry.

KANGA: Roo!

Music plays. Everyone springs into action! RABBIT FRIEND and RABBIT RELATION run across the front of the stage and hold a blue cloth between them. This is the stream. Everyone else runs upstage to stand on

*the risers, at the far end, as close to ROO as possible.
ROO is in the “stream” flailing about.*

EEYORE: So much for washing.

RABBIT: Roo’s fallen in!

ROO: Look at me swimming! Whoa!

*ROO moves to the middle of the “stream.” Everyone
moves as well.*

KANGA: Are you all right, Roo dear?

ROO: Yes! Look at me sw – Whoa! (*goes under the water and bounces
up*)

RABBIT FRIEND: Everybody was doing something to help.

PIGLET: (*jumping up and down and pointing at ROO*) Oh! Roo! Oh!

OWL: (*trying to talk to KANGA*) In a case of sudden and temporary
immersion –

ROO: Look at me swimming!

OWL: The important thing is to keep the head above water.

KANGA: Are you sure you’re all right, Roo dear?

EEYORE: All this washing; but catch on to my tail, little Roo, and you’ll
be all right.

*EEYORE turns their back to the “stream” and plunks
their tail in.*

ROO: Whoa!

*ROO moves to the far end of the stream. Everyone
else, except EEYORE, moves as well.*

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: All right, Roo, I’m coming.

RABBIT: Get something across the stream!

POOH: (*picking up a long pole*) I wonder if this might help? Kanga, take
one end.

KANGA and POOH hold one end out in front of them.

KANGA: Take hold, Roo!

ROO: Look at me swimming! Look at me!

RABBIT RELATION: Roo drifted up against the long pole and climbed out of the stream.

*ROO grabs the pole and “climbs” out of the stream.
RABBIT RELATION and RABBIT FRIEND remove the
“stream.” POOH holds onto the pole.*

ROO: Did you see me swimming?

KANGA: (*hugging ROO*) Oh, Roo!

ROO: (*running up to each person*) Pooh, did you see me swimming? That’s called swimming, what I was doing. Rabbit, did you see what I was doing? Swimming. Hallo Piglet! What do you think I was doing! Swimming! Christopher Robin, did you see me –

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: Pooh, where did you find that pole?

POOH: (*looking at the pole*) Oh! I found it. I thought it ought to be useful.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: Pooh. The Expedition is over. You have found the North Pole!

POOH: Oh!

Everyone except Eeyore cheers.

EEYORE: (*still on the other side of the stage with their back to the audience*) Tell Roo to be quick, somebody. My tail’s getting cold. I don’t want to mention it, but I mention it. I don’t want to complain, but there it is. My tail’s cold.

ROO: (*running up to Eeyore*) Here I am!

EEYORE: (*turning to ROO*) Oh. There you are.

ROO: Did you see me swimming?

Everyone moves downstage.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: (*holding the pole*) Pooh’s found the North Pole. Isn’t that lovely?

EEYORE: Is that it?

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: Yes.

EEYORE: Is that what we’re looking for?

POOH: Yes.

EEYORE: Oh. Well, anyhow – it didn't rain.

RABBIT FRIEND: They stuck the pole in the ground and Christopher Robin tied a message on to it.

RABBIT RELATION takes the pole. CHRISTOPHER ROBIN ties their handkerchief to the pole.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: North Pole. Discovered by Pooh.

Everyone poses in a group tableau.

RABBIT RELATION: Then they all went home again. And I think, but I am not quite sure, that Roo had a hot bath and went straight to bed.

Music plays.

Full length transition to Story Nine: PIGLET moves upstage to a riser and starts pacing. RABBIT RELATION and RABBIT FRIEND stay where they are with CHRISTOPHER ROBIN. POOH moves to the opposite side of the stage from RABBIT FRIEND, RABBIT RELATION and CHRISTOPHER ROBIN and lies down on the floor as if asleep. Everyone else exits.

Story Nine

Music fades.

RABBIT RELATION: In Which,

RABBIT FRIEND: Piglet is Entirely Surrounded by Water.

There is the sound of a thunder clap and the lights flash. Everyone reacts.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: It rained and rained and rained.

The three move to the side and the focus shifts to PIGLET.

PIGLET: (*nervously pacing*) Never in all my life, in all my three or four years, have I seen so much rain. Days and days and days! If only I had been at Pooh's house, or Christopher Robin's house, or Rabbit's house when it began to rain, then I should have had company all this time, instead of being here alone, with nothing to do except wonder when it will stop. (*as if talking to POOH*) "Did you ever see such rain, Pooh?" (*as POOH*) "Isn't it awful, Piglet?" (*as PIGLET*) "I wonder how it is over Christopher Robin's way." (*as POOH*) "I should think poor old Rabbit is about flooded out

by this time.” (*sighing*) It would have been jolly to talk like this! It really isn’t much good having anything exciting like floods, if you can’t share them with somebody.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: For it was rather exciting.

RABBIT RELATION: The dry little ditches in which Piglet had nosed about so often had become streams,

RABBIT FRIEND: The little streams were rivers,

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: And the river was taking up so much room everywhere, that Piglet was beginning to wonder –

PIGLET: Is it coming into my house soon? (*sigh – hit the capitals*) It’s a little Anxious To Be A Very Small Animal Entirely Surrounded by Water.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: All the capitals. All of them.

PIGLET: Christopher Robin and Pooh can escape by climbing trees, and Kanga can escape by jumping, and Rabbit can escape by burrowing, and Owl can escape by flying and Eeyore can escape by – by making a loud noise until rescued, and here am I, surrounded by water and I can’t do anything.

RABBIT RELATION: It went on raining.

Sound of thunder and a flash of lightning.

RABBIT FRIEND: And every day the water got a little higher until now it was nearly up to Piglet’s window...

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: ...who still hadn’t done anything.

PIGLET: (*still pacing*) Pooh hasn’t much brain, but never comes to any harm. Owl hasn’t exactly got a brain, but knows things. Owl would know the right thing to do when surrounded by water. Rabbit hasn’t learnt in a book, but can always think of a clever plan. Kanga isn’t clever, but she would be so anxious about Roo that she would do a good thing without thinking about it. And Eeyore is so miserable anyhow it wouldn’t matter. But I wonder what Christopher Robin would do? Oh!

RABBIT FRIEND: Suddenly Piglet remembered a story which Christopher Robin had shared –

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: – about a man on a desert island who had written something in a bottle and thrown it in the sea.

PIGLET: If I write something in a bottle and throw it in the water, perhaps somebody will come and rescue me!

RABBIT FRIEND and RABBIT RELATION move upstage to PIGLET.

RABBIT RELATION: Piglet began to search the house, the parts that weren't underwater.

PIGLET: A pencil! And a piece of dry paper! And a bottle with a cork to it.

RABBIT FRIEND gives PIGLET a piece of cardboard. PIGLET mimes writing on it.

RABBIT FRIEND: Piglet wrote on one side of the paper:

PIGLET: HELP! PIGLIT!

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: P-I-G-L-I-T

PIGLET: ME!

RABBIT RELATION: And on the other side:

PIGLET: IT'S ME PIGLIT, HELP! HELP!

RABBIT RELATION holds up a cardboard cutout of a glass bottle with a cork in it and a piece of paper inside.

RABBIT FRIEND: Piglet put the paper in the bottle, corked it up tight, leant out of the window as far as possible without falling in and threw!

RABBIT FRIEND "soars" the "bottle" in the air. They mime landing the bottle in the water and move it along as if it is floating.

RABBIT RELATION & CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: Splash!

PIGLET: *(looking out downstage)* Where is it? Oh! There it is! Is that it? Yes, definitely!

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: Piglet watched the bottle floating slowly away in the distance.

PIGLET: I have done all I can to save myself. Now, somebody else will have to do something and I hope they do it soon because if they don't I shall have to swim, which I can't. *(sighing)* I wish Pooh were here.

PIGLET sits on the riser. All this time, POOH has been asleep on the floor.

RABBIT RELATION: When the rain began Pooh was asleep.

RABBIT FRIEND: It rained, and rained, and rained.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: And Pooh slept and slept and slept. It had been a tiring day.

RABBIT FRIEND: Pooh was dreaming of wild woozles and beehives and –

POOH: (*waking and sitting up*) Ow! Oh! What's happening? What's with all this water?

POOH stands and looks out downstage.

RABBIT FRIEND: Pooh splashed to the door and looked out...

POOH: This is Serious.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: Capital S.

POOH: I must have an escape. I'll take my largest pot of honey and climb up my tree above the water.

RABBIT FRIEND places a chair in front of POOH. POOH mimes taking a pot of honey, stepping onto the chair, reaching up as if to place it on the limb of a tree and then stepping down. POOH repeats the process.

RABBIT RELATION: Pooh did this again. And again.

POOH: Now I must get my next largest pot...

RABBIT RELATION: And again and again.

RABBIT FRIEND: And when the whole escape was finished, there was Pooh sitting on a branch with ten pots of honey.

RABBIT RELATION gives POOH a cardboard cutout of a honey jar. POOH sits on the chair.

POOH: Now I'm safe.

POOH starts to eat the honey.

There is thunder and a lighting flash.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: Two days later, there was Pooh, sitting on a branch with four pots of honey...

There is thunder and a lighting flash.

RABBIT RELATION: Three days later, there was Pooh, sitting on a branch with one pot of honey...

There is thunder and a lighting flash. RABBIT RELATION takes the jar of honey from POOH.

RABBIT FRIEND moves past POOH "floating" PIGLET's bottle.

RABBIT FRIEND: And it was on the morning of the fourth day that Piglet's bottle came floating past.

POOH: Honey!

POOH "dives" into the water, grabs the bottle from RABBIT FRIEND, and returns to the chair.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: Pooh plunged into the water, seized the bottle, and struggled back to the tree again.

POOH: Bother. All that wet for nothing. What's that bit of paper doing? It's a missage. (*wrong on purpose*)

RABBIT RELATION: M-I-S-S-A-G-E.

POOH: That's what it is. And that letter is a 'P,' and so is that, and so is that, and 'P' means 'Pooh,' so it's an important missage to me, and I can't read it. I must find Christopher Robin, or Owl or Piglet, one of those clever readers who can read things, and they will tell me what this missage means. Only I can't swim very well. Bother!

RABBIT FRIEND: Then Pooh had an idea.

POOH: Oh!

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: I think, for a bear of very little brain, it was a good idea.

POOH: If a bottle can float, then a jar can float, and if a jar floats, I can sit on top of it, if it's a very big jar.

RABBIT FRIEND takes the bottle from POOH. RABBIT RELATION hands POOH a big cardboard cutout of a jar of honey.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: Pooh took the biggest jar and corked it up.

POOH: All boats have to have a name. I shall call mine The Floating Bear.

RABBIT RELATION: Pooh dropped the boat into the water and jumped in after it.

POOH steps into the “water” and tries to maneuver the jar.

RABBIT FRIEND, RABBIT RELATION & CHRISTOPHER ROBIN:
Splash!

POOH: Whoa!

RABBIT FRIEND: For a little while, Pooh and The Floating Bear were uncertain as to which of them was meant to be on the top.

POOH: (*maneuvering the jar*) Whoa!

RABBIT RELATION: But after trying one or two different positions, they settled with The Floating Bear underneath and Pooh triumphantly astride it, paddling vigorously.

POOH freezes with the jar. The focus shifts to CHRISTOPHER ROBIN, who stands with an umbrella.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: Christopher Robin lived at the very top of the Forest.

There is thunder and a lightning flash.

RABBIT RELATION: It rained, and rained, and rained.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: (*looking out*) The water can't come up to my house. It's rather jolly to look down and see the water all round!

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN mimes putting a stick into the ground. There is thunder and a lightning flash.

RABBIT FRIEND: Every morning Christopher Robin went out with an umbrella and put a stick in the place where the water came up to.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: And every morning the water would rise and I couldn't see the stick anymore.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN mimes putting a stick into the ground.

RABBIT FRIEND: And every morning Christopher Robin would put another stick in the place where the water would come up to.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: And every morning the walk was shorter and shorter.

There is thunder and a lightning flash.

RABBIT RELATION: On the morning of the fifth day Christopher Robin realized...

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: (*looking around*) I'm on a real island!

RABBIT RELATION: Which was exciting.

OWL flies in and around CHRISTOPHER ROBIN.

OWL: It was on this morning that Owl flew by.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: I say Owl, isn't this fun? I'm on an island.

OWL: The atmospheric conditions have been unfavourable lately.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: The what?

OWL: It has been raining.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: Yes. It has.

OWL: The flood-level has reached an unprecedented height.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: The who?

OWL: There's a lot of water about.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: Yes. There is.

OWL: However, the prospects are rapidly becoming more favourable.
At any moment –

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: Have you seen Pooh?

OWL: No. At any moment –

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: I hope everyone's all right. I've been wondering. I expect Pooh and Piglet are together. Do you think they're all right, Owl?

OWL: I expect so. You see, at any moment –

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN: Do go and see, Owl.

OWL: I'll go. Back directly.

OWL flies around the stage.

RABBIT RELATION: Owl flew off and it wasn't too long before...



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