

THE ORDINARY OX - KEY STAGE 2

SCRIPT

(Lights up onto a bedroom. It is evening. There are two beds side by side with stockings at the end, a big toy box and a few Christmas lights. Two girls, Amy and Lucy run on in their pyjamas and jump into their beds.)

Mum (*Offstage*) Back into bed girls, or Santa will not bring you any presents.

Amy Ok Mum!

Lucy Sorry Mum!

(They giggle and lean on their elbows to talk.)

Amy I'm so excited I might just burst.

Lucy Me too! I love the presents and the decorations, and the food.

Amy You always go on about food. (*Yawns.*)

Lucy I do not.

Amy You do. Anyway, I'm going to sleep now, I'm tired.

Lucy Me too. Night.

Amy Night.

(They lie down. A ticking clock signifies the passing of time then it chimes eleven times. (CD tracks 1/13) On the first chime a head pops up. It is Tom, the first soldier. He looks left, then right then jumps out of the box and does a dive, commando style. When the last chime sounds he whistles loudly and the second soldier, Tim, repeats Toms actions. The two soldiers are on opposite sides of the box.)

Tom and Tim All clear!

(Amy wakes up at the noise and slowly sits up, stretching. She nudges Lucy who rubs her eyes. They spend the whole time looking, pointing and smiling. Dolly climbs out of the box.)

Dolly Tom and Tim, what did we talk about? You have to be quiet...stealthy.

Tom Oh yes. Sorry.

Tim You have to say Ma'am.

Tom Oh yes. Sorry ma'am.

Dolly No Ma'am, just Dolly.

Tom Yes Dolly, Ma'am.

Dolly

Shhhh!!!

(Cody the clown climbs out and immediately falls over because of his big shoes.)

Cody

Oops!

(He brushes himself off as Robbie the robot stands up and tries to get out but with great difficulty as he can't lift his leg high enough.)

Robbie

I. Am. Stuck. I. Am. Stuck. I. Am. Stuck.

(Dolly goes over to help, the soldiers are still standing by the box, whistling and checking their finger nails. She struggles.)

Dolly

Tom, Tim - do you think you could lend a hand here?

(They turn and rush to help.)

Robbie

Thank. You. Thank. You.

Cody

Hey Robbie, what do Santa's elves do after school?

Robbie

I. Do. Not. Know. What. Do. Santa's. Elves. Do. After. School?

Cody

They do their gnome work. Haha, get it?

Robbie

I. Think. You. Mean. Homework.

Cody

No, I mean gnome work....you know, elves are small, like gnomes? You know?

Robbie

I. Do. Not. Compute.

Cody

Oh never mind.

Belle

(She stands from inside the box.) Hello? Is anyone going to help me out of the box? I'm very delicate you know.

(She extends her hand but the soldiers fight over who helps her out.)

Tom

She needs MY help, not yours.

Tim

She looked at ME, not you!

Tom

No, ME!!

Tim

No, ME!!

(They scrap fight, slapping each other's hands like toddlers.)

Belle

Boys, you can BOTH help me.

(They both give her a hand and she gets out of the box.)

12 Belle

Thank you.

(She brushes off her tutu and starts stretching and extending her arms. The soldiers look on lovingly. Suddenly we hear a red Indian war cry and one jumps out of the box and runs off stage. Texas Bob jumps out of the box and chases but sees he's gone. He goes back to the box.)

Texas Bob It's alright Steve, you can come out now, Old Texas Bob took care of it.

(Another small cowboy gets out of the box but he never says anything.)

Texas Bob Howdy all. It looks like we've got ourselves a hoe down.

(The Ox gets out quietly from the box and stands shyly away from the other toys.)

Dolly Hello Oscar. Are you ok?

Oscar Yes thank you Dolly.

Dolly I'm glad you came to join us tonight.

Oscar Me too, Dolly. It's nice up here.

Dolly It is, isn't it? I wish we could come alive more often. Amy and Lucy are lovely little girls but they must never know we are real.

(Cody pushes past Oscar and faces Dolly.)

Cody Are you talking about Amy and Lucy?

Dolly Yes.

Cody What? The two little girls that are sitting up in bed watching us?

(All the toys freeze, looking startled, and they suddenly start scrambling to get into the box. Tom and Tim get there first and start fighting again.)

Amy Wait! Come back!

Lucy Please don't go!

(They get out of bed and stop them.)

Amy We won't tell anybody, we promise.

Lucy They wouldn't believe us anyway. We're always making up stories about toys! Please stay and talk to us.

(The toys turn slowly to face them.)

Amy and Lucy Hello.

Dolly Hello Amy, hello Lucy.

Amy Hello Dolly! I always knew you were real.

Lucy This is the best Christmas Eve ever!

Dolly We love Christmas. We always try to come out on Christmas Eve so we can see Santa.

Cody Plus we get to know what new toys you're getting before you do - no shocks for us that way.

Belle Yes, like the year that YOU were put in the stocking and we had to put up with all your annoying jokes.

Cody Hey Belle, I've got a question for you, Why do cows wear bells? Because their horns don't work!

(Belle folds her arms and shakes her head.)

Robbie I. Do. Not. Compute.

Belle Christmas isn't about silly jokes Cody, it's about magic!

SONG WE LOVE TO MOVE, DANCE AND GLIDE *(CD tracks 3/15)*
(Additional ballerinas could join in the dance)

Belle You see Christmas is all about the magic, about making people happy - the dancing, the music. That's what Christmas is about.

Oscar Actually I think Christmas is about something more important, it's about -

Robbie I. Tell. You. What. I. Think. *(He takes centre stage.)* I. Have. A. Very. Big. Brain. I. Was. Designed. To. Answer. Difficult. Questions. And. To. Help. People. Work. I. Am. Very. Good. At. These. Things.

Dolly Oh Robbie, that's not all you're good at.

Robbie This. Is. True. I. Am. Also. A. Very. Good. Dancer.

SONG WE ARE ROBOTS *(CD tracks 4/16)*
(Additional robots can come on to join in.)

Amy Do you really know the answer to hard questions? Like, what is 2037 multiplied by 2037?

Robbie Four. Million. One. Hundred. And. Forty. Nine. Thousand. Three. Hundred. And. Sixty. Nine.

Amy Wow!

Cody Hey Robbie, I've got a question. What is a butterfly's favourite subject at school?

Robbie I. Do. Not. Think. Butterflies. Go. To. School.

Cody Mothematics.

Robbie I. Do. Not. Compute.

Cody You know, moths are like butterflies? Oh never mind.

Robbie I. Think. Christmas. Is. About. Helping. People.

Oscar If you would just listen to me for a moment, I could tell you about -

Cody What's a child's favourite king at Christmas? A stockING, get it?! Why did the banana go to the doctor? Because it wasn't peeling well! THATS what Christmas is all about. Having fun, laughing, being silly. When I was with the circus the children loved me the most. The cream pies in my face, the silly unicycles, the falling over. And the jokes, they loved the jokes.

Belle I find that hard to believe.

Cody What wears glass slippers and weighs over 4000 pounds? Cinderellephant!

(Belle throws a cushion at him but is smiling. Cody gets hit by the cushion and trips over again. All toys and the girls laugh.)

Cody See? It's funny isn't it?

Robbie I. Do. Not. Compute.

SONG **NOW WE ARE FUNNY CLOWNS.** *(CD tracks 5/17)*
(Other clowns or circus acts can join in.)

Cody Christmas is a great time of the year. People always laugh at Christmas, they like having fun, it's what Christmas is all about.

(Oscar raises his hand to speak and opens his mouth but no-one notices him.)

Dolly Christmas has always been about family for me. I've had many happy homes with lovely little girls - although this one is my favourite! I love singing carols by the fire and opening the presents by the tree. I love all the traditions that families have at Christmas time.

SONG **CHRISTMAS IS THE TIME WE GATHER TOGETHER.** *(CD tracks 7/19)*

Lucy That was lovely Dolly. I love traditions too.

Amy And you love the food!

Lucy Watch it! *(She throws a pillow at Amy.)*

Oscar The real meaning of Christmas is -

Texas Bob Hoedowns! Us cowboys, when we're not rounding up the cattle or chasing them red Indians, we love to have a good old party. Ain't that right Steve? *(He nods.)* You see, back in the Wild Wild West we love having a barbecue and a good dance around the fire.