



PA ALWAYS DOES THE RIGHT THING

**A play for three actors
from Roustabout Theatre Home Delivery**

This play is written for you to practise and put on at home.

You could perform it for the people in your household, or why not try filming it on a video call to others in your family, or friends!

There are ideas and hints to help you. The only rule is to **HAVE FUN!**



Did you know?

This play is based on a story by the Danish writer, **Hans Christian Andersen**. He also wrote the stories that the Disney films The Little Mermaid and Frozen are based on.

The Characters

This play needs **three actors**. One actor plays **PA**. The second actor plays **MA**. They are an old happy couple. The third actor plays **ALL THE OTHER CHARACTERS** that **PA** meets. This is called **multi-roling**. How will you make each of these characters different? Perhaps they could talk in different voices, or walk in different ways?

Decide who you would like to pretend to be!



PA



MA



FARMER/BAKER/TEACHER/BUTCHER/RICH MAN

Costumes

What do you think that **PA** and **MA** could wear? They are both poor peasants. How could you make all the other characters look different? Perhaps each one of them could wear a different hat?

Props

The things that actors use in a play are called props. They don't have to be real! You can make-believe. For this play, you will need:

A horse

A cow

A sheep

A hen

A sack full of rotten apples

A big bag of gold



Tick them off to make sure you have everything!



How to Put on the Play

The words next to the characters' names are what they say.

The words in **green boxes** are called stage directions, and tell you what the characters do.

When you see the word **[Aside.]** that means that the character is talking to the audience, and the other characters can't hear them.

A Suggestion!

When **PA** is going to market, he could walk on the spot, so that it looks like he is travelling along the road.

Checklist:

Have you decided which character you will be?

Have you got your costume?

Have you collected your props?

You are ready to go! Here is the script. Let's play!



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**Here you will find what you need to say!
Read the words in black.**



**Here you'll find what
you need to do!**



PA

[Aside.] This is a story about me and my wife. One day my wife said to me...

MA

Pa, it's time to sell our horse. Take it to the market and get a good price.

PA

How much?

MA

You will know what to do for the best! You always do the right thing.

MA exits. PA sets off for the market.

PA

[Aside.] And that is just what I did. On the way I met a farmer with a cow.

A FARMER walks by with a cow.

PA

Would you like to swap? That cow would give lovely fresh milk.

FARMER

Yes! A horse is worth more than a cow.



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*They swap, and the **FARMER** walks off.*

PA

[Aside.] I walked on, and then I met a baker with a sheep.

*A **BAKER** walks by with a sheep.*

PA

Would you like to swap? We could make lovely warm jumpers from the sheep's wool.

FARMER

Yes! A cow is worth more than a sheep.

*They swap, and the **BAKER** walks off.*

PA

[Aside.] I walked on, and then I met a teacher with a hen.

*A **TEACHER** walks by with a hen.*

PA

Would you like to swap? Ma loves eggs.

TEACHER

Yes! A sheep is worth more than a hen

*They swap, and the **TEACHER** walks off.*

PA

[Aside.] I walked on, and then I met a butcher with a sack.



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A **BUTCHER** walks by with a sack.



PA

What's in your sack?



BUTCHER

Rotten apples for the pigs.



PA

Would you like to swap?

Our apple tree didn't have any apples this year, and you've got apples to throw away!

I wish Ma could see that sack full of rotten apples. She would laugh.



BUTCHER

Yes! A hen is worth more than a sack full of rotten apples.

*They swap, and the **BUTCHER** walks off.*



PA

[Aside.] Then I met a rich man with a big bag of gold.

*A **RICH MAN** walks by with a big bag of gold.*



RICH MAN

You swapped a hen for a sack full of rotten apples!

Ma is going to be cross when you get home.



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PA No. She will say 'Pa always does the right thing!'

RICH MAN I bet that she won't. I will give you this big bag of gold if she does.

PA **[Aside.]** And so I took the man back home.

PA and the RICH MAN arrive home.

PA Ma!

MA Pa!

PA I've done a swap!

MA I knew you would.

PA I swapped the horse for a cow, and the cow for a sheep, and the sheep for a hen,
and the hen for a sack full of rotten apples.

MA A sack full of rotten apples!



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PA

Yes. Is it a bad swap?

MA

Pa, I could kiss you.

Yesterday I went to the woman next door to borrow an onion, but she is so mean that she said,

'No. Nothing grows in our garden. Not even a rotten apple.

So, I won't even lend you a rotten apple.'

Now I can lend her a whole sack full.

What a laugh, Pa, what a laugh! You always do the right thing.

RICH MAN

You have won the bet. Here is my big bag of gold.

It is worth every penny to hear your story.

PA

[Aside.] That is how I swapped a horse for a big bag of gold.

And now you know that I always do the right thing.

The End.