

Audition Script James/OGG/Ladybug/Spider/Centipede/Earthworm

JAMES: Everything feels so *different*. This whole place seems to be alive with magic! (walks to extreme SL) What is this? Is that the peach? Wow. It feels so soft and warm. (Notices a hole) Hey, what's this? Is there a *hole* in here? (Begins to crawl through hole.) This hole is huge! I can't believe it! Wait...this is a tunnel...boy! I sure am sticky in here. The walls are dripping! Ummm...delicious! OUCH! (Reels back and hold head) What the heck is this? Ohhhhhhh...it's the pit!

OGG: Look who's here!

CENTIPEDE: We've been waiting for you.

JAMES: Oh, no! No!

SPIDER: I'm hungry!

OGG: I'm famished!

LADYBUG: So am I!

CENTIPEDE: Everyone is famished! We need food!

SPIDER: (leans towards James) Aren't you hungry? (James is stricken with fear)

OGG: What's the matter with you? You look positively ill!

CENTIPEDE: He looks like he's about to faint!

LADYBUG: Oh my goodness, the poor thing. I know what it is! I do believe he thinks we are going to eat *him*!

ALL: (laughing) Oh no, silly thing, what an awful thought!

LADYBUG: You mustn't be frightened, dear. We wouldn't dream of hurting you! You're one of us! You're one of us now, part of the crew. Don't you know that? We're all in the same boat!

OGG: We've been waiting for you all day long. We thought you were never going to show up. I'm glad you made it.

CENTIPEDE: So cheer up, my boy, cheer up! Now, come over here and help me with my boots! It takes me hours to do this by myself! (James crosses over to help) Thank you so much. You are so kind.

JAMES: Well...uh, you have a lot of boots!

CENTIPEDE: I have plenty of legs and feet! One hundred, to be exact. I *am* a centipede!

EARTHWORM: *There* he goes *again*, always talking about his feet! He simply cannot stop telling lies about his legs! He's only got 42!

JAMES: But centipedes have--

EARTHWORM: They do not, oh no! People just don't bother to count! There's nothing even *marvelous* about having lots of legs.

CENTIPEDE: Poor Earthworm. (whispers in James's ear) He's blind, you know. He can't see how splendid I look.

EARTHWORM: In my opinion, the most marvelous, most splendid thing is to have no legs at all and still be able to walk.

CENTIPEDE: (laughs) Walk! You *slither*.

EARTHWORM: I *glide*.

CENTIPEDE: You, sir, are a slimy beast!

EARTHWORM: I am not a slimy beast! I am a useful and much loved creature. Ask any gardener you like. And as for you...

CENTIPEDE: I am a pest! (grins proudly and looks around the room for approval)

LADYBUG: He is so proud of that, but for the life of me, I cannot understand why. Both of you stop this nonsense. (looks to James) Hello. I'm Ladybug.

JAMES: Pleased to --

CENTIPEDE: I am the only pest in this room! Unless you count Old Green Grasshopper over there. But he's too old to be a pest anymore.

OGG: (ignores Centipede and turns to James) Young fellow, I am Grasshopper, who is rather old, but not a pest. I am a musician.

SPIDER: Well said, Old Green Grasshopper! (turns to James) In case you haven't guessed by now, my name is Spider.

CENTIPEDE: James! Your name is James, isn't it?

JAMES: Yes.

CENTIPEDE: Well James, have you ever in your life seen such a marvelous, colossal centipede as me?

JAMES: I certainly haven't! How on earth did you all get to be so big?

CENTIPEDE: It was peculiar, very peculiar indeed. I was messing about in the garden when suddenly I saw this green thing wriggling right in front of my nose!

JAMES: (gasps) I know what that was!

LADYBUG: It happened to me, too!

SPIDER: And me! Suddenly there were little green things wriggling everywhere. The soil was full of them!

LADYBUG: I actually swallowed one!

EARTHWORM: So did I!

CENTIPEDE: I swallowed three, and who's telling the story here, huh? Stop interrupting!

OGG: Not right now, Centipede. Why don't you get to the top and get started?

Centipede leaves to top of peach.

JAMES: What's going on?

SPIDER: We are about to leave this ghastly hill that we have all been living on for so long. We are going to roll away on this magnificent peach and go to...go to...

James: Go where?

LADYBUG: (kindly) Never you mind. You are coming with us. No more living with two repulsive aunts of yours –

ALL: Hear, hear!

OGG: We are going to roll right down this hill, roll right over a cliff, and land directly into the sea, James! The only thing that was stopping us was you and the stem of this peach! Now you're here –

CENTIPEDE: And I've just finished! I've chewed right through the stem! We're off! Let the journey begin!

EARTHWORM: And who know where it will end, if you had anything to do with it. It can only mean trouble.

LADYBUG: Nonsense. We are going to visit marvelous places, and see wondrous things!

Audition Script Glowworm

CENTIPEDE: That's because he was up on the slimy ceiling, the lazy beast. Although, not that I think of his name, he doesn't much look like a worm.

GLOWWORM: (Glowworm is lazy, always stretching and yawning – speaks long and drawn out) I am not a worm, and I am not a he. I am a lady firefly without wings.

CENTIPEDE: Big deal, big deal. Come on, give us some light!

GLOWWORM: I'm trying my best! I'm TRYING!

(lights come up)

GLOWWORM: There. Now I'm going back to sleep.

CENTIPEDE: (limps across stage) Some great journey.

Audition Script Centipede/Earthworm/James

EARTHWORM: Even if the peach isn't going to sink, we will still all starve to death!

CENTIPEDE: By golly, he's right! For once, the slimy beast is right!

EARTHWORM: I am not a slimy beast, and I am always right. We shall get thirstier and thirstier and hungrier and hungrier. I'm dying already, I can feel it! I am slowly shriveling up. Personally, I would rather drown.

JAMES: But you must be blind!

EARTHWORM: There's no need to rub it in! How cruel!

JAMES: I didn't mean that. I am so sorry. But can't you see that –

EARTHWORM: (frustrated) How can I see if I am blind!

JAMES: Realize, not see! Don't you realize that we have enough food to last us for weeks and weeks?

ALL INSECTS: Where? Where? What did you bring?

JAMES: Why, the peach, of course! Our whole ship is made of food!

SPIDER: Jumping Jehoshaphat! I never thought of that!

OGG: My dear boy, what would we do without you? You are so clever!

CENTIPEDE: Not as clever as my boots!

EARTHWORM: Are all of you crazy? We can't eat the ship! It's the only thing keeping us up!

CENTIPEDE: Well, we will starve if we don't!

EARTHWORM: And we will drown if we do!

Audition Script James/OGG/Spider/Ladybug/Centipede/Earthworm

JAMES: This one is the five-hundredth-and-second seagull! I think this will do!

EARTHWORM: Oh please, please, I can't take this anymore!

CENTIPEDE: (offstage) Quiet down Earthworm! You should be thankful you are still alive!

SPIDER: (offstage) Yes, and all because James had such a clever idea.

OGG: (walking onto stage) Yes, I marvel at him. Just think, capturing seagulls by using bait! Yes...what a splendid idea this was!

EARTHWORM: Not if you're the bait!

JAMES: It's working! I can feel us moving! We are lifting, everyone, LOOK! It's working, it's working! Come on up!

All insects enter.

ALL: Oh, isn't it beautiful!

EARTHWORM: What a marvelous feeling! And I'm not hurt!

LADYBUG: You were very brave Earthworm.

CENTIPEDE: Good-bye, sharks!

SPIDER: Now this is the way to travel!

LADYBUG: Why, you can see almost to forever way up here!

CENTIPEDE: How can you see –

JAMES: Look! There's a ship below us!

OGG: It looks like a big one.

LADYBUG: It has three funnels!

CENTIPEDE: Hey, you can even see the people on deck.

SPIDER: Let's wave to them! Do you think they can see us?

Audition Script James/All Insects

CENTIPEDE: My goodness, I've forgotten to polish my boots! Everyone must help me to polish my boots before we arrive.

EARTHWORM: Oh, for heaven's sake. Can't you ever stop thinking about –

Everyone ducks and screams

SPIDER: What is happening!

EARTHWORM: We're falling!

CENTIPEDE: Help!

GLOWWORM AND SILKWORM: Save us!

LADYBUG: We are lost!

OGG: This is the end!

EARTHWORM: Do something, James! You've always had the answer before! Quickly, do something!

JAMES: I wish I had an answer! I don't know! I can't help! I'm sorry, everyone! Just close your eyes, everybody! It won't be long now!

CENTIPEDE: Good-bye, everyone. This is the end. Good-bye, Lady Bug! Good-bye, Earthworm! I'm sorry I picked on you even though you are blind as a bat...

EARTHWORM: Centipede! I ought to...oh, never mind. Good-bye, Centipede. I...I'm positive you weren't all bad.

ALL: GOOD-BYE! GOOD BYE!

Audition Script Mother/Father

MOTHER: Ohhh, help! HELP!

FATHER: Hurry, Mrs. Trotter, run!

MOTHER: I'm trying!

FATHER: Don't give up!

MOTHER: Ohhhh...can't we sit down and rest?

FATHER: *Rest?* There's an escaped rhinoceros chasing us!

MOTHER: But – I'm – so – TIRED!

FATHER: Don't be ridiculous (pause) It's gaining on us! Hurry!

MOTHER: I don't think we are going to make it, Mr. Trotter.

FATHER: No....No! Goodbye, Mrs. Trotter, goodbye!

MOTHER: Good-byyyyyyyyye (voice fades out)

Audition Script Aunt Spiker/Aunt Sponge

SPONGE: I look and smell, I do declare, as lovely as a rose!
Just feast your eyes upon my face, observe my shapely nose!
Behold my heavenly silky locks!
And since I haven't any socks
You'll always see my dainty toes!

SPIKER: But don't forget, my old dear Sponge, how much your tummy shows!
Why Sponge, you're red. Go soak your head!
My sweet, you cannot win!
Behold my gorgeous curvy shape, my teeth, my charming grin!
Oh beauteous me! How I adore
My radiant looks! And please ignore
The pimple on my chin.

SPONGE: My dear old trout! To the world I'll shout
You're only bones and skin
Such loveliness as I possess can only truly shine
In Hollywood! I do declare. Oh, wouldn't that be fine!
I'd capture all the nations hearts!
They'd give me leading parts!
The stars would all resign!

SPIKER: I think you'd make
Without mistake
A lovely Frankenstein!

(James is acting very sweaty and tired)

What's the matter with you, nasty brat?

JAMES: Gee Aunt Spiker, I feel...I feel like I'm gonna faint.

SPONGE: Stop that immediately and get back to work!

JAMES: Oh, but Auntie Sponge, Auntie Spiker...couldn't we go, just one day, to visit the seaside? I feel so hot an awful and lonely...

SPIKER: (shouting) Why, you good for nothing lazy brat!

SPONGE: Beat him!

SPIKER: I certainly will! (glares at James) But some other time, when it's not so hot. Now get out of my sight, you disgusting little worm, and give me some peace!

Audition Script Narrators

NAR 1: Wow! Now, *that* is the beginning of a story! Can you believe what we just saw?

NAR 2: Well...I'm sorry we have to start this story with such a terrible event.

NAR 3: A mother and father being swallowed up by a rhinoceros, can you believe it?

NAR 4: (Shakes head sadly) Anyways, we do have to tell you. You see this is where our story begins. It's because of this event that our story happened.

NAR 1: Life was really great for our hero, James Henry Trotter. *Was* being the key word. After that tragic event, he was sent to live with his two aunts, Aunt Sponge and Aunt Spiker.

NAR 2: They were horrible people. Ghastly, selfish, lazy, and cruel.

NAR 3: Right from the beginning they started beating poor James for almost no reason at all. They never referred to him by his real name.

NAR 2: Nope, never! They called him "miserable little brat—"

NAR 3: AND, like I was SAYING, they also called him "disgusting little beast."

NAR 4: And "filthy nuisance! Don't forget filthy nuisance!" They never gave him any toys to play with or any picture books to read and look at.

NAR 1: His room was as bare as a prison cell!

NAR 2: The three of them: James, Aunt Spiker, and Aunt Sponge, lived in a ramshackle house on top of a high hill in the south of England.

NAR 3: The hill was so high that from almost anywhere in the garden James could look down and see for miles and miles across a marvelous landscape – fields and woods in all directions.

NAR 4: If it were a very clear day, and he looked very, very hard, James could just about see a tiny grey dot far away on the horizon.

NAR 1: This is the house James had lived in with his parents. And just beyond that, he could see the sea itself, beneath the rim of the sky.

NAR 2: James looked out of the window quite a bit, always wishing and hoping.

NAR 3: But then, there came a morning when something peculiar happened to him. It was a blazing hot morning, the sun scorching down in the middle of summer.

NAR 4: Aunt Sponge, Aunt Spiker, and James were all out in the garden.

NAR 1: Here they are, James being put to work as usual. This time, he's chopping wood for the kitchen stove. Sponge and Spiker are supervising; making sure James doesn't stop working for one minute.

Audition Script Little Old Men

MAN 1: Come closer to us, little boy. Come right up close to us.

MAN 2: We will show you something wonderful.

The little old men hobble a step or two closer to James and MAN 1 takes a small white bag out of his pocket.

MAN 1: You see this? You know what this is, my dear?

MAN 2: Take a look, take a look!

MAN 1: *Listen* to them! Listen to them move. There's more power and magic in these little green things than in all the rest of the world put together.

JAMES: But...but what *are* they?!

MAN 2: Ha! You'd never guess that!

MAN 1: Crocodile tongues! One thousand slimy crocodile tongues boiled up in the skull of a dead with for twenty days and nights with the eyeballs of a lizard!

MAN 2: Add the fingers of a young monkey...

MAN 1: The gizzard of a pig!

MAN 2: The beak of a green parrot,

MAN 1: the juice of a porcupine, and three spoonfuls' of sugar!

MAN 2: Stew for another week, and let the moon do the rest!

MAN 1: (pushes bag into James's hands) Here. *You* take it. It's yours.

JAMES: But what do I...how do I...

MAN 1: Take a large jug of water, and pour all of the little green things into it. Then, very slowly, add ten hairs from your head.

MAN 2: That's what sets them off!

MAN 1: In a couple minutes, the water will begin to froth and bubble furiously, and as soon as that happens you must drink it all down, the whole jug, in one gulp!

Audition Script Captain/Officers

CAPTAIN: I don't like the looks of that.

FIRST OFFICER: Nor do I, sir.

SECOND OFFICER: Is it following us?

FIRST OFFICER? Sir, what is that?

CAPTAIN: I tell you, I don't like it!

FIRST OFFICER: It could be dangerous!

CAPTAIN: That's it! It's a secret weapon! (jumps up and down) Holy cats! Send a message to the queen at once! The country must be warned!

FIRST OFFICER: Yes, sir!

CAPTAIN: And you, hand me my telescope!

SECOND OFFICER: Yes, sir! (hand him telescope)

CAPTAIN: There are birds everywhere...the whole sky is trembling with birds! What in the world are they doing? Wait...wait!

FIRST OFFICER: Sir, what is it?

SECOND OFFICER: Is it a missile, sir?

CAPTAIN: Why, there are people up there! Is this thing focused? (Checks telescope) Yes, yes it is! I can see a young boy in a trousers and a giant sort of ladybug!