

## DETAILED SPEAKING AUDITION INSTRUCTIONS AND AUDITION MONOLOGUES FOR MARY POPPINS JR

For your speaking audition, choose one monologue from the six options on the pages that follow. We have prepared monologs in place of traditional “sides” so that you need not have to find a reading partner to complete the audition. However, be aware, these monologs are developed to relay a conversation between people; accordingly, you should incorporate appropriate pauses in your delivery to account for time to “hear” and formulate your response to the other person.

One monolog is all that is necessary, but you may perform up to two of them if desired. If so, they should be on the same video.

It is very important, especially since you have the time to put into the process (the month of January), that you take the time and make the effort to develop a good character and ways to “act out” the monolog. Auditioning is not about showing you can read from a page, it is about showing you can act a character other than yourself. While you need not memorize the piece (although you are encouraged to do so), it is more important that you create a powerful character. For this production, too, you are encouraged – though it is not essential – to try a British Accent for your character.

Items in brackets [ ] are stage or acting directions to help understand how to deliver portions of the monolog. They are not spoken aloud when you perform the piece.

Make sure you speak clearly and loud enough to be heard and understood. Also, keep a consistent power to your speaking (no tailing off at the end of lines, etc.).

Don’t worry about who is supposed to be speaking the monolog in the show. You can choose to be the intended character or another in each instance. Of course, if you are trying to audition for a particular character, it might be helpful to use his/her monolog specifically. For this assessment, know that:

Placing an Advertisement for a Nanny = Jane or Michael Banks  
Answering an Advertisement for a Nanny = Mary Poppins  
Jolly Holiday Walk in the Park = Bert  
Precision and Order At 17 Cherry Tree Lane = Mr. Banks  
The Company I Should Keep = Mrs. Banks  
How Can A Statue Have A Father = Anyone

**MAKE SURE TO SLATE (“My name is Jane Doe and I’ll be performing the Monolog The Company I Should Keep”) BEFORE YOU START**

**NAMING YOUR VIDEO SUBMISSION FILE:** Please use the following format to name your file. **LASTNAME\_FIRSTNAME\_SPEAKING** (e.g., Doe\_Jane\_Speaking)

## **PLACING AN ADVERTISEMENT FOR A NANNY**

**If you are going to hire a new nanny to replace Katie Nanna, we would like to have a say in the matter. After all, she will be our nanny and we want someone that we like. We have put together an advertisement for you.**

**[opens up piece of paper and reads from it]**

**“Wanted, a kind and witty nanny for two adorable children. Must play games, sing songs, take us on outings and bring treats! Oh and she should be fairly pretty . . . and have rosy cheeks.”**

**[It is obvious that the effort is met with far less enthusiasm than hoped for by you]**

**But why do you think it is bothersome? We thought it was jolly good! . . . But, it is not nonsense and we shouldn't have to go to our nursery just for trying to be helpful!**

**[after verbal scolding by parent]**

**It's not fair!**

**[storm off to the nursery]**

## ANSWERING AN ADVERTISEMENT FOR A NANNY

Good morning. I've come in answer to the advertisement.

[realizes the Banks' seem confused since they had not yet even placed the ad]

George and Winifred Banks live here, do they not? And you are looking for a nanny? Very well, then. Now let's see.

[pulls out a newspaper and reads from it]

"Play games all sorts". Which I most certainly can. "Take us on outings give us treats, "rosy cheeks and fairly pretty". There's no objection on that score, I hope.

[Waits a very brief moment for a response]

I'm glad to hear it. You'd like to see my references? Well, I make it a point never to bring references. A very old fashioned idea to my mind. The best people never require them, now. The best people also give every second Wednesday off from six 'til late and that is what I will take. I believe a trial period might be wise. I'll give you one week. I should know by then! I'll see the children now.

## JOLLY HOLIDAY WALK IN THE PARK

[kneeling down drawing with chalk on the sidewalk – sees a familiar shadow]

Wait! Stop! Stay right where you are. Don't move a muscle. I'd know that silhouette anywhere.

[stands to confirm his thought – sees Mary Poppins with the Banks children]

Mary Poppins! Well, I must say – you do look swell. And you two, I've seen you about; chasing a kite last time, I believe. So, what are you two up to with Mary Poppins? The "Walk in the Park" game? What? You don't want to play a game that's just walking in the park? Hmm? Well, other Nannies may take children to walk in the park, but not Mary Poppins! When you walk with Mary Poppins, you go to places you've never dreamed of. Quick as you can say, "Chim Chim Cheroo" the most unusual things begin to 'appen. Well, of course it ain't for me to say, but what she's probably got in mind is a jolly holiday some place different, where you've never been before!

## PRECISION AND ORDER AT 17 CHERRY TREE LANE

[Another nanny has just up and quit leaving George Banks frustrated]

What is all the commotion? What? Another nanny has left! Winifred, you've engaged six nannies in the last four months, and they've all been unqualified disasters!

Precision and order is all that I ask. The running of a household is a straightforward task! A nanny should govern. A nanny should rule. Our children need such a stalwart here at 17 Cherry Tree Lane. Someone like my old nanny, Miss Andrew? Yes, I suppose - although, few women alive could manage Miss Andrew's standards of efficiency. Besides, we could never afford someone of her caliber.

Now, Winifred, place an advertisement in *The Times* stating that Jane and Michael Banks require the best possible nanny at the lowest possible wage.

## THE COMPANY I SHOULD KEEP

George, please . . . Jane and Michael just want to say goodnight. . . .

[she pauses as the children say goodnight to their father]

Now, you two go on up to bed.

[she watches as Michael and Jane trudge off feeling rejected by their father]

Poor Michael, all he cares about is flying kites – with you!

Is it out of the question to do without a nanny? I know, I know, “all the best people have nannies so the wives can do charity work and entertain”. But about that – I’m not so sure about that tea party that I’m supposed to organize. It seems so odd to send out invitations to people I hardly know. They’re not friends of mine. I suppose your right, the point is to make them friends because they are the type of company I should keep for image sake.

## HOW CAN A STATUE HAVE A FATHER?

[A statue in the park comes to life – with Mary’s help – and enjoys being able to move]

Who am I? I’m Neleus. Surely you know that. You’ve sat beneath me often enough. I’ve waited half a century to take a walk on a sunny day like this.

You ask how I know Mary Poppins? She’s an old friend of my father’s. I know you’re wondering how a statue can have a father. Well, just the same as you, my friend. Only, my father lives very far away from here. That’s why I miss him so much.

Wouldn’t you miss your father if you hardly ever saw him? Well, wouldn’t you?