

(The action moves to the main stage, where a father and son sit at a table which is laid for breakfast. Dad reads the paper while the son eats his cereal.)

Dad ~ Charlie, where's your mum?

Charlie ~ She's getting Milly ready for school.

Dad ~ Of course, it's your little sister's first day! I hope she's feeling OK.

Charlie ~ Well, they'd better hurry up or she's going to be late. *(shouting)*
GET A MOVE ON! IT'S QUARTER TO NINE!

Voice ~ *(sobbing from off-stage)* But I'm scared! Can't we wait 'til tomorrow?

Dad ~ Oh, come on. Everything's going to be fine. It's a lovely school.

Voice ~ But what if the other children are horrid?

Dad ~ Don't worry. They're all in the same boat. I promise it'll be fine.

Voice ~ But what if the teachers are nasty? What if they shout?

Charlie ~ Mrs Evans is a lovely lady. She was my teacher when I started.

Voice ~ But I'm just not ready! I think we should wait until next year! Oh please can we wait until next year? Please, please, please, please, please! I'll do anything you ask!

Charlie ~ It'll be fine. I'll be there. I'm in the top class this year so I can make sure nothing bad happens. Come on!

(Milly enters in her new school uniform, carrying her bag, and it quickly becomes clear that it isn't her, but her mother whose voice we've heard.)

Milly ~ Oh do hurry up, Mummy! I can't be late on my first day at school!

Voice ~ No! Shan't!

All ~ COME ON!

(Mum enters, sobbing into a hanky.)

Mum ~ But she's so little! Look at her. She should be at home with me where I can take care of her!

Milly ~ Mummy!

Mum ~ But what if your hair's not right? What if the other girls have theirs tied back, or in pig tails? They'll laugh at you!

Charlie ~ No they won't! They're four years old! They won't even notice!

Mum ~ But what if the older ones steal your packed lunch? You'll be hungry!

Dad ~ They won't steal her packed lunch! There'll be lots of people making sure she's got everything she needs, and that she doesn't come to any harm.

Mum ~ But what if she gets lost? That school is such a big place for little girls!

Milly ~ Mummy, I've visited school twice now, and I know how to find my way around. I promise I'll be fine.

Mum ~ But what if....

Charlie ~ Mum!

Mum ~ But

Milly ~ Mummy!

Mum ~ But

Dad ~ Just go!

(Dad, Charlie and Milly drag Mum off stage. Dad returns alone.)

Dad ~ Have a lovely day! See you all at tea time!

(Dad sits down and picks up his paper. Mum comes back on, looking a lot happier. Charlie and Milly follow her, looking annoyed.)

Mum ~ Oh well, that's that! The car's got a flat battery. There's no way we'll make it in time now. She'll have to start school tomorrow!

Milly ~ But it's a two minute walk! We'll get there if we hurry. Come on!

(Milly and Charlie exit. Mum hangs back sulking like a child.)

Dad ~ Cheer up, Love. Just think, for the first time in goodness knows how many years, you're going to have the whole day to yourself! And you know what that means....leisurely lunches with your friends, a chance to enjoy a bit of shopping, and best of all.....

Mum ~ ...day-time telly! Cool! *(shouting to the children)* Will you two hurry up! We're going to be late!

*(They exit as **Intro Music** plays (CD track 10). Fade the music as all stand, and the family return to the stage for the next song.)*

Song 2 – My First Day At School (CD track11, lyrics p24) *(Whole Cast)*