

Scene 4

(Fade the intro music when ready and bring the lights up. The teachers sit in the staffroom.)

Mrs Wright So, yesterday wasn’t a great start to our inspection, was it.

Mr Savage Well, what do they expect, springing it on us like that?

Miss Kidd It didn’t help with little Sam Jones asking them if they were, in fact, police inspectors, come to arrest me for forgetting to feed the class gerbil!

Mrs Childs Also, it’s the last week of term. There are parties, trips, plays and celebrations, so they can’t expect to see the things we normally do.

Mr Cane I know. It’s not fair coming to inspect us when we’re winding down.

Mrs Cropper I can’t believe that in the last week of the school year I’m going to have to teach grammar and punctuation, then mark and assess what the children have done, just so those inspectors can.....

(Mrs Stamp bursts in, again breathless and looking dishevelled!)

Mrs Stamp I’m sorry! I was up all night planning my literacy lesson and I missed my alarm....again! Still, all sorted *(patting her bag)* and ready to go!

Mrs Barker Planning a new lesson? You’re mad! I’m just going to repeat one from last term that went really well. My Year 3s know everything already so there’ll be lots of hands up, lots of good answers to my questions and therefore lots of good comments by the inspectors about me!

Mrs Cropper Great idea. What could possibly go wrong.....?

(The school bell sounds (track 19) and the teachers exit, except Mrs Barker who crosses to the main stage. Here, three classroom tables, each with two chairs, face a whiteboard by which she stands. As the bell finishes ringing, five children noisily enter and sit down.)

Mrs Barker Shhh! Settle down quickly! Now, about this morning’s literacy lesson...

Child 1 Literacy!?! But I thought we were going outside to watch the staff versus children rounders match?

Mrs Barker It’s postponed until this afternoon. Please, just settle down and listen – the inspectors will be here any moment! Now, what we’re doing is a simple lesson classifying words, you know, nouns, verbs, adjectives, that sort of thing. It’s all stuff you’re familiar with, in fact it’s a lesson we’ve already done, so it should all go without a hitch.

Child 2 But if we know it already, why are we doing it again?

Mrs Barker So it looks like you’re learning fast because of my excellent teaching! Now, you must not let on to the inspectors that we’ve already had this lesson. They need to believe it’s all new. Can I trust you?

All Children Yes Mrs Barker! We won’t let you down!

(As menacing music plays (track 20) the three inspectors enter and stand at the back.)

Mr Sourbottom Don’t mind us Mrs Barker. You just carry on.

Mrs Barker Right Year 3, today we’ll be classifying words into different types. Now, as we’ve...ahem *(winking at the class)*...never done this before, would anyone like to guess what I mean by classifying words? *(looking at their blank faces)* Anyone? No? Come on, one of you must remember ...ahem...I mean have some idea. No? *(glaring at them)* Really?

Child 3 *(raising a hand)* Sorry Mrs Barker, but because we have never done this before, not ever, *(winking at her)* we have no idea what you mean.

Mrs Barker *(glaring at child 3)* Thank you Mary. Well, what I mean is sorting words into nouns, verbs, adjectives, that kind of thing. So, *(turning to write ‘Nouns’ on the board)* who can give me some examples of nouns? *(turning back to blank faces)* No? Have you *all* forgotten...ahem...I mean has nobody any ideas?

Child 4 *(raising a hand)* Mrs Barker, *(winking at her)* what is a noun?

Mrs Barker *(smiling nervously)* Children, about that...err...’little chat’ we had earlier, I’m not sure you quite understood what I wanted you to do.

(Child 5 enters and sits in the empty chair.)

Child 5 Sorry I’m late, Mrs Barker. I had a dentist’s appointment.

Mrs Barker Not to worry, Daisy. We’d just started a *brand new* lesson on classifying words – nouns, verbs, adjectives, that kind of thing.

Child 5 *(confused)* Oh right. But didn’t we do that last.....

Mrs Barker and the other children Shhhhhhhhh!

Child 5 But I’m sure that I remember.....

Mrs Barker and the other children Shhhhhhhhh!

(The child seated next to Child 5 whispers in her ear, telling her what’s going on. Child 5 touches her nose and winks at Mrs Barker, showing she understands the situation!)

Mrs Barker Actually Daisy, maybe you can tell us what a noun is? *(glaring at the others)* Nobody else seems to have any idea.

Child 5 Sorry Mrs Barker, I don’t have a clue, not ever having done this before....*(winking at her)*....not ever.

Mrs Barker *(forgetting herself)* But you just said you remember doing this last...

The other children *(at Mrs Barker)* Shhhhhhhhh!

Miss Schneider Mrs Barker, is everything alright? There seems to be some confusion amongst you and the children.

Mrs Barker Everything is fine, thank you. It just seems that Year 3 *(glaring at the children)* have left their brains in their breakfast bowls this morning!

Mr Measley Indeed it does, Mrs Barker. Well, I think that we’ve seen enough for now, so we’ll leave you to your ‘brand new’ lesson.

(The inspectors shake their heads and mark an X on their clipboards. They then exit)

Mrs Barker Well, you lot, thanks for nothing!

Child 6 But we did what you asked. We didn’t let on we’d done all this before.

Mrs Barker Yes, but you were supposed to pretend that you were picking it up really quickly, to make me look good in front of them!

All children *(realising)* Oh, right!

Mrs Barker Never mind. Well, we may as well finish the lesson now we’ve started it. Ok, someone tell me what a noun is and give me some examples. *(The children look at her with blank faces)* It’s ok, they’ve gone, so you can drop the act now. *(still blank faces)* Well? One of you? Nouns? Examples? *(still blank faces)* You mean to tell me you really have forgotten it all?!

All children Sorry, Mrs Barker!

(As the opening bars of the next song begin, Mrs Barker faces the whiteboard and repeatedly bangs her forehead against it!)

Song In One Ear (Out The Other)

(tracks 4 & 21, lyrics p21)

(Whole cast, led by the children)

(When the song finishes, intro music plays (track 22) and all exit.)

Scene 5

(The inspectors are sitting in the staffroom, eating their lunches from Tupperware boxes. Mr Measley is trying to do a bottle-flip with his drinks bottle!)

Mr Sourbottom What are you doing, Mr Measley? It really is most annoying!

Mr Measley It’s called ‘bottle-flipping’ and it’s all the rage. I’ve just been watching the children in the dining hall doing it. The idea is you have to....

Mr Sourbottom Yes, yes, I can see what you have to do. It’s not really a suitable pastime for a school inspector though, is it!

*(The **school bell** sounds (**track 23**) and Mr Sourbottom stands up.)*

Right, what’s next on the list for this afternoon, Miss Schneider?

Miss Schneider We need to observe the staff versus children rounders match which starts in five minutes. This should be interesting.....

END OF SCRIPT SAMPLE

Please note, an editable version of the script (MS WORD doc.) is included in the download and CD-ROM formats of this musical. If you buy the book format, the editable version can be emailed to you on request, free-of-charge.