



REACH FOR THE SKY

Script Sample

Scene 1

*(As the **intro music (track 8)** plays, the whole cast enters and positions are taken for the opening song. Fade the music when ready.)*

Song **Reach For The Sky**

*Track 1 - vocal demo
Track 9 - backing track
Lyrics p18*

*(When the song finishes, the **intro music (track 10)** is played again and the children sit down. Fade the music when ready. There is a smaller stage to one side of the main stage, set up to represent an airport lounge. Four track-suited athletes, with kit bags, nervously sit on chairs. We hear an announcement - this can be spoken, or **track 11** played.)*

Announcer This is an announcement for passengers waiting to board flight BA1859 to Tokyo, Japan. There will be a delay of approximately one hour due to a technical problem with the navigation system. We are grateful for your patience whilst this matter is resolved. Thank you.

Mo Oh great, that's all I need! I mean, it's not as if competing in the Olympic Games isn't nerve-wracking enough! Now they tell us there's a problem with the plane!

Dina Oh, c'mon Mo, it's not so bad. What's another hour when we've already waited four years? Just relax.

Adam It's hard to relax, Dina – I'm like a coiled spring! And anyway, it's not just four years for some of us. I've been waiting for this ever since I got into swimming as a little boy.

Katarina Me too, Adam. When I had my first PE lesson as a little girl, I knew being an athlete was all I wanted to do. And here we are, years later, with our dreams coming true!

Dina Well yes, I see your point, Katarina. I suppose all our dreams started when we put on those little black shorts and white t-shirt and skipped round the school hall for the very first time!

Mo Yes, PE lessons were definitely the highlight of my school week, though I do remember one or two little ‘incidents’ that spoiled the experience somewhat.....

*(As a **harp** sound effect plays (**track 12**), the action moves to the main stage.*

Miss Burberry, a teacher in glamorous, ‘non-sporty’ clothes, stands before six children who either lean against or sit on two classroom tables. They wear PE kit of various ‘sorts’ whilst a seventh child, Charlie, is still in his school uniform. Names can be changed to those of the children playing these parts.)

Miss Burberry *(inspecting the children)* Hmm. I’m not sure all of you appreciate that there’s a certain dress code we have for PE lessons.

Luke *(aside to Simon)* Well, Miss Burberry’s hardly going to find it easy demonstrating a vault off the springboard in those heels!

Miss Burberry For example, Luke, a Manchester United football strip, although very smart, isn’t really appropriate. And Megan, you shouldn’t be wearing jogging bottoms for indoor PE. Simon, you look like you’re going surfing! Those shorts are far too long...and far too patterned.

Simon *(aside to Luke)* Whereas her chiffon scarf is totally appropriate for teaching gymnastics....not!

Miss Burberry Oh dear Daisy, has that t-shirt ever been near a washing machine? And Jack, that big hole in the underside of your shorts should really be sewn up before you can even consider doing any forward rolls!

Luke *(aside to Simon)* She’s obviously completely unaware of that big ladder up the back of her tights!

Miss Burberry But Alice, *(pulling Alice to her feet)* you look immaculate! Everyone, this is how I expect you to be kitted out for PE; a pristine white t-shirt and black shorts – nothing more, nothing less. Well done Alice.

(The other children mumble as Alice proudly twirls, showing off her perfect attire. The teacher then notices Charlie, who is still in his uniform.)

Miss Burberry Hurry up and get changed, Charlie.

Charlie *(subdued)* I can’t, Miss Burberry. I’ve forgotten my kit.

Miss Burberry Then borrow what you need from one of the others. Now, I’m just nipping into the hall to hurry along Year 3 – they’re never out on time. I want you changed when I get back. *(She exits)*

- Charlie** *(hopefully)* Please can any of you guys lend me some kit? Jack?
- Jack** D’you think I’d be wearing these shorts if I had a spare pair?
- Charlie** Megan? Daisy?
- Megan** Ha! As if I’d let a *boy* wear any of my clothes! I’d have to throw them away afterwards!
- Daisy** I’m with Megan on this one – it’s a ‘no’ from me.
- Alice** And don’t even think about asking me. *(pompously)* Perhaps this will teach you not to forget your kit in the future.
- Charlie** Luke? Simon? Please, I’m desperate! I don’t want to miss PE!
- Luke** Sorry, this is all I’ve got! Hey, maybe you’ll have to do the same as my dad had to when he forgot his kit at school.....do PE in your pants!
Ha ha!

(The other children laugh. Charlie looks mortified! Miss Burberry re-enters.)

Miss Burberry OK! Year 3 are now out of...Charlie, are you still not changed?

Daisy *(hopefully)* Will he have to do PE in his pants, Miss?

Miss Burberry Of course not Daisy! *(sighing, she exits again)* Right, wait there!

Simon You know what this means, don’t you....

All LOST PROPERTY!

(Miss Burberry re-enters with a tub/box of clothes, labelled ‘Lost Property’.)

Miss Burberry There you are Charlie! Some of these bits are a bit whiffy and stained, but I’m sure you’ll find something suitable. Right the rest of you, while Charlie gets changed, please follow me into the hall in an orderly fashion.....

(To the opening bars of the next song, the children and Miss Burberry line up along the front, obscuring Charlie and the tub from the audience’s sight. During the final verse, when prompted by the relevant lyric, Charlie triumphantly steps into view, standing in the centre of the line, now wearing an ill-fitting leotard! If the child playing this part can conquer the embarrassment and really ‘go for it’, and you time the reveal properly, this should be a very funny moment!)

Song Can I Borrow Some Shorts?

*Track 2 - vocal demo
Track 13 - backing track
Lyrics p19*

(The intro music (track 14) is played and the children sit down. Fade the music when ready for the next scene. The action moves to the airport stage.)

Scene 2

Dina How amazing is it that we'll be competing in games that were first held in ancient Greece, nearly three thousand years ago!

Mo They had some amazing athletes back then. There was this one wrestler called Milo of Croton who consumed ten kilos of meat and bread and ten litres of wine each day! He was an Olympic champion at sixty years old!

Adam Sixty! Everyone in our Olympic team is a bit younger than that! Old age does tend to get in the way of performing feats of physical strength and endurance.

Katarina I'm not so sure. Last week I was doing a personal appearance at a local school's sports day. When it came to the parents' race, it was clear that not everyone knew the meaning of 'growing old gracefully'...

(As the harp sound effect plays (track 18), the action again moves to the main stage. Twelve 'adults' sit on two rows of chairs or PE benches. All are dressed casually apart from 'Competitive Dad' who wears trainers, a headband and a track suit under which is a sports vest and lycra shorts. One of the women is elderly and has a walking stick. She should sit somewhere on the back row. A teacher, Mrs Christie, stands at the front. She holds three skipping ropes.)

Mrs Christie And there we are ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls; we've come to the end of another successful sports day. Congratulations to all those who took part. Now, all that remains.....

Competitive Dad *(eagerly standing and interrupting)* But Mrs Christie, what about the parents' race? Surely you'll be having a parents' race?

Mrs Christie Yes, I was coming to that. Now, as you know it's traditional for us to finish off the day's events with a parents' race. Any adult wishing to compete, please join me here on the starting line.

(The competitive dad jumps to his feet, strips off his tracksuit and stands by Mrs Christie, doing stretches, lunges and jogging on the spot! No-one else comes forward.)

Comp. Dad *(to the adults)* Are you lot afraid of the competition? Don't worry, I'll go easy on you. I'll even give you a ten metre head-start!

Mrs Christie Anyone else? Come on, it'll be fun!

(Two mums reluctantly remove their shoes and join the line.)

Mum 1 *(to Mum 2)* It's been years since I broke into a jog, let alone a sprint!

Mum 2 Me too! This could be a bit embarrassing, but what the heck!

Comp. Dad *(still limbering up)* Well I try to do at least half an hour's cardio every day. You can probably tell I take physical fitness seriously.

Dad 1 *(stepping forward)* I'll give it a go. The knees aren't what they used to be, but I should make it to the finish line in one piece!

Dad 2 *(joining him)* Go on then. At least it'll give the kids a laugh!

Mrs Christie Thanks to all of you for volunteering. Now, this year's parents' race will be a little different. Instead of a straight sprint, we thought we'd spice things up and have.....a three-legged race!

Comp. Dad What! A three-legged race! That's ridiculous! Can you imagine Olympic athletes taking part in a three-legged race!

Mrs Christie Well, this isn't the Olympics, it's a school sports day, and a three-legged race is what we've decided to have. Now, if each of you could choose a partner we'll get you tied up!

Comp. Dad Well, I'm not happy, but I suppose I'll have to make the most of it. Right, *(to the other volunteers)* I'm sorry but I can only be a partner with one of you – the unlucky ones will have to be with someone less athletic. So..... *(sizing them up as potential partners)*

(The two mums and two dads eagerly 'partner-up', leaving the competitive dad by himself! He pretends not to be bothered. Mrs Christie kneels to tie the adults' legs.)

Comp. Dad Yeah...right....no, that's fine. You're all obviously worried about slowing me down. You probably wouldn't be able to keep up with my pace anyway, so....yeah....no, that's fine.

Mrs Christie *(to the seated adults)* Would someone like to partner this gentleman?

Comp. Dad Come on, one of you! I guarantee we'll win! *(nodding dismissively at the other two couples)* Ha! I mean, just look at what we're up against!

Mrs Christie Anybody?

(From the back row of the seated adults, the elderly grandma raises her walking stick!)

Grandma *(with frailty)* I'll be the gentleman's partner.

(Helped by another adult, she feebly makes her way forward, to the horror of the competitive dad! She eventually stands by him, tugging his arm enthusiastically.)

Grandma Come on handsome, let's show 'em what we're made of!

(To the smiles of everyone else, Mrs Christie kneels to tie their legs together. As the music to the song starts, the competitive dad despairingly holds his head in his hands.)

Song **My Dad's Faster Than Your Dad**

*Track 4 - vocal demo
Track 19 - backing track
Lyrics p21*

*(The **intro music (track 20)** is played and the children sit down. Fade the music when ready for the next scene. The action moves to the airport stage.)*

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.