

WOW!

WHAT A YEAR!

Script Sample

Scene 1

(As the **intro music** plays (**track 10**) the cast enters and all sit on, around and in front of the main stage, apart from six children and their teacher who sit at tables on a smaller stage to one side.)

- Teacher** Wow! What a year it's been! As we reach the end of term, I think we should look back on the things we've been through during these extraordinary times. So, how about something positive to start with. Any ideas?
- Child #1** (*raising a hand*) Well, last year we had four months of no school followed by the summer holidays! And then no school again at the start of 2021!
- Teacher** I said tell me something *positive*! Anyway, I'm glad that all of you...well, most of you...still kept up with your schoolwork at home! What else?
- Child #2** Having time to just take things a little slower.
- Child #3** Binge-watching my favourite boxsets!
- Child #4** Following Captain Tom doing his amazing walk for the NHS!
- Teacher** Ah, Captain Tom. What a hero, and what a legacy he's left. Let's talk more about him later on, shall we? So, what else made things bearable?
- Child #5** Not having to go to the hairdressers, because they were closed! Result!
- Teacher** Okay, thank you. So on the flipside, what about things we struggled with?
- Child #5** My mum deciding to cut my hair herself! She made a right mess of it!
- Teacher** Yes, I had noticed! Don't worry, it'll grow back! So, what else was difficult?
- Child #6** Nothing left on the supermarket shelves during the first lockdown.

- Child #1** Watching my parents struggle to keep their small business going.
- Child #3** Not being able to give my grandparents a hug. That was awful.
- Child #4** At a time when we were a bit scared and just needed to be close to people, we were told we had to keep our distance.
- Teacher** Yet here we are, over the worst, we hope, and slowly getting back to normal. But it was tough for a while. As I said, what a year it's been...

Song **Wow! What A Year!**

Track 1 - vocal demo
Track 11 - backing track
Lyrics p20

(The whole cast stands to sing. As the song finishes, all leave the main stage, which is already set up for the next part of this scene. But first we return to the side stage....)

- Teacher** Okay then, let's wind the clock back to March 2020. Who'd like to remind us what happened?
- Child #2** *(raising a hand)* Well, with cases of the Covid 19 virus increasing, to slow the spread and to stop the NHS being overwhelmed, we went into lockdown.
- Child #5** We were told to stay at home, not to socialise, to only go out for essential shopping and exercise, and to wash our hands...a lot!
- Child #6** Restaurants, bars, theatres, cinemas, sports venues, a lot of shops and most offices closed, and people were told to work from home, unless they were keyworkers.
- Child #1** Schools stayed open for keyworkers' children, but for most of us, at the time, I suppose it felt like the summer holidays had started early!
- Child #3** Yeah, but that feeling didn't last long. Remember?
- All Children** Of course...home-schooling!

*(They all groan as we hear **harp music (track 12)**. The action moves to the main stage. A boy and girl, in their pyjamas, sit at a kitchen table, each eating a bowl of cereal and looking at a shared laptop. They have exercise books and pens. Mum enters, in her dressing gown, talking on a mobile phone. She seems stressed!)*

- Mum** Yes, Karen, I know I said I'd get that report written by last Friday...no, I'm not taking advantage of the working-from-home arrangements...yes, I realise this isn't a holiday...yes, I'll email it this afternoon...no, I won't watch Loose Women and forget...yes, I promise...goodbye Karen!

(She ends the call, breathes deeply, forces a smile and sits by her son who is frowning at the laptop screen.)

- Son** Mum, is this a subordinating conjunction or a co-ordinating conjunction? I think it's subordinating, but I'm not sure.

- Mum** *(harassed and confused)* Subordinating what?! In my day it was just nouns, verbs and adjectives we needed to know about! Let's have a look...
- (She is interrupted by her phone ringing (track 13). She takes another deep breath and answers.)*
- Hi Karen...yes, of course I'll spell-check it...yes, I know the directors will be reading it...no, it won't be full of grammatical mistakes like last time...yes, Karen...no, Karen...*(through gritted teeth)* you have a good day too, Karen! *(to son)* Now, a conjunctivating submarine, you say?
- Son** It's okay, Mum. I've done it. Right, *(typing)* now I need to do History.
- Daughter** But it's my turn on the computer! It's not fair! Mum, tell him!
- (The children start squabbling. Mum puts her head in her hands. Dad enters, also in pyjamas.)*
- Dad** Hey now! What's all this noise? I'm trying to sleep! You know I'm working nights at the minute, so please just keep it down a bit, okay?
- Daughter** Sorry Dad, but he's hogging the computer and I've got my Maths to finish.
- Son** Yeah, right! You just want to play games on it!
- (They start squabbling again. Mum still has her head in her hands!)*
- Dad** Enough! Right, *(to son)* you eat your cereal and you *(to daughter)* do your maths. What is it you're doing exactly? Show me.
- (He sits next to his daughter, who takes the laptop and starts typing. The son eats his cereal. Mum looks at her phone, reading a message.)*
- Daughter** Long multiplication, *(pointing at the screen)* but I'm really stuck on all these.
- Dad** Well, let's see your working-out. *(She shows him an exercise book)* Eh? That's not how we were taught long multiplication when I was at school! What's all that grid nonsense? Look *(writing in the book)*, just stick a zero in that column, times that by that, then times that by that, then add 'em up!
- Daughter** But why do you...
- Dad** *(interrupting)* Just do it like that – you don't need to know why! Right, can I go back to bed now?
- Mum** Not yet. *(pointing at her phone)* There's a message from your mother. Will you call her for a chat? She's bored being stuck at home on her own.
- Dad** But I spent three hours with her yesterday, talking to her through the kitchen window when I delivered her shopping! Can't you phone her?
- Mum** No! She's your mother! Anyway, I've got that report to write for Karen at work...and there's these two to supervise.

(The children begin squabbling loudly again and Mum holds her head in despair. Dad stands up.)

Dad Stop it, you two! Okay, what schoolwork do you still have to do?

Son There’s my History to start and I have a science worksheet on electricity.

Daughter And I’ve got Art and RE.

Dad Right, here’s what we’ll do. *(to son)* Electricity you say? Well, I suggest you plug in the Hoover and clean upstairs. Then there’s a lightbulb needs changing in the downstairs loo. And History...let’s see...I know, you can phone your Grandma and listen to her talk about the olden days for an hour! *(to daughter)* Okay, Art...right, you can give the garden fence a coat of creosote. Now, something for RE...hmmm...let me think....

(Mum’s phone rings again (track 14). She takes a deep breath and answers.)

Mum Hello Karen...yes I’m just about to...no, I’m not on the settee with my feet up...yes, I know you’re under a lot of pressure...yes, I know how hard you work...no, I’m not taking advantage of your good nature...it’s just that my children are...yes, I understand...goodbye, Karen.

(Mum lets out a huge ‘AAAAAAGH!!!’, kneels on the floor, clasps her hands together and looks to the ceiling!)

Mum DEAR FATHER WHO ART IN HEAVEN, HEAR MY PRAYER! TAKE PITY ON ME IN MY HOUR OF NEED AND DELIVER ME FROM THIS TORTURE! AMEN!

(Dad and the children look at her in stunned silence. Mum then composes herself, stands up and calmly turns to her shocked family.)

Mum There you are, that’s your RE sorted. Right, I think I’ll put my feet up for an hour and watch Loose Women.

(As the comedy fail motif plays (track 15), Dad and the children watch, open-mouthed, as Mum calmly exits! If numbers allow, more pyjama-wearing children and parents enter to lead the song.)

Song **Round The Twist** *Track 2 - vocal demo*
Track 16 - backing track
Lyrics p21

(As the intro music plays (track 17) all exit and the main stage is made ready for the next scene.)

Scene 2

(As the intro music fades, the action returns to the side stage.)

Teacher I think all of us were looking forward to returning to school after that, weren’t we?

All Children *(all shrugging slightly)* Hmmm.

Child #2 I know my parents were happy when the new school year started in September. Mum said she has a new-found admiration for teachers and can't believe what they put up with!

Teacher Haha! Well, what can I say? We do try! But there were so many people who worked hard during lockdown, even though there were risks, just to keep us ticking over.

Child #4 I remember! It was like watching a whole new set of Marvel characters coming together to battle a super villain!

Child #5 Yeah, 'Covid Heroes – Unite and Fight!' I reckon that would make a great film!

Teacher It certainly would.....

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