

SCENE 1

This play can be simply set in modern times, as the lyrics refer to mobile phones etc. Or, the humorous contrast of the bible story with contemporary references could be underlined by setting the narrators, family and workers in biblical attire, with the prodigal son's adventures in technicolour modern.

The two narrators walk on stage, talking.

PETER: And he said, 'that's no camel, that's my father in law!'

They both laugh.

SARAH: Brilliant!

PETER: Yes, but unfortunately the last person I told it to turned out to be his brother, so he wasn't very amused!

SARAH: Ah, no, oh dear – oh well ... have you got any others?

PETER: Nope, 'fraid not.

SARAH: Have you heard the one about the three legged –

PETER: *(interrupting)* Yes...

SARAH: What about that dog with the giant stick –

PETER: Yes!

Here the children could insert one or more of their own topical jokes or half-jokes, for example about their school. Then they walk in silence for a while.

PETER: I tell you what, though, I heard a strange story last week, about a rich family that lives near us – do you want to hear it?

SARAH: The family who owns all that land?

PETER: That's the one.

SARAH: I'm all ears ...

PETER: Yes, but a good haircut can hide that!

They have a mock fight, then SARAH settles down to watch PETER tell the story. Two younger versions of the brothers come on stage to act during the song. During PETER's opening lines; they snatch each other's toys, throw them around when they get told off, and sulk, finally standing back to back before storming off at the end.

SONG 1: IT'S A FAMILY TALE *(see pp.42–46 for all song lyrics)*

The boys have stormed off in opposite directions. Their parents wearily pick up the toys then leave the stage, the father with a supportive arm around his wife's shoulders.

SARAH: I see. So they were really naughty boys?

PETER: Well, not that bad I suppose. Everyone assumed they'd grow out of it eventually.

SARAH: And did they?

PETER: At first it seemed like they had – they both grew up a bit, finished their studying and started working on their father's estate. They had all the fine things in life – good food, soft beds, even servants to clean their clothes!

Servants could hurry across the stage carrying plates of fruit and nice cake, and a bundle of washing with soap powder.

SARAH: Wow, lucky! So what went wrong?

PETER: It wasn't all fantastic – they had to work hard by day, and their parents made sure they helped out in the evenings too.

The grown-up boys could stagger across stage with a big pile of washing up.

PETER: Finally it was Tom who changed everything ...

TOM enters.

...he decided he couldn't bear working on his father's estate any more, and that he'd

51 MOTHER FATHER

f

Boys, boys! Do not hit your brother! Boys, boys! Lis-

D7 A7

54 BOTH (shouting)

- ten to your mother! Boys, boys! There's really no need to shout!

E7 D7

57 MOTHER

f

Boys, boys! Share-

A Am/C A/C# D7

60 FATHER

— with one another! Boys, boys! Don't up-set your mother!

A7



4. That lucky pig!

SARAH: This is where the pig comes into it!

PETER: How did you guess?

Theatrical $\text{♩} = 138$ ($\text{♩} = \text{♩}^3$)

PIANO *mf*

5 KAZOOS TOM *f*

1. That

9

luck - y pig! That stink - ing swine! His din - ner's twice as big as mine! Just
(2.) fat and spoilt, that piece of pork! He's so o - bese, it's hard to walk. It's

Dm7 Em/G Dm7 Em/G Em7 F#m/A Em7 F#m/A

13

watch him roll - ing in his bog. He makes me sick, that hap - py hog!
so un - fair, that smel - ly pig. he does - n't care or give a fig! I

Dm7 Em/G Dm7 Em/G Em7 F#m/A Em7 F#m/A