

Boys: 6 - 8 years

## Suggestion One

The Giraffe and the Pelly and Me

Roald Dahl

(A play with music for children, adapted by Vicky Ireland)

In this opening scene, BILLY introduces the audience to 'The Grubber' - a deserted sweet-shop near his house that he longs to see returned to its former glory.

**BILLY**

Hallo. My name's Billy. Not far from where I live, there's something very strange. It's a house. Not an ordinary house, but a strange old one made of wood. It stands by itself on the edge of the road. Look, there it is. *(He walks carefully up to the house and reads the sign on the window)* 'For Sail' ... Hmmm. It's been like this for ages, all empty and shut up. Wish I could get in and explore, but the door's always locked ... *(Looking through the window)* It's all dark and dusty inside, but I know the ground floor used to be a shop, because look, you can still just read the lettering up there, it's a bit faded, over the window ... 'The Grubber' ... ? *(Mum enters)* Mum ... ? What does the word 'Grubber' mean, do you know - the word that's over the shop? ... A sweet-shop! ... Wow! So that's what it was. It must have been a lovely old sweet-shop. Oh, I wish I could buy it ... then I'd make it into a grubber all over again. I'd do anything to have my own sweet-shop. Just think, Mum, what it would be like ... Caramel Fudge - that'd be grand ... Sugar Pig Snorters ... Butter Gumballs?

## Suggestion Two

The Red Balloon

Anthony Clark

(adapted for the stage from a film by Albert Lamorisse)

In this scene PASCAL's mother asks to see his homework and he tries to explain what has happened to it. He leaves the house with 'Hercule' (a stray kitten that his mother has refused to let him keep) in a cardboard box. On his way down the street he meets his friend 'Raggedy' the Tramp.

**PASCAL**

It was an accident. It was raining, and I was running to get home, and I dropped my book, and it fell open, and the page with my homework on fell

in a puddle, and all the ink ran, and then I tore out the page because I didn't want to ruin the whole book ... I promise you, it's true ... And I dropped my pen ... And the nib broke ... I couldn't help it Maman. Everything fell out of my satchel. I had to protect Hercule from the rain. Cat's don't like water do they? I had to put him in my satchel, and then I wanted to keep my books dry, so I put them under my jersey, but they wouldn't stay and they kept falling out ... (*PASCAL puts Hercule into the box*) Come on Hercule, or we'll be late. Say goodbye ... Hercule say 'thank you'. Miaow! ... (*He leaves*)

(*The street. A Tramp is asleep beside an old dustbin. The Tramp stirs. Enter PASCAL with Hercule still in the cardboard box*) You don't remember him, do you? Do you remember me? ... Yesterday, ... He was crying in the rain ... I'm not allowed to keep Hercule, because I live in a flat. And Maman and Papa don't like cats, though they pretend they do. Papa says he'll ask the concierge, if I can keep Hercule, but he'll forget.