

To A Moose

A Drama Sketch by The Drama Studio adapted and using the famous poem by Robert Burns.

In this first section incidental shrieks of fear from the mice can break the dialogue without hindering the flow of the poem.

Stage setting – The mice are huddled behind some sheaves of corn. The group could make a piece of staging to represent this.

The farmer is ploughing his field (use a prop or mime also works well) when he bumps into the mouse nest and the mice make to scurry off.

The farmer begins to stoop down to talk to the mouse. The mother mouse and babies huddle behind dad.

Characters – Farmer, Mouse 1 and 2 (parents) Mouse 3,4,5 (babies)

Farmer - Wee sleekit, cowrin, timrous beastie.

The Farmer looks closer up.

Farmer –Oh what a panic's in thy breastie.

Mouse 1 – Run. Everyone oot.

Farmer – Thou needst start awa sae hastie
Wi bickerin' brattle.

Farmer leans even closer, the mice cower.

Babies- Please.....

Farmer- I wad be laith tae rin and chase thee,
(puts the plough to the side)
Wi murd'rin' pattle!

The mice stop in their tracks seeing that the Farmer is really quite friendly. The farmer feels terrible about what he has done. This section will not break up well so keep it in tact for just one speaker.

Farmer – I'm truly sorry man's dominion
Has broken nature's social union
An justifies that ill opinion
Which makes thee startle at me
thy poor earth-born companion
and fellow mortal

The farmer here points out now that the mice actually steal pieces of his corn to build their nest but the mice protest saying these small sheaves are hardly missed.

Farmer – I doubt na whyles, but thou may thieve.
What then? Poor beast thou maun live !

The mice are not so scared now and begin a rapport with the Farmer. A wee mouse squeaks up in his defence.

Mouse 1- An odd ear in twenty-four sheaves,
Is a sma request,

Mouse 2 – You'll get a blessing with what is left,
And never miss it.

The Farmer picks up pieces of the broken nest, feeling really bad about what has happened.

The Mice now contemplate their misfortune but with no choice but to begin rebuilding.

Mouse 3 – Oor wee bit housie now in ruin!
(The mouse gestures to the destroyed house)

Mouse 4 – It's silly wa's the win's are strewin.
(Mimes the wind coming through the walls)

Mouse 5 ***(resigned now to building a new house)***– An naethin' now to
big a new ane
O' foggage green.

Mouse 1 - ***(stern, thinking about the cold winds coming)*** – An bleak
December's winds ensuin!

Mouse 2 - Baith snell and keen.

Farmer (*looking around at the surrounding fields*)- Aye thou saw the
fields laid bare and waste,
An' weary winter comin' fast.

Mouse 3 –An' cosy here beneath the blast,

Mouse 4 - We thocht to dwell !

Mouse 5– Till crash !

Mouse 2 (*scolding the farmer*) The cruel coulter past (*the plough*)
Out thro' oor cell!

Farmer (*still very remorseful*)- That wee bit heap o' leaves and stibble,
Has cost thee mony a weary nibble !

Mouse 1 (protesting) – And we're turned out fer aw oor trouble,
But house or hald, (*with no house now*)

Mouse 2 - To thole the winter's sleety dribble, (*to keep out the cold*)
An cranreuch cauld.

Farmer (*being philosophical here*)- But mousie, thou art no thy lane,
best laid plans do go wrong In provin' foresight may be in vain,
The best laid schemes o' mice and
men gang oft agley

Mouse 1 (*joining in the philosophy*) -An lea'e us nought but grief an' pain
For promised joy.

Does the farmer now try to make the mouse feel better here or is he just trying to admonish himself ? It's a point for discussion with your class!

Farmer- But still thou art blessed, compare'd wi me
(*the mice look dubiously at the farmer at this suggestion*)

The present only toucheth thee

The farmer now distances himself slightly both physically and mentally from the mice. he is thinking about his own life here)

But och! I backward cast my e'e
On prospects drear!
An' forward tho' I canna see,
I guess and fear!