

The Magic Flute

By Wolfgang Amadeus
Mozart and
Emanuel Schikaneder

Adapted for young readers by Joshua Borths

A Reader's Theater Script for Young Audiences!

Cast of Characters (in order of appearance)

Narrators (1-3)		They guide the audience on the journey
Sarastro	(za-RA-stro)	The wise ruler of the Sun
Prince Tamino	(tah-ME-no)	A foreign Prince, the hero
Dragon		
Ladies (1-3)		The Queen's handmaidens, Each lady is different
Papageno	(pa-pa-GEH-no)	The Queen's birdcatcher, fun loving and funny
The Queen of the Night		An ultimately evil Queen, but she doesn't let people see it
Monostatos	(moe-NAST-tah-toes)	Sarastro's guard, who wants to marry Pamina
Pamina	(pah-ME-na)	The virtuous daughter of the Queen
Ensemble		Guards, animals, voices, attendants

A quick note about Reader's Theater...

Welcome to Mozart's *The Magic Flute*! This script is divided into multiple parts, and each part takes 15 minutes to perform. This script was created with 4th– 8th graders in mind.

This script helps develop reading **fluency**, **comprehension**, and **imagination** as both readers and audience members alike are guided through the story of the opera.

We encourage double casting (students reading more than one role) when appropriate. However, make sure everyone gets a chance to read out loud!

Props List

Mouth Lock	(For Papageno)
Picture Frame	(The picture of Pamina for Tamino)
Magic Flute	(For Tamino)
Magic Bells	(For Papageno)

A note about performance...

Putting together *The Magic Flute* should be a fun and educational experience for your students. Encourage them to look up words they don't know.

Mozart did not see this opera as a serious work, so play with it! If your students have staging, prop, costume, and set ideas, great!

This performance can be as simple or complex as you wish. Feel free to make it your own. All props can be pantomimed or real based on class time available.

Throughout the script, there are stage directions written in italics. These are not to be spoken in performance (although, having the teacher read them as students rehearse is helpful).

Encourage your students to listen to the music of *The Magic Flute* as well. There are many recordings available via music streaming sites.

And, as we say in the opera world, *toi toi toi* (pronounced “toy, toy, toy”)—it means good luck!

The Magic Flute: Part 1 (The Quest)

Narrator 1

In a kingdom you may recognize—
If you look behind its strange disguise—
There was war between the day and the night
Over which of them was the one, true light.

Narrator 2

The Queen of the Night tried to take the Sun's Crown,
So Sarastro was forced to make her leave town.
And so, in the dark, the Queen's anger raged,
Like a fearsome bird trapped inside a small cage.

Narrator 3

Sarastro, who sought only peace and love,
Cried out with a shout to the bright sun above,

Sarastro

Please help me unite the Sun and Moon,
Please, send us a hero! Send him or her soon!

All Narrators

And this was how the kingdom then stood,
When a stranger found trouble within a dark wood.

Tamino runs onstage. He is being chased by a dragon!

Tamino

Help me! Somebody, please, help me! A dragon is chasing me! A terrible,
horrible, smelly dragon!

Dragon

Hello, Prince! Are you new to these woods? If so, I'm your welcoming
committee!

Tamino

If you're the welcoming committee, then why are you trying to eat me?

Dragon

Smiling How else am I supposed to welcome a trespasser?!

Narrator 3

The stranger tried to be strong, brave, and bold,
But he tripped on a root and was knocked out cold.

Tamino falls to the ground.

Narrator 2

Lucky for him, there were Three Ladies nearby,
And they stopped the mean dragon with their fierce battle cry.

All Ladies

Stop! Go back to your side of the forest, dragon!

Dragon

Defensive But, I was only trying to—

1st Lady

Go! Do you want us to go get the Queen of the Night and tell her all about what you've done? Do you want to be put in timeout?

Dragon

No! Please! Not that! I'll go! I'll go.

He exits.

Narrator 3

With the dragon now gone and out of their sight,
They looked at the stranger in the glowing moonlight.

2nd Lady

Now what?

3rd Lady

Yeah, what do we do now?

1st Lady

Well, I think you two should go tell the Queen about this stranger, and I will stay here with the handsome man.

2nd Lady

Why do you get to stay with him? I want to stay with him. He's so dreamy...

3rd Lady

How about *you* make sure the dragon is gone for good, and *you* go get the Queen, while *I* stay here with him. He's so dashing!

1st Lady

Be quiet! We can't all stay here with him. So, to be fair, all three of us will go and tell the Queen about this stranger. No one will stay here. Agreed?

All Ladies

Agreed.

The Ladies exit.

Narrator 1

As the ladies went off to see their great Queen,
A feathery creature arrived on the scene.

Papageno enters with his bird whistle and basket.

Narrator 2

His job is to wander and catch the Queen's birds,
Although, in his bird suit he looks quite absurd!

Papageno

To the Narrator Hey! I'm styling! Besides, I'm good at what I do. When I catch a bird and put it in a cage, it makes the Queen feel less lonely. I give her friends and she gives me candy!

Narrator 3

To Papageno But, isn't it lonely to catch birds all day?
Is there anyone here with whom you can play?

Papageno

No. Not yet. What I really want to catch is a girlfriend! *Yelling* I want a Papagena!

Narrator 1

This sudden shout echoed down the ravine,
And caused Tamino to wake up from his dream.

Tamino

Waking with a start Where am I? Where's the dragon?!

Papageno

Startled AAAH! Who are you?

Tamino

Who am I? Who are you?!

Papageno

My name is Papageno! I'm the royal bird catcher for the Queen of the Night.

Tamino

The royal birdcatcher? So, *you* must have destroyed the dragon. You saved me!

Papageno

Uh... sure! It was no problem. No problem at all...

Narrator 2

When Papageno told him this little, white lie,
Tamino was so grateful he started to cry.

Tamino begins to cry.

Narrator 3

At this precise moment, the ladies returned,
And based on their faces they all felt quite spurned.

The Ladies enter. They are clearly upset.

All Ladies

Papageno! Don't lie to the handsome stranger! It's not good to lie!

Papageno

I didn't lie to him!

All Ladies

You just lied again!

1st Lady

To Tamino We have come to ask you your name, handsome stranger.

Tamino

My name is Tamino.

2nd Lady

Hello, Tamino. Our mistress, the Queen of the Night, is on her way.

3rd Lady

She wants to talk to you about her beautiful daughter!

1st Lady

Here's a picture of her.

She hands Tamino a picture of Pamina.

Tamino

She's so beautiful! I've never seen anyone like her before. I've never *felt* like this before... Is this love? Whatever the Queen wants to tell me, I'm all ears!

All Ladies

Excellent! She'll be here soon!

1st Lady

But to make sure birdbrain here doesn't lie again and doesn't mess this up, we are going to lock his mouth for good measure.

They lock up Papageno's mouth.

3rd Lady

Sisters! Here she is!

All Ladies

She's here!

The Queen of the Night makes a stylish entrance.

Queen

She can't remember Tamino's name Hello, my handsome... Friend! My dear... uh...

All Ladies

Tamino.

Queen

Tamino!

I can tell from your look that you've seen a picture of my daughter. She is so kind, so smart, and so strong willed. She's always been independent and can stand up for herself.

But, she was taken from me! She was stolen by the *evil* Sarastro, the one who banished me to these woods! I can't get her back by myself...

But, you could. You could find my daughter, Pamina, and return her to me! You will be greatly rewarded if you do...

Tamino

I'll do it! I will rescue your daughter, Pamina! This must be why I'm in this story!

Queen

Perfect! My Ladies will help you find her. Farewell, Tamino... Until we meet again...

The Queen of the Night makes a mysterious exit into the clouds.

Tamino

Wow. People come and go so quickly here.

1st Lady

Unfortunately, we can't go with you, but you can count on our good friends the Three Spirits. They will show you the way and guide you on your quest!

2nd Lady

And I give to you two gifts: this Magic Flute for Tamino, and these Silver Bells for Papageno.

The Ladies give Tamino the bells and flute.

3rd Lady

May they help guide you if you lose your way, and may their music help you find your voice when you think its lost.

All Ladies

Goodbye!

Papageno

HMMMMMM!

Tamino

Wait! Can you free my friend? I will need his help on the journey. Can you unlock his mouth?

1st Lady

Fine. As long as he promises to never lie again!

2nd Lady

If you fulfill your role and go on Tamino's quest, you may even get your Papagena!

The Ladies unlock Papageno's mouth.

Papageno

I promise.

Tamino hands Papageno the silver bells.

All Ladies

Remember to watch out for the evil Sarastro, and always follow the advise of the spirits. Goodbye!

Papageno and Tamino

Goodbye!

The Ladies exit.

Narrator 1

And so, the two friends were at last on their way
To save Princess Pamina and win the whole day.

All Narrators

But just as they learned not to lie, not to scheme,
They were about to learn things aren't always quite as they seem.

End of Part 1