

FALL PLAY INFORMATION SHEET

I'm delighted that you want to audition for the fall play! Participating in a play production is not only fun, but also a valuable learning experience. You and your parents should read the following information carefully, so you understand the commitment involved.

WHO CAN AUDITION:

Auditions are open to everyone—6th, 7th, and 8th grade. You do not need to be taking a drama class to participate in the fall play. This year, fall play will consist of two plays—a story theatre style production for the 6th graders, and a fully produced one act play for 7th and 8th graders.

- 6th graders will be cast in **The Borrowers**
- 7th/8th graders will be cast in **Failure: A Love Story**

Not everyone who auditions will be cast in the Fall Play, but we strive to give as many students opportunities as the script and schedule will allow. Students who are not cast in Fall Play are encouraged to audition again in the spring for our large cast musical.

About the shows

The Borrowers— At the base of a grandfather clock, under the floorboards, Arriety Clock and her parents Homily and Pod live a quiet little life. They just borrow whatever they may need, like a safety pin, a pencil, or teacup from the dollhouse that is just the right size for them. Arriety longs to go upstairs, helping her father with the borrowing, but after what happened to her cousin Eggetina (an incident with a cat that no one speaks of) it is forbidden...until one day, when the Boy who lives upstairs, (a human “bean”) sees her father and their worlds collide! Based on the books by Mary Norton.

Failure: A Love Story- A whimsical chorus follows the story of Nelly, Jenny June, and Gerty as they live out their lives above the family clock repair shop in 1928 near the Chicago River, before their time unexpectedly runs out. Actors not only play humans, but animals (dog, snake, parakeets), and inanimate objects (clocks, doorbells, a phonograph). A magical, musical fable where in the end, the power of love is far greater than any individual's successes or failures.

AUDITION PROCESS:

Auditions will take place after school on Sept. 9 and Sept. 10. Sign up for a time slot on the Performing Arts bulletin board outside rm. 50. Your audition will consist of:

- Short Monologue Readings: Choose one of the attached character speeches that appeals to you, and be prepared to perform it at your initial audition. If you feel comfortable memorizing it – great! If you feel more comfortable holding the script in your hand—great! You will not be evaluated on your ability to memorize, but rather your ability to make bold acting choices with your voice and body.
- Drama Games and Improvisations—be prepared to play!
- Call backs- you may be asked to attend one or both of the callback sessions (Sept 18 and Sept 19) to read a specific scene from the play.

Casting at Harker is always conducted fairly. For more info on our Casting and placement policy, go online to resources.harker.org and search “casting”.

COMMITMENT:

Theatre is an ensemble effort, and every actor is expected to show full commitment to the rehearsal process. Although it is possible to work around some of conflicts, to ensure we have a successful show, rehearsals need to be a priority. Please consider your fall schedule carefully before you commit to this production.

- Rehearsals will be held after school until 5:45pm, Tues- Friday. First rehearsal will be Tues. Sept. 24
- Additional rehearsal time may be scheduled during lunch if needed.
- If you are not in the scenes we are staging on a particular day, you will not be required to attend that rehearsal.
- If you are in sports or other afterschool activities, **please list them carefully on your audition form**, so we can plan accordingly. We do our best to arrange the schedule so that students can do both fall play and a sport/other activity, but that will vary depending on the role and schedule.
- There will be no rehearsals on school holidays or trip week.
- **Starting Oct. 29-- Tech Week (a.k.a. the week before the show) all rehearsals are mandatory**, and may run later than 5:45pm on some nights. (Exact schedule will be given out at the first rehearsal.) You should also avoid scheduling anything right before or right after a performance.

PERFORMANCES:

Failure: A Love Story (7th/8th graders) has 3 performances- November 7th and 8th during school, and one public performance in the early evening on November 8th. All performances will be at the Blackford Theater. (for those of you who were in last year's plays, please note that this year's show is a month earlier than last year!)

The Borrowers (6th graders) has one public performance: in the early evening on November 8th, (presented immediately before the 7th /8th grade show that night)

Fill out the attached audition form (be sure to have your parents sign the back!) and bring it with you to your audition. No one will be cast in the show without a signed audition form.

Thank you! Break a leg at your audition, and remember to have fun!

Ms. Champlin—Director & MS Drama Teacher
katiec@harker.org

FALL PLAY AUDITION FORM

Please fill out as much of the requested information below as possible, or circle appropriate choice where applicable.

If you are a 6th grader, or someone who has not done a Middle School Play before, staple a photo here please!

Name _____

Grade: _____ Height: _____

PREVIOUS ROLES/ PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE (at Harker, camp, outside theatre groups, etc) :

SPECIAL SKILLS: (juggling, guitar, gymnastics, ballet, etc, Please indicate level of skill - "4 years tap lessons")

Role Preferences:

As you audition, you should give some thought to the kind of character you'd like to play. Though your preferences will not change our ultimate decision, it is good for us to know what your thoughts are .

Is there a particular character(s) that is of interest to you? (if you don't know, that's ok too!)

Is there anything else you would like to share regarding casting considerations? (ex. "I am busy and would like a smaller role this time" or "I will play a character of any gender" or "I am uncomfortable singing onstage, unless it is with a group" etc)

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES:

If not cast as a performer, would you be interested in possibly working as crew for Fall Play? YES NO


Do you play an instrument? YES NO What instrument(s) _____

Do you play it well enough to perform a simple song onstage? YES NO MAAAAAYBE?

(Neither of these plays are musicals, but the 7th /8th grade play may incorporate some live music, depending on who is cast and their skill sets)

Conflict Calendar— for potential conflicts Sept. 16th- Nov 9th

Please list all after school classes or sports you are involved in off or on campus and indicate what days you are involved. Please also indicate if the conflicts are flexible or can be moved. This information is very important as it will be used to create the rehearsal schedule to minimize conflicts!

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
No Fall Play Rehearsal! 				

Additional Conflicts (one time appointments, family travel, debate trips, etc. List date and time)

Student & Parent signature/ Statement of Commitment

All of the above information is true to the best of my knowledge. I have read the audition packet and I understand that by auditioning, I am declaring a commitment to the rehearsals and performances, no matter what my role may be.

Student signature _____ Date _____

Parent signature _____ Date _____

FALL PLAY 2019 AUDITION MONOLOGUES

6th Graders should choose a piece from *The Borrowers* monologue list, 7th/8th graders should choose one from *Failure: A Love Story*. The gender of the character does not matter-- just choose a piece that you think would be fun to act out. Make strong choices with the way you use your voice and body—be expressive! You do not need to have the speech memorized—I recommend you hold the paper in your hand—but you should practice your acting choices before your audition so it goes smoothly.

The characters listed are not the only roles in the plays. These are lots of other speaking roles!

Failure: A Love Story Monologues

NELLY is the youngest sister, a romantic and vivacious aspiring starlet.

See, I don't want to fall in love with just anybody. I'm not looking for someone, I'm looking for someone in specific. Someone handsome, debonair, sophisticated, a family man. I want a man who sings and who dances and understands flowers. I want a man who smells like soap when he's clean and like a nice day at the beach when he's not. I want a man who once loved—and I do mean with all of his little boy heart—loved a dog. I want a man who speaks his mind, and listens when I speak mine, even though we needn't say a word because we always—the both of us—know exactly what the other is thinking, You know? *(pause)* Also I want to be a movie star like Lillian Gish.

JENNY JUNE is the middlest sister, a spunky, adventurous daredevil.

You know what your problem is, Morty? You're bogged down in the details. I say swim... you say can't. I say live... you say won't. I say love, you say--already did. Now, I've made a decision, and I won't tolerate anything other than absolute support in the matter. Don't you see, Morty? You're killing yourself in here. I miss her too. Like the dickens. But Nelly wouldn't want us to wallow in sorrow. She'd want us to dive back in and push through. *(beat)* Listen, it doesn't mean we ain't sad anymore. It means we ain't dead. Now, put this bathing suit on. No "buts" about it!

GERTY is the oldest sister, sensible and bright, protective and caring.

Let's see if I can nail this down. May I? You don't come from money, but you've never wanted for much, either. You tried your luck with the ponies, card games and crapshoots, but you played clean. You took what you made at the races and bought into the market. You made a small fortune, and you used that to make a big fortune. Now you can't stop investing. You're infected with investments. Everything you ever even *suspected you might* want is already yours. You're a millionaire, you're walking on air, and you're bored. Men like you don't have any respect for time. Especially other peoples. I bet you don't even own a watch. *(He pulls out a pocket watch and dangles it in front of her)* Oh. Well how did I do with the rest of it?

GRANTLAND RICE is an old-time radio sports announcer, crisp and energetic.

It's official, ladies and gentleman. The date for Lady Swimmer, Jenny June Fail's historic attempt to swim Lake Michigan is set! This Saturday at three o'clock in the a.m., Miss Fail's trainer, Mortimer Mortimer, will board a tug boat with a gramophone to help the young lady keep up her pace. Anything can happen in the waters of the world's deadliest lake. Tell me, Miss Fail, are you scared at all? If the lake is rough and foggy on Saturday, will you turn in and go home?

CHORUS is the heart of this play. They must be able to portray many emotional colors and paint a picture with words and actions.

It was a beautiful day in Chicago. The morning sky was powdered blue. The river ran still and soundless. Nary a car nor a pedestrian troubled the street. So nobody noticed the bright green parakeet streak across the sky and perch on the bust of Dr. Ian K. Bonner. The same bust that had been upset—but not dislodged—by the crashing of the brand new DeSoto town car into the Old Chicago Board of Trade some thirteen years back. The same bust that had been slowly loosing itself from the building's façade ever since, and the same bust which, bearing the unexpected weight of the nonindigenous bird, finally lept from its own perch and began its downward plunge into the nearly vacant street below.

MORTIMER MORTIMER is the young suitor to the Fail sisters. He is romantic and full of charm, but occasionally puts his foot in his mouth.

Good afternoon! Nice place you've got here. Mind if I have a look-see? I'm hoping to have this watch engraved- as a gift. Do you do that sort of thing? I'd like it to read, "Will you marry me?". I realize the sentiment might be all the sweeter if I included the young lady's name, but.... You see, I don't have everything. Yet.

That's the trouble, Miss Fail. I don't *know* the girl's name. I don't know what she looks like. I don't know where she lives. In fact, I've never even met her. I know she's out there... I just don't know anything else!

The Borrowers Monologues

HOMILY is the mother of the Borrower family. Although she is anxious regarding safety, she is sensible and reasonable regarding Arrietty's desire to learn the art of borrowing

Listen here, Arrietty. Borrowing's a skilled job, an art like. Of all the families who've been in this house, there's only us left, and do you know why? Because your father, Arrietty. He is the best borrower that's been known in these parts since—well, since before your grandad's time. Do you realize, that your poor father risks his life every time he borrows a potato? You shouldn't speak of borrowing the way you do—you really shouldn't. You don't know... and, thank goodness, you never WILL know (*Homily drops her voice to a fearful whisper*).... what it's like UPSTAIRS!

ARRIETTY is the daughter of the Borrower family. She is curious and adventurous.

(*Sobbing*) Late or early, what's the difference. It doesn't matter when we discuss it. I know Papa is a wonderful borrower, I know we've managed to stay when all the other borrowers have gone... but what has it done for us, in the end? (*Arrietty takes a breath and collects herself*) I don't think it's so clever to live alone, forever and ever, in a great big half-empty house, under the floor, with no one to talk to, no one to play with, nothing to see but dust and passages... Egglestina had half- brothers, Egglestina had a pet mouse, Egglestina had yellow boots with jet buttons and Egglestina did get out—just once!

THE BOY is a ten year old human who befriends Arrietty and her family

Do you believe in fairies? I certainly don't, but... Supposing you saw a little man, about as tall as a pencil, with a blue patch on his trousers, halfway up a window curtain, carrying a doll's cup—would you say it was a fairy? I helped him a bit. With the tea cup. He was shivering all over. I suppose he was frightened. Perhaps he doesn't like heights... I wonder who he was....

POD is the father of the Borrower family, He is skilled, authoritative and resourceful.

That's a thing that has never happened before, never, in the whole history of the Borrowers. Borrowers have been "seen", yes; Borrowers have been caught—maybe. But no human has ever known where any Borrower lived. We're in grave danger, Arrietty, and you've put us there. And that's a fact. I don't want to frighten you, but this is serious. No good ever came to no one from any human bean. Steer clear of them—that's what I've always been told. No matter what they promise you. *(Sighs)* There's nothing we can do tonight. That's certain. But have a bit of supper and a good night's rest.

NARRATORS need to be very expressive in this show, matching the emotion of the characters in each moment of the story. They don't just tell the story, they live it!

The steps were high and a little uneven but Arrietty climbed them more lightly than Pod. As she scrambled past the jagged edges of the hole, she had a sudden blinding glimpse of molten gold—it was spring sunshine on the pale stones of the hall floor! Far above her head she saw the great cave-like case above her, and the dim outline of the gleaming pendulum – it was The Clock! She could see it at last—Their clock, after which their family was named. Arrietty felt warm tears behind her eyelids and a sudden swelling of pride. Pod turned to her and breathed, "Wait! And watch!" and in a flash, he was gone.