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BIG DOG PUBLISHING

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Big Dog Publishing

P.O. Box 1400

Tallevast, FL 34270

*This play is dedicated to Linda Kelly's dad
for teaching her the virtue of patience.*

Also, a special thank you to TCC.

New Socks for the Barefoot Family

CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY. Based on a true story, this heart-warming play brings forth the true meaning of the holiday season. It's a new school year at Monkey Shines Elementary School, and Mrs. Kelly's students are working hard to raise enough money before their holiday break to buy the Barefoot family socks to keep their feet warm. When Christmas Eve arrives, the Barefoot family rejoices when they open their new socks, and Mrs. Kelly's students receive the best gift of all—the gift of giving. This play is perfect for elementary school performers.

Performance Time: Approximately 30 minutes.

Characters

(1 M, 3 F, 15 flexible)

MRS. KELLY: Grade school teacher.

KID 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10: Mrs. Kelly's students.

MRS. BAREFOOT: Artist; carries a paint palette and brushes and wears a smock with a large pocket.

MR. BAREFOOT: Inventor; wears a lab coat, pants, and glasses.

SAM/SAMANTHA: Eldest Barefoot child; loves to play soccer; flexible.

TAYLOR BAREFOOT: Loves to tell jokes and make people laugh; flexible.

TERRI BAREFOOT: Energetic, likes to run and jump rope; flexible.

EMMA BAREFOOT: Youngest, likes to sing and dance.

EMPLOYEE 1: Cashier at the Super Sock Store; flexible.

EMPLOYEE 2: Sales clerk at the Super Sock Store; flexible.

NOTE: For flexible roles, change pronouns in the script accordingly.

Set

Mrs. Kelly's classroom. There is a chair for the teacher SR. A hand bell and a table for the penny jars are next to the teacher's chair. There are other small tables and chairs. Children's drawings and/or a calendar hang on the background flats. There is a black background SL.

Synopsis of Scenes

Scene 1: Mrs. Kelly's classroom.

Scene 2: Mrs. Kelly's classroom.

Scene 3: Barefoot family home.

Scene 4: Mrs. Kelly's classroom.

Scene 5: Super Sock Store.

Scene 6: Barefoot family home, Christmas Eve.

Scene 7: Mrs. Kelly's classroom, first day back after the holiday break.

Props

11 Plastic penny jars, labeled with each child's name	Penny counting chart with children's names and penny totals
Pennies	Cart with cash register on it
Small table	Cart full of socks
Hand bell	Large purse
Paint brush	Pair of soccer socks or socks with soccer balls, for Sam
Paint palette	Pair of silly socks, for Taylor
Small electronic gadgets	Pair of pretty dancing socks, for Emma
Soccer ball	Pair of athletic socks, for Terri
Jump rope	Pair of socks, for Mrs. Barefoot
3 Book bags	Pair of men's socks, for Mr. Barefoot
3 Coin purses	Pair of holiday socks, for Mrs. Kelly
Sewing basket	Bag for presents
Needle and thread	2 Tins of cookies
Pair of socks with holes in the toes, for Taylor	Thank-you note
Pair of socks with holes all over them, for Terri	
Pair of socks with holes on the bottom, for Sam	
Pair of socks with holes in the soles, for Emma	

Sound Effects

Electronic device

"We should always remember
to count our blessings
and not the holes
in our socks."

—Mr. Barefoot

Scene 1

(AT RISE: Mrs. Kelly's classroom. Ten penny jars sit on a table next to Mrs. Kelly's chair SR. They are labeled with the children's names but the labels are facing away from the audience. Mrs. Kelly enters SR, ringing a hand bell in one hand and holding a penny in her other hand. Kids 1-10 enter SL, crossing the stage one by one in numerical order, and sit beside Mrs. Kelly's chair. Note: The Kids sit at an angle so the audience can see their faces. Once all the children are seated, Mrs. Kelly sets her hand bell down on the table and sits down in her chair. Mrs. Kelly and the Kids begin to sing "Criss, Cross Applesauce, Criss Cross Applesauce, that's how we sit in Mrs. Kelly's class." By the time the song ends, the Kids are sitting with their legs crossed and their hands in their laps, ready to listen to Mrs. Kelly.)

MRS. KELLY: Good morning, class!

KIDS: Good morning, Mrs. Kelly.

MRS. KELLY: Can anyone tell me our color of the month?

KIDS: Blue.

MRS. KELLY: That's right. What is our shape of the month?

KIDS: Circle.

MRS. KELLY: Good.

KID 1: That's why you are wearing your blue socks with circles.

MRS. KELLY: That's right. Mrs. Kelly's silly socks of the day are blue for our color of the month, with circles for our shape of the month.

KID 2: I love Mrs. Kelly's silly socks. They make me laugh.

KID 3: I can't wait to see the silly socks she wears tomorrow.

MRS. KELLY: Today, friends, I have something special to show you. I am holding it in my hand. It is small but it can do big things. Can you guess what it is?

KID 4: Is it a train?

KID 5: Is it a ball?

KID 6: It's a princess crown. I am positive it is!

MRS. KELLY: No, it's not any of those things. Listen carefully, and I will give you five clues to help you guess. It is small, round, and brown. Sometimes it is shiny. You can buy things with it.

KIDS 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10: A penny!

KIDS 5, 9: Money!

MRS. KELLY: That's right! *(She opens her hand and holds up a bright new penny.)* A penny is the smallest amount of money. It may be the smallest, but it can do big things. What can you do with a penny?

KID 2: I put my pennies in my piggy bank.

KID 7: I can buy lots and lots and lots of toys with my penny!

MRS. KELLY: That is very good, class. We can save our money or we can spend it. But how do we get money?

KID 8: My grandma gives me money.

KID 3: The tooth fairy gives my brother money.

KID 4: I get money for helping my mommy.

MRS. KELLY: I am so happy to hear you say that, [Insert name]. That is a great way to earn money! Can anyone think of ways you could help your family and earn money?

KID 1: I can set the table for dinner.

KID 10: I help my daddy feed our dogs.

(Kids begin talking at once about all the ways they can earn a penny. Mrs. Kelly lets them exchange ideas for a moment, and then she raises her hand to quiet them.)

MRS. KELLY: Well, since we will be working so hard at home earning lots of pennies, we will need a place to keep them.

(Mrs. Kelly turns to the jars on the table next to her. She turns one jar around to show the label with the name of Kid 8.)

KID 8: *(Pointing to the jar.)* Hey, that's my name.

MRS. KELLY: That's right. There is a jar here for each of you with your name on it. *(She turns the other jars around to show*

the names.) Every day when you come to school, you may put your penny in the jar with your name on it. Every day we will have a special time to count our pennies. We will save and count our pennies until the winter holiday break. We can be thinking of what we should do with our pennies until then.

KID 7: I want to buy lots and lots and lots of toys!

KID 6: I want to buy a new pink princess crown. I am positive that's what I want!

(The Kids adlib what items they would like to buy with their pennies, and then Mrs. Kelly raises her hand to quiet them.)

MRS. KELLY: Those sound like nice ideas. We could use our money to buy something for ourselves. But before you decide, let me tell you about a family that lives in my neighborhood. There is a family that lives down the street from my house...the Barefoot family. There is Mrs. Barefoot who is an artist. *(Mrs. Barefoot enters SL, carrying a paint palette and brushes. She paints as she goes CS. She wearing a smock with large pockets full of socks. Note: All members of the Barefoot family are barefoot.)* And Mr. Barefoot is an inventor. *(Mr. Barefoot enters SL, carrying several gadgets and stands next to Mrs. Barefoot CS. He is wearing a lab coat and pants.)* The oldest Barefoot child is named Sam. He loves to play soccer. *(Sam enters, carrying a soccer ball and joins his parents CS.)* Sam's sister, Taylor, is silly! She is always making people laugh.

(Taylor enters SR and joins the family CS.)

TAYLOR: Hey, Sam!

SAM: Hey, Taylor.

TAYLOR: Why was Cinderella kicked off the soccer team?

SAM: I don't know. Why was Cinderella kicked off the soccer team?

TAYLOR: She was always running away from the ball.

SAM: Good one, Taylor!

MRS. KELLY: Next, there is Terri. Terri has lots of energy and is always running and jumping. (*Terri enters SL, jumping rope and joins the family CS.*) Emma is their little sister and she likes to sing and dance. (*Emma enters SL and sings and dances her way to CS.*) The Barefoot family is so busy working, playing, and growing that their socks quickly wear out. Mrs. Barefoot is always mending socks for her family. (*From her smock pocket, Mrs. Barefoot takes out several socks with holes in them and holds them up.*) She has mended them so many times that she is worried that she can no longer mend them.

MRS. BAREFOOT: I'm sorry, everyone. I know you all wanted your clean socks to wear today, but I am afraid that these socks are just too old and worn out. I am not sure that I can mend them anymore. I will do my best, and you can wear them as they are if you'd like. We will have to make do with these worn-out socks until your dad's next great invention sells. There isn't any money for new socks.

MR. BAREFOOT: Are you telling us, that we, the Barefoot family, really are barefoot?

MRS. BAREFOOT: Yes, I am afraid that's right, for now.

SAM: But I can't play soccer without soccer socks!

TAYLOR: I won't be so funny without my silly socks.

TERRI: I cannot run very fast or jump very high without my non-skid socks!

EMMA: I cannot slip-and-slide dance without my dancing socks.

MR. BAREFOOT: Now wait a minute, kids. We should always remember to count our blessings and not the holes in our socks!

MRS. BAREFOOT: Listen to Daddy, children. Besides, your socks have nothing to do with your talents. You will all be successful in whatever you love to do...with or without socks. In the meantime, we will manage, and I will try to

mend these socks. (*She holds up the socks with holes.*) Let me go and get the sewing basket.

(*Mrs. Barefoot exits SR and the family follows.*)

Scene 2

KID 1: That is a very sad story, Mrs. Kelly.

KID 3: I don't know what I would do without my dinosaur socks!

KID 6: My dancing socks don't have holes in them. Emma can have mine. I am positive they don't have holes in them.

KID 7: I have lots of soccer socks. Sam can have some of mine!

MRS. KELLY: I am proud of you all for wanting to share your socks, but I think your socks might be too small for the Barefoot family.

KID 10: We could buy socks for them!

MRS. KELLY: Where would we get money to buy socks?

KID 8: We could use our pennies!

(The Kids adlib their excitement about using their pennies to buy socks.)

MRS. KELLY: I think that is a great idea. Next week we will start collecting pennies. I will be sending a letter home in your book bags tomorrow explaining our class project to your parents. Now it is time for recess. *(Kids exit SL. Mrs. Kelly exits SR but then re-enters and stands by the table with the penny jars. She then crosses to DSC. To audience.)* The next week, and every day until the winter holidays, the children helped at home to earn pennies. The children brought pennies to school almost every day. *(Kid 10, Kid 1 and Kid 8 enter SL. They stand in front of Mrs. Kelly and the table of jars.)* Some of the children brought pennies in their pockets. Good morning, children. Did you earn a penny for today? *(Kid 10, Kid 1, and Kid 8 reach into their pockets and present a penny.)* Great, find your penny jar and put them in and then have a seat for circle time. *(The Kids sit down SL of Mrs. Kelly's chair. To audience.)* Other children brought them in their book bags. *(Kid 2, Kid 7, and Kid 3 enter SL, carrying book bags. They*

cross to the table with jars. To the Kids.) Good morning, children, did you earn a penny for today? (Kids nod.) Put them in your jars and go join the others. (Kid 2, Kid 7, and Kid 3 take pennies from their book bags, put them in their jars, and then go and sit with the others. To audience.) Sometimes a child would bring a penny in a special coin purse. (Kid 6, Kid 5, and Kid 9 enter SL, carrying different coin purses.) Good morning, children, did you earn a penny for today? (Kids nod.) Put them in your jars and go join the others. (Kids put the pennies in their jars and then sit down with the others. To audience.) Once, [Insert name of Kid 4] brought her penny in her shoe!

(Kid 4 enters SL and crosses to Mrs. Kelly.)

KID 4: I earned a penny for today, Mrs. Kelly.

(Kid 4 walks over to Mrs. Kelly and takes a penny out of her shoe and puts it in her jar. Kid 4 sits down with the others. Mrs. Kelly crosses to her chair.)

MRS. KELLY: *(To Kids.)* You all have gotten very good at counting. We have collected a lot of pennies. Later today, we will be counting our pennies.

KID 4: One thousand pennies so far!

MRS. KELLY: That's right, and today that number will be even higher. Tomorrow will be the last day to bring a penny. You have earned and saved them for a long time. We will count them one last time before we go to the Super Sock Store to buy socks for the Barefoot family. You have all done a great job. I am very proud of you! See you all in the morning. *(Everyone exits SL. Blackout.)*

[END OF FREEVIEW]