The Ark

BASED ON THE NOVEL BY
RODDY DOYLE
WRITTEN & COMPOSED BY

Relaxed Pack created by Sara Gannon

with production photography by Ros Kavanagh

Welcome!



The Ark is so excited to welcome you for the relaxed performance of The Giggler Treatment!

A relaxed performance is just how it sounds: it is a more chilled out way to experience the show.

The lights in the theatre will be a little brighter, the sound will be a little lower, and you will be able to come in and out of the theatre as you need.

We have put together some information that you might find useful during your visit to The Ark.

You will see and experience many new and interesting things while you are here. We have put together some pictures to help you understand where you are going and what you will see, as well as a brief synopsis of the play so you know what to expect during the performance.

If you have any questions that are not answered by this pack, please feel free to contact our friendly Box Office team at boxoffice@ark.ie.

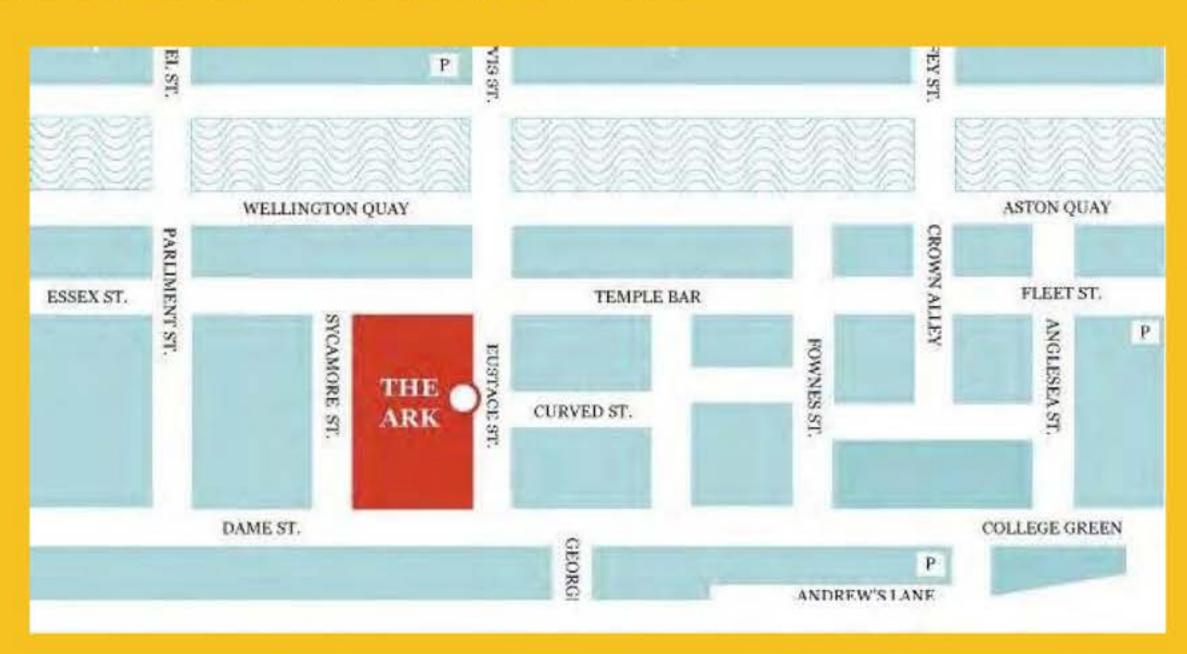
We hope you enjoy The Giggler Treatment!

Directions

The Ark is on 11a Eustace Street, in Temple Bar. The entrance to the building is fully accessible and has step free access. Please note that Eustace St. is a cobbled street.

There is a lift inside that can take you to each level of the building. Accessible toilets and baby changing facilities are available on the ground floor.

If you have any access requirements, please let us know at boxoffice@ark.ie and we will do our best to help.







This building is called The Ark. You will come here to see the show.

The Main Door

You will go through here to get inside.





Box Office

This is where we collect our tickets. Our friendly Visitor Services Team will give you your tickets and tell you where to go.

The Basement

This is where we wait for the show.

Other children will be waiting here also.





Toilets

We can find toilets in the basement through the red doors.

The girls' toilets are on the left.



The boys' toilets are on the right.



You can use whatever toilet you feel most comfortable in.

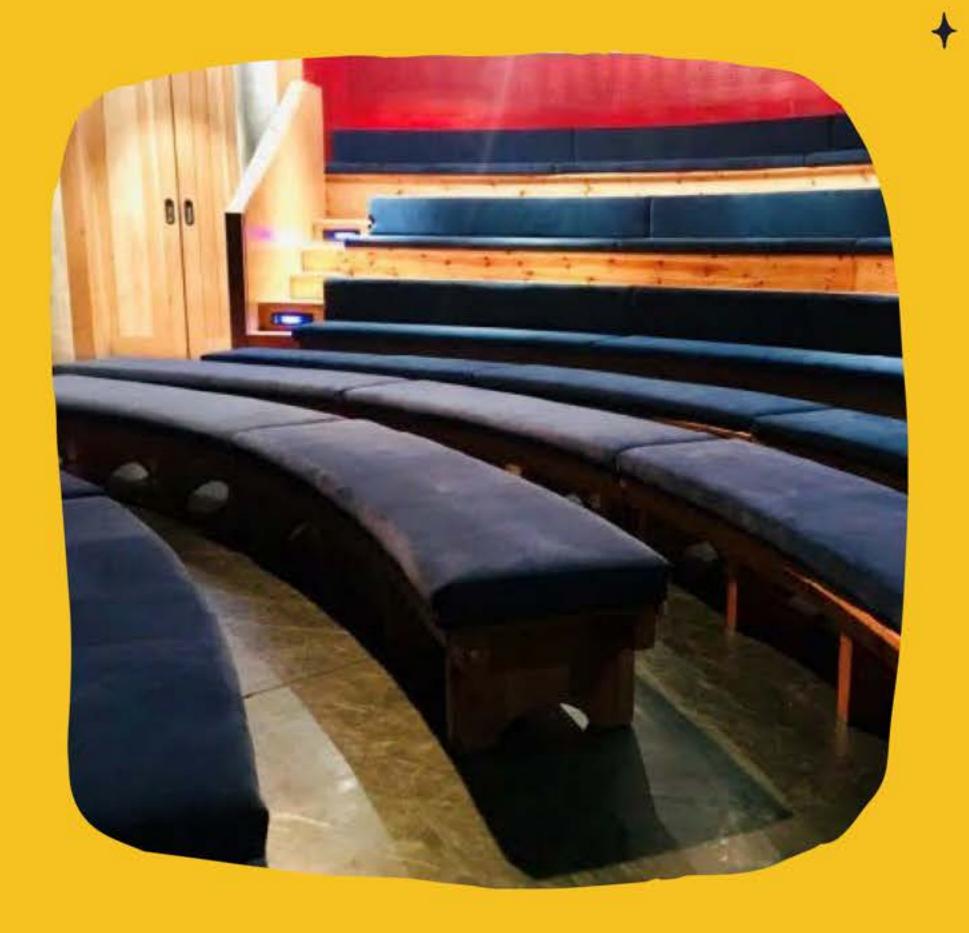
When we are in the theatre there is a toilet nearby.



The Door to the Theatre

We go through this door when it is time for the event.





Where will you sit?

We all sit on the benches in the theatre.

If you want a break at any time, we can go back to the relaxation space in the basement.



About the Show

- The Giggler Treatment is 50 mins long.
- There are five performers. They act and sing in the show.
- There is no right or wrong way to watch the show we want you to have a good time! If you want to make a noise, or have a wriggle in your seat, that is okay.
- If you need to take a break from the theatre at any point, you can step out and come back in when you are ready.
- You will know The Ark's Front of House staff by their blue jumpers. If you need to leave the theatre during the performance, they can help you. If you have any questions or worries about the show, they are friendly faces to talk to!





Sometimes there will be background music and sound effects.

Some of the sounds you will hear will be intense and loud. We will let you know when these sounds are about to happen.

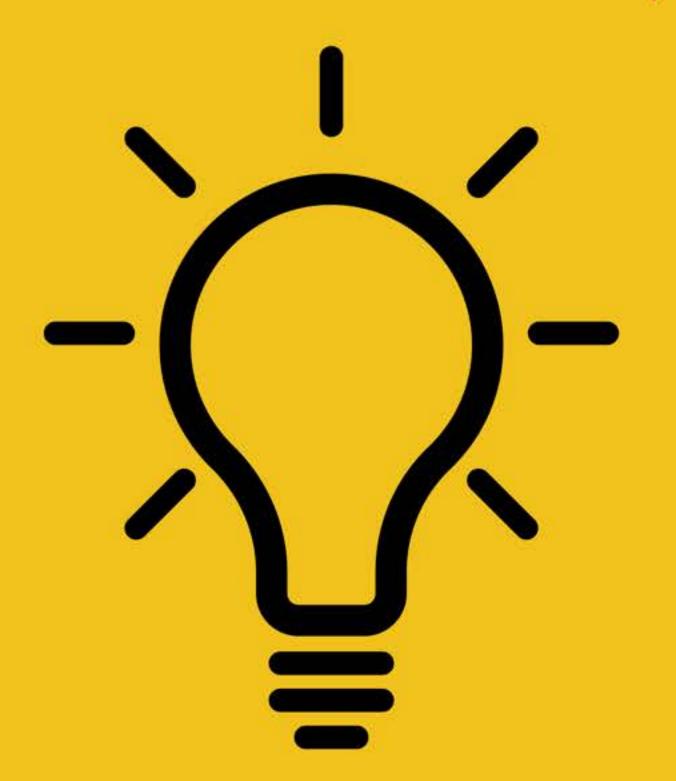
If you have headphones that you like to wear in noisy spaces, you can bring them.

We will provide ear plugs if you would like to use them instead.



+

The lights in the theatre will dim during the performance so it will be a little bit darker but you will always be able to see your way out.





The Cast



This is Leo. Leo plays
Storyteller 1, The Biggest
Giggler, Rover, and The
Seagull.



This is Shauna. Shauna plays Storyteller 4, and Jimmy Mack.



This is Leah. Leah plays
Storyteller 5, The Middle Sized
Giggler, Billie Jean Fleetwood
Mack, and Rover's Owner.

The Cast



This is Michael. Michael plays Storyteller 3, and Mr Mack.



This is Anne. Anne plays
Storyteller 2, The Small
Giggler, Robbie Mack, and An
Incredibly Old Woman.



Sounds



During the show, you will hear lots of music and sounds. Some of these sounds are sudden or a bit loud.

- Leo plays The Seagull. He makes a loud squawking sound when he is The Seagull. This only happens three times.
- Sometimes the cast will interrupt the story. When this happens, we hear the sound of a record scratch. We hear this when:
 - Leah puts her foot down after The Snail of Bombay (near the beginning).
- After Leo says "The birds in the trees were singing their favourite songs", while Mr Mack is walking to work.
 - After Michael says "They waited" when The Gigglers are on the wall.
 - After Rover's song, you will hear a feedback (or high pitched sound) when Anne says "Chapter Fridge" and again when she says "it keeps my food fresh, <u>obviously</u>"
 - There is a skidding sound when Rover arrives at the mountain.





In Chapter Two Million and Seven, once the cast are on their adventure with Rover, the theatre will get darker and they will shine their torches into the audience.

This only lasts for a moment. They will then point them up at their faces.

Lights



There are a few points in the show where the lights in the theatre are quiet dim.



Towards the end of the show, the cast point their torches at Mr. Mack and shake them a little so the light coming out of the torches seems to wobble. This only lasts a minute or so and only happens once.

Other









The Story of The Of The Giggler Treatment

The following pages contain a more detailed synopsis of the play. If you do not wish to know what happens in the play, stop reading now.



When you enter the auditorium, this is what the set on stage will look like. There are three sets of wooden steps at the back of the stage. We call these "the piles". The performers will stand the middle pile up during the performance, so it becomes a wall.

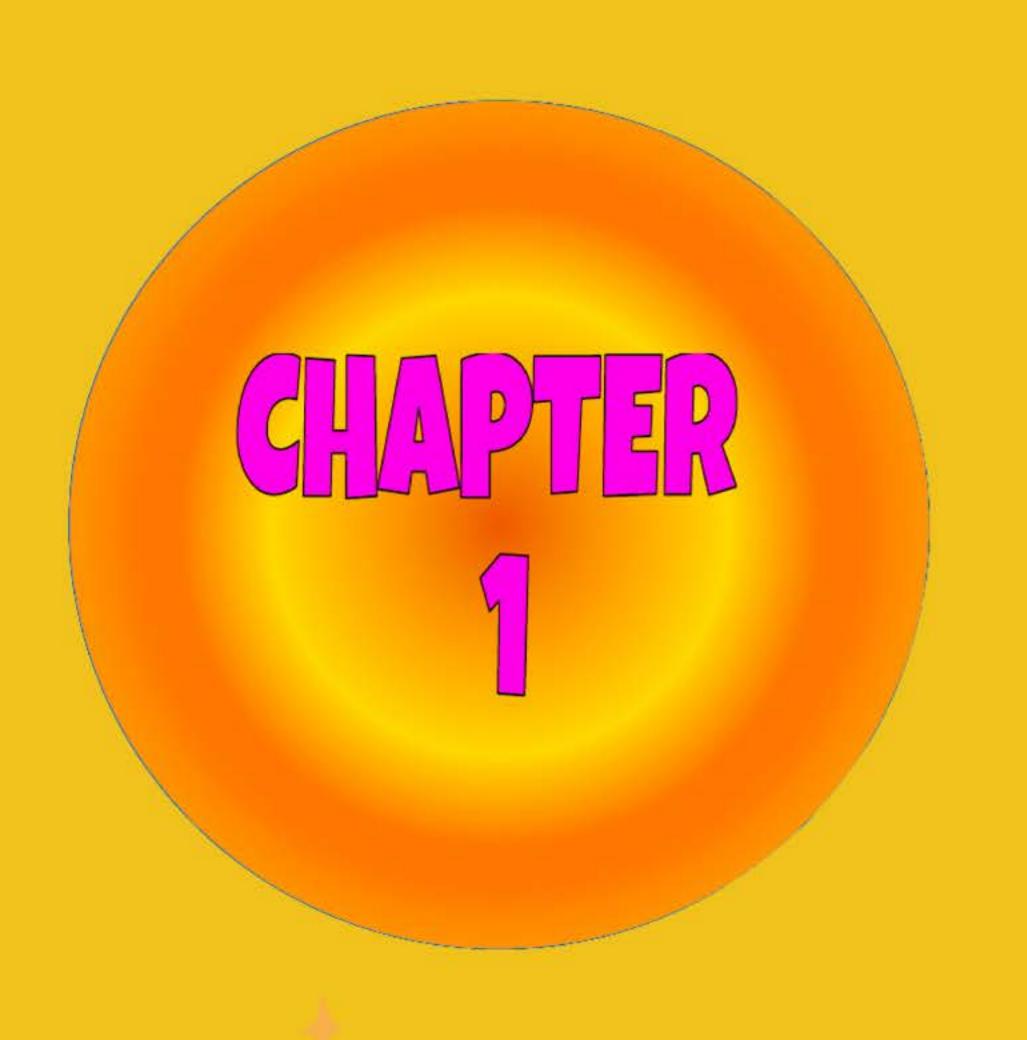
The back of the stage looks like a sunburst made of lots of



different kinds of wood. In the middle of the sunburst is a screen. Different images will come up on the screen throughout the show. At the beginning of the show, it will say "The Giggler Treatment."

The cast enter from both sides of the theatre, carrying props from the show. They will say hello to you as they arrive in the space. They hang up their props and all gather around the suitcase. Leo opens it and they all cheer as the lights change and music starts. Leo passes out books to the rest of the cast and they dance and sing with their books. They begin to announce the story - The Giggler Treatment - but wait, Anne has the wrong book! She starts telling the story of The Snail of Bombay! All of the others are surprised, and a little embarrassed. They try to catch her attention, to tell her that the story is wrong, but she doesn't notice. She pulls Leah up to play the part of The Woman in the story. She raises Leah's foot up. At this point, there is a sound of a record scratch and the lights change as Leah tells Anne that she's telling the wrong story. Leo apologises to the audience about the mistake, and they reset. They announce The Giggler Treatment by Roddy Doyle.



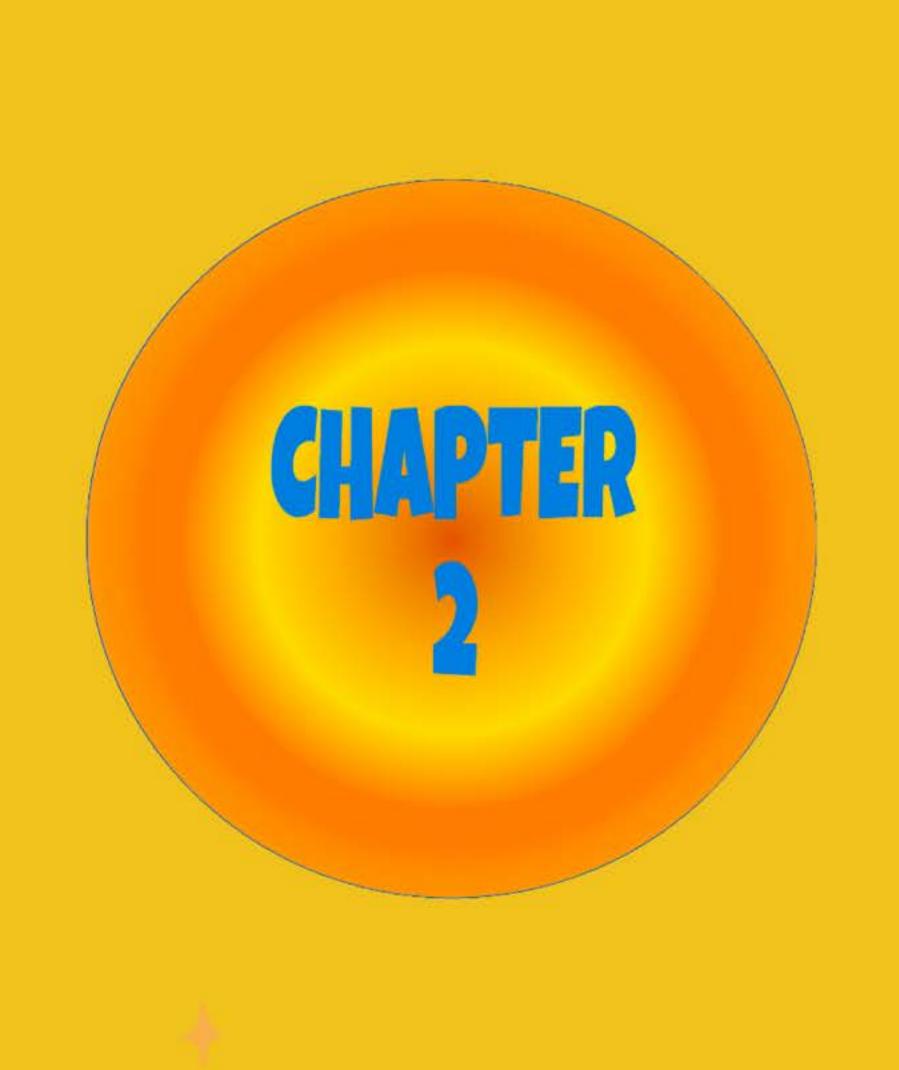




They all hand their books to Anne who places them on a shelf on the set while Leo turns Michael into Mr. Mack. We know when Michael is playing Mr. Mack because he wears a bowler hat. Mr. Mack is on his way to work. He works as a biscuit tester in a biscuit factory. He loves his job. Today is the best day of the year because today is the day he gets to test his favourite biscuit in the world!

The lights change and music starts. Mr. Mack sings about all the biscuits he tastes while the rest of the cast present him with platters stacked high with all of his favourites. They dance around him as he describes his number one biscuit - the Fig Roll!

At the end of this song, Mr. Mack is distracted by a seagull which means that he doesn't notice that, on the path ahead of him, is a giant pile of dog poo!

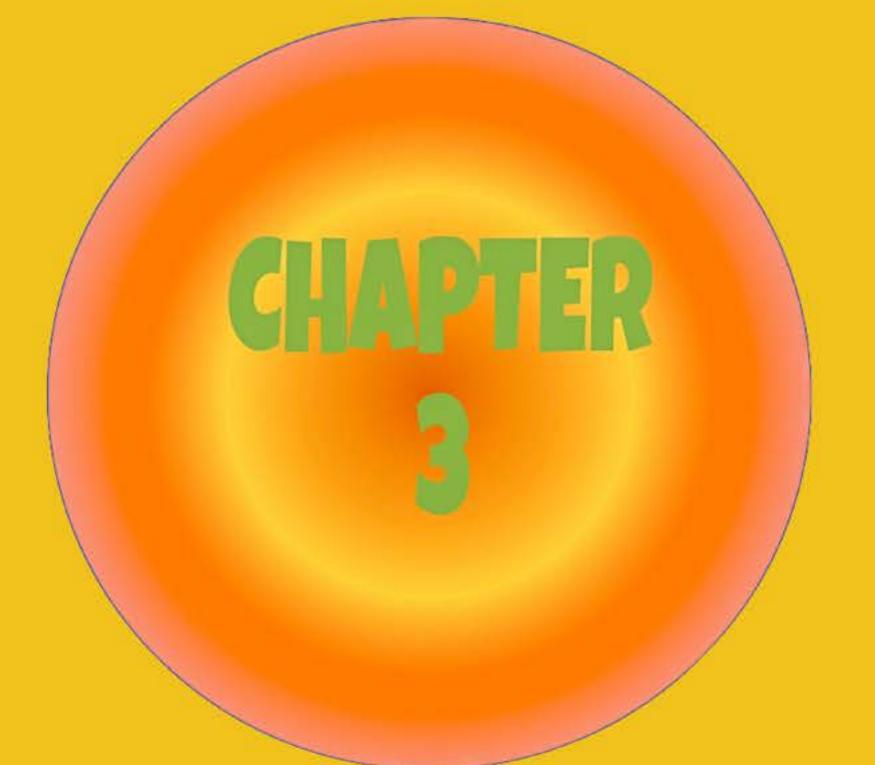




The lights change and music begins. The gang march into place and sing to us about the danger that lies ahead of Mr. Mack. Anne interrupts – surely, everyone steps in dog poo from time to time? This is different, Shauna explains, this is The Biggest Pile of Poo in the Whole Wide World. Each time they mention poo, the lights change and the gang sings.

When the song is over, Leo tells us that this story isn't actually about dogs, or poo (or biscuits), it is about the creatures that put it there...





Music plays as Leo, Anne, and Leah lift up the middle pile to a standing position and then disappear behind it.

As Mr. Mack walked along the path towards the station, he thought he heard giggles – and he was right! Behind the garden wall were three Gigglers: a Big Giggler, a Medium Sized Giggler, and a Small Giggler. The Big Giggler has a pair of binoculars and keeps an eye on Mr. Mack as he nears the poo. The Small Giggler jumps up and down to try and see over the wall. She doesn't want to miss seeing The Splat!

There is a sound of a record scratch and Anne pops up from behind the pile.

Who are these Gigglers, she asks?



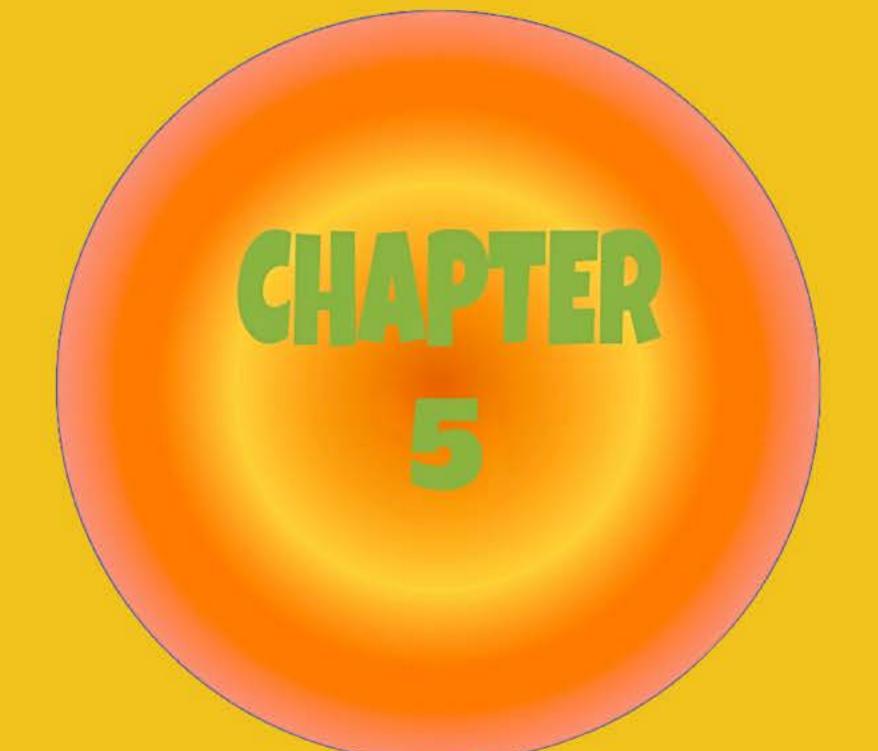
Music starts and Shauna sings to us about The Gigglers. They are excellent at disguising themselves while they carry out their duty - looking after children!

If a grown up treats a child in a way that isn't fair, then the Gigglers set them up to get poo on their shoe. The gang recall classic Giggler moments throughout history, while dancing with their Gigglers.

At the end of the song, they lose track of the Chapters and we go to...







It is the day before Mr. Mack's foot headed straight for the poo. His sons, Jimmy and Robbie, are playing football in their back garden. The ball is on a stick, operated by Leah. Robbie kicks the ball, which bounces around as we hear the sounds of a crash of bins, a bicycle bell, a car alarm, a horse whinny, and finally, a window smash. The ball may pass over your head during this sequence but, don't worry, it won't hit you! From off stage, we hear Mr. Mack shout. He is annoyed at Jimmy and Robbie for breaking the window. This is the eighth time they have broken the window. He tells them off and then sends them up to their rooms without dinner. What he didn't realise was that The Gigglers had been watching! They didn't think that it was fair that the boys went to bed without dinner, so they decided to set Mr. Mack up for The Treatment. Unfortunately, The Gigglers didn't have the full story. Mr. Mack had a very hard day at work. He had to test his least favourite biscuits in the world - cream crackers! He knew that, once he finished work, he would be able to think of nothing but boring old cream crackers saying the most boring things ever.

Music begins and Anne, Leo, Leah, and Shauna hold up giant cream crackers as they sing very boring facts.

Anne explains that the boys breaking the window was the last straw for Mr. Mack. A few moments after Mr. Mack sent the children upstairs, his wife, Billie-Jean Fleetwood Mack, and his daughter Kayla came into the kitchen. Kayla is played by a teddy bear. Billie Jean tells him that he can't send the boys to bed without dinner. Mr. Mack feels bad, he knows he lost his temper. He is going to call the boys down to have their dinner. He is actually a very good dad.



However, it was too late - The Gigglers were already gone! They were on their way to find a particularly pungent piece of poo in Chapter...



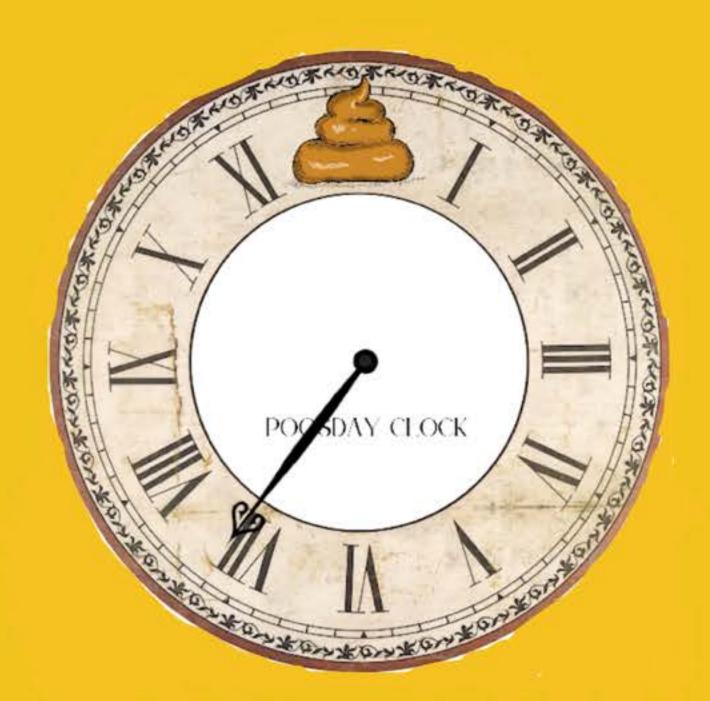
GHAP TO BEFORE THE NEXT ONE!

We meet Rover, an old border collie who lives beside the Macks. He hates being taken outside to do his business.

As the lights change, Anne brings out a microphone for Rover's song. He stands in a spotlight on one of the piles as he sings. After the first part of his song, Shauna and Anne reveal The Gigglers hiding, waiting to retrieve Rover's poo for The Treatment.

Rover takes his mic to centre stage as the gang set up their own to accompany him in the second part of his song.

After Rover's song, Leah tries to resume the story – but she has forgotten which chapter she is on! Anne jumps in with "Chapter Fridge"! When she leans into the microphone there will be a high pitched sound, like feedback. This happens again when she leans back in to say "Obviously" a moment later. The noise is brief and only happens these two times.



The march-like music from earlier returns, and the gang sing to us about how close Mr. Mack is to the poo now.

The Gigglers reappear from behind the wall. The Small Giggler is getting more frustrated that she can't see, so decides to go and find something to stand on. As the Small Giggler leaves, a clock appears on the screen at the back of stage – it is a countdown to the Apoocalypse!

Leo and Michael look at it for a moment, before setting up for the next scene. We are back in the Macks' garden. Jimmy and Robbie are playing football outside before school. This time, Michael operates the ball on the stick. As Robbie goes to kick the ball, he hears giggling. He thinks it is Jimmy trying to throw him off, but they soon hear another voice in the garden - a Giggler! The voice of the Giggler will come from different places around the room. Jimmy and Robbie think it's a ghost at first, but The Giggler sings them a song explaining who they are and what they are planning for Mr. Mack. At the end of the song, the Giggler tries to leave with the purple drum before realising that Jimmy and Robbie can see them. The Mack children explain that Mr. Mack is actually a very good dad, and that the Gigglers had made a mistake. They need to save Mr. Mack from The Treatment!





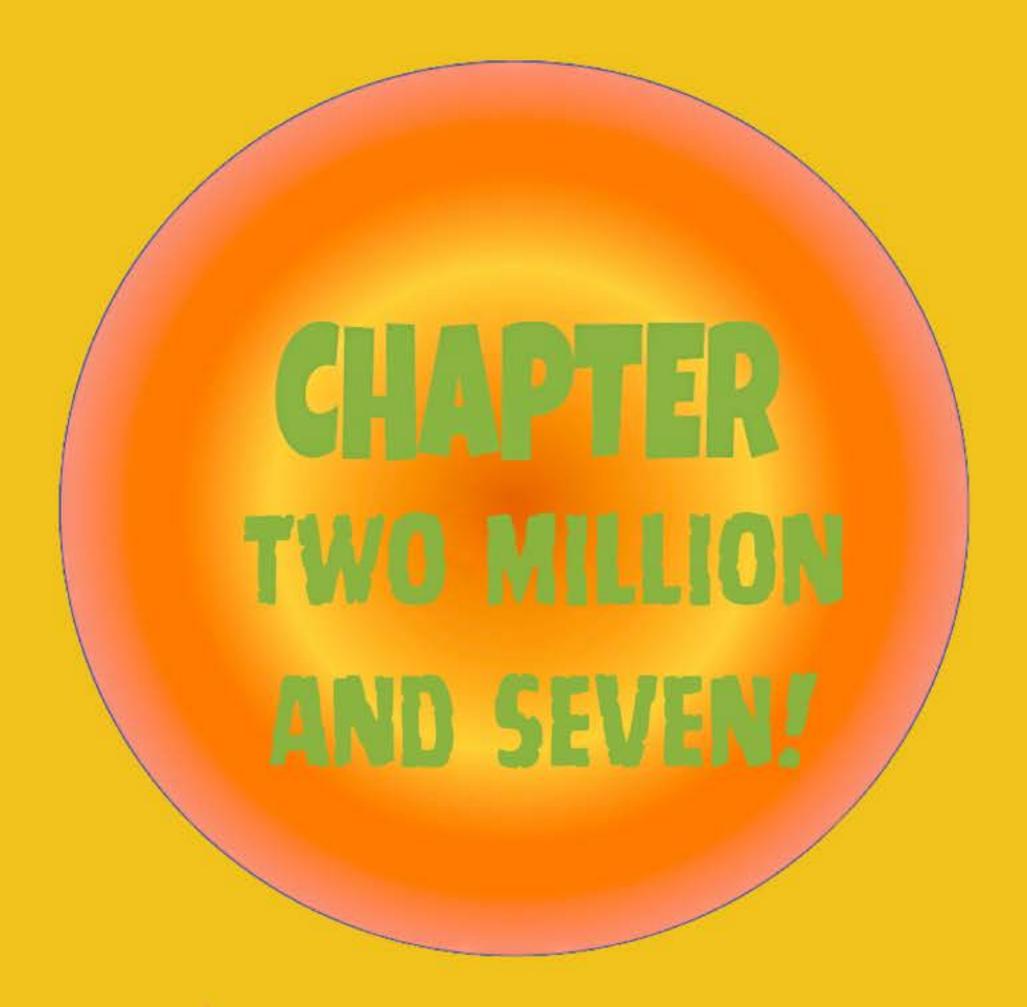




The Smallest Giggler calls for Rover next door. He is annoyed at being interrupted – he was in the middle of a crossword. The Giggler explains that they need his help to save Mr. Mack from stepping in Rover's poo. Rover is horrified – Mr Mack has always been so good to him!

Billie Jean Fleetwood Mack comes into the garden, demanding to know what all the noise is about. The Giggler explains the situation to Mrs. Mack. Thankfully, Rover knows a shortcut that will take them to Mr. Mack. The gang set off, but they are fast running out of time in chapter...







The march-like music from earlier returns as the gang updates us on Mr. Mack's proximity to the poo. He is very, very, very close to stepping in the poo.

After the song, The Big Giggler and The Medium Sized Giggler appear from behind the wall. They are keeping a close eye on Mr Mack's progress towards the poo. As they are talking, they are interrupted by a nervous seagull.

The Medium Sized Giggler realises that the Small Giggler is missing just as the Apoocalypse Clock reappears on the screen behind them. The cast turn to look at the clock as it ticks ever closer to the poo...



We rejoin Rover, The Macks, and The Small Giggler on their journey to save Mr. Mack. Rover's shortcut takes them through rivers, fields, over walls- the gang started to wonder: where is Rover taking them?

We hear bluegrass music and they begin to sing about the places Rover is taking them through.

The song finishes but music continues in the background as the gang pass the Eiffel tower!

They ran and ran until they came to the bottom of a huge mountain - but there was a problem. Rover is scared of heights!

Luckily for him, Billie Jean is an accomplished mountaineer and leads the gang (through song) over the mountain. The lights change a lot during this song. The song will be over once Billie Jean has helped everyone over the mountain.

The gang gather on the pile at the left of the stage. We hear the sound of a train as they turn around, shining torches. At first they point them into the audience, but then turn them to point at their faces. The lights in the theatre become dark as we see an image of a shoe heading for poo!

The lights brighten as the gang go back to describing their journey with Rover. The lights and sound switch back and forth between these two states several times until Rover shouts "Careful, watch the pensioner!". Anne becomes an Incredibly Old Woman crossing the road as the gang looks on. She is very slow.



She climbs onto the pile in the centre of the room. We switch back to Apoocalypse for a moment. When we return to the Incredibly Old Woman, she realises she forgot her fig rolls and turns back. The gang sing one more verse about their adventures with Rover before returning to the final Apoocalypse.

Mr. Mack steps up onto the pile, his foot frozen in the air. His family, the Giggler, and Rover surround him. They use their torches to shine a light on his foot. Rover calls

out "Mind the poo!"

There is a horrible squelching sound.
They were too late. Mr. Mack
stepped in the poo. It is the end of
the story.

Anne is shocked. It can't be over!



Sadly, everyone but Anne packs up. She tries to stop them, but Leo is insistent. The story is over, and that is that. He picks up the suitcase and grabs Kayla, gesturing to the rest to follow. One by one they follow – until Shauna stops. She has an idea. She steps back up onto the pile and tells us that Mr. Mack's shoe is a mouse's eyelash away from the poo. Leo is confused. This isn't the story. One by one, the gang start retelling the events that lead to Mr. Mack stepping in the poo until they convince Leo to change the ending.

They rewind to the moment before Mr. Mack steps in the poo. This time, he hears Rover say "Mind the poo!". They are all so relieved that he is safe that the Macks run over to hug him. He is happy to see them, though confused. How did they know about the poo? Before they can answer, Mr. Mack hears his train approach and he heads off to work.

The Macks and Rover look around to thank the Giggler, but they're already gone!

Kayla reminds Billie Jean that they are going to be late for school! Thankfully, Rover knows a shortcut.

The gang cheer as they begin the reprise of The Giggler Treatment song. They will clap along as they sing. You can join in, if you like.

Before they finish singing, they cut back to the three Gigglers sitting on the wall. The Big Giggler is relieved – The Small Giggler saved them from disaster! From now on, The Small Giggler will be their lookout. They give The Small Giggler the binoculars. The Small Giggler is thrilled! As they look through the binoculars, they turn purple!

A seagull interrupts for the final time. There's a woman in a nearby house who won't let her children watch television until they eat their broccoli! The gang jump to attention and the song resumes.

At the end of the song, the lights cut to black. If you look up to the sky, you will see a special surprise!

When the show finishes, there will be clapping. People clap at the end of a play to show the performers that we enjoyed the play. You can join in if you want to.

After the clapping, we can leave the theatre and go back to school or go home.



We hope you enjoy the show!













