



Name: _____

Colofon

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Roles in order of appearance:

Role	Pupil's Name
1. Mister Tom:	
2. Parent	
3. Chris	
4. Karin	
5. Nurlayla	
6. Frits	
7. Abderrahim	
8. Shannon	
9. Nabil	
10. Martijn	
11. Kirsten	
12. Souad	
13. Tim	
14. Julia	
15. Roland	
16. Gino (robber)	
17. Barry (robber)	
18. Annie (robber)	
19. Car driver	
20. Annemiek	
21. Babs	
22. Tina	
23. Hanneke	
24. Policeman 1 (Piet)	
25. Policeman 2 (Jan)	
26. Cellmate 1	
27. Cellmate 2	
28. Cellmate 3	
29. Cellmate 4	
30. Cellmate 5	

Scene 1: At Camp

While the introduction is being played, the children make their entrance onto the stage. They walk in pairs, as if they are seated in a bus. Their teacher is nowhere to be seen.

(No.1)

Song 1: Off to camp

1.

Monday morning at a quarter past eight
We had to be at school, could not be late
Teacher was busy getting stuff done
We're off to camp; it will be fun!
We picked up our stuff and our jackets, too
While Mister Tom went to the loo
The bus was there, and we got in
It's so exciting, we started to sing!

2.

The bus was ready to depart
Our teacher came running, he was clutching his heart
Out of breath, he took his seat
All aboard now, we were complete
Happily we waved to our dad and mom
They said: 'Have a great week with Mister Tom!'
Mister Tom had a funny premonition
He wished he'd trusted his intuition

Refrain:

So off we went, to sleep in a tent
But our teacher was not on the bus with us
We were content, but this event
Will certainly cause quite a fuss
We may soon all die of hunger and thirst
No drinks and no sweets, we fear the worst
So off we went, to sleep in a tent
While our teacher was not on the bus with us

3.

After sitting on the bus for two full hours
We stopped for a break and to smell the flowers
We got back on, we were having such fun
Nobody noticed we were missing someone

Refrain:

During the instrumental postlude the children exit the stage in the same order as they came on ('sitting on a bus' fashion). At the same time, Mister Tom makes his entrance on the other side of the stage. He runs after the bus, coming to a standstill centre stage.

Mister Tom: *(Panting)* Unbelievable! Come back! Yoo-hoo! You forgot me! This can't be happening!

He pauses, briefly. Mister Tom is becoming gradually aware of the seriousness of the situation.

Mister Tom: What on earth should I do now? I'm stuck here at the filling station, the children are on the bus having a wonderful time and the parents all think I'm looking after them! How will I tell them? I can't tell them, can I? That would cost me my job! A teacher who has lost his class. Well, actually it's the class that lost its teacher. They will be so angry!

(No.2) *We see one of the parents walking onto the stage towards the teacher. The teacher speaks to the parent, in a clearly nervous tone of voice.*

Parent: Mister Tom! What are you doing here? And where are the children?

Mister Tom: Gosh, yes, quite unusual, don't you think? I may have lost them just a teeny tiny little bit, hihhi *(he giggles nervously)*!

Parent: Did you say LOST? How can that be possible?

Mister Tom: Oh, you know how quickly that can happen. They just drove off without me, hahaha *(an even more nervous giggle)*!

Parent: *(Angry)* And who will be looking after my child?

Mister Tom: I have no idea. Not me, in any case, tee-hee *(an extremely nervous giggle)*!

Parent: *(Very angry)* But that's preposterous! That's not allowed! I will personally see to it that you are fired and will never be allowed to work as a teacher again! Not here or anywhere else! Mark my words!

(No.3) *The parent exits, quite angry. Mister Tom watches the parent exit, a bewildered look on his face.*

Mister Tom: Well, they will probably all react like that. I can't go back to school; that's clear. I have to find some way of reaching the camp site and making the children understand that they must never, never tell anybody - and I mean absolutely nobody - what happened, and Friday I will simply go back to school with them, on the bus. If that works, my problems will be over.

The teacher sees a big piece of cardboard lying about, picks it up and takes a big, black felt-tip marker from his pocket and writes the following words on the cardboard: "Group 8 Campout". He turns the sign around so that the audience can read it and sticks his thumb up, hitch-hiker fashion.

The lights dim; exit Mister Tom.

Scene 2: The camp site

A big group of children make their entrance, loaded down with sleeping bags, suitcases and bags. Frits is carrying an inflated air mattress. They chatter away and look around happily. The camp site is lovely.

Chris: This is so cool! My sister came here before, and she told me that this was a really cool camp site. She sure is right!

Karin: I've been looking forward to this for so long! The Group 8 Campout! I've been wanting to go ever since Group 5! Fi-nal-ly!

Nurlayla: Frits, why did you inflate your air mattress already? Isn't that a little inconvenient?

Frits: Not at all! Since I didn't have to bring along a pump I saved enough space in my bag for another bag of sweets. I thought it out very carefully!

Chris: Let the campout begin!

The children look about, expectantly. It looks as if they are looking for someone, but don't see him.

Abderrahim: Mister Tom? We're all set to start! What should we do now?

Nurlayla: Mister Tom?

Shannon: By the way, where is Mister Tom?

Frits: I haven't seen him for some time.

Nabil: *(Speaks as if telling a joke)* Hey, we probably left him at the car park where we stopped along the way! We simply forgot him!

All the children start to laugh, but slowly their laughter dies down and they look at one another, hesitantly.

Karin: You don't think that ...

Chris: It's true that Mister Tom got out of the bus to stretch his legs there.

Shannon: I didn't see him get back on.

Abderrahim: Neither did I. At least, I don't think so.

Martijn: I didn't really notice. I mean, isn't the teacher supposed to be watching out for us and not the other way around? He must be old and wise enough to know when it's time to get back on the bus?

Nurlayla: I guess not!

The children quiet down for a moment.

Then Kirsten steps forward. She is the 'popular' girl in the group. A group of four children (Souad, Tim, Julia and Roland) always flock round her and copy everything she does.

Kirsten: So, the teacher got lost! He's probably still at the car park. Great! That means we can spend the next five days doing whatever we want! Now that's what I call a campout!

Souad: You're so right, Kirsten! We'll just do whatever we feel like. Yes!

Tim: We won't have to go to sleep at eleven, like Mister Tom said.

Shannon: We can't do that!

Julia: Of course we can! Who is going to stop us? Nobody, because there are no grown-ups here to tell us what to do.

Shannon: But ...
Roland: Or were you planning to stop us? No way!
Kirsten: Don't pay any attention to her. She's the teacher's pet. And now that the teacher isn't here, she knows that she can't boss us around anymore.
Tim: Didn't you know that she's in love with Mister Tom?
Shannon: Not true!
Chris: Everybody, be quiet! This isn't constructive.
Kirsten: Welcome to Camp Freedom! Where we can do whatever we like, wherever we like! C'mon, let's go find a good tent!
Souad: Kirsten, should I take that heavy sleeping bag for you?

Kirsten and her clique walk off, carrying all their belongings. Souad is carrying Kirsten's sleeping bag, as well as the rest of Kirsten's stuff.

Frits: Do you understand what's going on?
Martijn: I wouldn't even bother trying, if I were you. They're a bunch of ninnies and I'm not going to let them boss me around for five whole days.
Karin: Me neither.
Nabil: We'll come up with something. But in the meantime they're right: let's go find ourselves a tent and unpack. The bus already left, so we'll be stuck here for the next five days, whichever way you look at it.
Nurlayla: What a bother that Mister Tom forbade us to take our mobile phones. They would certainly have come in handy!
Abderrahim: You saw what happened: anyone who took one along had to hand it in. Roland's has been confiscated until the summer holidays!
Frits: Well, enough said. Let's go claim a tent!

Everyone picks up their belongings and exits to different points, chattering animatedly and looking for a tent (the children stay in the auditorium, the audience does not lose sight of them). A few children remain onstage. They unpack and take a look around. In brief: there is enough activity on and around the stage. Mime play.

Scene 3: How do we get our loot?

While the children are busy unpacking, we see three heads pop up above a piece of scenery (or other object). They look at the children, bewildered, but the children don't notice them.

Gino: Good heavens!
Barry: You said it. Good heavens.
Annie: What? How could that happen?
Gino: They probably came out of the bus we just passed.
Barry: How lovely, a school campout!
Annie: Lovely? What, lovely? Idiot! That's not lovely at all! That's a disaster!
Gino: Well, it looks as if they're having fun.
Barry: That's quite a while ago for us, isn't it, Gino? Can you still remember our school campout?
Gino: That was so much fun! We went camping and your air mattress wouldn't stay inflated!
Barry: That was only because Annie had hidden her knife in it! Great idea, Ann!
Annie: Now hush! Let me think.

Gino and Barry look at her expectantly.

Annie: So, we clearly have a little problem. Actually, we have around 25 little problems. They are right here, in front of our noses, along with our loot from the bank robbery! We have to get to our loot without these little monsters noticing. They could call in the police and then we'd be in even bigger trouble.
Gino: Yes, but how can we do this?
Barry: Shush! Don't disturb her; she's thinking!

Annie carefully observes the camp site. Suddenly, Kirsten's clique comes very close to the threesome. The three criminals quickly duck away. The group comes to a halt right in front of the piece of scenery behind which the criminals are hiding.

Souad: What should we do now, Kirsten?
Kirsten: I think it's time to bother some of the other kids. Now that our teacher is gone, I can finally do what I've always wanted to do. No need to act as if I'm all sugar and spice any more. Mister Tom was stupid enough to fall for it!
Roland: Shall we go and jump on Shannon? It's so easy to make her cry.
Kirsten: Shannon would make a perfect start.
Tim: Shouldn't anyone be standing guard? Maybe Mister Tom caught the train and will be here any minute!
Julia: I doubt that! Do you really think he's that smart? After all, he was stupid enough to miss the bus. No, he's probably still at that fuel station car park.
Kirsten: I don't think there's any reason to expect Mister Tom to appear anytime soon. Let's go find Shannon!

Kirsten's group runs away and Annie raises her head above the piece of scenery again.

Annie: A school campout without a teacher? A school campout without any adults? It couldn't be any better.
Gino: Hey, but that's not allowed, is it? What a stupid teacher!

Barry: Should we call the police to inform them that there are children here without any adult supervision? They're bound to come and pick up the children and then we could get to our loot.

Annie: What, and run the risk of being seen by the cops and put in prison? No way! I have a much better plan. A brilliant plan, if I may say so myself.

Gino: Annie, you are awesome! I wish I were as smart as you!

Barry: She's not the boss of our band of bandits for nothing!

Gino: Oh, so that's why!

Annie: All we have to do is wait a little and we'll soon have our loot. We could have lots of fun with four million euros!

Gino and Barry in unison: Four million!

Barry: We could finally put in that pool!

Gino: And buy that Ferrari!

Barry: And take a trip around the world!

Gino: And buy that sweet little puppy at the pet shop!

Annie: And who made all of that possible?

Gino and Barry in unison: Annie did!

(No.4)

Song 2: Thanks to Annie

1. (Annie)

I am so smart, in so many ways
 I was the smartest of my class
 Those were the days, the good old days
 I remember exactly how it was
 Even then I was a troublemaker
 Liked to bully my classmates and pick a fight
 Preparing to become a real law-breaker
 And everyone, they said outright:

Refrain: (everyone)

Annie is the best one, the best one that we know
 Our Annie, she is unique
 They hit their mark, the punches throws
 I've learned not to give her any cheek
 Thanks to Annie I'm black and blue (*singing 'oo-oo' as if in pain*)
 And sometimes it hurts dreadfully
 When I see her come I know just what to do
 I turn around and flee

2. (Annie)

I am so mean, in so many ways
 I was the meanest of my class
 Those were the days, the good old days
 I remember exactly how it was
 The girls in my class had plaited hair
 With a red ribbon they were tied
 I couldn't help it, it wasn't fair
 I pulled their plaits until they cried!

Refrain (everyone)

3. (Gino and Barry)

She is a scamp, in so many ways
She was the biggest scamp of her class
Those were the days, the good old days
We remember exactly how it was
Now she is a master thief
As unobtrusive as a cat
She is a thief, beyond belief
She'll rob you in ten seconds flat

Refrain (Gino and Barry)

Coda (Gino and Barry)

Annie, Annie, you are fantastic!
Annie, Annie, you are the best!
Annie, Annie, you are the smartest!
Smarter, smarter than the rest!

Annie: Follow me, boys! Time to change our clothes!

Gino: Change our clothes? Why?

Barry: I have no idea. I thought my outfit was just great!

Annie: Idiots! It's part of my plan! Now follow me! I'll explain as we go.

Annie, Barry and Gino disappear without making a sound.

Scene 4: Mister Tom

We see Mister Tom standing centre stage, holding his cardboard sign.

Mister Tom: Good heavens. I haven't made any progress. I've been hitch-hiking for four hours now and nobody, absolutely nobody, wants to give me a lift. What on earth shall I do? Those poor children must be crying their eyes out because their teacher isn't with them. They can't possibly get along without me. I have to get to the camp site!

The teacher sticks out his thumb again. (No.5) A car passes. Mister Tom smiles broadly, but the car drives straight past him. Another car passes and the same thing happens. After the fourth car has passed, Mister Tom begins to feel desperate. When the fifth car approaches he stands in the middle of the road, stretching his hand out in front of him as a sign telling the car to stop. The car accelerates and Mister Tom can just escape being hit by jumping aside. Despondently, the teacher sits at the side of the road and stares sadly into the distance. At that moment, his mobile phone (No.6) rings. He answers.

Mister Tom: Tom speaking! Hello, Ronald (*he puts on a nervous expression, this is the headmaster*)! Sure, everything is just fine. We arrived safely, the children are busy unpacking and we are planning a game of Cops and Robbers in the woods in about a quarter of an hour. Yes, the weather is wonderful. What did you say? Shannon? Ummm. No, I think she's in the loo, sorry! No, she's not homesick at all. No worries, Ronald! Yes. Yes. Of course. Spinach, I think. Yes, I can smell it now! Delicious. Yes. Fine, thank you. I will. Say hello to everyone for me, too! Bye-bye.

Mister Tom puts away his phone and remains seated by the side of the road, dejected.

Mister Tom: What has happened to me? Here I am, lying to the headmaster? How will this ever work out?

(No.7) *A car pulls up beside him.*

Car driver: Hello! Can I offer you a lift?

Mister Tom: Yes please! Thank you! You're the first one to stop in four hours.

Car driver: No problem! Where do you need to go?

Mister Tom shows the driver his sign.

Car driver: Hahaha, that's not where I'm going at all. I'm travelling to Norwich. Is that nearby enough for you?

Mister Tom: Great! That's in the right direction in any case and it will get me away from here at last! Once we've reached Leusden I'll take it from there.

(nr.8) *They drive away.*