

1 Wizard of Mops  
A Traditional Play by Christine Harvey, Mary Greenspan, and Elish Lee

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Mops**

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## The Wizard of Mops

### Cast:

Dot  
Auntie Ann  
Extra Teachers  
Extra Students on the School Yard/Bunchkin room/Gym Class  
Taylor Knox  
Bully # 1 & 2  
Wizard of Mops  
Announcer  
Rusty  
Dandy  
Taz  
Principal Yelly-Bottom  
Secretary Busy-Chomper  
Bunchkin # 1, 2, & 3  
Fido (a hamster)

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### Scene 1 (School Yard)

(Dot is led to the school yard by her Auntie Ann. Students are playing in the school yard and Teachers are supervising. The Wizard of Mops is picking up leaves on the school yard. The Bunchkins sing songs and dance around Dot.)

Auntie Ann: What a friendly school.

(Dot shoos away the Bunchkins.)

Dot: How annoying. I detest kindergartners. I can't believe they found me already. What a bad omen.

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Auntie Ann: I spoke with the kind secretary on Friday and she said she would help you out on your first day.

Dot: But, Auntie Ann! You know that I hate secretaries. They are gum chomping perfectionists who don't have time for anyone or anything except for paper work and phone calls.

Auntie Ann: Now, Dot, none of that. You are always too quick to judge. She was very pleasant when we spoke on the phone.

Dot: Why I can't be home schooled?

Auntie Ann: Dot, we've been over this before. There's never anyone home, so it's out of the question. I have to work so that I can continue moving up the corporate ladder.

Dot: Fine! But I hate school! It's useless and it's full of clicks, prissy chicks, rotten over-worked teachers, and drill sergeant principals. They are all the same.

Auntie Ann: Stop being so dramatic! You have to have a positive attitude and give people a chance.

Dot: Oh, alright, but I know I am absolutely, positively going to hate it here at Emerald City Elementary School. I can tell just by looking at it.

Auntie Ann: I almost forgot. I have a surprise for you. Something you've always wanted. A brand new, ruby red cell phone! (Auntie Ann holds up a red cell phone.)

Dot: That's just a bribe.

Auntie Ann: You don't have to take it if you don't want it.

Dot: No, I want it! (Dot grabs the red cell phone.)

Auntie Ann: Listen, I've got to run. Call me if it becomes unbearable. Tah, tah! (Dot dials and Auntie Ann's phone rings. Auntie Ann looks at her phone and realizes that it is Dot who is phoning.) Very funny, Dot. Good-bye, my darling.

(Auntie Ann exits. Dot takes Fido out of her pocket. Fido is Dot's pet hamster.)

Dot: Oh, Fido. Here we go again. I wish Auntie Ann would just settle down in one place for a little while and quit her job. Then I wouldn't have to go to school and be with all of these annoying people. Look at them - they all dress funny. There is certainly no one here who is worthy of being my friend. (Bunchkins start singing and dancing around Dot again.) Go away! (Dot shoos them and Bunchkins scatter.) Eek, kindergartners! I hate them. Little snotty-nosed bunchkins, that's all they are. Oh, and there are the bullies. (Dot points to some children who are wearing leather and are playing with a ball.) I'm sure the teachers favour them. They always do. And look at the teachers. (Dot points to one of the teachers who is walking around supervising the kids. The teachers should be smiling, looking very kind, gentle, and friendly as they interact with the children playing in the schoolyard.) They look really strict and mean. If you were ever caught, they'd probably use you as a lab animal. But the principals are always the meanest of all of them. I'm sure the principal here is a wicked old witch. Fido, I don't even want to make friends here. I want you to be my only friend. (A ball flies past Dot's head. Dot puts Fido back in the school bag where he/she won't be detected. Then Dot walks up to Taylor Knox.) Hey, watch it bully.

Taylor Knox: Sorry, we didn't mean to scare you.

Dot: (yelling and getting in Taylor Knox's face) Yeah, like I believe that. You had better hope I don't tell the teacher on you.

Bully # 1: We really didn't mean to scare you.

Bully # 2: We didn't intentionally throw the ball so close to you.

Bully # 1: We're sorry.

Bully # 2: We were just playing monkey in the middle.

Taylor Knox: Would you like to join?

Dot: No. I don't want to join a silly monkey game. I'm no monkey.

Taylor Knox: Hey, did I see something move in your bag?

Dot: (protecting her school bag and Fido) No. Mind your own business. (The bullies shrug and go back to happily playing monkey in the middle. Dot takes Fido out of her school bag and talks to Fido.)  
Wow! That was close. Did you see the way they tried to intimidate me? We'd better be really careful. Remember, we're not in Ottawa anymore!

Wizard of Mops: (coming up to Dot) Hello. (Dot hides Fido in her school bag again.) You don't look familiar to me. Are you new here?

Dot: So many questions. You Kingstonians are so nosy. I could tell from the moment I saw the sign saying, "Welcome to Kingston." (Substitute the name of your own city for Kingston and Kingstonians.)

Wizard of Mops: I'm sorry. I didn't mean to sound nosy.

Dot: I didn't want to have to talk to any of you people. Already teachers are looking at me meanly and I've been picked on by bullies. My Auntie Ann said there is supposed to be some secretary here who can help me.

Wizard of Mops: Oh, yes, of course. Secretary Busy-Chomper. She is a lovely and kind person. Her office is just through the door on your right. You'll love Secretary Busy-Chomper.

Dot: (sarcastically) Yeah, right. I'm sure I'll love her. What's up with her name? Busy-Chomper? (The Wizard of Mops shrugs. The bell rings. All the children run offstage. Only Dot and the Wizard of Mops are left onstage.) Well, here goes nothing. This is the first step to the beginning of a perfectly rotten year. (Dot exits.)

Wizard of Mops: (calling after her) Welcome to Emerald City Public School. (The Wizard of Mops talks to self and shakes his/her head.) You have a lot learn, young lady.

Announcer: (intercom) Attention! Attention! Could custodian Jessie Marvel please report to the gym with his keys, please? The supply door is locked. I repeat the supply door is locked. Thank you.

Wizard of Mops: Well, duty calls. (The Wizard of Mops exits.)

## Scene 2 (The Secretary's and the Principal's Office)

(There is a sitting area stage right with three chairs, outer wall and door of principal's office. On stage left, there is a door to the secretary's office. The office is set up with table and chair. Within the office Secretary Busy-Chomper is typing and answering phone calls. Secretary Busy-Chomper smiles as he/she works and grooves to music which he/she listens to on his/her disc player through headphones. If there are no doors on the stage, the principal's and secretary's offices can be indicated with signs pointing in the proper direction. The principal's office sign points offstage and the secretary's office sign points to the part of the stage set up for the office. Dandy and Rusty are sitting outside the principal's office. Dot looks at them skeptically. Dot talks to Fido.)

Dot: (referring to Dandy) Look at that wimp. He looks terrified. He's probably scared of those bullies. What a silly scaredy-cat.

Principal Yelly-Bottom: (stepping out of his/her office) Rusty, you're next.

Rusty: Yes, Principal Yelly-Bottom.

(Rusty and Principal Yelly-Bottom go into the Principal's office.)

Dot: Principal Yelly-Bottom? What kind of name is that? I don't know whether to laugh or be scared for my life.

(Taz comes spinning out of the principal's office and bumps into Dot. Dot hides Fido.)

Taz: Oh, I am so sorry. I was spinning so fast. I didn't see you. Are you okay?

Dot: (angrily) Be careful!

Taz: Sorry, sorry, sorry! Can't stop and chat or I will be late for class. (Taz spins offstage.)

Dot: This place is chaos! Look at how hyper that girl is. How can Auntie Ann expect me to coexist with people like that? (Dot finds the secretary's office and enters. The secretary is grooving to music so he/she does not see Dot. Dot clears his/her throat and waves his/her arms about to get Secretary Busy-Chomper's attention. Secretary Busy-Chomper finally notices Dot. The secretary stops listening to his/her music and greets Dot with a warm smile.) Hello. My name is Dot. My Auntie Ann said you would help me. (Secretary Busy-Chomper smiles and gives Dot a big hug. Dot pushes the secretary away.) Excuse me, but I'm little old for hugs.

Secretary Busy-Chomper: You're never too old for hugs.

Dot: Where's your gum?

Secretary Busy-Chomper: Excuse me? What gum? We aren't allowed gum at school.

Dot: Not that adults ever follow the rules.

Secretary Busy-Chomper: The rules apply to everyone. That's the only way we can be fair and safe.

Dot: Whatever. Adults never follow the rules.

Secretary Busy-Chomper: We all love to follow the rules at Emerald City Elementary School. You'll absolutely love it here. Love. Love! LOVE! Everything about this school is awesome. Everything! That's why I love working here.

Dot: Don't give me all that love talk. I saw all the kids in trouble outside the Principal's office.

Secretary Busy-Chomper: They weren't in trouble. They were getting awards.

Dot: (skeptically) Yeah, right. You can't fool me.

Secretary Busy-Chomper: Well, here is a list of supplies you will need for your classes and here is our school agenda.

Dot: School agenda?

Secretary Busy-Chomper: Yes, so that you can check on the rules of the school and write your homework in the calendar section.

Dot: Rules? What kind of rules?

Secretary Busy-Chomper: Just some standard conditions that keep the children safe.

Dot: (looking in the agenda) Safe? This sounds more like boot camp. On page six there is a list of things that we are allowed to eat and a list of things we are not allowed to eat.

Secretary Busy-Chomper: Oh, that's because some of our students have allergies.

Dot: Oh, no. Like who?

Secretary Busy-Chomper: There's Ben, and Sarah, and George, and Kara, and Rusty, and...

Dot: Okay, okay, fine. I get the picture. Now, what class am I in? I want to get this first day over with as soon as I can.

Secretary Busy-Chomper: Let's see. I have to check my list. (The secretary looks at the list.) You're in Ms. Nasty's class. Oh, you'll just love Ms. Nasty. She's awesome.

Dot: Ms. Nasty? This is ridiculous. Doesn't anyone here have a normal name?

Secretary Busy-Chomper: Well, your class will be starting soon. First period you have phys-ed in the gym with our principal. Principal Yelly-Bottom teaches aerobics! (Dot shudders. Secretary Busy-Chomper checks his/her watch.) I have a little bit of time. Would you like me to give you a tour of the school before classes start?

Dot: Gee. That's really nice of you. (Dot takes Fido out of his/her school bag and talks aside to Fido.) I wonder why she's being so nice. This is very suspicious, Fido. Be alert. She could be up to something. I know she seems nice, but remember, we cannot trust anyone.

Secretary Busy-Chomper: What was that, dear? (Dot hides Fido.)

Dot: Oh, nothing.

(They exit.)

Scene 3 (Kindergarten Room)

(Secretary Busy-Chomper leads Dot into the Kindergarten room. Bunchkins are playing around doing kindergarten activities like playing with blocks, reading books, skipping, painting, playing in the sandbox, etc.)

Dot: Oh, no, Fido. She's taking me into the Kindergarten room. Stay close. Those kids can be scary. With their drippy noses and bruised knees they seem so innocent and helpless, but I don't trust them. They know more than they let on.

(Dot puts Fido back in her school bag.)

Secretary Busy-Chomper: This is the kindergarten room. Aren't these all just the cutest little bunchkins you've ever seen? (Dot shivers, disgusted.) Good morning, boys and girls!

Bunchkins: Good morning, Secretary Busy-Chomper.

Secretary Busy-Chomper: This is a new student who is starting with us today. Her name is Dorothy. I would like all of you to welcome Dorothy to our friendly school. She may even become a kindergarten helper. Now say hello, and welcome Dorothy to our school. (The Bunchkins look stunned and confused.) Say hello to Dorothy.

Bunchkins: (altogether and waving) Hello to Dorothy. (They all rub their noses.)

Dot: Well actually, everyone calls me Dot.

Bunchkin # 2: (confused) As in Dot com?