



## The Lion's Enchantment

### Readers Theater Play Script and Performance Notes

*AUTHORS: Elaine Lindy & Lindsay Parker, COUNTRY: Spain, GENRE: Fairytales*



#### CHARACTERS

NARRATOR  
MAIDEN  
FARMER  
COWS (non-speaking roles)  
LION  
PIGS (non-speaking roles)  
PRINCE  
GIANT  
ATTENDANTS (ad-libs only)  
PRINCESS  
KING  
QUEEN

*\*Performance notes can be found on the pages following the script*

## Scene 1 – Meadow

[Stage Set: The stage is divided into two sections – a Meadow, and the Palace of the Princess. If you paint a backdrop, it can show both locations. In the Meadow there is a free-standing tree, a prop that’s supported by/connected to a step-stool so that later, the maiden can “climb” the tree. (See Performance Notes on how to make the tree.) There is also a large moveable rock at the far end of the Meadow, close to offstage. This rock serves as transition into the Underground House in Scene 2 (See Performance Notes for rock construction and transition).]

[The play opens in the Meadow section.]

[NARRATOR enters.]

**NARRATOR:**

Hello, everyone. This play is a story from Spain called “The Lion’s Enchantment.” It’s brought to you by *Stories to Grow by*.

[NARRATOR steps forward.]

**NARRATOR:**

Once upon a time, many years ago, there lived a young maiden so poor she had to wander about the world, looking for work.

[MAIDEN enters. She wears a kerchief in her hair.]

**NARRATOR:**

One day, the maiden met a farmer.

[FARMER enters from the opposite side from where MAIDEN had entered.]

**FARMER:**

You say you need work?

**MAIDEN:**

Yes, sir.

**FARMER:**

I could use help with my cows. Here’s the job. Every morning, take the cows out to the meadow to graze. At the end of the day, just make sure you bring them all back, and into their fence for the night.

**MAIDEN:**

I can do that. I love animals!

[MAIDEN and FARMER shake hands. FARMER exits.]

**MAIDEN:**

*(to audience)* I have a job!

**NARRATOR:**

So the young Maiden started work. Every day she would bring the cows out to the meadow. And at the end of the day, she'd bring them back and put them into their fence for the night.

[MAIDEN enters with COWS.]

**MAIDEN:**

*(to cows)* Good morning, you guys. Staying together all day in the meadow. Before long we'll be headed back, so get those last nibbles of grass in. Off you go!

[COWS wander off stage.]

[Groaning heard from off stage. Groan is from LION.]

**MAIDEN:**

*(looks around)* What's that noise?

[MAIDEN starts towards the sound. Groaning continues. LION enters from the opposite side of the stage, limping.]

**MAIDEN:**

Oh my! It's a LION!

[MAIDEN holds back, afraid. LION continues to groan.]

**MAIDEN:**

Hmm, he's not exactly roaring. It almost sounds like he's in pain.

[LION whines. Holds his paw straight out.]

**MAIDEN:**

What's that? You have something stuck in your paw? Oh, you poor thing! *(steps carefully toward Lion to see paw)*

[LION holds out paw again.]

**MAIDEN:**

I was right – a thorn. A big one!

[LION cries out in alarm.]

**MAIDEN:**

Now don't fret. This will be out in a jiffy. Look! (*points offstage*) A pig!

[Lion turns around to look offstage to where MAIDEN is pointing, and MAIDEN quickly pulls out the thorn.]

**MAIDEN:**

Ah, HA!

[LION whimpers.]

**MAIDEN:**

There, now. Just one minute more. (*takes off the kerchief in her hair and ties it around the paw*) It'll be all better soon. How about a handshake? Pawshake?

[LION roars.]

**MAIDEN:**

Uh, maybe not. (*pauses & steps backward carefully*) Well, I'd better go check on my cows. You take care of that paw, now!

[LION limps offstage.]

[MAIDEN walks to the other side and looks offstage.]

**MAIDEN:**

Uh, oh. Where are my COWS? (*rushes to one end of the stage, then another*) I don't see one cow out here, anywhere! Oh no, this is terrible! (*to audience*) I must find my cows!

[MAIDEN runs off-stage.]

## Scene 2 – Meadow, the next day

[Stage Set: Same as Scene 1.]

[MAIDEN enters, followed by PIGS and FARMER.]

FARMER:

You're lucky I'm giving you a second chance. Remember, every one of these pigs has to come back at the end of the day. Or don't bother coming back at all tonight!

MAIDEN:

*(bows head)* I understand.

MASTER:

That's what you said before, and you lost all of my COWS! Now go!

[FARMER exits.]

MAIDEN:

*(to Pigs)* Please, PLEASE stay together! I can't disappoint my master again.

[PIGS wander offstage.]

[LION groans from offstage, at the opposite side from where the PIGS exited.]

MAIDEN:

It sounds like that same lion. What is it this time?

[LION enters with a wound on his head. (See Performance Notes on how to create wound.)]

MAIDEN:

Now you have a head wound! My goodness, you're injury-prone!

[MAIDEN pretends to wash the wound and binds it up. LION purrs and pretends to lick her hand, slurping.]

MAIDEN:

There, there. Be on your way, now.

[LION exits.]

MAIDEN:

That lion was actually easier to take care of than my pigs. *(stops and looks worried)* Speaking of which... my PIGS!

[Again, MAIDEN rushes from one side of the stage to the other.]

MAIDEN:

Oh, no, not again! I can't go back without the pigs! (*looks up at tree*) If I climb that tree I'll get a good view around. It's already getting dark – I'd better climb up right now.

[MAIDEN "climbs" the step-stool in the back of the tree, or pretends to climb if there are no props. Be safe! (See Performance Notes for how to climb the tree and for simple alternatives for performances without the free-standing tree.)]

MAIDEN:

(*frames her eyes with one hand and looks right and left*) I can't see one pig, anywhere! Who knows where they've wandered off to by now? And it's too dark to see anymore. Oh my gosh, I'm in trouble!

[PRINCE enters.]

MAIDEN:

Who's this?

[PRINCE looks to the right and left. He moves the rock to one side and pretends to crawl down through a hole. PRINCE closes the entrance behind him by moving back the rock.]

PRINCE:

(*to audience*) What a day! (*yawns*) Time for my nap.

[Then PRINCE goes into the Underground House (See Performance Notes for detail on how to accomplish this effect).]

[PRINCE exits.]

MAIDEN:

How odd! He moved that rock and went right down in a hole. It's not every day you see THAT! I might as well stay put and see what I can find out. It's not like I'm not going back to the farm tonight, anyway.

NARRATOR:

So she waited.

MAIDEN:

(*chin on hand*) He has to come out again sometime.

NARRATOR:

And waited.

**MAIDEN:**

Any moment, now. (*yawn*) I'm sure of it. (*falls asleep and starts to loudly snore*)

**NARRATED:**

(*whispering*) And waited. Until that night...

[LION enters from the same place where PRINCE had exited. LION moves the rock aside and pretends to emerge from the hole. He stands still on all fours, looking about for a moment.]

[The sound of the rock's movement awakens MAIDEN. She watches LION as he crawls offstage to the stage wing opposite from where he had entered.]

**MAIDEN:**

Wait a minute! What's going on? A LION came out of the same hole in the ground where the yong man had entered? I hope he's all right! I should go make sure.

[MAIDEN climbs down the tree. She moves the rock aside, as PRINCE and LION had done, and exits. When she re-enters, she will be in the Underground House (See Performance Notes on how to make the movable rock seem to open up to reveal a hole in the ground that leads to the Underground House.)]

### Scene 3 – Underground house

[Stage set: A table and a chair, brought on by STAGE HANDS. On the table are cups, bowls, utensils, and some food. (See Performance Notes for ideas on making this transition seamless and simple).]

[MAIDEN enters, now in the Underground House.]

MAIDEN:

Oh, my gosh! This is an underground house, who would have imagined! (*notices the table*) Hey, it looks like someone was making dinner. That must have been the young man. I know, I'll finish it and give him a nice surprise. (*hums while she moves the bowls around*) Hmm... I ought to taste it a bit, to see if it's right... (*pretends to eat some of the food*) A bit more... (*eats some more of the food*) Can't be too sure. (*eats some more*) Well! I'd better be getting back to my tree. Who knows around here when someone's going to show up!

[MAIDEN moves the rock aside and goes to the Meadow. She climbs the tree.]

[LION enters from the far side of the stage, where he last exited. He looks to the right and left, moves the rock aside, goes down through to the Underground House, stops for a moment and looks at the audience, yawns, and exits.]

MAIDEN:

That lion again, he came back! What to make of it!

[PRINCE enters. He moves the rock and emerges from the Underground House. He begins to walk to the other side of the stage.]

MAIDEN:

Wait, stop! Please!

PRINCE:

(*surprised*) What?

MAIDEN:

It's only that... I mean all these comings and goings... you, and this LION! Say, there's something I need to ask. Hold on, will you? (*climbs down from tree*) If you don't mind, sir, do you live down that hole in an underground house? And with a lion?

PRINCE:

You know there's an underground house down that hole?



**MAIDEN:**

Kind of.

**PRINCE:**

*(to audience)* I have to work on home security. *(to Maiden)* You are part right. The truth is, I AM the same lion you saw!

**MAIDEN:**

What? How can that be?

**PRINCE:**

It's a giant's spell. I was raised a prince in a castle. One day, out of nowhere a giant appeared and captured me. He cast this spell on me and ever since, I'm a lion by day, every day.

**MAIDEN:**

That's so bizarre!

**PRINCE:**

Tell me about it! *(gestures widely, then claps, and when he claps, says "Ah!")* Sorry, my finger is still sore.

**MAIDEN:**

Wait a minute! – are you the same lion who had the thorn in his paw!

**PRINCE:**

Pleased to meet you. Again. *(bows lightly, and touches a finger to his head)* That one's almost all better now. *(sighs)* I'm always walking into traps the giant sets for me.

**MAIDEN:**

What's the deal with this giant? Setting traps for you all the time! And why did he capture you in the first place?

**PRINCE:**

All I can say is – it's the very same giant who stole your cows and pigs. It's because you helped me, when I was a lion.

**MAIDEN:**

Oh! Can't you get out of the spell?

**PRINCE:**

I wish! I'm stuck, forever.

**MAIDEN:**  
Forever?

**PRINCE:**  
Maybe there's one cure, but it's ridiculous, really. Hardly worth mentioning.

**MAIDEN:**  
Why not?

**PRINCE:**  
It's impossible. Someone would have to weave a cloak that fits the giant perfectly, the first time. He's not easy to please, as you can imagine.

**MAIDEN:**  
I'm not bad with a needle and thread.

**PRINCE:**  
But get this! The entire cloak has to be woven from ONE lock of hair. And the lock hair has to be from a princess!

**MAIDEN:**  
Hmm, princess hair is special. But how to get some!

**PRINCE:**  
You're not considering this, I hope! If the giant gets mad about the cloak, there's no telling what he'll do! You know what I'm saying, right?

**MAIDEN:**  
I get it, but I could give it a try.

**PRINCE:**  
Why would you do that?

**MAIDEN:**  
I don't know, I might as well. Anyway, the palace isn't too far away. Who knows? Maybe I could end up with my master's cows and figs, too.

**MAIDEN:**  
How to meet the princess... *(fixes own hair, either putting it up or moving a clip. This gives her an idea)*

**PRINCE:**  
Please don't do this!

**MAIDEN:**

*(snaps fingers)* I've got it!

[MAIDEN rushes offstage.]

**PRINCE:**

*(calls offstage)* Wait! I mean, good luck! *(to audience)* She'll need it.

[PRINCE exits.]

[Set pieces for PRINCE'S underground home are taken offstage.]

## Scene 4 – Palace of the Princess

[Stage Set: A chair covered in nice fabric.]

[PRINCESS is seated in her chair. Her hair is neatly combed and pulled back into a ponytail or braid. MAIDEN stands behind her, brush in hand. ATTENDANT #1, ATTENDANT #2, and ATTENDANT #3 (together, the “ATTENDANTS”) stand behind PRINCESS.]

MAIDEN:  
All finished.

ATTENDANT #1:  
Check out the new do!

ATTENDANT #2:  
That looks amazing!

ATTENDANT #3:  
Wowser!

PRINCESS:  
Mirror, please!

ATTENDANT #1:  
Here you go, Princess. (*hands her a mirror*)

PRINCESS:  
(*looks at her reflection*) My dear, you are most talented! (*looks at Maiden*) I knew the first time I saw the way you had arranged your own hair, that you must become my royal hairdo attendant.

MAIDEN:  
Thank you, my lady.

PRINCESS:  
(*admires herself in the mirror*) I look GOOD.

MAIDEN:  
Your Highness, if I may be so bold to ask you a favor?

PRINCESS:  
You can ask.

**MAIDEN:**

If you please, ma'am. Could you spare me just one lock of your hair?

**PRINCESS:**

*(pulls back)* What? Whatever for?

**MAIDEN:**

I wish I could say. Though would you do me the honor of humoring my wish?

**MAIDEN:**

Hm. Well, for you, maybe just one lock.

**MAIDEN:**

Thank you, Ma'am!

**PRINCESS:**

From the back, now! Underneath.

**MAIDEN:**

If I could just...

**PRINCESS:**

What now?

**MAIDEN:**

I need scissors.

**PRINCESS:**

Scissors, please!

**ATTENDANT #2**

Here you go, young lady. *(hands scissors to MAIDEN- they do not have to be real scissors.)*

[MAIDEN pretends to clip the PRINCESS'S hair. (See Performance Notes for how to accomplish this action.)]

**MAIDEN:**

I have it!

[MAIDEN rushes offstage.]

**PRINCESS:**

**SHE was in a hurry! Well, we'd best move along.**

**[PRINCESS and ATTENDANTS exit.]**

## Scene 5 – Giant’s door

[Stage set: A cardboard door is brought on to stand in front of the large rock (See Performance Notes on how to create the door).]

[MAIDEN enters, holding a folded cloak on her arm. If the actress playing PRINCESS has blonde hair, the cloak is yellow. If the actress playing PRINCESS is brunette, the cloak is dark-colored.]

[MAIDEN knocks on the door.]

[GIANT enters, through or around the “door,” as the case may be, and stands in front of the door.]

GIANT:  
*(yells)* Who DARES to step foot on my property?

MAIDEN:  
*(holds up arm, as if to protect herself)* Wait! Please! I have a cloak for you.

[MAIDEN puts her arm out with the cloak in it. She turns her head away from GIANT. He grabs the cloak and tries it on.]

GIANT:  
What a terrible fit! It’s much too small. I wouldn’t be seen dead in this! Giants have STANDARDS!

[GIANT throws the cloak on the floor.]

GIANT:  
Don’t bother coming back until you have something that fits! You’re lucky I already had dinner or I’d make piecemail out of your right now! AURGHH! *(makes threatening gesture to Maiden)*

[Afraid, MAIDEN runs offstage.]

[GIANT picks up the cloak.]

GIANT:  
I can never find clothes my size! Bah!

[GIANT throws down the cloak and exits. Stagehand enters, picks up the cloak and takes it offstage.]

**[GIANT'S door can stay on stage until end of Scene 7.]**



## Scene 6 – Palace of the Princess

[Stage set: As in Scene 4.]

[PRINCESS enters and sits in her chair.]

PRINCESS:  
Attendants!

[ATTENDANTS rush in and bow to PRINCESS.]

ATTENDANT #1:  
Your Highness.

ATTENDANT #2:  
We are here.

ATTENDANT #3:  
What is your wish?

PRINCESS:  
Get me the Maiden. I need my hair done, immediately!

[ATTENDANTS exit and return with MAIDEN, who holds her brush and bag.]

MAIDEN:  
(bows) Good morning, Princess. How is my lady feeling?

PRINCESS:  
Horrible! (*runs fingers through her hair*) I'm having a TERRIBLE hair day. There's a big dance tonight. My hair is simply a disaster!

MAIDEN:  
I'd be happy to help, m'lady.

PRINCESS:  
Give me the latest up-do.

[MAIDEN takes out her brush and starts to brush the PRINCESS's hair. MAIDEN secures PRINCESS' hair with a large barrette.]

PRINCESS:  
(looks in mirror) THAT'S the look I'm going for.

**MAIDEN:**

Your Highness, if you please. Would you grant me just one more lock of hair?

**PRINCESS:**

What? You already got one lock of my tresses. (*flips hair*) Who knows what you did with it!

**MAIDEN:**

Please, Princess – it would mean so very much to me! Your hair is like none other in all the world.

**PRINCESS:**

(*tosses head*) That's obviously true.

**MAIDEN:**

So thick!

**PRINCESS:**

Indeed.

**MAIDEN:**

Lustrous!

**PRINCESS:**

You said it.

**MAIDEN:**

With beautiful curls that tumble over your shoulders.

**PRINCESS:**

Well, I suppose one more tiny lock would be all right.

**MAIDEN:**

Thank you! (*to audience*) I hope this works!

[MAIDEN holds up one hand to cut a lock of PRINCESS' hair, but PRINCESS holds out her hand and stops her.]

**PRINCESS:**

Hold on! This time, there's going to be a condition!

**MAIDEN:**

What is that?

**PRINCESS:**

You must find me the handsomest prince in all the land to marry.

**MAIDEN:**

*(to audience)* Oh! *(looks at the ground)* Actually, I do happen to know such a handsome prince. *(to Princess)* Very well, I promise.

**PRINCESS:**

The handsomest prince, mind you!

**MAIDEN:**

I know.

**PRINCESS:**

All right, then go ahead.

[MAIDEN pretends to cut off a lock of PRINCESS' hair.]

**MAIDEN:**

*(to audience)* I hope it works this time!

[MAIDEN runs offstage.]

**PRINCESS:**

What an odd character. But such a wiz with hair. Artists, am I right?

[PRINCESS and ATTENDANTS exit.]

## Scene 7 – Giant's door

[Stage set: As in Scene 5.]

[PRINCESS enters and goes to the GIANT's door. She knocks.]

[GIANT enters.]

GIANT:  
You again!

MAIDEN:  
Please, sir. (*offers Giant the cloak*) See if the cloak fits you now.

GIANT:  
Let me have that!

[GIANT grabs the cloak and puts it on.]

GIANT:  
Wow! This cloak fits PERFECT! (*spins around in it and poses*) Nice shade, too. Goes with my eyes. (*preens*)

MAIDEN:  
I'm glad, sir. Let me press the cloak for you so it will be perfect.

GIANT:  
Fine. (*takes off cloak & hands it back to the Maiden*)

MAIDEN:  
I don't suppose I could ask you a favor? Or two? For the cloak?

GIANT:  
You want the cows and pigs returned to your master, right?

MAIDEN:  
Yes, that's one of the two favors.

GIANT:  
The cows and the pigs make up TWO favors.

MAIDEN:  
Uh well, technically, returning the cows and the pigs is ONE of the two favors.

**GIANT:**

You make my head spin, girl! So what's the other favor?

**MAIDEN:**

Remove the curse on the Prince! So he no longer has to be a lion, and can be his own true self night AND day.

**GIANT:**

No way! That was a perfectly good spell, and I'm sticking with it!

**MAIDEN:**

Then I'm taking back the cloak!

**GIANT:**

*(reaches for the cloak)* It's mine now! You can't have it!

**MAIDEN:**

*(puts the cloak behind her)* Looks like I already have it.

**GIANT:**

Arrrrgghh!

**MAIDEN:**

Oh, come on... It looks so good on you. And I offer unlimited alterations.

**GIANT:**

ALL RIGHT! I'll take it. So listen, here's what you do. During the day, when he's a lion, you must throw him deep into the pond near the mountain. That pond, and he must go completely underwater. Only then will the spell be broken.

**MAIDEN:**

But what if the lion drowns? Then the prince will never come out of the water!

**GIANT:**

DID YOU HEAR ME SAY THAT WAS MY PROBLEM?

**MAIDEN:**

*(backs off and hands cloak over)* Keep the cloak, you might as well. *(to audience)* That was a waste of time.

[MAIDEN exits, then GIANT exits.]

[STAGE HANDS take off GIANT'S door.]

## Scene 8 – Meadow

[Stage set: as in Scene 1.]

[QUEEN, KING and PRINCESS are seated on the palace side of the stage. ATTENDANTS are seated on the floor next to the royal family. They are silent in the first part of the scene.]

[PRINCE stands in the meadow. MAIDEN runs in, out of breath.]

PRINCE:  
What happened? Did the cloak fit?

MAIDEN:  
Yes, but...

PRINCE:  
Great! And did the giant tell you how to break the spell?

MAIDEN:  
He did, but...

PRINCE:  
So, why the sad face?

MAIDEN:  
Ah! The only way to break the spell is to throw you deep into the pond by the mountain when you're in a lion. When you come out, the spell is supposed to be broken.

PRINCE:  
What's wrong with that?

MAIDEN:  
But you could drown in the lake!

PRINCE:  
I have to take that chance! Tomorrow morning, when I come back as the lion, please help do this.

MAIDEN:  
Are you sure? *(Prince clasps her hands)* Well okay, if you really want to.

PRINCE:  
I do.

**MAIDEN:**  
Very well.

**[PRINCE exits.]**

**[MAIDEN remains in meadow, near rock. She sleeps to signal the passage of time.]**

## Scene 9 – Pond, the next morning

[Stage set: This is a pop-up scene that takes place at the front of the stage. STAGE HANDS bring on a large crumpled blue sheet to signify a pond.]

[LION enters.]

MAIDEN:

Ah, hi again. Come to me, now. Let's go.

[LION comes towards MAIDEN. MAIDEN holds LION gently by the back of the shirt and steps in front of LION. MAIDEN leads LION to the pond, and LION goes below the blue sheet to signify being underwater. (See Performance Notes for ideas how to make a pond and signify the transition.)]

[MAIDEN waits.]

MAIDEN:

I hope I did the right thing. (*frantic*) Where is he? Where's the prince? How long do I wait before I jump into the pond myself and pull him out?

[PRINCE comes out from under the blue sheet/pond.]

PRINCE:

It worked! I'm me again, and it's DAYTIME!

MAIDEN:

Oh, my!!

PRINCE:

(*clasp*ing the Maiden's arms) I can't believe everything you did for me! Please make me even happier by saying you'll be my wife.

MAIDEN:

If only! But in order to get the second lock of hair from the princess, I had to promise her your hand in marriage.

PRINCE:

Ah! Well, that's disappointing. But if that's what you promised, of course it must be so. Still, know this. YOU are the one I really want.

[They stare at each other in silence for an awkward moment.]



**MAIDEN:**

**We should get back to the palace...**

**PRINCE:**

**Right.**

**[PRINCE and MAIDEN exit.]**

## Scene 10 – Palace of the Princess

[Stage set: as in Scene 4.]

[PRINCESS and ATTENDANTS enter. PRINCESS sits on her throne and ATTENDANTS stand behind her.]

[MAIDEN enters.]

PRINCESS:

*(notices Maiden)* There you are. I'm so glad you're back. My mother, the Queen, loved what you did with my up-do! I told her all about it and she wants to meet you herself. My father said something about a trim, too. I'm sure that'd be no problem. *(to Attendant #1)* Go get the King and Queen.

[ATTENDANT #1 exits.]

PRINCESS:

I hope you have something extra special in mind for me...

MAIDEN:

Yes, actually. Something VERY extra special.

[KING and QUEEN enter.]

PRINCESS:

Mother, Father, you're just in time. *(to Maiden)* As you were saying?

MAIDEN:

Yes, Princess. Allow me to present the prince I promised you.

[MAIDEN gestures offstage to PRINCE. ]

[PRINCE enters. PRINCE should enter from a different spot offstage as the QUEEN and KING had entered.]

[QUEEN and KING enter with ATTENDANT #1. They look at PRINCE, astounded.]

QUEEN:

*(gasps)* My son! Can it be true?

KING:

Our long-lost son!

**PRINCESS:**

Where have you been all these years?

**PRINCE:**

Mother, Father! Years ago a giant captured me and put me under a spell.

**QUEEN:**

*(gasps)* Alas!

**KING:**

Remarkable!

**PRINCE:**

Every day, I had to walk around as a lion. Until this maiden came along. She broke the curse! Now I'm back to my old self!

**QUEEN:**

We're overwhelmed, son!

[QUEEN and KING hug PRINCE.]

**PRINCESS:**

Wait a minute! *(to Maiden)* THIS is the handsome prince you were intending for me to marry?

**MAIDEN:**

Yes, but I had no idea he was your BROTHER.

**PRINCESS:**

Well, he is kind of handsome, I must say. Though of course there's no way I could marry my brother!

**MAIDEN:**

SOR..ree! *(shrugs)*

[EVERYONE laughs.]

**PRINCE:**

Please Mother, Father, I would like to marry this girl – the one who broke the curse.

**KING:**

A young woman like that is welcome in the royal family! *(cups one hand, to speak just to Queen)* Having someone around good at breaking curses is not a bad idea.

**QUEEN:**

*(nods, to King)* True, that. *(to Attendants)* Attendants, prepare a feast for all the kingdom! Send out the messengers. Our son has returned and is to be married to a fine young lady!

[ATTENDANTS scurry back and forth, bumping into each other.]

**PRINCESS:**

A feast tonight? My hair's a mess!

**QUEEN:**

Mine too!

**KING:**

*(runs hand through his hair)* Did I mention I could use a trim?

**MAIDEN:**

Okay, everyone. *(takes out a brush)* One by one!

[PRINCE puts arms around MAIDEN.]

[NARRATOR enters.]

**NARRATOR:**

And so the King and Queen hosted a grand feast, and the Prince and the Maiden were married. Everyone's hair looked great, and they all lived happily ever after!

[If you have a curtain, close it now. If you do not, fade the lights. If you have no stage lights, all actors come on stage and bow to the audience.]



## Performance Notes for The Lion's Enchantment

### THREE WAYS THAT STUDENTS AND TEACHERS CAN UTILIZE THIS PLAY

1. Students can read the play aloud while sitting in the classroom. Ask the readers to skip all bracketed stage directions. You may prefer to rotate your actors to give all students a chance to read the speaking parts.
2. Students can perform the play in the classroom. Clear an area that can be used as the stage. Have the audience sit on the floor in front of the stage. Students in the play can make simple costumes and/or sets as described below. When the scene change, the characters "on stage" simply walk to the back of the room where they wait until their next appearance "on stage."
3. Students can perform the play on stage. Refer to the production notes that follow. Ask the actors to enter from the back of the room and move through the audience as they approach the stage.



### COSTUMES

- NARRATOR— Simple, nice cloths.
- MAIDEN— A plain light colored shirt with skirt or plain light colored dress. If you want to make the clothes look worn and worked in, you can rub some dirt on them, or use brown paint.



- **FARMER**— A plaid or solid colored button-up shirt and jeans or overalls. Brown or black shoes. A straw hat is optional.
- **COWS/PIGS**— They can wear a white t-shirt and white pants as their base. As **COWS**, they can wear a black jacket with white spots and black hat. Spots can be cut from any white fabric and either sewn or hot glued onto jacket. As **PIGS** they can wear a pink jacket and pink hat.  
Another option is to wear actual cow and pig costumes.
- **LION**— Yellow pants, a yellow hooded sweatshirt, and an orange mane. You can create the mane by attaching orange yarn, or strips of orange felt, to the hood of the sweatshirt. You can sew or hot-glue the mane pieces on.  
Optional: You can make a tail by cutting a strip of yellow fabric, folding it over itself, sewing along the open edged to create a tube, then stuffing the tube with cotton pillow-stuffing. There are a lot of great resources online with step-by-step instructions.  
Another option is to use an actual lion costume.  
Optional: For the **LION'S** wound, you can use red face paint or a red eyebrow pencil to draw a scratch-type line across the actor's forehead.
- **PRINCE**— Black pants, a white button-up shirt, and a nice buttoned vest or jacket.

Note: In Scene 2, Scene 3, and Scene 9 the **LION** “becomes” the **PRINCE**. The switch happens during the transitions from Underground House- one character will crawl into the hole and exit, and the other character will enter back through the hole.

See “Other Staging Notes” for the transition to/from Underground House through the hole.

- **PRINCESS** – A nice brightly-colored dress. In Scenes 4 and 6 her hair should look as if it has been done up nicely by the **MAIDEN**. If the actor has longer hair, it can be put up or curled. If the actor has shorter hair, she can wear nice barrettes and/or a fancy headscarf. Another option is to have the actress wear a wig.
- **ATTENDANTS** – Plain light colored button up shirts and brown or black pants with long white socks. You can roll up the pant cuffs to create the look of knickers. Black shoes and black vests.



- **GIANT** – A long sleeved tan shirt with a brown vest. Dark brown or black pants, a belt, to be worn over the vest, and black or brown boots or shoes.  
Optional: Fake beard and moustache.
- **KING** – A white button-up shirt, black pants, black shoes, a crown, and a red king's robe. You can also make a robe or half-robe using red fabric over the shoulders, gathering at the collar, and clipping it together with a gold broach/pin.
- **QUEEN** – A long bright-colored dress and a crown. A queen's robe, if possible. If not, then you can drape some nice red or gold fabric around the shoulders, like a shawl.



## PROPS

### Scene 1

- Bag for MAIDEN. It can be a satchel with a shoulder strap or something around her waist. This is where she can keep the handkerchief, the healing herbs, the scarf, and her brush.
- Big thorn for LION'S paw- this can be made cardboard/paper in cone shape and the LION can carry it to give the illusion that it's stuck.
- Handkerchief for PRINCESS to wrap the LION'S paw with.

### Scene 2

- Healing herbs (in MAIDEN'S bag). This can just be a small vile or jar.
- Long scarf for MAIDEN to wrap around LION'S head.

### Scene 3

- Books, to be set on the table.
- Bowls, spoons, forks, cups, to be set on the table.
- Food- this can be real or fake.

### Scene 4

- A brush (in MAIDEN'S bag).



- A mirror- can be real or cardboard with tin foil glued on.
- A pair of scissors (pretend!) for MAIDEN to “cut” a lock of PRINCESS’S hair. These can be plastic or made from cardboard, since they don’t actually have to cut anything.
- Lock of PRINCESS’S hair for MAIDEN to cut. This can be a piece of yarn that is roughly the same color as PRINCESS’S hair. You can clip it into the back of her head, and MAIDEN can unclip it when it’s time to “cut” it. Or, MAIDEN can keep the piece of yarn in her bag and pull it out with her brush so that it’s in her hand when she “cuts”.

## Scene 5

- A cloak, for PRINCESS to give to GIANT. You can use a real cloak or make one out of any simple fabric. To make a cloak, drape the fabric over the GIANT’S head and gather the fabric together around the collar. This creates a hood. Mark the place where the fabric comes together in the front, and attach Velcro to both sides, so the cloak can be closed at the front.

Note: This first cloak is small and does not fit the GIANT.

Note: The color of the cloak should match the color of the PRINCESS’S hair color.

## Scene 6

- A brush for PRINCESS to use, same as Scene 3.
- Large barrette for MAIDEN to use in PRINCESS’S hair.
- Scissors for MAIDEN to clip PRINCESS’S hair with. (Same as before)
- Another lock of PRINCESS’S hair for MAIDEN to cut. This can be another piece of yarn that is roughly the same color as PRINCESS’S hair. It can be brought on and clipped the same way as before.

## Scene 7

- A second cloak for PRINCESS to give to GIANT. This one is made the same way the first, smaller cloak was made.
  - Note: This one is bigger and fits the GIANT.
  - Note: The color of the cloak should match the color of the PRINCESS’S hair color.
- A long piece of flowing blue fabric to represent the pond the LION is thrown into and PRINCE emerges from. See “Other Staging Notes” for how to accomplish this.



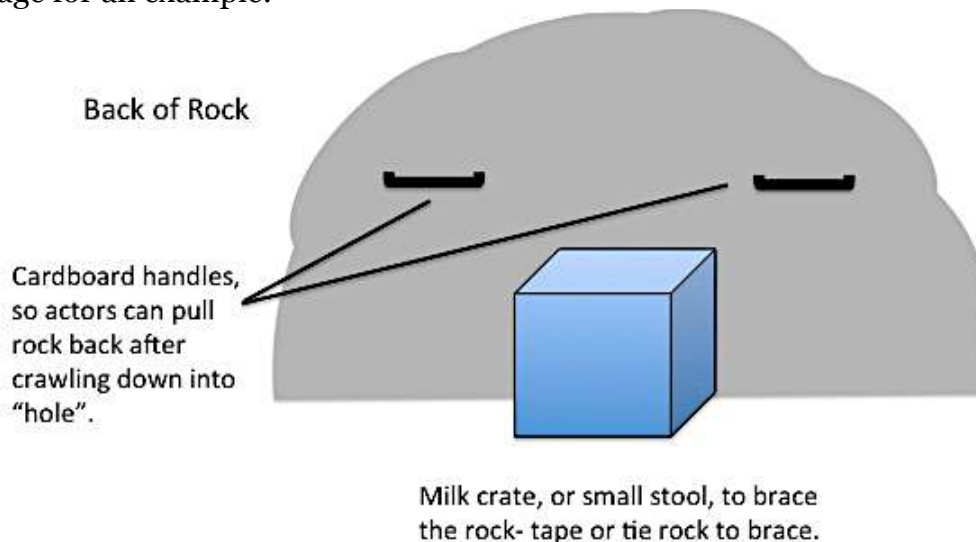


## SETS

The stage is divided into two sections- The Meadow, on one side, and The Palace, on the other side. If you want to paint a backdrop, it can both locations. There are two other location in the play, which will come on as “pop-up” locations- The Underground House and the Giant’s Door.

**Scene 1**— The Meadow. If you have a backdrop, this part can show grass, hills, and trees. There is a free-standing “climbing” tree and a large free standing rock on stage. The tree sits in the center of the stage, and the large rock sits very close to offstage.

To make the large rock: This can be cut out of cardboard and painted gray. It should be flat and freestanding, and at least 3 ft tall. You can make a triangular brace from cardboard or tie the rock to a milk crate, to hold it up. Make two handles out of cardboard for the back. It should be light and easy to slide. See image for an example:



Note: The rock should sit close to offstage, in order to make the entrances/exits to/from the underground house easier. (See “Other Staging Notes” for ideas on moving the rock and entrances/exits to/from the underground house.)



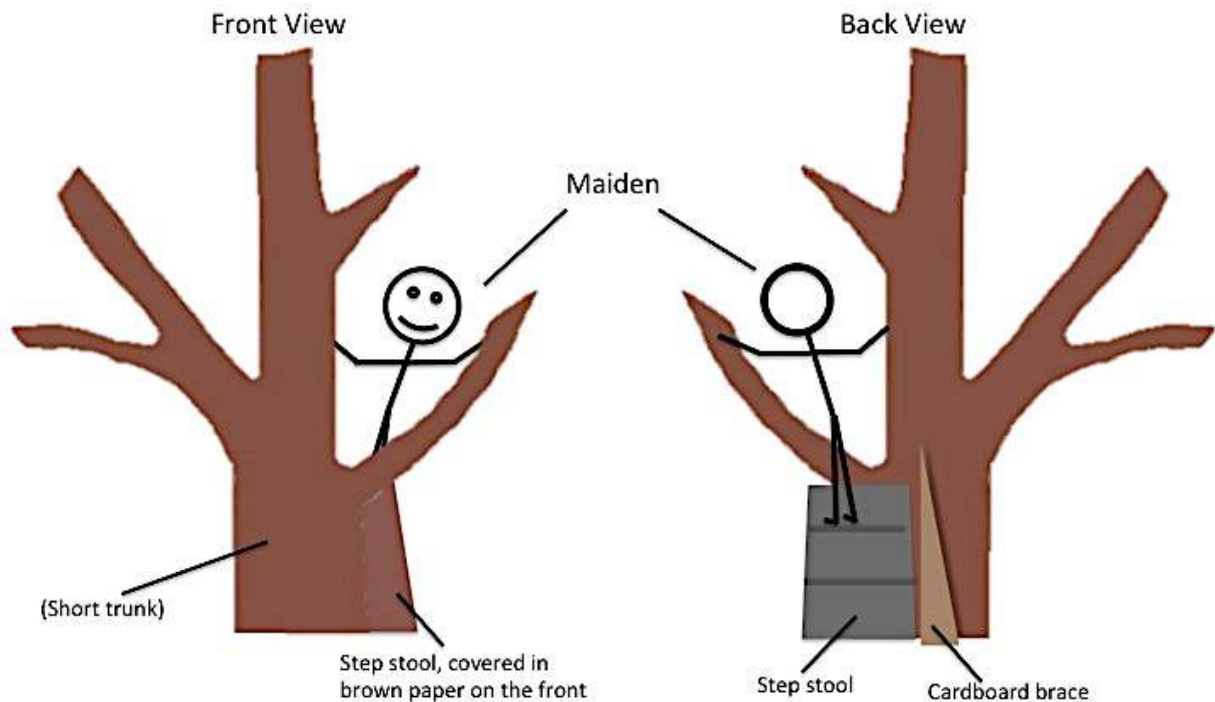
To make the freestanding climbing tree: You can make this from cardboard, cutting out a tree with a short stump and one wide space created in the branches, for MAIDEN to stand between.

Make a triangular brace out of cardboard and attach it to the back of the tree, in the center.

Cover a stepstool in brown paper, to match the color of the tree. The step stool sits behind the cardboard tree, a little off center. The step stool can also help to brace the tree, along with the cardboard brace, and you can even tie the tree to the stepstool.

When MAIDEN "climbs" the tree, she climbs up the stepstool and looks out from between the branches, giving the illusion that she is in the tree.

See images:



**Scene 2**— The Meadow, the next day. Same as in Scene 1.

**Scene 3**— The Prince's underground home. At the top of the Scene, before MAIDEN enters, HANDS can bring on a table and a chair. On the table are cups, bowls, utensils, and some food.

Note: To make this transition easier, you can use a rolling cart instead of a table. Cover the cart in a tablecloth. On the cart you can place the books, the



dishes, the utensils, and the food. You can secure some of the objects to the cart or to the tablecloth using glue or tape. Secure any cups, bowls or utensils that the MAIDEN will not pick up. You can secure the bowls or plates of food, except for a few loose pieces that the MAIDEN will “eat”. (See “Other Staging Notes” for more ideas on this transition.)

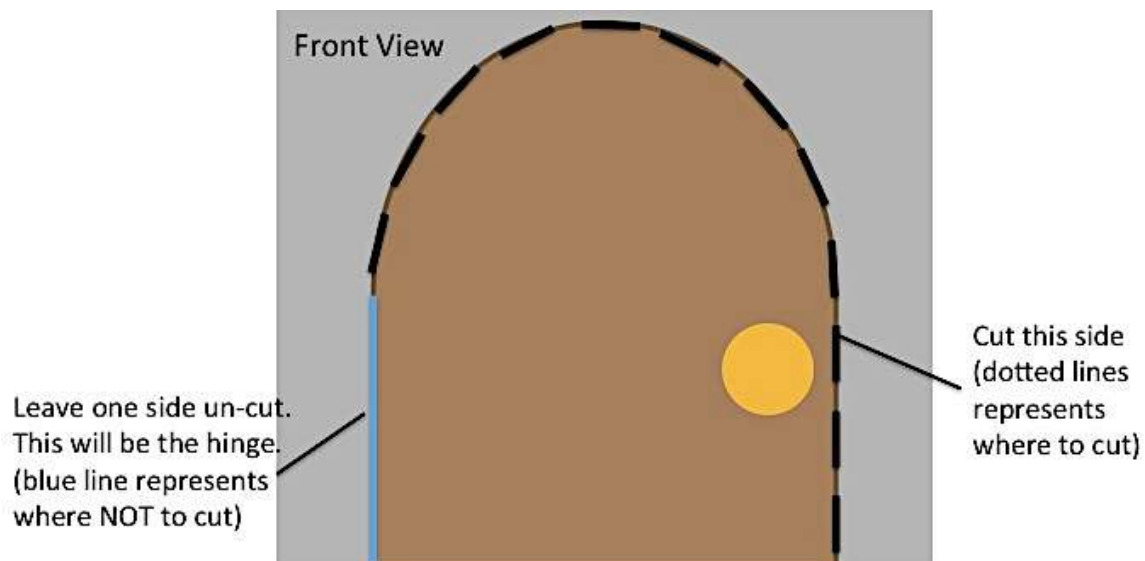
**Scene 4**— The Palace. If you have a backdrop, it can show the inside walls of a palace, with a large window and perhaps a few tapestries.

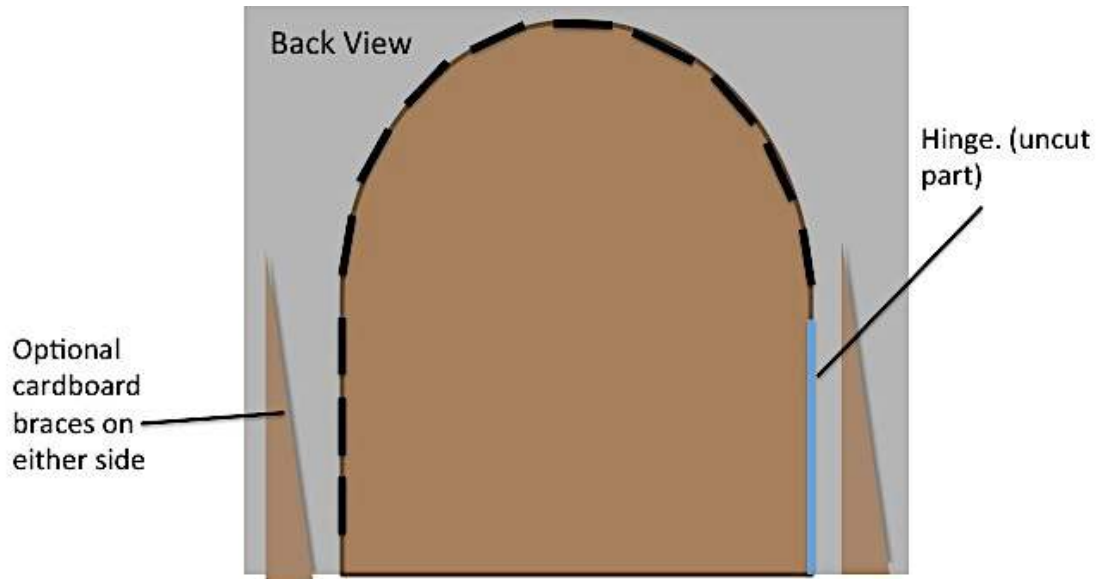
On stage, there is a chair for the PRINCESS. This can be a regular chair covered in some nice fabric.

**Scene 5**— The Giant's Door. This is a pop-up scene that happens at the front of the stage, in front of the large rock. For the door, you can use cardboard. Start with a big rectangular piece. With a marker, draw a door within the large piece.

With a box cutter, trace the marker, leaving one side of the door uncut. This will act as the hinge. You can paint the door brown and draw a sign on the front that says, “GO AWAY” or something to that affect. You can paint the area around the door gray, or make bricks using sponges. You can make two triangular cardboard braces to make the door free-standing, or have two STAGE HANDS hold the door in place. It should stand somewhere in front of the rock.

See images for example:





**Scene 6**— The Palace, same as Scene 4.

**Scene 7**— The Giant's door, same as Scene 5.

**Scene 8**— The Meadow, same as Scenes 1 & 2.

**Scene 9**— The Pond. This is a pop-up scene. Two STAGE HANDS bring on a long strip of wrinkly fabric. One STAGE HAND stands with their end right by offstage, and the other STAGE HAND stands about center stage. They hold the fabric up about waist-high. This represents the pond, into which MAIDEN will throw the LION. See “Other Staging Notes” for execution of this action.

**Scene 10**— The Palace, same as Scenes 4 & 6.



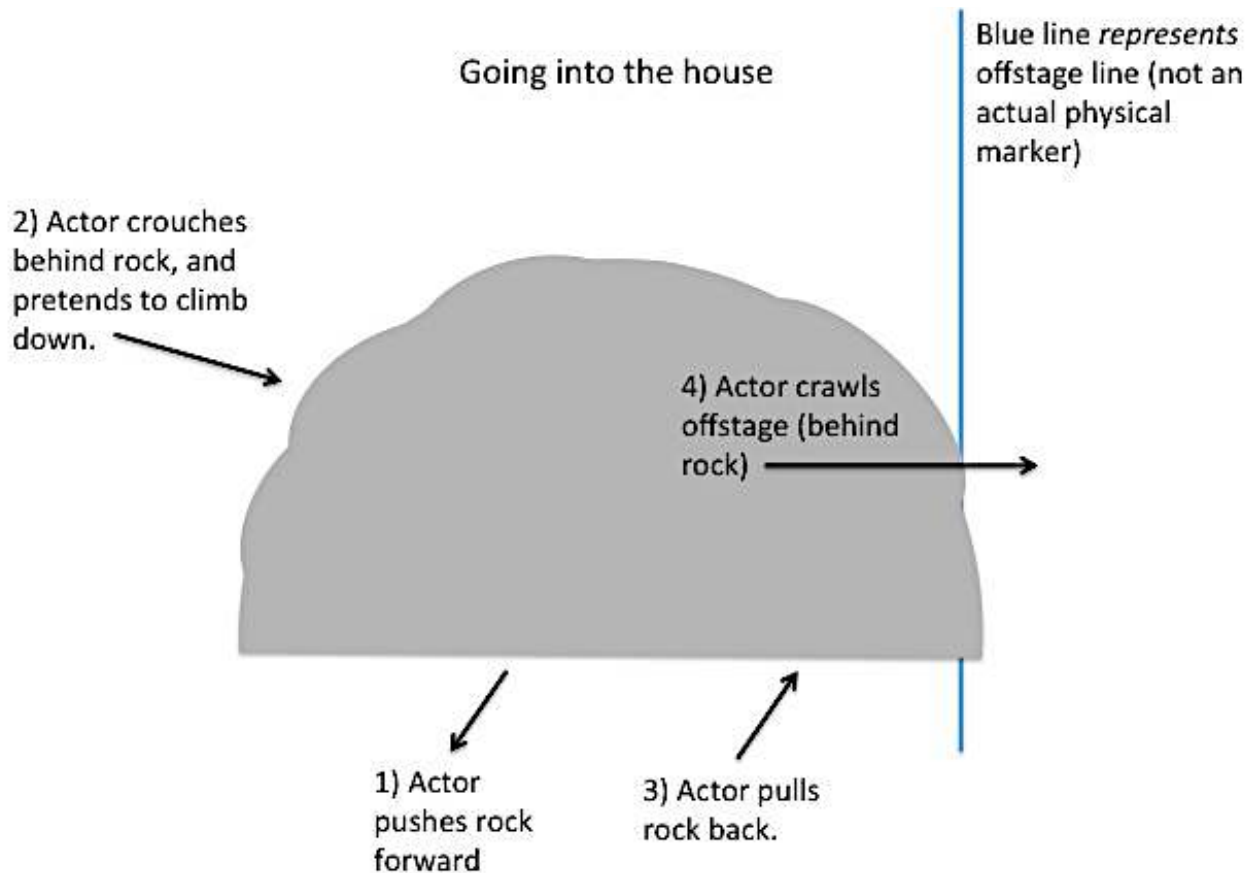
## OTHER STAGING NOTES

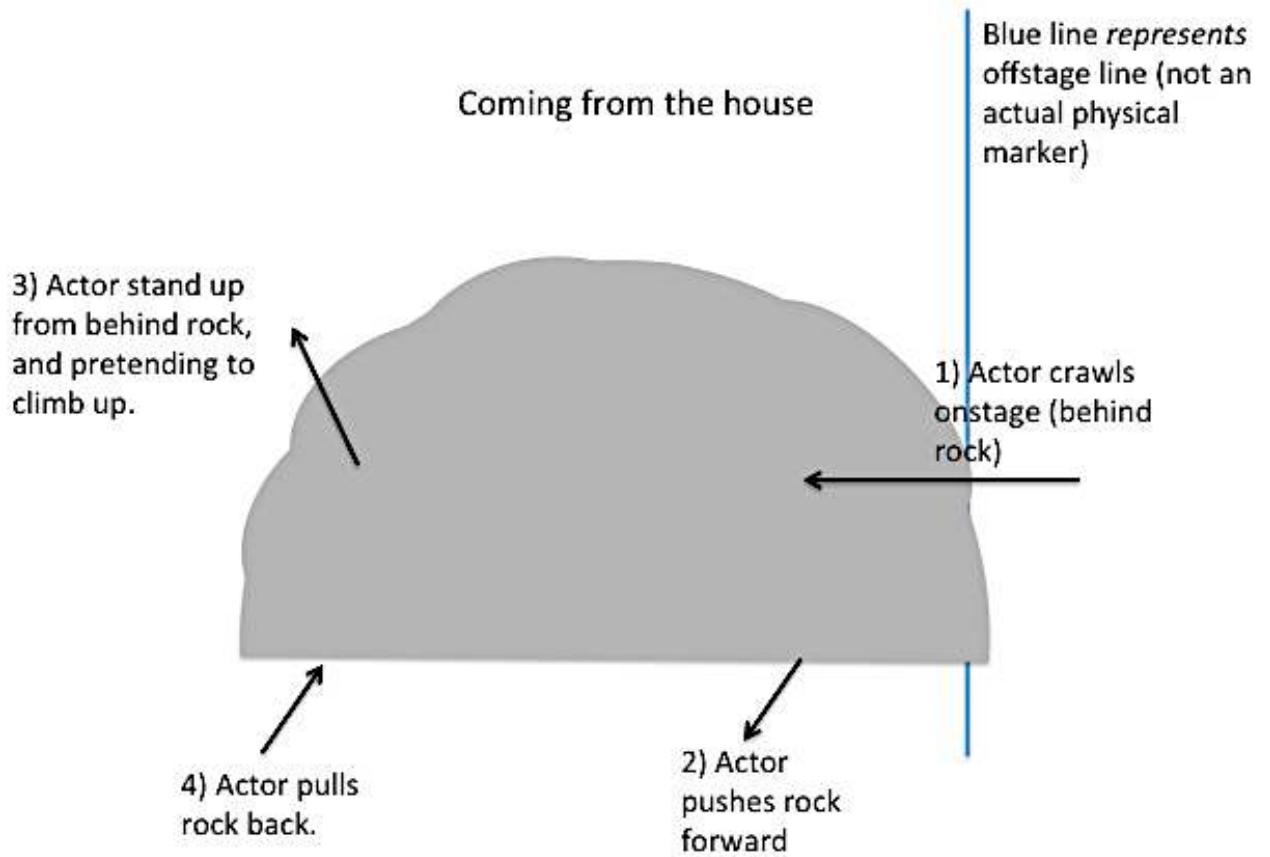
### Scene 2 & Scene 3

**Moving the Rock and “climbing down” into the hole—** The rock should be set up close to offstage. When the LION, PRINCE, or MAIDEN go to enter the Underground House, they can push it a foot or so forward, towards the audience.

Once they move the rock, they can step back to where the rock was, and crouch down, pretending to crawl down. They can duck completely behind the rock, pull the rock back to where it was, and crawl offstage.

See images:





Note: In Scene 2, PRINCE can yawn and say his line as he is “crawling” down, before ducking offstage.

Note: At the end of Scene 2, after MAIDEN “crawls” down into the hole, that’s when STAGE HANDS can bring on the Underground House set.

**Coming back up through the hole**— The reverse of the above. LION, PRINCE, or MAIDEN, when they are entering, can crawl onstage, behind the rock, push it forward, and then step up, as if coming up from underneath. They can then push the rock back.

### Scene 9

**Throwing LION into the pond/transition from LION to PRINCE**— two STAGE HANDS hold the piece of wrinkly fabric waist high. They can wave the fabric back a forth a little to give the effect of water.

MAIDEN and LION walk to the edge of the fabric, on the center stage side.





MAIDEN pretends to grab the LION and throw him into the “pond”. In reality, the LION throws himself into the pond- it just *looks* like the MAIDEN is doing it.

LION jumps forward, going behind the blue fabric. LION waves his arms back and forth, and then ducks down behind fabric. LION crawls offstage behind the fabric.

PRINCE can then crawl onstage and pop up behind the fabric, and “swims” back to land.

See image for example:

