



Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

Readers Theater Play Script

AUTHORS: Elaine Lindy COUNTRY: Germany, GENRE: Fairytales



CHARACTERS

STEPMOTHER

SNOW WHITE

VOICE of MIRROR and WOLF (voices call from off-stage)

ROYAL HUNTSMAN

TREE #1 and TREE #2 – (each actor stands behind a tree; from 2-4 TREES)

DOOR TO DWARF’S COTTAGE (actor stands behind it)

PRINCE

GRUMPY

DOPEY (no speaking lines)

DOC

HAPPY

BASHFUL

SNEEZY

SLEEPY

Scene 1 – Palace

[Stage set: Tall strips of rolled cardboard can be painted and cut into columns that are tapes to the edges of the stage.]

[Note: Two far front areas are intended for particular scenes. At the far right area of the stage is the MIRROR on the wall, described in more detail later. At the far left edge of the stage is a forest for Scene 2, also described in more detail later.]

[STEPMOTHER enters.]

STEPMOTHER:

(talking in an ultra-sweet voice offstage to her husband, the King) Of course, of COURSE my darling! How WELL you settled that dispute! You really know how to work things out! *(to audience, changing tone of voice to exasperation)* Aughh, that man! All he does is meet with those RIDICULOUS townspeople DAY after DAY. They do nothing but complain about one stupid thing or another. He has no time for ME, his QUEEN! *(primps her hair)* Where's my mirror?

[SNOW WHITE enters. She stands by the edge of the stage, looking offstage. Snow White wears a large comb in her hair. It's best if the comb is decorated with large jewels – these can be crumbled balls of tin foil taped to a decorative comb.]

STEPMOTHER:

Snow White! What ARE you doing?

SNOW WHITE:

Waiting my turn for lunch.

STEPMOTHER:

You're a PRINCESS, for goodness sake. You don't have to wait in line!

SNOW WHITE:

Fair is fair.

STEPMOTHER:

You, too? *(to audience)* All everyone ever talks about around here is *(makes air quotes)* "fair"! I've had quite enough of it, I can assure you.

[SNOW WHITE exits. At the far right area of the stage is a large oval mirror taped to the wall. It is covered by a purple blanket. The mirror can be made from heavy cardboard stock. It should have a border at least six inches wide and can be decorated with crumpled gold foil to look like gold. The glass of the mirror can be wrapped with tin foil to look like glass. On top of the surface of the mirror is a large, evil-looking face, also cut from cardboard and painted.]

[STEPMOTHER marches over to the mirror. She snatches the blanket off the mirror and drops it on the floor. Revealed is the large, evil-looking face.]

STEPMOTHER:

Mirror, mirror, on the wall. Who is the fairest of them all?

[Note: The voice of MIRROR comes from offstage. If you can, amplify the voice.]

MIRROR:

(offstage) Snow White is the fairest of them all.

STEPMOTHER:

(shocked) Snow White?!? But I am the Queen! I am the best at everything!

MIRROR:

Snow WHITE is the fairest of them all!

STEPMOTHER:

This is outrageous! Who asked you?

MIRROR:

You did.

STEPMOTHER:

Bah! What do you know? You're just a mirror! *(picks up the blanket and covers the mirror)*

(to audience) That girl has been the bane of my existence since I married her father and moved in. *(starts to pace across the stage)* I wish I could be rid of her, once and for all! But how? There must be a way. *(continues to pace, then stops and faces audience)* What am I saying? Of COURSE there's a way. I am the QUEEN, am I not? *(calls offstage)* My royal huntsman!

[ROYAL HUNTSMAN enters and bows before the QUEEN.]

ROYAL HUNTSMAN:

Yes, Your Majesty?

STEPMOTHER:

Huntsman, you are quick with the sword. The quickest, I dare say, in all the land.

HUNTSMAN:

Thank you, Your Majesty. I am honored by your kind words.

STEPMOTHER:

Naturally. I have a task for you, Huntsman. A task so special only you can manage it.

HUNTSMAN:

I will do as you wish, Your Majesty. Anything you desire.

STEPMOTHER:

It's what I like to hear. This concerns my step-daughter, Snow White.

HUNTSMAN:

***(with a smile)* Ah, the princess! The fairest young lady in all the land!**

STEPMOTHER:

***(angry)* Enough of that! *(lowers voice)* You must listen carefully.**

[HUNTSMAN leans forward.]

STEPMOTHER:

This afternoon, you are to find a reason to take Snow White deep into the woods. (*points her long finger at Royal Huntsman*) And kill her.

ROYAL HUNTSMAN:

What?! Surely you don't mean—

STEPMOTHER:

(*growling*) Is it for YOU to tell the QUEEN what she means?

ROYAL HUNTSMAN:

(*stammering*) Of-of course not. I mean, you are the Queen after all and—

STEPMOTHER:

(*crosses arms*) Is there anything about my instruction that is any way unclear?

ROYAL HUNTSMAN:

(*sighs*) No, Your Majesty. I understand perfectly.

STEPMOTHER:

Excellent. Then there is nothing more to say. Go! Come back when the deed is done.

ROYAL HUNTSMAN:

(bows) Yes, Your Majesty.

[ROYAL HUNTSMAN exits. STEPMOTHER exits.]

[Stagehands remove the column cut-outs and MIRROR.]

Scene 2 – the Woods

[Stage set: Stagehands bring onstage several trees and bushes to the left stage. Each tree or bush is a large painted cut-out from thick cardboard and stands in a bucket or 5-gallon joint compound container that's painted green. The trees and bushes need to be supported from behind so they stand upright.]

[ROYAL HUNTSMAN and SNOW WHITE enter from the left stage.]

SNOW WHITE:

(in a chatting voice) What a great idea to come to the woods this afternoon. Look at the sun shining through the trees onto the leaves! Thanks for bringing me! It can be so dreary in the palace all day. Though of course, I appreciate everything I have – I don't mean to sound ungrateful.

ROYAL HUNTSMAN:

(sadly), Snow White, come here.

SNOW WHITE:

(brightly) Of course! Something to show me? No wait, I have something to show you first!

ROYAL HUNTSMAN:

You do?

SNOW WHITE:

(takes out of her pocket) Look! I've been carving this apple from wood. Doesn't it look like a big, red delicious apple? *(shows to him)*

ROYAL HUNTSMAN:

Wow, very realistic shape! There's two leaves and a stem, too. Very nice.

SNOW WHITE:

Thank you. It's yours.

ROYAL HUNTSMAN:

What?

SNOW WHITE:

Please accept this as my gift to you.

ROYAL HUNTSMAN:

(falls on one knee) Snow White!

SNOW WHITE:

Yes?

ROYAL HUNTSMAN:

I can't do this!

SNOW WHITE:

Why can't you accept the gift?

ROYAL HUNTSMAN:

I don't mean that. (*hangs head*) It's your stepmother, the Queen.

SNOW WHITE:

What about her?

ROYAL HUNTSMAN:

She told me to take you here, into the woods. And to kill you.

SNOW WHITE:

What? I can't believe that!

ROYAL HUNTSMAN:

Believe it. But I cannot.

SNOW WHITE:

She wants to kill me? What do I do?

ROYAL HUNTSMAN:

You must run away! Run far into the woods, and never come back to the castle!

SNOW WHITE:

But it's getting dark!

ROYAL HUNTSMAN:

Run, Snow White, run! Go now!

[ROYAL HUNTSMAN exits.]

[TREE #1 and TREE #2 enter and stand between the area where SNOW WHITE and HUNSTMAN are, and before the middle of the stage. Each TREE is a large painted cardboard cut-out, wide enough for a youngster to stand behind and light enough for a youngster to move in front of her or him. Color the trees dark evergreen shades. To make the trees menacing, you might paint a frown face on it. The arms of each actor should be covered with cardboard that looks like a branch so when actor stands behind the tree, can move her or his arms menacingly.]

SNOW WHITE:

***(worried)* Where will I go? It's getting darker!**

WOLF:

***(howls from offstage)* a-WHOOO!**

SNOW WHITE:

Oh no, that's all I need!

WOLF:

(howls again) a-WHOO!

SNOW WHITE:

I need to get out of here!

[SNOW WHITE nervously heads to mid-stage, where the TREES are stationed with an actor behind each one. As she approaches, the voice of TREE #1 growls loudly and the actor waves arms menacingly that are decorated to look like branches, reaching out as if to grab SNOW WHITE.]

SNOW WHITE:

Ahh!

[SNOW WHITE bolts away from TREE #1 toward TREE #2. The voice of TREE #2 growls loudly and the actor waves arms menacingly that are decorated to look like branches, reaching out as if to grab SNOW WHITE.]

SNOW WHITE:

AHHHHH!! Where can I go?

Scene 3 – Cottage of the Seven Dwarfs

[From right stage, DOOR TO DWARF'S COTTAGE appears. An actor is behind DOOR, moving it across the stage but positioned so the actor is unseen to audience. DOOR goes to about 2/3rd of the stage and faces SNOW WHITE. Behind DOOR, stage hands bring out a table, a broom, and a large basket such as a wicker laundry basket. Stagehands also bring out seven chairs and line them up at a far end of the stage, draping two blankets across all seven chairs. Stagehands throw debris onto the stage – large crumpled paper, dishtowels, enough debris to nearly cover the floor. At the far right stage, stagehands hang MIRROR again and drape the same purple blanket over it.]

SNOW WHITE:

(turns around and notices DOOR) My goodness! I didn't notice this cottage before. I'll just knock on the door and see if anyone is home.

[SNOW WHITE knocks three times on the door. As she does so, from offstage a stagehand who is watching SNOW WHITE should strike a block of wood with a serving spoon three times. This will amplify the sound of the knocking since DOOR is made of cardboard.]

SNOW WHITE:

I need a place to stay tonight.

WOLF:

(howls again from off-stage) a-WHOO!

SNOW WHITE:

I REALLY need a place to stay! Hmm, this door is already open a little bit. *(pretends to push open the door.*

[DOOR turns so the door seems to open.]

SNOW WHITE:

Hello? Anyone home? *(looks around)* What a mess! I've never seen such big piles of dust. I can barely see the floor. *(to audience)* That's how I'll earn my night's keep! I'll tidy up around here. *(takes broom and starts to clean up the debris in to the basket, then stands and faces audience)* I miss my friend from the next kingdom, the Prince. It's been fun, taking walks together every afternoon. Soon he'll come looking for me. What will he think when I'm not there?

[PRINCE enters at stage left. He looks around.]

PRINCE:

Snow White! Snow White! Where are you?

SNOW WHITE:

If he asks my stepmother, what will she say?

PRINCE:

(calling off-stage) Oh Queen, do you know where Snow White is?

STEPMOTHER:

(from off-stage) Haven't the foggiest.

PRINCE:

Do you know when she'll be home?

STEPMOTHER:

(again from off-stage) Why should I care?

PRINCE:

(to audience) She's not very helpful.

SNOW WHITE:

I wonder if he'll call me with our special word "sunrise." That's our code word we say when one of us comes up with an idea for an adventure.

PRINCE:

(whispers) Sunrise, Snow White!

STEPMOTHER:

(from off-stage) Wait, I just remembered. Snow White left and is never coming back.

PRINCE:

What? That doesn't sound like her.

STEPMOTHER:

Forget about her. I already have.

SNOW WHITE:

If my stepmother tells him I left and I'm never coming back, I wonder if he'll just forget about me. I don't think he feels about me the way I feel about him.

PRINCE:

(to audience) Snow White wouldn't leave like that without saying goodbye to me. Something's not right here, I can feel it! She's in trouble. I must find her, somehow!

[PRINCE pumps his fist and exits, stage left.]

SNOW WHITE:

(yawns) I'm so tired I could fall asleep right on this floor. I wonder if there's a bed around here? Just for a moment, mind you.

[SNOW WHITE notices the seven chairs lined up at the far end of the stage.]

SNOW WHITE:

How odd! *(counts the chairs)* One-two-three-four-five-six-seven. Seven little beds! How curious. Well I suppose this could work. *(lies down across all seven chairs and puts one of the blankets around her)*

[SNOW WHITE starts to snore.]

[SEVEN DWARFS enter through the section of the stage with trees and bushes. They are singing together: "Heigh-ho! Heigh-ho! It's off to work we go!"]

GRUMPY:

Fellows, stop!

[SEVEN DWARFS stop.]

GRUMPY:

We're going BACK HOME now, not "off to work"!

[SEVEN DWARFS resume singing – this time: "Heigh-ho! Heigh-ho! It's home from work we go!"]

GRUMPY:

(sees DOOR is "open") Wait a minute!

DOC:

The door wasn't open when we left!

SNEEZY:

(sneezes) Something's fishy around here!

BASHFUL:

There's no fish anywhere near here.

GRUMPY:

(in a commanding, serious tone) Listen everyone. We don't know WHO or WHAT is inside our cottage. We must tip-toe inside.

[SEVEN DWARFS all put their fingers to their mouths and say a loud "SHHH!" They lean forward toward the door. Lining up, in an exaggerated way they tip-top past the DOOR to inside the cottage.]

[They look about, amazed.]

HAPPY:

Well, will you look at this!

BASHFUL:

You can see the floor!

SNEEZY:

We have a floor? (sneezes)

DOC:

This might be some kind of magic!

HAPPY:

Magic like this I can get used to!

SLEEPY:

(yawns) It's been a long day, fellows. Let's crash.

DOC:

Maybe it'll all make sense in morning.

GRUMPY:

Not likely.

[SEVEN DWARFS pretend to climb stairs. They get to the far edge of the stage, where SNOW WHITE is sleeping across the seven chairs.]

SLEEPY:

(sees Snow White) Will you look at THAT?

SNOW WHITE:

(wakes up, surprised) AHH!

SEVEN DWARFS:

(loudly) AHH!

SNOW WHITE:

(more loudly) AHHHHH!

SEVEN DWARFS:

(more loudly) AHHHHH!

DOC:

Wait, everyone. Okay, miss. Who are you, and what are you doing here?

SNOW WHITE:

(steps forward, talks to audience) And so I told them the whole story. How the Royal Huntsman had taken me into the forest.

SEVEN DWARFS:

(together, in happiness) Ahhh!

SNOW WHITE:

And how he told me my stepmother meant to kill me.

SEVEN DWARFS:

(reeling backward in horror) Ahhhh!

SNOW WHITE:

And how I was lost in the forest, and heard the wolves cry out.

SEVEN DWARFS:

(clutching hands together and looking about in fear) Ahhhh!

SNOW WHITE:

And how I found this cottage, and thinking to earn my keep for the night, tidied it up a bit.

SEVEN DWARFS:

(gesturing to the cottage and nodding with pleasure) Ahhh!

DOC:

(steps forward, also talks to audience) And we told her all our names. I'm Doc.

GRUMPY:

(steps forward) I'm Grumpy. *(steps back)*

HAPPY:

(steps forward) I'm Happy. *(steps back)*

BASHFUL:

(steps forward) I'm Bashful. *(steps back)*

SNEEZY:

(steps forward) I'm Sneezzy. *(steps back and sneezes)*

DOC:

He's Dopey. (*Dopey steps forward and steps back.*) He doesn't say much.

And we learned her name, too.

SNOW WHITE:

(*curtsies*) I'm Snow White.

DOC:

We told Snow White about us. How every morning we go off to work in the mines.

[SEVEN DWARFS turn to face stage left, lining up one behind the other, and march together a few steps.]

DOC:

And how at the end of the day we come home.

[SEVEN DWARFS spin around to face stage right and march back a few steps.]

DOC:

Dwarfs, huddle!

[SEVEN DWARFS get in a huddle, leaning forward and whispering loudly. After a few moments they go back to their line-up, facing the audience. HAPPY steps forward to approach SNOW WHITE.]

HAPPY:

We want you to stay with us!

SNOW WHITE:

What? I couldn't. That wouldn't be fair to you.

DOC:

But you can't go back to the castle.

BASHFUL:

Stay here, with us!

SNOW WHITE:

But how could I earn my keep?

HAPPY:

You already cleaned our place.

SNOW WHITE:

I could show you how everyone can work together. It'll be easy to keep the place clean. I need to do something more. But what?

DOC:

Do you know how to read? We have books filled with wonderful stories and would love to be able to read them.

SNOW WHITE:

Yes I do! I'd be happy to teach all of you to read.

SLEEPY:

Bedtime stories will help me sleep. (*yawns*)

GRUMPY:

Since when do you need help sleeping?

DOC:

So (*puts out hand*), it's a deal?

SNOW WHITE:

It's a deal! (*shakes hand*)

[SEVEN DWARFS dance and celebrate with SNOW WHITE for a minute. Find some upbeat party music. If you like, this would be a good place to choreograph a dance.]

[Music ends. Everyone stands at rest.]

DOC:

(steps forward) We danced all night. But morning came and it was time for us to go back to work.

[SEVEN DWARFS line up, one behind the other, and march past DOOR. DOC is last in line.]

DOC:

(turns around to Snow White) Whatever you do, Snow White, you must not open the door to anyone. No one at all! Who knows what evil that stepmother of yours could be up to?

SNOW WHITE:

Oh, no need to worry. She doesn't know where I am.

[SNOW WHITE and the SEVEN DWARFS freeze.]

[STEPMOTHER enters from stage right and stands before MIRROR.]

STEPMOTHER:

Mirror, mirror, on the wall, who is the fairest of them all?

MIRROR:

Snow White is the fairest of them all!

STEPMOTHER:

That's impossible! Snow White is no longer alive!

MIRROR:

Snow WHITE lives!

STEPMOTHER:

Then show me where she is, if you're so smart! (*leans forward to see, then pulls back in surprise*) So it's true! Snow White is still alive and she's at that cottage in the woods. (*raises her head and pumps her fists*) Aughh, curses! If you want something done, you have to do it yourself!

[STEPMOTHER stomps offstage and moves behind the stage, unseen by the audience, so she can enter a minute later from stage right.]

[SEVEN DWARFS and SNOW WHITE unfreeze.]

DOC:

Remember what I said. Open the door to no one!

SNOW WHITE:

Of course, Doc. Don't worry. I'll be very careful. Have a great day!

[SNOW WHITE and the SEVEN DWARFS wave. SEVEN DWARFS march offstage. SNOW WHITE looks around inside the cottage, thinking, her hands on her hips.]

[STEPMOTHER enters from the left end of the stage. She is stooped over and wears an old cloak that covers her head. She carries a basket of apples. STEPMOTHER comes up to DOOR and knocks three times. Offstage, a stagehand knocks a wooden spoon against a pot three times so the sound is more dramatic.]

SNOW WHITE:

Who is it?

STEPMOTHER:

(in a fake, old woman voice) Just an old women selling apples.

SNOW WHITE:

I'm afraid I mustn't open the door to anyone.

STEPMOTHER:

But dearie!– *(holds out hand as if to catch rain)*. It's raining. What harm can come from letting an old woman in from the rain?

SNOW WHITE:

(to audience) After all, what harm can come from letting an old woman in from the rain? *(to Stepmother)* Coming!

[DOOR opens and STEPMOTHER walks inside. SNOW WHITE looks around outside the DOOR, confused.]

SNOW WHITE:

How odd! No rain at all. The sun is out.

STEPMOTHER:

(shrugs) Climate change, who can account for this crazy weather? Listen dearie, how about buying one of my delicious red apples? *(holds up an apple)* Isn't she a beauty?

SNOW WHITE:

Oh, I love apples! But I cannot buy it, I'm afraid. I haven't a single coin to pay for it.

STEPMOTHER:

I'm sure we can work something out. How about a trade? That lovely comb in your hair for this scrumptious apple!

SNOW WHITE:

That sounds fair. Let's do it!

[SNOW WHIE takes the comb from her hair and gives it to STEPMOTHER. SNOW WHITE takes the apple and bites into it. As soon as she does, SNOW WHITE falls to the floor. She drops the apple.]

STEPMOTHER

(cackles) At last! *(raises her head in the air and pumps her fists)* I did it!

[STEPMOTHER exits, stage right.]

[SEVEN DWARFS enter, stage left.]

GRUMPY:

I can't believe you left your mining bag at home, Bashful.

BASHFUL:

Sorry...!

[SEVEN DWARFS see SNOW WHITE laying on the floor.]

BASHFUL:

Oh, no!

[GRUMPY picks up the fallen apple and holds it high.]

GRUMPY:

This is the doing of that evil stepmother!

DOC:

***(steps forward, talks to audience)* And so we laid the sleeping Snow White outside and put a glass coffin over her.**

[SEVEN DWARFS carry SNOW WHITE out past DOOR to the area with trees and bushes at the left end of the stage. They pretend to close a glass coffin over her. They stand around the princess, weeping silently.]

[PRINCE enters, stage left.]

PRINCE:

I will find my Snow White no matter what it takes! (*goes right past SNOW WHITE*) I tell you, I will find my princess SNOW WHITE no matter what it takes! (*to audience*) What's that? What's that you say? You say you see Snow White?

[PRINCE waits till someone shouts out, "There she is!" "She's right there, behind you!" "Can't you see her?" If no one shouts out something like this, PRINCE pretends that someone has done this.]

[PRINCE spins around and notices SNOW WHITE and the SEVEN DWARFS.]

PRINCE:

(*surprised*) You're right! I don't believe it. It's my Snow White, but she's so still. No, no, it can't be true! Is she...?

[DOC shakes his head sadly.]

PRINCE:

Oh, no! How did this happen? (*to Seven Dwarfs*) May I? (*pretends to lift the glass coffin then leans over her*) Oh, Snow White. (*leans closer to her face*) Sunrise, my princess!

[SNOW WHITE wakes up and sits up.]

SNOW WHITE:

Prince?

PRINCE:

Snow White! You're alive?

[SEVEN DWARFS cheer. SNOW WHITE and PRINCE hug.]

SNOW WHITE:

I heard you said "sunrise." You're thinking of an adventure for us?

PRINCE:

I am! The adventure of life. (*on one knee*) I knew when I was looking for you what I wanted to ask you if I was lucky enough to find you.. Snow White, will you marry me?

SNOW WHITE:

Yes, I will!

[SEVEN DWARFS cheer. SNOW WHITE and PRINCE hug. If the actors are okay with this, SNOW WHITE and PRINCE kiss.]

DOC:

(steps forward) As for the other dwarves and me, us, let's just say it was good to know someone in the castle. That's where we went for reading lessons every weekend. As for Snow White and the Prince, well, I happen to know for a fact they lived happily ever after.