

6. L2 puppetry: You and three partners will perform the following excerpt from the “Bremen Town Musicians,” a German folktale. Each person will be one of the animals (a donkey, a dog, a cat, and a rooster).

*A certain old donkey was walking down a road, talking to himself...*

DONKEY: There in Bremen, I can surely be a town-musician. *(he sees a dog, lying on the road)* What’s wrong, sir?

DOG: Woof. I am old, and every day I become weaker. I can no longer hunt, so my master wanted to kill me. I ran away; but now I have nothing to eat!

DONKEY: You know, I am going to Bremen to be a town-musician there; go with me and be a musician, too. I will play the lute, and you play the drum.

DOG: What a great idea! I have large ears and big paws, so perhaps I’ll be a good musician! Let’s go!

*(soon they see a cat, sitting on the path, with a very sad face)*

DONKEY: Now then, Miss Cat, what’s wrong?

CAT: Who can be happy when his life is in danger? Because I am now getting old, my teeth are not sharp and I like to sit by the fire rather than chase mice. My lady wants a new cat, so I ran away. But now I have no friends. Where can I go?

DOG: Go with us to Bremen. You understand music, so you can be a musician, too.

CAT: I’d love to, but I have no talent as a musician. I’ll do my best, however.

*(soon they come to a farmyard, where the rooster is sitting on the gate, crowing with all his might...)*

CAT: Your crowing is a lonely sound. What’s the matter?

ROOSTER: I have been foretelling fine weather, because today Our Lady washes shirts, and she wants to dry them, but guests are coming Sunday, so I will become chicken soup. Off with my head, so while I still have it, I am crowing for all I’m worth.

DOG: Ah, you had better come away with us. We are going to Bremen. You have a good voice, and if we make music together it will be wonderful!

ROOSTER: Good idea—certainly better than dying.

*(much later, after walking for a long, long time...)*

DONKEY: Hey, I’m tired. Let’s sleep here, under this tree!

DOG: Good idea—woof! I'll join you here.

CAT: No, thanks. I'll be up in the tree on a branch—much cozier up there.

ROOSTER: Bye, all. I'll be up on top of the tree since I can fly up there. G'night.

ROOSTER: Yo, I see a light, perhaps a house!"

DONKEY: If so, we should go on, for this isn't a four-star hotel.

DOG: Woof. Good idea! A few bones with some meat on them would be delicious!

*The four arrive at the little house and DONKEY looks in the window...*

ROOSTER: What do you see?

DONKEY: What do I see? I see a table covered with good things to eat and drink, and robbers sitting at it enjoying themselves.

CAT: Ah, that sounds delicious—for us!

*A short discussion follows...and they decide...*

DONKEY: I'll stand by the window.

DOG: And I'll climb on the donkey's back.

CAT: And I'll climb up on the dog.

ROOSTER: And I'll fly up and sit on the cat's head.

EVERYONE: Then we'll all make music together—really loud music!

*The four musicians begin making their very loud music and burst through the window into the room, so that the glass shattered! At this horrible noise, the robbers jumped up, thinking that a ghost had come in, and ran away into the forest.*

EVERYONE: munch, munch, chew, chew, eat, eat, etc.

EVERYONE: Gosh, I'm really full. Yawn.

EVERYONE: Zzzzzzzz... (*snoring*)