

Characters

CHORUS

PEOPLE

'POSSUM

GRANDMOTHER SPIDER

LITTLE WASP

NARRATOR

FOX

BUZZARD

WASPS

Settings

Home, full of darkness

The other side of the world, full of light

Staging/Lighting

If there is enough room on the stage, create “Home” on one side and “the other side of the world” on the other. Allow space around the perimeter of the stage for characters to pantomime their journeys between the two places.

Lighting is key to this story. If possible, get a spotlight or lamp to light up “the other side of the world.” Keep “Home” as dark and shadowy as possible.



Scene I: Home, full of darkness

All characters stand onstage in various poses that suggest they cannot see. The Chorus is off to one side.

CHORUS (*chant together*):

All is dark.

We are blind in the dark.

Where is the light so that we may see?

NARRATOR (*in a deep, commanding voice*): Long ago, there was only blackness. People and animals were unable to see, and they kept bumping into each other.

PEOPLE AND ANIMALS (*bumping into each other and calling out in random voices*): OUCH! UMPH! GET OUT OF MY WAY! What this world needs is a little light!
(FOX *claps his hands for quiet.*)

FOX (*looks at people and animals*): Listen to me now. I know some people who live on the other side of the world. They have all the light they need.

'POSSUM: Well, why don't they share?

FOX: They are greedy people. They keep all the light for themselves.

BUZZARD: What nonsense! That's so unfair. I can't see my beautiful feathers in the dark. I can't see where I'm going when I fly. If we had light, we wouldn't bump into things all the time.

(Animals and people nod and murmur in agreement. Everyone looks unhappy.)



'POSSUM: I have an idea. (*Looks around shyly.*) I will travel to the other side of the world and steal a little of the greedy people's light. Surely they can spare some for us. I have a bushy tail. They'll never see if I hide the light in all that fur.

ALL: HERE, HERE! HOORAY FOR 'POSSUM!

'POSSUM: Off I go, then. (*Waves goodbye to all.*)

NARRATOR: And so 'Possum set out for the other side of the world. She walked for days and days, hardly stopping to eat or drink. (*'Possum walks around the perimeter of the stage, making two circles. During her journey, she begins to look very tired. She exits offstage.*)



Scene II: The other side of the world, full of light

'POSSUM comes back onstage, blinking and shielding her eyes in the bright sunlight.

NARRATOR: At last 'Possum reached the other side of the world. Right away she saw the sun hanging in a tree, giving off bright light.

'POSSUM (*in a stage whisper*): No one will miss a little piece of that sun. (*Sneaks over to the sun, grabs a little piece, and hides it in her bushy tail.*)



CHORUS (*chant together*):

Foolish 'Possum, foolish girl,
You traveled halfway 'round the world.
Now feel how hot the sun can be.
You should have left it in the tree.

'POSSUM (*holding tail and jumping up and down*):
Ouch! Ouch! That bit of sun is so hot! My tail
is burning up! Look at my beautiful tail!

NARRATOR: Foolish 'Possum had to give her stolen piece of sun back to the people who lived on the other side of the world. Even worse, from that time onward, all her children had bald tails. It was a terrible misfortune!