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~~~~~ Middle and Lower Grades ~~~~~

## The Zeem Dream

by Gert Westerhout

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Freddie conquers the Horrible Hogglewart and teaches everyone a lesson in friendship. . . .

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### Characters

STEPHEN  
JENNIE, *his sister*  
MOTHER, *offstage voice*  
FOUR ZEEMBIRDS  
MEETER  
GREETER  
FREDDIE  
KATHY, *his sister*  
SEVEN BUBBLE BLOWERS  
ZORT  
OGGLE  
HORRIBLE HOGGLEWART

### SCENE 1

TIME: *Evening.*  
SETTING: *Bedroom with twin beds. May be played before curtain.*  
BEFORE RISE: STEPHEN and JENNIE, in pajamas, enter left.  
MOTHER (*Offstage*): Now, you two, I want you to go straight to bed! No talking, no flashlights, no nothing!  
STEPHEN and JENNIE: Yes, Mother. (*They lie down.*)

STEPHEN (*Sitting up*): Hey, Jen, are you awake?

JENNIE (*Angrily*): I don't want to talk to you, Stephen! It's just not fair. You get in a fight with Freddie Mays, and both of us get in trouble. It's way before my bedtime — I'll never get to sleep, and it's all your fault! (*Lights dim. Short interlude with dreamy music*)

\* \* \*

TIME: *Short time later.*

SETTING: *Planet Zeem: stark landscape with strange trees, big rocks, and a sign that reads, WELCOME TO THE PLANET ZEEM.*

AT RISE: *Music fades as curtain rises. STEPHEN and JENNIE, still in pajamas, enter, looking dazed and confused.*

STEPHEN: Wow! Where are we, Jen?

JENNIE: How should I know? (*Notices sign*) Wait, look — there's a sign. (*Reads*) "Welcome to the Planet Zeem."



STEPHEN: Planet Zeem? Weird. Well, if we're lucky, Freddie Mays isn't on this planet, too.

JENNIE: I'm not sure I like the looks of this—it could be dangerous. (FOUR ZEEM-BIRDS enter left.) Hey, what are those funny-looking birds? (STEPHEN and JENNIE hide behind rock or tree. ZEEM-BIRDS cross center. STEPHEN and JENNIE peek out during following exchange.)

1ST BIRD: Holy tomato, am I worn out!

2ND BIRD: Stop your complaining!

3RD BIRD: I'm tired, too.

4TH BIRD: Yes, these useless wings are such a pain. (Flaps wings) We're called birds, but birds can fly!

2ND BIRD: So what? We're different—we roll!

1ST BIRD: Roll schmole. What a boring life, rolling across this desert of a planet every single day.

3RD BIRD: Yes, there must be more to life. (Suddenly, STEPHEN loses balance and falls out from behind tree. ZEEM-BIRDS, curious, cross over to him.)

4TH BIRD: Well, looky here.

STEPHEN (Terrified; on his knees, pleading): Spare me! Spare me! I'll do anything you ask.

2ND BIRD: Spare you? Spare you from what?

STEPHEN: Spare me my life. Please, don't kill me! (JENNIE comes out from behind tree.)

JENNIE: Please don't kill us! (ZEEM-BIRDS look at each other, then burst out laughing.)

3RD BIRD: Kill you! Why would we do that? This is a peaceful planet. Nobody is mean to anybody else. (JENNIE and STEPHEN breathe a sigh of relief. ZEEM-BIRDS suddenly speak in unison.)

BIRDS: Except for the Horrible Hogglewart!

STEPHEN and JENNIE (Together): The horrible what?

1ST BIRD: The Horrible Hogglewart. You mean you don't know about the Horrible Hogglewart?

JENNIE: Uh, no, but he sure sounds horrible. (Points to sign) What does that sign mean, "Welcome to the Planet Zeem"? (MEETER and GREETER enter right, full of speed and pep.)

MEETER: Why, just what it says: Welcome to the Planet Zeem!

GREETER: Welcome, friends, to the Planet Zeem, the twenty-fourth planet in the wonderful gappersnort solar system in the galaxy of Zod. I'm the Greeter. . .

MEETER: And I'm the Meeter, officially assigned to welcome all visitors to the Planet Zeem. Where are you from?

STEPHEN: We're from (Town of production)—uh, in the U.S.A., Planet Earth.

1ST BIRD: Earth?

2ND BIRD: Earth?

3RD BIRD: Earth?

4TH BIRD: Earth?

MEETER: Ah, yes, Earth: the third planet in the solar system that revolves around the sun in the far corner of the Milky Way. Isn't that where TV dinners were invented?

GREETER: Yes, and Pac-Man, Ms. Pac-Man, and Donkey Kong! (Names can be changed to point out the latest fads.)

4TH BIRD: We were just telling them about the Horrible Hogglewart.

GREETER (Ominously): Oh, yes, whatever you do, watch out for the Horrible Hogglewart. He eats little children!

STEPHEN: Hey, maybe we can take him home and let him eat Freddie Mays.

JENNIE: Don't be so gross, Stephen.



4TH BIRD: Well, we were just rolling home for supper — would you two care to join us?

STEPHEN and JENNIE (*Ad lib*): Oh, yes, thanks! We're starving! (*Etc. ZEEM-BIRDS roll off. JENNIE and STEPHEN look at each other, shrug, then follow. Curtain*)

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## SCENE 2

TIME: *Short time later.*

SETTING: *Same.*

AT RISE: FREDDIE and KATHY enter right, dazed and confused.

FREDDIE: Where are we?

KATHY: I have no idea. The last I remember, you and Stephen were fighting, and his mom called him and Jennie in to bed. Then we climbed to the tree fort to spy over the fence at them with our flashlights, and suddenly I was very tired.

FREDDIE: Yes, so was I. But I'm not tired anymore, and we're not in our tree fort anymore, either. (*Points to sign*) We're on the Planet Zeem, whatever that is! (*MEETER and GREETER enter.*)

MEETER: Welcome to the Planet Zeem! I'm the Meeter. . .

GREETER: And I'm the Greeter of the Planet Zeem, the twenty-fourth planet in the wonderful gappersnort solar system in the galaxy of Zod.

KATHY: But how did we get here, and what are we doing here? (*MEETER and GREETER exchange glances, shrug.*) Tell me. (*Pause, then louder*) Tell me! (*Mocking little voices are heard offstage as BUBBLE BLOWERS come laughing and prancing onto stage, through the*

*aisles if possible, blowing soap bubbles.*)

BUBBLES: Tell me! Tell me! (*The following introductions should go in rapid succession, and the number of BUBBLE BLOWERS may be increased or decreased according to size of cast — but the last BUBBLES must always say his name is Sam.*)

1ST BUBBLES: Hi! I'm Bubbles.

2ND BUBBLES: I'm Bubbles' brother, Bubby.

3RD BUBBLES: I'm Bubble Trouble.

4TH BUBBLES: And I'm Bubble Trouble's double!

5TH BUBBLES: I'm Chubble Rubble.

6TH BUBBLES: I'm Hubble Gubble.

7TH BUBBLES: And I'm Sam.

ALL OTHER BUBBLES: Sam?!

7TH BUBBLES: All right, all right, I'm not Sam, but my name is so complicated!

FREDDIE: What is it?

7TH BUBBLES: Well, if you insist, it's Bubbleheimer Iddlesquatter Funneltrooper Flooper.

FREDDIE and KATHY: *What?*

BUBBLES (*Singing to tune of "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious" from Mary Poppins*):

He's Bubbleheimer Iddlesquatter

Funneltrooper Flooper

Bubbleheimer Iddlesquatter

Funneltrooper Flooper

Bubbleheimer Iddlesquatter

Funneltrooper Flooper

Bubbleheimer Iddlesquatter

Funneltrooper Flooper!

7TH BUBBLES: See what a pain that is?

KATHY: I have an idea. Why don't you just use your initials instead of your whole name?

7TH BUBBLES: What do you mean?

KATHY: Well, "B" stands for Bubble-



heimer, "I" stands for Iddlesquatter,  
 "F" stands for Funneltrooper, and  
 "F" stands for Flooper.

FREDDIE: Right! And B-I-F-F spells Biff.  
 Just call yourself Biff!

6TH BUBBLES: What a super idea!

1ST BUBBLES: I'd call it super duper.

2ND BUBBLES: A super duper Funneltrooper!

3RD BUBBLES: Now you'll never make a blooper.

5TH BUBBLES: Oh, super super poodle grouper!

4TH BUBBLES: Well, in my opinion, that's just super!

7TH BUBBLES: Wow, a shortened name. Incredible! Fantastic!

1ST BUBBLES: Wonderfull

2ND BUBBLES: Just super.

3RD BUBBLES: Let's not start that again!

5TH BUBBLES: We're so thankful for your idea.

6TH BUBBLES: Thank them, Biff!

1ST BUBBLES: Yes, do thank them, Biff.

7TH BUBBLES: Oh, thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you!

1ST BUBBLES: What are your names?

FREDDIE: I'm Freddie Mays.

KATHY: And I'm Kathy Mays.

2ND BUBBLES: Hey, maybe you can help defend us against our biggest bubble — I mean, trouble.

BUBBLES (Together): Yes, maybe you can help capture the Horrible Hoggiewart!

FREDDIE and KATHY: The horrible what?

2ND BUBBLES (Looking off): Look out! Here come his helpers! (ZORT and OOGLE rush onstage. FREDDIE, KATHY, and BUBBLE BLOWERS exit, screaming; ZORT and OOGLE look around desperately.)

ZORT: Darn! They got away.

OOGLE: Darn! Foiled again. The Horrible

Hoggiewart will be very angry with us for not capturing those earthlings, Zort.

ZORT: He sure will, Oogle. He'll probably twist our ears and stretch our noses.

OOGLE: Or even worse, make us eat chocolate-covered worms for a week.

ZORT (Making a face): Bretch!

OOGLE: Quick, hide! I hear someone coming! (ZORT and OOGLE crouch down with backs to audience, pretending to be rocks. JENNIE and STEPHEN enter.)

JENNIE: Boy, that food sure hit the spot.

STEPHEN: Yes, sirree. Those Zeembirds may have trouble flying, but they sure can cook! (STEPHEN and JENNIE start to sit on "rocks"; ZORT and OOGLE swoop up and capture them.)

ZORT: Aha! Gotcha!

STEPHEN and JENNIE (Ad lib): Hey! Let us go! (Etc.)

OOGLE: But, wait. These aren't the ones we were chasing earlier.

ZORT: So what? The Horrible Hoggiewart will eat any young earthlings — even funny-looking ones.

JENNIE: Talk about funny-looking!

OOGLE: Quiet, and off with both of you to our master, the Horrible Hoggiewart. (They exit, the children screaming, ZORT and OOGLE laughing. Curtain)

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### SCENE 3

TIME: Later.

SETTING: Same.

AT RISE: BUBBLES rush onstage, all upset.

6TH BUBBLES: Oh, no, did you hear? Two earthlings have been captured by the Horrible Hoggiewart's assistants!

5TH BUBBLES: Oh, poor, poor earthlings.



BUBBLES (*together*): Poor, poor earthlings. (FREDDIE and KATHY enter.)

FREDDY and KATHY: Poor earthlings? What are you talking about? We're fine.

2ND BUBBLES: Two other children are now prisoners of the Horrible Hoglewart, and he will surely eat them alive.

FREDDIE and KATHY (*Ad lib*): Oh, no! That's terrible! (*Etc.*)

KATHY: There must be something we can do to help. (MEETER and GREETER enter, followed by ZEEMBIRDS.)

GREETER: Greetings!

MEETER: Meetings! There is something you might be able to do.

ALL: Tell us!

MEETER: Well, legend says that if you are brave enough to throw a cup of water in the Horrible Hoglewart's face, he will fall asleep for exactly one minute — just long enough so you can capture him.

GREETER: But he eats up children so fast, no one has ever had the chance to throw water on him.

FREDDIE: We must help our fellow earthlings, Kathy. Come on, creatures of the Planet Zeem, lead us to the cave of the Horrible Hoglewart! (*All exit. Curtain*)

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#### SCENE 4

TIME: Shortly thereafter.

SETTING: Cave of the Hoglewart. (*Previous setting may simply be rearranged, and sign removed.*)

AT RISE: ZORT and OOGLE enter, dragging STEPHEN and JENNIE in a net. HORRIBLE HOGLEWART enters from back of theater, growling and hissing.)

HOGLEWART: I am the Horrible Hoglewart! (*He chants.*)

Oh, yes, I am the Hogle,  
And as a little sport,  
I'll chop you up, then eat you up  
I am the Hoglewart.

ZORT and OOGLE (*Chanting*):  
He loves to eat umbrellas  
And squirmy wormies, too.  
But most of all he likes to eat  
Children just like you.

Oh, watch out for the Hogle  
He's horrible and gross.  
He'll put you in the blender  
And spread you on his toast.

ZORT, OOGLE, and HOGLEWART:  
So, scrawny little earthlings,  
We'll get you very soon.  
Oh, yes we're going to eat you for  
A snack this afternoon!  
(*They laugh hysterically.*)

HOGLEWART: Are the children tightly bound?

ZORT and OOGLE: Yes, most Horrible Hoglewart.

HOGLEWART (*Looking closely at STEPHEN and JENNIE*): Hm-m-m. Rather scrawny, aren't they? Let's say our magical meal chant to make them into tastier morsels. (*They kneel on ground and mumble mumbo-jumbo. FREDDIE, carrying cup of water, KATHY, ZEEMBIRDS, BUBBLES, MEETER, and GREETER enter on tiptoe. They surround HOGLEWART, ZORT, and OOGLE. On the count of three, some of them jump OOGLE and ZORT, pinning them down, while FREDDIE throws water in HOGLEWART's face.*)

OOGLE and ZORT (*Ad lib*): Hey, let go of us! We'll get you for this! (*Etc.*)

HOGLEWART: Aargh! (*He falls into a trance.*)

STEPHEN and JENNIE (*Ad lib; gratefully*):

We're saved! Thank you! (Etc. BUBBLES remove net from STEPHEN and JENNIE and throw it over HOGGLEWART, OOGLE, and ZORT. Others cheer.)

STEPHEN (Suddenly noticing KATHY and FREDDIE): Freddie and Kathy Mays! What are you doing here?

FREDDIE: I was about to ask you the same thing, Stephen.

JENNIE: That was very brave of you, Freddie, sneaking up and splashing the Horrible Hogglewart during his magic chant.

STEPHEN: Yes, you saved our lives. (Pause) Maybe you're not so bad after all. (Extends hand) Friends?

FREDDIE (After a moment, smiling): Friends! (They shake, and all cheer.

HOGGLEWART wakes up and lets out a roar. All laugh as they drag him, OOGLE, and ZORT offstage. Curtain)

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SCENE 5

TIME: Next morning.

SETTING: Same as Scene 1, bedroom.

AT RISE: STEPHEN and JENNIE wake up, stretch, and yawn.

JENNIE: I had the strangest dream last night. I feel as if I haven't slept at all.

STEPHEN: Same here. And you know what I've been thinking? Maybe Freddie Mays isn't such a creep after all! (Music as entire cast enters for final bow)

THE END

PRODUCTION NOTES

THE ZEEM DREAM

Characters: 2 male; 2 female; 16 or more male and female; offstage female voice.

Playing Time: 15 minutes.

Costumes: Stephen and Jennie, pajamas; Freddie and Kathy, play clothes; Zeembirds, leotards, solid, brightly colored shirts; wings of silky material attached at shoulder and wrist; Mocter and Greeter, robes and turbans or anything creatively "space-like"; Bubble Blowers, leotards, large white shirts with big, colorful spots, bright party hats or hair ribbons with helium balloons attached; Zort and Oogle, dark clothing, white gloves; Horrible Hogglewart, black cape and wild hair.

Properties: Soap bubble bottles; net; cup of water (or confetti).

Setting: Scenes 1 and 5, bedroom, with twin beds or cots. Scenes 2-4, Planet Zeem; stark landscape with strange trees, big rocks, and sign reading, WELCOME TO PLANET ZEEM. Scene 4, Hogglewart's cave, a rearrangement of Planet Zeem landscape, minus sign.

Lighting: Lightning effect for transition to Planet Zeem and at entrance of Hogglewart, if possible.

Sound: Dreamy music for transition to Planet Zeem; ominous music for Hogglewart's entrance.