

Wicked Weather

Characters: Scarecrow, Tin Woodsman and Cynical Lion are giant puppets (~9 ft)
Good Witch, Munchkins (Bay School students, grades 1 - 5)

Props: Giant Postcard, measuring tape, drum, four body mics.

OPENING: Scarecrow, and Lion are in friendly arm hold, facing audience, with Good Witch nearby, center stage. Tin Woodsman, wearing a mask and a life jacket, is out of sight. Munchkins are "hiding" behind trees, bushes, chairs, people.

Good Witch. Once upon a time in the land of Oz, where everyone gets along famously (*Scarecrow and Lion nod innocently*) and no one ever fights or even argues (*they shake heads "no" vigorously*), a wicked fog descended upon hill and valley, so that no one could see even as far as their next door neighbor's house. (*Scarecrow and Lion roam with hands outstretched, bumping into each other.*) The citizens of Oz were worried. And scared. Especially the Scarecrow, who had just received a postcard from his friend the Tin Woodsman in Maine.

Scarecrow. (*Lifting giant postcard, holding it close to read.*) Oh good! It's from the Tin Woodsman. Dear Cousin Scarecrow. How's the weather in Oz? Here in Maine we're having a drought. But it's tourist season so we're pretending to be happy about it. Why don't you sail on over for visit, before the sea level rises any higher?

Your friend, the Tin Woodsman.

PS. Bring boots. Hmm. Maybe I should come visit you instead.

Scarecrow tucks postcard into his pocket and says: Well, Maine may have its challenges, but anything is better than this fog. Actually, I wish I lived in Maine.

Scarecrow sings and dances If I only lived in Maine. Lion looks on, nods, points.

1. This wicked fog, I hate it.
Why can't we dehydrate it,
And send it down the drain?
I just know we could do it.
We'd be clear before we knew it
If we only lived in Maine.

(Bridge) Oh Maine's the place to be.
Where mountains meet the sea.
And the sea knows just exactly where to be:

A couple a feet....below my knee.

2. Well the crows all say we did it
But who wants to admit it?
I'd rather just complain.
Doesn't matter who predicts it,
Someone smart will have to fix it.
Oh I wish I lived in Maine.

In the middle of Lion's (and audience?) applause, Tin man, wearing mask and life jacket, runs onto set, shouting greetings to Scarecrow and Lion. But he immediately slows down, gradually freezing in motion and speech.

Scarecrow. *(Pointing)* See what I mean? This wicked wet fog is way worse than anything they got in Maine. It's rusting our tourists!

Good Witch hurries to Tin Man with oil can. Munchkins, still in hiding, giggle.

Scarecrow. *(Looking around for source of sound)* What was that?

Good Witch. *(Continuing to oil)* The munchkins want to know if he's a good tourist or a bad tourist.

Tin Woodsman. *(Finally loosening up)* Ahhh...ahh..ah..I'm..the Tin Woodsman. Don't you recognize me?

Good Witch. Not with that mask.

Scarecrow. How'd you get back here to Oz?

Tin Woodsman. I sailed from Maine on a catamaran. No fossil fuel. *(to Good Witch)* Does that make me a good tourist?

Good Witch. *(Sings, while Munchkins come out shyly).*
Come out, come out, wherever you are,
And meet the tin woodsman who sailed from afar.
He sailed to Oz, this good tin woodsman,
He sailed to Oz on a catamaran.

Munchkins. *(Singing)* He sailed to Oz on a catamaran.

Munchkins greet the three giant puppets, (some shake hands), then sit in a circle to watch.

Scarecrow. So, how do you like this wicked fog?

Tin Woodsman. It's actually kinda dreamy. And if you've got a dream, you can put up with almost any kind of weather. Believe me, I've traveled to places where nobody dreams. All they do is argue.

Scarecrow. What do they argue about?

Tin Woodsman. The weather. And how to whether the weather.

Scarecrow. How to whether the weather?

Tin Woodsman. And whether to weather it apart or together. Here....(*prepares to sing, dance*) *If we only had a dream*

1. Well, they're built for disagreement
Their differences are cement,
Their politics obscene.
By the way, they're distracted cuz their news is over-acted
And they're too afraid to dream.

2. They're government is broken
It's whispered and its spoken:
(*Whispers*) "They're not on the same team."
Where's the freeway to freedom
When their leaders won't lead 'em
And they haven't got a dream?

(*Bridge*) The sky is where they try
To put the waste that they can't pour
They pollute just like they've always done before
And then they dump.... And buy some more.

3. Well their footprints gettin' deeper
But gas ain't any cheaper.
It makes me wanna scream.
Yet I know they'd see through it
All together they could do it
If they only had a dream.

He finishes song and immediately begins to rust up again.

Lion. Dream? You need a dream like you need a can opener.

Good Witch resumes oiling with oil can.

Lion. What you *need* is better clothes.

One of the munchkins begins to take Tin Woodsman's measurements with tape. Another writes them down with clipboard. Good Witch gently shakes her head "no" to munchkins and gestures to put away tape and clipboard.

Good Witch. No. It's not about clothes, it's about climate.

Munchkins. (*Measuring munchkin leads others in chant*) Not about clothes, all about climate (*repeat.*). *They continue chanting.*

Lion. Hold your horses. Hold your horses. If there were something seriously wrong with the climate, don't you think the Wizard would tell us? Don't you think he'd come up with some kind of plan?

Munchkins sit back down.

Cynical Lion sings If I only had a plan

1. Hey, I ain't afraid of crisis
Or fossil fuel devices.
But you gotta understand.
If my world's really changing
I'd be fine with rearranging
If I only had a plan.

2. Yes, I'm acting immaturely
But changing me is surely
A job for Superman
Or somebody who's brilliant.
I could be so resilient
If I only had a plan.

Tin Woodman. (*Interrupting, in song*) If we only had a dream.

Scarecrow. If we only lived in Maine.

Lion. (Shouts) A plan!

Tin. A dream!
Scarecrow. A state - that's clean!

Drum beat begins)

Lion. A scheme!

Tin. For climate!

Scarecrow. Let's do it!

Lion. Let's time it!

(Much quicker)

Tin. Dream

Scarecrow. Maine

Lion. Plan

Tin. Dream

Scarecrow. Maine

Lion. Plan

Tin. Rock

Scarecrow. Scissors

Lion. Paper.

Tin. Rock

Scarecrow. Scissors

Lion. Paper.

They repeat, with rock, scissors, paper motions. The argument escalates. The three grab each other's shoulders, sleeves. They push and shove, eventually pacing around circle like Sumo wrestlers to beat of drum.

Munchkins stand and form a circle around fighting trio. They click their heels together three times to drum beat, then chant: There's no place like Earth while doing a grapevine step. They repeat this sequence five times or more.

The three giants notice Munchkins, ease their grip, point, laugh at themselves, join in the grapevine step and the chant.

Good Witch calls for drum to stop and dancers to freeze. She addresses audience:

Good Witch. If you live in Maine instead of Oz, you may already know that Maine *does* have a plan. In fact, lots of other states are trying to model their own plans after Maine's Climate Action Plan, or "Maine Won't Wait", unveiled on Dec. 1st, 2020. If you *haven't* heard about it, please follow the yellow brick road to our table to find out what it's all about.

All. Thank you!

END