

## The Talented Clementine—the musical Full Synopsis including song placement

Setting: Boston, MA. Current

Clementine is a 3<sup>rd</sup> grader who is always paying attention, just not to the things other people think she should. And that keeps getting her in trouble. She notices the small things, the details beneath the surface of it all. She has a baby brother that she refers to with various vegetable names since she is named after a fruit.

### ACT 1

Clementine sings about how she used to know the names of all the stars, all the children, the words to all the songs, and the language of the birds, back before she was born and now she has to go through life to learn it all again (*I Used to Know the Names of All the Stars*). Her teacher announces that the school is going to have a talent show. He sees Clementine is daydreaming and tells her to start paying attention. She sings about all the things she is thinking about like Santa Claus and Jesus, sciences and diseases (*Stop Day Dreaming*). Clementine doesn't feel like she has any talent and so tries to suggest other things besides a talent show. When that doesn't work, she asks to go to the principals office.

Principal asks why she's there, even though she's been sent to the office 4 times in the last 2 days. She explains that she just needs someone to talk to and to help her understand what the clouds are really feeling (*This Isn't the First Time You've Been to the Office*). She tells the principal that she doesn't have any talents.

At the bus stop the next morning, we are introduced to some of the other kids. Everyone is talking about what they are going to do for the show. Willy and Lilly, a brother and sister who always fight, walk up and Clementine says she wishes her brother's name would rhyme with hers (*What Would Rhyme with Clementine*). Clementine's best friend Margaret, who is talented at everything and perfect in all ways, muses that she has hundreds of talents, maybe thousands (*I've Got So Many Talents*).

In classroom, the other kids are say the pledge of allegiance while Clementine says it in her own way—"I pledge my lip-reading and my book bag." The class is excited about the talent show. Clementine whispers to the teacher that she has no talents and the teacher assures her everyone is talented at something (*Everyone's Got a Talent*). In order to avoid the talent show, Clementine tells the teacher that she might have to move to Egypt before the show. The teacher asks if her dad is an archaeologist. Clementine says he is a building manager and makes up a story about the Great Pyramid being turned in to condos and her dad would be managing them. Clementine and Edwina, who are both good a math, figure out how man condos would fit into the pyramid (*Volume of a Pyramid*). Clementine gives all the reasons her father would be a good manager and her teacher responds (*You're One in a Million Miss Clementine*).

Clementine asks her mom and dad if they have seen any good talents lately (*Just and Unlucky Dud with no Talent*). They make humorous suggestions. Frustrated, she suggests that she could draw a duck on her brother Mungbeans forehead. They say that's not his name and Clementine asks why they named her after a fruit and her parents respond (*That's Why We Call you Clementine*). They tell her she is really good at noticing things and that she is empathetic (*When You Have a Loving Feeling*).

In class they rehearse for the talent show and each act is a disaster of sorts. Joe plays harmonica while his dog sings and the other kids suggest that he should teach is dog to do something more useful, like his homework (*My Dog Did My Homework*). Teacher says that's a crazy idea but that history needs some crazy ideas (*Crazy Idea*).

Margaret and Clementine talk about talent show. Margaret has so many talents, Clementine asks if she could borrow one. They go through list alphabetically—alto sax, baton, clarinet, dramatic acting. Clementine proves she is inept at each one. Finally, they settle on tap dancing. Margaret's extra tap shoes don't fit Clementine, so Clementine has an idea of how to make them.

She goes to the basement and pries the bottle caps off of a case of the condo associations bears and glues them to her shoes (*Can You Hear me Now*). Margaret teaches her a tap routine to a song she makes up about how much she dislikes her mother's boyfriend (*Stumble Off to Tupelo*). On their way back they see Margaret's mother and her boyfriend kissing in hall. They smell the beer on Clementine and get her mother. Mom and dad freak out and chase her around to get her shoes and pry the caps off them, which they can't. Mom and dad argue about who is going to take her shopping for a new pair of shoes as she can never make up her mind because choosing one thing means she is not choosing other things (*No, Not Me*). Finally dad agrees to take mom out for a nice dinner and buy her a pair of shoes if she takes Clementine.

## ACT 2

At shoe store, Clementine tries on every pair in the store and tests them all out by running and jumping off chairs. She drives the salesman crazy wanting one color for one foot and another for the other. (*Shoe Shopping*). Finally she decides on the first pair she saw. Meanwhile her mother has picked out some very sexy, impractical shoes for herself.

Clementine's class has a substitute teacher which gives her the idea to get a substitute kid to take her place in the talent show. She goes to tell the principal who refuses but can't give her a good answer as to why not (*If I Could Only Get a Substitute*).

Clementine gets the idea to put her brother on a leash and make him laugh as her act (*You Ain't Nothing but a Bulldog*). She asks her dad to take her and her brother to rehearsal the afternoon of the show. Dad questions why her brother and he won't allow it.

At rehearsal, she tries to hide since she doesn't have an act (*I Wish I Were Invisible*). As the others practice their acts, Clementine sees what is wrong with each one and takes care of it. As the show is about to start the secretary brings a note for Margaret's teacher saying that her daughter is about to have a baby. She rushes out. The principal needs an assistant and tells Clementine to help her and says while she is not very attentive in class, she is very good at paying attention and that's what she needs. Principal asks Clementine some questions about the show and Clementine has all the answers.

Show starts and as each act has its own disaster, Clementine is there to make it work. Willy and Lilly come out to sing and start to fight. Lilly gets so nervous she throws up and runs off stage. Willy sings (*I've Got a Sister for Sale*). Lilly comes back out and they duel it out. More acts and Clementine keeps it all under control. Margaret comes out to do her act, Dressing Fashionably) and freezes when someone takes a flash picture. Clementine pantomimes each line from the side of the stage and Margaret unfreezes and does her act. The rest of the show happens and not matter what goes wrong, Clementine fixes it. Show ends to thunderous applause. Principal makes an announcement and says she wants to introduce the person who made it all possible...Clementine. Everyone applauds for her as Principal sings (*There's No Substitute for You*).

Clementine's parents are proud of her and invite her to come have dinner with them at the Ritz and that they will get a sitter. She worries that she needs to stay home as the sitter won't be reliable (*Spy on the Sitter*).

At restaurant, Dad does the ordering as everything on menu is in French. She objects when he orders her la viande hachée and puree de pommes de terre. He assures her it will be ok and when it comes out it is hamburger and mashed potatoes. They order desserts. Mom and Dad each take a bite and then say they are too full and give it to Clementine. Dad says they have a surprise for her and Clementine thinks it is the pet gorilla she always wanted or perhaps a pony. It is a little sister that's coming. At first, she is resistant and says four is more balanced than five. They tell her how happy they are to have her as a daughter (*Thank God You Came Along*). Mom slips off her sexy shoes and slides them over to Clementine under the table who puts them on. She thinks she sees one of the dragonflies peeking out at her and winking just like the star over there is winking right now (*I Used to Know the Names of All the Stars*).

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