

**Northern Lights Academy  
Rigolet  
presents**

**“Wind Over Dark Tickle”**

**Cast**

**Peter..... Brian Pottle**  
**The Sea..... Chelsea Groves-Shiwak**  
**Mrs. Dooley..... Roxanne Wolfrey**  
**Sarah..... Jenna Pottle**  
**Marine Biologist..... Cateline Broomfield**  
**Tom..... Kyle Stokes**  
**Mother..... Emily Wolfrey**  
**Narrator..... Joan Wolfrey**

**Teacher Advisor..... Yvonne Peevie**

## “Wind Over Dark Tickle”

*(Peter is kicking the ground with folded arms. He looks very angry.)*

**Narrator:** Splat, Splosh, Splat. Peter splashed water every which way as he marched in his boots along the edge of the ocean. The sea was grey, the sky was grey. He shouted angrily across the wide water.

**Peter:** I hate Dark Tickle! And I hate you, boring ocean!

**Narrator:** But his voice was lost on the wind. The sea was tossing and turning, rolling and churning. Its fish were now so few there were hardly any at all. Its waters felt dirty, oily. The puffins and gannets and the other sea birds were flapping about this way and that in search of food. Suddenly the sea noticed Peter. It tumbled and churned its waves upon the shore. It took a deep breath and blew a strong wind toward Peter calling:

**Sea:** Please.....what is wrong with me? Where have all my fish gone?

**Narrator:** Peter only heard the whooshing sound of the waves and felt the wind ruffle his hair and tickle his cheeks. A big wave rolled in and he wasn't quick enough to avoid getting water right down inside his boots! Slurp, splotch, squelch. *(The sea should pretend to be a wave rolling over Peter's feet.)* His feet were wet but he didn't mind. Peter let the waves chase him..... in and out and faster and higher. *(Pause. Peter should see the shell)* Suddenly he spied something lying high and dry above the landwash - the biggest shell he had ever seen. He picked it up and turned it over and over in his hands. He put the shell to his ear and sat down with amazement at the sounds coming from inside. Sounds of the sea! Peter closed his eyes and lay back on the sand.

*(Song #1)*

**Narrator:** When Peter woke up the song was washing 'round and 'round in his head.

**Peter:** Hmmmmm, where have all the fish gone?

**Narrator:** He didn't know the answer to the sea's question, but he was very curious. Maybe someone in Dark Tickle could help. *He picked up the shell and started to run back towards the village.*

*(Mrs. Dooley should be outside at her clothesline)*

**Peter:** Mrs. Dooley, can you tell me what happened to the fish in the sea?

**Mrs. Dooley:** *(looks at the sea)* I can't say, really. But there was a time many many years ago when I use to stand on this same porch and watch the dories coming in, right flat on the water, loaded with fish. We only had rowboats and sailboats in those days. All hands would have to scramble. It was hard work but good work. *(Pauses. Stares off into the distance)* Oh, there were plenty of fish then. And there were songs, songs we sang about all the fish we caught.

*(Song #2)*

**Mrs. Dooley:** I remember the first motorboat that came to Dark Tickle. What a racket that was. And what a change! Pretty soon everyone had motorboats and faster boats. And since they got boats so big they've got fish plants right on board. Seems we're catching the fish before they hardly had a chance to grow.

**Narrator:** Peter thanked her and headed on his way again. He hadn't gone far when he saw his friend Sarah sitting all alone under a big tree. She didn't look very happy.

**Peter:** What's wrong Sarah?

**Sarah:** I just found out that I'm going to have to move away. I don't want to leave Dark Tickle!

**Peter:** *(Sits down beside Sarah)* Why do you have to go?

**Sarah:** Dad says there are no fish for him to catch and no other work for him here. And Mom lost her job when the fishplant closed down. They say we'll have a better chance getting a job in Goose Bay.

**Peter:** But there'll be movie theatres and swimming pools and Burger King in Goose Bay.

**Sarah:** But Peter, I can't imagine not living by the sea. If you can keep a secret, I'll show you my favorite place in the cove.

*(Song #3. Marine biologist should move into position on the beach)*

**Narrator:** When it was finally time for Sarah to go home, Peter picked up the seashell and held it close to his ear as he headed up the beach again. Up ahead he saw a young woman wading in and out, up and down, in the shallow water along the shore. As he got closer he could see that she was wearing a rubber suit and carrying a dip net, scooping things out of the water. Whatever she scooped up she examined closely.

**Peter:** Excuse me, what are you doing?

**MB:** See what's inside? Well, those are baby fish. I'm collecting and counting sample of them. We are trying to figure out how many fish are out there.

**Peter:** Do you know a lot about the sea?

**MB:** Well, I'm learning all the time. I'm studying marine biology. I want to learn everything I can about fish and things that affect the ocean.

**Peter:** Uh, can you tell me where all the fish have gone?

**MB:** That's a good question. We don't know for sure but there are things that don't help. We catch too many fish, we pollute our oceans and we don't care so we don't clean it up. But if we are careful and care about the ocean, there should be plenty of fish for everyone. I hope you come down and join me sometime. The ocean can use all the help it can get!

**Narrator:** Peter thanked her and headed back to Dark Tickle. He was thinking of all the things he wanted to tell the sea when he saw a group of people trying to push a boat down a slipway into the ocean. He recognized his fisherman friend, Tom O'Brien. This was the boat Tom had just finished building. Peter ran over to pitch in.

**Tom:** Gee, b'y she won't budge. Praps a song would help.

*(Song #4)*

**Narrator:** Finally a gleaming white boat slid down the slipway and into the water. Everyone clapped and shouted with excitement. It was the first new fishing boat that had been built in Dark Tickle in a long time and everyone was happy to see it floating in the harbour. Peter suddenly realized how hungry he was. So he waved goodbye and headed home. His mother patted him on the shoulder when she noticed his seashell.

**Mother:** Looks like you had an adventure or two today. Well, I better make sure your dad is at those dishes.

**Narrator:** Peter was so tired after supper that he barely remembered climbing the stairs to get into his bed. But just before he drifted off to sleep, he remembered the seashell. He placed it on the pillow beside him. And just as he hoped the sea came to him in a dream song.

*(Song #5)*

**Narrator:** And in his dream, Peter told the sea all that he had learned that day. He told of old Mrs. Dooley who had talked about the big ships, of Sarah who loved the sea but had to leave it behind, of the young woman who studied how fish lived, and of Tom O'Brien who built his boat and was determined to make his living from the sea again. He told the sea that even though there weren't many fish in the ocean now, there were a lot of people who cared. And if we were careful, in time, the fish would come back. Outside in the dark night, the sea grew calm. When Peter awoke in the morning, he looked out his bedroom window and saw the sea gleaming like glass in the sunshine. Out of the corner of his eye he caught the glimmer of the seashell lying on his pillow. And he suddenly thought of Sarah. Whenever she missed the sea, she could hold the shell to her ear and listen to the soothing sound of the wind and the waves. No matter how far away, she would be able to hear all the songs of the sea. Smiling to himself. Peter dressed quickly and ran downstairs. In the early morning sun, with the beautiful shell, he ran through the village all the way to Sarah's house.

*(Song #6. All the actors will converge on stage going about the daily business of mending nets, etc. As the last verse plays they will lift the net and sing along with the song.)*