

Scene I

A music stand, down centre. To its right there is a trumpet on a trumpet stand. The teacher is standing near them, waiting. Enter the student, carrying a trumpet case in his left hand.

Student: Hello.

Teacher: Hello.

Student: I'm here for a trumpet lesson.

Teacher: I'm Dr. Shorelines.

Student: I'm Samuel Beckett, how do you do? *(They shake hands.)*

Teacher: You can put your trumpet on the floor. *(The student does so.)* You can open it. *(The student does so. The teacher takes a mouthpiece from his pocket).* Please take out the mouthpiece. *(The student does so.)*

In the following speech the teacher demonstrates everything he has said, and the student imitates him exactly.

Teacher: Blow air through it. Blow harder until your lips vibrate. Put your mouthpiece away. Pick up your trumpet and hold it in your left hand. Take your mouthpiece. Put it in and twist. Put your right hand on the trumpet. Blow air through the trumpet. Blow harder until your lips vibrate. Play C. Play B. Play C, B. Play B-flat. Play C, B, B-flat. Play A. Play A, B-flat. Play B-flat, B. Play B, C. Play C, B, B-flat. Play B, B-flat, A. Play C, B, B-flat, A. Play C, B-flat. Play B, A. Play C, A. Turn your trumpet sideways and twist out the mouthpiece. You may put your trumpet and mouthpiece away.

The student does so. The teacher puts his trumpet on the stand and his mouthpiece in his pocket.

Teacher: Practice five minutes every day. We'll see you next week.

Student: Thank you, Doctor.

Exit student. The teacher watches him leave.

Scene II

The front curtain opens to reveal a music stand posing as a lectern downstage right on an empty stage. Presently, the half curtain opens just wide enough to allow the entry of a single file procession of four. Enter Mrs. McGuffey, Huffy, Puffy and Stuffy. The half curtain closes. McGuffey goes to her place at the lectern. Huffy, Puffy and Stuffy take their places downstage left.

Mrs. McGuffey: What is drama?

Huffy: Conversation.

Mrs. McGuffey: What follows a question?

Puffy: An answer.

Mrs. McGuffey: Who wrote “Iam rara micant sidera prono languida mundo?”

Stuffy: Seneca.

Mrs. McGuffey: Who is the first character to speak in Seneca's play Hercules?

Huffy: Juno.

Mrs. McGuffey: When Juno leaves the stage, who sings?

Puffy: The chorus.

Mrs. McGuffey: According to the chorus, what are shining in the sinking sky?

Stuffy: Stars, few and faint.

Mrs. McGuffey: And who draws in her wandering fires?

Huffy: Vanquished night.

Mrs. McGuffey: What is born?

Puffy: A new day.

Mrs. McGuffey: What brings up the rear of the shining host?

Stuffy: FY Phosphor.

Mrs. McGuffey: Who with wheeling pole summons the dawn?

Huffy: The icy sign high in the north, the Bears of Arcas, with their seven stars.

Mrs. McGuffey: Who is upborne by his azure steeds?

Puffy: The Titan.

Mrs. McGuffey: Where is the home of the Titan?

Stuffy: Lake Melville School.

Mrs. McGuffey: Who peeps forth from Oeta's crest?

Huffy: The Titan.

Mrs. McGuffey: What touched by the dawn, flush red?

Puffy: Rough brakes, made famous by Theban Bacchants.

Mrs. McGuffey: Who flees away, to return again?

Stuffy: Phoebus' sister.

Mrs. McGuffey: Who is perched on the topmost bough, shrill-voiced, amid her complaining young?

Huffy: The Thracian paramour.

Mrs. McGuffey: Who is eager to spread her wings to the morning sun?

Puffy: The Thracian paramour.

Mrs. McGuffey: What all around sounds forth, proclaiming the dawn of day with varied notes?

Stuffy: A mingled throng.

Mrs. McGuffey: What arises, sets all cares astir, and opens all doors?

Huffy: Hard toil.

Mrs. McGuffey: Who turns out his flock, and plucks pasturage still white with frosty rime?

Puffy: The shepherd.

Mrs. McGuffey: Who sports at will on the open mead?

Stuffy: A young bullock.

Mrs. McGuffey: Who with unsteady, aimless course wanders on the soft turf?

Huffy: A sportive kid.

Mrs. McGuffey: Who commits his canvas to the winds?

Puffy: A sailor, life ever at risk.

Mrs. McGuffey: What fills the sail's flapping folds?

Stuffy: A breeze.

Mrs. McGuffey: Who is perched on the wave-worn rocks, and rebaits his cheated hooks or, with firm grip, watches anxiously for his prize?

Huffy: The fisher.

Mrs. McGuffey: What feels the quivering fish?

Puffy: His line.

Mrs. McGuffey: Where do overweening hopes, and trembling fears, stalk abroad?

Stuffy: In cities.

Mrs. McGuffey: Who haunts the haughty vestibules and unfeeling doors of his rich

patrons?

Huffy: One sleepless man.

Mrs. McGuffey: Who endlessly heaps up abundant wealth, gloats over his treasures, and is still poor amid piled-up gold?

Puffy: Another sleepless man.

Mrs. McGuffey: Who is dazed with popular applause?

Stuffy: Yonder wretch.

Mrs. McGuffey: Who puffs him up with empty wind?

Huffy: The mob, more shifting than the sea.

Mrs. McGuffey: Who traffics in the mad wrangles of the noisy court?

Puffy: A man in the city.

Mrs. McGuffey: Who shamelessly lets out for hire his passions and his speech?

Stuffy: Another man in the city.

Mrs. McGuffey: Who, in the city, know untroubled calm?

Huffy: Very few.

Mrs. McGuffey: What is the penalty for nostalgia?

Puffy: Ten days in prison, or a fine of fifty pounds, or both.

Mrs. McGuffey: Who is Prime Minister of the moon?

Stuffy: Edgar Bottle.

Mrs. McGuffey: Good night.

Scene III

The band (Luke and Peter) plays: C C C C as a fanfare. Margaret Mary holds up the first sign. Hedwig points to the symbols as she speaks.

Hedwig: The world. Is. All that. Is. The case.

The band plays: C C C B. Margaret Mary holds up a second sign.

Hedwig: What. Is. The case. The fact. Is. The existence. Of. Atomic facts.

The band plays: C C C B-flat. Margaret Mary holds up a third sign.

Hedwig: The logical picture. Of. The facts. Is. The thought.

The band plays: C C C A. Margaret Mary holds up a fourth sign.

Hedwig: The thought. Is. The significant proposition.

The band plays: C C C B-flat . Margaret Mary holds up a fifth sign.

Hedwig: Propositions. Are. Truth-functions. Of. Elementary propositions.

Margaret Mary holds up the second part of the fifth sign.

Hedwig: An elementary proposition. Is. A truth-function. Of. Itself.

The band plays: C C C B. Margaret Mary holds up a sixth sign.

Hedwig: The general form. Of. Truth-function. Is. $[p, x, N(x)]$.

Margaret Mary holds up the second part of the sixth sign.

Hedwig: This. is. The general form. Of. Proposition.

The band plays: C C C C. Margaret Mary holds up a seventh sign.

Hedwig: Whereof. One. Cannot. Speak. Thereof. One. Must. Be. Silent.

They all look at one another in silence, not knowing what to do.

Scene IV

A gong stands alone down centre. Near it lays a beater. Johnny and Walter stand right, Susie and Constance stand left. They step forward to strike the gong slowly, once for each word in their speeches, while not actually uttering their speeches aloud.

Johnny Grey: Three is the best way to add.

Walter Arnold: Do you mean to please me.

Susie Asado: A lean on the shoe.

Constance Fletcher: To face that way.

Johnny Grey: This is it.

Walter Arnold: I do.

Susie Asado: Sweet.

Constance Fletcher walks down to the apron. Followed by Susie Asado. Followed by Walter Arnold. Followed by Johnny Grey. They bow. Exeunt.