

Give Me Back My Dad!
By
Northern Lights Academy
Rigolet

An original script adapted from *Give Me Back My Dad!* By Robert Munsch

Scene 1

The stage is divided into two levels with a clear distinction in elevation. Stage left is the highest and we see a Labrador tent. Stage right is lower and we see various underwater props (large seaweed, shells, etc.). There is also a living room feel to stage right with a couch and a chair. When the play begins only stage left has light.

Cheryl: Dad, can we go fishing?

Father: Sure, where to?

Cheryl: How about Bill's Brook?

Father: Yea, why not. You go pack up the grub box and I'll go get the gas.

Ski-doo sound effects followed by offstage voices.

Cheryl: Whoooooo slooooo dooown Dad, too many bumps!

Father: Did you say slow down or go faster? Okay, I'll go faster.

Cheryl: Nooooo, I said slow down not faster.

Father: It's not much further.

Cheryl and her father walk on stage left.

Father: This place is the best place to fish in the whole world. But the fish are smart. You've got to be really smart to catch these fish.

Cheryl: Phooey! I'm smarter than any fish, go ahead and drill the hole.

Father: WOW! Really thick ice! (*drills a hole in the ice.*) Now we can fish. (*gets out a hook and bait.*) You fish down this hole, but be very careful because these fish are smart.

Cheryl: Phooey! I'm smarter than any fish. (*jigs her line*) Up and down and up and down and up and down and up and down. I want to catch a fish.

Father: Be patient Cheryl.

Cheryl jigs her line.

Cheryl: Up and down and up and down and up and down and up and down. I want to catch a fish. (*Up out of the hole, stage right, comes a candy bar with a line on it.*) Look at that! It's a candy bar.

Father: **DON'T TOUCH THAT!**

Cheryl grabs the candy bar and is pulled right down underneath the ice to stage right.

Scene 2

We find Cheryl on the bottom of the ocean (stage right) with kelp in her hair and holding her breath. She sees SpongeBob enter stage right and he starts walking across the stage exiting stage right. She doesn't notice Daddy Fish enter stage right. He approaches her and taps her on the shoulder. Stage left should now be dark and stage right should have an underwater feel to the lighting.

Daddy Fish: Sorry, I didn't mean to frighten you. You better eat that candy bar quick, it's a magical Crunchy bar that allows you to breath underwater.

Cheryl eats the candy bar.

Cheryl: Oh my gosh! Pinch me, this must be a dream.

SpongeBob enters stage right humming the SpongeBob theme song walks across the stage and exits stage right.

Daddy Fish: Don't mind my nephew, he was adopted. He lives in a pineapple under the sea.

Cheryl: Say what?

Daddy Fish: The pineapple fell off of a boat and we turned it into a house for him.

Cheryl: I want to go home.

Daddy Fish: Not until you know what it feels like to be a fish out of water.

Mother Fish enters stage right she approaches Daddy Fish.

Mother Fish: What did you do this time?

Daddy Fish: I caught a human so they know how it feels.

Mother Fish: What's the matter with you? Did you think about how her family feels? About how scared she is?

Daddy Fish: Why do you care about how her family feels anyway? They catch our babies all the time!

Mother Fish: But shouldn't we treat them the way we want to be treated?

Father: Give me back my baby!

Mother Fish: Hear that? He's worried about her.

Daddy Fish: I'm not going to keep her forever, just for a little while.

Baby Fish and Sister Fish enter stage right.

Baby Fish: Can we keep it?

Daddy Fish: No.

Baby Fish: I can take it to school for show and tell.

Sister Fish: And I can do experiments on it.

Cheryl: I don't want to be experimented on. Get your stinking fins off of me you dirty fish.

Sister Fish: What does it feel like to have feet?

Cheryl: Good I guess I use them to walk.

Baby Fish: How do you survive on land?

Cheryl: I use my lungs to breath oxygen.

Baby Fish: I use my gills.

Sister Fish: How do lungs work?

Cheryl: Mr. Bennett told us that the lungs and respiratory system allows oxygen in the air to be taken into the body and allows the body to get rid of carbon dioxide.

Baby Fish and Sister Fish: Wow cool!

Baby Fish: Can I please take you to school for show and tell?

Mother Fish: No! She has to go back to her parents.

Father: Give me back my baby!

Cheryl: Excuse me, that's my dad. I think he's getting mad.

Daddy Fish: I'll take care of him. No experiments until I get back. (*swims up to the hole, stage left and sticks his head out*) We caught this kid fair and square. You can't have her back.

Father: Give me back my kid or my wife, Lorraine is going to have my head on a silver platter.

Daddy Fish: They eat you too?

Father: She's not really going to eat me it's just an expression. Now can I please have Cheryl back?

Daddy Fish: Again, we caught this kid fair and square and you can't have her back.

Father: Grrrrr, I've got an idea.

Daddy Fish: What?

Father: Oh, nothing.

Scene 3

We find Cheryl more relaxed in the underwater world playing with Sister and Baby Fish. Lights remain off on stage left.

Mother Fish: I know my husband is a little hard on you but he is a little special.

Cheryl: That's okay. I'm kind of hungry do you have anything to eat? Maybe some Goldfish crackers?

Mother Fish: You eat goldfish? My husband was right you're a monster.

Cheryl: They're not real fish they're cheesy flavored crackers shaped like goldfish.

Mother Fish: Oh, sorry. We don't have any of those but we do have some Crabby Patties that my nephew brought over earlier.

Cheryl: Sure I'll try it.

Baby Fish: Trust me they're delicious.

Cheryl takes a bite and spits it out into a napkin.

Cheryl: Ewww soggy burger. I forgot we were underwater.

Sister Fish: I don't think she likes it? What does "soggy" mean?

Cheryl: When something is all wet and soft. But I guess everything is wet for you guys.

Sister Fish: Oh I get it.

Lights up on stage left and we see Cheryl's father put a very small piece of bait on a line and jigs it.

Father: Up and down and up and down and up and down and up and down.

Sister Fish: Hey, what's that?

Baby Fish: Ouu, piece of candy!

Both Fish and Sister Fish swim after the piece of bait.

Cheryl: Eww, that's not candy, it's pork!

Baby Fish grabs the pork and instantly gets pulled out of water to stage left.

Mother Fish: Ahhhh, my baby!

Sister Fish: Yay! I'm an only child!

Mother Fish: (*looking at Daddy Fish.*) It's all your fault! You better go get him back!

Daddy Fish swims up to the hole, stage left and sticks his head out of the water]

Daddy Fish: Give me back my baby!

Father: Well, I'll give you back YOUR baby if you will give me back MY baby.

Daddy Fish: Grrrrr.

Cheryl's father tosses the little fish back into the water and Cheryl comes flying up onto stage left. Daddy Fish brings Baby Fish to his mother.

Sibling Fish: Uhhh man.

Lights out stage right

Cheryl: Brrrrrrrrrrrr, its cold!

Father picks her up and runs to the shore. He gets a fire going in the Labrador tent.

Cheryl: I feel warm and dry like a piece of toast!

Father: When we get home do not tell your mother that you were pulled into the water by a fish.

Cheryl: Can I tell my friend Shelly?

Father: What about if she tells your mother?

Cheryl: But I will make her pinky swear not to tell.

Father: I don't know how you survived down there.

Cheryl: I ate a magic Crunchy bar.

Father: What do you mean you ate a magic Crunchy bar?

Cheryl: The big fish told me to eat the bar so I could breathe underwater.

Father: What did you see when you were down there?

Cheryl: I saw a sponge that lives in a pineapple under the sea.

Father: Are you sure you didn't hit your head on the way down?

Cheryl: And I saw a Mommy Fish and a Baby Fish and a Sister Fish and they wanted to take me to school and do experiments on me but the Mommy fish said no. And I ate a crabby patty.

Father: Alright honey whatever you say. Now, we are going back out there. Don't pick up anything the fish throws out of the hole. These are smart fish.

Cheryl: Right!

Scene 4

They walk back out onto the ice and put bait on their lines. Baby fish and Sister Fish are eating a bag of popcorn and watching T.V. Stage left and stage right have light.

Cheryl: Up and down and up and down and up and down and up and down. I want to catch a fish!

Daddy Fish: Let's toss up a candy bar they fell for it once maybe they will fall for it again.

A candy bar with a line on it comes up out of the hole, onto stage left.

Cheryl: Oh no, I'm not that dumb! (*Cheryl jigs her line.*) Up and down and up and down and up and down and up and down. I want to catch a fish!

Mommy Fish grabs the bag of popcorn from her children and gives it to Daddy Fish.

Mother Fish: Here try this popcorn.

Sister Fish: But Mom they don't like, what was that word?

Baby Fish: Soggy.

Sister Fish: Right, soggy food. They find it gross.

Mother Fish: Well let's try it anyway.

Up comes a bag of popcorn with a line on it]

Cheryl: Oh no, I'm not that dumb! (*Cheryl jigs her line.*) Up and down and up and down and up and down and up and down. I want to catch a fish!

Mother Fish: Well that didn't work.

Baby Fish: Try the T.V. everyone loves T.V.

Daddy Fish: Not the T.V. I love the T.V. How am I going to watch fishball without it?

Mother Fish: You and your T.V. we can always get a new one.

Up comes a television]

Cheryl: WOW! That looks pretty nice. But I'm not that dumb! (*Cheryl jigs her line.*) Up and down and up and down and up and down and up and down. I want to catch a fish!

Sister Fish: I know what humans like, they like money just like Mr. Crabs.

Baby Fish: Call SpongeBob and ask him to "borrow" the money from Mr. Crabs.

Sister Fish: Pass me the shell phone and I'll call him. (*Sister Fish uses the shell phone*) Hello, is this the Crusty Crab?

Voice: Yes it is. Can I help you?

Sister Fish: Can I speak to SpongeBob please.

Voice: Sure. SPONGEBOB YOU'RE WANTED ON THE PHONE.

SpongeBob: Hello? Patrick is that you?

Sister Fish: No it's not Patrick it's. . .

SpongeBob: Squidward is that you?

Sister Fish: No it's not Squidward it's. . . .

SpongeBob: Is it Sandy?

Sister Fish: NO WOULD YOU JUST LISTEN. It's me your cousin. We need \$50 000 to catch a human. Can you get it from Mr. Crabs?

SpongeBob: I can try.

Few minutes later we see SpongeBob enter stage right and run across the stage.

SpongeBob: I've got it. I've got it!

Sister Fish: Awesome, thanks.

SpongeBob exits stage right and Sister Fish puts the money on the line. Up on stage left comes a \$50 000 bill with a line on it.

Father: Fifty thousand dollars! (*grabs it and gets pulled underneath the ice to stage right*).

Lights on stage left go out.

Mother Fish: (*Whistling Wit Woo.*) Why hello there! What type of fish are you?

Baby Fish: Quick, give him a magical candy bar so he can breathe.

Father eats the magical candy bar.

Father: Blah, I don't like Crunchy bars does anyone have something to drink?

Sister Fish: Here, have a glass of Kelpa-Cola.

Father: This is surprisingly delicious.

Mother Fish: You're the one that's delicious. You're the most handsome fish I've ever seen.

Father: I'm not a fish, I'm human!

Cheryl: Give me back my daddy!

Daddy Fish: Wanna go awa?

Father: Calm down, she's beautiful but she's not my type. She's not even my species. I just came for the fifty thousand dollars.

Enter SpongeBob stage right. He walks across the stage humming his song and exits stage right.

Father: Cheryl was right there is a sponge under the sea.

Cheryl: Give me back my daddy!

Baby Fish swims up to the hole, stage left, and sticks his head out. Lights up stage left.

Baby Fish: Hey! We caught him fair and square, you can't have him back.

Cheryl: I've got an idea.

Baby Fish: What?

Cheryl: Oh, nothing.

Scene 5

Baby Fish swims away. Cheryl puts a huge piece of bait on a line and jigs it. Lights up stage right.

Cheryl: Up and down and up and down and up and down and up and down. I've got to catch a Daddy Fish.

Father: Hey, what's that?

Daddy Fish: Ouu, a piece of cake.

Father: Eww, that's not cake, it's tuna.

Daddy Fish grabs the tuna and gets pulled out of the hole, stage left.

Mother Fish: Finally, he's gone. Now we can be alone.

Mother Fish approaches Father and attempts to kiss him.

Father: Cheryl! Get me out of here before I get kissed by a fish!

Baby Fish and Sibling Fish: Ewwwwwww! (*swims up to the hole, stage left and sticks his head out.*) Give me back my daddy!

Cheryl: Well, I'll give you back YOUR daddy if you give me back MY daddy!

Baby Fish: Grrrr!

Cheryl throws Daddy Fish back into the hole and Cheryl's father comes flying out of the hole.

Father: Brrrrrrrrrr, it's cold.

Cheryl pulls her father into the tent and puts wood into the stove.

Father: I'm warm and dry like a piece of toast.

Cheryl: Daddy, why did you grab the money? I thought you were smarter than a fish.

Father: I AM smarter than a fish. And I know that YOU are smarter than any fish, and I knew you would get me out. And I still have the money!

Cheryl: Right! Let's go buy a new ski-doo! I wonder whatever happened to the fish.

The fish are living their lives, clearly bored by their daily routine.

Mother Fish: Well, it can't get any worse.

All of the fish sigh; Jaws enters stage left and chases the fish off the stage.