Possible Readings for *Mary Poppins*

*\*Please note, these lines have been cut/adapted for audition purposes. In the real production, these characters might not say these lines.*

Jane, Mary, and Michael

MARY POPPINS

Very tidy, I must say. Tidier than I was expecting. Who’s responsible for that?

JANE

Mrs. Bri—

MICHAEL

Me. I am. I like to keep things neat.

MARY POPPINS

Do you indeed? Well, I look forward to making use of that. If there’s one thing I appreciate, it’s a child whose word I can depend on. Now, first things first. I always say the proper place to hang a hat is on a hat stand.

JANE

There’s nothing in it!

MICHAEL

We’d better keep an eye on this one. She’s tricky.

JANE

Mary Poppins, how could you know what we wanted in a nanny… when we made our list?

MARY POPPINS

Your “list” I’m not an item in the weekly shop, thank you very much.

MICHAEL

How did you come then? It was as if the wind just blew you here.

MARY POPPINS

It did. Now, stand over there!

Jane, Mary, and Michael

MICHAEL

But we’re not ill! I won’t take it, you can’t make me!

MARY POPPINS

In that, as in so many things, your information is faulty. Open.

MICHAEL

But… it’s strawberry ice!

MARY POPPINS

Now you.

JANE

I’m not sure I like strawberry ice.

MARY POPPINS

I’m not sure I care. Open.

JANE

Lime Cordial!

MARY POPPINS

No, off we go, you two. Michael, I know you like to keep things neat. Jane…

MICHAEL

I told you she was tricky.

JANE

Must we? Can’t Robertson Ay do it when he wakes up? He is a servant.

MARY POPPINS

With that attitude, you’ll get through a lot of staff before you’re very old. Besides, in every job that must be done, there is an element of fun.

Bert and Mary

BERT

Stay right where you are. I’d know that silhouette anywhere: Mary Poppins!

MARY POPPINS

It’s nice to see you, Bert.

BERT

Well, I must say you do look swell.

MARY POPPINS

Come on, Bert. You’re due for a break, and you promised you’d take me out when we met again. Or have you forgotten?

BERT

‘Course I ain’t, Mary. But… *(picks up his cup, there’s only one coin in it.)*

MARY POPPINS

Oh dear, is that all you’ve got? Never mind. My treat. And no one’s charging for the trees and the sky, are they?

BERT

I think you’ll find it’s just the way I’ve drawn it.

Bert and Mary

MARY POPPINS

Oh. So you are a sweep now, are you?

BERT

The best view in the world, eh? And who gets to see it? The birds, the stars, and the chimney sweeps. Nothing to beat it, eh?

MARY POPPINS

Bert…

BERT

Oh, you’re going then?

MARY POPPINS

The wind has changed.

BERT

But, they’re good kids, Mary.

MARY POPPINS

Would I be bothering with them if they weren’t? But I can’t help them if they won’t let me, and there’s no one so hard to teach as the child who knows everything.

BERT

So?

MARY POPPINS

So, they’ve got to do the next bit on their own. Cheerio, Bert. Keep an eye on them for me.

George and Winifred

WINIFRED

Jane and Michael want to say goodnight.

GEORGE

Tell them you’ve given me the message.

WINIFRED

George, please…

GEORGE

Would you please let me get on! Goodnight!

WINIFRED

Poor Michael. All he cares about is flying kites, and his beloved astronomy of course.

GEORGE

I used to love astronomy at his age. My nanny, Miss Andrew, soon beat it out of me.

WINIFRED

I suppose we do need a nanny, George. It is out of the question to do without one?

GEORGE

Don’t be absurd! Of course we need a nanny! All the best people have nannies! So the wives can do the charity work and entertain. Which reminds me, how is your tea part coming on?

WINIFRED

I’m not sure. It seems so odd to send out invitations to people I hardly know.

GEORGE

Winifred. Dearest. I’m only thinking of you. I want people to admire you, to respect you.

WINIFRED

I know, George. But sometimes it’s hard—

GEORGE

It is not hard. It’s your job, to be Mrs. Banks.

WINIFRED

And what is your job?

GEORGE

To pay for everything.

Miss Andrew and Winifred

WINIFRED

Miss Andrew! It’s so lovely to meet you at last! I do hope you had a good journey.

MISS ANDREW

It was thoroughly unpleasant. I never enjoy travel. You must be poor George’s wife. Your flowerbeds are disgracefully untidy! Take my advice: plant evergreens. Or better still, have nothing there at all, just a plain cement courtyard.

WINIFRED

But dear Miss Andrew, I am so fond of flowers.

MISS ANDREW

Then you are a very silly woman. Where did George go?

WINIFRED

He… I’m afraid he had…an urgent appointment.

MISS ANDREW

For which no double he was late as usual. Not much of a house, is it?

WINIFRED

We like it.

MISS ANDREW

Then, it doesn’t take a lot to keep you happy. Look at the dust! There! And there! Filth! Hasn’t anyone ever cleaned those curtains? Ah. You must be the children….

Other Possible Readings:

Mary Poppins, Jane, and Michael: Pages 63 and 82

Bert and Kids: Page 78

Mary and Winifred: Page 92

George and Winfred: Page 106

George and Bert: Page 107

George, Jane, and Michael: Page 109

Winifred, Jane, and Michael: Page 111

Michael, Jane, Winifred, George: Page 122