

Tacky the Penguin

Characters

Penguin 1 - Tacky

Penguin 2 - Neatly

Penguin 3 - Goodly

Penguin 4 - Pretty

Penguin 5 - Lovely

Penguin 6 - Perfect

Bad hunter 1

Bad hunter 2

Teacher

Narrator

Prologue

Setting: School gate

Props : School bags

[Neatly and Pretty walk into the scene from upstage right. Lovely walk into the scene from upstage left. Neatly, Pretty and Lovely meet at the centre stage]

LOVELY : Good morning, Pretty! Good morning, Neatly!

NEATLY AND PRETTY : Good morning, Lovely!

GOODLY AND PERFECT : [Walk into the scene from downstage right singing and greeting the others.]

*Good morning. Good morning and how do you do?
Good morning. Good morning. I'm fine. How are
you?*

All : [All the penguins sing and greet each other]
*Good morning. Good morning and how do you do?
Good morning. Good morning. I'm fine. How are
you?
Good morning. Good morning and how do you do?
Good morning. Good morning. I'm fine. How are
you?*

[Lovely, Neatly, Pretty, Goodly and Perfect walk together in a line from centre stage towards the downstage left centre. Tacky runs into the scene from upstage right, waving to all the others on the stage]

TACKY : Good morning, everyone! [Tacky hits Lovely in her back.] Good morning, Lovely!

[Lovely jerks forward almost fall down. Pretty pull Lovely back preventing her from falling]

ALL THE PENGUINS : Oh! Tacky!
EXCEPT TACKY

[Everyone on the stage freezes.]

NARRATOR : [Walk out from downstage left.] Ladies and Gentlemen. This is Tacky. This is a story about him. He is a little bit different from the others.

Scene 1 – The next day [Mathematics lesson]

Setting: In the classroom

Props: chairs, tables

[Curtains drawn. Sitting on their chairs, Lovely, Neatly, Pretty, Goodly and Perfect are reciting multiplication table. Teacher stands at center stage left.]

TEACHER : Class, now you start to recite the three times table. One, two, three...starts!

ALL THE PENGUINS : $1 \times 3 = 3$

EXCEPT TACKY : $2 \times 3 = 6$

$3 \times 3 = 9$

$4 \times 3 = 12$

[Tacky walks backwards into the classroom from upstage right.]

TEACHER : Tacky! Why are you so late?

TACKY : [Tacky thinks for a second] Because I'm not early.....

TEACHER : [Teacher shouts frustratedly at Tacky.] Tacky!!

[Tacky looks at the teacher innocently.]

TEACHER : Okay, fine. Since you are late, now you recite the three times table to the class.

TACKY : [Tacky smiles and says very proudly.] No problem! I've already learnt it last year.

$1 \times 3 = 3$

$2 \times 3 = 6$

Three times three equal to Erm..... Erm.....

[Tacky thinks very hard. He scratches his head with his left hand.]

Oh, ya! $3 \times 3 = 9$

TEACHER : Yes, you are right. Continue with the next one.

TACKY : Four times three equal to..... Erm..... Erm.....
[Tacky stops again and he scratches his head with both of his hands.]
Four times three equal to..... Four times three equal to.....Four times three equal to.....to.....Erm...

TEACHER : [Teacher looks at Tacky shaking her head.]
Four times three equal to how many?
[Teacher waits for another 3 seconds.]
Class, tell Tacky four times three equal to how many.

**ALL THE PENGUINS
EXCEPT TACKY** : Four times three.....

TACKY : [Tacky shouts]
Ya, I know! Hahahahah! Now, I know! I know!
Four times 3 equals to how many. Hahaha.....I know!
Yeah! [Tacky jumps with joy.]

TEACHER : Yes, Tacky. Very good. Can you please tell me four times three equal to how many?

TACKY : [Tacky shouts very loud with very excited and proud voice.]

Four times three equal to.....SIXTEEN!

[All the penguins and the teacher pretends to fall from the chair]

**ALL THE PENGUINS
EXCEPT TACKY** : OH, TACKY!

[Everyone on the stage freezes. Curtains closed.]

Scene 2- School band practice

Setting: School band practice

Props : Musical instrument (recorder, drum, triangle)

[Curtains drawn. Lovely, Neatly, Pretty, Goodly and Perfect march neatly and perform a song. Tacky marches behind of Goodly. He marches out of the beat and does not play his musical instrument properly.]

TEACHER : Stop! Stop! Stop! Tacky, you are not marching on the right beat. You stand aside and watch the others first. Okay? The others get ready. One, two, three.....start.

[The others perform the song again.]

TEACHER : Tacky, do you know how to do it now?

TACKY : Yes, teacher.

TEACHER : Okay, good. Now, you join them. Get ready! One, two, three...go!

[Tacky starts with a good start. Suddenly, he trips and bang into Goodly. Goodly falls and bang into Lovely.]

ALL THE PENGUINS : OH, TACKY!

EXCEPT TACKY

[Everyone freezes. Curtains closed.]

Scene 3- Painting class

Setting: In the classroom.

Props: drawing papers, paint brush, tables, chairs

[Curtains drawn. Teacher stands at centre stage left.]

TEACHER : Today, you are going to paint a painting of yourself. So, everyone, please take out your painting tools and start working. [Teacher gives out drawing papers to everyone.]

TACKY : [Walk to the teacher.] Teacher, can I have four?

TEACHER : Why do you need four?

TACKY : I want to paint a big one!

[Tacky gets the papers from the teacher. He puts the papers on the floor. He pastes the papers together. He drags a table to him and places his painting tools on the table. He paints his hands black and traces his hands on the papers.]

TEACHER : Tacky! What are you doing? Why don't you use your paintbrush?

TACKY : Why can't I use my hands to paint? I can paint better if I use my hands.

[Tacky holds his drawing papers up and shows to the audience.]

This is me! Isn't it beautiful?

[Tacky puts his painting down. He walks towards Pretty. Looking at Pretty's painting, Tacky uses his hand with the black paint to paint at Pretty's painting.]

PRETTY : Tacky! You dirty my painting!

TACKY : I don't think so. I think it looks prettier now.
[Tacky walks to Perfect. Again, he paints on Perfect's painting.]

PERFECT : Oh, No! Tacky! Stop that! It's not perfect anymore!
You....You.....[Perfect shouts very angrily.]

TEACHER : Tacky! Don't disturb the other! Go back to your seat
and continue painting!

TACKY : All right.
[Tacky walks back to his seat. On his way back, he
trip on Neatly's table. Everything on Neatly's table
drops onto the floor.]

ALL THE PENGUINS : OH, TACKY!
EXCEPT TACKY

[Everyone freezes. Curtain closed.]

Scene 4 – The bad hunters

[School bell rings. Lovely, Neatly, Pretty, Goodly and Perfect walks on the road going back home.]

Thump...Thump...Thump....Thump!

GOODLY : What sound is that? [Goodly stops and looks at the others.]

PRETTY : It sounds very scary. [Pretty hides behind Perfect.]

PERFECT : Oh, No! This must be the bad hunters coming.

LOVELY : Oh, No! Oh, No! What should we do? [Lovely looks around. She feels very scared.]

NEATLY : Run! [All the penguins run.]

PERFECT : Let's hide behind that wall! [Perfect runs and points at the wall.]

[Two hunters come with maps, traps, rocks and locks from upstage left. They are rough and tough. As the *thump...thump...thump....* draws closer, the penguins could hear the growly voice chanting.]

BAD HUNTER 1 AND 2 : *We're going to catch some pretty penguins.
And We'll march them with a switch,
And we'll sell them for money.
And get rich, rich, RICH!*

[Lovely, Neatly, Pretty, Goodly and Perfect hide behind the wall and dare not make a sound. They hold their breath. But, they see Tacky stands alone on the road. The hunters march right to him, chanting.]

BAD HUNTER 1 AND 2 : *We're going to catch some pretty penguins.
And We'll march them with a switch,*

And we'll sell them for money.

And get rich, rich, RICH!

TACKY : What's happening?

BAD HUNTER 1 : We are hunting for penguins. That's what's happening.

TACKY : PENNNNGUINS? Do you mean those birds that can march neatly in a row?

[Tacky marches. The bad hunters look very puzzled.]

TACKY : Do you mean those birds that can paint very well?

[Tacky shows the bad hunters his painting. The hunters take his painting and look at the painting. They turn it all around but cannot figure out what is that.]

TACKY : Do you mean those birds that can perform such pretty songs?

[Tacky takes out his recorder and starts to perform. The other penguins who are hiding behind the walls take out their musical instrument to make loud and dreadful sounds. They perform as loudly and dreadfully as they can.]

BAD HUNTER 2 : This can't be the land of the pretty penguins.

[The bad hunters ran away with their hands clasp tightly over their ears. They leave all their things behind, looking not rough and tough anymore.]

TACKY : Hey! I haven't finished the song yet!

[Tacky naughtily chase after the bad hunters for a few steps. Lovely, Neatly, Pretty, Goodly and Perfect peep through the hole of the wall.]

GOODLY : Yeah! The hunters have run away!

PRETTY : We are so lucky to meet Tacky.

PERFECT : Even though Tacky always get us into trouble, he saves us this time.

NEATLY : We should thank him!

Lovely : [Lovely runs towards Tacky and gives him a hug.]
Thank you for saving all of us, Tacky! Thank you so much!

[Neatly, Pretty, Goodly and Perfect walk towards Tacky. They hug and thank Tacky. Tacky feels very shy]

TACKY : You're welcome. [Turn to the audience and say.]
What have I just done?

NEATLY : Let's go home together!

PERFECT : Let's go!

[Lovely, Neatly, Pretty, Goodly and Perfect hold each others' hands and turn to Tacky. They walk backwards like what Tacky always does. Curtains closed.]

The End

Adapted from the story "Tacky the Penguin" by Helen Lester