The Star of the Show

and

The Peculiar Pain



PM reader's theatre

PM Oral Literacy

PM reader's theatre

For teachers' inspection ONLY

The Star of the Show and The Peculiar Pain Levels 29–30

Purpose

To extend speaking and listening skills to an advanced level, through role play.

Student Outcomes

- Presents competently to an audience, in a variety of roles.
- Engages an audience skilfully, using humour effectively.

Key Teaching Points PM Reader's Theatre

- Discuss the personality of each character in relation to the role and setting.
- Encourage independent role-play practice followed by peer analysis.
- Use an audio device to improve performances.
- Introduce students to dialogue spoken in verse.

Links with Other Levels 29 and 30
PM Reader's Theatre

A Pirate Story and *Mythical Creatures*

The Red Diamond and *Alex's Secret Mission*

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The Star of the Show

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By Debbie Croft
Illustrated by Michelle Draycott

Characters:



Narrator



Jasper



Polly
a parrot



Miss Pickett
TV host



Ms Rossi



Mr Namba



Miss Garrett



Dr Kostas
a vet

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Narrator

Jasper read the local newspaper article with interest. A television crew was coming to town and auditions were being held in a fortnight's time. But this audition was very different – it was to select the best tricks performed by various animals from around the country for a brand new show, *Animal Antics!*



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Narrator

During the next few days, everyone in town became very excited. But Jasper felt frustrated. He knew his pet parrot would have had a very good chance in the auditions, except that for the two months he'd had Polly, she hadn't said a word. The man at the pet shop had said the bird was very talkative, and that had captured Jasper's attention. He was very excited – there were lots of new expressions he wanted to teach Polly to say. But sadly, only Jasper was doing the talking!

However, he decided to make a really big effort to see if Polly would talk again. Every day, he sat by the cage and talked ever so nicely to his parrot, hoping that very soon he would be pleasantly surprised.

Jasper

Polly, pretty Polly – you're a potential movie star.

Narrator

But there was no response from Polly.

Jasper

Polly, pretty Polly, you are such a special sight to see!



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Narrator

Still there was no reply.

Finally, Jasper decided he would take Polly to the vet to find out what was wrong. Maybe Polly was sick!

When Jasper walked into the vet clinic with Polly in her cage, there were already lots of other owners there with their pets.



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Jasper

Here we are, Polly. I'm sure the vet will be able to help you to talk again.

Narrator

Jasper gently put Polly's cage down on the floor and walked around the waiting room, reading some of the pamphlets about animal care.

Ms Rossi *(to Jasper)*

My gorgeous puppy is auditioning for the television show. I've brought him here today to have his nails clipped. He is so clever. He can roll over and play dead, and he can walk a long, long way on his hind legs. I'm sure no other pet could do more sensational tricks than my little one!

Narrator

Jasper desperately wanted his bird to talk; he thought he had a really good chance at the audition if only he could find out what was the matter with Polly!

Jasper *(to Polly the parrot)*

Oh, how I wish you would talk! I'm sure you'd be chosen if you said something really clever.

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Narrator

Jasper tried again to get Polly to talk.

Jasper *(to Polly)*

Come on, Polly, say something … anything …

Polly, pretty Polly, you are such a special sight to see. Oh, you are beautiful, Miss Polly, whether seen from near or far.

Narrator

But Polly just looked around from inside her cage, and didn't say a word.

