

*(Alice enters and finds several bizarre creatures on stage – a Dodo, a Mouse, a Lory, and others – are gathered in a circle. The Dodo, stands importantly in the center of the creatures.)*

DODO: The race is about to begin!

*(The creatures look expectantly at the Dodo. Alice is bewildered.)*

ALICE: A race? What kind of race?

DODO: A Caucus-Race, of course! The most important race in Wonderland! *(The Dodo gestures vaguely around the circle.)*

MOUSE: But there are no starting lines or finish lines.

LORY: And what are we even racing for?

DODO: *(Exasperated)* It's a Caucus-Race! It's about participation! Now, everyone start... whenever you want!

*(The creatures begin running and hopping in random directions. Some stand still, others shuffle. Alice tries to follow, but is utterly confused.)*

ALICE: But... this makes no sense! How will we know who won?

DODO: We'll decide, of course! *(The Dodo watches as the race proceeds. After a while, the Dodo abruptly stops everything.)*

DODO: Alright, everyone! That's enough! We've all clearly... participated sufficiently. *(The Dodo looks around, selecting winners at random.)*

ALICE: *(Frustrated)* But... I didn't even run! And some creatures didn't move at all!

DODO: Details, details! Everyone is a winner! Now, let's have some cake! *(The Dodo produces a large, ornate cake from seemingly nowhere. The other creatures cheer.)*

ALICE: *(To herself)* This is the strangest place I've ever been.

### **ACT I - SCENE 8 ON THE SEASHORE**

*(Alice enters on the seashore. TWEEDLEDEE & TWEEDLEDUM are standing side by side, opposite side of the stage from scene 7. WALRUS, sits on a rock, a CARPENTER beside him. They both hold spoons. Before them sits a mountain of oysters.)*

TWEEDLEDUM: If you think we're statues you ought to pay, you know. Statues aren't made to be looked at for nothing.

TWEEDLEDEE: On the other hand, if you think we're alive you ought to speak.

ALICE: I beg your pardon. I am looking for the White Rabbit, to return some items. Would you tell me which road to take?

TWEEDLEDUM: You like poetry?

ALICE: Some poetry...

TWEEDLEDEE: What shall we recite to her?

TWEEDLEDUM: (*Hugging his brother*) 'The Walrus and the Carpenter' because it is the longest.

ALICE: If it's very long, would you tell me first which road to take...

TWEEDLEDEE: Sit down and listen!

(*The Walrus, the Carpenter, and Oysters appear DC to pantomime the poem. ALICE sits crosslegged on the ground, prepared to listen.*)

TWEEDLEDEE: (*continues*)

The Walrus and the Carpenter

Were walking on the strand.

They wept like anything to see

Such quantities of sand:

WALRUS & CARPENTER: If this were only cleared away,

TWEEDLEDEE: They said,

(*ALICE begins to get up from her seated position.*)

WALRUS & CARPENTER: It would be grand!

TWEEDLEDEE: (*to ALICE*) Sit down!

WALRUS: O Oysters, come and walk with us!

TWEEDLEDUM: The Walrus did beseech.

WALRUS: A pleasant walk, a pleasant talk, along the briny beach. We cannot do with more than four, to give a hand to each.

(*ALICE tried to get up again.*)

TWEEDLEDUM: (*to ALICE*) Sit down!

TWEEDLEDEE:

Then four young Oysters hurried up,

All eager for the treat:

Their coats were brushed, their faces washed,

Their shoes were clean and neat -

And this was odd, because, you know,  
They hadn't any feet.

*(To ALICE)* Sit down!

TWEEDLEDUM:

Four other Oysters followed them,  
And yet another four:  
And thick and fast they came at last, And more, and more, and more =  
All hopping through the frothy waves, And scrambling to the shore  
*(To ALICE)* Sit down!

TWEEDLEDEE:

The Walrus and the Carpenter walked on a mile or so,  
And then they rested on a rock conveniently low:  
And all the little Oysters stood and waited in a row.  
*(To ALICE)* Sit down!

WALRUS: The time has come,

TWEEDLE DUM: the Walrus said

WALRUS: To talk of many things:

Of shoes - and ships - and sealing wax - of cabbages - and kings  
Any why the sea is boiling hot - and whether pigs have wings

TWEEDLEDUM: *(To ALICE)* Sit down!

WALRUS: A loaf of bread

TWEEDLEDUM: the Walrus said

WALRUS: Is what we chiefly need: Pepper and vinegar besides are very good indeed -

Now, if you're ready, Oysters dear, we can begin to feed.

TWEEDLEDEE: *(to ALICE)* Sit down!

'But not on us!' the Oysters cried, turning a little blue.

After such kindness that would be a dismal thing to do!

WALRUS: The night is fine

TWEEDLEDUM: the Walrus said

WALRUS: Do you admire the view? It seems a shame

TWEEDLEDEE: the Walrus said

WALRUS: To play them such a trick. After we've brought them out so far,  
And made them trot so quick!

TWEEDLEDEE: The Carpenter said nothing but

CARPENTER: The butter's spread too thick!

WALRUS: I weep for you, I deeply sympathize.

TWEEDLEDUM: With sobs and tears he sorted out,  
Those of the largest size,  
Holding his pocket-handkerchief before his streaming eyes  
(to Alice) One more verse!

CARPENTER: O Oysters

TWEEDLEDEE & TWEEDLEDUM: said the Carpenter

CARPENTER: You've had a pleasant run! Shall we be trotting home again?

TWEEDLEDEE & TWEEDLEDUM: But answer came there none. And this was scarcely odd,  
because they'd eaten every one.

*(WALRUS, CARPENTER, and OYSTERS exit)*

ALICE: *(lightly applauds)* I like the Walrus the best, because he was a little sorry for the poor oysters.

TWEEDLEDEE: He ate more than the Carpenter, though. He held his handkerchief in front, so the Carpenter couldn't count how many he took.

ALICE: Well, that was a very unpleasant tale. Now please. Please tell me the way to the White Rabbit. I'm lost and I think it's going to rain.

*(The general lighting has begun to dim. TWEEDLEDEE crosses to the opposite side of the stage and picks up an enormous umbrella, which is on the floor behind the proscenium wing. He opens the umbrella and his brother joins him under its shelter.)*

BOTH: Don't get wet!

### **SCENE 9: On the Beach - Day**

*Alice, still reeling from the pepper-induced chaos in the Duchess's kitchen and the disturbing poem from DEE & DUM, finds herself on a strange beach. The sand is a vibrant, almost*