

# TACKY

## *the Penguin*



By Helen Lester

### **A Readers' Theater for 17 voices**

Thank you, Helen, for writing such a charming story that we love so much...we just had to turn it into a readers' theater!

# Tacky the Penguin

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## **A Readers' Theater**

### **Cast:**

Narrator 1

Narrator 2

Narrator 3

Narrator 4

Narrator 5

Narrator 6

Narrator 7

Narrator 8

Tacky

Goodly

Lovely

Angel

Neatly

Perfect

3 Hunters

Narrator 1: There once lived a penguin.

Narrator 2: His home was a nice icy land he shared with his companions.

Narrator 3: His companions were named

Narrator 4: Goodly, Lovely, Angel, Neatly, and Perfect.

Narrator 5: His name was Tacky.

Narrator 6: Tacky was an odd bird.

Narrator 7: Every day Goodly, Lovely, Angel, Neatly, and Perfect greeted each other quietly and politely.

Goodly, Lovely, Angel, Neatly, and Perfect: Hello. Good day.

Narrator 8: Tacky greeted them with a hearty slap on the back and a loud

Tacky: WHAT'S HAPPENING?!

Narrator 1: Goodly, Lovely, Angel, Neatly, and Perfect always marched

Goodly, Lovely, Angel, Neatly, and Perfect: 1-2-3-4...1-2-3-4

Narrator 2: Tacky always marched

Tacky: 1-2-3, 4-2, 3-6-0, 2 ½, 0.

Narrator 3: His companions were graceful divers.

Narrator 4: Tacky liked to do splashy cannonballs.

Narrator 5: Goodly, Lovely, Angel, Neatly, and Perfect always sang pretty songs like

Goodly, Lovely, Angel, Neatly, and Perfect: (singing) Sunrise on the Iceberg

Narrator 6: Tacky always sang songs like

Tacky: (singing badly) How many toes does a fish have?

Narrator 7: Tacky was an odd bird.

Narrator 8: One day the penguins heard the

Hunters: *Thump – thump - thump*

Narrator 1: Of feet in the distance.

Narrator 2: This could only mean one thing.

Narrator 3: Hunters had come

Narrator 4: They came with maps and traps and rocks and locks,

Narrator 5: And they were rough and tough. As the

Hunters: *Thump – thump - thump*

Narrator 6: Drew closer, the penguins could hear the growly voices chanting

Hunters: (growly) We're gonna catch some pretty penguins, and we'll march 'em with a switch, and we'll sell 'em for a dollar, and get rich, rich, RICH!

Narrator 7: Goodly, Lovely, Angel, Neatly, and Perfect ran away in fright.

Narrator 8: They hid behind a block of ice.

Narrator 1: Tacky stood alone.

Narrator 2: The hunters marched right up to him, chanting,

Hunters: (growly) We're gonna catch some pretty penguins, and we'll march 'em with a switch, and we'll sell 'em for a dollar, and get rich, rich, RICH!

Tacky: WHAT'S HAPPENING?!

Narrator 3: Blared Tacky, giving one hunter an especially hearty slap on the back.

Hunters: (growly) We're hunting for penguins. That's what's happening.

Tacky: PENNNNGUINS? Do you mean those birds than march neatly in a row?

Narrator 4: And he marched,

Tacky: 1-2-3, 4-2, 3-6-0, 2 ½, 0.

Narrator 5: The hunters looked puzzled.

Tacky: Do you mean those birds that dive so gracefully?

Narrator 6: And he did a splashy cannonball.

Narrator 7: The hunters looked wet.

Tacky: Do you mean those birds that sing such pretty songs?

Narrator 8: Tacky began to sing,

Narrator 1: And from behind the block of ice came the voices of his companions,

Narrator 2: All singing as loudly and dreadfully as they could.

All Penguins: HOW MANY TOES DOES A FISH HAVE? AND HOW MANY WINGS ON A COW? I WONDER. YUP, I WONDER.

Narrator 3: The hunters could not stand the horrible singing.

Hunters: This cannot be the land of the pretty penguins.

Narrator 4: They ran away with their hands clasped tightly over their ears,

Narrator 5: Leaving behind their maps and traps

Narrator 6: And rocks and locks,

Narrator 7: And not looking at all rough and tough.

Narrator 8: Goodly, Lovely, Angel, Neatly, and Perfect hugged Tacky.

Goodly, Lovely, Angel, Neatly, and Perfect: Tacky may be an odd bird but a very nice bird to have around.

Everyone: The End.