

The Magic Tree House: A Ghost Tale for Mr. Dickens

Character Descriptions

Jack

Jack is a young boy. He is bookish, careful and thoughtful, but he is NOT a nerd! Jack has tremendous curiosity about the world around him and loves to take notes about his observations. Jack tends to be very cautious in new situations, and his adventures in the Magic Tree House help him develop his confidence. He has a good (and protective) relationship with his younger sister, Annie, though her more impetuous nature often gets on his nerves. This is a big role and requires a strong singer and actor.

Annie

Annie is Jack's younger sister and, in many ways, his opposite in terms of personality. She is a risk taker who often follows her heart instead of her head. She sometimes teases Jack about his careful attitude toward life and often encourages him to be more adventurous. She loves animals of any kind and has a very loving heart. Like Jack, this role requires strong singing and acting.

Mr. Dickens

Mr. Dickens is a man in his prime and has a flair for the dramatic, both in writing and speech. His public persona is that of a charismatic celebrity, but privately he is deeply depressed by the suffering he sees all around him in Victorian England, particularly the suffering of children.

Merlin

Merlin is a wise old magician who joyfully introduces the play to the audience and sends Jack and Annie on their mission to help Mr. Dickens.

Morgan Le Fay

Morgan Le Fay is an ageless librarian enchantress. Merlin and Morgan are dear old friends and are playful with one another.

Carolers

The Carolers, including Caroler #1, Caroler #2, Caroler #3 and Young Caroler, can be as small as a handful of performers or as large as your stage and theater can accommodate.

Carriage Driver

Carriage driver is a cheerful, friendly character who is especially impressed by his well-to-do patrons. Costuming would allow for this role to be played by a girl if necessary.

People At Inn

People at Inn are non-speaking roles with only a small bit of singing.

Theatre Folk

The Theatre Folk are non-speaking roles with only a small bit of singing.

High Society

The High Society are non-speaking roles with only a small bit of singing.

Emma and Olive

Emma and Olive are orphans who must resort to petty thievery to survive on the streets of London. Olive targets Jack and Annie when she notices their expensive-looking bag, and Emma follows her lead in a plot to steal it.

Harry and Colin

Harry and Colin are young chimney sweeps who agree to trade places with Jack and Annie for a day. These comedic characters sing a duet and need to be able to change a few items of clothing (jackets and hats) during their song.

Mrs. Tibbs

Mrs. Tibbs is the peculiar and proud housekeeper of the Dickens estate.

Dickens Characters

Pickwick, Oliver Twist, Nickleby and other Dickens Characters are the “faces in the mirror” Dickens sees when he is in his office trying to write.

Victorian London Ensemble

Including Newsies, Newsie #1, Baker, Butcher, Bootblacks, Dressmaker, Street Person, Cabbie, Hawkers and Hawker #1 are all small acting parts, but these roles are essential for creating the feel of Victorian London.

Policeman

The Policeman arrests Jack and Annie believing they have stolen their own bag. He is chastised by Charles Dickens, and when he realizes his mistake, quickly and humbly apologizes.

Mr. Pinch

Mr. Pinch is the mean and miserly owner of the Purple Peacock Inn who refuses to give food scraps to a hungry Tiny Tim and his mother. He is the prototype for Dickens' Scrooge.

Mrs. Pinch

Mrs. Pinch is nothing like her ill-tempered husband; she is warm, hardworking and high-spirited.

Francois The Chef

Francois The Chef is the chef at Pinch's Purple Peacock Inn. He is proud and passionate and highly sensitive to criticism.

Restaurant Ensemble

Waitstaff, Waitstaff #1 and #2, Restaurant Workers, Restaurant Patrons, Patrons #1, #2, #3 and #4, Waitress, Dishwasher, Women Fans and Men Fans are the employees and patrons of Mr. Pinch's Purple Peacock Inn.

Tiny Tim

Tiny Tim is a poor and sickly child who will not survive without the charity of others. Though his body is weak, his spirit is robust, and though his family is impoverished, he is rich in love and is remarkably cheerful and good-natured.

Roberta

Roberta is Tiny Tim's humble, yet proud mother.

Orphans

Orphan #1 and the Orphans are street urchins who haunt Mr. Dickens after his disheartening encounter with Mr. Pinch.

Ghosts

The White Ghost, Green Ghost and Black Ghost are conjured by Jack and Annie's magic violin in order to convince Mr. Dickens to keep writing by showing him meaningful scenes from his past, present and future.

Mrs. Dickens

Mrs. Dickens is the mother of Charles Dickens.

Young Dickens

Young Dickens is Charles as a small boy who is conjured by the White Ghost to remind Mr. Dickens of his love of reading, his passion for stories and the importance of The Arabian Nights in igniting his imagination as a boy.

Classroom Ensemble

Miss Twigby, Sara and the class, including Girl #1, #2, #3 and #4 are characters conjured by the Green Ghost to show Mr. Dickens how teachers in Victorian classrooms are using his stories to impart important lessons to their young students.

Queen Victoria And Lady In Waiting

Queen Victoria and her Lady In Waiting are characters conjured by the Green Ghost to show Mr. Dickens that even the Queen is being moved to make social reforms based on his stories.

Bookstore Ensemble

The Bookseller, Henrietta and Barber are more characters conjured by the Green Ghost to show how much the common people of London are enlivened and changed by the stories of Charles Dickens.

Mourners

The Mourners, including Mourner #1, sing a reprise of Who Will Hear My Song? gathered around the gravestone of Charles Dickens and create a mournful tableau during Mary's monologue.

Mary Dickens

Mary Dickens is the grown daughter of Charles Dickens.