

# The Wildly Wireless Melodrama

*A Packet Play in As Many Acts as You Care to Write  
Only Act I is completed for you....*

## Teacher Information and Directions

### Just what kind of play is this?

It's different. It's silly, but it's lots of fun to put on. And it's rather crazy. Think Dudley Do-Right and other such melodramas.

Wildly Wireless is meant to be overacted, and the stage directions are meant to be read by the actors. For example, in the opening line said by the teacher, the student playing the teacher should say in a teacher-type voice, "And now class, all eyes this way," and in a firm narrator-type voice looking at the audience, "Mrs. Terrific says with emphasis."

Any words or phrases in brackets are meant to result in gestures or sounds—such as he sighs [sigh]. They may, in addition, include stage directions that are not spoken such as [Teacher Terrific leaves the stage.]

It may seem confusing at first, but having the characters say the stage directions makes the play more fun and allows the characters to interact with the audience.

Remember the only words not spoken are those in [brackets].

### Suggestions for Use of the Melodrama

The Wildly Wireless Melodrama can be performed by reading it aloud in a classroom or by acting it out before an audience. Depending upon the time you have available, you might want to consider:

- Instructing your students to read the play aloud in class and then follow the reading with a discussion of possible endings.
- Having your students copy this play to their computers so that they can experiment with writing their own scenes or endings for it. Instruct them to be as zany and creative as they can be, but to stick to the topic, which is, of course, Wildly Wireless.
- Assigning your students to read the play for homework and write an essay ending for it or even a review of the play that gives away the plot.
- Letting your students select a character from the character list and then have them write a scene featuring that character (in the Wildly Wireless tradition, naturally).

Wildly Wireless, p. 1

## **Time for the Melodrama**

Performing Act I will take about 18-20 minutes.

## **The Characters**

We hope there are enough parts for everyone in the class, but if there aren't, you'll find it easy to add additional parts. If there are too many parts, some of your students will be sure to volunteer to play more than one part.

If you are putting on this play for others, you might want to make large signs with the characters' names printed on them. Attach a string that is long enough to go around a student's neck to the top corners of the signs. Then the students can wear their character signs and proudly show them to the audience throughout the play.

Keep in mind that if characters such as the narrator and teacher are played by the opposite gender than is called for in the script, students can change the he's to she's and she's to he's and so on. If you have a class in which most of the students are of one sex, there's no problem with having girls take on the parts of boys/men or boys' men taking the parts of girls. They'll enjoy doing it.

## **The Props**

If you are just reading the play with your class, you won't need props, but if you decide to present it, you'll need some laptop computers or props to look like them, something to resemble a wireless hub, a yardstick, and a spray bottle with water in it.

## **The Wildly Wireless Melodrama**

**Cast:** There are parts for 23+ students in Act One.

### **Characters in Act One**

Stage Curtain (Very red and possibly velvet, also very tired)

Naughty Narrator (In cahoots with the Nasties. Wants to be rid of the packet students.)

Teacher Terrific (The teacher of the student packets who is also a packet.)

Sweet Sally (Sweet and kind packet)

Savvy Sam (Know-it-all packet)

Ned Network (Frustrated human network administrator who tries to keep the network working.)

Brainy Billy (Not the brightest of packets)

Moody Mercedes (Lovely, vain, and rather nasty packet, one of the Nasties)

The Twins, Worried Wanda and Wary William (Packets who say everything in trembling unison)

Agitated Ali (Upset that his girlfriend Lovely Linda may be lost. Both Linda and Ali are packets.)

Genius Gene (Packet who takes over as the group leader)

Wonderful Juan (Simply wonderful packet)

Eddie Encryption (Disguises packets so that Horrendous Hacker can't read them)

Enticing Virus (Seems so nice, but ...)

Annie Virus (Attacks viruses with hairspray, which is actually water)

Varsity Virus (Waits offstage for her spot in the limelight)

The Triplets - Radio Wave, Micro Wave, Cordless Karen (Cause lots of problems in wireless space)

Horrendous Hacker (Tries to look at the information that packets are carrying. Another of the Nasties)

Ida Interference (An additional interference)

Peter Packet (A superhero packet who is out in wireless space ready to do in Horrendous Hacker in for once and for all)

Other Packets (Other packets in the classroom)

Wildly Wireless, p. 3

**If you decide to write additional scenes or acts, some of these characters would love the parts. (NOTE: These characters are not presently in the melodrama so don't assign their parts unless you or your students have written them in. Of course, more characters can be added as well.)**

Linda Lovely (Agitated Ali's love, a packet lost in Wireless Space)

Officer Oliver (Security Officer who won't let packets through without a security key)

Security Key (What packets need to get through to wireless receivers)

Hacker Packer (A nasty packet in wireless space put there by Horrendous Hacker)

Randall Receiver (Wireless receiver who is awaiting the packets)

Clifford Keyboard (An unhappy keyboard.)

Serious Server (Always demands that everything be just so in her files. No funny business)

Rambunctious Router (Is on strike because no one appreciates him)

Calm Computer (Doesn't worry about anything. Hopes no one will use him.)

## **The Wildly Wireless Melodrama**

**Cast:** There are parts for 23+ students in Act One.

### **Characters in Act One**

Stage Curtain (Very red and possibly velvet, also very tired)

Naughty Narrator (In cahoots with the Nasties. Wants to be rid of the packet students.)

Teacher Terrific (The teacher of the student packets who is also a packet.)

Sweet Sally (Sweet and kind packet)

Savvy Sam (Know-it-all packet)

Ned Network (Frustrated human network administrator who tries to keep the network working.)

Brainy Billy (Not the brightest of packets)

Moody Mercedes (Lovely, vain, and rather nasty packet, one of the Nasties)

The Twins, Worried Wanda and Wary William (Packets who say everything in trembling unison)

Agitated Ali (Upset that his girlfriend Lovely Linda may be lost. Both Linda and Ali are packets.)

Genius Gene (Packet who takes over as the group leader)

Wonderful Juan (Simply wonderful packet)

Eddie Encryption (Disguises packets so that Horrendous Hacker can't read them)

Enticing Virus (Seems so nice, but ...)

Annie Virus (Attacks viruses with hairspray, which is actually water)

Varsity Virus (Waits offstage for her spot in the limelight)

The Triplets - Radio Wave, Micro Wave, Cordless Karen (Cause lots of problems in wireless space)

Horrendous Hacker (Tries to look at the information that packets are carrying. Another of the Nasties)

Ida Interference (An additional interference)

Peter Packet (A superhero packet who is out in wireless space ready to do in Horrendous Hacker in once and for all.)

Other Packets (Other packets in the classroom.)

## **Act I (the only act in this play)**

### **Scene I (the only scene in this act)**

[Note to all actors— Remember, **all words except those in brackets are to be read out loud.**]

**[Setting:** Students are seated in a classroom with the teacher in front. Most of the students are at their computers. One desk is empty. That desk has a wireless hub on it. Stage Curtain (as portrayed by a persuasive person) is taking a little snooze on the floor waiting for the show to begin. Enticing Virus is asleep at her desk. At the sides of the classroom or off-stage are those actors who enter as Act I evolves. These include Ned Network, Eddie Encryption, Ida Interference, The Triplets, and Horrendous Hacker. Peter Packet is off stage or at the side of the classroom and is invisible.]

#### **Stage Curtain**

The Stage Curtain rises on the first act [Stretches]

#### **Naughty Narrator**

"Students, imagine that you are in this very classroom in the midst of the Peter Packet game. Everything is two dimensional, even you. You are thinner than a piece of paper, and people can hardly see you when you stand sideways. You are, [hesitate dramatically] my darlings," the Naughty Narrator says nastily, "cartoon characters of puny packets. Your teacher at this time is instructing your class to practice its penmanship on its computers. All of you are making lines of 'L's' across your computer screens. One desk is empty." The Naughty Narrator takes a deep breath [breathes deeply], points to the desk where Peter Packet once sat [points], and sighs, "You are such a boring group, but I won't have to deal with you for too much longer."

#### **Teacher Terrific**

"And now class, all eyes this way," Mrs. Terrific says with enthusiastic emphasis. "We shall now begin practicing our 'M's' because your 'L's' are simply magnificent. You know that we packets have to have good penmanship to deliver all those wonderful letters." She looks over at the empty desk and frowns [frown at audience if there is an audience]. "Now where could Peter have gone?" she asks sounding very worried. "He was just here a nanosecond ago."

#### **Sweet Sally**

Wildly Wireless, p. 6

"Peter is delivering a packet, Mrs. Terrific," Sweet Sally says sweetly. Sally smiles at the audience showing her white teeth and her beautiful new blue braces.

### **Naughty Narrator**

"Sickening, isn't it?" the narrator looks directly at the audience and moans [moan].

### **Savvy Sam**

"Don't be silly Sally," Savvy Sam speaks up. "Network Ned has nixed the network once more. —Just when I was going to sell some of my perfect 'L's' on the Internet. Lots of kids would love to buy them."

### **Teacher Terrific**

"It's time to do our 'N's'. Network Ned is two of them, isn't he? Get to work, students, and I shall go look for Peter." Teacher Terrific hops into her laptop. [Mrs. Terrific leaves the stage.]

### **Naughty Narrator**

In an overtly ominous voice, the Naughty Narrator announces, "Your teacher has disappeared into wireless space." He lifts his heavy eyebrows up and down. "Ned Network enters from stage left or right-whatever."

### **Ned Network**

Ned Network enters the classroom looking very tired. "Rambunctious Router is on strike because he doesn't think he's appreciated, and the network is down, down, down—again."

### **Brainy Billy**

"Down where?" Brainy Billy asks.

### **Moody Mercedes**

Moody Mercedes tilts her head so that her hair falls just so, runs her fingers through her shiny curls, and announces in her melodious voice, "Peter is delivering a message to my boyfriend, Horrendous Hacker."

### **The Twins, Worried Wanda and Wary William (*in unison*)**

"Horrendous Hacker!" the twins Worried Wanda and Wary William shout in exact unison. "Peter wouldn't have anything to do with Horrendous Hacker."

Wildly Wireless, p. 7

### **Wonderful Juan**

"Peter is working with Eddie Encryption," says Wonderful Juan, "to outwit Horrendous."

### **Moody Mercedes**

"Wait and see," suggests Moody Mercedes. Moody winks at the audience [wink] and continues, "Peter would do anything for me."

### **Sweet Sally**

"What's that round thing on Peter's desk?" Sweet Sally asks ever so nicely but sounds seriously unsettled.

### **Brainy Billy**

"Could be one of those worms that gets into software, but it doesn't look like a worm, does it? Maybe it's a hacker snooping device. Everyone hide! Under your desks!"

### **The Twins, Worried Wanda and Wary William (*in unison*)**

"We're goners! We will be lost on the information highway to nowhere."

### **Ned Network**

"Yeah, yeah, take cover if you think it would help." Ned Network says with a yawning yawn [big yawn]. "That thing's your wireless hub and if you go into the computer it will send you directly to Rambunctious Router who won't work. You packets could be sent anywhere."

### **Naughty Narrator**

"Your teacher is kaput, Peter Packet is no more, and the rest of you are going to be as well. I hear that Lovely Linda is with Peter. Horrendous Hacker, Moody Mercedes, and I are going to get rid of all of you! Ha. Ha. Ha," the Naughty Narrator laughs. His madness increases.

### **Agitated Ali**

"Oh no," says agitated Ali in a quavering voice. "I'm in love with Lovely Linda. I'm going in after her." Ali hops into his computer. [Ali leaves the stage.]

### **Naughty Narrator**

"Chalk off one more."

Wildly Wireless, p. 8

## **Savvy Sam**

"We'll all be sent anywhere. You too, Moody."

Wildly Wireless, p. 9

### **Moody Mercedes**

"Not I, my weepy, wishy-washy friends," says Moody Mercedes. "When we get rid of you, we're heading to the Caribbean for some sun, while you are sent anywhere, perhaps to the Graveyard of Dropped Packets, which I imagine is where Peter, Linda, Ali, and Teacher Terrific are. At least, you won't have to work on penmanship anymore."

### **Genius Gene**

Genius Gene pushes his chair back and stands to address the class, "Not to worry, Mr. Network and sensational students, excepting Moody Mercedes. You can't be sent anywhere because our wireless network doesn't have the range to send you anywhere. Peter and Mrs. Terrific are most likely no farther than the Girls' Lavatory."

### **Brainy Billy**

"Do you really think they are in the lavatory?" Brainy Billy asks. Billy hops into the computer saying, "I always wanted to see what the Girls' Lavatory looked like." [Billy leaves the stage.]

### **Naughty Narrator**

"One more down."

### **Enticing Virus**

Enticing Virus gets up and slinks to the front of the room, "I'll help you find them. Just let me attack, I mean ATTACH, myself to each of you packets, and we're off to save Peter and Teacher Terrific and maybe Linda and Ali, too." [She looks at the audience and snickers].

### **Annie Virus**

"Good try, Enticing," says her cousin Annie Virus from the back of the room, "but you are out of here!" The valiant Annie races toward Enticing and sprays her with her secret ingredient, garden-scented, aroma therapy hair spray." Sssssss. [Don't use hair spray because it may get in someone's eyes. Use water and a spray bottle, perhaps labeled as hairspray.]

### **Enticing Virus**

"Ah," Enticing pats her hair and says sleepily as she returns to her desk and puts her head down. "I think I'll forgo this trip. Doesn't my hair look nice?"

Wildly Wireless, p. 10

### **Genius Gene**

"If we work together on the inside with Mr. Network helping us on the outside, we can turn this disastrous situation around. But, we'll need Eddie."

### **Sweet Sally**

"Where's Eddie Encryption? Is he lost with Peter?"

### **Naughty Narrator**

"No, sadly enough he's not lost," Naughty says gloomily. "I hope he doesn't foil my plan. Here comes that nitwit."

### **Eddie Encryption**

"Sorry to be late folks, but there's a charming chimpanzee who's applied for Grade 8 here at Wildly Wireless. No one could read her application, but she does write beautifully in ChimpanLingua and should be a whiz at 'L's'. Teacher Terrific will love her. Now that I've got her decoding, I'm here to encode you and protect your information from Horrendous." Eddie hesitates, turns and looks romantically at Moody and adds, "I don't see what you see in that guy. I'm obviously more appealing."

### **Moody Mercedes**

"He's exciting, and I've had enough of your messing me up. Your disguises hamper my obvious beauty. I refuse to be encrypted, and Horrendous likes me that way."

### **Genius Gene**

"Time is of the essence, whatever that means. I suggest we act now with me as your leader."

### **Ned Network**

"Okay. Do the Annie spray thing, get your disguises from Eddie," suggests Network, "and you packets get going together. When you get to Rambunctious Router, do anything you can NOT to get sent to the Girls' Lavatory. It is getting too crowded."

### **Genius Gene**

"Grab your checksum, IDs, and info," advises Genius Gene with weapon in hand [a yardstick]. "Be careful. Enticing has been silenced for a bit, but Varsity Virus is hiding at stage left. Watch out for Horrendous and all sorts of nasty interference. Everyone follow

Wildly Wireless, p. 11

me onto the Internet. CHARGE!" [Genius heads off stage looking like he is leading an army with his yardstick drawn.]

### **All Packets (*in unison*)**

The packets look at the audience and scream their war call, "DELIVER!" They rush off the stage. [Packets leave the stage.]

### **Naughty Narrator**

"There they go—all those helpless little packets—never to be seen again. I hope. They jumped into the computer and our wireless hub sent them surfing in Wildly Wireless space. I wish them a speedy trip to the Graveyard of Dropped Packets. " Naughty looks sternly at the audience, smiles in a creepy crease of his lips, and moves his abundant eyebrows up and down.

### **Varsity Virus**

"Never fear," Varsity Virus peeks his virulent head out from stage left and says, "I'm after them!" [Varsity runs across the stage looking dangerous. Annie goes after him with her spray. She runs off-stage and then returns to stand guard by Enticing.]

### **Ida Interference**

Jumping onstage Ida Interference yells, "So am I!" [Ida tiptoes across the stage looking like she doesn't know where she is going.]

### **The Triplets — Micro Wave, Radio Wave and Cordless Karen (*in unison*)**

"We are coming your way!" [The triplets go to stage center, turn and look at the audience and add,] "Act I is almost over."

### **Naughty Narrator**

"Also on stage, Ned Network is, as usual, busy nixing the network, and Annie is making sure Enticing's hair is properly done." The narrator clears his magnificent throat [clear throat] and announces, "Our hero makes an appearance followed by the voice of that pipsqueak Peter."

Wildly Wireless, p. 12

### **Horrendous Hacker**

Horrendous stalks on stage. He looks at the audience and sends his eyes side to side. "Those packets will be squashed into gibberish nothingness when I read their messages," Horrendous Hacker says through his evidently evil vocal cords as he smiles at Moody. Moody, naturally, smiles back at him.

### **Peter Packet**

Peter Packet is heard but not seen, for he is on an evasively secret mission and cannot disclose his whereabouts. He says in his superhero voice, which only packets can hear, "Meet me at Rambunctious' Ranch, and don't get sent beyond our wireless network through the Internet cables. If you do, we may never find you."

### **Naughty Narrator**

Act I ends, and the Naughty Narrator is delighted.

### **Stage Curtain**

The stage curtain falls [fall carefully] and returns to sleep.