

A Little Princess Audition Material

Please choose **ONLY ONE** of the following excerpts from *A Little Princess*. Learn the speech as best you can and record yourself performing it. If you would prefer to record yourself performing a different monologue that you know (from any other show or monologue book), that you think better showcases your abilities, you are welcome to record yourself doing that instead. The most important thing is that you feel comfortable and happy with your submission!

Please include the link to your audition video at the bottom of the application form. See application form for more details.

Sara - Option #1

In this speech, Sara is talking to Lottie (a young classmate who has been having a temper tantrum). Sara manages to calm Lottie down and cheer her up by telling her a story...

Sara: I used to feel like that a great deal, but whenever I'd start to scream, the monkeys would scream louder. (*Lottie calms slightly.*) Well, since I can't bear monkey noise, I'd start thinking of things... Like suppose I was a princess who ruled from an ivory castle. All the populace would come to me when they were unhappy, and I'd give them food and clothes, and jobs that they liked to do. And, of course, in turn, they'd bring me the most beautiful divans and the most delicious treats. And I'd lie on those couches and eat all day long, feeling so at peace with my entire kingdom.

Sara - Option #2

At this point in the play, Sara is hungry, exhausted, and worked to the bone. She has just come back from doing errands in the cold, when Miss Minchin, her headmistress, chastises her for being late and throws her into the attic. In the line before Sara's speech, Miss Minchin says "Next time do as you're told and do it quickly!" then Miss Minchin exits.

Sara: I won't. I won't, I won't, I won't! Do you hear?! I won't do what I'm told! I won't do errands! I won't fetch goods! I won't do anything you or anyone else tells me to do!! Not now! Not ever!! (*Her anger is exhausted and turns to quiet sobs.*) I won't eat. I won't be warm. I won't have friends. I won't be happy. (*Her sobs have stopped.*) No one even cares. They don't even care enough to stop me screaming. I'm nobody now. Nothing. Just fit for the dirt and cold and rats. Fit for what I have (*She manages to get to her room. Warm light, music. She gasps in amazement.*) Oh! Oh my! It isn't true. It can't be true! (*The room has been transformed. There is a fire in the grate. There is a chair with cushions, a spread with food and a teapot.*) But a fire I only thought I saw surely wouldn't feel warm. It feels real. It is real!

Miss Minchin - Option #3

Miss Minchin, the cruel principal of an all-girls boarding school has recently caught Ermengarde, one of her students, sneaking food to Sara (the “wretched servant girl”).

Miss Minchin: Shall I tell your father that you’re a thief? *(To the other students.)* This disgraceful child stole food for that wretched servant girl. Do you think I can afford to waste food on her? Money is precious, ladies. Let me make the rules clear. Any of you who speak to that miserable little orphan will be made to stand in the corner. Any of you who try to befriend her in any way will be given double lessons for a fortnight. And any of you who try to take food to her will lose your own meal. Is that understood? *(The girls nod).* Is it understood?! And you, ladies, shall study like you have never studied in your lives. Your eyes shall throb and your fingers shall ache. And when you are done, you shall show the world you have received the most valuable schooling in all of London.

Mr. Carrisford - Option #4

Mr. Carrisford is Captain Crewe's close friend and business partner. Though a very wealthy diamond mine operator, he feels immense guilt for the death of his friend Crewe and as such seeks out his lost daughter, Sara, to alleviate this guilt. A few moments before this speech, he finally discovers who Sara actually is.

Mr. Carrisford: Miss Minchin. You might be interested to know that Miss Crewe is no longer a pauper. I’m Thomas Carrisford. I was her father’s partner in India. My ill health, Sara, is from the guilt of causing the death of my fondest friend, your father, and from being unable to find you. We searched all over Paris, but could find no trace. I gave up and took this house - where I was sure I would die. But my kind friend, here, has kept me alive. He even managed to interest me in his plan to leave gifts in your room.... it is only the beginning Sara. The mines, you see, have turned out to be a grand success. You own more diamonds than the queen herself. You’re a little princess in your own right. I hope I can redeem myself now. I want to take care of you.