

Assignments

If you are working through these exercises in a single craft without a collaborator, then do this assignment as if you were practicing that craft. If you are working with a collaborator or as a hyphenated craftsperson, do the assignment as a collaboration.

Bookwriter, Composer and Lyricist: Read the outline below of an, as yet, unproduced musical (this is a show that is already written). Try to find at least one potential song in each scene in the outline. Make a brief note that you would bring to the collaborative team, consisting of the following information for each scene in the outline:

1. Who sings
2. What is the topic of the song?
3. How does the song function (How does it change the audience understanding of the story or their expectation of future action)?
4. Identify the song type: ballad, rhythm song, comedy song, musical scene, etc.
5. What is the vocal type of the singer -soprano, mezzo, alto belt, baritone, etc.?

The outline below is based on a published novel and is not available in the Public Domain. The outline was written as a pitch to the copyright owner, but the rights are not available.

Kizzy

Note: Mrs. Cuthbert has opinions about everything. Throughout she is able to comment (gossip) about events even while they are happening and she is not present (very like it happens in the book). Her observations are not always accurate, but they are always definite. What follows is a scene by scene breakdown of the action of the musical, without much detail. There are many wonderful scenes in the book that can be adapted to explore the characters and situations as outlined here:

ACT I

Scene 1.

Fire. People watching, but more curious than concerned. Mrs. Cuthbertson, the town gossip and social opinion leader, is not happy for anyone's misfortune, but one would have to agree that finally that old wagon won't be such an eyesore in the orchard at Admiral Twiss's Amberhurst House. Really. And now Kizzy, that badly behaved little girl, will have to be put in a proper institution where she will hopefully learn some manners.

Mrs. Blount, Kizzy's teacher, and Miss Brooke, a local magistrate, are more sympathetic to Kizzy, and witness with some sadness, the way Kizzy's relatives fight over Gran's possessions while making it clear that no one wants to take on the task of providing a home for Kizzy, who is after all diddakoi – only half gypsy (her mother was Irish). In some conflict with Mrs. Cuthbert, who believes Kizzy, being only a child, is not to be consulted about her future. Miss Brooke points out that children are people, too.

Kizzy mourns her dead Gran, but knows she will be all right as long as she has Joe, her Gran's horse. They'll get along. Joe is her best friend. However, she soon learns from a less-than-

well-meaning cousin that her beloved Joe is to be sold to the knackers and cut up for horse meat. Waiting until everyone is asleep, Kizzy runs away, taking Joe with her, leading him into the snow.

Mrs. Cuthbert is busily contacting school and town officials insisting someone take immediate action to put Kizzy in a proper orphanage.

Scene 2.

Admiral Twiss's man, Peters, is sorry to disturb the Admiral, but Kizzy has been found sleeping on the front porch of Amberhurst House, covered in snow. Now awake, she is asking to see the Admiral, who immediately agrees to see her.

Kizzy begs the Admiral to protect Joe from the knacker. She knows the Admiral likes horses because he has quite a few of his own, and besides he always tipped his hat to Gran whenever he saw her. She trusts him. He agrees to take care of Joe and sends Kizzy's greedy relatives packing. Kizzy, though, has developed pneumonia and requires a great deal of care.

Mrs. Cuthbert is somewhat scandalized that Kizzy is being nursed by the men at Amberhurst House.

Scene 3.

Kizzy is getting better – Mrs. Blount brings her a new coat, but Kizzy does not want to wear it. She accepts a visit from Clem, an older boy who has been kind to her when the other children tease her mercilessly. But when Prudence Cuthbert comes to visit, Kizzy fights with her, much to Peters' distress. Peters disciplines Kizzy, and she is forced to return to school.

Scene 4.

Mrs. Blount admonishes the children not to tease Kizzy, but they only obey in her presence. The unkind girls make it clear to Kizzy that her case will be discussed in court, where a judge will decide where she is to live.

Admiral Twiss admits this is true. Kizzy can't stay in a home where there is no woman to look after her. There will be a court hearing.

Scene 5.

In the courtroom, Kizzy behaves badly. Some of the panel are shocked. Mrs. Cuthbert constantly underlines Kizzy's every mis-cue and the judge in charge has a difficult time getting Mrs. Cuthbert to understand that her opinion is not as welcome as she seems to think it is. Miss Brooke explains the difference between some gypsy traditions and English culture. She ultimately proposes that, although she is single, she should be Kizzy's guardian. The girl will be better off in a private home than in an institution. She will have time to adjust to her grief, and to acquire more acceptable manners. Why, how should a girl have table manners if she has never had a table? The court is relieved and agrees to the arrangement, when Admiral Twiss points out that he also approves, heartily.

Admiral Twiss makes a deal with Kizzy. If she will obey Miss Brooke, the Admiral will permit Kizzy to come to Amberhurst House every weekend to visit with Joe. Kizzy agrees.

Mrs. Cuthbert is somewhat suspicious of the Admiral's reasons for wanting Kizzy to stay close, and surmises it has more to do with Miss Brooke than with Kizzy.

Scene 6.

Kizzy tries Miss Brooke's patience in every way she can, but is unable to crack the kind woman's resolve to help Kizzy adjust to the world around her. Kizzy runs away to Amberhurst

House almost daily, but Peters returns her to Miss Brooke every time. Kizzy refuses to eat the meals Miss Brooke prepares, regardless of how hungry she might be.

Mrs. Cuthbert suggests that Miss Brooke is not feeding the child, and perhaps is misusing the funds the town is providing for Kizzy's care. Kizzy defends Miss Brooke, insisting that she is allowed to eat whatever she wants, which is mostly crusts of bread brought home for the school lunch program. However, to prove her point, she immediately scarfs down some of the delicious stew and dumplings that Miss Brooke has prepared. Food arguments are over.

Scene 7.

After school, Prudence and the other girls begin teasing Kizzy in earnest. The hazing escalates. Miss Brooke is observing but unseen by the girls, and resolved to try and let them sort this out themselves. However, the girls tie Kizzy up and push her around until she falls and hits her head, at which time Miss Brooke puts a stop to the proceedings. The girls are now terrified that Miss Brooke will tell their parents.

While Kizzy is attended to by a doctor, the girls cower in fear and begin to feel some guilt at their actions. Clem, whose younger sister participated, is furious with the girls and gives them what-for. However, Miss Brooke and the teacher Mrs. Blount do not impose any consequences on the girls, realizing that the girls' own consciences will work to help ameliorate the situation.

Kizzy, though, has had enough of this world. She begins to stockpile supplies. This weekend when she goes to visit Joe, she will take him out for a ride and run away for good, leaving Miss Brooke and the Admiral far behind along with the nasty girls.

Scene 8.

Kizzy comes to Amberhurst House only to find that her beloved Joe has died during the night. Admiral Twiss explains that Joe was too old to last any longer. It was his time. Kizzy is devastated. Her last avenue of escape is closed.

ACT II

Scene 1.

Kizzy is back in school, but stays aloof from the girls, who no longer tease her. Clem has arranged an escort of boys for Kizzy to and from school daily, although Kizzy insists she doesn't need it. Kizzy is quite lonely, but still refuses to fraternize with the nasty girls, in spite of Miss Brooke's urging.

Scene 2.

During an intense heat wave, Admiral Twiss invites Miss Brooke and Kizzy to stay at Amberhurst House where they will be more comfortable. However, Miss Brooke declines. There is quite enough gossip about Miss Brooke and Admiral Twiss already, thank you very much. No need to stir up more.

Scene 3.

Kizzy builds a fire in Miss Brooke's garden and they enjoy a late afternoon tea outdoors. Miss Brooke agrees that tea indeed tastes better when made over an open fire and consumed outdoors. Kizzy sings a song her Gran taught her and Miss Brooke is moved to call on Admiral Twiss for a favor.

Scene 4.

Admiral Twiss, Peters and Clem get together and look over some blueprints on the Admiral's table. They assign duties: carpentry, painting, furnishing. Miss Brooke will choose colors, fabrics, etc. Something is being constructed and decorated.

Scene 5.

After school one day, Miss Brooke asks Kizzy to come into the garden. There, off in its own nook, is a charming gypsy wagon – child size. No adults could ever go inside. But inside there are two bunks, in case Kizzy ever wants to invite a friend to share it with her. She doesn't, but she is very happy to have the wagon. Now she can build a fire outside every night, make tea and look at the stars. Just like it was when Gran was alive. Kizzy is very happy.

Scene 6.

It's Guy Fawkes Day. Miss Brooke has retired early, not feeling well. Clem insists that his sister and Prudence Cuthbert invite Kizzy to the bonfire. They would rather not, but Clem makes it clear that they do his bidding or they will suffer consequences.

The girls dutifully ask Kizzy to the bonfire, but Kizzy refuses to go, explaining she has her own fire. The girls don't believe her, so Kizzy finally invites the girls to see her wagon and fire, to prove she is not lying. The girls are suitably impressed – it's a really neat wagon, and fully equipped. Kizzy fairly glows under their approval. However, Prudence points out it's a really small fire and it's time to go to the bonfire.

Kizzy, giddy with her success, makes the fire bigger. She piles on an armful of wood, then sets it ablaze with some petrol. The fire quickly burns out of control, setting fire to the house. Kizzy runs in to save Miss Brooke, but is trapped upstairs by the smoke and flames.

Prudence sends Clem's sister Elizabeth for help, and then runs into the cottage to save both Miss Brooke and Kizzy. Kizzy and Prudence must work together to get Miss Brooke down the stairs, just in time, as the fire completely engulfs the cottage.

Scene 7.

At the hospital, Admiral Twiss is deeply worried – about Miss Brooke, not Kizzy (of course, he cares about Kizzy, but Miss Brooke...that's different). Miss Brooke is undamaged for the most part. The Admiral breaks down and proposes marriage. Miss Brooke, somewhat taken aback, finally agrees – for Kizzy's sake. No, the Admiral, insists, for OUR sake, yours and mine. Miss Brooke is happy to agree.

Scene 8.

Kizzy is celebrating her birthday (borrowed from the Admiral's grandmother Kezia, for whom Kizzy might have been named), All the children are present for cake and ice cream. Peters is agog – so many women in the house, even Mrs. Cuthbert! Clem arrives with the boys and Kizzy's wagon, no longer singed by fire but fully restored to its original charm. Better yet, the Admiral introduces her to her real birthday present: a pony!

The End.

