**Roar: the Musical**

**Marketing and Writing Tools Assignments**

One-liner:

Sarah the Bear wants to become the world’s first singing bear.

One-sentence synopsis:

Sarah the Bear dreams of becoming the first singing bear in a world that silences her voice.

Logline:

A fantastical tale of a dancing bear’s impossible dream

Premise:

Sarah the Bear is determined to be the world’s first singing and dancing bear. Held back by culture and her family’s fears, she chases her dream alone, inspired by her mother’s dying wish. She runs off to the traveling circus, realizing too late it is run by evil clowns. She is imprisoned, mistreated and forced to remain a dancing bear, until she partners with the evil ringmaster’s son and the other captive bears to resist the oppression they’ve endured. Sarah’s dream is realized, but only after she learns she must dream bigger to include others in her journey.

Pitch:

Set in a fantastical world of dancing bears and evil clowns, Roar tells the modern-day story of Sarah the Bear, who dreams of becoming the world’s first singing bear. Silenced throughout her life and discouraged by her own family’s fear of humans, Sarah runs off to the circus to pursue her impossible dream. She discovers too late that the circus is run by evil clowns who imprison her and force her to perform as a dancing bear. Eventually, Sarah’s dream grows bigger, inspiring the other captive bears to raise their voices until they are heard. United, the power of their collective voice triumphs over the oppression they have endured.

**Roar: The Musical**

**Outline v.4**

**8/25/20**

**ACT ONE**

**Scene 1--Opening Song: Together We Rise (1)**

Forest. Sarah the Bear dances alone on a stage, working on a difficult ballet leap. She wears airpods (bear-pods), singing as she rehearses. Mama Bear enters, watching Sarah unnoticed. She tries to talk to Sarah, but Sarah can’t hear. Mama approaches Sarah and taps her, startling Sarah. She tells Sarah the family is still back at the den finishing dinner. Sarah clarifies they are her step-family. Mama reminds Sarah it’s nearly time to enforce the rule of silence. Sarah rolls her eyes, then asks Mama to help her with the move; they perfect it together, and Mama tells Sarah how proud of her she is.

Reggie and Daisy arrive, unpacking bags and putting on ballet slippers as they prepare for their dancing bear ballet performance. Reggie puts on a tutu and complains that it makes him look fat. They talk to each other but mostly ignore Sarah.

Papa Bear enters and asks Sarah how the rehearsal is coming; Sarah calls him by his name, Bernard. Papa announces that this is a big weekend for their bear ballet. He states that a reporter from the Bear Times is coming to interview them and review the shows. The other bears tell Papa not to stress as Papa lists all the things that could go wrong. Reggie tells Papa to relax. He tells him that some humans left something at their last performance that will make him feel very chill; they’re called gummies. Daisy looks at them and says how cute it is that they are in the shape of little bears. Sarah scoffs at Daisy. Mama encourages Papa. She suggests the bears help him rehearse the interview by asking him mock questions. The bears begin warming up as they take turns practicing the interview with Papa. Sarah continues rehearsing, not participating in the mock interview.

Holding a brush as a pretend microphone, Mama asks Papa about the background of their dancing bear ballet. Papa explains that his family continues the tradition of a long line of dancing bears. This tradition dates all the way back to the middle ages, when humans began abducting bears and forcing them to perform in dancing bear shows. Off to the side, we see a bear dancing, muzzled and chained. Papa continues, struggling to share that the bears were caged, mistreated, beaten, and underfed. He explains that humans would tear out bears’ teeth and claws and force them to dance in their shows. The bears switch to barre work as Reggie (now as the mock interviewer) takes notes, asking Papa why they have chosen to continue performing for the humans now that they live as free bears in the forest. Dancing bear exits.

Papa explains that bears have always loved to dance. Even for the captive bears, mistreated as they were, the moment they danced on stage was the brightest of their day. He says that his family also loves to dance and they perform to honor those that went before them. Daisy chimes in that in spite of their suffering and oppression, the dancing bears dreamed of the day when they would win their freedom. She says that they believed that if they stuck together, that day would come. Papa contributes that over time, a motto developed that captive dancing bears sang across the land: “Together we rise.” He says that they sing the famous anthem, “Together We Rise” before every performance. The bears circle up and sing; Sarah is between Daisy and Reggie but they rearrange to be by each other. Sarah comments how bears have been singing this song for a thousand years, but never in front of humans. They might not be in chains but they aren’t free; they aren’t treated as equals. Reggie and Daisy snicker.

Papa deflects Sarah’s comment and tells Sarah that her history could be an interesting angle for the article. He introduces his step-daughter Sarah to the “interviewer” saying that she has first-hand knowledge about dancing in captivity. Sarah resists, telling Papa that he knows she doesn’t like talking about her past.

We cut to a scene with a young Sarah and Mama Bear in a cage. Young Sarah cries as Mama comforts her by singing to her, promising that one day, they will get out of this cage and find their freedom. Little Sarah tells Mama that she wants to be the world's first singing bear. Mama tells Sarah that bears can’t sing openly and have always been afraid of what humans would do to them if they found out they could speak. Sarah pulls away from Mama and starts crying again as Mama regroups, telling Sarah that maybe someday the world will be ready to hear a singing bear’s song. She tells Sarah that she’s Sarah the singing and dancing bear, and that she has a song that the world needs to hear.

Back at the mock interview, the bears work through developé progressions while Reggie asks Papa how their bear ballet started. Papa explains that his father, Grandpa Bear, was forced to perform as a dancing bear for most of his life, but one night he escaped and settled here in this forest. Daisy says that Grandpa Bear always loved to dance and began dancing by himself each night. One night, some backpackers happened upon him while he was dancing alone and stayed to watch. They left him food as an “offering”. Papa says the next night, Grandpa Bear was dancing in the same spot and more humans returned to watch him dance. They left food again. This was the beginning of the dancing bear ballet.

Daisy inquires how the performances at the bear ballet are going. Papa responds by saying they are going pretty good, although the audience has been on the smaller side since the traveling circus arrived in town a few months ago. Papa explains the circus is run by the clown race and from what he understands, it’s some sort of a clown bear variety dancing show performed for the human race. Reggie comments that he heard that they even have aerial dancing, which he thinks is amazing. Mama says during her street performing days, she worked with clowns and really liked them. They never mistreated the bears like the human race. Papa says they must have a great show because they are stealing away the audience from the bear ballet.

Cut to the circus. Evil Clown Joe, circus ringmaster, Joey, his son, and Frankie and Lulu, Evil Clown Joe’s minions, prepare for their performance. Two bears sleep nearby, with their arms and legs chained. Evil Clown Joe and Joey argue about the direction of the circus as Joey asks if it can be a little less evil. Evil Clown Joe criticizes Joey and tells him it’s time to wake the bears. Laughing, he whips the bears, yelling at them to get up, calling them lazy and worthless. Joey releases the bears from their chains and asks his dad why they have to chain them, since guards are everywhere and the bears can’t escape anyway. Evil Clown Joe tells Joey that the chains and cages remind the bears of their place. And he simply enjoys seeing them chained. He tells the bears it’s time to get ready for tonight’s performance and exits with Frankie and Lulu.

Joey apologizes about his dad, and tells Clarence and Bonnie that his dad rejected his ideas again. Clarence and Bonnie encourage Joey; Joey questions if his ideas will ever be realized.

**Scene 2--Silence Me (2), Hibernation (3)**

The bear family mopes dejectedly and complains about the lack of applause, people, food offering, and especially pizza following their performance. Papa declares the bears might have to return to foraging. Daisy blames the clown circus. She has heard the circus is a huge spectacle: lights, a band, elaborate costumes, etc, and their tiny down-home ballet can’t compete with that. Papa leads a brainstorm discussion for how to grow their audience and tells them there are no bad ideas. Reggie suggests they transition the ballet to an aerial bear ballet group featuring himself; Papa says it’s the worst idea he’s ever heard. Daisy reminds Reggie that he is afraid of heights. The bears offer more suggestions.

Sarah shares her idea to sing. Papa smacks a table and yells at Sarah that he doesn’t want to hear anymore about singing. Singing would put their entire family at risk. He tells her it is a selfish dream and she needs to let go of it. Mama confronts Papa and tells him that he doesn’t know what she’s been through. Papa yells back, asking how he could understand if Sarah has been here over a year but still refuses to talk about it.

Sarah reluctantly tells Bernard/Papa, Reggie and Daisy what happened to her when she was small: Mama, Sarah and her sister were abducted when they were cubs; their dad was killed. Mama could have escaped, but allowed herself to be captured to protect and be with her cubs. They were trapped in a cage and muzzled and forced into street performing for most of Sarah’s life. Sarah’s sister died early on from the shock and mistreatment. Reggie and Daisy react with shock. At night, their captor locked them in a cage and removed their muzzles to allow them to eat. Mama would sing to Sarah, and Sarah would dream about a world where talking bears were free. Mama and Sarah escaped one night when their captor got drunk and forgot to lock their cage. They wandered from forest to forest for years, eventually stumbling upon this bear family.

Sarah proclaims to Papa and the other bears all she wanted since she was a little girl was for her voice to be heard, and to be treated as an equal. She says she loves to sing and comes alive when she does. She asks if they know how crushing it is to live in a world that tells you your dream is impossible. She argues with Papa that she won’t be muzzled any longer, not by humans, not by him. Papa softens to Sarah but still insists that she can’t sing. Papa and the twins exit.

Mama comforts Sarah, tells her to be patient, that someday her time will come. Sarah tears up. Mama tries to embrace Sarah but Sarah pulls away. She tells Mama that she has been telling her “someday” her entire life. She asks, “When does someday become today?” Sarah asks Mama how many bears never lived out their dream because they waited for someday. Mama tells Sarah that sometimes we don’t get to choose the timing of our dreams. Reggie and Daisy enter, carrying a new backdrop for their show as Sarah turns away from Mama, wiping her eyes; Mama exits. Reggie unfurls the backdrop; it is a terrible bear painting. Sarah nods, saying it’s interesting.

Reggie asks what happened with Mama. Sarah says she doesn’t want to talk about it. Reggie and Daisy begin working on the set and Daisy snaps at Sarah, telling her she is tired of all the drama she is causing in their family and that her dream is selfish and is never going to happen anyway. Sarah snaps back at Daisy, telling her that it’s obvious he doesn’t want her there and maybe she should just go live somewhere else. Reggie tries to de-escalate the situation, suggesting that in a few weeks, all the problems will all go away when they hibernate. Sarah says she won’t be hibernating, she has dreams to chase and can’t just sleep away the next six months. Papa enters and Reggie tells him Sarah isn’t going to hibernate. Papa tells Sarah he can’t imagine life without hibernation and tries to talk Sarah into hibernating with the family. Sarah declines.

**Scene 3--Bear Ballet (4)**

Before that night’s performance, Papa circles up the family. Wringing his paws, he tells everyone that the reporter from the Bear Times just finished interviewing him and will be reviewing their show tonight. Mama takes Sarah aside and tells her that she loves Sarah’s dream, and trusts that Sarah will know when the time is right to pursue it.

The bears take the forest stage and perform. Sarah ignores the wishes of Papa and sings during the bear ballet. The unseen human audience riots. Mama takes control of getting everyone to safety, ordering Papa and Sarah to get the rest of the bears back to the den. Papa and the siblings exit, Sarah pauses to watch Mama. Mama addresses the forest audience as a gunshot rings out and Mama is shot, collapsing. Sarah runs to her and helps her escape the riot. Sarah helps Mama down to the ground and holds her. She apologizes, telling her this is all her fault. Mama releases Sarah from the responsibility of this violent act. Mama asks Sarah to promise her that she will never give up on her dream. Sarah obliges through tears. Mama dies in Sarah’s arms; Sarah screams, then weeps.

**Scene 4--Bears Don’t Sing (5)**

Bears attend Mama’s funeral. Papa reads the funeral rites. Reggie and Daisy treat Sarah coldly and judge her decision to sing. They blame Sarah for Mama’s death. Papa declares the ballet is closed to protect their community and that bears singing, even amongst themselves, is outlawed. One by one, the bears overturn shovelfuls of dirt over Mama’s grave, exiting after their turn; She expresses regret for singing and accepts the blame for Mama’s death. She questions if she will ever be able to sing again as she pours the last shovelful of dirt over Mama’s grave.

**Scene 5**

Circus greenroom. Frankie and Lulu juggle as Evil Clown Joe reads positive reviews of their show online. Joey writes jokes in his journal. Evil Clown Joe tells the other clowns they will soon need more bears for their show. Evil Clown Joe mentions that a few of the bears are getting too old and it’s time to “retire” a bear or two to the bear rug factory.

Frankie asks the other clowns if they heard about the riot at the dancing bear ballet last week. He tells them that one of the bears tried to sing and another was shot and killed. Joey remarks how horrible it is. Evil Clown chastises Joey for his compassion to the bears and makes a snide comment about how humans deal with their fears.

Frankie comments that the bear ballet has apparently been shuttered since the shooting. Evil Clown Joe points out that the events at the bear ballet might take care of their competition and bring even more customers to their circus. Frankie and Lulu joke about how naive a bear would be to think the humans would accept a singing bear. Evil Clown Joe comments that this is exactly why his bears are never allowed to speak in the presence of the human race. He says that clowns are a much more evolved species than humans, as they’ve accepted that bears can communicate. Evil Clown Joe tells Frankie and Lulu they will need to go bear hunting soon before the bears all hunker down for hibernation.

**Scene 6**

Forest, bear den. Reggie prepares to hibernate with a blanket draped around him. Papa and Daisy enter; Daisy carries an enormous suitcase for her pre-hibernation routine. She pulls out huge earplugs, body pillow, sleep/eye mask, and c-Pap machine.

Reggie comments that he is looking forward to a good rest; he takes off his blanket, revealing a pink footed onesie. Papa asks where Sarah is and Daisy replies that she is off again going to her Mama’s grave. She indicates how annoyed she is with Sarah. Papa leaves to try to bring Sarah home for hibernation, Daisy tries to talk him into leaving Sarah alone but Papa says he needs to bring Sarah home. Reggie and Daisy discuss how hard the last few months have been, and express thankfulness that it is time to hibernate. Daisy rambles about their childhood, then Reggie snores obnoxiously. Daisy huffs, then plays a prank on her sleeping brother. Daisy lies down to go to sleep.

**Scene 7**

Papa catches up to Sarah in the forest and asks her to come back for hibernation. She tells Papa that she is headed to Mama’s grave. She says she misses Mama so much and that he wouldn’t understand. Papa snaps at Sarah, yelling that she was his wife and he misses her too. Sarah snaps back, saying that Mama was the only family she had. He says if you just would have kept quiet... but doesn’t finish his thought. He composes himself and suggests they are the only family she has now and asks her to come back home so they can all hibernate together. They hear a noise in the forest; Papa worries aloud that the humans have returned and says they need to get home. Sarah and Papa turn back and exit.

**Scene 8--Here Come the Clowns (6)**

Forest. Frankie and Lulu search for bears in the woods. Frankie carries a bear tranquilizer, but Lulu says she prefers to try to trick bears into coming with him because shooting bears is too easy. They discuss the increased strength of the darts, remarking that they knock out a bear for a couple of weeks. The clowns exit.

Sarah and Papa enter as they walk back to their home. The clowns re-enter and encounter Sarah and Papa. The clowns attempt to recruit Sarah and Papa for the circus. Sarah asks what kind of show it is. Frankie asks Sarah and Papa if they have heard of Cirque du Soleil. He says their show is kind of like that, but not as good. Their show, called Cirque du Foret, is a variety dance show with clowns and dancing bears. Papa asks if the Cirque du Soleil people are okay with that name. Lulu says they have received a cease and desist order and that the human legal system is a real bitch.

Sarah says she’s always dreamed of singing on the stage, but the world will never allow a singing bear. Frankie and Lulu ask to see her act. She dances and sings for them; the clowns show real enthusiasm about Sarah’s talent. They trick Sarah by telling her that anything goes at the circus. People love the unexpected...a singing bear would fit right in.

Sarah says she’s not sure, but that she made a promise to her Mama and needs to try. Papa and Sarah argue; he tries to stop her and warns her that this is a bad decision. Sarah exits with Lulu to run away to the circus. Frankie stays behind to talk with Papa and Papa attempts to go after Sarah. When Papa walks past Frankie, Frankie tranquilizes Papa in the back, Papa collapses to the ground. Frankie tries to carry Papa, but can’t because he is too heavy and leaves him on the ground.

**Scene 9-- Evil Clown Joe (7), The Dream Inside of Me (8)**

Circus, backstage. Lulu works with Sarah for a costume fitting. Sarah asks questions about the show and when she’ll get to sing; Lulu explains more about the circus. The Cirque Du Foret is a dancing extravaganza that tells the story of a family of evil clowns that searches throughout forests, abducting vulnerable bears to perform in their show. Sarah laughs about the similarities to how she met Lulu and Frankie. Lulu continues: the ringmaster and leader of the circus, Evil Clown Joe, emcees the act. Sarah asks why the clowns have to be evil; Lulu explains that for some reason, humans love shows about evil clowns. Sarah asks again about singing, and Lulu comments that while Sarah is a very talented singer, she needs to focus on dancing for now. Sarah tells Lulu she hopes she impresses Evil Clown Joe so that he will let her sing. Lulu and Sarah continue her fitting stage right.

Evil Clown Joe and Joey enter stage left, discussing that night’s performance. Frankie follows, pushing a large object that is hidden under a curtain. Evil Clown Joe tells Joey that it's time for him to start taking a larger role in the performance. Joey pushes back, telling his dad he doesn’t like the evil clown act and doesn’t fit in. Evil Clown Joe tells Joey that his legacy must be protected and  that he must embrace the evil persona that the humans love so much. Evil Clown Joe tells Joey that he will conform or be punished.

Evil Clown Joe notices Sarah and introduces himself. She informs him that her dream is to become a star; she wants to become the world’s first singing and dancing bear. Evil Clown Joe asks Sarah if she is the bear that he has heard about… the one who sang at the bear ballet, resulting in a bear’s death. Sarah confirms it was her. Evil Clown Joe feigns concern, asking who was killed. Sarah admits it was her mother. Evil Clown Joe pontificates that this is why bears should remain silent in the presence of the human race. He tells Sarah she will not be singing at his circus. Joey tries to get Evil Clown Joe to leave Sarah alone; Evil Clown Joe silences his son.

Sarah stands up, saying it was a mistake to come here and that she needs to leave. Evil Clown Joe laughs and tells her she won’t be going anywhere and that she is a circus bear now. He removes the curtain, revealing a cage containing two bears.

Sarah panics, backing away from the cage, and tries to escape. Frankie and Lulu grab her and restrain her. Sarah resists and declares her step-dad will come rescue her. Frankie tells Sarah that he shot Papa with a tranquilizer dart; he will be asleep for at least a couple of weeks. She tells them they can’t keep her here and that Evil Clown Joe can’t make her dance. Evil Clown Joe whips Sarah and she collapses to the ground. He states that they have all kinds of methods to control the bears. Evil Clown Joe exits with Frankie and Lulu, telling Bonnie and Clarence to rehearse with the new bear.

Joey releases Bonnie and Clarence and helps Sarah up off the ground, apologizing to her. Joey introduces himself to Sarah and offers to help her any way that he can. Sarah snaps at Joey and tells him he can help her by letting her go. Joey explains to Sarah that no bear has ever escaped the circus. Clowns guard the exits at all times. He apologizes again, tries to hand her some honeycomb, which Sarah refuses, and Joey exits.

Bonnie and Clarence, long-time prisoners in the circus, introduce themselves to Sarah and offer support and encouragement. Bonnie shows Sarah compassion. Bonnie admires Sarah’s dream, and says she hopes that someday the world will be different so she can sing. Clarence adds that will never happen in their lifetime.

Bonnie tells Sarah that first, they must stick together, and second, she has to hold onto her dreams; the hope of her dreams will help her survive this horrible place. Bonnie shares her dream and part of her story with Sarah. Sarah shares what her mother would always say about her: You’re Sarah the singing and dancing bear, you have a song that the world needs to hear. She tells them before Mama died, she made Sarah promise to pursue this dream. Bonnie comforts Sarah and tells her how sorry she is about her mom.

**Scene 10-- Welcome to the Show (9)**

Circus, mainstage, opening number. Bears and clowns perform an elaborate opening number as Evil Clown Joe welcomes the audience to the circus. The bears dance, the clowns juggle, ride on unicycles, and whip the bears. Evil Clown Joe wields a knife and points it menacingly towards the bears onstage. He introduces his son, Joey, to the audience, inviting him to sing. Joey resists, but Evil Clown Joe forces his son to center stage and Joey has no choice but to sing. Joey fumbles through his solo, messing up the lyrics, and Evil Clown Joe finishes the song for him. Sarah shines onstage and Evil Clown introduces his new bear, “Sarah the Dancing Bear” to the audience.

**Scene 11**

Circus, backstage. Three weeks later. Evil Clown Joe talks through the performances from the last few weeks. He criticizes the bears and gives notes for how they can improve. He tells Sarah that the audiences love her and that ticket sales have significantly increased since she joined the show. He tells her that she is becoming a star.

He insults Joey for his continued lack of enthusiasm on stage and implores him to tap into his evil clown roots. Evil Clown Joe threatens to take Joey out of tonight’s performance. Joey states he didn’t want to be in the show in the first place. Evil Clown Joe demotes Joey to stage manager and tells the bears to work on his notes immediately. He informs Clarence that he’s getting too old and slow and the bear rug factory is in his near future if he doesn’t get it together. He calls for places in one hour and exits, singing warm up exercises.

**Scene 12**

Forest. Papa lies unconscious. He wakes up, trying to remember what happened and where he is. He asks himself how long he has been asleep. The memory dawns on Papa and he groans, angry that she ran off to the circus. He exits, yelling for help from the other bears.

**Scene 13--The Space in Between (10)**

Circus, backstage. He laments the fact that he will never be able to be a good clown that brings laughter and joy to the world. Sarah scoffs at the idea that Joey is a “good clown.” He tries to make Sarah laugh by doing clown tricks and convince Sarah to let him help her. Sarah pulls away and says she doesn’t need anyone.

Joey convinces Sarah to trust him and Sarah softens towards him. They sing together, with Bonnie joining in. Clarence tries to get them to stop singing, telling them if Evil Clown Joe hears them he is going to be furious.

Evil Clown Joe enters, unnoticed and sees Joey singing with the bears. He cracks his whip and yells at Joey and the rest of the bears for singing. Joey stands up for the bears and criticizes his father for being harsh. Clarence talks back to Evil Clown Joe. Evil Clown Joe throws Clarence up against a cage and tells Joey to whip him. Joey refuses. Evil Clown Joe yells that Joey is an embarrassment and whips Clarence twice. He announces food restrictions for all the bears for the next 48 hours. Evil Clown Joe exits, calling for places in ten minutes.

**Scene 14**

Bear den. Papa arrives back at the den where Reggie, Baker, and Daisy sleep. Reggie snores loudly. Daisy talks in her sleep. Papa unsuccessfully tries to wake them. He yells and shakes them; they still sleep. Yawning and groggy, Papa comments about how warm and cozy they both look. He nods off and snaps awake, trying to fight off sleep. He slaps himself in the face, holds open his eyes, and does jumping jacks. He comments that he fought off his tiredness but immediately falls asleep mid-sentence and snores obnoxiously.

**Scene 15--Hear Me Roar (11)**

Circus, backstage. Evil Clown Joe, Frankie and Lulu burst in. Evil Clown Joe announces that this weekend will be the 100th performance of this town’s run. He is planning a huge celebration and says they must all give their best performance. Since performances have halted at the bear ballet after the shooting incident, they will add one scene to their variety dance show where the bears reenact the famous bear ballet. He demands Sarah teach the other bears and clowns the bear ballet. Sarah refuses. Joey stands up to his dad and defends Sarah. Evil Clown Joe backhands Joey in the face, knocking him to the ground. Evil Clown Joe demands Sarah teach the ballet choreography and storms off. Frankie and Lulu follow.

Bonnie approaches Sarah and places a paw on her shoulder as Clarence helps Joey off the ground. Sarah stands frozen as Bonnie tells Sarah that she must teach them the bear ballet; Evil Clown Joe will torture her, or worse, if she doesn’t comply. Bonnie and Clarence exit, telling Sarah they need their dance bags for the rehearsal.

Joey apologizes to Sarah and asks her what she is going to do. Sarah wakes up from her ruminations. She asks Joey if his face is okay and he says it’s fine. She begins pacing, going back and forth about her options, asking what her Mama would want for her. She recalls the promise that she made to Mama, and how even in the face of death, Mama challenged her to sing. She tells Joey that she is afraid of what Evil Clown Joe or the humans might do to her if she sings. Joey argues with her, pointing out the dangers of her plan. She tells Joey she has to keep her promise to Mama.

Sarah convinces Joey to go along with her idea, and he tells her he will help any way he can. They both decide to stand up to Evil Clown Joe, declaring that the world is going to “hear me roar.”

**END OF ACT ONE**

**ACT TWO**

**Scene 1--Here Come the Clowns, Reprise (12), That Can Never Be, Little Clown (13)**

Onstage at the circus, the morning of the 100th performance. Lulu blows up balloons for the night's celebration, while Evil Clown Joe supervises. Joe mentions how pleased he is that Sarah has changed her mind and taught the bear ballet to everyone. They discuss how much Sarah has added to the show and how last night’s show was standing room only. Frankie enters, carrying beers for everyone and they all discuss what a great party tonight will be. The clowns exit, leaving the helium tank and balloons behind.

Joey and Sarah enter and find the tank/balloons. Sarah looks at the stage and shares her excitement about singing during tonight’s performance. Joey demonstrates his favorite funny clown gag: sucking helium balloons and talking in a funny voice. Sarah laughs, observing how different Joey and his dad are.

Joey tells Sarah the circus wasn’t always evil and explains how the Evil Clown Joe act started. Joe used to have a bit part in a struggling circus, but always dreamed of being a star. As an experiment, Joe created a new character “Evil Clown Joe” that audiences loved. Joe left the circus to start his own act, inviting some of the bears from that show to join him. As his act grew more sinister, the bears complained, but Joe refused to listen and began to personify his evil character. He made the bears his prisoners and forced them to continue doing the show.

She asks Joey why he never stands up to his dad, why he stays here at the circus instead of chasing his dreams. Joey tells Sarah growing up with Evil Clown Joe as his dad meant he couldn’t have dreams of his own. He tells her that he stays to protect the bears.

Joey turns the conversation back to Sarah’s performance that night and promises to help her. He asks Sarah if she needs anything, Sarah tells him she would love a big cup of hot honey tea to get her voice ready. Joey exits to get Sarah her tea.

**Scene 2**

Circus greenroom. Joey brews a huge, bear sized mug of honey tea for Sarah. Evil Clown Joe walks in and asks Joey what he’s doing. Joey stammers, and Evil Clown Joe asks if this is a favor for Sarah. Joey criticizes Evil Clown Joe’s inability to show any care for the bears. Evil Clown Joe scoffs at Joey’s criticism. He sits down, takes out his knife and begins carving on a table and tells Joey he sounds just like his mother. Joey goes still. Evil Clown Joe circles Joey and declares it’s time for him to hear more about his dearly departed mom.

He tells Joey that his mother was never comfortable with the Evil Clown show. She nagged him incessantly about it. He tells Joey that one night she threatened to leave and release the bears back into the wild. That night during her clown trapeze act, the wire on her trapeze snapped and she plummeted to her death. Evil Clown Joe comments that it was a terrible accident.

Joey accuses Evil Clown Joe of killing his mother. Evil Clown Joe ignores his accusation, and tells Joey that he and his mother are ridiculous bear-lovers. If Joey continues to get in his way, a similar accident could befall him, or his bear friend. Joey screams at his father, telling him he is a murderer. Joey tells Evil Clown Joe that he is leaving the circus.

Evil Clown Joe wonders aloud what might happen to the bears if Joey wasn’t around to take care of them. If Sarah doesn’t fall into line, he will be tempted to create a bear petting zoo that features Sarah. She would be chained and muzzled permanently so the humans could pet her and take selfies with her. Evil Clown Joe exits. Joey takes a deep breath and sets the mug of tea down; he exits.

**Scene 3**

Backstage circus, rehearsal area. Sarah fluffs her tutu while Bonnie and Clarence warm up. Joey enters. Sarah asks him where her tea is. Joey abruptly tells her plan is too dangerous. Sarah argues with him, asking him why he changed his mind. Joey says it doesn’t matter. Clarence asks what is going on and Joey tells Bonnie and Clarence about Sarah’s idea. Clarence lashes out at Sarah.

Sarah ignores Clarence and yells at Joey that she won’t let Evil Clown Joe bully her the way he bullies Joey. Joey yells at Sarah that she has no idea what his dad is capable of. Sarah says that Joey thinks he stays there to protect the bears, but the truth is that he is a coward. Joey tells Sarah that she is so wrapped up in her own life and dreams that she can’t even see anybody else. Joey exits.

Sarah turns to Bonnie and Clarence for affirmation. Instead, Bonnie gently asks Sarah if she has thought about how this decision will impact the other bears. Sarah tells Bonnie that ever since Mama died, she has been on her own, and can’t worry about what others think. Bonnie tells Sarah she can’t take on Evil Clown Joe and all of his clowns all by herself and that if her dream is only about her, then her dream isn’t big enough.

**Scene 4--Come with Me (14)**

The forest. Papa wakes up violently to a nightmare, he runs off stage and returns with an airhorn and blows it. The bears snap awake in a panic. Papa explains to the bears what has happened to Sarah and asks them to go to the circus with him to rescue her. They protest.

Papa reminds them that dancing bears stick together, and of Grandpa’s motto: “together we rise”. He asks Reggie and Daisy if they could have done more to make Sarah feel accepted in their family. Reggie and Daisy try to justify their treatment of Sarah, saying Sarah never really wanted to be here in the first place. Papa admits that he regrets not doing a better job accepting her. Papa tells Reggie and Daisy that they are the only family Sarah has left. Reggie and Daisy admit they are to blame as well and decide to join Papa to go save Sarah. Reggie wonders aloud if they are going to be able to see the aerial acrobatics. He asks if they can pick up some pizza while they are out as they exit.

**Scene 5--Elephant song (15)**

Backstage, circus. Sarah practices the choreography and sings to herself. Joey, Clarence, and Bonnie enter and ask Sarah if she has reconsidered her plan. Sarah tells them a story about an elephant that was a part of her street performance group. The elephant was captured as a baby and the humans chained the baby elephant to a stake. The baby struggled against the chains, but eventually gave up. As the elephant grew bigger it never again tried to break free, even though it was huge and had the ability and power to escape. Sarah tells them that she won’t be that elephant, and challenges the three of them, suggesting that they have been captive in Evil Clown Joe’s circus so long they have forgotten how powerful they are and what they are meant for. So powerful, yet trapped by their doubts.

Joey tells Sarah about his dad’s plans to muzzle her and use her as a selfie station. Sarah replies that if she backs down now, she will have betrayed herself and her dreams.

Evil Clown Joe, Frankie and Lulu walk in on the conversation as it abruptly stops. Evil Clown Joe announces that it’s time to take the stage. He tells them he has invested a great deal in this performance and hopes that it catapults their circus to be able to compete with Cirque du Soleil. He tells Sarah that she is becoming a star and that if she embraces being a dancing bear, the sky's the limit.

Sarah tells Evil Clown Joe that being a dancing bear isn’t her dream; someday she is going to be a singing bear. Evil Clown Joe criticizes Sarah for her stubborn self-interest. He chronicles all the ways Sarah has only cared about herself and her dream. He tells her the dream is impossible because humans will never accept a singing bear. Growing in intensity, he yells at her, asking her how she can think of singing when her singing was what caused her mother’s death. Evil Clown Joe calls for places and everyone exits together.

**Scene 6--Dancing Bear Ballet, part 2 (16), Buried (17)**

Circus onstage. Evil Clown Joe welcomes the audience to the 100th performance of the Cirque Du Foret. He announces the new act and the bears and clowns begin dancing the Bear Ballet. Sarah dances for the first part of the song, and then takes center stage to sing out...but at the last minute has a failure of courage. Time freezes for Sarah as she hears all of the negative voices that have told her not to sing... Papa, her step-siblings, Evil Clown Joe, Joey, and Bonnie (“your dream isn’t big enough”). These phrases play in Sarah’s head and paralyze her onstage as the performance continues, the rest of the bears and clowns dancing around her. Evil Clown Joe rushes to her and takes her hand and dances with her. She moves mechanically in his arms. He manipulates her into settling for the life of a dancing bear. Sarah runs offstage in tears.

Backstage, intermission. Sarah cries. Bonnie, Joey, and Clarence try to comfort her. Sarah laments how she froze on stage. She tells Bonnie she realizes that her dream was too small.

Evil Clown Joe, Frankie and Lulu enter. Evil Clown Joe carries a muzzle and yells at Sarah for defying him. He humiliates and demeans Sarah and the entire bear race. He tells her she will spend the rest of her life chained and muzzled out in front of his circus tent taking selfies with the humans. She will never sing again. He moves towards Sarah to muzzle her and Clarence grabs Evil Clown Joe. Evil Clown Joe drops the muzzle as he is wrestled to the ground. Frankie, and Lulu subdue Clarence. Evil Clown Joe clambers to his feet and tells Clarence it’s time for a trip to the bear factory. He tells Lulu to get a clown guard to pull the truck around back. Lulu exits Sarah lunges after Clarence, but Bonnie restrains her. Evil Clown Joe and Frankie drag Clarence outside. Clarence yells and thrashes.

Sarah weeps. She chokes out to Bonnie and Joey that this is her fault. Clarence will die, just like her mother did, because of her selfish singing dream. She tells them it’s time to give up on this dream, lamenting to Mama that she couldn’t carry out Mama’s final wish.

Papa and Daisy burst in through the backstage door. Reggie enters in full camo gear. Sarah embraces them, asking how they got in. Papa says all the clowns were busy loading a bear into a truck and they were able to sneak by. Through tears, Sarah shares how much it means that they have come for her. He tells her that dancing bears stick together. Sarah hugs him and calls him “Papa” for the first time. Reggie and Daisy get in on the hug.

Sarah reveals that the bear they saw was Clarence, one of the prisoners of the circus, being taken to the bear rug factory. She introduces Bonnie to Papa. Papa says that he didn’t realize bears were still being forced into captivity. Sarah says she always dreamed of a world where her voice would be heard, but now she realizes her dream is impossible. She admits that her dream was selfish and small.

Bonnie proclaims that Sarah’s dream isn’t small, it’s big... much bigger than Sarah even realizes. She tells Sarah that her dream isn’t just about her anymore, it is about inspiring bears everywhere to rise up and declare that their voice deserves to be heard. Bonnie says that she never imagined before she met Sarah that she had a voice that mattered, but that Sarah taught her that truth.

Papa hurries Sarah along for the escape, suggesting they discuss this idea when they are safely back home. Sarah tells Papa that she doesn’t need to be rescued, she needs to be set free...they all need to be set free. Sarah says she needs to go back onstage and sing, not for the humans, not to be a star, but for bears everywhere. Sarah says that if something happens to her on stage tonight, and one bear hears about her story and can imagine a world where their voice matters, then it will be worth it.

Sarah declares that she is willing to risk her life, but if she sings she will put all of their lives in danger. Bonnie agrees that it is a significant risk, but that this is bigger than all of them and wants Sarah to sing. Papa joins in and says he wants her to sing, as do Joey, Reggie, and Daisy.

Sarah decides to sing, and Bonnie says she will take the stage with her and help her however she can. Joey promises to help as well. Bonnie tells Sarah that her dream just got really big.

**Scene 7--The Singing and Dancing Bears (18); Hear Me Roar Reprise (19)**

Transition to onstage. The circus bears rush on stage and begin the next act, while Papa and the twins hide and watch from backstage. Sarah takes center stage and sings as the other bears dance with her. The human audience riots; Papa and the twins rush onstage to support Sarah. Sarah addresses the crowd just like Mama did. Evil Clown Joe, Frankie and Lulu rush on stage, with Evil Clown Joe wielding his knife. Evil Clown Joe restrains Sarah and muzzles her. After Sarah is silenced, he addresses the audience to quell the riot. He assures them that he will deal with this rogue bear, this freak. As he tries to drag Sarah offstage, Bonnie takes up Sarah’s song, with Papa, Reggie, and Daisy following her lead, then joined by Joey. Evil Clown Joe freezes in shock. Joey runs up to Evil Clown Joe, knees him in the groin and frees Sarah from the muzzle.

As the bears continue singing, Evil Clown Joe crawls on the stage in pain. He finally rises and screams at Joey and the bears, blaming them for the riot. In a rage, he swipes at Joey with his knife and cuts him in the stomach. Sarah runs to Joey as Evil Clown Joe takes a step back, horrified by what he has done. Sarah tells Joey he is bleeding and Joey tells her he will be okay. Evil Clown Joe looks out to the audience and realizes they are turning their fear/rage/horror on him. He tries to explain himself to the audience. A gunshot rings out and Evil Clown Joe and the others duck.

Sarah runs to center stage and admonishes the human audience, telling them that they can’t keep killing what they don’t understand. She chastises the humans for not being more open-minded and for their ignorance/fear of the other. She asks the humans if violence and silencing is the answer. She says this is exactly what is wrong with the human race. She challenges the human audience to treat the bears as equals and allow them to share their voice. She asks them why they think they get to decide who shares their voice and who doesn’t.

At the end of Sarah’s speech, Joey falls to the ground and Sarah runs to Joey and holds him and calls out for someone to get a doctor. Joey, in a weakened state, praises her for the way she sang out. He tells her that the world is going to hear them all roar. Joey and the bears sing together; Joey collapses.

**Scene 8--Singing & Dancing Bear (& Clown) Ballet (20); Together We Roar reprise (21)**

Six months later, forest performing arts center, backstage. The bear family and Bonnie discuss how word quickly spread about Sarah’s performance in the circus. They can’t believe a video of Sarah’s speech surfaced and went viral. They discuss how human public opinion shifted and there was a swell of support to allow the bears to sing. Daisy comments about how their crowds have been amazing ever since the circus shut down.

The bears, including Bonnie, warm up backstage and prepare for opening night. Sarah gives a speech to the bears that they are singing not for themselves but to empower bears everywhere to share their voice. Joey walks in; he has recovered and is joining the show. He reveals that his dad got a job making balloon animals at kids birthday parties. Sarah takes the stage and welcomes the audience to the show, and thanks them for celebrating the bears’ voice. Papa invites the humans to visit the concession stand where they offer gummy humans. The bears and Joey join Sarah on stage and perform. Reggie attempts aerial acrobatics but is terrible at it and quickly asks to be lowered back down. Sarah leads the bears and Joey into their performance, celebrating the power of the bears’ voices.

**THE END.**