

# **Dick Whittington**

**Script by  
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**All suggested songs are from the Contemporary  
Disney Songbook**

## **Dick Whittington     Dramatis Personae**

Mrs Arabella Hathaway, Dick's Aunt

Dick Whittington

King Rat

Street Sellers 1,2 and 3

Sir Edward Fitzwarren

Alice, Sir Edward's daughter

Mrs Scrubbs, the Cook

Daisy, The Scullery Maid

Banks, the Butler

Rose, the Lady's Maid

Jacque Clousseau, an Incompetent Detective

Jess the Cat

Captain Blood

Pirate Crew:

One-eyed Jim

One-legged Pete

One-armed Jake

The Sultan of Marrakesh

Chorus of Rats

Chorus of Servants

Chorus of Pirates

## Act 1, Scene 1 Miss Hathaway's Cottage, Little Snoring, Gloucestershire

*The scene is one of cosy rural life in a humble, but comfortable cottage. Two chairs are pulled up round the fire. Arabella paces nervously up and downstage as if in a quandary.*

ARABELLA Oh my, what am I to do? Poor Dick, goes out each morning in search of a job and every evening returns forlorn and dejected. The thing is, you see, we are destitute. For the uneducated ones among you it means we're poor. *(Ah!)* We're much poorer than that. *(Big ah!)* You see, although my father was a rich man, I am the last one of ten children. The boys inherited the estate and what little money I was given has run out. To make matters worse, I have to feed and clothe young Dick, my nephew. He eats like a horse and grows like a giraffe. I have to keep extending his trousers and jackets. Don't get me wrong, I love him dearly – I just can't afford to keep him any longer. So, I've come to a decision....

*(Noises off of whistling.)*

Oh dear, here he comes now. Come a little closer and you'll hear what I've decided to do.

*(Enter Dick, wearing patchwork clothes.)*

DICK Hey ho, Aunt, what's for supper?

ARABELLA Turnip soup.

DICK Oh, not again! We had turnip soup yesterday, and the day before, and the day before. It seems to taste more like water each day.

ARABELLA That's because I'm using the same turnips.

DICK Oh Aunt Arabella, are we so poor?

ARABELLA Yes, I'm afraid we are, Dick. Actually, I wanted to talk to you about that....

DICK Look what I brought you, Auntie. A pair of trout, fresh from the river.

ARABELLA Why, thank you, Dick. But you should have spent the time looking for a job. Now, Dick, I need to speak to you.....

DICK                    You are speaking to me. Hey, guess what! I nearly got a job today, Aunt.

ARABELLA            What do you mean, ‘nearly’? You either got it or you didn’t.

DICK                    Well, the man in front of me in the queue got it. If I’d been a few minutes earlier...

ARABELLA            But you weren’t, were you. Look, Dick, it’s time we had a talk.

DICK                    But Auntie, we always talk.

ARABELLA            Sit down, Dick, I’m being serious.  
*(He looks at her, then at the audience.)*

DICK                    Oh dear, you really are serious.

ARABELLA            Dick, I’ll come straight to the point.  
*(He is grimacing.)*  
You’ll have to leave!

DICK                    *(Sniffing his armpit)* Why do I smell or something? If I do it’s probably just the fish.....

ARABELLA            No, I mean for good - permanently.

DICK                    What, leave home – for good. *(Looks woefully at the audience.)*

ARABELLA            You must understand, Dick, that we have no money. I cannot afford to keep you any longer. You must go to London to seek your fortune.

DICK                    Why can’t I seek it in Little Snoring.

ARABELLA            All there is here is a church, a pub and a handful of cottages. There is nothing for you here.

DICK                    But London – it’s over a hundred miles away! I suppose I could get a bus.

ARABELLA            A what?

DICK                    Oh no, they haven’t been invented yet. I suppose I’ll just have to walk. But what will become of you, Aunt Arabella?

ARABELLA            Don’t worry about me – I’ll be just fine.

DICK                    One day, when I’m rich, I’ll come back and repay you for your kindness. You’ve dedicated your life to bringing me up since my parents died when I was a baby.

ARABELLA            Your mother was my sister, remember, and as I never married, you are my closest family.

DICK But why did you not find a husband?

ARABELLA I did have a sweetheart, in my youth. He was a dashing young gentleman. We called him Bunny, although that was just a nickname. We were engaged to be married.

DICK What happened, Auntie? Why did it not work out?

ARABELLA Well, rather like you, he had no money. He went off to London to find fame and fortune – and I never saw him again.  
*(She takes out her hanky and sniffs. Dick puts his arm around her.)*

DICK Why, that's terrible. What became of him.

ARABELLA The last I heard he had gone to sea with some friend who knew a sea captain. I don't even know whether he is alive or dead.

DICK Aunt Arabella, I shall go to London, I shall become rich and just as soon as I do I shall return to Little Snoring to look after you.

ARABELLA Thank you, Dick.

DICK As you so rightly said, I am your only family – and I don't intend to desert you.

**SONG 1 Family (from James and the Giant Peach)**

*(During the song the chorus enters and joins in.)*

DICK Well, I'd better be getting off to bed, Auntie. I'll have to leave at dawn – It'll take me a week to walk to London. *(He begins to exit.)*

ARABELLA But Dick, your turnip soup.

DICK It's alright, Auntie, I'm not hungry, thank you.  
*(He crosses to her and kisses her.)*  
Good night, Auntie. I'll be back soon, don't you worry.  
*(Exit Dick)*

ARABELLA How could you, Arabella? Your own flesh and blood and you're throwing him out of the house. You cruel vixen. But then, what choice do I have? Perhaps it is for the best. Yet, for the second time in my life I am saying goodbye to the person dearest to my heart. I

have a feeling that things will work out alright in the end. Don't you think so boys and girls?

*(She crosses upstage to serve the turnip soup.)*

*End of Scene*