

This opening scene introduces two child storytellers who, with the help of the Fairy of Imagination, will bring a new tale to life.

Children enter.

They enter separately, a few moments apart.

Both children are glued to their mobile phones, absorbed in scrolling and tapping, entirely unaware of each other.

They each sit on the bench, still silent, still distracted. A brief pause before the silence is broken.

CHILD 2

(showing interest in the phone)
What are you watching?

CHILD 1

Funny cat videos.

CHILD 2

(no interest the topic)
Oh.... OK.... fun.
(finds her interest more exciting)
I'm on tickey tock!
It's so much better than cat videos.

CHILD 1

(little interest)
If you say so.

CHILD 2

Yep.
You should try it, everyone is on it.

CHILD 1

Not for much longer.

CHILD 2

(pause then engaging annoyingly)
Hey, I just had a thought.

Child 1 rolls eyes in annoyance for being disrupted.

What do you think people did before smartphones. Like what did they do while they were waiting to be picked up.

CHILD 1
 (looks up with annoyance)
Probably annoyed other people sitting next to them and asked stupid questions.

CHILD 2
 (missing his comment completely)
That would be so annoying!
Can you imagine someone doing that?

CHILD 1
 (with annoyance)
Yes, yes I can!

CHILD 2
 (finally realizes)
Oh! Sorry.
 (pause then annoyingly once again)
What are you watching now?

Child 1 looks up again from his phone.

Never mind.

They both return to looking at their phones.

SFX - A SPARKLING SOUND EFFECT.

Fairy enters.

Dressed in a grand, sparkly gown that glimmers with every movement. She strides in confidently. The children stare lost for words.

SFX - A SPARKLING SOUND EFFECT.

The fairy is very excited to be there and awaits the children to greet her.

CHILD 1
 (looking at fairy, to Child 2)
Are you seeing what I'm seeing?

CHILD 2
 (looking at fairy, to Child 1)
Yes, maybe if we ignore her she'll go away.

FAIRY

(aside - brushing off the comment)
Yeah you're out of luck with that one! It took me ages to get in this dress.

(cheerfully)
I've just arrived and I'm here to stay, so it's time to put those phones away!

Looking at the children who do not follow instructions.

(slight pause)
Well I did ask nicely.

With an exaggerated flick of her wand

Sparkle sparkle!

SFX - A SPARKLING SOUND EFFECT.

LX - A LIGHTING EFFECT TAKES PLACE.

Both phones turn off.

CHILD 1

(tapping phone screen)
Hey! My phone isn't working!

CHILD 2

(tapping phone screen)
Mine too! What did you do?

FAIRY

I've "sparkled" them off.
 (cute laugh)

CHILD 2

(with attitude)
Well "sparkle" them back on!
 (mocking the fairy laugh)

CHILD 1

FYI You're buying me a new phone.

FAIRY

Pfft!
FYI this Fairy doesn't buy things.
I make things up. (proud of position)
I'm the Fairy of Imagination!

SFX - SOUND EFFECT OF SPARKLING NOISES AND ECHO.

(MORE)

FAIRY (cont'd)
Imagination.... Imagination....
Imagination.... Imagination....

The Children are dumbfounded and annoyed at her actions.

CHILD 2
Yeah, I'm not impressed.
Fix my phone lady!

CHILD 1
Hurry up! Get a move on!

FAIRY
 (shocked at the rudeness)
Wow.... OK....
Bossy little buggers aren't you.
 (looking off stage)
Is it too late to recast these two?
It is? What a shame....
 (focus back to the children)
OK fine, I'll fix them for you.
Hand them over.

Taking the phones she throws them off stage without a care.

CHILD 1 & CHILD 2
Hey!

FAIRY
Oops!....
They flew out of my hands.
 (not taking anymore cheek from them)
Now sit down and pay attention.
I've spent weeks learning all this
script stuff.

The Children return to the seat with a nudge from fairy.

(clears throat before she begins)
You've been glued to those screens
for far too long, but now it's time
for a story and a song.

Very little interest from both.

CHILD 1
A story?

CHILD 2
A song?

FAIRY
 (continuing to hype up the adventure)
That's right!
 (MORE)

FAIRY (cont'd)
We're going to create a story
together.

The children again give some attitude to the Fairy.

CHILD 2
Yeah I'm good thanks.

FAIRY
I promise you'll fun.
It'll be an exciting adventure.

CHILD 1
(warming to the idea)
I'm already bored without my phone,
so I'm in.

CHILD 2
(warming to the idea)
That's a point. OK Fine.
I'll play your silly game.

Storyteller Interlude Before Chapter One

Fairy and children continue scene.

PROP: Child 2 has the book on entry.

CHILD 2 (cont'd)

Wow! OK I thought this was going to
some sort of scam, but this is kind
of fun.

CHILD 1

What a great way to start the story!
Let's get to the action.

CHILD 2

(writing away in book)
How's this? We start our story
meeting Red Riding Hood as she
prepares for her birthday party.

FAIRY

But she's about to discover that not
all plans.... go to plan.

CHILD 2

I like it. (returns to writing)
We can have some fun with that idea.

CHILD 1

Just then.... a giant meteor hurtles
towards the ground destroying
everything in it's path.
Boom! Crash! Fire! Explosions!
Destruction! The End....

FAIRY

Hmm, I love your enthusiasm, but
let's keep all ideas contained to a
more manageable production cost shall
we?

CHILD 1

Can we still have explosions?

Child 2 hits Child 1 on the arm with annoyance.

FAIRY

(bluntly)
No.
(gestures to keep writing)
It's my turn now.
(MORE)

FAIRY (cont'd)
I'll show you how it's done.

With twists and turns on every page,
and characters ready to take the
stage. Our tale begins, as it should,
as we head to the village to meet Red
Riding Hood!

FAIRY / CHILDREN
Chapter One: The Story Begins

Fairy and Children exit.