

Playstage

Junior

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# Creepy Crawlies



A charming eco-friendly musical play

Written by  
Stewart Auty

# CREEPY CRAWLIES

## CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

The Lady of the House (very posh)

Old Mr Henry, the Gardener

Son, Tarquin (in football kit, later explorer's outfit)

Daughter, Poppy (always in a pretty dress)

Snail

Slug

Robin Redbreast

Blackbird

Mole

Hedgehog

Toad

Frog

Ladybird

Spider

2 Flies

4 Beetles – (John Beetle, Paul Beetle, George Beetle and Ringo Beetle)

3 Ants

Centipede

Earwig

*(23 speaking parts. Unlimited flower chorus for songs and dances. Maybe on stage all the time dressed as flowers. SEE PRODUCTION NOTES. Could be as many children as you want.)*

*(APPROX. RUNNING TIME ONE HOUR)*

## MUSIC

*Backing tracks can be purchased and downloaded for a modest fee from various sources. Amazon sell very cheap downloadable MP3 tracks for hundreds of thousands of songs. These can be purchased, downloaded on to a computer and then burnt on to a CD for performance. Alternatively, many of the songs (and lyrics) are to be found on You Tube. Below we give the song title and where it can be found and in what format for learning and performing the song.*

### SUGGESTED MUSIC FOR SONGS AND DANCES

1/ In an English Country Garden (piano music by Martin Souter)

You Tube video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EUyxCP5Rvco>

MP3 download at [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk) (or amazon in other countries)

Backing track at <https://play.spotify.com>

Sheet music free at:

<http://www.gmajormusictheory.org/Freebies/Level2/2EnglishCountryGarden/2EnglishCountryGarden.pdf>

2/ I am a Mole and I live in a Hole by the Southlanders.

You Tube video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VAzQ7Pn0Bbc>

MP3 download at [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk) (or amazon in other countries)

3/ The Frog Chorus – We All Stand Together – by Paul McCartney

You Tube video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A0fuVoSa3dc>

MP3 download at [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk) (or amazon in other countries)

Backing track at [www.musicbackingtracks.co.uk](http://www.musicbackingtracks.co.uk)

4/ A Little Help from my Friends by the Beatles

You Tube video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SkyqRP8S93Y>

MP3 download at [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk) (or amazon in other countries)

Backing track at <http://www.karaoke-version.co.uk>

5/ I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing by the New Seekers

You Tube video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wIROKElxxVg>

MP3 download at

<http://mp3take.mobi/mp3/id-like-to-teach-the-world-to-sing.html>

Backing track at <http://www.karaoke-version.co.uk/instrumental-mp3/the-new-seekers/i-d-like-to-teach-the-world-to-sing.html>

6/ Co-operation (Makes it Happen) from Sesame Street

You Tube video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5exvfbnFMUg>

MP3 download at [http://www.televisiontunes.com/Sesame-Street-Cooperation-\(Makes-It-Happen\).html](http://www.televisiontunes.com/Sesame-Street-Cooperation-(Makes-It-Happen).html)

## CREEPY CRAWLIES

### Scene 1

*An English Country Garden, mostly lawn with a flower border front of stage, backdrop of trees etc., and a large scarecrow. (SEE PRODUCTION NOTES)*

*(Full cast on stage)*

### SONG 1: ENGLISH COUNTRY GARDEN *(sung by everyone)*

*How many gentle flowers grow  
In an English country garden?  
I'll tell you now of some I know  
And those I'll miss I hope you'll pardon  
Daffodils, heart's ease and flox  
Meadowsweet and lily stalks  
Gentian, lupine and tall hollyhocks  
Roses, foxgloves, snowdrops, forget-me-nots  
In an English country garden.  
How many insects find their home  
In an English country garden?  
I'll tell you now of some I know  
Those I miss I hope you'll pardon  
Dragonflies, moths and bees  
Spiders falling from the trees  
Butterflies sway in the mild gentle breeze  
There are hedgehogs that roam  
And little gnomes  
In an English country garden.  
How many songbirds make their nests  
In an English country garden?  
I'll tell you now of some I know  
Those I miss I hope you'll pardon  
Bobolink, coo cooing doves  
Blackbirds and the whirlwind thrush  
Bluebird, lark, pigeon, nightingale*

*We all smile in the spring  
When the birds all start to sing  
In an English country garden.*

*Robin, don't forget the Robin*

*(Exit all apart from LADY OF THE HOUSE and HENRY)*

LADY OF THE HOUSE

Well I must say that the garden is looking lovely Henry. You have worked hard.

HENRY

That I have m'lady, and it hasn't been easy, I can tell you.

LADY OF THE HOUSE

But you have everything a gardener could want – all the tools you need and your own shed, and a ride-on mower for the lawn.

HENRY

I agree. I have a tool for every occasion, a shed to keep them in, and the ride on mower? Well, it's a real pleasure to ride round twice a week and mow the grass.

LADY OF THE HOUSE

It's a lawn Henry, not plain grass. Common people have grass. We have a lawn. My ideal has always been to have a lawn which looks like a bowling green.

HENRY

Well, I'm getting there, but like I said before, it's not easy. Those mole hills don't help.

LADY OF THE HOUSE

Is that what they are, those piles of soil?

HENRY

The mole tunnels under the ground searching for worms. Every now and then it puts up a mound of soil to clear the tunnels.

LADY OF THE HOUSE

They are spoiling my lawn, Henry. You'll have to do something! Get rid of the mole and you'll get rid of the molehills.

HENRY

That's not as easy as it sounds.

*(Enter TARQUIN and POPPY. TARQUIN has a football tucked under one arm.)*

TARQUIN

Now you're in goal remember?

POPPY

Why am I always in goal?

TARQUIN

Because I'm the star striker, and it's my job to score goals, so that makes you the goalkeeper.

POPPY

*I could be the star striker. I could score goals. You could be the goalkeeper, just for once.*

TARQUIN

Now you're talking silly. Any star striker needs someone to pick the ball out of the net, and that's your job.

POPPY

That's not fair. Just because you're older.

TARQUIN

Tough.

POPPY *(Whining)*

Mother! Tell him! He's being unfair!

LADY OF THE HOUSE

Don't whinge Poppy, there's a good girl. Tarquin didn't mean any harm. He's teasing, that's all.

TARQUIN

Well off you go then, into goal over by the wall.

POPPY

Just don't kick it over the wall! Mrs What's-her-name next door had a blue fit when the ball went in her garden.

TARQUIN

It's not as though I broke any glass. Just some flowers, or something.

LADY OF THE HOUSE

Poppy - don't get your dress dirty, there's a good girl.

POPPY

But I'm playing football! How can I keep clean? I'm the goalkeeper!

*(Exit TARQUIN and POPPY)*

HENRY

You see, much as they're lovely children, and I wouldn't say a word against them, when they play football they ruin the grass.

LADY OF THE HOUSE

The lawn, remember Henry? It's not just grass. Do I have to keep reminding you?

HENRY

Whatever. It's his boots, they've got studs, and studs tear up the, er, lawn's surface.

LADY OF THE HOUSE

I can't stop them playing in the garden, now can I?

HENRY

You could take them down the park. There's lots of space there, even some proper goals. They'd like it there.

LADY OF THE HOUSE

I'd love to, but I haven't got time. Speak to the nanny, see if she'll take them.

HENRY

And then there's the pests. They don't help either.

LADY OF THE HOUSE

What do you mean, pests? I don't have pests in my garden!

HENRY

I don't mean to argue m'lady, but you do. Lots of them, you've just never seen them as they're well hidden.

LADY OF THE HOUSE

I know about greenfly on my roses.

HENRY

Ladybirds help us here. They can eat one hundred greenfly a day.

LADY OF THE HOUSE

So ladybirds aren't pests then?

HENRY

No, and birds like the robin, blackbirds or thrushes help too by eating pests.

LADY OF THE HOUSE

I know we should look after bees. I learnt that at the Women's Institute.

HENRY

Not only bees, but most plants are pollinated by insects.

LADY OF THE HOUSE

So even though I don't like them, insects are good?

HENRY

Very - they do a lot more good than harm.

LADY OF THE HOUSE

So what sort of other pests are we talking about? Nothing dangerous?

HENRY

How long have you got? There's slugs and snails, moles and maggots, earwigs, ants and spiders. Lots of other things too, whose sole purpose in life is to destroy my plants and ruin your lawn.

LADY OF THE HOUSE

Creepy crawlies? Oh, they make my skin crawl! Can't be dealing with them.

That's your department.

HENRY

But they think everything in the garden is on the menu! I'll do my best, but it's an uphill struggle.

LADY OF THE HOUSE

You make it sound like a battle. Well, make sure you win - otherwise, I will be looking for another gardener.



HENRY

No need to talk like that, madam. Leave it with me. I'll sort them all out, these garden pests.

*(Enter POPPY running and screaming, followed by TARQUIN)*

POPPY

Mother tell him! He's chasing me with something awful!

TARQUIN

It's a caterpillar, you wuss! That's all!

POPPY

Well I don't like it! Mother! He says he will put it down my neck!

LADY OF THE HOUSE

Put it down on the ground, there's a good boy, and stop teasing your sister. I thought you were playing football?

POPPY

Stupid brother of mine only went and kicked the ball over the fence again, didn't he?

TARQUIN

I didn't mean to! I was practising an overhead kick, and it sort of went wrong.

POPPY

Not exactly an overhead kick then, more an over the fence kick!

TARQUIN

I'll get you for that! *(Threatens POPPY with caterpillar again)*

LADY OF THE HOUSE

I thought I told you to put it down? What have I told you? One, two....

TARQUIN

It's down! It's gone! Look, empty hands! It's over there by those plants.

HENRY

Don't you know anything? Don't ever put a caterpillar anywhere near my lettuces! Caterpillars eat lettuce, didn't you know?

LADY OF THE HOUSE

Now I have to go. Afternoon tea at the vicarage. Keep an eye on the children will you?

HENRY

Me? Look after children? Where's the nanny?

LADY OF THE HOUSE

How on earth should I know? Painting her toenails I shouldn't wonder. Now remember Henry, my lawn is your number one priority.

HENRY

I'll see what I can do.

*(Exit LADY OF THE HOUSE and HENRY)*

TARQUIN

Come on! Race you to the swing!

*(Exit TARQUIN and POPPY. Enter SNAIL, followed by SLUG)*

SNAIL *(To audience)*

My mate the slug will be here in a minute. Lots of people think a slug is a homeless snail, but they're wrong. Hey! I've got my girlfriend with me! *(Points to his back)* Meet Michelle!

SLUG

He's not still telling that joke? It wasn't even funny the first time I heard it.

SNAIL

Well I think it's funny, and that's all that matters. Come on, hurry up!

SLUG

I wish you'd slow down. I can't keep up with you.

SNAIL

Did you hear what they were saying?

SLUG

Hang on a minute. I'm not as quick as you.

SNAIL

No one has ever called me quick before.

SLUG

Compared to me, you're Billy Whizz. Now what were you saying?

SNAIL

Her ladyship, you know, her what lives in the house, she's given the gardener an ultimatum.

SLUG

An ulti-what? Now what's one of those when it's at home?

SNAIL

I sometimes wonder if you've had an education. Did you go to school?

SLUG

I did. My report said I was a bit sluggish at English.

SNAIL

Ha! You've been sluggish at everything ever since I've known you!

SLUG

Ha! So what's the problem with the gardener?

SNAIL

In simple terms, he's got to get rid of the pests, and that means you and me, and nearly everything else in the garden.

SLUG

Why are we pests?

SNAIL

Because we eat things the gardener thinks are precious.

SLUG

I don't eat much, bit of lettuce now and then, young lupin plants are a bit tasty too, but that's all.

SNAIL

I'm rather partial to cauliflower myself. Oh, and I do like potatoes, but I could never eat a whole one.

SLUG

But we don't eat much. But I can see we might have a problem if our old mate the gardener gets upset. As if we didn't have enough problems hiding from predators. From toads to hedgehogs, blackbirds and thrushes, we live in great danger. It's a good job I can hide away under stones.

SNAIL

Tell me about it! They're all after me too!

SLUG

At least you've got a shell for protection.

SNAIL

It's not much use if the thrush decides to bash your brains in against a stone.

SLUG

So what we going to do then?

SNAIL

I'll have to call a meeting. This affects everyone. We're all in this together.

Tomorrow is Old Henry's day off, so we'll meet by the scarecrow first thing in the morning.

SLUG

I'll run round and tell everybody.

SNAIL

Now you're being silly. I've a better idea. (*Whistles*)

*(Enter ROBIN)*

ROBIN

Hello Slug, hello Snail. What are you two up to?

SNAIL

We're in trouble, well some of us, those that might be regarded as garden pests.

ROBIN

Fortunately then, that doesn't include me. I'm a welcome sight in the garden.

Everyone is always so pleased to see me. I even appear on Christmas cards you know.

SNAIL

How very modest of you. Robin here isn't one of our predators fortunately.

ROBIN

Now if you were a worm, things would be different.

SNAIL

Our life in the garden is under threat.

ROBIN

But that's terrible! What's going on?

SNAIL

Just go round and tell everyone we need to meet tomorrow morning. I'll explain then.

SLUG

Over by the scarecrow, that's the rendezvous. There, Snail, that's a good word! Rendezvous! I surprised you there, Snail, didn't I? I'm not just a pretty face!

*(Enter MOLE)*

MOLE

I say! What's all the commotion?

SNAIL

You'll find out soon enough.

SLUG

We're all in trouble.

ROBIN

And you sir, have just been nominated public enemy number one!

MOLE

But that's unfair! I don't harm anyone! Well, apart from the odd earthworm.

SNAIL

Look what a mess you've made of the lawn! Molehills everywhere!

MOLE

But that's what I do! I am a mole, and I live in a hole!

SONG 2. I AM A MOLE AND I LIVE IN A HOLE. (*Everyone on stage sings*)

*I'm not a bat or a rat or a cat,  
I'm not a gnu or a kangaroo,  
I'm not a goose or a moose on the loose,  
I am a mole and I live in a hole.*

*I'm not a cow or a chow or a sow,  
I'm not a snake or a hake or a drake,  
I'm not a flea or a wee chimpanzee,  
I am a mole and I live in a hole.*

*Yarg yarg, quarck quarck, fried boiled or roast,  
You're the slick chick I dig the most ,  
I'm not a ram or a clam or a lamb,  
I'm not a hog or a frog or a dog,  
I'm not a bus or a hip-potomus,  
I am a mole and I live in a hole.*

*Yarg yarg, quarck quarck, fried boiled or roast,  
You're the slick chick I dig the most,  
I'm not a ram or a clam or a lamb,  
I'm not a hog or a frog or a dog,  
I'm not a bus or a hip-potomus,  
I am a mole and I live in a hole.  
I am a mole and I live in a hole.*

*(Exit SNAIL, SLUG and ROBIN)*