

Act the First

Scene 1 (Dorothy; Ken; Ambaum; Red jumpers -2; Ross; Grimes; Toto; Random crowd)

Narrator: Welcome, ladies and gentlemen, young and old, meteorologists and those with better things to do (boo?!) to the Panto. (Turn off mobiles). The department has had an active 12 months, not only have staff come and gone, a lethal electrical fault discovered, and both the tea urn and coffee machine broke down, but someone cleaned the windows and even dusted the cobwebs off of the wind sculpture thingy. Sid has turned 70, despite the PhD students ordering heavier and heavier parcels from Amazon for him to carry. Phil Collins has been hired as a lecturer in mid-latitude dynamics. Well, he is the front-o-genesis. Ken Speirs retired from the department, taking over 400k measurements – probably all at the same time. He's gone to work for that well known weather newspaper, The Observer. And while he may not see The Sun everyday, he can be sure to check his watch for The Times to measure any daily Hail. Luckily, he no longer has to Guard Ian James. We now join Ken Spiers's retirement party.

Dorothy is in the coffee room, proof-reading her thesis. Ken's retirement crowd walk in to wait for celebrations.

Someone in crowd: It's so sad that Ken's leaving. Where's the wine?

General commotion in the crowd

Dorothy: Oh no, it's Ken's retirement party. I won't get any peace and quiet to proof-read my thesis now...

Enter Ken, at the front of stage

Ken: Wow, everyone, thanks for Maarten?

Maarten barges his way to the front and pushes Ken aside

Maarten: Yes, yes, well, it's so nice for all of you to turn up for my book reading. As you know I'm very proud of it.... ahem..... book reading to be followed by short atmospheric physics exam. [sits down and clears throat] Chapter one. Entropy in the Time of Cholera. Once upon a time.....

Lights dim and everyone freezes. Lights return after ~5 secs.

Maarten: ...Chapter 27. Entropy and Sensibility. Young Gibbs emerged from the woods, hair looking disordered [drum roll].

[aside] **Dorothy** Oh, I can't hear myself think in here! I'm off to 1U07 to print this thing.

Exit Dorothy

Red Jumper 1: Did you hear what she said? Wasn't there a dangerous electrical fault in room 1U07?

Red Jumper 2: Nah... I heard Giles Harrison soldered all the wires in there himself. I'm sure it's nothing.

Big ZZZAP sound backstage; ppt indicates travel to another world – end up in Oklahoma

Enter Dorothy and Ross (with Toto) and Grimes, dressed as cowboys, from opposite sides.

Dorothy: Oh, Ross and David Grimes! I'm so glad I found you!

Ross: Yeeehaaaa! Howdy there, l'il lady.

Dorothy Who's this cute little thing?

Ross: Well gee, I ain't never been called cute before.... wink. This is Toto, my prize cow.

Dorothy: I thought Toto was more like a dog's name?

Ross: She's got BSE so she thinks she's a dog.

Toto: Woof.

Dorothy (*looking around at the surroundings*):
Where ARE we?

Grimes: Well, gee dollface, we're in Oklahoma...

Dorothy: WHY EXACTLY?? Is this some kind of JOKE-LAHOMA?? How am I supposed to submit my thesis from here? The deadline's in 2 days.

Actual tumbleweed drifts by...

Ross: Well, the portal to the magical land of Oz is in 1U07, but unfortunately Giles mis-wired it. Those damned electro-atmospheric scientists think they know everything about....erm.... magical portals. Anyway, looks like it brought you here to Oklahoma instead. Not quite Oz.....

Dorothy: I see.... David, what happened to your moustache?

Grimes: I had to shave it off to get through US Homeland Security. They had me on file as a hippy protester back in the 70s, when I did that sit-in against the use of weaponised drizzle in 'Nam.

Dorothy: OK. So we're stuck in this hellhole forever??

Grimes: On the contrary, darlin'. This place is A-OK-lahoma

Oklahoma Song – Grimes only to sing. Others stand in amusement.

Dorothy: Well, this is all fab and that, but I kinda gotta get back to Reading. Wasn't there supposed to be a tornado in this story?

Audience: IT'S BEHIND YOU!

Dorothy and others scream as tornado sucks them up.

All scream to a fade. Lights out.

Scene 2 (Dorothy; Julia; Wob; Manoj; Munchkins{Curtis, Janet, Stephen}; Toto)

Ppt shows Oz-themed stuff inc. yellow brick road, Welcome to Oz sign, etc. Dorothy and Toto are alone on stage.

Dorothy: Where ARE we? And what's with the blizzard?

Toto: Woof.

Julia enters.

Julia: Dorothy! Thank goodness you're safe. We have reason to celebrate. Following the tornado, the Wicked Witches of NCAS-Climate were crushed by the Met Department as it landed! Now the time on Hector isn't being used for Steve Woolnough's high resolution croquet simulations – we can actually DO SOME WORK at the Met Office!

Dorothy: What? Wasn't Steve running the highly prestigious CASCADE project?

Julia: HA!! You think they were doing WORK?? CASCADE just stands for... "Croquet And Super Computer Absolute Domination Experiment" (*to appear on screen as is said*) that's why I had to leave, they all just sat around testing Ed Hawkins' new lawn parameterisations!

Dorothy: I see. It all becomes clear now. So what are you doing here, Julia?

Julia: Well I thought my career was stagnating a bit at the moment, what with only being President of the Royal Meteorological Society and Chief Scientist at the Met Office, so when 'Good Witch of the North' appeared in New Scientist, I couldn't resist. It didn't take me

long to realise what they meant by ‘not a local post’...

Manoj Enters

Dorothy: Manoj! Why aren’t you under the department along with the rest of NCAS-Climate?

Manoj: I’ve been here in Oz all along. I was going to Australia to do a report on the effects of El Nino on cricket and women’s beach volleyball, but I booked with Ryanair and got flown to the wrong OZ.

Dorothy: So what now? Can you get home?

Manoj: Well, no, I rather like it here. I appear to be some sort of god. In the land of the Munchkins, the 4’11” man is KING!

*Munchkins enter at back of the stage; **Munchkin Song**, explaining that they’re happy NCAS-Climate are dead. Song ends.*

Munchkin 1 (Curtis): Woohoo! Now we can take the NCAS-Climate corridor for ourselves!

Munchkin 2 (Janet): Curtis can move office again!

Munchkin 3 (Stephen): Err... not before I get a new office!!!

Manoj (to Munchkins): Oi, you lot, get back to polishing my ‘I love Met Office’ mug. I want to be able to see my face in that thing!

Munchkins: Yes Sire!

(Munchkins and Manoj exit – opposite directions)

They spot a random object on the edge of the stage and investigate it.

Julia: Oh look, what’s this? Oh it looks like some sort of flattened radiosonde! Ironic that it’s cluttering the ground!

Dorothy: Radiosonde? What on earth is that doing here?

Julia: Who knows? Rowan must have tossed it clear as the department landed. Look it says here “Warning: May contain magical powers”, why don’t you hang on to this for a while Dorothy, I’ve already got enough power for myself.

Dorothy: Oh, ummm, thanks I guess.... (Suddenly gets upset). Oh Julia, I’ve got to get back to Reading and submit my thesis, I only have another two days until the deadline. Where is Oz anyway, surely it’s not further from civilisation than Norwich?

(Julia nods)

Dorothy: Surely not further than Leeds???

Julia: I’m afraid so. Oz is on an island in the East Pacific, built by the met office to make the real world agree with their models. But don’t worry, There’s a Wizard back in the Emerald City who can help you get home in no time.

Dorothy: Great, how can I get there?

Julia: That’s easy, all you have to do is follow the yellow brick code!

(Julia hands Dorothy a yellow brick with some code scrawled on it)

Julia: Just follow this code, and it’ll take you straight to the Emerald city.

Dorothy: Oh wow, thanks Julia! I’ll get compiling this straight away..... Oh god it’s in Fortran 77! Working through this could make me C++ Sick.

(Rob appears maybe in a maternity dress)

Rob (maniacal laugh, though not quite as irritating as Rob's actual laugh or people will leave):
Wahahahaha

Julia: Oh no, its Rob, the Wicked Wadar Witch of the West!

Audience boos!

Julia: What's he doing here? *(to Dorothy)* Don't look directly into his eyes. He'll use his wicked wadar powers on you!

Rob: Give me that Flipping Radiosonde Dorothy. I need it to validate my wadar expewiment.

Julia: Don't worry Dorothy, his wicked wadar powers won't work here. Don't give him that Fantastic radiosonde!

(Rob attempts to use his wadar powers, by utilising the microwave power of his mobile phone, but realises that he has no signal)

Rob: Dwat, she's wight. Well I guess you've got something I want, so I'll take something pwecious to you. Here boy! *(Toto goes over to Rob)* Who's going to save your bacon, err... beef now? *(they both disappear in a flash of light)*

Julia and Dorothy: Oh No, Totooooooooooooo.....
(fade out)

Scene 3 (Narrator; Ellie; Cristina; Sue; Hilary; Wob)

Starts in Rob's castle (Castle/Creche Chilbolton??). Mothers meeting, a giant baby shower, prams etc. All the mothers are heavily pregnant. Rob perhaps a bit camp?! Gothic looking, pregnant, with a ladies wig/ponytail? Wearing a big frilly black dress! Mothers sitting around being very hormonal and maternal, loads of baby things...mobiles etc. House wives gossiping away, not evil, but classic talkative mothers.

Narrator: Meanwhile, in crèche Chilbolton, a mothers meeting is taking place.

Lights up on scene with all mothers sat round knitting and gossiping.

Sue: Hmmm well if it's a boy I was thinking Entropy Rossby Ambaum has a nice ring to it...

Cristina: Oh yes that's lovely Sue, you could call it ERA for short...Andrew and I were thinking Kelvin-Helmholtz El-Nino Brewer-Dobson Charlton-Perez, just to keep it snappy. Oh your stitches are really coming along Ellie.

Ellie: Thanks I came up with this great idea for a thermometer sock, it's breathable and insulating no chance of the thermometer getting chilly in this cold snap.

Sue: What do you think of my radar cosy? I thought it would be great to protect Rob's WADAR from all this wind and rain. And the thick pile means it reduces ground clutter!

Cristina: I've just finished a scarf for Andrew; he's always going up into that stratosphere in just a t-shirt. I keep telling him he'll catch an ozone hole one of these days!

Ellie: I've got some cumulus decongestus for that.

Hilary: Have you heard the good news, David Grimes is the latest expecting!

Ellie: Oh no I haven't heard!

Hilary: Didn't you get the email from Dawn?

Ellie: Let me just check my TRASH folder...hmmm..MERL...Retirement of random TV production professor...Nutrition study...female football...MERL...oh yes here we go...oh and here's another about Brian being....

Just at this point Rob enters so the sentence isn't finished and no-one finds out if Brian is expecting. Rob is acting really friendly with the mothers.

All mothers together (*In style of a doting mother*):
Hello Robby Robby Rob Rob!

Rob: Oh mothers! These new stitches are really coming along. I've found this amazing pattern from an old Prima magazine for a LIDAR, I'm going to get started on it right away, I heard LIDARs were going to be big next season....

Sue: How are things looking on the RADAR Rob?

Rob: Haha! The plan is working a treat; this blizzard is set to last for months. The future is looking bright for our little meteorological darlings. I have finally solved the entire problem of climate change!

Cristina: Oh Wobby, your plan is so wonderful; you've managed to save the future for everybody! (Goes off into a dreamy state) Now our little babies can grow up in a world without death, destruction, suffering and...

Rob (*cuts in*): With plenty of cricket.

Cristina (*Snaps back to reality*): Errr yes cricket. Anyway, Andrew said this sudden warming thingymabob would help us out. He's always banging on about the stratosphere and how it's *SO* important for the weather but no-one will listen to him. Apparently 'it's not all about mass; mass is so 1995.'

Rob: (*to audience*) Little do they know that they are part of my devious plan to ruin the Emerald City's BBQ summer forecast. They deserve it after I was dropped from their all star cricket team. With the mothers talking so much they are generating LOADS of hot air, which rises into the stratosphere and causes a sudden warming.

Narrator (*cuts in, confused*): Surely the hot air would cool by adiabatic expansion as it rises??

Rob: Oh No, It's rising far too quickly for that. Infact it'll be there by the day after tomorrow.

(*pause for groans*)

Rob: Warming the stratosphere apparently has huge affects on surface temperature – although nobody knows why!

Rob: Don't stop talking now ladies; we've got a planet to wescue. Our future genius WADAR children depend on it!

All mothers together: 'OK Robby!'

Song: 'Somewhere over the stratosphere'.

Lights down.

Scene 4 (**Narrator; Dorothy; Rosemarie; John; Anthony; Steve; Keith; Kirshbaum**)

Lights up with **Dorothy** all alone on stage in the blizzard.

Dorothy: Damn I knew things couldn't be simple with this PhD thing. Something always has to go wrong. Now I'm stuck in this strange land all on my own.

Dorothy: Right well I'd better get going to the Emerald City, what's this Yellow Brick Code thing about...

Dorothy starts walking across stage reading a piece of paper Julia gave her muttering Fortran syntax.

Dorothy: Oh, if only I understood Fortran – it's all greek to me. Epsilon, Theta, Sigma - I haven't got a clue what all this gobblydegoop means. Thank heavens I've got these three lifelines...I'll phone a friend.

Lights go down. Ring tone. Phonejacker of Ambaum's head appears on the screen behind.

Narrator: Hi is that Maarten?

Maarten (*offstage*): This is Maarten. (Phonejacker head moves as talking happens)

Narrator: Hi Maarten, this is the narrator from the Met Panto.

Maarten: Oh hi!

Narrator: Right Dorothy is doing really well. She's made it half way to the Emerald City but she's stuck on a tricky IF statement. Dorothy you've got 30 seconds starting now.

Dorothy: Hi Maarten. IF(the Coriolis Force is strong) THEN (follow the geostrophic wind along) ELSE (If you're nearer the equator, then carry on much straighter) do I turn to the left or do I turn to the right?

Maarten: Good job you called me and not Anthony, apparently he doesn't know anything about the Coriolis force... obviously the problem can be PV inverted to tell you the far field solution at the next interchange. If you take the double differential and do some simple calculus to manipulate the solution into the right format, you obviously should turn...

Narrator: You've got 5 seconds remaining...

Maarten: Anyway as I was saying...

Phone cuts off.

Dorothy: Oh dammit. What am I going to do now? I'll think I'll ask the audience.

Dorothy turns to audience for participation.

Dorothy: Oh OK you seem to be right I'll turn a left.

Dorothy starts walking onwards, after a few moments **Rosemarie** wanders on stage looking annoyed.

Dorothy: Oh Rosemarie thank goodness you're here. I've been stuck in this DO-WHILE loop since half a mile back. I think I didn't define my supporting character array bounds properly, surely you can help me?

Rosemarie (*In a sharp tone*): Don't be silly of course I can't help, I have no idea about how to define your variables. But I do know you handed me that demonstrator claim form 3 weeks late! You've ruined my whole system now. The department is really going to suffer because of your laziness. (*Pause*)

Dorothy (*to audience*): I really can't understand, Rosemarie is normally so nice and willing to help out students in a spot of bother.

Rosemarie: What are you doing out in this terrible weather anyway?

Dorothy: I'm on my way to the Emerald City to find the Wizard of Oz.

Rosemarie (*cuts in*): Oooo, the Emerald City. I've heard it's reeeally nice down there; sun loungers, waterfalls, it practically sounds like paradise. Can I come and see it for myself? I'd really like a photo for the office.

Dorothy: Of course Rosemarie. Now let's try and work out how to get out of this pickle.

They both start walking across stage. More Fortran flashes up on the screen. On the other side of the stage John Methven stumbles on covered in snow and looking scruffy (like a scarecrow) and confused. Whilst Dorothy and John have some dialogue Rosemarie stands there looking bored.

Dorothy: John Methven is that you? What's happened, are you OK?

John: Err I'm not sure...(pause)...where am I exactly?

Dorothy: Well we're on line 1013: just gone past a tricky DO-WHILE roundabout and we're now headed straight for an IF-ELSE inter-section.

John: Oh, I'm not really sure what you mean.
(scratches his head)

Dorothy: *(To self)* Hmmm that's strange, John is normally such an expert on Fortran... (In soothing voice) It's OK, you'd better come with us, I think this blizzard has given you brain freeze. We'll take you to the Emerald City with us.

They all head off together.

Dorothy: IF you've really really lost your way, then go straight along Atmospheric Physics Way ELSE for those possessed with the strength of iron take the next right and face the scary lion. Hmm, this is a tough one, the lion sounds bad but not as bad as Atmospheric Physics, we'd better turn right.

They tentatively creep forwards. And suddenly Anthony appears on stage dressed as a lion. Group Screams!!! Anthony screams louder and runs away and hides behind the narrator.

Dorothy: Anthony Illingworth, you're a scary lion?

Anthony: Oh no I'm not!

Audience: Oh yes you are!

Repeat few times.

Anthony: Well I used to be a scary lion but after Wicked Rob stole my WADAR and took it back to his evil castle I've been left with nothing. Now I barely have the courage to get out of bed in the morning (Bursts into tears)

Audience: *(sympathetic)* Arrrrhhhhh

Dorothy: Oh Anthony, you'd better come with us to the Emerald City too.

They all start singing Song: 'follow the yellow brick code' when Dan Kirshbaum appears on the other side of the stage muttering to himself the tune of 'Ambaum' and doing a little jig onto stage. At this point he notices the others and starts up.

Kirshbaum (Bad American accent): Hey guys! What do you reckon to *this*.

At this point band starts up playing Song: 'Ambaum'. Dan sings a few lines, 'cause I'm Kirshbaum'.....Everyone stands there looking really unimpressed. Band comes to an embarrassing halt.

Dorothy: Errr, I know that song was catchy, but it is sooo last year. Anyway, we don't need you - we've already got all the characters we need and everybody knows five's a crowd. You'd better try again next year.

Audience: Aaaaaahhhh

Kirshbaum wanders off stage looking dejected.
Dorothy + co exit stage to complete their journey.

Narrator: Half a million more lines of code, 4 infinite loops and several segmentation faults later, the unlikely group finally arrive at the Emerald City... *(last bit is said in a slow dream like Hollywood movie type tone)*. Luckily, due to the central heating, the Emerald City gives them a warm welcome and not a frosty reception.

At this point the backdrop changes to a shot of the Bellagio casino complete with massive fountain which is frozen up, tons of bling etc. The Met Office logo/sign is pasted across the top of the building. There is some kind of choral climaxing music.

Dorothy + *co* re-enter the stage and stand there looking in awe at the Emerald City making exclamations 'wow', 'Isn't it beautiful'.

Just as they are standing there is awe, Steve comes on stage.

Steve: Alright! What are you guys doing here? Have you *seen* the waterfall it's 60 feet high! Giggity.

Dorothy: Look I need to speak to the Wizard as soon as possible; do you know where I can find him?

Steve: Oh dude, you do *not* want to be seeing the Wizard right now.

Dorothy: Look it's really important; I have to get back to Reading to submit my thesis before the deadline in two days. Julia says the Wizard is the only one who can help me get back, I really need to see him...

Steve: Okeydoke but don't say we didn't warn you!

Steve and crew exit the stage. Lights down.

Scene change to the Wizard's blinged up office. New background slide with like people in togas holding grapes.

Narrator: After a quick, 2 hour, stop in the gourmet restaurant, admiring the solid gold statue of Brian Hoskins and enjoying the string quartet's interpretation of Mozart's final trilogy in the lobby, Dorothy and Steve arrive at the Wizard's office.

Steve: Hi Keith.

Wizard Keith (*who is actually really nice and not at all scary*): Oh Steve this is terrible, I just can't understand what's happening with the weather. There was no sign of this blizzard in the forecast. I knew contrails had a potentially big effect on the surface radiation budget but I

had no idea the effect could be so non-linear. It just doesn't make sense. We're ruined, ruined I tell you!!

Steve: Hmm, yes that's a possibility....Aha! I have an idea. Remember back in January, everyone said that the snow that followed must be to do with the stratosphere. Well maybe this blizzard is a similar thing?

Keith: Oh yes Steve, you're right! I knew those 15 years you spent learning about the stratosphere for your PhD would come good some day. But who is responsible for this?

Dorothy (who has been standing quietly pipes up): I might be able to help!

Keith: Who are you?

Dorothy: I'm A PhD student but by some unfortunate accident I've ended up stranded here in Oz when I need to get back to Reading to submit my thesis in two days! Julia the Good Witch of the North said the only person who could help me get back was you.

Keith: Well... I do have a rusty old radiosonde but that hasn't been used since we almost decapitated 30 students and John Madejski at the open day. And how can you help me anyway?

Dorothy: Well when I first arrived in Oz I met the Wicked Wadar Witch of the West, he wanted to take my Futuristic RadioSonde to validate his new Radar which was monitoring the blizzard.

Keith: I knew it! That pesky Rob, he never forgave me after dropping Sir Brian Hoskins off his bowling in that vital Sloggers game. Well, if you can find Rob and stop him from messing up my summer forecast, I will see what I can do about this radiosonde. I might be able to redirect some of the R&D funds from the new water feature into radiosonde

development. If you can make this snow stop I'll be able to fetch it out of the basement.

Dorothy: Deal, I'll take the money please Chris errr I mean Keith. Don't worry I'll find Rob and stop his stratostrophic climate designs!

Dorothy and co then leave the stage to go and find Rob in his castle.

Narrator: So Dorothy has found the Emerald City and the Wizard. But will she find Rob, the Wicked Wadar witch of the west? Will she stop him from taking over the world? Will the Emerald City's forecast come good? Will she get back to Reading to submit her thesis on time? And where is Toto? (In the background 'Mooooo/Woof'). Come back after the interval to find out.

Lights down.

End of Act One

Act the Second

SCENE 5 (Narrator; Shonk; Robin; Dorothy; John; Anthony; Rosemarie; Ken; Sid)

Narrator: Welcome back to the wonderful world Oz! You join us here outside crèche Chilbolton where Rob, the wicked wadar witch of the west is weally wowwyng about the wondewings of our worldly-wise Wendy errr....sowwy Dowethy. He picked up on his wadar that there was some unchawistically windy weather on its way. Dowethy must have had baked beans on her agriculture jacket potato yesterday. He has ordered his newly appointed flying monkeys Robin and Shonk to guard Creche Chilbolton from any intruders. In return, he's relieving them of their duties in the staff student cricket match (he's worried the students might win this time)

Enter Shonk and Robin from stage right (castle side)

Shonk: Oh thank goodness we don't have to hear that wicked wadar Rob talking endlessly about cricket and babies.

Robin: Oh I'm just glad that I've finally got that promotion to be one of wicked wadar Rob flying monkeys.

Shonk: Well that evil beard got you into so much trouble last year I'm surprised you've made it this far.

Robin: Hey, I've earned this...I've been up to my arms in nappies for weeks! Could you help me as it's my first day? I really don't want to mess this up!

Enter Dorothy and ROSEMARIE, JOHN AND ANTHONY from Narrator side – whilst skipping and humming to the Yellow brick code.

Dorothy: (to ROSEMARIE, JOHN AND ANTHONY) oh look there's some people. I wonder if they know where crèche Chilbolton is. (To Robin and shonk) Excuse me...um....could you tell us how to get to creche Chilbolton please?

Shonk: (tries to confuse Dorothy) Yes of course...it's that way (pointing in the wrong direction)

Robin: Oh no it isn't!

Shonk: Oh yes it isetc

Robin: No it's not it's just here, we're guarding it remem...(penny drops) ohhhh. Ooops.

Shonk: (dramatically sighing in despair) (aside to Robin): You idiot I was trying to flumux them! OK, we can't beat them with our physical prowess, we'll have to use our mental superiority to overcome them Mwahh hahhh

Robin: Mwahh hahh

Shonk: (to Robin) shush. (Stands to block the entrance of the castle then says to the others): OK...this is the crèche Chilbolton. But within these walls you may not see, unless you answer these question three.

Dorothy: Oh no I'm going to need your help here guys.

Shonk: Question 1 - Define PV? (*looking sneaky*)

Dorothy, Rosemarie, John and Anthony:
Ummmming and ahhhhing

Robin is busy poking/flapping his wing at **Anthony** who is cowering. **Robin** giggles.

Dorothy: Err, erm... PV? Particularly Vile, err... not sure, Rosemarie do you know?

Rosemarie: (*arms folded stroppy teenager style*): I dunno, does this face look bovered to you? Even if I did know I wouldn't tell you!

Dorothy: Oh you just don't have a heart to you? Where's Anthony....oh he's terrified of that flying monkey ...he's no use. John, do you know?

John: Oh I'm not sure...I think...oh no, I don't know.

Dorothy: Oh anything will do...we don't know either. Even if it's wrong it doesn't matter.

John: Oh...its something like... ummmm.... (*assertively to Robin and Shonk*) It's Potential Vorticity.

Shonk: Oh darn it! I suppose he's technically correct.

Robin: (*sheepishly to Shonk*) Can I ask one...go on I've got a really good one!

Shonk: Are you sure, it is your first day!

Robin: yeah yeah! OK this is a really tough one!! Totally meteorological! What do you call those flying rocks in space?

John: Meteors! But that's nothing to do with weather.

Shonk: Ahh you idiot that was our second question. We've only got one more! I'm asking this one!

Robin looks contrite

Shonk: Right this is a tough one! Why is it that no matter how many blue biro's I borrow from that blastered stationary cupboard...I never seem to be able to find one when it comes to entering the weather game?

They all huddle in a group and discuss the answer except John who mimes deep thought.

John: Does anyone have a scrap of paper?

(*Dorothy* hands him a tiny scrap of paper and he scribbles furiously)

John:
murmuring....pens...umm...stationary...umm.
.desks untidy....entropy always
increases.....umm...oh the weather game of
course!!! (*more furious scribbling*)
(*to shonk and Robin*) Ah haaa. Right so from these workings (pulls out a massive scroll from nowhere) its obvious of course that the Walker institute have stolen them all!

Robin: Right I'm off to get our pens back! (exit Robin)

Dorothy: Oh well done scarecrow, you did really well, you've obviously got a brain after all.

Dorothy, Rosemarie, John and Anthony gather for a group hug

Shonk: (looking panicked) Oi, come back. Wicked wadar Rob won't be happy! I need to call in the superiors (*whistles and runs offstage*).

Enter Sid and Ken striding with an air of superiority. Dorothy, Rosemarie, John and Anthony stand aside and celebrate, Dorothy at the back

Ken: Ohh nice badge Sid

Sid: Thanks Ken, I got for my 70 years of loyal service! So Ken how do you feel on your last assignment? Are you looking forward to hanging up your wings? I bet you can smell those steam engines already..

Ken: Yeah I can't wait. (looks across the stage) Isn't that Dorothy... She's on Rob's weally weally wanted list . We better capture her before she gets into the crèche! Lets take her to Wicked wadar Rob.

Sid and Ken creep over the Dorothy and grab her offstage making sure she doesn't make any noise so the others don't notice.

ROSEMARIE, JOHN AND ANTHONY still celebrating John...notice that Dorothy is missing

John: Hang on a minute where's Dorothy?

Rosemarie, John and Anthony head away from the Creche to look for Dorothy.

LIGHTS DOWN

SCENE 6 (Narrator; Dorothy; Toto; Wob; John; Anthony; Rosemarie; Ellie; Cristina; Sue)

Lights up, Dorothy and Toto are on stage in the dungeon.

Narrator: Oh dear! Things are not looking up for our Dorothy. She's locked up in a giant cot at the crèche. The mothers sit Rob in it to calm

down when his Cricket Tourettes gets too much. At least Dorothy's been reunited with Toto the cow, but she's not going to save the world from in there.

Dorothy: Oh no Toto, we're not going to be able to save the world from in here.

Toto whispers to Dorothy

Dorothy: What's that Toto, you think you can get out of here using your powers of persuasion to confuse Wicked Wadar Rob into letting you free?

Toto nods

Dorothy: Go on then it's worth a shot

Enter Rob and Shonk (from the other side of the stage to Dorothy and Toto)

Rob: I can't believe it Shonk, even though I've got the biggestt bweathts of all the mothers, I thtill can't feed my baby. I have to find thome milk fwom thomewhere.

Dorothy: Hey wadar Rob, Toto wants to talk to you.

Rob and Shonk move to Dorothy and toto. Toto whispers in Rob's ear

Rob: What's that toto, you can pprovide nutwithiouth lactothe for my offthpwing? That's a great idea.

Toto nods and whispers again

Rob: But you need actheth to a conthtant thupply of fweth gwith, and there is a lack in the dungeon?

Toto nods

Rob: Ah well, we have plenty out in the fieldth at crèche Chilbolton, I thuppothe we can let you roam around there for a while. But only if you

promithe not to try and escape. You wouldn't try to escape would you?

Toto shakes her head possibly some audience oh yes she is ...

Rob lets toto out and Rob toto and shonk exit the stage. Lights down.

Lights up. Toto is on stage miming eating grass. Maybe a large sign saying 'Conthant Thupply of Fweth Gwath'

Rosemarie, John and Anthony enter the stage from other side.

Toto whispers in John's ear.

John: What's that skippy? A friend of yours is in trouble?

Toto nods

John: Dorothy?

Toto nods

John: she wears red shoes?

Toto nods

John: It must be our friend. We have to help her, where is she?

All exit the stage following Toto.

Narrator: While Toto leads Rosemarie, John and Anthony back to the Creche, the mothers have gathered to knit new clothes for their babies and discuss how well their plan is working.

Lights up...mothers on stage...

Ellie: I've been knitting this jumper for my son, but I've just dropped a stitch, could you help me Cristina?

Cristina: Oh no I can't help you. I've got my own things to knit. Especially if our plan comes together. I'll need all the jumpers I can get!

Ellie: Well yes, it certainly has become a little colder round these parts lately. Rob really is a clever guy offsetting climate change like this.

Enter Toto and Rosemarie, John and Anthony. Rosemarie is looking around not bovered

Hilary: What with all these strangers?

Ellie: I'm not sure, I wonder if any of them know how to knit?

John: No I can't knit, how stupid.

Anthony: Sorry, I'm lacking opposable thumbs.

All look to Rosemarie

Rosemarie: *(Notices they're all looking at her)* Am I bovered? I don't know how to knit.

Everybody still stares at her...awkward pause

Rosemarie: Oh alright then let's see what I can do.

Rosemarie joins the knitters.

Rosemarie: I'm glad to be inside now, it's gotten quite cold of late. Very bizarre, so much for a barbecue summer!

Ellie: Well yes, Wob has found a way to reverse climate change, all we need to do is talk a lot. It's very clever.

Cristina: Yes, I knew all that work Andrew was doing on the stratosphere wasn't COMPLETELY wasted.

Sue: Quite, who'd have thought that the stratosphere could actually be used for GOOD? One sudden warming and this global warming nonsense can be ignored.

Rosemarie: *(starts to realise what's going on)*
What? Rob's made you all talk so much that
you're warming the stratosphere.

Ellie: *(correcting Rosemarie)* Wob!

Rosemarie: Don't be silly, everybody knows that
this geo-engineering is a load of old tosh!
Don't be sucked into wicked Rob's wediculous
stwategy for world domination. Brian tried to
do a similar thing ages ago, that's how I ended
up knitting jumpers for the entire met
department during the great winter of 1963/4.
Anyway, Rob's just using you all to get one
over on the Emerald City after he was
humiliated by them on the cricket field.

Sue: So we aren't saving the planet for our kids?

Rosemarie: No, the only way to do that is to give
up your knitting and all this talking and stop
Rob's dastardly plan for world domination.

Ellie: Oh thanks Rosemarie, we didn't realise,
what a saviour you really are, you must have a
very big heart.

Rosemarie: Well, maybe I do....maybe I've had it
all along?

Song?

END SCENE 6

**SCENE 7 (Narrator; John; Anthony; Wob;
Dorothy; Rosemarie; Mothers{Ellie, Sue,
Cristina,Hilary})**

Narrator: With Rosemarie having gained her
heart and pacifying the mothers meeting, only
Radar Rob remains of the mothers clan. It
looks like he's out up on the castle roof, but
what is it he's doing?

Munchkin *(offstage):* Duck!

Narrator: Where? Oh! *Narrator Ducks.(radar
beam from Rob heads towards the narrators
head).*

Narrator: Where did that come from? Darth
Radar? Looks like Radar Rob is pointing his
radar at our adventurers and the munchkins.

Rob: You may have defeated all my mothers in
my absence, but I've improved this radar
beyond all recognition (radar joke?) There's no
way I can be stopped from reversing climate
change and ruining the Emerald City's forecast
(evil cackle)

Anthony and John + *munchkins are on stage.*

Rob *zaps a couple of munchkins.*

Anthony *shyly plays with his tail*

Anthony: Rob's going to kill everyone, or
possibly even hurt someone like this, someone
will have to find a way to stop him.

John: Well we're the only ones here, except the
munchkins – and we all know they're only
radar fodder. We are going to have to do
something Anthony. Thank god Rosemarie
isn't here though, as the Tin Man, I'm sure her
plans would be quickly foiled.

Rob: *(pointing his radar around)* Pow, ... Pow, ...
SIX *(raises both hands above head),* Pow ...
Zappow,

John *gets a leg set on fire by the radar. Runs
around audience flapping on fire limbs.*

John: Ouuuuuuuccchhhh *(looks down)* I'm on fire,
I'm on fire... I swear I'm warmer now than I
was during the RMetS conference in June!

Rob: HOWZATTTTTTTTTTTTTTTT!!!! Yes, GOT
ONE, LBW – Leg Before Wadar. Ha. Finally –
that's what you get if I'm the cwicket wadar
witch of the west. *(Louder...)* Now just the
cowardly lion to go... I bet he doesn't have the
courage to take me on. *(Evil cackle)*

Anthony turns from introvert to extravert as Rob mentions cowardly.

Audience + others: Booooo

Anthony: Cowardly? Cowardly!?!?? Why don't you just come down here and then we'll see who's cowardly?

(Rob enters)

Rob: Ha, You're no match for my radar! Time to bowl you a Doppler Googly!

Anthony: **taken aback** Noo, that my left paw... that's the one I use to type

Munchkin enters with Lidar

Anthony: Thankyou my munchkin minion. Take a look at my LIDAR SABER **vzchoom** **vzchoom**!

Rob: My radar has more power that your measly wand!

Anthony: But mine has a higher extinction coefficient

Rob *(looks worried):* SIDELOBE!

Anthony: RESOLUTION!

Rob: REFLECTIVITY

Anthony: PULSE REPETITION FREQUENCY

Narrator: That's Wadarwang!

Rob: SILLY MID OFF

Anthony: Your cricket jargon won't stump me!

John returns, much more on fire than before. Enters stage completely calmly, stands in between Rob and Anthony.

Scarecrow (100% seriously / deadpan): Erm, excuse me, I know you guys are a bit busy, but I'M STILL ON FIRE!!!

Anthony: *(takes glasses, perches on end of nose)* Yeeeeeeees! *(pause)*. So I see. If only there was some sort of portable, low energy, carbon neutral water source around here! Then I'd put you out in no time!

Audience + others: It's behind you.

Anthony: Oh no it isn't.

Audience: Oh yes it is.

Anthony: Ah yes, the water cooler, ... lets see if we can put you out then...

Sprays water cooler towards scarecrow. Rob is also inadvertently sprayed by water

Scarecrow dramatically falls to ground, rips off flames and recovers.

Rob: Oww, that weally hurt.

Anthony aims a second blast towards Rob.

Anthony: Vulnerable to water rob? Attenuate this...

Rob: Ahh, my radar, my radar. You've got me. I'm melting, I'm disintegwating.

Rob falls to floor/off stage.

Blizzard instantly stops! Sun comes out.

Anthony: Ahh, hurrah, I've done it, I've defeated the Wicked Witch,

Enter Dorothy and Rosemarie + mothers

Everybody: Hooray! Well done Anthony.

Rosemarie: So, I've had a good natter with the mothers, and I've got them to stop talking so

much. We're now busy knitting a massive Royal Met Sock. Oh, and now that Wicked Rob has been defeated we've managed to release Dorothy from the confines of the castle dungeon. We left the Stratosphere group down there though, to teach them a lesson.

John: Good work Rosemarie, I knew you'd put that heart to good use. I tell you what, I've still got some of my straw left. Let's head back to the Emerald City, and when we get there I suggest we all have a long overdue barbecue. Maybe those Emerald City employees deserve their bonuses now that their forecast should be correct.

Anthony: Ah, such a good idea, you always were the brains of the bunch.

John: Well, maybe, but I'd never have the courage to stand up to wicked Wob like you did – very brave.

All exit stage.

END SCENE 7

SCENE 8 (Julia; Keith; Dorothy; Christine)

*Dorothy, Toto, John, Anthony arrive in The Emerald City.
Wizard and Julia are having a barbecue.*

Julia: Mmmm, this Barbeque is delicious Keith.
waves kebab around. Your large Burger number is impressive!

Dorothy: Hey, Keith, Keith, look, the blizzard's stopped – we defeated the wicked witch of the west. Looks like the barbecue summer that you forecast is back on.

Wizard: Great, Thanks for defeating wicked Wob, it would never have happened without you guys. If only there was some way that we could thank you for it.

Dorothy: Well, you did promise that you would take us back to Reading if we stopped the blizzard. That would be kind of nice, then I could get around to submitting my thesis.

Wizard: Ah, the thing about that is... the flying machine that I've been working on is still missing a few parts.

Dorothy: Well, you see, I may have just the thing. (pause) the Good Witch of the North, Julia Slingo gave us this. A Fantastic RadioSonde or something, maybe that will help you?

Wizard: A-ha, this is just what I need to fix my flying machine, I've been working on it for ages. Once it's fixed we will be able to travel back to Reading easily. Wait, did you say Fantastic RadioSonde?... that's an F-R-S, that does sound awfully familiar.

Radiosonde appears on stage/screen.

Everyone clambers into instrument pack including Daisy!

Radiosonde ascends, and drifts back to Reading.

Shine: Hang on – turbulence! **cue hammy jumping up and down acting in radiosonde**

*Upon Arrival in Reading, Men in red jumpers run onto stage and are everywhere fixing the electrical fault. Shouting etc
Cast Disembark radiosonde.*

Mechanic: (to Dorothy) Awright Guv, You'll find that the lethal electrical fault in 1U07, that's been present for just 12 years, has now been fixed.

Dorothy: Great, I'll just nip off and print my thesis.

Dorothy exits.

Anthony: Phew, I sure am glad that I'm back in Reading now, that was far too much excitement for me. It's definitely about time I retired I think.

Rosemarie: Oh excellent, another excuse for a party!

Dorothy and Christine enter chatting.

Dorothy:...and then we got in this biiiiiiiiig balloon and it brought us all back to the department!

Christine: I really think you've been working too hard. You've not been seeing Dr. Ambaum, have you **indicates smoking a spliff**. Still, you'll be able to have a rest once you submit your thesis!

Dorothy: Speaking of which, Christine, I Dorothy 'Dotty' Perkins do hereby give you

shouts from everyone else on stage GET ON WITH IT!

Dorothy: Oh alright. Chrisinte, I submit my thesis!

Dorothy submits to Christine. (*because Rosemarie is busy knitting socks*)

Christine: Congratulations! How are going to celebrate?

Dorothy: Anyone up for a barbeque?!?

Other member of staff: One more thing Dorothy, where have you stored all of your relevant thesis files?(one liner).

Dorothy: Well you know what they say, there's no place like home (with /home/Dorothy flashes up on screen).

END SCENE

All cast enter stage for... Final Song