

The Hundred Dresses

By Eleanor Estes

Adapted by Penelope Caywood and Ms. Bullough's 4th Grade Class

There are three platforms onstage equally spaced out. The first is Stage Right and is for

Wanda. The second is center stage and is for **Maddie.**

The third is Stage Left and is for **Peggy.**

At the top of the show lights come up on the three girls on the platform. They pantomime putting a dress on or actually put a dress on. They pretend to be looking in a mirror and adjust their dresses. They freeze while the rest of the class enters and takes their places in a tableaux around one of the three platforms.

What is a friend?

A friend is someone you can trust and who is there for you.

A friend is someone who likes to play with you.

Being a friend means to care and help out.

Being a friend means that you treat others how you want to be treated.

What would you do if someone made fun of your friend?

Would you stand up for them?

What would you do if someone made fun of someone you don't even know? Would you say something to stop them? Are you sure?

TRACK # _____ (Music transition)

ALL:

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WANDA (Trista):
My name is Wanda

MOLLY:
Wanda Petronski

TYLER:
No one in Room 13 has a name like that.

GRETA:
No one in the entire school has a name like that!

ALL:
Wanda Petronski

ALL M and ALL P:
Our names are easy to say.
(Students start saying their names)

JAMES:
Wanda lives way up on Boggins Heights

WALTER:
And Boggins Heights is no place to live.

TIGERLILY:
She lives there with her father and her brother Jake.

SYDNEY:

Wanda doesn't have any friends.

GRETA:

She is very quiet and rarely says anything at all.

TYLER:

She always wore a blue faded dress.

MOLLY:

And it just didn't look right.

PEGGY (Asseya):

My name is Peggy.

JARRIESSE:

Peggy is the most popular girl in school

ALYSEN:

She was pretty and she had pretty clothes, too.

STORM:

Peggy had made up a game of asking Wanda questions everyday before school.

PEGGY:

Oh, Wanda! Waaaannnda!

WANDA:

Yes?

PEGGY:

Wanda, tell us how many dresses you have?

WANDA:

A hundred.

PEGGY and ALL P's:

(laughing and making fun of Wanda)

A hundred!

ZOE:

What are they like?

NEELOFAR:

All silk and all colors, I bet!

WANDA:

And velvet, too. All lined up in my closet.

JARRIESSE:

A hundred dresses?

SEAN:

Obviously, the only dress Wanda has is the blue one she wears every day!

ALYSEN:

Why did she say she had a hundred?

ALL P's:

(Laugh and return to places by platform.)

TRACK # _____

What do you think, Maddie?

How do you feel, Maddie?

What are you gonna do, Maddie?

MADDIE (Maddie:

I don't think that was very nice but what can I say to Peggy? She's my friend.

ABRIEL:

Maddie is Peggy's best friend.

CLARISSA:

Her family is poor – but not too many people know about that.

MADDIE:

What should I do?

AUSTIN/CATHERINE:

Walk right up to Peggy and say "Hey Peg, let's stop asking Wanda how many dresses she has."

MATTHEW:

You can do it! Don't be such a wimp, Maddie.

MADDIE:

I'm not a wimp! I just don't want to hurt anyone's feelings.

CODY:

And you don't want to be picked on or made fun of, too.

MADDIE:

Peggy is my friend. She doesn't mean to be rude to Wanda. I'm sure of it. I think.

LIAM:

But Maddie didn't have the courage to say anything and the teasing went on the next morning before school.

PEGGY:

Wanda, how many shoes did you say you had?

WANDA:

Sixty.

JARRIESSE:

Sixty pairs or sixty shoes?

WANDA:

Sixty pairs. All lined up in my closet.

NEELOFAR:

Yesterday you said fifty.

All P's:

(laugh)

TRACK # _____

(School bell rings. Kids run around and get into rows and recite the Pledge of allegiance. All sit down.)

TRACK # _____

Teacher's Voice:

Boys and girls, let's begin on page 32 of your history books. Wanda, would you please start reading at the top of the page.

WANDA:

(Wanda has a hard time reading the book and sounds things out very slowly.)

(Students laugh and make funny noises)

ABRIEL:

Wanda had a hard time reading but her teacher tried to help her.

CLARISSA:

That didn't stop the other students from making fun of her, though.

TRACK # _____

Teacher's Voice:

Boys and girls, don't forget to turn in your drawings for the drawing and coloring contest.

TRACK # _____ (School Bell rings and students scatter)

PEGGY:

I can draw better than anyone in our class.

MADDIE:

You will probably win the girls' medal.

PEGGY:

Probably?

MADDIE:

Of course you'll win, Peg.

PEGGY:

Hope so.

TRACK # _____ (Musical Transition)

JAMES:

The next day in class was the same as most days.

ALL:

...and justice for all

JARRIESSE:

Except that Wanda wasn't in school that day.

AUSTIN/CATHERINE:

The next day nobody noticed her absence again, except the teacher.

ALYSEN:

On the third day, everyone finally noticed that Wanda wasn't there.

ALL:

Where's Wanda?

TRACK # _____ (School Bell)

MOLLY:

The next day Maddie and Peggy hurried to school.

TIGERLILY:

They didn't wait for Wanda because today was important.

PEGGY:

Maddie, do you want to wait for Wanda and have some fun with her?

MADDIE:

Today is too important – we find out who wins the art contest today.

C'mon, let's go!

TRACK # _____ (Crew moves the boards in the back that reveal the 100 dresses)

Kids enter the class and look around – reacting to the pictures on the boards.

TRACK # _____

TEACHER:

Boys and girls, please settle down. I'd like to announce the winner of the art contest. Although just one or two sketches were submitted by most students, one girl – and I think Room 13 should be very proud of her – this one girl actually drew one hundred designs – all different and all beautiful. In the opinion of the judges, any one of her drawings is worthy of winning the prize. I am happy to say that Wanda Petronski is the winner of the medal.

PEGGY:

But, Miss Mason, Wanda has been absent for days. So who is really going to get the medal.

TRACK # _____

TEACHER:

Why Peggy, she has written to me and I am glad to know where she she lives so that I can send her the medal. I want to read her letter to you.

WANDA:

Dear Miss Mason:

How are you and Room 13? Please tell the girls they can keep the hundred dresses because in my new house I have a hundred new ones all lined up in my closet.

(Students react)

WANDA:

I'd like that girl Peggy to have the drawing of the green dress with the red trimming and her friend Maddie to have the blue one. I miss that school and my new teacher isn't as good as you were.

Yours truly, Wanda Petronski.

TRACK # _____ (School Bell)

TEACHER:

Boys and girls, I want you to go home and think about the way you treated Wanda when she was here.

ALL:

Yes, Miss Mason.

(All leave except Peggy and Maddie – they go get a picture off the board)

TRACK # _____

PEGGY:

Boy, that letter shows she really liked us even after all the times we made fun of her.

MADDIE:

I feel sad that will never see her again. We can never say we're sorry to her face.

PEGGY:

Hey, look at this picture – that looks like me! She drew me!

MADDIE:

And this one looks like me!

PEGGY:

Let me see ... That IS you.

What did I say! She must have liked us anyway!

MADDIE:

Yes, she must have!

(ALYSEN walks into the scene holding TRISTA's hand and then joins hands with ASEEYA and MADDIE)

YOU COULD BE MY FRIEND

Solo

We could stand side by side. We could see eye to eye.
We could walk hand in hand. And you could be my friend.

All

We could stand side by side. We could see eye to eye.
We could walk hand in hand. And you could be my friend.

I've made up my mind, I want to find friendship and peace.
There's no other way. It's starts today, it starts with me.

We could stand side by side. We could see eye to eye.
We could walk hand in hand. And you could be my friend.

Solo

And you could be my friend.