

# RPL Into the Woods: Audition Notes

**Note from Marney:** My primary goal in auditions at RPL is always, above all, is to give kids a positive, empowering audition experience! Being nervous is normal and to be expected, but I want the kids to know that I just want them to have fun and one of my great joys is that I get to have fun with them! Every single person in the show will get their own special moment to shine! Auditions are a way for me to get to know the kids with whom I've never worked, and for the kids who know me to have fun preparing something new. Auditions are private, although parents are welcome to come in, if that will make the child more comfortable.

This packet has a lot of suggestions but please know there are no "rules" for an audition (other than kindness and respect for others) -- your child can literally come in and just have a conversation with me as a way to get started!

**A Quick Summary:** Here is the short version of what is involved in the audition.

1. Sing a song from the show (or, actually, it can be any song you like)
2. Read (or recite from memory) your choice of 1-2 readings in this booklet.
3. Parent completes a form including schedule preferences and all potential conflicts, so a full rehearsal schedule can be made.

Also, there are plenty of speaking-only roles, which do not include sung solos. If you do not want a sung solo, you can pick one of the readings and that will be just fine!

Songs from the show can be downloaded from this ZIP file: <http://www.artella-land.com/RPL/ITW-songs.zip>

Two songs from the show that will work really well for any role are:

- The excerpt of prologue named "IAuditionSnippet" - this is an uptempo song that is typical of Sondheim's style of fast-paced lyric acrobatics
- Any part of "Children Will Listen" which is the Finale

## More Details (for those who like more info!)

For your audition, you can sing a capella, or I will have backtracks to these versions of the songs if you prefer. Once the show is cast, I transpose the music so that each song is in a comfortable key for each actor. The range for children is usually different from the keys in which adults usually sing, so don't worry about trying to match the range of the recording perfectly.

In addition to the song, you will be asked to prepare 1-2 readings, selecting one of the samples in this pack. You can memorize them or read them with a script. Kids not comfortable reading can either memorize beforehand, or simply repeat the lines after us in the audition.

Songs in the ZIP file is: <http://www.artella-land.com/RPL/ITW-songs.zip>

*(Note: Most of these songs have already been shortened from the originals. Many will be further shortened for the Juniors version. The \* indicates songs planned for Mainstage only.)*

### **!Audition Snippet (Note: this is a great song for anyone to learn and sing)**

- 1- Prologue (All)
- 2 - Hello Little Girl (Wolf)
- 3 - Maybe They're Magic (Baker's Wife)
- 4- I Know Things Now (Red Riding Hood)
- \*5 - Giants in the Sky (Jack)
- 6 - Agony (Cinderella's Prince & Rapunzel's Prince)

- \*7 - Moments in the Woods (Baker's Wife)
- 8 - Stay with Me (Witch)
- 9 - On the Steps of the Palace (Cinderella)
- \*10 - No More (Baker's and Mysterious Man)
- 11 - It Takes Two (Baker and Baker's Wife)
- 12 - Ever After (Narrator and company)
- 13 - Children Will Listen (Witch, Rapunzel, and company)

## Roles to Be Cast (and audition song suggestions)

**Narrator** – male or female – has a large speaking part through the show, and some singing parts that explain the action, and leads the Finale (Ever After.)

**The Baker:** the story revolves around the Baker and his wife who are tasked by the witch to get special ingredients in order to lift a spell, so that they may have a child. The Baker loves his wife but is stubborn and wants to do everything by himself, though he finally realizes they need to work together (It Takes Two.) When he feels like he wants to give up, he is encouraged by the Mysterious Man, whom he eventually learns is actually his father (No More.)

**The Baker's Wife** – is a spunky gal who doesn't just want to stay home, she wants to take a more active role in breaking the curse (Maybe They're Really Magic) and as she does, she finds herself drawn in all the adventures in the woods (Moments in the Woods.)

**Cinderella's Prince and Rapunzel's Prince** – These two are the comedy duo of the show, as the two princes commiserate on whose situation is worse in an over-dramatic, hilarious song (Agony.)

**Jack** - a delightful, innocent young boy who trades his beloved cow for magic beans, and then climbs a beanstalk to the sky to meet a Giant (Giants in the Sky.)

**Wolf** (or perhaps wolves) - a sneaky animal who is following Little Red (Hello Little Girl.)

**Little Red Ridinghood** – a young girl (or perhaps girls) who go into the woods to see Grandma, has a fearful encounter with the wolf, and then lives to tell about it! (I Know Things Now.)

**Cinderella** - the traditional princess, except after she goes to the ball and meets the Prince, she is not sure if that is what she really wants (On the Steps of the Palace.)

**The Mysterious Man** (*Mainstage Only*) - A character continues to insert himself into the story, who actually is the Baker's father. His confession to the Baker encourages the Baker to keep going on his quest (No More.)

**The Witch** – The wicked sorceress who put the curse on the Baker but also wants him to break it, so that she can once again become beautiful. She has raised Rapunzel as her daughter and shielded her from the world in a tower, thinking that she has done a good thing by doing so (Stay With Me.)

**Rapunzel** - the beautiful princess who is trapped in a tower and longs to escape and see the world, who helps the witch come full circle to understand the consequences of her wicked ways. (will sing a solo in Children Will Listen)

Other roles include the following; all of these can either be singing or speaking-only roles:

**Cinderella's mother**, an angel-like figure who sings to Cinderella through the magic tree

**Cinderella's stepmother and stepsisters Lucinda and Florinda**, who are comic roles with their larger-than-life personalities

**The Steward**, who helps the Prince find Cinderella

**Milky White**, Jack's beloved Cow

**Jack's Mother**, bewildered at Jack's adventures

**Granny**, Red Ridinghood's Grandmother, who escapes from the wolf

# Into the Woods: Readings

Select 1 or 2 to prepare for the audition. Maximum 2 readings, please! :-)

NARRATOR: *(narrating events at the beginning of a scene)* The Witch, who had been punished with age and ugliness that night when her beans had been stolen and the lightning flashed, was not returned to her former state of youth and beauty. And Milky-White, after a night of severe indigestion, was reunited with the now wealthy Jack. As for what happened next? Let's look!

BAKER: Oh dear. Now I'll never get that red cape, nor find the golden cow, or a yellow slipper – or was it a golden slipper and a yellow cow? Oh, no. *(seeing his wife)* What are you doing here? You have no business being alone in the Wood. No go home immediately! I will make things right. And then we can just go about our life. No more hunting about in the Woods for strange objects. Please, go home.

BAKER'S WIFE: *(to Cinderella)*: What a beautiful gown you're wearing. Were you at the King's Festival? Ah, Aren't you the lucky one. If a Prince were pursuing me, I certainly wouldn't hide. Tell me about the ball. Oh, to be pursued by a prince. All that pursues me is tomorrow's bread. What I wouldn't give to be in your shoes *(sees the shoes, and realizes it is one of the potion ingredients)* ...your slipper...that looks as pure as...gold!

RAPUNZEL'S PRINCE: *(dramatically)* Rapunzel, Rapunzel. *(it suddenly hits him)* What a strange name. But beautiful! And fit for a Princess! Tomorrow, before that horrible Witch arrives, I will stand before her window and ask her to let down her hair to me!

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE: *(dramatically)* I have been looking all night, for...her. The beautiful one I danced the evening with! She disappeared. A maiden running from a Prince? How does that make sense? None would run from us. Yet one has.

JACK: Good fortune, good fortune! Look what I have, here's five gold pieces! Now, where is Milky White? You said I might buy her back, so I'm here to buy her back now. If you want more money, I know where I can get more. Up in the sky there are endless riches. Here, keep these coins. I will go fetch more!

WOLF: Good day, young lady. Why do you run away so hurriedly? What be in your basket? Why not stay a while to enjoy the flowers? Hooowwwwllllll!

LITTLE RED: Good day, grandmother. My, grandmother, you're looking very strange. What big ears you have. Grandmother, what big eyes you have! Oh Grandmother – what a terrible, big wet mouth you have! Oh my - You aren't Grandmother at all!

CINDERELLA: This is the branch I planted to remember my mother. Every time I visit, my tears water it so much that it has now become this handsome tree. Oh, mother, I wish...I am not even sure if I know what I wish. How can we ever be sure? How can we be certain what we wish is what we want?

WITCH: *(seeing that Rapunzel has been rescued by the Prince from the woods)* Oh, my daughter! I was going to come fetch you as soon as you learned your lesson. This is who I truly am. Come with me, child. We can be happy as we once were. Please, come with me. You are the only family I know. Come with me. Please. *(deciding she has no choice but to put a spell on them)* – You give me no choice! *(realizes that her powers no longer work)* Noooo!

(Option #2 for Witch: The “Witch’s Rap” that starts at about 4:00 into the Into the Woods Opening is a great choice. It’s been cut with some lyric alterations from the original.)

RAPUNZEL: I didn't tell you I had a visitor because I was afraid of what you might do. It was so lonely atop that tower. I am no longer a child. I want to see the world. My Prince has found me and now we can finally live happily ever after – something that can only happen without you.

MYSTERIOUS MAN: *(when the witch is about to tell the Baker his secret, that he is actually the Baker's father)* Please, don't tell him just now. I didn't want to run away from you son, but ... no, this isn't important now. Do what you need to do! You must reverse the curse! You can finally do what I could never do for you...now you do it for yourself!