

SCENE SIX: On a Nearby Hilltop

BONZO enters sadly and sits down. PHILLIP, CARL, BEN, GEMMA, SAMANTHA and LOUISE enter.

PHILLIP: Hey! Isn't that one of the clowns that we saw in the circus act the other night?

SAM: Oh yes! *(Pause)* Why is he sitting here all alone?

LOUISE: He looks so unhappy.

GEMMA: It's not right seeing a clown miserable, is it?

CARL: Hey! You! Mr Clown! What are you sitting here for?

BONZO jumps and stands up.

BONZO: Oh, hello! I didn't expect anyone to be around at this time.

LOUISE: We're on school holidays. You're from the circus, aren't you? What's your name?

BONZO: Yes I am, I'm Bonzo.

BEN: *(Snorting with laughter)* Bonzo! What a daft name!

GEMMA: Shut up you! It's no dafter than Ben!

CARL: So why are you sitting up here all alone?

BEN: *(Nastily)* I bet they threw him out. I thought he was rubbish.

SAM: Oh, don't be so horrible, Ben, I thought the clowns were really good.

PHILLIP: Yes, but he wasn't as good as the others though, was he? He kept making mistakes.

LOUISE: I'm sure he doesn't need reminding, Phillip! *(To BONZO)* Is that why you're so unhappy?

BONZO: Yes. No. Well, sort of.

LOUISE: Have they thrown you out of the circus?

- BONZO:** Not yet, but they will do.
- SAM:** Why, what's wrong?
- BONZO:** I can't smile.
- PHILLIP:** What do you mean, you can't smile? Everyone can smile.
- BONZO:** Well I can't. I lost my smile a couple of weeks ago and I can't get it back again.
- GEMMA:** *(Sympathetically)* Aah. I think that's really sad.
- BEN:** Well, I think it's stupid. Whoever heard of a clown without a smile?
- BONZO:** Exactly. Nobody. That's why they'll throw me out of the circus.
- CARL:** But can't you just paint a smile on? That's what all the other clowns do.
- BONZO:** I tried that, but you need to be happy inside for that to work, and I'm not.
- CARL:** Is that why you kept making mistakes, then?
- BONZO:** *(Sadly)* Yes.
- CARL:** Well, you've got a real problem, haven't you?
- BONZO:** *(Sadly)* I know.
- LOUISE:** I don't think that pointing out the obvious is going to help him, Carl.
- CARL:** I'm just trying to think it through, that's all; see if we can't help him to come up with a solution.

There is a long pause whilst they all try to think of a solution.

- SAM:** So you've tried painting a smile on?
- BONZO:** Yes.
- SAM:** And that didn't work?
- BONZO:** No.

- GEMMA:** Have you tried thinking happy thoughts? I always feel happy when I imagine a huge bowl of chocolate ice cream.
- PHILLIP:** And playing on my new computer makes me feel happy.
- SAM:** Or you could do something to cheer you up. I really like dancing to my music.
- CARL:** Or try watching a funny programme on television. Mr Bean always makes me laugh.
- BEN:** I feel really happy when I think about beating up Tommy Jackson.
- LOUISE:** Shut up, Ben! If you can't think of something sensible to say, don't say anything.
- BEN:** I was only trying to help.
- GEMMA:** Well you aren't, so keep quiet!
- BONZO:** I've tried everything I can think of: happy thoughts, comedy programmes, joke books, but nothing seems to work. Mr Big - that's the owner of the circus - even sent me back to Clown School, but they threw me out because I was making all the other clowns miserable.
- SAM:** Oh, that's awful!
- BEN:** No it's not, it's boring. Let's go and find something else to do.
- SAM:** No! We need to think of something to help Bonzo.
- BEN:** Well we can't, can we? I mean, we've made lots of suggestions and he's tried them all, so that's that.
- CARL:** I think Ben's right, Samantha. I don't think we can suggest anything that Bonzo hasn't already tried himself.
- BEN:** Right! Let's go.
- LOUISE:** (*To BONZO*) I'm sorry, Bonzo. I don't think we can help.
- GEMMA:** I hope the circus don't throw you out, I think you're really nice.
- PHILLIP:** Yeah, you'll be really funny when you get your smile back again.