

Fiddler on the Roof Audition Sides

Pick one for your audition. We may ask you to read more.

Males

TEVYE

A fiddler on the roof. Sounds crazy, no? But in our little village of Anatevka, you might say every one of us is a fiddler on the roof, trying to scratch out a pleasant, simple tune without breaking his neck. It isn't easy. You may ask, why do we stay up there if it's so dangerous? We stay because Anatevka is our home And how do we keep our balance? That I can tell you in a word ... Tradition. Because of our traditions, we've kept our balance for many, many years. Here in Anatevka we have traditions for everything ... how to eat, how to sleep, how to wear clothes. For instance, we always keep our heads covered and always wear a little prayer shawl ... This shows our constant devotion to God. You may ask how did this tradition start. I'll tell you - I don't know. But it's a tradition ... Because of our traditions, everyone knows who he is and what God expects him to do.

OR

TEVYE (*speaking to God*)

That was quite a dowry you gave my daughter Tzeitel at her wedding. Was that necessary? ... Anyway, Tzeitel and Motel have been married almost two months now. They work very hard, they are as poor as synagogue mice But they are both so happy they don't know how miserable they are. Motel keeps talking about a sewing machine. I know you're very busy God, - wars and revolutions, floods, plagues - all those little things that bring people to You - couldn't You take a second away from your catastrophes and get it for him? How much trouble would it be? ... Oh, and while You're in the neighborhood, my horse's left leg ... Am I bothering You too much? I'm sorry. As the good book says ... Why should I tell you what the good book says?

PERCHEK (*speaking to Hodel*)

Great changes are about to take place in this country. Tremendous changes. But they can't happen by themselves. Many people, Jew, Gentiles, many people hate what is going on. Don't you understand? Hodel, your father, the others here, think what happened at Tzeitel's wedding was a little cloudburst and it's over and everything will be peaceful again. It won't. Horrible things are happening all over the land ... pogroms, violence; whole villages are being emptied of their people. And it's reaching everywhere, and it will reach here. I have work to do. The greatest work a man can do. Before I go (he hesitates, then summons up courage) there is a certain question I wish to discuss with you, A political question. The question of marriage. And I personally am in favor of it. Do you understand?

MOTEL (*speaking to Tevye*)

Reb Tevye, may I speak to you? I would like to speak to you about your problem. I think I can help. Reb Tevye, I hear you are arranging a match for Tzeitel. I have a match for Tzeitel. A perfect fit. Like a glove. This match was made exactly to measure. (Tevye shouts at Motel). Please, don't shout at me. (Tevye asks.. Who is it?) Who is it? It's me – myself. As for being my own matchmaker, I know it's a little unusual. Times are changing, Reb Tevye. The thing is, your daughter Tzeitel and I gave each other our pledge more than a year ago that we would marry. I have wanted to ask you for some time, Reb Tevye, but first I wanted to save up for my own sewing machine. Reb Tevye, even a poor tailor is entitled to some happiness.

FYEDKA (*speaking to Chava*)

I'm sorry about my friends. They mean no harm. I'd like to talk to you. I've often noticed you at the bookseller's. Not many girls in this village like to read (A sudden thought strikes him. He extends the book he is holding). Would you like to borrow this book? It's very good. Oh..why not? Because I'm not Jewish? Do you feel about us the way they feel about you? I didn't think you would. And what do you know about me? Let me tell you about myself. I'm a pleasant fellow, charming, honest, ambitious, quite bright and very modest. Go ahead, take the book. After you return it, I'll ask you how you like it, and we'll talk about it for a while. Then we'll talk about life, how we feel about things and it can all turn out quite pleasant.

LAZAR WOLF (*speaking to Tevye*)

Tevye, this is very important to me. I'm lonesome. I'm talking about your daughter. Your daughter, Tzeitel. I see her in my butcher shop every Thursday. She's made a good impression on me. I like her. And as for me, Tevye, as you know, I'm pretty well off. I have my own house, a good store, a servant. Look Tevye, why do we have to try to impress each other? Let's shake hands and call it a match. And you won't need a dowry for her and maybe you'll find something in your own purse, too. All right! We won't talk about money. The main thing is, let's get it done. And I will be good to her. I like her. What do you think? You agree? Let's drink on it!

CONSTABLE *(speaking to Tevye)*

Tevya, I have a piece of news that I think I should tell you, as a friend. We have received orders that sometime soon this district is to have a little unofficial demonstration. Just some mischief, so if an inspector comes through, he will see that we have done our duty. Congratulations again, for your daughter.

Females

GOLDE *(speaking to her daughters and Yente)*

It's almost Sabbath. When will Papa be home? All day long riding on top of his wagon like a prince. Yes, I know he works hard, but his horse works harder! And you don't have to defend your Papa to me, I know him a little longer than you. He could drive a person crazy. Shprintza, go bring me some more potatoes. Chava did you finish milking? You were reading again? Why does a girl have to read? Will it get her a better husband? I see Yente coming down the road. Maybe she has good news. Go finish in the barn. I want to talk to Yente alone. Tzeitel, stop complaining about the kind of men Yente finds. A poor girl without a dowry can't be so particular. You want hair, marry a monkey.

OR

GOLDE *(speaking to Tevye after having a nightmare)*

It's an evil spirit! May it fall into the river; may it sink into the earth. Such a dark and horrible dream! And to think it was brought on by that butcher. If my grandmother Tzeitel, may she rest in peace, took the trouble to come all the way from the other world to tell us about the tailor, all we can say is that it is all for the best, and it couldn't possibly be any better. Amen.

YENTE *(speaking to Golde)*

Golde darling, I had to see you because I have such news for you. And not just every day in the week news, once in a lifetime news. And where are your daughters? Outside, no? Good, such diamonds, such jewels. You'll see, Golde, I'll find every one of them a husband. But you shouldn't be so picky... Even the worst husband, God forbid, is better than no husband, God ... And who should know better than me? Ever since my husband died I've been a poor widow, alone, nobody to talk to, nothing to say to anyone. It's no life. All I do at night is think of him, and even thinking of him gives me no pleasure because, you know as well as I, he was not much of a person... Never made a living, everything he touched turned to mud, but better than nothing. But my Aaron couldn't give me children. Believe me, he was good as gold, never raised his voice to me, but otherwise he was not much of a man, so what good is it if he never raised his voice? But what's the use complaining, other women enjoy complaining, but not Yente. Not every woman in the world is a Yente. Well, I must prepare my poor Sabbath table, so goodbye, Golde, and it was a pleasure talking our hearts out to each other.

TZEITEL *(speaking to Tevye after he tells he she will marry Lazar Wolf)*

A match?? The butcher? Lazar Wolf? I know you think it is a blessing, but, Papa, I don't want to marry him. I can't marry him. I can't! Papa, if it's a matter of money, I'll do anything. I'll hire myself out as a servant. I'll dig ditches, I'll haul rocks; only don't make me marry him, Papa, please. I will be unhappy with him. All my life will be unhappy. I'll dig ditches, I'll haul rocks. Is your agreement more important than I am, Papa? Papa, don't force me. I'll be unhappy all my days. Oh, thank you Papa! (pause) Papa, Motel wants to speak with you. He has something he wants to ask you. At least listen to him and please don't yell at him.

HODEL *(speaking to Tevye at train station before she leaves to join Perchek in Siberia)*

You don't have to wait for the train, Papa. You'll be late for your customers. Perchek has been arrested and convicted, but he did nothing wrong. He cares nothing for himself. Everything he does is for humanity. I know he has troubles, but what wrongs did Joseph do, and Abraham, and Moses? And they had troubles. Where is he? It is far, Papa, terribly far. He is in a settlement in Siberia. He did not ask me to go to him. I want to go. I don't want him to be alone. I want to help him in his work. It is the greatest work a man can do. Papa, I promise you, we will be married under a canopy. Goodbye, Papa, God alone knows when we shall see each other again.

CHAVA *(speaking to Fyedka and Tevye)*

My family still does not know about us. I will tell them, but I'm afraid. No Fyedka don't talk to my father. That would be the worst thing, I'm sure of it. I'll talk to him, I promise. *(Fyedka leaves as Tevye enters)*. What were we talking about? Nothing, we were just talking. Papa, Fyedka and I have known each other for a long time and I ...*(Tevye interrupts)*. He has a name, Papa and Fyedka is not a creature, Fyedka is a man. Papa, the world is changing, I know you think some things will never change, but we don't feel that way. Fyedka and I want to be married. You say that I should never talk about this again? Yes, Papa, I understand you.

BIELKA & SHPRINTZE *(speaking to Golde) AGES 8 -12 only*

Mama, where should I put these logs? Where is Chava? She's in the barn milking. When will Papa be home? It's almost Sabbath. Look Mama, Yente's coming. She's down the road. Maybe she's finally found a good match for Tzeitel. Mama, can I go out and play?

PRONUNCIATIONS:

Tevye /tev-yuh/

Yente /yen-tuh/

Perchik /pair - chick/

Motel /maw-tul/

Tzeitel /tzeze-tul/

Chava /ha-vuh/ - the H is guttural

Golde /goal-deh/

Fyedka /fyed-kuh/