

Director's Notes

SUMMARY

Lucy Ladybird is a little too adventurous and becomes lost when she flies off on her own, away from her mother. As she sits on a leaf, sad and alone, other creatures pass by: woodlice, a millipede, spiders and a dung beetle. They wonder what she's doing without her mum...

Night draws in and Lucy is frightened. A family of stag beetles offer to look after her, but she's been told never to talk to stag beetles because they look scary. However, the stag beetles look after Lucy so well that she realises she can trust them. When her mother eventually arrives, Lucy's in trouble – but she protests that the stag beetles have kept her safe. Mrs. Stag Beetle tells Lucy's mum: 'We may be scary on the outside, but we're just like you inside.' Mrs. Ladybird comes to see that they're all part of one big beetle family and decides they can all be friends.

CAST (in order of appearance)

Main Characters

Narrators	Appear throughout. Scripted for two narrators, but could simply be read by the teacher, or shared out between several children. Alternatively, could be a boy and a girl dressed as a pair of gardeners sitting on garden chairs, wearing wellington boots, with props to suit, e.g. trug, gardening gloves etc.
Lucy Ladybird	Central character, appears throughout. [<i>Solo singer, 'Oh dear, what can I do?' although her verses could be sung by a small group on her behalf.</i>]
Stanley & Susie	Stag Beetles. Significant characters. Friendly, kind and enthusiastic, they look after Lucy when she is lost and it's getting dark.
Mrs. Stag Beetle	Stanley & Susie's mother. Several lines in the final scene.
Mrs. Ladybird	Lucy's mother. Several lines in the final scene.

Minor Characters

Bertie & Bessie	Bees. One featured short appearance, minimal dialogue.
Woody	Woodlouse. One featured appearance, small amount of dialogue. Posh accent would be comical, but not essential.
Woodlouse 'Shoobies'	Three confident singers, able to do 'shoobie-doo' fills in Woodlouse song.
Mickey	Millipede. One appearance, small amount of dialogue (& <i>opt. solo line in song</i>)
Sammy	Spider. One featured appearance, small amount of dialogue.
Spiders 2 & 3	Non-speaking parts, one brief appearance.
Dora	Dung beetle. One featured appearance, small amount of dialogue.
Chorus	Bright flowers, e.g. tulips, daffodils, bluebells and extra creepy crawlies.

PROPS / SCENERY

Giant leaf, Downstage Right, upon which Lucy sits. Garden scenery. Garden chairs and trug for narrators (optional). Oversize hankie for Lucy. Spider web and 'insect on stick' props. Big brown ball for Dora. Rotten wood, rotten fruit and pollen for Susie & Stanley (hidden among audience).

COSTUMES

Appropriately coloured leotards/t-shirts and leggings, with facepaint and additional features to suit, e.g. antennae headbands, wings, etc. for insects, petals for flowers.

Director's Overview

Instr. CREEPY INTRO

⦿ Track 1/12

Song WE'RE THE CREEPY CRAWLIES

⦿ Track 2/13

Lucy Ladybird is feeling adventurous. She goes exploring when her mum isn't looking.

Dance FLYING AROUND THE GARDEN

⦿ Track 3/14

Bertie and Bessie, the bees, tell Lucy Ladybird that she shouldn't be flying about on her own. They ask where her mother is. This makes Lucy realise that she's flown too far and she is lost.

Song OH DEAR, WHAT CAN I DO?

⦿ Track 4/15

Bertie and Bessie ask what Lucy is supposed to do if she is lost, and she tells them she's supposed to stay where she is. Along comes **Woody Woodlouse**. Lucy asks if he's seen her mum. He hasn't, but suggests she's probably doing her job in the garden, keeping aphids away. Lucy asks what job Woody does in the garden. He tells her in a song.

Song WOODLOUSE SONG

⦿ Track 5/16

Along comes **Mickey Millipede**. Lucy asks if he's seen her mum. He hasn't, but suggests she's probably busy in the garden, keeping aphids away. Lucy asks what job Mickey does in the garden. He tells her in a song.

Song MILLIPEDE SONG

⦿ Track 6/17

Along comes **Sammy Spider**. Lucy asks if he/she has seen her mum. He/she hasn't, but suggests she's probably busy in the garden keeping aphids away. Lucy asks what job Sammy does in the garden. Sammy tells her in a song.

Song SPIDER SONG

⦿ Track 7/18

Along comes **Dora Dung Beetle**, rolling a big brown ball of dung. Lucy asks her about the ball. Everyone is disgusted to hear that it's a ball of poo! During the song, Dora tells Lucy about her job in the garden.

Song DUNG BEETLE SONG

⦿ Track 8/19

Lucy Ladybird tells Dora that she's lost. She's very worried now, because it's getting dark. Dora asks what Lucy is supposed to do if she's lost. Lucy replies that she's supposed to stay where she is.

Just then, along come **Stanley and Susie, the stag beetles**. Seeing that Lucy is very unhappy, they say hello, but Lucy Ladybird reacts with horror. She isn't meant to talk to strangers, especially stag beetles. Stanley and Susie are only concerned about her safety, and can't understand why she is afraid. Everyone tells them it's because they look scary! Stanley and Susie are upset and call for their mum, **Mrs. Stag Beetle**.

Song STAG BEETLE SONG

⦿ Track 9/20

Lucy becomes increasingly upset and the stag beetles offer to look after her. They fetch pollen for her to eat, then sing her a lullaby.

Song SLEEP, LITTLE LADYBIRD

⦿ Track 10/21

Lucy wakes to find that her mum has arrived. **Mrs. Ladybird** is not impressed that Lucy has disobeyed her by flying so far away. Lucy says sorry. Mrs. Ladybird is also cross that Lucy has been talking to stag beetles! But Lucy protests that they have been kind to her. The stag beetles explain what they did to help, and Mrs. Stag Beetle says: 'We may be scary on the outside, but we are just like you inside.' Mrs. Ladybird comes to see that they are all part of the same family - the Beetle family - and decides that it's okay for them to be friends from now on.

Song NOT SO CREEPY

⦿ Track 11/22