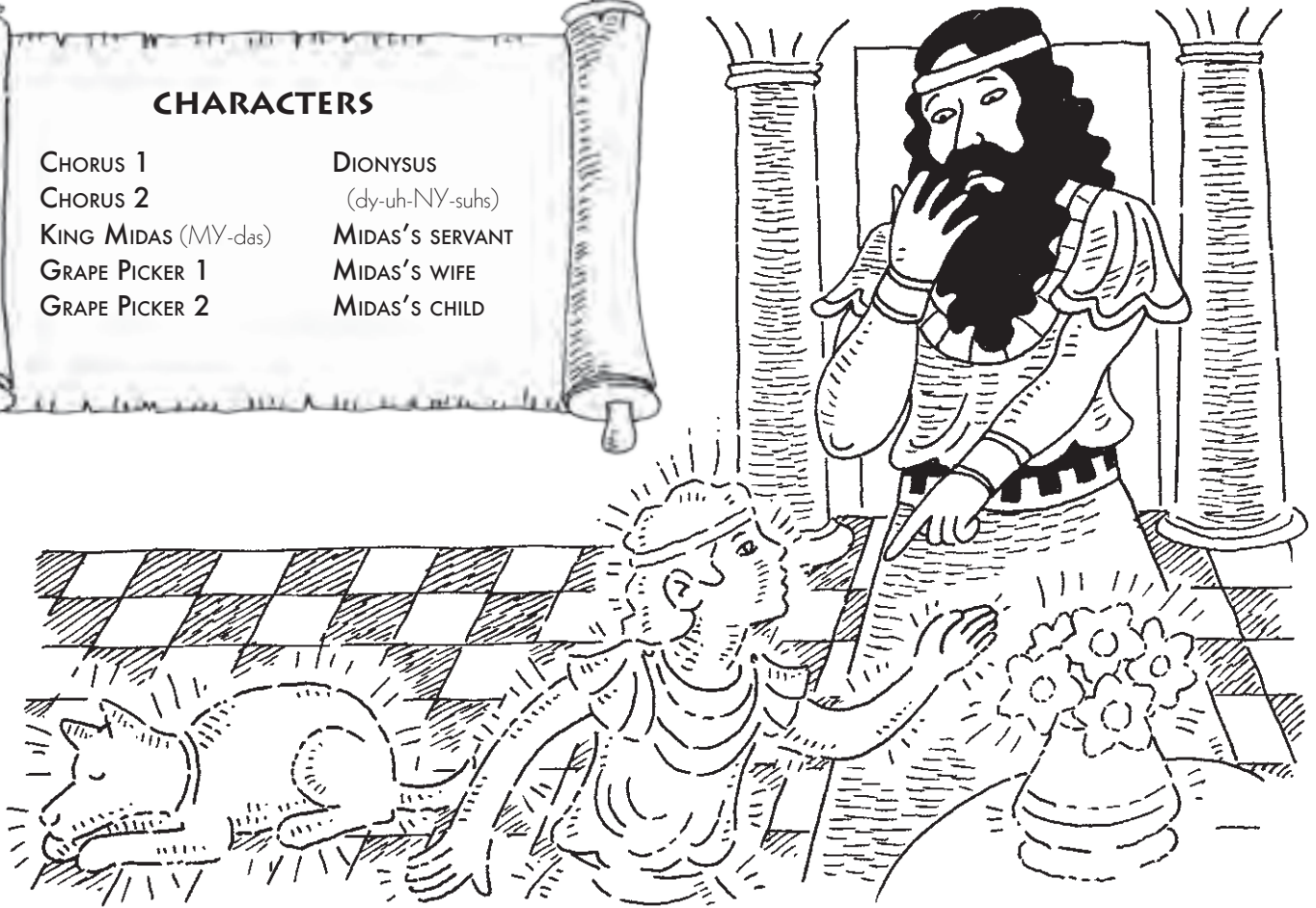


KING MIDAS AND THE GOLDEN TOUCH

CHARACTERS

CHORUS 1	DIONYSUS
CHORUS 2	(dy-uh-NY-suhs)
KING MIDAS (MY-das)	MIDAS'S SERVANT
GRAPE PICKER 1	MIDAS'S WIFE
GRAPE PICKER 2	MIDAS'S CHILD



CHORUS 1: Once there was a king named Midas. Like most kings, he was very wealthy.

CHORUS 2: But Midas was not satisfied with his wealth. Like many kings, he wanted more wealth.

MIDAS: Gold, gold, wonderful gold!
Whenever I see it, I never feel old.
There's one special thing that will make me feel glad—
That's to have the most gold a mortal's ever had!

CHORUS 1: One day some grape pickers found a satyr (*SAY-tuhr*) asleep in Midas's field.

CHORUS 2: A satyr is half man and half goat, and this one was lying in the king's favorite flower bed near a stream.

GRAPE PICKER 1: Be on your way, satyr!

GRAPE PICKER 2: He's sound asleep. He won't budge!

GRAPE PICKER 1: Well, we have to get him away from here, or Midas might be mad!

GRAPE PICKER 2: Hmm . . . there must be something we can do.

MIDAS: Do about what?

GRAPE PICKER 1: This satyr, your majesty.

GRAPE PICKER 2: He's in your favorite flower bed.

MIDAS: That's no matter. Let him be. The poor creature must need his rest if he's sleeping so soundly.

GRAPE PICKERS 1 & 2: Yes, your majesty.

CHORUS 1: So the grape pickers left as the satyr slept on.

CHORUS 2: Suddenly, Dionysus, the god of wine appeared.

DIONYSUS: Well done, Midas!

MIDAS: (*Bowing*) Dionysus, what brings you to my vineyard?

DIONYSUS: I have seen the work of kindness you have bestowed upon my friend. For that you will be rewarded. What is your wish?

MIDAS: My wish?
I wish for gold, gold, wonderful gold!
Whenever I see it I never feel old.
There's one special thing that will make me feel glad—
That's to have the most gold a mortal's ever had!

I wish that everything I touch would turn to gold!

CHORUS 1 & 2: Be careful what you wish for, Midas!

MIDAS: Shush!

DIONYSUS: But you already have more gold than any mortal could ever need!

MIDAS: Ah, there can never be enough gold! May I have my wish?

DIONYSUS: If that is your wish, then it is granted. Now everything you touch will turn to gold.

MIDAS: Thank you, kind Dionysus!

CHORUS 1: After Dionysus and the satyr had left, Midas ran through his gardens, testing his wish.

CHORUS 2: As his feet ran on the grass, it turned to gold!

CHORUS 1: He touched the swaying branches of his trees. The trees turned to gold!

CHORUS 2: And each rosebush he touched turned to gold!

MIDAS: Hee, hee! Hah, hah! Hoo, hoo!

CHORUS 1: Midas was ecstatic.

CHORUS 2: Midas's servant entered, carrying a glass.

SERVANT: Your majesty, I have brought you a cool drink.

MIDAS: Wonderful. Thank you so much.

CHORUS 1: As Midas put his hand on the servant's shoulder, the servant froze and turned to gold!

MIDAS: Oh, my!

CHORUS 2: In came Midas's dog, barking happily and nuzzling up to Midas. She, too, turned to gold!

MIDAS: Oh, dear!

CHORUS 1: Midas's wife entered with her arms extended to embrace Midas.

WIFE: Darling, I've been looking all over for you!

MIDAS: Stay back! Do not touch me!

WIFE: What on earth is going on?

MIDAS: It's a long story. Just stay away.

CHORUS 2: Whew! That was close! Oh, no! Here comes his child!

CHILD: Daddy, daddy!

MIDAS: No, my child. No!

CHORUS 1: But it was too late. Midas's child embraced Midas and instantly turned to gold.

MIDAS: (*To the sky*) Oh, Dionysus! Rid me of this terrible wish!

DIONYSUS: But you have more gold than any mortal. And you will have even more!

MIDAS: My child. My precious child. Nothing is more important!

DIONYSUS: (*Handing Midas a large jar*) Very well. Take this amphora. Bring it to the river and fill it with water. Pour it over everything that has turned to gold, and it will be undone.

MIDAS: (*Taking the jar*) Oh, thank you, kind god.

DIONYSUS: You're welcome. And Midas?

MIDAS: Yes?

DIONYSUS: Next time, be careful what you wish for.

CHORUS 1 & 2: Told you so!

MIDAS: Oh, shush!

CHORUS 2: So Midas did as Dionysus said, and everything that had turned to gold was turned back.

SERVANT: I'll get you some bread to go with your drink.

CHILD: Daddy, daddy! Come play with me!

MIDAS: (*Hugging his child*) Yes, my dear child. Yes!

(*To audience*)

Ladies and gentlemen, take it from me.
Some wishes are bad, as you can see.
I've learned my lesson and now I confess
All I need is what I already possess.

CHORUS 1 & 2: Told you so!

MIDAS: Oh, shush!

THE END



Glossary

mortal: a human being

satyr: a mythological creature that is often shown as having the ears, horns, and legs of a goat and the rest of its body as human

budge: to move or shift

bestowed: gave someone a gift or prize

granted: given

swaying: moving or swinging from side to side

ecstatic: feeling great happiness or extreme joy

nuzzling: cuddling close to someone

embrace: hug

shrugs: raises ones shoulders to show doubt or lack of interest

rid: to remove something that is unwanted

precious: very special or dear

amphora: an ancient Greek jar with two handles and a narrow neck

confess: to admit that you have done something wrong

possess: to own