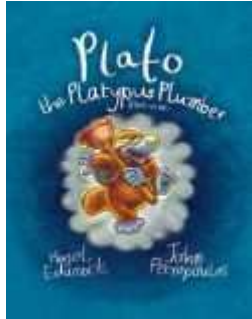


Performance Script:

Inspired by the picture book

Plato the Platypus Plumber (part-time)



ISBN 978-1-921479-37-3

written by Hazel Edwards & illustrated by John Petropoulos

Publisher: [Interactive Publications \(IP Kidz\)](http://www.interactivepublications.com)

ISBN: 978-1-921479-37-3

ipoz.biz/IP_Kidz/Kidz.htm

Why Perform a Play?

Performing a classroom play script linked to a picture book has double value. Reading matters, if other cast members depend upon you and it's fun.

Students act out the story, adding their own interpretations via movement, dance and music.

In this versatile script, the chorus offers opportunities for readers of varied ability to take part. Or to be part of the techie crew. Older students can perform it for younger 'buddies'.

What's the Story About?

Quirky problem-solving with an eco-angle.

Plato is a platypus and a part-time plumber with a tool-kit.

On call, Plato fixes watery problems like leaking taps, but he also fixes grumpy people. From his tool-kit, he uses smile spray, a spanner or a joke.

Sometimes Zanzibar's family need a little help. Plato always comes, despite the Ferals along the creek bank.

Water carries secrets, stories and (yucky) stuff! An eco-warrior, Plato knows how to fix things.

Curriculum Links:

Eco-Art, Maths & Problem-solving

All can design & make

- masks, hats or labels for each character.
- business card for Plato the Platypus Plumber (check illustrator John P's cover for ideas)

- creek maps, showing changing routes and water marks.
- eco-games based on platypus facts
- plumber's tool kit.

Find out about:

- Platypus Watch and micro tags
- what plumbers do
- water, H₂O, drought, floods
- creek life: who lives in or beside the creek, and dies if there's no water.
- climate change

Don't forget to buy one or more copies of the book for reference: ipoz.biz/Store/orders.htm

Plato the Platypus Plumber (part-time)

Classroom Performance Script

Cast: (Minimum 12, Maximum 30, with flexible choruses)

1. **NARRATOR** who holds a Big book labelled 'Plato' with script inside
2. **PLATO THE PLATYPUS PLUMBER** (BIGGEST part)
3. **ZANZIBAR**, the boy
4. **MUM**
5. **DAD**
6. **GRAN**
7. **SCHOOL PRINCIPAL**
8. **WATER CHORUS** (any number who dance) a bunch of **DRIPS**
9. **FERALS CHORUS** (any number) cat-like. Menacing. Move to music.
10. **SCHOOL KIDS CHORUS** (any number) can comment as chorus line
11. The **PLATYPUS WATCH** people (with microtags)

TOOLS:

Tool-Kit can be actors, each being a real tool such as a spanner or a feather to tickle grumpy people. Each shows skills by movement or dance and then climbs back into the kit, or freezes.

Tool-Kit can be a space, or a bag.

Tools jog along beside Plato

NB **JOKE** needs a good cat joke

e.g. I'm a Joke.

I can fix grumpy people.

If they laugh.

e.g. **GOGGLES**: I'm Must-Wear Goggles.

See you around!

e.g. I'm a spanner

Plumbers use me to fix pipes.

e.g. I'm a mobile phone.

Waterproof-ish!

Ring me!

e.g. I'm ear-muffs.

Heard any dangerous noises lately?

e.g. I'm a Hard Hat.

Wear me! Shows you have brains.

Technical Crew: Costumes, Props, SFX

Crew can be 'techies' looking after sound effects (SFX) including music, props, makeup, costumes or front of class.

Either a simple, instant production with few props or costumes or an all-school performance for Book Week or for younger Buddies.

Costumes:

Masks (made in earlier art sessions)
Plato wears overalls
Creek Water Chorus can be Drips with H₂O labels

Props: (optional)

Tool-kit & tools for fixing pipes and grumpy people
Hose
Bucket
Water Pipes as weird sculpture
6 pack plastic can rings
Mobile phone
Bonsai (tiny) plants for Gran's garden
World map rug with Zanzibar marked.
Vintage (old) travel posters
Camera/phone for Zanzibar
Toilet seat (broken)

SFX (Sound effects): Pre-recorded or live

Phone ring
Water music (optional)
Feral music (optional)

Script: Plato the Platypus Plumber (part-time)

NARRATOR: Welcome to our performance of *Plato the Platypus Plumber (part-time)*.

SFX: Water Music

WATER CHORUS: (Drips can move to water music)

Water has secrets,

And memories flood downstream

With the creek.

SFX: Phone rings

PLATO: (answering his phone) What's wrong Zanzibar?

ZANZIBAR: I'm in trouble. Water everywhere.

PLATO: Where are you?

ZANZIBAR: Upside down in the laundry. With Mum's hose.

PLATO: Grey water gushing from your mum's laundry hose? I'll bring my tool-kit.

ZANZIBAR: Thanks. Come NOW!

PLATO: Tools! Attention. Into my tool-kit. Now!

(Each tool demonstrates their skills by movement or dance and then climbs into the kit, or freezes.)

GOGGLES: I'm Must-Wear Goggles.
See you around!

SPANNER: I'm a spanner
Plumbers use me to fix pipes.

MOBILE: I'm a mobile phone.
Waterproof-ish!
Ring me!

EAR MUFFS: I'm ear-muffs.
Heard any dangerous noises lately?

HARD HAT: I'm a Hard Hat.
Wear me!
Shows you have brains.

JOKE: I'm a Joke.
I can fix grumpy people.
If they laugh.

SMILE SPRAY: I'm smile spray.
I can fix grumpy people.
If they smile.

PLATO: ...and a GPS so I know where I am going.

All my tools are in the tool-kit.
Let's go.

(jogging)
I'm Plato, the Platypus Plumber, but I only work part-time.
I'm 'on call' for friends, like Zanzibar.
I fix pipes and grumpy people.
But sometimes I get it wrong.

Look out.

The Ferals might be on the track.

SFX: Feral music.

PLATO: Sometimes the Ferals chase me along the bike path beside the creek.

FERALS: We're the Ferals.
We want to catch you.

PLATO: That's a worry,
But I trick them.

I platypussyfoot

With a side step and a cat joke from my tool kit.

(Opens tool kit: and selects Joke)

JOKE: I'm a joke from the tool kit.

I am used for fixing grumpy people.

Like Ferals.

FERALS: (circling) Are you a cat joke?
We're BIG cats.

We only laugh at GOOD cat jokes

JOKE: Have you heard the cat joke about... (add joke)

FERALS: (laughing) That's funny.

JOKE: I'm a Joke.
I can fix grumpy people.
If they laugh.

PLATO: That's the Feral problem fixed, for now.
Zanzibar needs me, next.

His family have an old house.

Things break or leak, so they need me and my tool-kit.

SFX: Phone rings.

ZANZIBAR: Plato, I NEED you.

PLATO: Sorry. Just pussyfooting around the Ferals. Be there in a minute.

(Upside down, Zanzibar is holding a hose)

SFX: Fast Water music

WATER CHORUS: (DRIPS move across stage, around hose and buckets)
We're a bunch of drips.
We're being wasted!

PLATO: Just hang on. Where is the blockage?
I'll use my spanner. Fixed.

ZANZIBAR: Thanks Plato.

MUM: Let's dry everything.

My map of where I want to go, is wet.

(rolls up her 'world map' carpet *which has Zanzibar marked.*)

My travel posters got wet too!

My dream is to travel to Zanzibar.

DAD: Our dream is to renovate this old house, first.

MUM: But everything keeps breaking down.

ZANZIBAR: The water can go on Gran's plants.

PLATO: (directs Water Chorus Drips to the vegetable garden.)

DAD: Recycle it.
Let's make mud bricks. Fill the gap around the water tank.
Near the pipes.

ZANZIBAR: OK. We'll all help.

GRAN: I can water my thirsty bonsai plants.

MUM: The hose is fixed.
No more drips.

I'll put up my travel posters again.

GRAN: Tell us about Zanzibar.

MUM: (points to map) This is Zanzibar. You are named after this place.

ZANZIBAR: Where did the name Plato come from?

PLATO: Guess.

GRAN: An old Greek problem-solver

ZANZIBAR: Mum turns anything old into new.

She's a great storyteller.

DAD: We all have dreams.

PLATO: Time to swim back home, up the creek. Glad my tool-kit worked again.

I have watery memories of BD, Before the Drought.

That's when I used to frolic in the billabongs,

Or tap dance in the council sprinklers.

(does a tap dance and **Tools** follow)

But then....

No rain for months...

Even school gardens died.

Now, roof gutters have strange pipes leading to watertanks

I get lots of calls for help

SFX: Phone rings.

PLATO: Another call.

ZANZIBAR: Dad sat on the old toilet and the seat broke!

PLATO: I'm on my way, Zanzibar.

Tools! Attention. Into my tool-kit. Now!

(Each demonstrate their skill and then climb into the kit, or freeze.)

GOGGLES: I'm Must-Wear Goggles.
See you around!

MOBILE: I'm a mobile phone.
Waterproof-ish!
Ring me!

EAR-MUFFS: I'm ear-muffs.
Heard any dangerous noises lately?

HARD HAT: I'm a Hard Hat.
Wear me!
Shows you have brains.

JOKE: I'm a Joke.
I can fix grumpy people.
If they laugh.

SMILE SPRAY: I'm smile spray.
I can fix grumpy people.
If they smile.

PLATO: All my tools are in the tool-kit.
Let's go.

DAD: So embarrassing!

PLATO: My tool-kit can fix anything.

ZANZIBAR: Let's take a photo.

(Dad, Mum, Gran and Zanzibar are in the photo. Tools crowd around too.)

PLATO: Bye.

SFX: Water Music

PLATYPUS WATCH: We're the Platypus Watch.

So good to see platypus coming back into our waters.

Let's put a micro tag on Plato.

Then we know where he goes.

(attach the **MICRO TAG**)

PLATO: I'm glad Platypus Watch are watching me.

But I know where I'm going.

I'm a night creature, unless I get a daytime emergency call.

I'm on call.

SFX: Phone rings

ZANZIBAR: Plato, can you help?

SCHOOL KIDS' CHORUS: Our school principal fell off the ladder.

He was fixing the water tank.

PLATO: I'm on my way.

Tools, come with me.

SFX: Water music

PLATYPUS WATCH: Plastic six-pack rings scratch duck bills.

But Plato escapes, this time. Watch him swim.

PLATO: This time I escape, without a scratch on my duckbill.

And I help save the water tank, and the principal.

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL: Thanks.

SCHOOL KIDS' CHORUS: We're doing a platypus project.

ZANZIBAR: My school has made you a project.

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL: A platypus is a living fossil.

...with a micro-tag to tell where the platypus has been.

PLATO: And the water has a story bank of secrets...

So Zanzibar is finding out about my watery history.

But I just help out, while Zanzibar is teaching himself to fix things.

ZANZIBAR: You're a legend.

WATER CHORUS: *Water has secrets,*

And memories flood downstream

With the creek.

NARRATOR: Thank you for being our audience.

In our performance, these were the actors:

All Bow

Plato was played by....

The Tool-Kit included...

Mum was played by...

Dad was played by... etc