



WHCT Fiddler on the Roof Audition Information

What do I have to do for auditions?

- **Recite one of the attached monologues from memory.** Choose the one that best shows your talents. You may add blocking or movement. **You will be considered for all parts not just the monologue you've selected unless noted on your audition information form**
 - Those auditioning for the ensemble should also prepare a monologue
- **Sing one of the vocal selections.** Please review the instructions in the Music Audition Folder for additional information and for the sheet music.
- **You will also need to dance.** You will be taught movements at the audition. Wear shoes and clothing that are appropriate for movement.

What else do I need to bring to the audition?

- The completed audition information form
- The conflict calendar with your possible conflicts noted

The Place: Anatevka, a small village in Russia
The Time: 1905, on the eve of the Russian revolutionary period

Characters:

Tevye, comic, earnest, wise father; baritone (Ab2 - F4)

Golde, his strong-willed wife; mezzo (A3 - Eb5)

Tzeitel, Tevye's eldest daughter; mezzo (B3 - D5)

Hodel, Tevye's next eldest daughter; mezzo/soprano (B3 - E5)

Chava, Tevye's middle daughter; mezzo (low B3 - D5)

Motel, the young tailor; baritone or tenor (E3 - F#4)

Perchik, the strong-voiced student; baritone (B2 - E4)

Yente, the meddling matchmaker; alto (F3 - F5)

Lazar Wolf, the brawny butcher; baritone (C3 - F#4)

Grandma Tzeitel, Golde's dead grandmother; mezzo (C#4 - D5)

Fruma-Sarah, Lazar Wolf's dead wife, mezzo/soprano (C4 - Eb5)

Shprintze & Bielke, Tevye's youngest daughters

Avram, the bookseller

Rabbi, Anatevka's Jewish spiritual leader

Mendel, Rabbi's son

Nahum, the beggar

Constable

Fyedka, a young Russian

Sasha, Fyedka's friend

Shandel, Motel's mother

Yussel, a hatter

Fiddler

Villagers, Russians

Monologues:

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 a 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.

GOLDE

Ah, he's finally up. (to Tevye) What happened last night, besides your drinking like a peasant? Did you see Lazar Wolf? What did he say? What did you say? Do you have news...(Tevye tells her that Lazar Wolf wants to marry Tzeitel). My heart told me this was our lucky day. Oh dear God, I thank thee, I thank thee. My first born a bride. (to Tzeitel) May you grow old with him in fortune and honor...not like Fruma-Sarah, that first wife of his. She was a bitter woman, may she rest in peace. Not like my Tzeitel.. And now I must thank Yente. My Tzeitel, a bride.

TZEITEL/ HODEL/CHAVA/SHPRINTZE/ BIELKE

Oh, Papa, Papa, I don't want to marry him. I can't marry him. I can't. 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 an agreement more important than I am, Papa? Papa, don't force me. I'll be unhappy all my days!

Monologues (ctd.):

MOTEL

Don't worry Tzeitel. I have found someone who will sell me his used sewing machine, so in a few weeks I'll have saved up enough to buy it and then your Father will be impressed with me..... I know that a few weeks may be too late, but what else can we do?.... Why should your father consider me now? I'm only a poor tailor....Tzeitel, if your father says no, that's it, it's final...He'll yell at me.

PERCHIK

(sarcastically) Our traditions! Nothing must change! Everything is perfect exactly the way it is! Our ways are changing all over but here. Here men and women must keep apart. Men study, women in the kitchen. Boys and girls must not touch, should not even look at each other... (to Hodel) You are very brave! Do you know that in the city boys and girls can be affectionate without permission of a matchmaker? They hold hands together, they even dance together..new dances...like this....

YENTE

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 everyone of them a husband. But you shouldn't be so picky... Even the worst husband, God forbid, is better than no husband, God forbid... 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.

Monologues (ctd.):

LAZAR WOLF

Tevye, 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....

CONSTABLE

Tevye, I see you have company. It's just as well. What I have to say is for their ears also. Tevye, how much time do you need to sell your house and all your household goods?...I came here to tell you that you are going to have to leave Anatevka. Not just you Tevya. of course, but all of you....at first I thought you might be spared, Tevye, because of your daughter Chava who married (pause)..... At any rate, it affects all of you...you have to leave. I don't know why. There's trouble in the world, trouble-makers.

FYEDKA

I've often noticed you at the bookseller's. Not many girls in this village like to read... Would you like to borrow this book? It's very good.Why won't you take it. Because I'm not Jewish? Do you feel about us the way they feel about you?.....Then let me tell you about myself. I'm a pleasant fellow, charming, honest ambitious, quite bright, and very modest. ... I often do things I shouldn't... Go ahead, take the book...It's by Heinrich Heine. Happens to be Jewish, I believe.