

JOSEPHINE

SCENE: The Anderson family are having breakfast together in their kitchen.

ROLES (5): Narrator, Brian (father), Molly (mother), Catherine (elder sister), Lizzie (younger sister)

READER AGES: 8 years and over

NARRATOR: One wintery Saturday morning, the Anderson family were gathered in the kitchen. Catherine, the elder sister, was sitting in the rocker. Lizzie, the younger sister, was snuggled in her father's lap. Molly, their mother, was buzzing around the kitchen, cooking breakfast for everyone.

CATHERINE: I am so sick of this horrible weather! There's fog everywhere outside, I can't even see out the kitchen window! It's so miserable. Dad, can you pass me that blanket, please? I'm freezing.

MOLLY: Oh come on, it's not so bad. Have a nice cup of tea, that will warm you up. Your bacon and eggs will be ready soon.

BRIAN: Time to jump off and sit on your own chair now, Lizzie. Breakfast is nearly ready.

NARRATOR: As Lizzie jumped onto a chair of her own, her mother started serving the breakfast. Soon everyone had their plates piled high with eggs, bacon and toast. When Molly finally sat down at the table, Lizzie stared at her in shock.

MOLLY: What's the matter, Lizzie? Have I not served you enough bacon? Are your eggs too runny? Has your toast got too much butter on it?

LIZZIE: No, Mummy. Breakfast looks delicious. I was just wondering why you didn't serve any for Josephine.

MOLLY: (*confused*) Josephine? Who is Josephine?

LIZZIE: Don't be silly, Mummy! She's standing right over there!

The other characters look to where Lizzie is pointing. They cannot see anything.

NARRATOR: Lizzie's mother was a sensible lady. She knew that this was not the time to discuss with her daughter whether there really was a Josephine.

Instead of having an argument, she calmly walked to the cupboard, took out a plate and placed it on the kitchen table.

MOLLY: (*apologising*) Oh, Josephine! How terribly rude of me! Where are my manners? I seem to have served out all the bacon and eggs. Would you like me to make you some toast instead?

CATHERINE: What are you talking about, Mum? There's no Josephine here! Why are you pretending that there is?

BRIAN: (*playing along*) What do you mean, Catherine? Of course there's a Josephine! She's standing in the corner, waiting very patiently for her toast to cook. Can't you see her over there, smiling at everyone?

CATHERINE: Oh, yes. Umm... hello, Josephine. Nice to meet you. Cold today, isn't it?

LIZZIE: Josephine's not cold, Catherine. She's got her scarf and gloves on! Can't you see them? They're pink. That's our favourite colour!

MOLLY: Well, isn't that interesting. Josephine likes pink, too! What else do you two girls have in common?

LIZZIE: Well, we're both scared of spiders. We both like jelly beans, but not the black ones. We love the smell of rain, but we don't like thunderstorms. Our favourite thing to do is write stories, but we don't like reading them to other people. Isn't that right, Josephine?

BRIAN: Sounds like you and Josephine have a lot in common.

NARRATOR: Brian gave his wife a look that said, *Are you sure this is a good idea?* His wife replied with a look of her own that said, *Let's play along, for now.*

BRIAN: I feel terrible that Josephine didn't get any bacon and eggs. We must make sure she has something delicious for morning tea.

CATHERINE: What types of foods does Josephine like to eat, Lizzie?

LIZZIE: She's very particular about food. There's only a few things she likes.

MOLLY: So, what do you think we should make for morning tea?

LIZZIE: Well, there is one food that she loves. She will eat it, for sure!

BRIAN: What's that, Lizzie?

LIZZIE: Her favourite is the same as mine, of course... chocolate cake!

MOLLY: Well then, let's get cooking! If you and Josephine are helpful, I might just let you lick the bowl and spoon!

LIZZIE: *(a little upset)* But licking the bowl and spoon is my special job, Mummy. I love licking the bowl and spoon.

MOLLY: I'm sure you won't mind sharing with your special friend, though. You don't want Josephine to feel left out.

LIZZIE: *(looking around the room)* Oh. That's strange.

BRIAN: What is it, Lizzie?

LIZZIE: I can't see Josephine anywhere. She must have decided to go home.

CATHERINE: But I thought chocolate cake was her favourite?

MOLLY: Yes! We were making it especially for her!

LIZZIE: *(enthusiastically)* That's alright, Mummy. Instead of making a chocolate cake especially for Josephine... you can make one especially for me!

THE END

