

ACT ONE: SCENE 1

THE KANSAS FARM

1 OPENING

(Scene opens showing a small house on a Kansas farm. The sky is vast. Somewhere off-stage a small dog barks which is the cue for DOROTHY GALE, a small girl in a checked dress to run breathlessly on-stage.)

2 TROUBLE IN SCHOOL (DOROTHY'S ENTRANCE)

(DOROTHY stops stage center and puts a hand to her chest.)

DOROTHY:

Oh Jeepers! My heart's thumping so loud I can't hardly breathe.

(She looks round)

Toto. Toto.

(She sees the dog off-stage and crouches down beckoning to TOTO)

No need to be scared anymore. She ain't followin' us. I won't let her touch you nohow.

Toto! Toto!

(Suddenly the little mutt scampers on stage and leaps into her arms)

DOROTHY:

There you go. Did she hurt you? She tried to, didn't she? Oh, Toto.

(DOROTHY hugs him to her and looks back in the direction she came from)

She must be the meanest old woman that ever was.

(She holds TOTO up and looks into his face)

Let's go tell Uncle Henry and Auntie Em. They'll take care of her.

(She puts TOTO down and continues along the road)

Come on, Toto.

3 MORE TROUBLE (SCENE CHANGE) (Orchestra)

(As DOROTHY runs, the sound of week old chicks fills the stage. AUNT EM and UNCLE HENRY are transferring the chicks from the incubator to a box with a blanket draped inside it)

DOROTHY:

Aunt Em! Aunt Em!

(The two adults go on working)

Aunt Em!

AUNT EM:

Fifty-seven, fifty-eight—

DOROTHY:

Just listen to what Miss Gulch did to Toto! She—

AUNT EM:

Dorothy, please! We're trying to count! Fifty-eight—

DOROTHY:

Oh, but Aunt Em, she hit him—

UNCLE HENRY:

Don't bother us now, honey. You see, this old incubator's gone bad and we're likely to lose a lot of our chicks.

DOROTHY:

Oh, - oh, the poor little things.

(She reaches into the box and lifts out a chicken which she strokes during the next speech)

Oh, but Aunt Em, Miss Gulch hit Toto right over the back with a rake just because she says he gets in her garden and chases her nasty old cat every day!

AUNT EM:

Seventy. Dorothy, please!

(AUNT EM sees the chick in DOROTHY's hands, takes it from her and replaces it in the box)

DOROTHY:

But he doesn't do it every day – just once or twice a week. And he can't catch her old cat, anyway. And now she says she's going to get the –

AUNT EM:

Dorothy! We're busy!

(AUNT EM places the final chickens in her outstretched apron and hurries off-stage)

DOROTHY:

Uncle Henry. Can't you do something?

UNCLE HENRY:

I'm doing something right now, honey, so just keep out of our hair.

(UNCLE HENRY lifts up the box and exits after his wife. The noise of the chicks fades and is replaced by a squeaking noise)

DOROTHY:

Oh – all right.

(DOROTHY turns to see the three farmhands ZEKE (LION), HICKORY (TINMAN), and HUNK (SCARECROW) working on a small wagon with three wheels.)

Zeke, Hickory...know what Miss Gulch did to Toto?