

Hark, Hark the Ark

By Kathy Warnes



Cast of Characters

Choir

Noah

Mrs. Noah

Sarah

Owls

1st and 2nd Hippo

Elephant

Raccoon

Alligator

1st and 2nd tiger

Ducks

1st and 2nd Mosquito

Billy

Johnny

1st and 2nd Porcupine

Firefly

1st and 2nd cat

Mouse

Boa Constrictor

Lion

Lizard

Boa Constrictor

Mrs. Shem

Mrs. Ham

Mrs. Japheth

Shem

Ham

Japheth

Raven

Dove

Hark, Hark The Ark

ACT I

(The shape of the ark is in the background. Noah stands with a hammer, putting the finishing touches on its doorway.)

CHOIR Oh Noah built a big, big, boat

There's one wide river to cross,

He wasn't even sure it would float.

There's one wide river to cross.

There's one wide river,

And that wide river is Jordon,

There's one wide river,

HARK HARK THE ARK!

(A little girl walks on stage carrying a turtle)

SARAH: Grandfather, Noah, why are you building that big boat?

NOAH: It's more than a boat. It's called an ark.

SARAH: Why are you building an ark?

NOAH: God told me to build it.

SARAH: Why did God tell you to build an ark?

NOAH: Look around you. What do you see?

SARAH: I see two men over there hitting each other. I see people lying and cheating and stealing.

God said He will not tolerate the violence anymore. He told me he is going to bring a flood of waters on the earth to destroy all flesh.

SARAH: I don't believe that God would do that to me or my mother or father. We haven't lied or cheated or stolen.

God said that I should take me and all of my household into the ark. That means you and your father Shem, and your mother. That means your uncles Ham and Japheth and their wives and children.

SARAH: Grandfather Noah, can I bring my pet turtle on the ark?(She holds out the turtle)

NOAH: God told me to bring pairs of every animal on the ark.

SARAH: Even skunks, Grandfather Noah? Phew! How can we live with skunks?

We can put them in the closet way back in the corner and hope nobody bothers them.

SARAH: Slow Poke said he just needs some water and a rock to be happy.

NOAH: Oh, your turtle's name is Slow Poke. Why do you call him that?

SARAH: He always gets home two hours after everyone else.

We'll have to give him an early start when we load the ark. Maybe he can walk ahead of the skunks.

SARAH: I'll go talk to him about it, Grandfather Noah.

Have a good talk with him, Sarah. (Sarah runs off stage with Slow Poke. Noah starts hammering again)

Lord, I'm not sure I can do this. How do I know which way to steer an ark? I've never even been in a fishing boat.

CHOIR: (To the tune of My Lord Knows the Way Through the Wilderness)

My Lord knows the way through the waters,

All I have to do is follow,

My Lord knows the way through the waters,

All I have to do is follow.

Strength for today is mine all the way

And all I need for tomorrow,

My Lord knows the way through the waters

All I have to do is follow. (Sound of thunder. Flashes of lightning)

But Lord, I'm not ready yet. I'm a little slower than I used to be. After all, I am 600 years old!
(Thunder and lightning are louder this time)

All right, Lord. I'll get everyone together and we'll get onboard. (Noah walks to the side of the stage)

Oh, Mrs. Noah! It's time to load the ark. Are you ready? (Mrs. Noah comes out with a pile of blankets in her arms)

NOAH: I'm just about ready, Noah. Where are Shem, Ham and Japheth and their wives? I could use some help carrying these blankets on board. And we have some baskets of fruit and vegetables to load, too.

I have to get all of the animals together. (He puts a gang plank from the edge of the stage to the door of the ark)

NOAH: Come on giraffes, snakes and owls,

Come on horses, pigs, and cows,:

Hurry now, before it gets dark,

Hurry, hurry into the ark! (Two horses come to the gangplank side by side)

NOAH: Good, the horses are coming!

MRS. NOAH: They aren't coming yet. Not until I put some blankets in their stalls.

NOAH: You're carrying blankets, aren't you?

NOAH: The horse blankets are way on the bottom. Can't you have the horses come aboard last?

I think I'll have porcupines come on last. (The owl flies in front of Mrs. Noah)

MRS. NOAH: The owls just came aboard.

NOAH: Don't tell me they need blankets, too.

NOAH: No, but they need to shake out their feathers. (The owls shake out their feathers and fly on board)

MRS. NOAH: Come back here you two.

OWLS (Together) Who? Who? Who?

NOAH: You, you, you. Come back here. (She grabs a broom and begins to chase them).

Mrs. Noah, we don't have time to play tag now. We've got to get all of the animals aboard the ark.

MRS. NOAH: The owls are aboard and getting settled. Who should we take next?

NOAH: How about the hippopotami?

MRS. NOAH: The hippopotami? Why? Why so soon, I mean?

If we put them on last, we'll have a list on the ark. In fact, it might roll right over.

NOAH All right. Come on hippopotami. It's time to get on the ark. (She steps to the edge of the stage and calls) Oh hippopotami! (Two hippopotami appear)

1ST HIPPO You wanted us? Why? What do you want with the hippopotami?

MRS. NOAH It's time for you to come aboard the ark.

2ND HIPPO Aboard the ark? What ark? Is this a lark?

No, it's not a lark. I want to see how far the ark will settle in the water when you come on board.

(The hippopotami come aboard the ark)

Oh dear! I'd better call the elephants aboard to balance the ark before the hippopotami sink it.

Elephants, elephants, lend me an ear, Elephants, elephants, quick, come here! (Two elephants come up to Noah. One hands his ear to Noah)

NOAH (Laughs and hands the ear back)

I didn't mean I wanted your ear. I just wanted you to use it and listen to me.

ELEPHANT (Refastening ear) What can we do for you, Noah?

NOAH I want you and your wife to come aboard the ark now.

NOAH Yes, please come aboard so the ark will straighten up again. Right now, it's horribly tilted. We need you to balance the hippopotami.

(Pointing) Come to the end of the ark. (The elephants walk to the opposite end of the ark from the hippopotami. The ark immediately evens up).

MRS. NOAH Good!

Elephants, here is some hay for you, and hippopotami, here are some river weeds. Please enjoy yourselves, but sit still.

MRS. NOAH Who's next?

Maybe we should take the insects next. Flies, mosquitoes, are you ready? (A mosquito zooms in and lights on Mrs. Noah's arm. She slaps at it)

1ST MOSQUITO Ouch! You hit me!

NOAH Oh, I'm sorry. I didn't mean to hit you so hard. I just wanted to make sure you didn't bite me.

(Another mosquito dive-bombs Noah. He ducks)

Hey, take it easy! You're going to knock me over! (The mosquito dive-bombs him again)

NOAH (Slapping at the mosquito with one of her blankets) Shoo! Shooo! Get away from Noah!

1ST MOSQUITO Where should we go?

NOAH (Putting down a paper puddle in one corner of the ark)

Here's a nice puddle of water. Why don't you and Mrs. Mosquito settle down right here?

1ST MOSQUITO Buzzz!

2ND MOSQUITO Buzzz!

1ST MOSQUITO Thank you. (They buzz off and light on the puddle of water)

NOAH Noah, it's time to load the tigers. There's one tiger in the corner and I think the other one's over here.

1ST TIGER (Roaring) GRRR! I'm here all right,

Ready, ready for a fight,

Why didn't you bring our trees?

Can't we have our jungle, please???

I brought six trees from your jungle. (He puts them by the mosquito pool) Enjoy your trees, tigers! (The tigers slink into the trees while the mosquitoes appear with huge knives and forks made of paper)

1ST MOSQUITO: Mmmmmm. Breakfast, lunch and dinner. MMMMMM!

SARAH Slow Poke should go first. He's not as big as the horses.

MRS. NOAH Where's Mrs. Turtle?

SARAH What Mrs. Turtle? Show Poke is all by himself.

MRS. NOAH Slow Poke has to have a Mrs. Turtle or he can't come on the ark.

SARAH If Slow Poke can't come on the ark, I won't come on the ark. We'll both stay here together and get wet.

I'll tell you what we can do, Sarah. We can hunt for a Mrs. Turtle while Mrs. Noah finishes loading the ark.

NOAH Lizards and salamanders next!(Two lizards and two salamanders slither on board)

Come on, Slow Poke, we'll find you a Mrs. Slow Poke. (An alligator crawls toward the ark)

SARAH Are you a turtle?

ALLIGATOR (Opens his mouth and shows his big teeth) Yes, I'm a turtle. Come a little closer and I'll show you my tongue!

MRS. NOAH Sarah, his teeth are pretty big.

SARAH Turtles don't have tongues as big as you do. I can see yours all of the way from here.

ALLIGATOR My tongue has a little hinge on it. Come closer and I'll show you how it works.

NOAH I don't have time to look at the hinge on your tongue. I have to find a Mrs. Turtle.

(She hurries past the alligator who snaps a piece of cloth out of her dress)

2ND MOSQUITO Groceries for the next year!

NOAH: I think I'll take a little nap. I'm tired from all of this animal loading.

NOAH: But dear, there's still a lot of animals waiting. Look at that line. (She points to a line of animals.)

I just need to rest for a few minutes. (He pulls out a hammock and ties it to one of the tiger's trees.)

NOAH (Putting down her blankets) If you stop working, I'm going to stop working.

NOAH: I'm just going to take forty winks.

MRS. NOAH: Your forty winks will probably turn into forty minutes.

Forty...Hmmm, that number sounds familiar. Where did I hear it before? Oh, that's right. God said something to me about forty days and nights.

NOAH: He couldn't have said anything about sleeping forty days and nights. We have too much work to do.

NOAH He didn't say anything about sleeping forty days and nights. Rain, that's it! He said it would rain forty days and nights.

NOAH If it's going to rain forty days and nights, then we'd better get the rest of the animals loaded and enough food for all of them. And we need enough food for our family. We need to get them all in the ark, too.

NOAH How many animals do we have left to load?

MRS. NOAH We have monkeys, parrots and porcupines,

We have pigs and sheep and equines. (Sarah walks back on stage carrying Slow Poke)

SARAH Grandfather Noah, what's an equine?

NOAH An equine is a horse.

NOAH Now look what you've done. You ought to be ashamed of yourself! (Mrs. Noah smacks the alligator's bottom) Your wife is already on board. Go join her and keep your mouth shut! (The alligator goes on board)

MRS. NOAH Sarah, come and let me fix your dress.

SARAH I've got to find a Mrs. Turtle.

(From the edge of the stage) I found one! (He holds up a turtle wearing a frilly apron)

SARAH Mrs. Turtle! Oh, thank you, Grandfather Noah! Now Slow Poke can get on the ark!

NOAH Sarah, come and let me mend your dress. Then you can run home and tell everybody that it's time to come aboard the ark.

I think- (He is interrupted by a loud QUACK, QUACK, QUACK! Two ducks waddle up the gangplank) The ducks are coming aboard. That means-

NOAH That means the rain won't be far behind. But Noah, I don't see why the ducks have to come aboard. They can swim. Why can't they just travel alongside or behind us? The waters are going to get pretty deep and the ducks will need a place to rest.

NOAH I suppose that means another puddle of water on my floor. I don't know how you expect me to keep the floors clean with all of these puddles around.

NOAH We'll manage, dear.

NOAH That's easy for you to say. You don't have to mop up after everybody.

Mosquitoes, alligators, ducks! What next?? (A huge spout of water springs up alongside the ark)

NOAH Oh, no, not whales, too! Noah, I refuse to take any whales aboard. They'll sink us all!

(Patting her hand) There, there dear, don't worry. The whales are just going to follow us. They're not coming onboard.

NOAH I'm glad. They'll be safe enough as long as they stay around the ark. And after all---

(More water falls onto the deck)

MRS. NOAH Noah, will you tell them to stop spouting now?

NOAH That wasn't the whales, dear. It's raining.

MRS. NOAH Raining! Oh no! Not everybody's aboard yet. Sarah, run and tell everybody to come quickly to the ark.

SARAH (Putting down Slow Poke) You go get settled in your new home, Slow Poke. I'll be right back. I've got to go and get my mother and father, brothers and sisters, uncles and aunts. (She runs offstage)

MRS. NOAH Sarah, wait. I have to mend your dress!

NOAH She's gone dear. She'll be right back, though.

MRS. NOAH Oh dear, there's still a line by the gangplank.

Let's load the rest of the animals while we're waiting for our family. (Noah and Mrs. Noah lead fireflies, bears, opossums, flies, ravens, doves, and mice aboard the ark. It begins to rain harder.

NOAH (Stands on the gangplank with an umbrella) Oh dear, where is Sarah and all of our family? What's taking them so long?

It certainly is raining. I can feel the water dripping off my beard. (He wrings the water out of his beard) God said He was going to make it rain and that's exactly what He's doing.

NOAH The whales and the ducks are having a good time. Look, the ducks are playing ball. But where is our family?

Here they come! (A procession of people come onto the stage. There are Shem, Ham, and Japheth and their wives. Sarah comes too. Everyone is carrying suitcases. Someone has a basketball. Some of the women carry brooms, dust mops, and buckets).

MRS. NOAH It's about time you got here. Don't you know it's raining cats and dogs?

BILLY Here's the cat. (He holds out a cat)

JOHNNY Here's the dog. (He holds out a dog)

SARAH I found Geraldine, my boa constrictor, too. Is there a Mr.Boa Constrictor aboard, Grandfather Noah?

I just put a Mr. Boa Constrictor in the tiger's trees, Sarah.You can put Mrs. Boa Constrictor over there.

NOAH Everybody come aboard and get settled. Shem, you and Mrs.Shem can have this room. Ham, you and Mrs. Ham, this one, and Japheth, you and Mrs. Japheth this one. Children, you can sleep down in the hold with your Grandfather Noah and me.

BILLY, JOHNNY, SARAH Oh Boy!

JOHNNY Can I sleep with the snakes?

BILLY I want to sleep with the tigers!

SARAH I don't want to sleep by the porcupines!

NOAH Porcupines! Oh no, I forgot the porcupines!

NOAH (Peeking over the deck) The water's getting pretty deep. I think you'd better haul in the gangplank Noah. I think we're starting to float.

I've got to get the porcupines. They can't swim! (Noah runs down the gangplank and over to the edge of the stage where two porcupines are standing)Hurry, hurry on board! You're getting pretty wet!

1ST PORCUPINE We tried to hurry, but we walked so slowly that everybody stomped on us.

2ND PORCUPINE We didn't want to use our quills to slow them down.

1ST PORCUPINE We didn't want anybody to get mad at us.

PORCUPINE Are you really going to let us sail on the ark with you, Noah? Most people don't want us around.

Yes, I'm going to let you sail on the ark with me. Let's get on board. It's raining harder. (The porcupines slowly walk on board the ark, with Noah behind them)

MRS. NOAH Is everybody here, Noah?

NOAH Everybody's here. It's time to pull in the gangplank.

NOAH Hurry up! I can feel the ark floating and I have dinner cooking on the stove.

NOAH (Pulling up the gangplank) All aboard! Everybody sit down and relax.

1ST PORCUPINE This is a comfortable spot.

TIGER GROWLLL! You stuck me with one of your quills.

1ST PORCUPINE Oh, I'm so sorry. I thought I had them all tucked in.

1ST FIREFLY This owl keeps flying in my face.

OWL I'm not flying in your face. I'm trying to turn off your light. You're keeping me awake.

2ND OWL Turn off that light! I'm trying to sleep!

FIREFLY Why should we? That's our way of getting around in the dark and it's dark in here.

Grandmother, Noah, I'm hungry. Is dinner ready yet?(Everybody wants to know if dinner is ready)

NOAH Quiet everybody!(The noise continues)

(Takes out a whistle and blows it) QUIET EVERYBODY! (Everybody quiets down) I see we have to set some ground rules here. Rule number one is that nobody eats anybody else. (A growl of disappointment comes from the tigers, lions, alligators and bears)

Anyone who breaks the rules gets thrown overboard. Do you understand me?

EVERYBODY We understand you.

The second rule is nobody snores. We all need to get our rest. Do you understand me?

EVERYBODY We understand you!

The third rule is everybody thanks God everyday for saving us and watching over us.

JOHNNY I don't see God watching over us. Where is he?

NOAH You can't see Him, but He's here.

JOHNNY If we can't see Him, how do you know He's here, Grandfather Noah?

Because He loves us and He knows we believe in Him and are trying to do His will.

JOHNNY I still don't see Him. (A bolt of thunder and a flash of lightning light up the stage)

JOHNNY Sorry, God, I see you! I see you!

NOAH Mrs. Noah, did you say dinner was ready?

NOAH Yes, everybody sit still and we'll feed you. (Mrs. Noah and the other women pass around baskets of bread)

SARAH What are we having besides peanut butter sandwiches?

MRS. NOAH We're having milk and cookies. (They pass around the milk and cookies)

NOAH Now that everybody's finished eating, I think it's bed time. It's dark outside already. (Everybody groans)

OPOSSUM I don't want to go to bed. I'm just waking up.

It's bedtime. Everyone is just going to have to adjust their habits to living aboard an ark.

SARAH I want a bedtime story, Grandfather Noah. Tell us a bedtime story.

EVERYONE Tell us a bedtime story.

Once upon a time men on the earth were so wicked that God decided He would destroy them all with a flood. But there was one man and his family who obeyed God's word, so God told the man about His plans and gave the man directions to build an ark. Who do you think that man was?

EVERYBODY YOU! The man was you, Noah.

You're right. I am the man. And even though nobody believed me when I told them God's plans, I built this ark.

EVERYBODY Hark, hark the Ark!

SARAH You brought Slow Poke and Mrs. Slow Poke, too. Thank you, Grandfather Noah.

BILLY You brought us all on board the ark, too., Grandfather Noah.

EVERYBODY Thank you, Noah!

Now God's making it rain. He said it would rain for forty days and forty nights. But He'll take care of us because He loves us so much.

1ST PORCUPINE He helped me get on the ark.

ALLIGATOR He gave me big teeth so I could bite Sarah's dress.

1ST FIREFLY He showed me how to make a light so I could see in the dark.

NOAH God loves and cares for us all. We just have to trust Him.

1ST CAT Did you say He's going to make it rain for forty days and forty nights?

NOAH That's what God said.

2ND CAT Isn't it going to get wet and damp and dismal?

We can entertain ourselves and learn how to adjust. God is with us. God will always be with us.

And now it's time to go to sleep.

SARAH Grandfather Noah, can we sing our bedtime song? Oh, please?

NOAH Everybody has to sing.

CHOIR All night, all day, angels watching over me, my Lord,

All night, all day, angels watching over me.

Now I lay me down to sleep

Angels watching over me, my Lord.

Pray the Lord my soul to keep

Angels watching over me.

All night, all day, angels watching over me, my Lord.

All night, all day, angels watching over me.

(A big yellow moon rises over the stage)

SARAH Look, Grandfather Noah. The moon is out and it looks like a big yellow ball.

NOAH It will light our way tonight. Now go to sleep everyone.

CHOIR All night, all day, angels watching over me, my Lord,

All night, all day, angels watching over me. Angels.

(Silhouettes of angels flying across the moon)

ACT II

(The rain is still falling, but the animals are gathered on the deck of the art. The animals are fighting and so are the people. The porcupines are sitting by themselves and so are the skunks.

Everybody is arguing.

NOAH Quiet, everybody. (Nobody hears him)

NOAH (Brings out his whistle and blows it.

Everybody quiets down) Now that I have your attention, I have a question to ask you. WHAT'S GOING ON HERE???

MRS.NOAH I'm glad you asked, Noah. You've just got to tell everybody to keep their feet clean. Do you know how many puddles of water I have to mop up a day? Do you know how many paw prints get tracked across the floor? Why, there are even paw prints on the walls and ceilings. This has got to stop, Noah. Animal tracks are fine in the jungle, but there is no place for them aboard ship.

RACCOON: (Holding up his paw prints) I like my tracks. I think they're pretty and they let everyone know I've been around. What's wrong with that?

NOAH I know you like your tracks. You leave them everywhere, especially on the blankets.

MOUSE: Those are my tracks on the wall. I was trying to get away from the boa constrictor.

LION: Those are my tracks on the ceiling. I was trying to get away from Mrs. Noah and her cleaning.

MRS. NOAH: Dear, I don't think you can blame everybody for having paw prints and leaving them around.

NOAH I know a good song to sing now. What do you think the song is, Sarah?

SARAH This Little Light of Mine.

BILLY I want to sing, "Hold Out Your Light."

SARAH I want to sing "This Little Light of Mine."

BILLY No, "Hold Out Your Light!"

Let's try "This Little Light of Mine." I want everybody to sing and pay attention to the words.

CHOIR This little light of mine,

 I'm gonna let it shine,

 This little light of mine,

 I'm gonna let it shine

 Let it shine, Let it shine Let it shine.

NOAH That's a nice song, but I'm tired. We've been on this ark for 150 days. Are the waters ever going down? Will we ever be able to go home?

MRS. SHEM I need to clean my house.

MRS. HAM My garden needs to be weeded.

MRS. SHEM Your garden is probably all flooded out.

MRS. HAM I can plant it again.

JAPHETH I need to get more canning done. We used up most of the food I brought aboard.

JAPHETH I want to finish roofing the house before another storm comes.

I know we all have earthly concerns, but the earth as we knew it is no longer there. We have to trust God to provide us with a new earth and a new way of life.

NOAH I liked the old way of life, and there is so much to do. Can't we go home soon, Noah?

SARAH I want to make Slow Poke a sweater.

JOHNNY I want to find my ball.

BILLY I want to climb a tree. Why can't I climb a tree, Grandfather, Noah?

NOAH The trees are probably still under water.

BILLY Can't you find out for sure, Grandfather Noah?

NOAH I'll try, but---

MRS. NOAH Noah, the ark stopped moving.

MRS. SHEM Are you sure?

MRS. HAM She said so, didn't she?

HAM I'll go look.

(Looking out the window) Yes, we've stopped floating. We're resting on the top of the mountain of Ararat.

MRS. NOAH Are you sure?

NOAH God told me, so I am sure. There's nothing more certain than that.

MRS. NOAH Then let's go ashore. I can see the tops of the mountains.

BILLY I get to go first! (He runs to the edge of the stage)

Everybody stand still. I have to test the waters first. (He opens the window and a raven flies in and lights in front of him) Raven, are you ready for that special mission I told you about?

RAVEN Caw, caw, my feathers are black,

I will go and not come back.

Raven, I want you to fly over the waters covering the earth and see if they have gone down or not.

RAVEN (Flying out the window) I'm going now, goodbye. I'm going to find something dry!

NOAH In the meantime I could use some help. (She ties up a clothesline and hands Noah, Billy, and Sarah some clothespins) This washing should blow dry in the wind. And look! The sun is shining!

MRS. SHEM What's that big yellow ball in the sky?

MRS. NOAH It's the sun!

MRS. HAM I almost forgot what it looks like.

NOAH It feels warm and the light is so cheerful. I hope it dries out the earth so we can go back home. Noah, can we go home yet?

This time I'll send out a dove to see if the waters have gone down. Come little dove, it's your turn to go.

DOVE It's my turn to go,

I shall fly to and fro,

To see if the waters have abated,

How very long I've waited.

NOAH Godspeed, my little friend.

NOAH Speed is a good word to use here. Will you please hurry back so we can go home? (The dove flies off. Mrs. Noah continues to hang her wash. The dove flies back)

HAM What did you find?

NOAH (With clothes pins still in her mouth) Has the ground dried out enough to plant a garden?

DOVE The waters still flow swift and deep

 There was nowhere to rest my feet.

HAM I don't see how the dove can be so poetic about it. I just want the earth to hurry and dry up.

NOAH We'll wait another week and I'll send the dove out again.

NOAH A week! Another week on this ark with all of these animals and people! I don't know how much more I can stand, Noah.

NOAH God will help us stand anything if we trust Him, Mrs. Noah.

MRS. NOAH Even skunks and porcupines?

NOAH Even skunks and porcupines!

EVERYONE One, two, three, four, five, six, seven days went by,

 The dove came back, she still could fly,

 She returned to the ark from the south,

 With an olive branch in her mouth.

MRS. NOAH Put that thing down before it sheds leaves all over the place!

DOVE I come bearing green leaves. Do you know what that means?

NOAH It means the waters are going down. It means the earth is drying out!

EVERYONE Give a cheer, give a shout

 At last the earth is drying out!

NOAH Dove, will you fly out again? (The dove flies off)

ACT III.

EVERYONE One, two, three, four, five, six, seven days went by,

The dove still didn't drop from the sky,

She stayed on earth to build her nest,

She stayed on earth and found a foot rest!

Since the dove didn't return, I think it's safe to put down the gangplank and try to land. What does everybody think?

DUCKS Can we still play in the water?

(Sneezing) I was ready to land two months ago. Now I've caught a cold. I say we land now.

SKUNKS We're ready to find a hollow tree and make a nest.

MRS. NOAH I'm ready for you to make nest too.

SKUNK We didn't do anything wrong, Mrs. Noah. We didn't even track any paw prints on the floor.

MRS. NOAH It was thinking about what you could have done that bothered me!

NOAH Who wants to go ashore first?

SARAH I think the skunks and porcupines ought to go first. Then the turtles can go.

MRS. NOAH Skunks and porcupines, first. Come on, right up there in front.

MOUSE What will happen to us? What if there isn't anything to eat on earth now? At least here on the ark we had enough to eat.

NOAH So that's what happened to my corn and wheat. I thought you mice might have had something to do with that.

MOUSE We just took as much as we needed. And we swept the floor for you every day in return.

NOAH You're the one who swept the floor for me every day? All of the time I thought it was Sarah!

NOAH Look, Mrs. Noah! The ground is dry!

MRS. NOAH Does that mean we can all go ashore now?

NOAH Wait a minute while I ask God! (He prays)

MRS. NOAH What did God say?

He said the ground was dry and He told me to take everybody off of the ark and start living on the earth again.

EVERYBODY Hooray, isn't it grand! We can start living on land!

(Putting down the gangplank) Skunks and porcupines first. Then everybody else can take their turn.

NOAH Elephants! Wait until last or the ark will tip again. Hippopotami, you wait until last too!

NOAH I know a song to sing while we're unloading.

SARAH Which one Grandfather, Noah.

NOAH This one.

CHOIR (Everyone sings Kumbayah)

Someone needs you Lord, Kumbayah

Someone needs you Lord, Kumbayah,

Someone needs you Lord, Kumbayah

Oh Lord, Kumbayah.

(The choir sings enough verses of the song to allow all of the animals to come down the gangplank).

MRS. NOAH It looks like everyone is off, but the elephants and hippopotami, Noah.

NOAH Are the mosquitoes gone?

MRS. NOAH Yes, they flew off beside the tigers.

NOAH What about the fireflies?

NOAH The last time I looked, they were sitting on my clothes line watching everybody. Fireflies, are you still there?

1ST FIREFLY We're here, Noah. Can we help you?

Yes, I have a favor to ask of you. After the elephants and hippopotami get off the ark, I want to build an altar to thank God for our lives and our new start.

2ND FIREFLY What does that have to do with us?

I'm not sure I'll be able to find any completely dry wood. I want you fireflies to start the fire for me.

1ST FIREFLY I'll be glad to start a fire for you.

2ND FIREFLY I'll help too.

Let's meet over there in the middle of that grove of trees as soon as I unload the elephants and the hippopotami.

MRS. NOAH Noah, you have to help me carry off our suitcases!

I'll see you fireflies in the grove of trees in a few minutes. (The fireflies fly off)

I'll carry off the suitcases first. (Noah takes two huge suitcases down the gangplank, staggering under their weight.) What have you got in these suitcases, Mrs. Noah? It feels like you put a ton of rocks in them.

NOAH Let's see. Your good robes are in that brown one and your good sandals in the blue one. And our everyday water jugs are in that one.

I see what you mean. (He carries off the suitcases and sits them aside.) We can keep them here until we decide where to build our house.

NOAH At least we won't have to worry about it raining for awhile. Or do we? Is God going to send another flood?

NOAH No, God won't destroy the earth with a flood again.

MRS. NOAH How do you know He won't?

NOAH He promised me He wouldn't.

MRS. NOAH Why didn't He promise me, too. Or Sarah? Or Shem or Ham or Japheth?
Why does He just talk to you?

NOAH I listen to Him.

MRS. NOAH I listen to Him, but He never talks to me.

He speaks with a still, small voice. Sometimes our loud voices drown out His. Listen more closely for Him. If you listen closely, you'll hear Him. (The elephant trumpets loudly) MRS.

NOAH Is that God's voice?

No, God has a still, small voice. That is a noisy, large trumpet that sounds like it belongs to an elephant.

ELEPHANT Hurry, Mrs. Noah! Mr. Elephant was going through the ark door and he got stuck!

MRS. NOAH Are the hippopotami off the ark?

ELEPHANT Yes, they left without getting stuck. Mr. Elephant was right behind them and he got stuck! (Noah and Mrs. Noah walk over to the ark doorway. Mr. Elephant is stuck in it.)

Mr. Elephant, I see you got yourself in a tight spot. How did it happen?

ELEPHANT I told him not to eat that last bale of hay this morning before we left, but he just wouldn't listen to me. He just wouldn't listen.

ELEPHANT I left one little wisp of hay on the floor. You told me not to eat it all and I didn't eat it all!

ELEPHANT Very funny! Now you tell me how you're going to get out of that doorway.

MRS. NOAH I have an idea.

Mrs. Elephant, you get behind him and push. So will I. We ought to have him unstuck in no time. (They get behind Mr. Elephant. Mrs. Noah brings in a big bar of soap and rubs it on Mr. Elephant.

NOAH That ought to do the trick. (She goes behind him and pushes too. Mr. Elephant shoots out of the door and down the gangplank.

ELEPHANT Thank you so much for freeing my husband, Mr. and Mrs. Noah. Come on, Mr. Elephant, let's go join the others. (They join the crowd of animals. Mr. Elephant rubs his back.

NOAH What are you planning to do in that grove of trees, Noah? It's so full of animals you won't be able to move.

It should be full of people, too. I told the family to gather there and the fireflies are supposed to be there, too.

MRS. NOAH What are you planning, Noah?

Come over and see. (Mrs. Noah follows Noah over to the grove where the animals and people are seated on the ground)

I have asked you to gather here for a purpose. Before we go off to live our own lives again, I thought we should thank God for our safe voyage on the ark.

MRS. NOAH I want to thank Him for drying up the earth.

SARAH I want to thank Him for giving Slow Poke a Mrs. Slow Poke.

BILLY I want to thank Him for keeping the porcupines away from me.

I'll gather a pile of wood for the altar. (He piles up some wood.) The fireflies have promised to light the fire for me.

(The fireflies fly and light the fire with their tails) I want to thank God for His promise to never again destroy the earth with a flood.

HAM How do we know He made that promise?

MRS. HAM We didn't hear Him make it. You did!

SHEM How do you know it won't rain again tomorrow?

It might rain tomorrow, but just for a day or less, not forty days and nights again.

MRS. SHEM Ask God to stop the rain until everything gets dried out.

MRS. NOAH Ask God to stop the rain until my clothes dry!

JAPHETH: How do you know God promised He wouldn't destroy the earth with a flood again?

JAPHETH Tell us, father.

NOAH He said he would seal his promise with a rainbow in the sky.

JOHNNY I don't see a rainbow.

SARAH I see one!

JOHNNY There isn't a rainbow up there. That's just light or a bird.

SARAH It's a rainbow!

JOHNNY It isn't.

SARAH It is!

MRS. NOAH It's the most beautiful rainbow I've ever seen. What do you think, Noah?

MRS. SHEM It's pretty all right.

SHEM I just hope it doesn't rain again tomorrow.

SHEM If we have a rainbow like this one every time it rains, I hope it will rain again tomorrow.

(They all exclaim over the rainbow)

You see, God always keeps his promises. He gives us rainbows to light up the darkness in our lives.

CHOIR (Everyone sings Amen) Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen.

God keeps his promises,

If only we trust Him,

Amen, Amen, Amen