

The Railway Children

Young Actor Sides

CHARACTER	DESCRIPTION	AGE IN SHOW	GENDER
Roberta (Bobbie)	Oldest child. Very smart. Sensitive and empathetic.	13 - 15 years old 7th - 8th grade	Female
Peter	Middle child. Wants to be the leader. Boisterous and adventurous.	10 - 13 years old 5th - 6th grade	Male
Phyllis	Youngest child. Means extremely well. Silly and fun. No filter.	9 - 10 years old 4th - 5th grade	Female
James	Freshmen at a boarding school. Cameo appearance in Act 2. Sweet and thoughtful.	14 - 15 years old 9th grade	Male

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

1. Sides:
 - a. Bobbie, Peter, Phyllis: Prepare Sides #1 and #2.
 - b. Bobbie & James: Prepare Side #3.

2. Song:
 - a. All: Sing 32 bars of any song (60-90 seconds). Please bring a device to play an accompaniment track through our bluetooth speaker.
 - i. Can be Musical Theater, Folk, Americana, or Bluegrass

3. Please bring a printed headshot and resume to auditions.
 - a. These do not need to be professional. A selfie on your phone is fine. We just need to see what you look like!
For further instruction: <https://www.openjarinstitute.com/resume-guide>

Bobbie, Peter, Phyllis

Side #1

STATION MASTER

So I've caught you, have I, you young thief.

PETER

I'm not a thief! I'm a coal miner.

STATION MASTER

Tell that to the police!

PETER

It's true no matter who I tell it to!

STATION MASTER

Hold your tongue, you young scallywag, and come along to the station.

PHYLLIS

From the shadows

Oh no!

BOBBIE

Not the police station!

BOBBIE steps into plain view, holding PHYLLIS by the hand.

STATION MASTER

Why, it's a regular gang.

PETER

Surprised

You were spying on me?

STATION MASTER

Come along to the station, all of you.

BOBBIE

Oh, don't! Can't you decide *now* what you'll do to us? It is our fault just as much as Peter's. We helped to unload the coal at home - and we knew where he got it too.

PETER

No, you didn't.

PHYLLIS

Yes we did. We knew all the time.

BOBBIE

We only pretended to humor you.

STATION MASTER

You're the city kids from the cottage up on the hill. Haven't you been to church and learned your commandments, not to know it's wicked to steal?

PETER

I didn't think it was stealing. I was almost sure it wasn't. I thought if I took it from the outside of the heap maybe it would be. But in the middle I thought it was really mining.

STATION MASTER

Not quite. . . But did you do it for a lark or what?

BOBBIE

It's been so cold with the rain and all.

PHYLLIS

Mother said we are too poor to have a fire.

PETER

Phyl.

Silence.

STATION MASTER

Well, I'll tell you what I'll do. I'll look past it this once. But you all remember, stealing is stealing, whether you call it mining or not.

PETER

You mean you aren't going to do anything to us? You're swell!

PETER slaps STATION MASTER on the back.

BOBBIE

You're a dear!

BOBBIE takes his hand.

PHYLLIS

You're a darling!

PHYLLIS gives the STATION MASTER a big hug.

STATION MASTER

Extricating himself

There, there, that's alright. Now, run along home.

The CHILDREN scamper home.

PETER

You're spies and traitors, that's what you are!

BOBBIE

It's not our fault your secrets are so easy to find out! Come on, let's get home before Mother starts to worry.

PETER

Let's race.

PHYLLIS

Super fast

123 GO!

PHYLLIS bolts ahead.

PETER

Hey, no fair!

BOBBIE

Last one home is a rotten egg!

Bobbie, Peter, Phyllis

Side #2

PETER

I'll tell you how they set a leg in an army hospital. They strap the broken man down so that he can't resist their doctorish designs, and then they pull the leg till the bones SNAP together - with a tremendous CRUNCH! Let's play at bone-setting!

PHYLLIS

Oh, no!

BOBBIE

Oh yes, let's! I'll be the doctor, Phil can be the nurse, and Peter, you can be the patient.

PETER

Really? Awesome!

BOBBIE

Playing Doctor

Nurse, please prepare the couch of suffering.

PHYLLIS

Playing Nurse

Right away, Dr. Bobbie.

BOBBIE

Now then, what seems to be the matter.

PETER

Overacting the patient

Oh, Doctor, Doctor. I fought off a hundred foes, but the last one got me good in the leg.

BOBBIE

Let's have a look.

PETER

Ohhh, my leg.

BOBBIE roughly inspects PETER's leg.

Ooo. Oh. Oww!

BOBBIE

Yup, it's broken.

PHYLLIS

Looks like the fibia has cracked clean off the tibula.

PETER

My beautiful leg!

BOBBIE

Nurse, hold him down while I bind his leg.

PHYLLIS

With pleasure.

PETER

Oh, thank you Doctor. Thank you. Ohhh, my poor poor leg.

BOBBIE pulls tight.

Owww.

BOBBIE pulls tighter.

Not so tight!

BOBBIE

Is this tight enough, nurse?

PHYLLIS

Not quite.

PHYLLIS gives a final mighty tug.

PETER

Ow! That's enough. I can't move at all.

PHYLLIS

Good.

BOBBIE

Phil and I are going to pick flowers for James.

PHYLLIS

And we won't untie you till you promise never, never to talk to us about bones crunching. Come, Bobbie!

Bobbie & James

Side #3

JAMES

It's ok. I'm all right.

BOBBIE

Did you tumble down?

JAMES

Yes, I tripped on the rail and hit the ground hard. When I tried to get up, I must've passed out.

JAMES tries to get up

Ahhhhh! I think I broke my leg.

BOBBIE

There there. Take it easy. Do you think you could walk if I helped you?

JAMES

I can try.

They try.

JAMES can only stand on one leg. His other leg is bent at a nasty angle.

Here, let me sit down. I feel so dizzy. . .

BOBBIE

Don't faint again, *please* don't.

BOBBIE hastily wets her handkerchief with more milk and puts it on his forehead.

JAMES

Oh - no, it's alright - you don't have to - Oh. . . that's. . . that's nice. What is that?

BOBBIE

Milk.

Silence.

What's your name?

James. What's yours?
JAMES

Bobbie.
BOBBIE

But you're a girl.
JAMES

Yes. My full name's Roberta.
BOBBIE

*The candle goes out and they are left in pitch darkness.
Silence*

Bobbie?
JAMES

James?
BOBBIE

Are you afraid of the dark?
JAMES

No. You?
BOBBIE

No. That is, not very. . .
JAMES

Here. Take my hand.
BOBBIE

Silence.

Bobbie?
JAMES

James?
BOBBIE

Thank you.
JAMES