

The run-time of *Camp WiggaWoggaWoo* is approximately 75 minutes.

Characters:

Adults:

Kiki VanHaltenberg-Smythe
“Miss Jenny” Hardy—Assistant Camp Director
Vera Finley—the new Camp Director
Flo Nightingale—the Camp Nurse

Counselors:

Chrissy (Cabin 1)
Brittany (Cabin 2)
Teresa (Cabin 3)
Brad (Cabin 4)

The Campers:

Cabin 1:

Bethany
Carrie
Colleen
Heather
Mary
Amber
Julie

Cabin 2:

Zel
Monica
Sunshine
Elizabeth
Noralee
Carol Anne
Rennie
Matty
Vickie

Cabin 3:

Margaret
Wendy
Trini
Sydney
Suzy 1
Suzy 2

Cabin 4:

Reginald “Turtle” VanHaltenberg-Smythe
Lucas
Jack
Stu
Ivan
Ralphie
Victor
Bucky
Josh

The Adult and Counselor characters can be played by older looking students or actual adult actors.

Location:

Camp WiggaWoggaWoo

Time:

Summertime.

Scene 1:

Lights up on center quad of the Camp WiggaWoggaWoo. Campers are already milling around. MRS. KIKI VANHALTENBERG-SMYTHE and her son Reginald "TURTLE" enter.

KIKI: Oh, Reginald darling, look how wonderfully rustic it is!

TURTLE looks around not sure how to respond.

TURTLE: Uh-huh

KIKI: Wooden cabins and benches and...dirt...and...bugs.

TURTLE: Uh-huh.

KIKI: And look at all of these children waving and saying good-bye to their parents.

TURTLE: Uh-huh.

KIKI: It's just so touching. And soon, you'll be one of them. Saying good-bye to me for a whole four weeks.

TURTLE: Uh-huh.

KIKI: Now I want you to be my big brave boy. No tears. *(wiping her own)*

TURTLE: Mom, I'll be fine. It's not like I've never been to camp before.

KIKI: Oh, darling, I know, but this camp is so different from those you've been to before. I really don't know how I let you talk me into this Camp Wobbleywood.

TURTLE: WiggaWoggaWoo.

KIKI: Of course, darling. But wouldn't you rather go back to that nice, clean computer camp in the city?

TURTLE: Mom, you promised.

KIKI: Yes, yes, I did, darling.

MISS JENNY crosses the camp yard to TURTLE.

MISS JENNY: So, who do we have here?

KIKI: I'm Mrs. Kiki VanHaltenberg-Smythe and this is my son, Reginald.

MISS JENNY: Well, welcome Reginald. Just put your luggage over there and go grab a seat for the Welcome Ceremony.

KIKI: Oh, darling. I love you.

TURTLE: Uh-huh.

TURTLE takes his luggage and adds it to the pile of others. TURTLE moves to a bench and sits. Several other children come over and start to talk to him.

MISS JENNY: He'll be fine—another twenty minutes and he'll have a dozen new friends.

KIKI: Do you mind if I stay and watch your little Welcome Ceremony?

MISS JENNY: Not at all, but after the ceremony, we'll be separating the campers according to their cabins.

KIKI: How wonderful.

HEATHER: Whose mother is that?

CARRIE: That poor little kid's, over there.

AMBER: Something tells me that he's not poor.

CARRIE: Is it his goofy clothes or the diamonds dripping off his mother?

AMBER: If my dad had that kind of money, I wouldn't be at this lousy camp.

CARRIE: Don't knock it until you've tried it. I've been to lots of other camps, but they aren't nearly as much fun as WiggaWoggaWoo.

BETHANY: The camp director, Miss Candy and Miss Jenny, over there, are just about the nicest, "funnest" people you will ever meet.

HEATHER: You've been here before then?

BETHANY: Carrie and I met here last year, but I've been coming since I was seven. Julie over there has been coming for the last two years and Jack came here last year too.

AMBER: Well, I wanted to go to Space Camp this year, but my dad said he didn't want to pay for me to have an excuse to stay inside all summer when that's all I do all year.

BETHANY: You don't like to go outside?

AMBER: It's okay, but I'd rather be working on a programming project on my computer.

CARRIE: That sounds kinda boring.

AMBER: Hey, don't knock it until you've tried it.

HEATHER: My name is Heather. Maybe we'll get to be in the same cabin.

CARRIE: That would be cool. Bethany and I already checked with Miss Jenny and we're going to be in Cabin 1.

MISS JENNY moves to one side of the camp, opposite the benches. She is joined by FINLEY, the new camp director.

MISS JENNY: Okay, everyone. Quiet down. Okay. Quiet.

FINLEY blows the whistle around her neck. EVERYONE is quiet, instantly.

MISS JENNY: *(with a slight wince)* Thank you. Welcome to Camp WiggaWoggaWoo. I'm your Assistant Camp Director Miss Jenny. It's time for the Camp WiggaWoggaWoo Welcome Ceremony. To begin our ceremony, I would like to introduce you to our new Camp Director—Miss Vera Finley.

BETHANY: A new director?

JULIE: What?

CARRIE: No Miss Candy this year?

LUCAS: No way!

FINLEY: Welcome, campers. I am Camp Director Finley. You can call me Camp Director Finley. I expect that you are wondering what your time at Camp WiggaWoggaWoo will be like. Firstly, your time here will be orderly. Breakfast will be served promptly at oh-seven thirty, lunch at twelve hundred hours, and dinner at eighteen-thirty-five. You will be separated into cabins for sleeping and camp activities—you will remain with the other members of your cabin for all activities. Secondly, you will be participating in many physical activities during your time here at Camp WiggaWoggaWoo. Many of these activities have been referred to as fun. Apparently, fun is something that is important to your time here. And lastly, each cabin will compete during your stay here for the coveted Camp WiggaWoggaWoo Cabin of Excellence Award, which will be awarded to the cabin whose members most consistently excel in designated maneuvers. Now, before I have your Assistant Camp Director give out your cabin assignments. I need to introduce you to our Camp Nurse—Flo Nighingale. She

comes to us from years of experience working at the front lines with our armed forces and most recently at Grover Elementary. Nurse Nightingale.

NIGHTINGALE: Welcome, campers. I am so excited to be here this summer. I look forward to treating all of your ailments—cuts and scrapes, poison ivy rashes, tetanus, broken bones, snake bites, a couple of possible rabies cases...

LUCAS sneezes loudly.

NIGHTINGALE: You! You need to come with me to the clinic right now. Can't run the risk of spreading the contagion to the entire camp.

NIGHTINGALE motions for LUCAS, who looks around taken back. NIGHTINGALE crosses to the campers and motions again. LUCAS reluctantly moves to NIGHTINGALE, who ushers him off quickly.

FINLEY: Good thinking. Enough pleasantries. Assistant Camp Director "Miss Jenny," would you please announce the cabin placements?

MISS JENNY: Thank you, Camp Director Finley. *(waits for FINLEY to exit)* But...before we can do anything else—you all need to learn the Camp WiggaWoggaWoo cheer. Campers, if you've been here before, help out the newcomers. First, you all have to stand up. Okay now, swing your right arm and yell "Wigga". You try. *(The campers do it.)* Good! And then swing the other arm—"Wogga". *(The campers do it.)* Okay. Then bring them up and down with a shake and a "Woo". *(The campers do it.)* All right, put it all together.

The campers do the WiggaWoggaWoo cheer.

MISS JENNY: Great! Louder this time.

They do the cheer again, louder.

MISS JENNY: Yeah, you've got it. Everybody ready to find out who you're bunking with?

The campers hoot and holler.

MISS JENNY: Yeah, you've got it! Cabin counselors, would you please step forward? Chrissy is the cabin counselor for Cabin 1. Brittany for Cabin 2. In Cabin 3 is Teresa and Brad is the counselor for Cabin 4. The following campers are in Cabin 1—Bethany Nobel, Carrie Ojowski, Colleen Caldwell, Heather Martin, Mary McFadden...

Lights fade.

Scene 2:

Lights up on Cabin 3, complete with cots or bunk beds. TERESA sits on the edge of one of the beds with the campers sitting or standing or lounging against the side of a bed.

TERESA: Okay, since we're going to be staying together for four weeks, I think we need to know a little bit about each other. I'm Teresa and I'll be your cabin counselor. If you have any questions or problems, you can come to me.

MARGARET: So, if we want to find out more about the events in the cabin competition—

TERESA: First, tell me your name.

MARGARET: Margaret Hopper. So, if we want to find out more about the events—

TERESA: Everyone say hello to Margaret.

CAMPERS: Hello, Margaret.

MARGARET: Hi—so, if we want to find out more about the events in the cabin competition, do we ask you?

TERESA: Yes, you can ask me and we can plot our strategy for winning the competition this year.

MARGARET: And if we need to call home because we forgot something?

TERESA: Did you forget something, Margaret?

MARGARET: No. I don't think so, I'm just asking.

TERESA: If you forgot something you need, come and see me.

MARGARET: And what if we get into a poison ivy patch and itch all over?

TERESA: Find me and I'll take you to the clinic.

MARGARET: If we run out of toilet paper in the cabin bathroom?

TERESA: I'll get some out of the storage closet.

MARGARET: And if a snake gets in the cabin?

TERESA: Go find one of the other counselors.

All of the campers, except for MARGARET, laugh.

TERESA: So, we've all met Margaret. Now, let's meet you.

WENDY: I'm Wendy Holmes.

TERESA: Everyone say hello to Wendy.

CAMPERS: Hello, Wendy.

WENDY: Hi, everyone. This is my fourth camp in four years.

TERESA: A camp hopper, huh?

WENDY: My dad moves around a lot for his job, so I'm never in one place long enough to make many friends.

TERESA: Well, the friends you'll meet here will be your friends for life.

TRINI: Unless we all get malaria and die.

TERESA: You'll be Nurse Nightingale's best friend by the end of camp. What's your name?

TRINI: Trini Burton.

CAMPERS: Hello, Trini.

TRINI: Mosquitoes carry malaria and all sorts of other diseases and this place is (*smacking one on her arm*) crawling with them.

SYDNEY: Don't you mean buzzing with them?

TRINI: Whatever, they are just very unsanitary.

TERESA: I'm sure no one is going to catch malaria or anything else from mosquitoes or anything else buzzing, crawling, or otherwise moving around in the cabin.

SUZY 1: There are other things in the cabin besides mosquitoes?

SYDNEY: Sure, big bugs with squiggly antennas and twelve legs. Wood mice as big as your head—

TERESA: Sydney, that's enough. You don't need to scare everyone on the first day. This is Sydney Nelson, she's obviously been here before.

SYDNEY: Three years running.

TERESA: She loves to scare people.

SYDNEY: I really like the big gross-out stories, but I'll take what I can get.

WENDY: I won the ghost story competition at my camp last year.

TERESA: Great, then you two will head up our Story Team for the cabin competition.

WENDY: Cool!

SYDNEY: Yes!

TERESA: Okay, back to the introductions. You, tell us about yourself.

SUZY 1: My name is Susan Hafferty, but everyone calls me Suzy.

SUZY 2: Everyone calls me Suzy too.

TERESA: Two Suzy's. Interesting. Okay. You'll be Suzy 1 and you're Suzy 2.

SUZY 2: Get it Suzy TOO!

TERESA: Everyone say hello to the Suzy's.

CAMPERS: Hello, Suzy's.

TERESA: Is that everybody? Yep. Great. Now, since we've all been introduced—

MARGARET: Excuse me, I have another question—

Lights out.

Scene 3:

Lights up on the center quad of Camp WiggaWoggaWoo.

KIKI: Now, you are certain that my Reginald will be all right?

FINLEY: I assure you that your son is safer at Camp WiggaWoggaWoo than he is in your own home.

KIKI: He's never been away from home for longer than one night. He's so small and—

FINLEY: Your son will come home a new man.

KIKI: That's what I'm afraid of—I'll miss watching my darling grow up. I'll miss it all. I won't know anything that's going on.

FINLEY: Of course you will. I'm implementing a mandatory letter writing program for the campers. Lost art—letter writing. Improves the mind and the penmanship. You can look for your first letter in *(checking the papers on her clipboard)* 2 days, 13 hours, and 42 minutes—according to the United States Postal Schedule.

MISS JENNY enters, making marks on her clipboard.

FINLEY: Now, you'll excuse me—important camp business.

Camp Director FINLEY moves to MISS JENNY as KIKI makes her exit.

KIKI: Thank you, Camp Director Finley. *(calling to the air)* Good-bye, Reginald darling, wherever you are!

FINLEY: Is everyone accounted for?

MISS JENNY: Everyone has their cabin assignments, Camp Director Finley.

FINLEY: Good. I've been reviewing this camp schedule for tomorrow and there seems to be something missing.

MISS JENNY: I don't think so. Let me check again. *(checking clipboard)* Breakfast, swimming, lunch, wood crafts, cabin chat time, dinner, and the evening activities—including letter writing.

FINLEY: What about the campers' conditioning hike?

MISS JENNY: Conditioning hike?

FINLEY: To get them into shape. Some of these campers look like they haven't walked farther than from their couch to the refrigerator. Self-discipline—never too early to instill it.

MISS JENNY: I suppose we can move some things around to fit in a hike tomorrow.

FINLEY: Nonsense. A lot of time has been spent arranging the schedule of activities, so we'll just add the hike here. *(taking JENNY's clipboard and writing on it before handing it back)* Much better. I'm going to walk the compound before lights out—make sure everything and everyone is settled and that there have been no perimeter breeches.

MISS JENNY: Yes, Camp Director Finley. *(flipping to schedule)* 5:30 AM!?!?!?

Lights fade out as MISS JENNY exits.

Scene 4:

Lights up on the center quad of Camp WiggaWoggaWoo—the next morning at 5:30 AM. Camp Director FINLEY stands upstage as the CAMPERS enter, obviously tired and confused at being up this early. The CAMPERS slowly form two lines as the COUNSELORS enter, nearly as groggy as the CAMPERS.

FINLEY: *(blowing a whistle)* Everyone up! Up, up, up! Straighten up those lines.

FINLEY begins marking off names on her clipboard.

COLLEEN: It's 5:30 in the morning. It's still dark at 5:30 in the morning.

MARY: I couldn't tell if it was dark or my eyes were still closed.

ZEL: I can't tell you the last time I was up this early.

MONICA: I can—Christmas morning...when I was six.

ELIZABETH: Oh, quit complaining. We'll just see more of the day and we can do more things.

SUNSHINE: Like take a nap later.

ELIZABETH: Don't be so negative, Sunshine.

ZEL: You two should switch names.

SUNSHINE: Huh?

ZEL: Elizabeth there has a happy, sunny disposition. And you, Sunshine, have anything but.

MONICA: Yeah, your parents should have named you Slightly Overcast.

ZEL: More like, 80% Chance of Rain.

SUNSHINE: Very funny. Is it my fault my parents are wanna-be hippies? At least I didn't get my sister's name.

MONICA: What's that?

SUNSHINE: Rainbow Brilliance—and guess what? She's color-blind and dumb as a post.

ZEL: Weird family.

SUNSHINE: You're telling me?

FINLEY: Straighten up. Good morning, campers!

CAMPERS: (*half-hearted*) Good morning, Camp Director Finley.

FINLEY: I said “Good morning, Campers!”

CAMPERS: (*not much more enthusiastic*) Good morning, Camp Director Finley.

FINLEY: We’ll work on that. This morning and every other morning from now until the end of camp, you will be roused for a five-mile conditioning hike.

BRITTANY: We don’t get paid enough to hike five miles.

BRAD: We don’t get paid enough to get up at 5:30 in the morning.

FINLEY: These hikes will help you improve your stamina, improve your physical appearance, and improve your minds.

CHRISSY: Can’t she just make the kids read a book?

FINLEY: I will be leading today’s hike. The path I have chosen is fraught with dangers—I suggest you keep up as we will not be going back for stragglers. Counselors, please take your positions. Campers, line up. (*blows whistle*) And hup, 2, 3, 4, hup, 2, 3, 4.

The CAMPERS begin walking unenthusiastically. FINLEY steps aside to watch their progress.

FINLEY: Keep those backs straight. Knees up. Heads forward. Hup, 2, 3, 4, hup, 2, 3, 4.

JULIE: This is crazy.

MARY: Not as crazy as Camp Director Finley.

COLLEEN: Maybe if we sneak back to camp, no one will notice.

JULIE, MARY, and COLLEEN start walking backwards, letting others pass them. FINLEY turns to check the campers’ progress.

FINLEY: You three! Get a move on.

COLLEEN: So much for that idea.

JULIE: It was worth a try.

FINLEY: (*calling to the COUNSELORS still standing in the camp quad*) Counselors, you need to keep everyone moving. We don’t want to lose any campers to the bears on the first hike of the summer.

COLLEEN & JULIE & MARY: Bears!?!?!?

JULIE, MARY, and COLLEEN freeze.

BRITTANY: Come on. The sooner we get back to camp, the sooner we can have breakfast.

MARY: Breakfast! I wasn’t hungry until you mentioned breakfast—now I’m starving.

COLLEEN: Come on, let’s get into the middle of the group so we don’t become fast food for some crazed grizzly bear.

JULIE: Yeah.

JULIE, MARY, and COLLEEN rush forward and push through the line of campers.

FINLEY: (*at the head of the line*) Hup, 2, 3, 4, hup, 2, 3, 4.

BRAD: I bet the scenery is really pretty when you can see it.

ZEL: The sun’s finally coming up.

SUNSHINE: Whoo-hoo.

MONICA: Even the squirrels are looking at us like we're crazy for tramping through the woods at the crack of dawn.

SUNSHINE: Before the crack of dawn, remember.

ELIZABETH: It's not that bad.

FINLEY: Only three more miles to go. Let's pick up the pace, campers!

ELIZABETH: Okay, maybe it is that bad.

FINLEY: Hup, 2, 3, 4, hup, 2, 3, 4.

MARY: I'm still starving, but I'm so tired that I don't think I'll be able to eat.

JULIE: Me either.

AMBER: Well, I'm going to eat four helpings of pancakes and bacon and sausage.

BETHANY: Camp Director Finley has probably changed the breakfast menu to granola, grits, and gruel.

CARRIE: *(with a terrible British accent)* Please, sir, can I have some more? *(back to normal)* Uck!

FINLEY: Keep those knees up! Hup, 2, 3, 4, hup, 2, 3, 4. Backs straight. That's it. Come on, campers! Hup, 2, 3, 4. Everyone at ease.

The CAMPERS rest—some collapsing, some bending over, some leaning on each other. MISS JENNY enters, obviously well-rested.

MISS JENNY: Nice hike?

FINLEY: Invigorating. Smell that fresh air. Makes you want to keep on going.

CAMPERS: No!

MISS JENNY: All right, everyone—breakfast is waiting.

The CAMPERS barely move.

ZEL: Can it wait just a little longer?

MISS JENNY: *(smiling)* It's not going anywhere.

NURSE NIGHTINGALE enters, looking at the CAMPERS.

NIGHTINGALE: Everyone's back?

MISS JENNY: They're just resting for a minute or two before coming to the mess hall for breakfast.

NIGHTINGALE: Then maybe this is a good time for vaccinations!

CARRIE: Come on, everyone—breakfast is waiting!

BETHANY: We're not tired anymore!

MARY: Not tired at all!

COLLEEN: Hungry, hungry!

AMBER: Pancakes here I come!

JULIE: Yummy!

HEATHER: That hike sure worked up my appetite!

The CAMPERS rush off. NIGHTINGALE and MISS JENNY watch them go.

NIGHTINGALE: Did I say something?

Lights fade.