

The SOUND of MUSIC

A note about auditioning for an acting role: (parents please help your child with this)

Actors who wish to be cast in a role must get their feelings and intentions across to the audience by using their voices to show when they are being sincere, deceptive, happy, etc. This is done through their **timing** (including pauses), **inflection** and **rate** of delivery of the lines. Inflection is a variation in the pitch of one's voice. For instance, we indicate that we're asking a question by inflecting UP at the end of a sentence. We show that we're angry by pausing in the following sentence and delivering the last word with more intensity:

“Oh.....ooooh....he just makes me so (pause) ANGRY!!!!

Actors who wish to be cast in speaking roles must use these tools to tell the story and give us insight into feelings and intentions of the character. Their timing (including pauses), inflection and rate of delivery are like the colors of the character. When auditioning, you must show that you can be more than a grey version of the character. Think about how the actor is feeling and what he/she is trying to accomplish, then look for places to use your voice to make the character more COLORFUL. Also, be sure to speak clearly and loudly so we can hear you.

Acting Audition lines for children ages 5 to 7

(Please note that children ages 5-7 may audition with the scene for the older actors if they are capable and choose to do so but please plan to read one or the other, not both.)

This character does not have a mother. Could Maria be someone who will be just as nice? Be sure to notice that the last sentence is a sincere question and that just THINKING about being tired sometimes MAKES us tired!

Audition Line:

I'm glad you're here, Maria. You're nice. Sometimes I get reeeeeeeaaaaly tired when we march around the house. When I'm tired, will you let me sit on your lap and take a nap?

Acting Audition lines for children ages 7 to 14

This character does not want a governess and is trying to trick Maria into acting in a way that will get her fired from her job. How can your voice let the audience know that your character is being sneaky?

Audition Line:

If you don't know anything about being a governess, I guess I should tell you that the most important thing is to tell father to mind his own business. We always get to do anything we want so father doesn't like it when anyone tells us what to do.