

## Audition Materials For

# KATHERINE



About the Character: An ambitious young reporter, works hard to make a name for herself as a legitimate journalist in a time when women aren't taken seriously. Quick, funny, and resourceful, Katherine should be a strong singer with excellent diction for her showstopping number, "Watch What Happens." Must be comfortable portraying a romance between Katherine and Jack.

Gender: Female

Grade: rising 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>

Vocal range top: A3-D5

Total Lines: 103 Solos: 3

Audition Song: Watch What Happens

Pages: 46 (End of scene 5) 85-87 (Scene 12)

LES

Aww... David, what are we going to say to Mom and Pop when we come back with no money?

DAVEY

I guess some things are worth going hungry for. Jack, I'll meet you back here to head to Brooklyn.

JACK

You bet.

*(The NEWSIES disperse as DAVEY and LES head home.)*

KATHERINE

So, Mr. Kelly, what's your story? Working your way through art school? That drawing you did at the theater showed real talent.

JACK

Art school? You kiddin' me? I'm just a newsie!

KATHERINE

You're not just a newsie, you're their leader. What are your hopes for tomorrow's strike?

JACK

Today we stopped our newsies from carrying out papes, but the wagons still delivered to the rest of the city. Tomorrow, we stop the wagons.

KATHERINE

Are you scared?

JACK

Good question. Do I look scared?

*(pause)*

But ask me again in the morning.

KATHERINE

*(writes down the quote)*

Good answer. Good night, Mr. Kelly.

*(DARCY exits ahead of KATHERINE.)*

JACK

Hey, Plumber. Write it good. We both got a lot ridin' on you.

*(KATHERINE nods. JACK exits. KATHERINE walks to her office.)*

## SCENE SIX: KATHERINE'S OFFICE

(KATHERINE sits in front of her typewriter and begins to compose her article.)

## KATHERINE

You heard the man, "Write it good." No pressure...

(typing)

"Newsies Stop the World." A little hyperbole never hurt anyone.

(typing again)

"With all eyes fixed on the trolley strike, there's another battle brewing in the city..."

(pulls the paper out of the typewriter and rips it up)

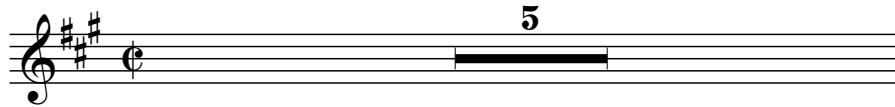
... and if I could just write about it...

(puts a fresh piece of paper in the typewriter)

(#11 – WATCH WHAT HAPPENS.)

## WATCH WHAT HAPPENS

(KATHERINE): Come on, Katherine, the kids are counting on you. Oh, you poor kids.



Write what you know, so they say. All I know is I don't



know what to write or the right way to write it. This is



big, la - dy, don't screw it up! This is not some lit - tle



12

vaude - ville— I'm—— re - view - ing.

14

"Poor lit - tle kids ver - sus rich, greed - y so - ur-puss-es":

16

Ha! It's a cinch! It can prac - ti - c'lly write it-self, and

18

let's pray it does, 'cause as I may have men-tioned, I have

20

no clue— what—— I'm do - ing.

22

Am I in-sane? This is what I've been wait-ing for! Well,

24

that, plus the scream - ing of ten an - gry ed - i-tors: "A

26

girl?" "That's a girl!! How the heck..." "Is that ev-en le-gal?"

28

“Look, just— go—— and get her.”

30

Not on - ly that, there’s the sto - ry be-hind the sto - ry:

32

Thou-sands of chil - dren ex-ploit - ed, in-vis - i-ble, speak

34

up, take a stand, and there’s some-one to write a-bout it,

36

that’s how— things—— get bet - ter.

38

Give life’s lit - tle guys some ink and— when—

41

— it dries, just watch what— hap -

43

- pens!— Those kids will live and

46

breathe right on— the— page and once— they’re cen -





78  
  
 watch what hap - pens!— It's Da-vid and Go-

82  
  
 li - ath, do— or die, the fight is— on— and I can't

86  
  
 watch what hap - pens.— But all I know is

90  
  
 noth-ing— hap - pens if you just give— in.— It

94  
  
 can't be— an - y worse than how it's— been,— and it

98  
  
 just so— hap - pens that we just might win,— so what-

102  
  
 ev - er— hap - pens,— let's— be-

106  
  
 gin!—

(# 12 – WATCH WHAT HAPPENS – PLAYOFF.)



*(JACK takes the stage as DAVEY heaves a sigh of relief.)*

**JACK**

*(quieting the NEWSIES)*

All right. Pulitzer raised the price of papes without so much as a word to us. That was a lousy thing to do. So we go on strike.

*(The NEWSIES cheer.)*

But we gotta be realistic. How many days can you go without makin' money? However long, believe me, Pulitzer can go longer.

*(DAVEY and the NEWSIES look to each other, confused by what JACK is saying. The NEWSIES boo. MEDDA and KATHERINE confer and rush offstage.)*

Mr. Pulitzer has personally given me his word: If we disband the union, he will not raise prices again for two years. I say we take the deal.

*(The NEWSIES boo.)*

All we need to do is vote "NO" on the strike. Vote "NO"!

*(#23 – JACK'S BETRAYAL. The boos overwhelm JACK as the NEWSIES storm out of the theater. BUNSEN appears from the wings.)*

**BUNSEN**

Here's your money, Jack. You should feel very proud of yourself.

*(JACK pockets the money as BUNSEN leaves. KATHERINE runs back on, holding several of Jack's drawings.)*

**KATHERINE**

That was some speech you made.

**JACK**

What d'ya you care? And who said you could look at my drawings?

**KATHERINE**

Medda gave them to me.

**JACK**

Give 'em back!



**KATHERINE**

*(turning away to look more)*

These are drawings of The Refuge, aren't they? Is this really what it's like in there: three kids to a bed and vermin everywhere?

**JACK**

Why should I tell you anything? You double-crossed us to your father. Your father!!

**KATHERINE**

Joseph Pulitzer may be my father, but I wanted to make my own way, without his help. I told you my professional name was Plumber, and it is.

**JACK**

I don't know what to believe no more.

**KATHERINE**

Jack, believe me, I'm on your side, but I need to know you didn't turn your back on your friends just for the money.

**JACK**

I ain't gonna see no more of my pals beat up and tossed into jail. No matter how many days we strike, your father ain't givin' up. I don't know what else we can do.

**KATHERINE**

Ah. But I do.

**JACK**

No, I'm through. No way.

**KATHERINE**

Really, Jack? Really? Being boss doesn't mean you have all the answers – just the brains to recognize the right one when you hear it.

*(JACK is at a loss for words.)*

**JACK**

Okay, I'm listening.

**KATHERINE**

The strike was your idea. The rally was Davey's. And now my plan will take us to the finish line.

*(KATHERINE takes a piece of paper from her pocket and hands it to him.)*

**JACK**

*(reading)*

"The Children's Crusade"? Now, there's a headline!

**KATHERINE**

*(snatches it back and reads)*

"For the sake of all the kids in every sweatshop, factory, and slaughterhouse in New York, I beg you... join us." With those words, you challenged our whole generation to help each other!

**JACK**

I can't believe it, I mean people like you would never give me the time of day, and here you are, taking up the banner. Why?

**KATHERINE**

We all need something to believe in, Jack. I believe in this story. I believe in you. And so do the newsies.

**JACK**

We gotta let your father know the next century belongs to us.

**KATHERINE**

Exactly! If we publish my words with your drawings – and if every worker under twenty-one read it and stayed home from work... or better yet, came to Newsie Square and actually joined the strike – even my father couldn't ignore that.

**JACK**

Only we got no way to print it. Your father controls all the printing presses in town.

**KATHERINE**

Right. But I know where there's a printing press that no one would ever think we'd use!

**JACK**

Then why are we still standing here?

**KATHERINE**

Follow me, come on!

*(KATHERINE and JACK exit. #24 – SEIZE THE DAY – REPRISE.)*