

THE MAP

A western for students in their second year of learning English.

CHARACTERS:

The sheriff

George Stevens

Florence Stevens

Wicked Jack

Dirty Harry

Nasty Bill

Henry Hangover, owner of the saloon.

Annabel, his wife

Mabel, a waitress

Mr. Fake

Mrs. Fortune

Honest John

Grace

Nellie

You may add more characters if necessary. Look for details in scene 7.

THE SET:

The interior of The Golden Horse, a saloon in Hangman city. A bar, two small tables, some chairs.

SCENE 1

Some of the chairs are lying on the floor. A table has been overturned. Mabel and Annabel are tidying the room. Hangover is at the bar.

HANGOVER Don't forget the spittoon, Mabel. Hurry up!

MABEL Take it easy, Henry. Don't push me. We had a rough night, last night.

ANNABEL Oh yeah, what a night. Six broken chairs and two tables.

MABEL Not to mention the mirror and the glasses.

HANGOVER What a mess.

ANNABEL Yes. We need a new sheriff in Hangman City.

MABEL Look! Somebody's coming.

SCENE 2

Jack, Bill and Harry enter.

JACK Whisky!

BILL Beer!

HARRY Beer!

Bill and Harry sit down. Harry takes out his playing cards and starts shuffling.

HANGOVER Serve the gentlemen, Mabel.

MABEL Two beers coming up.

JACK Where's the sheriff, Henry? I haven't seen him today.

HANGOVER He went to Dodge City this morning to see the Black brothers being

hanged.
 JACK I love that answer.
 HANGOVER You do?
 JACK Yes.
 HANGOVER Any plans tonight?
 JACK Me? No, we're just here to relax, the three of us.
 HANGOVER Really?
 JACK We're just friendly cowboys, you know.
Jack sits down next to Harry.
 HARRY I've shuffled the cards, boss.
 JACK Okay.
 BILL Are we playing poker, boss?
 JACK Yes. It's your deal, Harry
Harry deals.
 BILL Good cards, boss?
 JACK Well, I got a fine hand, come on. It's your turn.

SCENE 3

Mr. Fake and Mrs. Fortune enter.
 FAKE Good evening, ladies and gentlemen.
 JACK Who are you?
 FAKE I'm Josafat Fake, famous miracle man and physician. Allow me to introduce Mrs. Fortune, the world-famous fortune teller from Texas.
 FORTUNE Who wants a look into the future? I'll tell your fortune for only one dollar.
 JACK Come over here.
 FORTUNE May I see your hand?
 JACK Oh, you read palms?
 FORTUNE I see a young, beautiful lady. You're going to meet her. Very soon. She's very rich.
 JACK Rich? Are you sure?
 FORTUNE Very, very rich. She'll change your life.
 JACK Rubbish. *He pushes her aside.* You old witch. There are no beautiful ladies in this town.
 MABEL I think he is blind.
 ANNABEL So do I.
 FAKE Well, gentlemen, look at this bottle. Josafats Wonder Mixture. It'll cure your toothache, your headache, your temperature, your foul breath, your ... you name it. Only one dollar.
 BILL Go to hell.
 HARRY We don't need any wonder mixture.
 MABEL Someone's coming.
 ANNABEL Strangers?
 MABEL They've got bags. Must be guests.
 ANNABEL What do they look like, Mabel?
 MABEL I'd say an elderly gentleman ... with a young broad.

SCENE 4

George and Florence enter. Harry, Bil and Jack start playing poker.

GEORGE
FLORENCE

ANNABEL
MABEL

My daughter and I would like a room for the night.
We'd like a nice, clean room. And we want a bath too. Is that possible?
Is no. 10 clean, Mabel?
Of course it is. I'll take your bags.

George will not let go of his bag.

GEORGE
FLORENCE
GEORGE

FLORENCE
GEORGE
FLORENCE
GEORGE
FLORENCE
GEORGE
FLORENCE

Don't bother, I'll take care of this myself.
Are you tired, daddy? It's been a long journey.
Yes, I am. But tomorrow we need not travel far. We'll get to the big rock and the ...
DAD!!
What?
Somebody might be listening.
Oh, I see. - We'll reach our destination about noon, my dear.
How is your old war wound? Does it hurt much today?
My knee hurts, but I'll be all right after a rest.
Come, sit down. Let's have something to drink.

George and Florence are seated.

HANGOVER
GEORGE
FLORENCE
MABEL
GEORGE
FLORENCE
GEORGE
MABEL
GEORGE

Can I get you something?
What would you like, Florence?
A nice cup of tea, please.
Tea? We only serve coffee. Is coffee okay?
Coffee? No. I'm starving. What about you, Florence?
I'm hungry too, Dad.
Two steaks, please.
Okay, two coffees, two steaks.
No, not coffee. We'll have coffee later.
Mabel goes to the kitchen.

SCENE 5

FAKE
FORTUNE

FAKE

GEORGE
FAKE
GEORGE

FORTUNE
FLORENCE

whispers - Mrs Fortune? I think I can smell money.
whispers - I think you're right. You start, dear - and then give me a signal.
to George - How do you do, Sir. My name is doctor Fake. I've noticed you have a bad leg. You look like an officer to me, Sir. Have you perchance been wounded in the war? Look, this is a wonderful mixture. Just rub your knee three times a day and all your pain will vanish.
Well .. er ..
Only one dollar.
One dollar? Well, I'll buy it.
He pays and gets the bottle. Fake winks at Fortune. She takes Florence's hand.
I'll tell your fortune, Miss. You'll soon meet a handsome young man.
A handsome young man? Tell me more about him.

FORTUNE He'll be wearing a black hat. And .. er ..

JACK *aside* - A black hat? I see. - *He takes off his black hat and looks at it.*

FORTUNE You will look deep into his warm brown eyes. He'll change your whole life.

JACK *aside* - Change her life?

FLORENCE Oh dear, I can't wait.

JACK *aside* - Neither can I.

Mabel enters with the steaks and puts them on the table.

JACK That man and his daughter have a secret. You two, get out and search the wagon.

SCENE 6

FLORENCE Please tell me what uncle Charles told you about his gold before he died.

GEORGE Well. You know that your uncle swas a succesful prospector. He found a lot of gold. But unfortunately some bandits heard about his luck and chased him.

FLORENCE But they didn't catch him, did they?

GEORGE No. He managed to hide the gold in a cave in the mountains before they killed him.

FLORENCE Did he really leave all the gold to us?

GEORGE Yes, he did.

FLORENCE How do we find it?

GEORGE Don't you remember? I've got a map in the bag. It shows the way to the treasure.

JACK *whistles, aside* - Interesting. Gold. Map. Mountains. Hidden treasure.

FLORENCE In the mountains? We must have two horses, then.

GEORGE We can't go there on horseback. We'll have to get some mules. Let's have a look at the map.

He takes out the map. They look at it.

FLORENCE How do we cross the river?

GEORGE No problem, the mules know how.

FLORENCE How can we find the right cave?

JACK *aside* - Ah - a cave.

GEORGE It's easy. Look at the map. First of all we follow the river for two miles on the left bank. And here - at the old oak tree we cross the river.

JACK *aside* - The oak tree! I know where it is.

GEORGE And then along the river on the left bank. This way up the mountain until we come to a big rock. It looks like a man's face. Behind the rock we'll find the cave.

JACK *aside* - What rock? What face? I've never seen a rock with a face. *George puts the map in the bag. Harry and Bill return.*

JACK What an awful time you've been over that.

HARRY Sorry, boss, sorry.

BILL We didn't find anything in the waggon, boss.

JACK I know.

HARRY There was nothing in the waggon.
JACK I know. I know everything.
BILL Of course you do, boss.
JACK Let's have a drink. Waitress! Whisky.
Mabel brings the whisky.

SCENE 7

It is now time for a section of entertainment. Grace and Nellie may sing a song or two and tell some jokes. Students who haven't got a part in the play can perform sketches or juggle or play music. George, Florence, Fake, Fortune, the three bandits and Mabel, Annabel and Hangover are watching the show.

SCENE 8

MABEL Were the steaks okay?
GEORGE Yes, they were delicious.
FLORENCE It was a lovely dinner.
ANNABEL Would you like to see your room?
FLORENCE Yes, thank you.
HANGOVER This way, miss.
GEORGE Is it upstairs?
HANGOVER Yes, I'm sorry, it's on the second floor. May I help you?
GEORGE Thank you, I can manage by myself.
Mabel, George and Flora go out.
JACK *whispers* - I've just heard something very interesting.
BILL Tell us.
HARRY Be quick.
JACK That old man and his daughter are going to pick up some gold hidden in a cave in the mountain.
BILL Gold?
HARRY Let's go and get it, boss.
JACK Take it easy. They've got a map and we'll have to get hold of that map before we go.
HARRY How?
JACK Listen to me. I've got a plan.

SCENE 9

The sheriff enters.
HARRY Look, the sheriff.
BILL Shit.
SHERIFF Hey, folks.
BILL Hey, sheriff. You wanna drink?
SHERIFF Yes, please, whisky.
HARRY You're looking for somebody, aren't you?
SHERIFF Yes, I'm looking for a horse thief.
BILL A horse thief? In Hangman City?
HARRY Impossible. What does he look like?

SHERIFF Well, he's wearing a black hat.
Jack takes off his black hat and hides it under his chair.
SHERIFF And he has cold, blue eyes.
GRACE I don't like blue eyes, do you?
NELLIE No, I like brown eyes.
GRACE So do I. Do you remember John from Texas?
NELLIE Honest John? Oh, he was so handsome.
GRACE He had beautiful brown eyes. I'd love to see him again.
NELLIE Yes, wouldn't you, Grace?
GRACE Imagine if he was here.
NELLIE Oh yes, if only he was here.
JACK Come on, girls. Stop talking. Let's have some fun. Sing a song.
*Grace and Nellie sing a song. The others join in. After the song
Honest John enters and goes to the bar.*

SCENE 10

JOHN A double bourbon.
HANGOVER There you are, stranger. Had a long ride?
John doesn't answer.
NELLIE *whispers* - He isn't a stranger, Grace. Look.
GRACE *whispers* - Good Heavens! Honest John!
NELLIE He is still handsome, isn't he?
GRACE If he doesn't look at me I'll die.
JACK Shut up, girls. *He goes to the bar.* You a stranger here?
John doesn't answer. Harry and Bill go to the bar.
HARRY Looking for something?
JOHN None of your business.
BILL Looking for trouble, stranger?
The bandits knock John down.
JACK Hey sheriff, you'd better look at him. He was wearing a black hat.
BILL You've got your horse thief, sheriff.
HARRY Just look at him, sheriff. He's your man.
SHERIFF Black hat? Okay. What about his eyes? *He opens John's eye.* No.
Brown eyes. Not the guy I'm looking for. Well, I'm very busy. I'm off.
*He goes out. John wakes up, but he remains lying on the floor besides
George's and Florence's table.*
JACK Back to business, folks. *He and Bill and Harry go to their table and
sit down. He whispers.* No map, no treasure.
HARRY What about having a little talk with the old daddy in his room?
BILL Good idea. I'm sure he'll speak.
JACK No way. Too risky. I've got a better plan. When they come down for
coffee we'll steel that map from his bag.

SCENE 11

*Florence and George enter. They sit at the table. George puts his bag
upon John without noticing him.*
ANNABEL What about your coffee?

FLORENCE We'd like to have coffee now, please.
HANGOVER Brandy too?
GEORGE Oh no, not now.
MABEL I'll take care of it.
Jack rises and goes to George's table.
JACK Hi folks. Business in town?
GEORGE Yes, tomorrow we'll go out to find a cave where..
FLORENCE DAD!!
GEORGE What?
JACK You'll go out to find a cave?
FLORENCE Yes. A cave where we had to bury my dear departed mother a few months ago. She died from the Spanish flue.
Mabel brings the coffee. Jack whispers something to Harry.
MABEL Coffee for you, folks.
JACK *to George and Florence* - Have you ever seen the sunset in Hangman City? Very beautiful. Care to see? Come, let's go outside.
Jack, George and Florence go out.

SCENE 12

John opens the bag. He takes out the map and hides it under his shirt. He replaces the bag on his stomach. Harry tiptoes to the bag. He opens it and looks confused. He puts back the bag on John and is seated again. Jack, Florence and George return.
JACK Sunsets always reminds me of my beloved old mother. She loved sunsets.
They all sit down at their tables.
HARRY *whispers* - The map wasn't there.
JACK *whispers* -What did you say?
HARRY No map, boss.
JACK No map?
BILL The bag was empty.
HARRY What are we going to do, boss?
Jack thinks.
BILL Boss?
HARRY Boss?
JACK Shut up. I'm thinking. ... The map was in the bag. They went upstairs. They came down again. The map was gone from the bag. The map must be in their room. Come on. Hurry up.
Jack, Harry and Bill go out.

SCENE 13

FLORENCE Dad, where do we cross the river? I'm not sure that I've understood.
GEORGE Let's have a look at the map. *He takes his bag without noticing John. He opens it.* It's not in the bag. Did you take it?
FLORENCE No. You put it in the bag. I'm sure you did. It must be there.
GEORGE No. Look. It's gone.
FLORENCE But Daddy, if the map is gone ... oh no ... we son't be able to find the

cave .. oh my God .. we'll never get the gold. *She cries.*

GRACE What's the trouble, Sir?

NELLIE Why is she talking about a cave?

GRACE And a map. What map?

GEORGE I can't tell you. It's a secret.

FLORENCE It doesn't matter. The map is gone. We may just as well tell the truth. Uncle Charles left us all the gold he found.

NELLIE Where?

FLORENCE It is in a cave .. up in the mountains.

GRACE I see. That's why you had a map.

NELLIE I know where it is.

FLORENCE You do?

NELLIE I'm quite sure. Jack, Harry and Bill, that's where the map is.

GRACE Yeah. They are the bad guys.

HANGOVER I'm afraid you're right. Look at this.
He takes out a poster with photos of the three bandits. They are

WANTED.

ANNABEL They are real bad guys and the sheriff is no use.

MABEL He's yellow.

FLORENCE Yellow? What does that mean?

MABEL He's a coward.

GEORGE What are we going to do? Where have they got it?
John stands up.

JOHN Calm down everybody. No problem. The map is safe with me.

NELLIE What? Have you got the map?
John takes out the map and hands it to Florence.

FLORENCE What a relief. Please, help us, Sir.

JOHN Let's go and fetch the gold. Come on.

GEORGE But we have no mules.

JOHN Doesn't matter. They have.

FLORENCE They?

JOHN The bandits. I think we'll borrow them. Let's get started.
John, George and Florence go out.

SCENE 14

NELLIE My God! Listen! They are coming back. The bandits.

GRACE They mustn't find out. You know, about Honest John.

NELLIE You are right.

GRACE We have to stop them and keep them from following John and the old man and his daughter.
The bandits enter.

NELLIE *to Jack* - Hello, Mr Blue eyes. Care for a drink?

JACK Where are they?

NELLIE Come and sit down.

HARRY Yes, where are they?

GRACE Come along. Let's have a drink. A bottle for our table, Mable. Black Label.

MABEL Coming, coming. I understand, you know.
 BILL Where are the old man and his daughter?
 NELLIE Come and sit down. *Mabel brings glasses and pours. Cheers!*
 JACK Where are they? ... The old man and his daughter?
 NELLIE They ... er .. er
 GRACE They are doing the washing up.
 BILL Are they washing up?
 GRACE They couldn't pay for their grub. So - they're doing the washing up.
 HANGOVER Sure. They're doing the dishes. *Souting towards the kitchen. Be careful with the glasses.*

NELLIE Whisky, please.
The bandits sit down and drink.

GRACE *whispers to Fake* - You must help us. Have you got any sleeping pills?
 FAKE I'm afraid not.
 FORTUNE Yes you have. The brown mixture.
 FAKE Oh yes. Here you are.
He gives her a bottle. She pours some into the glasses while Mabel starts singing so that the bandits don't notice what Grace is doing. The others join in. The bandits fall asleep.

SCENE 15

John, Florence and George return carrying sacks of gold.

NELLIE Welcome home.
 FLORENCE We found the gold. Oh, we're so happy.
The catch sight of the bandits.

GEORGE Are they dead?
 HANGOVER No. They are sleeping. Mr Fake had some pills.
 FLORENCE So they may wake up any time?
 HANGOVER Yes, I think so.
 FLORENCE *to Fortune* - When?
 FORTUNE I don't know.
 FLORENCE You said you could predict the future?
 FORTUNE To tell the truth. I can't.
 FLORENCE Oh my God!
 JOHN Don't be afraid. I'll take care of that.
He ties up the bandits with his lasso.

FLORENCE Oh John, I'm so grateful. I love you. *They embrace.*
 MABEL Poor me.
 GRACE And poor me.
 GEORGE I am grateful too. *He tries to embrace Mabel.*
 MABEL Poor me. ... You're too old.
 GEORGE I'm so happy. Here you are. *He opens a sack and hands out gold nuggets. The sheriff enters.*

SHERIFF What's going on here?
 ANNABEL We've found the man with the black hat. *She points to Jack. He wakes up.*
 SHERIFF You've got blue eyes.

ANNABEL Yes, he has. And a black hat.
SHERIFF I'd better go now. I'm busy.
ANNABEL Just a moment. *She takes off the sheriff's star and pins it on John.*
MABEL Our new sheriff. Congratulations.
HANGOVER Whisky on the house.
EVERYBODY For he's a jolly good fellow, for he's a jolly good fellow ... for ...
Curtain.

Dialogen er skrevet af deltagerne i et kursus om dramatik som undervisningsmiddel på Amtscentralen for Undervisningsmidler i København den 8-9/11 1989 efter et detaljeret oplæg af Kaj Himmelstrup, der skitserede personerne og angav hele handlingsgangen samt en række kernereplikker. Dialogen blev gennemset og kontrolleret sprogligt af Carol Livingstone.

The play is written by a group of teachers gathered to learn about using drama as one of the ways to practise everyday English. The plot and the synopsis were made by students in their second year of learning English, their age was 12 years.