

Packet Riders

The Wildly Wireless Melodrama

Cast: There are parts for 23+ students in Act I.

Characters in Act I

Stage Curtain (Very red and possibly velvet, also very tired)

Naughty Narrator (In cahoots with the Nasties, wants to be rid of the packet students)

Teacher Terrific (A wonderful packet who is the teacher of the student packets)

Sweet Sally (Sweet and kind packet)

Savvy Sam (Know-it-all packet)

Ned Network (Frustrated human network administrator who tries to keep the network working)

Brainy Billy (Not the brightest of packets)

Moody Mercedes (Lovely, vain, and rather nasty packet, one of the Nasties)

The Twins: Worried Wanda and Wary William (Packets who say everything in trembling unison)

Agitated Ali (A packet who's upset because his packet girlfriend Lovely Linda may be lost)

Genius Gene (Packet who takes over as the group leader)

Wonderful Juan (Simply wonderful packet)

Eddie Encryption (Disguises packets so that Horrendous Hacker can't read them)

Enticing Virus (Seems so nice, but isn't)

Annie Virus (Attacks viruses with water and a spray bottle)

Varsity Virus (Waits offstage for her spot in the limelight)

The Triplets: Radio Wave, Micro Wave, and Cordless Karen (Cause lots of problems in wireless space)

Horrendous Hacker (A member of the Nasties who tries to look at the information that packets are carrying)

Ida Interference (An additional interference)

Peter Packet (A superhero packet who is out in wireless space ready to defeat Horrendous Hacker once and for all)

Other Packets (Other packets in the classroom)



Act I (the only act in this play)
Scene I (the only scene in this act)

[Note to all actors— Remember, all words except those in brackets should be read aloud.]

[Setting: Students are seated in a classroom with the teacher in front. Most of the students are at their computers. One desk is empty. That desk has a wireless hub on it.
Stage Curtain (as portrayed by a persuasive person) is taking a little snooze on the floor waiting for the show to begin. Enticing Virus is asleep at her desk. The actors who enter later in Act I are at the sides of the classroom or off-stage. These include Ned Network, Eddie Encryption, Ida Interference, The Triplets, and Horrendous Hacker. Peter Packet is off stage or at the side of the classroom and invisible.]

Stage Curtain

[Rises and stretches]

Naughty Narrator

Students, imagine that you're in the midst of the Peter Packet game. Everything is two dimensional, including you. You are thinner than a piece of paper, and people can hardly see you when you stand sideways. You are, [hesitates dramatically] my darlings [says nastily] cartoon characters of puny packets. Your teacher is currently instructing your class to practice penmanship on the computers. All of you are making lines of L's across your computer screens. One desk is empty [takes a deep breath, points to the desk where Peter Packet once sat, and sighs]. You are such a boring group, but I won't have to deal with you very much longer.



Teacher Terrific

And now class, all eyes this way [says with enthusiastic emphasis]. We shall now begin practicing our M's because your L's are simply magnificent. You know that we packets need to have good penmanship to deliver all those wonderful letters. [Looks over at Peter Packet's empty desk and frowns] Now where could Peter have gone? [Sounds worried] He was just here a nanosecond ago.

Sweet Sally

[Says sweetly] Peter is delivering a packet, Mrs. Terrific [smiles at the audience].

Naughty Narrator

[Looks at the audience and moans] Sickening, isn't it?

Savvy Sam

Don't be silly Sally, Network Ned has nixed the network once more, just when I was about to sell some of my perfect L's on the Internet. Lots of kids would love to buy them.

Teacher Terrific

It's time to do our N's. Get to work, students, and I'll go look for Peter [hops into her laptop (leaves the stage)].

Naughty Narrator

[Says in an overtly ominous voice] Your teacher has disappeared into wireless space [lifts eyebrows up and down]. Ned Network enters from stage left or right—whatever.



Ned Network

[Enters the classroom looking very tired] Rambunctious Router is on strike because he doesn't think he's appreciated, and the network is down, down, down—again.

Brainy Billy

Down where?

Moody Mercedes

[Tilts her head, runs her fingers through her hair, and speaks in her melodious voice]

Peter is delivering a message to my boyfriend, Horrendous Hacker.

The Twins: Worried Wanda and Wary William

[In unison] Horrendous Hacker! Peter wouldn't have anything to do with Horrendous Hacker.

Wonderful Juan

Peter is working with Eddie Encryption to outwit Horrendous.

Moody Mercedes

Wait and see. [Winks at the audience] Peter would do anything for me.



Sweet Sally

[Asks nicely but sounds seriously unsettled] What's that round thing on Peter's desk?

Brainy Billy

It could be one of those worms that gets into software. But it doesn't look like a worm, does it? Maybe it's a hacker snooping device. Everyone hide! Get under your desks!

The Twins: Worried Wanda and Wary William

[In unison] We're goners! We'll be lost on the information highway to nowhere.

Ned Network

[Yawning] Yeah, yeah, take cover if you think it would help. That thing's your wireless hub and if you go into the computer it will send you directly to Rambunctious Router, who won't work. You packets could be sent anywhere.

Naughty Narrator

Your teacher is kaput, Peter Packet is no more, and the rest of you are going to be as well. I hear that Lovely Linda is with Peter. Horrendous Hacker, Moody Mercedes, and I are going to get rid of all of you! Ha ha ha [laughs a mad laugh].

Agitated Ali

[In a quavering voice] Oh no, I'm in love with Lovely Linda! I'm going in after her [hops into his computer (leaves the stage)].



Naughty Narrator

Chalk off one more.

Savvy Sam

We'll all be sent anywhere. You too, Moody.

Moody Mercedes

Not I, my weepy, wishy-washy friends. When we get rid of you, we're heading to the Caribbean for some sun, while you are sent anywhere, perhaps to the graveyard of dropped packets, which I imagine is where Peter, Linda, Ali, and Teacher Terrific are.

[Pauses thoughtfully] At least you won't have to work on penmanship anymore.

Genius Gene

[Pushes chair back and stands to address the class] Not to worry, Mr. Network and sensational students, excepting Moody Mercedes. You can't be sent anywhere because our wireless network doesn't have the range to send you anywhere. Peter and Mrs. Terrific are most likely no farther than the girls' lavatory.

Brainy Billy

Do you really think that's where they are? I always wanted to see what the girls' lavatory looks like [hops into his computer (leaves the stage)].

Naughty Narrator

One more down.



Enticing Virus

[Gets up and slinks to the front of the room] I'll help you find them. Just let me attack, I mean ATTACH myself to each of you packets, and we're off to save Peter and Teacher Terrific and maybe Linda and Ali, too [looks at the audience and snickers].

Annie Virus

Good try, Enticing, but you are out of here! [Races toward Enticing and sprays her with special, virus-fighting water.]

Enticing Virus

Ah, [returns to her desk and puts her head down] I think I'll forgo this trip.

Genius Gene

If we work together on the inside with Mr. Network helping us on the outside, we can turn this disastrous situation around, but we'll need Eddie.

Sweet Sally

Where's Eddie Encryption? Is he lost with Peter?

Naughty Narrator

[Says gloomily] No, sadly enough he's not lost. I hope he doesn't foil my plan. Here comes that nitwit.



Eddie Encryption

Sorry I'm late folks, but there's a charming chimpanzee who applied for Grade 8 here at Wildly Wireless. No one could read her application, but she writes beautifully in ChimpanLingua and should be a whiz at L's. Teacher Terrific will love her. Now that I've got her decoding, I'm here to encode you and protect your information from Horrendous.

[Hesitates, turns and looks romantically at Moody] I don't see why you like that guy. I'm much more appealing.

Moody Mercedes

He's exciting, and I've had enough of you messing me up. Your disguises hamper my natural beauty. I refuse to be encrypted, and Horrendous likes me this way.

Genius Gene

Time is of the essence, whatever that means. I suggest we act now with me as your leader.

Ned Network

Okay, packets, do the Annie spray thing, get your disguises from Eddie, and get going together. When you get to Rambunctious Router, do anything you can to avoid being sent to the girls' lavatory. It's getting too crowded.

Genius Gene

[Holding yardstick] Grab your checksum, IDs, and info. Be careful, Enticing has been silenced for a bit, but Varsity Virus is hiding at stage left. Watch out for Horrendous and all sorts of nasty interference. Everyone follow me onto the Internet. CHARGE! [Heads off stage looking like he is leading an army with his yardstick drawn.]



All Packets

[In unison] DELIVER! [Leave the stage.]

Naughty Narrator

There they go, all those helpless little packets, never to be seen again, I hope. They jumped into the computer and our wireless hub sent them surfing in Wildly Wireless space. I wish them a speedy trip to the graveyard of dropped packets. [Looks sternly at the audience, smiles a creepy smile, and moves eyebrows up and down.]

Varsity Virus

[Peeks head out onto stage] Never fear, I'm after them! [Runs across the stage looking dangerous.]

Ida Interference

[Jumping onstage] So am I! [Tiptoes across the stage looking lost and confused.]

The Triplets: Micro Wave, Radio Wave and Cordless Karen

[In unison] We are coming your way! [Go to stage center, turn, and look at the audience] Act I is almost over.

Naughty Narrator

[Clears throat] Our hero makes an appearance.



Horrendous Hacker

[Swaggers onto the stage and looks at the audience] Those packets will be squashed into gibberish nothingness when I read their messages. [Smiles at Moody, who, naturally, smiles back at him.]

Peter Packet

[Voice from offstage] Meet me at Rambunctious Ranch, packets, and don't get sent beyond our wireless network through Internet cables. If you do, we may never find you.

Naughty Narrator

Act I ends, and the Naughty Narrator is delighted.

Stage Curtain

[Falls carefully and returns to sleep.]

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