



# The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch

## STORY SUMMARY



**Warning- Spoiler Alert! If you do not want to learn about details and surprises in the show, do not read any further.**

Mr Grinling the Lighthouse Keeper, his wife Mrs Grinling, and their cat Hamish have adventures on the high seas dealing with greedy seagulls, a beached whale, a rescue at sea, and more! Based on the series of books by Rhonda and David Armitage.

During this sensory relaxed performance, we have not changed the plot, characters, or story from our standard performances. Instead, we have done our best to adjust for sensory sensitivities and preferences while still staying true to the spirit of the play, and we provide as much information as possible so you can prepare in advance for the show you are attending. Everyone is unique in their requirements for enjoying the performance, and we have tried to accommodate a wide range of preferences and needs. Please keep in mind that you know your child best in deciding if this show will be suitable for them, and that during a live theatre performance unpredictable events and last-minute changes may occur.

**There are eight scenes and two songs in the show.**

- *Scene 1:* Making Lunch
- *Scene 2:* Seagulls Get the Lunch, "*The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch*" song
- *Scene 3:* Falling Asleep
- *Scene 4:* Inspector of Lighthouses
- *Scene 5:* Whale Rescue
- *Scene 6:* Meet Sam
- *Scene 7:* Hobbies
- *Scene 8:* Surfing

**This story summary will give details about each scene**





## Scene 1: Making Lunch



1/ We hear the sounds of the ocean and sea birds calling as lights brighten on the stage. Mr Grinling takes a large burned out bulb from the lighthouse. He enters the lighthouse and changes the bulb. Lights darken on stage, and a beam of light sweeps out from the lighthouse over the audience and across the stage. Lights brighten as dawn arrives. We hear loud snoring.



2/ Mr and Mrs Grinling are asleep in bed, positioned head to foot. Mrs Grinling wakes up and tries to wake Mr Grinling. He doesn't wake up. Mrs Grinling gets out of bed and Hamish the cat tries to wake Mr Grinling. Eventually Hamish licks Mr Grinling's face- Mr Grinling gets quite the shock!



3/ Mr Grinling get ready to go to the lighthouse. Hamish begs for Mrs Grinling to feed him, and gobbles up his breakfast. Mr Grinling rows across the stage in his boat to the lighthouse. He gets ready to get to work painting the lighthouse.



4/ Mrs Grinling packs him a delicious lunch in a basket. Hamish really wants to get the lunch, and tries to stick his face in the basket to eat it all up.

## Scene 2: Seagulls get the lunch



1/ Mrs Grinling hangs the basket on the rope stretching from the house to the lighthouse, and begins to pull the basket across. Suddenly, three silly seagulls swoop in and gobble up the lighthouse keeper's lunch!



2/ Mrs Grinling brings the basket back, packs a new lunch, ties a napkin across the top, and tries again- but the seagulls still manage to eat all the lunch. Mrs Grinling decides to send Hamish across in another basket so he can guard the lunch. But being up high makes Hamish dizzy, and he yowls in distress. The seagulls get the lunch!

**NOTE:** We use pretend cat ears and a tail in a basket to pretend that Hamish is in the basket going to the lighthouse.



3/ Mrs Grinling has a great idea. She makes hot mustard sandwiches and sends them across in the basket. The seagulls gobble up the sandwiches, then fly off hacking and spluttering in distress. They pretend to vomit on the audience as they choke and gag.



4/ The seagulls decide to eat the lunch of a nearby fisherperson instead. Mr Grinling finally gets his lunch. Mr and Mrs Grinling sing a song about the lighthouse keeper's lunch.



## Scene 3: Falling asleep



1/ Mr Grinling is full from his big lunch. He falls asleep against the lighthouse. The lights darken as the sun goes down. Suddenly, Mr Grinling wakes up, realising he is late putting the lighthouse light on. He puts the light on and rows back to his house.

Mrs Grinling is upset- the inspector of lighthouses called, and she was cross that the light came on late. Mr Grinling promises that he won't fall asleep at work again. Mr and Mrs Grinling go to bed.



2/ Puppeteers holding small whale puppets enter and swim the whales around the stage, and then exit.



3/ It's morning, and loud snoring is heard. It's Hamish! He won't wake up until Mr Grinling shakes his cat biscuits, then he pops right up. Mr Grinling starts to make the bed, and he falls asleep again with Hamish. Mrs Grinling wakes him up, and Mr Grinling gets into the rowboat with Hamish to go to the lighthouse. The warm sun and the gentle waves lull Mr Grinling and Hamish to sleep.



4/ Mrs Grinling sends a basket of lunch down the line to the lighthouse. The seagulls swoop in, but they know not to mess with the basket. No more mustard sandwiches for them! The lights fade until the stage is dark- it's night time. We hear the noise of a motor and voices from a coastguard boat, coming to tow Mr Grinling back to the lighthouse. The lighthouse light comes on and sweeps around the theatre.

**Note:** The stage will get dark during the scene with the coastguard boat, and the motor noise will get loud.

## Scene 4: Inspector of Lighthouses



1/ The next morning Mr Grinling is already awake. He couldn't sleep, worrying about missing the light for the lighthouse for two nights in a row. There's a knock at the door, and the Inspector of Lighthouses come in. She tells Mr Grinling that because of his mistakes he can no longer be the lighthouse keeper.



2/ Mr Grinling is very sad, and Mrs Grinling tries to comfort him. They begin to pack up the house to make way for Sam, the new lighthouse keeper.

## Scene 5: The Whale Rescue



3/ Mrs Grinling looks through her telescope to enjoy the view. She sees something on the beach- it's a whale! She and Mr Grinling don yellow rain slickers and rush over to help the whale. They pour buckets of water over the whale and Hamish digs a trench, and when the tide comes in they help the whale float back to sea.



4/ A cameraman films the whale rescue, and a clip of TV news is projected. A TV news presenter talks about the whale rescue and interviews the Grinlings. The news clip ends and the lights brighten. Mr and Mrs Grinling return to the cottage to finish packing.



## Scene 6: Meet Sam



1/ There is a knock at the door. The Inspector of Lighthouses enters and congratulates the Grinlings on their rescue of the beached whale. The Inspector tells Mr Grinling he can have his job back as the lighthouse keeper, and Mr Grinling is very happy. The Inspector introduces Sam, Mr Grinling's new assistant lighthouse keeper.



2/ It's morning again, and loud snoring is heard. Mr and Mrs Grinling and Hamish are all awake- they realise Sam must be snoring! They wake Sam up, and Mr Grinling watches him row out to the lighthouse. Sam makes a few mistakes but starts to get the hang of the job.

## Scene 7: Hobbies



3/ Mr Grinling is bored- he doesn't know what to do with his free time. He keeps getting in Mrs Grinling's way. Mrs Grinling tells him that he needs a new hobby. He tries baking the bread for lunch, but he adds too much yeast. The bread dough rises so much it smothers his face! Mrs Grinling helps him wipe off the sticky dough, and Mr Grinling decides that cooking is too messy for him. He tries playing the violin, but his playing is very screechy.



4/ He runs offstage and fetches cat toys for Hamish to play with. Hamish bounces on the squeaky toys, getting in Mrs Grinling's way. Suddenly Mr Grinling enters on a scooter! He goes round and round the table, but he can't keep crashing into things. Mrs Grinling stops him and tells him that old dogs can't learn new tricks.

## Scene 8: Surfing



1/ Sam enters wearing a wetsuit and carrying a surfboard. Mr Grinling comes along and Sam tries to teach him how to surf, but first Mr Grinling needs to learn how to swim!



2/ Sam teaches Mr Grinling how to swim, and then how to surf. A montage of Mr Grinling learning is accompanied by upbeat beach rock music. During the montage, Sam puts on a shark fin and Mr Grinling manages to do a full surf on the wave to escape the “shark.”



3/ Mr Grinling is very proud. Sam fetches Mrs Grinling, and Mr Grinling shows off with an impressive surf routine. Mrs Grinling admires the surfer without realising it's Mr Grinling. When he arrives back at the beach Mrs Grinling is surprised and impressed with Mr Grinling's new skill- an old dog can learn new tricks!



4/ The actors all sing “The Lighthouse Keeper’s Lunch” song and everyone takes a bow. They exit, and Hamish crawls over to the surfboard, trying to balance. Mr Grinling calls Hamish for lunch, and they both bustle off.