

**KINDERGARTEN: THE MUSICAL**

"Shoe-Loose"

KTM 103A

Written by  
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**KINDERGARTEN: THE MUSICAL**  
103A SHOE-LOOSE

INT. MS. MORENO'S CLASSROOM - DAY

CURTAINS UP on BIRDY arranging dry noodles into the numbers one and two with RADISH and ROSE at their work table.

BIRDY (V.O. - TITLE CALL OUT)  
Shoe-loose!

Birdy bobs her head happily as she works.

BIRDY (CONT'D)  
(softly chanting)  
One, two, cool new shoes. *Uno, dos,*  
*za-pa-tos...*

Birdy sneaks a peek at her feet under the table and grins. She returns to sorting... only to peek again and quiver with glee.

BIRDY (CONT'D)  
<THRILLED LITTLE GIGGLE>

MS. MORENO <TINGS> her triangle.

MS. MORENO  
Loving your noodle numbers, my  
kiddie pies! Now it's time to line  
up on our polka-dots for recess!

Ms. Moreno points to the line-up area marked by big polka-dots on the floor. The KINDERGARTENERS STIR, excited. Rose and Radish hop out of their chairs.

ROSE/RADISH  
Recess! Let's goooo!/<CROWD CHEERS>

BIRDY  
It's show-time!

Birdy spins out from her chair, revealing her gorgeous new HI-TOP SNEAKERS! Rose and Radish gape at the ruby-red and super sparkly sneaks. They have iridescent wings sprouting from the sides and beautiful rainbow laces. <SPARKLE STING!>

ROSE/RADISH  
Whooooa!

As Birdy leaps toward her polka-dot, ABIGAIL peeps the sneaks and stops in her tracks, dazzled.

ABIGAIL

Birdy! YOUR SNEAKERS. ARE. AMAZING.

Birdy beams with pride. She twirls on her polka-dot and lands with one jaunty foot pointed out.

BIRDY

You like? They're my new kicks!

ABUZZ, the rest of the class crowds in to get a closer look.

KAT/RADISH/KENJI

Sooo sparkly!/<whistle>/ Very cool.

Birdy strikes another pose, basking in the attention.

BIRDY

Thanks! Mami and I took a special trip to the city to see a matinee and then I saw these sneakers in a window and <INHALES> fell in LOVE.

Birdy waggles one foot so the iridescent wings flutter. Everyone SWOONS.

BIRDY (CONT'D)

I helped clear the dinner table for a whole month to buy them! Look how super-springy the soles are!

Birdy hops in place. The kids nod in time with her.

ROSE

That's some serious air, Birdy!

BIRDY

<CHUCKLE> These sneakers are my new most-favorite thing in the whole world. They make me feel...

Birdy stops hopping and searches for the right word. Finally her face lights up, and she SPINS into a new pose. The classroom lights CUT OUT. A SPOTLIGHT locks onto her! Like a disco ball, her shoes throw glittery reflections everywhere.

BIRDY (CONT'D)

...TWINKLE-TASTIC!

She leaps to the next polka-dot. More shimmer and glimmer!

BIRDY (CONT'D)

They make me feel GLITTER-RIFIC!

Birdy twirls to the last polka-dot. Her friends follow.

BIRDY (CONT'D)  
Why, I feel SPARK-TACULAR!! With  
these new shoes, I can do anything!

MUSIC STARTS. We push in fast toward the dancing reflections  
and TRANSITION TO:

**SONG #1 - FANTASY - VARIOUS LOCATIONS**

A 2D-fantasy sequence for a high-energy, 50s rock n roll  
number a la "Greased Lightning." It's called **MY NEW KICKS**.

*In a school gym decorated for a dance, Birdy dances with  
friends at a sock hop, in a sparkly, red letterman jacket to  
match her sneaks. She SINGS how she can't wait to wear these  
new sneakers to dance parties and other fun events.*

BIRDY  
RUBY RED HIGH-TOPS WITH SILVER  
WINGS  
RAINBOW LACES AND EVERYTHING  
BOUNCE IN THE SOLES, SPARKLY TOES,  
WHEN I SHOW UP IN MY NEW SHOES  
EVERYBODY KNOWS  
  
THESE ARE MY NEW KICKS  
MY NEW KICKS  
I LOVE 'EM AND I'M GONNA KEEP 'EM  
JUST LIKE THIS  
SHINY AND CLEAN  
THEY'RE ALWAYS GONNA BE  
THE GREATEST PAIR OF SNEAKERS  
THAT THE WORLD HAS EVER SEEN  
MY NEW KICKS!

*Birdy FLUTTERS up into the air and then lands to...*

*A sock hop with her CLASSMATES who ECHO every verse:*

BIRDY (CONT'D)  
DOUBLE DUTCH, CARTWHEELS,  
JUMPING JACKS, FLIPS,  
HOPSCOTCH, BASKETBALL,  
I CAN DO ALL OF THIS.  
FASTER AND FARTHER AND ZIPPITY  
QUICK  
I FEEL LIKE I CAN FLY  
THANKS TO  
  
MY NEW KICKS  
MY NEW KICKS  
(MORE)

BIRDY (CONT'D)  
I LOVE 'EM AND I'M GONNA KEEP 'EM  
JUST LIKE THIS  
SHINY AND CLEAN  
THEY'RE ALWAYS GONNA BE  
THE GREATEST PAIR OF SNEAKERS  
THAT THE WORLD HAS EVER SEEN!

MY NEW KICKS!

*AS the SONG ENDS, Birdy takes a jubilant leap and lands back in...*

EXT. PORTER ELEMENTARY - PLAY YARD - DAY

Real-world Birdy lands triumphantly on the yard, arms out wide, as kids stream past to recess. Rose and Radish beckon.

ROSE  
C'mon, Birdy! Let's try out your  
new sneaks on the jungle gym!

BIRDY  
Oooh, okay! -- whoa!

Birdy starts after but immediately STUMBLES. <SQUEEEAK!>

WHIP PAN down to... a SCUFF on her sneaker!

BIRDY (CONT'D)  
<GASP> Oh no! Oh no no no!

Rose and Radish gather to examine the scuff.

RADISH  
<PSSHH> It's just a little dirt. No  
biggie.

Birdy is flabbergasted at this response.

BIRDY  
What!? Yes, biggie! The BIGGEST  
biggie! I ruined my new shoes!

ROSE  
Nah. I bet you can just rub it off.

BIRDY  
You think?

Birdy reaches down and RUBS at the scuff. Voilà! It wipes away! Birdy SIGHS in relief.

BIRDY (CONT'D)  
<PHEW!> It worked.

Birdy lifts her feet up, and the sneakers glitter in the sunlight. <SPARKLE STING!> The kids <SIGH> in admiration.

BIRDY (CONT'D)  
Spark-tacular save, Rose.

RACK FOCUS past the sneakers to Abigail reaching the top of the climbing structure in the distance.

ABIGAIL  
(calling out)  
Made it to the mountain top!

Rose starts off, gesturing for Radish and Birdy to follow.

ROSE  
Ooh, fun! Let's get to the top too!

RADISH  
<VROOOM!> Beat you there!--

BIRDY  
Uh, you go ahead. I'll stay here.

Radish and Rose turn back, confused.

RADISH  
But you love mountain climbing!

BIRDY  
I know, but what if I scuff my shoes again? The dirt might not come off next time.

Birdy backs away, taking delicate steps. Radish and Rose watch, perplexed.

BIRDY (CONT'D)  
From now on, I have to play super-duper carefully so my sneakers stay clean and new *forever*.

ROSE  
Super-duper carefully?

RADISH  
Like you're not gonna run anymore?

BIRDY  
I'll run, just not very fast. Or far. Or at all.

ROSE  
What about jumping?

BIRDY  
I can do a gentle "boop."

She demonstrates the smallest, gentlest hop in the world.

ROSE  
SO WHERE'S THE FUN, BIRDY? WHERE??

BIRDY  
The fun is having perfect sneakers!

RADISH  
Hmmm. If you say so.

BIRDY  
Just watch. I can have a blast *and*  
keep my shoes squeaky clean at the  
same time. You'll see!

She spins to make a big, dramatic exit... and inches gingerly  
away. The slowest, most cautious steps. Rose and Radish watch  
this painstaking process, mystified.

ROSE  
(whispering to Radish)  
That does not look like having a  
blast at all.

RADISH  
<WOMP WOMP>

EXT. PLAY YARD - ASPHALT AREA - DAY

TEO and JAMIL play hopscotch on squares drawn in PURPLE  
CHALK. Ms. Moreno is nearby, keeping an eye on the yard.  
Birdy approaches with dainty steps.

BIRDY  
Hi Jamil! *Hola* Teo! Can I play?

TEO  
<ROAR>!

JAMIL  
That means yes! Definitely.

Jamil hands her a rock. She tosses it onto square number one.

BIRDY  
(softly to herself)  
Okay, Birdy. Easy does it.

Teo and Jamil watch Birdy crouch down to hop... but then take a teeny tiny STEP instead, planting her feet in the cleanest, most chalk-free corner of square two. She <SIGHS> in relief. Teo and Jamil are baffled.

TEO  
Um, Birdy? It's called HOP-scotch.  
Not STEP-scotch!

BIRDY  
I know, but if I hop and land on a line or a purple-y number, I'll get my shoes all <SHUDDERS> chalk-y.

JAMIL  
But the rules of hopscotch are...  
you hop!

TEO  
Or else you're kinda not playing  
right....

Birdy deliberates and realizes they have a point.

BIRDY  
Okayyyy. One little hop.

She <BREATHES DEEP> and does a teensy little hop into square three, landing on one foot. She wiggles to stay balanced.

BIRDY (CONT'D)  
Quick! How does my shoe look? Any  
scuffs? Chalk marks?

JAMIL / TEO  
Nope!/ Very shiny!

Buoyed, Birdy takes a bigger hop to number four.

BIRDY  
Made it-- whoops! Whoaah!

But this time, she loses her balance and spills over!

JAMIL / TEO  
Yikes! You okay? / Roar?

Jamil and Teo help Birdy up. She's unhurt but covers her eyes.

BIRDY

I'm fine, just too scared to look!

Jamil and Teo peek at her sneakers then exchange a glance.  
There's a BIG PURPLE SMEAR across both toes.

JAMIL

So don't worry about it, buuuuut—

Birdy drops her hands and examines her feet frantically.

BIRDY

Oh no oh no oh no!

TEO

It's only chalk! It'll come off!

Birdy wipes furiously at the chalk. To everyone's relief, it  
does come off (mostly)!

BIRDY

<SIGHS> I still see a little  
purple, but it's better.

JAMIL

My turn! Unless you want a do-over,  
Birdy?

Birdy carefully backs away.

BIRDY

That's okay. Thanks, but I can't  
play anymore. I need to find a game  
that's less chalk-y and scuff-y  
and... sparkly shoes ruin-y....

Jamil and Teo watch Birdy walk off awkwardly. Her sneakers a-  
shimmer.

JAMIL

Okay...

ON BIRDY marching cautiously across the schoolyard, deftly  
sidestepping pebbles and twigs and grass.

BIRDY

(to herself)

There's gotta be a CLEAN way to  
have fun! Let's see...

Birdy makes her hands into pretend binoculars and looks  
through. We watch from her POV as she scans her surroundings.

BIRDY'S POV: Her gaze lands on the field. Kenji KICKS a soccer ball along with a cloud of dust. POCK!

BIRDY (CONT'D)  
Hmmm, no soccer for me.

BIRDY'S POV: Birdy keeps scanning and lands on Abigail and Radish swinging a jump rope for Rose.

BIRDY (CONT'D)  
Eeeep, jump rope! I love jump rope!

Then she scans down. Rose jump ropes into a small puddle. SPLASH! Birdy <SIGHS> wistfully.

BIRDY (CONT'D)  
*I used to love jump rope.*

BIRDY'S POV: Finally Birdy's binoculars find the monkey bars, where ELLIE swings from the bars, her feet dangling. Kat <CHEERS> her on from below.

BIRDY (CONT'D)  
The monkey bars! Perfect! No way my feet will touch the ground when I'm swinging around up there -

Ellie jumps down, landing in the sand below with a gentle <THUD>. Birdy puts down her pretend binoculars.

BIRDY (CONT'D)  
Ooh, sandy landing though. If only I could put something over my shoes... Hmmm...

She looks around for ideas and spots two brown paper LUNCH BAGS on a bench. Her eyes light up. CUT TO:

EXT. SCHOOL YARD - DAY

Birdy waddles awkwardly towards the play structure, intensely focused, a big paper bag on each foot. She <CRINKLES> with every step.

EXT. SCHOOL YARD - PLAY STRUCTURE - DAY

Kat and Ellie watch from below as Birdy gingerly climbs the steps up to the first monkey bar, <CRINKLING> away.

BIRDY  
Mind if I monkey bar with you?

KAT

Go for it! what's with the bags?

BIRDY

They're my sneaker protectors. I  
can't believe how much dirt and  
chalk and sand is out here. No  
sparkly shoe is safe!

The twins look around. Kat lifts up her foot and wiggles it  
experimentally. A bunch of sand shakes loose.

KAT

(indifferent)

Hmm.

Up above, Birdie swings to the first bar, then to the next.

BIRDY

<GIGGLE> I KNEW I could still have  
fun with my shoes--

Suddenly a gust of WIND BLOWS the paper bags off her feet and  
WHIPS them away! Birdy looks down at her exposed shoes.  
<SPARKLE STING!>

BIRDY (CONT'D)

My sneaker protectors!

KAT

We'll get 'em!

Kat and Ellie sprint after the bags, but just as the twins  
get close, the wind carries them away again!

ON BIRDY dangling precariously, kicking her legs anxiously.  
She looks down at the sand beneath her.

BIRDY

(to sand)

Oh no, sand. I am not landing in  
you and getting my sneakers all  
dusty n'dirty-- whoa!

Birdy's hands begin to slip!

BIRDY (CONT'D)

(strained, calling out)

Hurry! I'm... slipping!

FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE PLAY STRUCTURE - Abigail, Rose,  
and Radish spot Birdy dangling from the monkey bars, her  
shiny red shoes flailing in all directions.

ROSE  
Birdy needs help!

They hurry over to the monkey bars and crowd underneath Birdy, pushing her up with all their might. But they're kindergarteners, so it's chaos.

ROSE (CONT'D)  
We got you, Birdy!

RADISH  
No <GRUNT> sweat!

BIRDY  
My shooooooooes!!

Kat and Ellie rush over with the escaped paper bags, frantically trying to shove them on Birdy's bicycling feet. Chaotic but harmless!

KAT  
We got 'em! We got 'em!

But not fast enough! Birdy's grip gives out and she DROPS.

Everyone TUMBLES into a big, stunned pile. After a moment, Ellie <GIGGLES>. Then Kat. Then everyone else except Birdy!

Birdy untangles from the pile first, anxious to inspect her sneakers. They're covered in sand! Birdy <GROANS> and crouches down to brush them off.

ELLIE  
Are your special shoes okay?

BIRDY  
They've been sparklier. I think I better stay away from the monkey bars. No hopscotch either. I see huge problems with jump rope.

KAT  
So what can you do, Birdy?

BIRDY  
I can... sit on that bench until recess is over... Don't worry, I'll be fiiiine!

Birdy's friends are worried. They watch Birdy carefully cross to...

THE BENCH by the kickball diamond. She sits and SIGHS, glum as a raincloud.

She peers down at her sneakers, hopeful that their sparkles will perk her up. But they don't. That's weird...

BIRDY (CONT'D)  
<SIGH> I'll be fine.

No, she won't.

ON KENJI grabbing a beautiful red ball off the ball cart.

KENJI  
Hey, everyone. KICKBALL TIME!

The other kindergartners CHEER.

BIRDY winces.

BIRDY  
Aw, kickball's my favorite....

She watches Kenji pitch. Ellie KICK. Jamil LEAP onto second base. Rose SLIDE home....

She looks down at her feet, miserable. <WEAK SPARKLE STING!>

BIRDY (CONT'D)  
<SAD SIGH>

Birdy looks extra small on the bench. The schoolyard sounds recede. The world dims. The SPOTLIGHT finds her once again.

## **SONG #2 - "NO MORE PLAYTIME"**

*New MUSIC starts. Birdy sings "NO MORE PLAYTIME," a tender ballad in the style of Annie's "Maybe."*

BIRDY (CONT'D)  
GO AHEAD, I'LL BE FINE  
WAITING ON THE SIDELINES  
NO, REALLY, I DON'T MIND.  
I DON'T WANT TO CHOOSE  
BETWEEN MY FRIENDS AND MY SHOES  
BUT SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO.  
  
NO MORE PLAYTIME  
NO MORE FUN  
NO MORE HOPSCOTCH  
NO MORE SUN-SHINE  
AT LEAST TILL RECESS ENDS  
  
MY FRIENDS ARE PLAYING  
BUT I'M NOT.  
GOTTA KEEP MY SNEAKERS SPOT-LESS  
LIKE THEY WERE BEFORE  
(MORE)

BIRDY (CONT'D)  
*IN THE WINDOW OF THE STORE*  
*I'M SURE*  
*I'LL NEVER PLAY AGAIN.*

*SONG ENDS.*

RADISH (O.S.)  
Birdy? Everything okay?

Birdy looks up to see Rose and Radish watching with concern.

ROSE  
You sure you don't want to play  
kickball? The best game in the  
world?

Birdy finally crumbles.

BIRDY  
Of course I want to play! But  
that's just not who I am anymore!

Rose and Radish sit down with her.

BIRDY (CONT'D)  
I have fancy sneakers now. I have  
to take care of them!

ROSE  
Gotta say, sparkly shoes seem kinda  
not that... fun?

RADISH  
And lonely.

Birdy SIGHS in agreement. Rose props her foot on the bench to re-buckle her shoe. Birdy notices big grass stains on her pants' knees.

BIRDY  
Oh no. Grass stains!

Rose blinks down at her knees.

ROSE  
Oh! Yup. From when I slid into home  
base!

RADISH  
<Ssslide!> It was *exciting*.

BIRDY  
Yeah, but too bad your pants are  
ruined.

ROSE

Ruined? I don't think they're  
ruined. Now they just tell the  
story of my big ol' slide.

Birdy still looks confused, so Rose hops up and points to the  
dust smears on her ankle-socks.

ROSE (CONT'D)

See this? It's from running bases!

Getting into it, Radish points out a grass stain of his own.

RADISH

And this is from when I tried to  
catch the kickball and went <WOBBLE  
WOBBLE> <KABUMP>!

Birdy takes this all in. Her gears are turning.

ROSE

That was a great kabump! See,  
Birdy, the messy stuff just shows  
how much fun we had.

This is a revelation to Birdy. Her eyes are huge.

BIRDY

I... never thought of it like that  
before--

KENJI (O.S.)

Heads up!

The trio turns to see A KICKBALL escaping the game and coming  
*straight at them!* Rose and Radish leap toward it.

Then BAM! Time SLOWS, and Birdy stares at her friends  
suspended mid-leap. At their grass-stains and scuffs. At  
their faces alight with joy. <NEW KIND OF SPARKLE STING!>

BIRDY knows what she's gotta do. Time SPEEDS BACK UP, and she  
hurtles forward, overtaking her pals in two strides.

BIRDY

I got it!!!!

She kicks the ball! <FWUMP!> It sails far, far toward  
outfield!

The whole playground erupts in <CHEERS>.

ROSE / RADISH

Run, Birdy! / Run!

Breathless and glowing with pride, Birdy shoots off toward the kickball diamond.

A **MUSICAL MONTAGE** starts. Birdy rounds first base like she's leaping from cloud to fluffy cloud. Then second! Then third!!

Radish and Rose <HOLLER> with glee as Birdy pounds the dirt, kicking up grass.

In the outfield, Abigail reaches the kickball and winds up to hurl it back to Kenji at home base.

Birdy runs faster than she ever has in her life. She's practically a sparkly blur! Finally she SLIDES HOME in a cloud of dust, beating the kickball by a heartbeat.

MS. MORENO  
(as umpire)  
SAFE!

Everyone <CHEERS> and rushes to gather around Birdy!

BIRDY  
*!Weeepaaa!* Did you see that??

ROSE  
It was AMAZING! But... uh oh.

But then the dust clears, and everyone <GASPS!>

Birdy's shoes are coated in dust! There's a big red mark on the toe from the ball and a huge scuffs up the sides from sliding home!

Birdy blinks down at them. Everyone braces for the worst...

BIRDY  
My sneakers... look SO COOL!

Everyone is shocked.

ABIGAIL  
But they're not clean anymore!

BIRDY  
I know! They're better! They tell a story now.

Rose and Radish beam. The kids crowd in to get a closer look.

BIRDY (CONT'D)

See, that scuff will just remind me  
of the best ever recess when I  
played the best ever game with my  
best ever friends. EVER! I'd rather  
get a lil messy than miss all that.

Birdy shakes the worst of the dust off. Everyone sees that  
even with all those scuffs, the shoes are still ruby-red.  
They still twinkle in the sun. <EXTRA MAGICAL SPARKLE STING!>  
One last time, everybody <SIGHS> in admiration.

ROSE

Sooooooooo, can we get back to the  
game? After your home run, the  
score's all tied up.

BIRDY

Yeah! Let's play!

Birdy runs to the outfield with her friends, jubilant. She's  
ready to make the best memories ever in her new kicks.

CURTAIN DROPS.