



READY, SET, OPERA!

This handbook will help you prepare for your school's performance of The Pirates of Penzance with Opera for the Young. Inside you will find your lyrics and lines from the show, as well as story line and staging notes to give you a general idea of what's happening. Your teacher will help you get started, and the OFTY cast is looking forward to working with you on the day of the show!

STUDENT HANDBOOK

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Your music teacher will help you learn these chorus songs.

If you would like to rehearse the music outside of school, rehearsal tracks are available online:

<https://ofty.org/tms>

Note to Music Teacher:

Please copy and distribute any of these materials to students and teachers, as needed.

CAST OF CHARACTERS (in order of appearance)

Illustrations by Ingrid Kallick; design concept and costumes by Karen Brown-Larimore



CHORUS OF PIRATES



PIRATE KING



RUTH



FREDERIC



MABEL



CHORUS OF WARDS



MAJOR GENERAL
STANLEY



CONSTABLES

- *Chorus of Pirates - the famous Pirates of Penzance
- Pirate King - leader of the Pirates of Penzance
- Ruth - Frederic's nanny and pirates' "maid-of-all-work"
- Frederic - apprentice to the Pirate King
- Mabel - daughter of the Major General
- *Chorus of Wards - adopted family of Major General
- Major General Stanley - retired army officer
- *Constables - Cornish Police

- Student Chorus
- OFTY Artist
- OFTY Artist
- OFTY Artist
- OFTY Artist
- Student Chorus
- OFTY Artist
- Student Chorus

*Your teacher will select and prepare students ahead of time for these roles

PLOT SYNOPSIS

Act One - Rocky coastline, Cornwall, England (a summer's day, mid 1800's)

The Pirates of Penzance sail to shore and celebrate Frederic's 21st birthday. He is finally a full-grown pirate! But, his nursery maid, Ruth, explains that Frederic was never supposed to be a pirate in the first place; his father wanted him to be a ship's pilot! Ruth made a mistake and handed the little boy over to the Pirate King for training. Now that he's an adult, Frederic decides to say goodbye to the pirates and become a law-abiding citizen.

He soon discovers Mabel and the Wards playing by the seashore. Frederic asks if anyone might like to marry him and Mabel says she would! Suddenly, the pirates appear and begin to kidnap the wards in order to turn them into pirates. Mabel's father, the Major General, enters and convinces the pirates NOT to take away his family. He says that, since he's an orphan, losing the wards would make him lonely. The pirates – who are all orphans – give in and try to cheer him up by making him an honorary pirate.

Act Two - Church ruins (later that evening)

The Major General confesses to Mabel and Frederic that he told the pirates a lie: he's not really an orphan. But he's afraid to tell that to the pirates, and hopes that the Constables will scare them away. The timid Constables enter and don't seem as if they could scare anyone! Mabel encourages them to be brave.

Ruth and the Pirate King find Frederic and explain a shocking fact to him: although Frederic's been alive for 21 years, he's only had five birthdays because he was born in "leap year." That means – according to their original agreement – he must still be a pirate! Frederic is very sad, but, since he is a loyal person who always does his duty, he tells the pirates that the Major General lied about being an orphan. The King and Ruth are furious and storm off to kidnap the wards!

Frederic explains his unusual predicament to Mabel. She is surprised and sad, but agrees to wait to marry Frederic until he's had 21 leap year birthdays (another 63 years) and is no longer a pirate – which will be a VERY long time, indeed! Frederic rushes off to join the pirates and Mabel gathers the Constables to protect the wards. They hear the pirates approach and dash away to safety. The pirates get ready for their attack but hide when they hear the Major General at an upstairs window. Mabel and the wards scamper in to look for the Major General; they're worried because he has left his bedroom. The pirates jump out and grab the wards. The King angrily announces that the wards must now become pirates because the Major General told a lie! The Constables appear and bravely demand that the pirates surrender in the name of the Queen. Being loyal subjects, the pirates immediately surrender. Ruth explains that the pirates were once all nobles themselves. Everyone shakes hands, Mabel and Frederic are reunited, and the operetta ends on a joyful note!

INSTRUCTIONS FOR STUDENT CHORUS & CAMEO ROLES

Here are some tips that will help you read the script.

- The chunks of student-involvement are divided by these bubbles...

SETTING THE SCENE: ...

- All **CHORUS** words are **bold**, sung **CHORUS** words (lyrics) are also **italicized**.
- Listen to the **AUDIO AND VIDEO TUTORIALS** with your teacher.
- You can go to our website (with adult permission) and follow along with the track numbers listed in these instructions to rehearse at home!

<https://ofty.org/tms>

- NOTE: The **PIRATES' BAY** is the designated area near the pianist where the CHORUS sits during the show when they are not involved in the onstage action.

THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE

SETTING THE SCENE: During the overture, Ruth, King, Frederic and some **PIRATES** enter with the ship. Other **PIRATES** handle flags, and some wiggle billowing "waves." They set ship, flags and waves near scenery and gather to sing first **CHORUS** song. Movement is variations of a straight line of kids with adults on both ends. (Special note: Adults seat **CHORUS** near pianist in Pirates' Bay and lead them in "aarrs'!" and "hurrahs!" and a sharp intake of breath during dialogue. **CHORUS** repeats Ruth's line: "**Oh, Frederic, do not leave us!**")

Student Practice Track #1

CHORUS: Come let's celebrate, be merry, cheer, oh cheer the birthday boy!
Sing and let our voices carry, we are proud and filled with joy!

(adult cast sings their verse)

CHORUS: Come let's celebrate, be merry, cheer, oh cheer the birthday boy!
Sing and let our voices carry, we are proud and filled with joy!

INSTRUCTIONS FOR STUDENT CHORUS & CAMEO ROLES CONTINUED

SETTING THE SCENE: PIRATES rise and join in for their first musical 'bit' – the chorus of the Pirate King's song.

Student Practice Track #2

King: Oh, better far to live and die under the brave black flag I fly,
Than play a sanctimonious part with a pirate's head and a pirate's heart.
Away to the cheating world go you, where pirates all are well to do.
But I'll be true to the song I sing, and live and die a Pirate King.
For, I am a Pirate King!

CHORUS: You are, hurrah for the Pirate King!

King: And it is, it is a glorious thing to be a Pirate King! For I am a Pirate King!

CHORUS: You are, hurrah for the Pirate King!

King: And it is, it is a glorious thing to be a Pirate King!

CHORUS: It is! Hurrah for the Pirate King, hurrah for the Pirate King!

SETTING THE SCENE: Mabel takes 6 PIRATES who are to become WARDS from Pirates' Bay to backstage where she gives them WARD costumes. They re-enter with Mabel and do follow-the-leader movement including zig-zag line, skipping circle, and twirls. The second musical 'bit' comes soon. All CHORUS members sing (from Bay and onstage).

Student Practice Track #3

Mabel: Poor wandering one! Tho' thou hast surely strayed
Take heart of grace, thy steps retrace, poor wandering one!
Poor wandering one! If such poor love as mine can help thee find
True peace of mind – why, take it – it is thine!

CHORUS: Take heart, fair days will shine; take heart, fair days will shine

Mabel: Take heart, fair days will shine, take any heart – take mine!

CHORUS: Take heart, fair days will shine; take heart, fair days will shine

Mabel: Ahhh, take heart!

INSTRUCTIONS FOR STUDENT CHORUS & CAMEO ROLES CONTINUED

SETTING THE SCENE: Mabel and Frederic sing a duet (“How beautifully blue the sky”) during which the **WARDS** sneak forward to peek at the pair. Meanwhile, Ruth and the King gather the **PIRATES** and circle around the **WARDS**, Frederic and Mabel. This circle soon opens up to a line (both sitting and kneeling) for the third **CHORUS** bit which comes during intro to – and throughout – the Major General’s song.

Student Practice Track #4

Ruth: We’d better pause, or danger may befall, their father is a Major General.

Mabel: Yes, yes he is a Major General

Maj. Gen: Yes, yes I am a Major General!

Ruth: For he is a Major General!

CHORUS: He is! Hurrah for the Major General!

Maj. Gen: And it is, it is a glorious thing to be a Major General.

CHORUS: It is! Hurrah for the Major General! Hurrah for the Major General!

(Major General sings his first verse – see Libretto)

(Frederic, Mabel & Ruth sing their response – see Libretto)

Maj. Gen.: I’m very good at integral and differential calculus,
I know the scientific names of beings animalculus,
In short in matters vegetable, animal and mineral,
I am the very model of a modern Major General!

**CHORUS: In short in matters vegetable, animal and mineral,
He is the very model of a modern Major General!**

Maj. Gen: For my military knowledge, though I’m plucky and adventury,
Has only been brought down from the beginning of the century,
In short, in matters vegetable, animal and mineral,
I am the very model of a modern Major General!

**CHORUS: In short, in matters vegetable, animal and mineral,
He is the very model of a modern Major General!**

SETTING THE SCENE: In the dialogue section below, the **PIRATES** stand up to join Ruth in an “Arrr” then quickly sit as the **WARDS** stand up to join Mabel in speaking, then they immediately sit.

Student Practice Track #5

Ruth: Well, how ‘d’ do? I will be brief: we have come to recruit your wards.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR STUDENT CHORUS & CAMEO ROLES CONTINUED

Maj. Gen.: Recruit? As sailors?

Ruth: Aye!

Mabel : No – as pirates – these are the legendary Pirates of Penzance!

PIRATES: (stand) **Aaaarr!** (sit)

WARDS, M: (stand) **Help us, Papa, help us!** (sit)

SETTING THE SCENE: Shortly, the **CHORUS** rises to do their fourth musical bit – sung from Pirates' Bay.

Student Practice Track #6

Ruth: You may go, for you're at liberty – our pirate rules protect you
And honorary members of our band we do elect you!

Frederic: For he is an orphan boy!

CHORUS: **He is! Hurrah for the orphan boy!**

Maj. Gen: And it sometimes is a useful thing to be an orphan boy.

CHORUS: **It is! Hurrah for the orphan boy! Hurrah for the orphan boy!**

SETTING THE SCENE: During the scene change from Act 1 to Act 2, the 3 children selected from the 6 **WARDS** to be **CONSTABLES** go backstage to get their costumes. Soon, Frederic marches them onstage and they do a brief 'schtick'. This should feature knocking knees, biting fingernails, trembling, blinking eyes – please practice - this is funny! During Frederic's line, the **CONSTABLES** react vocally and physically.

Student Practice Track #7

Frederic: They don't like battles...

CONSTABLES:(shrink) Ohhhh!

Frederic: Or pirates...

CONSTABLES:(shrink more) Noooo!

Frederic: They particularly don't like battles WITH pirates.

CONSTABLES:(collapse on floor) Yikes!

(Mabel soon takes **CONSTABLES** offstage)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR STUDENT CHORUS & CAMEO ROLES CONTINUED

SETTING THE SCENE: A little later, the **CONSTABLES** are called onstage by Mabel and have their first line after which they hide somewhere goofy (e.g., behind pianist). They and the 3 remaining **WARDS** – still in Pirates' Bay' - join in with the 10 **PIRATES** on the **CHORUS'** second full song. Movement will be simple and guided by onstage adults.

 Student Practice Track #8, 9

CONSTABLES: They come in force with quiet stride, our only choice is now to hide!

CHORUS,

F, R, PK: With catlike tread upon our prey we steal,
 In silence dread our cautious way we feel!
 No sound at all, we never speak a word;
 A fly's footfall would be distinctly heard!

So stealthily the pirate creeps while all the household soundly sleeps.

Come friends, who sail the sea, truce to navigation, take another station
 Let's vary piracy with a little roguery!

With catlike tread upon our prey we steal,
 In silence dread our cautious way we feel!

SETTING THE SCENE: The **PIRATES** hide and pop out their heads with a loud "Ha, Ha!" in the middle of the adults' next song. Soon Mabel gets 3 **WARDS** from 'Bay' to help her look for Major General. Ruth and **PIRATES** surround them. This is dramatic and fun and will be taught day of show. Then **CONSTABLES** have lines which are followed by a **PIRATES** line and later by fun piratical ad libs!

 Student Practice Track #10

Mabel: Have pity on us!

King: And why? Your father has lied to us, said he was an orphan! He took advantage of our tender hearts!

Frederic: Constables, can you do nothing to help?

CONSTABLES: We demand that you surrender in the name of the Queen!

King/Ruth: The Queen?

CONSTABLES,

F, M: Yes, the Queen!

PIRATES,

R, PK: (all kneel) We surrender.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR STUDENT CHORUS & CAMEO ROLES CONTINUED

Frederic: Constables, take this villain away.

Ruth: One moment! These are no common criminals – they are all nobles: lords and ladies who, over the years, have gone wrong. You know, bad career choice and all that.

Mabel: Nobles?

CHORUS: (Ad libs while shaking hands with everyone)
Here, here! Jolly Good! Pip, pip! Cheerio! Shiver me timbers!

Maj. Gen.: Although I was a cowardly liar, these noble pirates have given me a second chance because they love their Queen. I am moved to tears. I pray you all pardon me for telling a terrible story that wasn't true. And now, all join hands to salute friendship and the Queen! Hip hip -

CHORUS: Hurrah!

SETTING THE SCENE: This leads into the **CHORUS'** final musical 'bit' – their participation in the show's finale followed by curtain call.

Student Practice Track #11

Mabel: Poor wandering ones! Though ye have surely strayed,
Take heart of grace, your steps retrace, poor wandering ones.
Poor wandering ones! If such a friendship as ours
Can help thee find true peace of mind, why take it, it is yours!

CHORUS: Take heart, fair days will shine, take heart fair days will shine.

R, PK, F, M: Take heart, take heart, take heart, take ours!

(CHORUS joins the adult cast for bows)

BECOME A PIRATE AND SAIL AWAY! Page 1 of 2

Create your own pirate adventure! Decide WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN and HOW. You choose which brainstorm comes first. When you finish, if you like, you can 'tell' your story by putting together all of your ideas – by yourself or with classmates, friends or family!



Who?

Fun Suggestions:

People from the operetta "The Pirates of Penzance" or your own imagination. Like you as Frederic or Mabel and your principal as the Pirate King or the librarian as the Major General!

Imagine your characters. Draw ideas and write about your picture.

What?



Fun Suggestions:

- * Board an historical pirate ship and look for treasure to share with others
- * Sail pontoon boats, then board another boat to steal a picnic basket
- * Take a canoe and silently go to a campsite in the dark to scare your friends

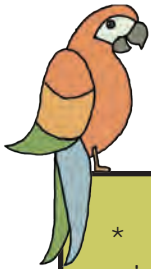
This is your plan or action. Draw ideas and write about your picture.

BECOME A PIRATE AND SAIL AWAY! Page 2 of 2

This is your location. Draw ideas and write about your picture.



Fun Suggestions:
Sail somewhere...
* far away (North Pole?
China? Mexico?)
* nearby (down a local stream
or lake)
* VERY nearby (down a school
hallway or a street)

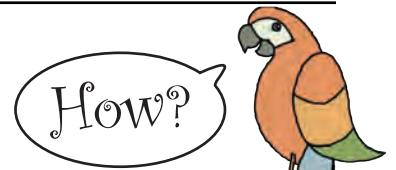


When?

This is the time. Draw ideas and write about your picture.

Fun Suggestions:
* A long time ago when
pirates sailed the open seas
* today when YOU are going to
be a pirate
* in the future - ships with wings?

In what way will events unfold? Draw ideas and write about your picture.



Fun Suggestions:
* Find pirate or ocean music
to create a mood, tell story
* Invent crazy costumes and
makeup with scarves, belts,
bandanas, boots, face paint
* Create setting - use blue paper
or blankets for the ocean

GLOSSARY OF WORDS FROM THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE

(In order of occurrence and what they mean in the libretto)

1. indentures	a written agreement to serve someone for a specified length of time
2. apprentice	an apprentice learns a trade or skill under the guidance of an expert
3. breakers	waves
4. gyrate	go round and round
5. sanctimonious	making a show of following the rules of good behavior
6. rivulet	little river, a brook
7. matrimonial ambition	the desire to be married to someone wealthy
8. Wards	young people placed under an adult guardian's care, by the court of law in London, England; (these boys and girls are Wards of the Major General)
9. Major General	an officer of the army
10. categorical	special kind of order for studying a subject
11. equations, quadratical, binomial theorem, square of the hypotenuse, integral and differential calculus	all these are terms learned in mathematics
12. beings animalculous	tiny creatures, only seen through a microscope
13. plucky and adventury	full of courage and ready for action
14. I hadn't in elegant diction, indulged in an innocent fiction	"If I hadn't in such nice, convincing words, told an innocent lie,"
15. your escort lionhearted	your brave companion

GLOSSARY OF WORDS FROM THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE CONTINUED

16. quips & quibbles quaint	strange jokes and arguments
17. paradox	A statement that may be true but seems to say two opposite things
18. ingenious	clever
19. through the agency of an ill-natured fairy	caused by a bad-tempered magical being
20. leap year	one year out of every four in which a day is added to the calendar year (February 29)
21. my natal day	my birthday
22. a terrible disclosure	an awful bit of information
23. appalls	shocks
24. sooth	promise
25. upon our prey we steal	sneak up on our enemies
26. Truce to navigation, take another station, let's vary piracy, with a little roguery	"Let's take time off from being pirates and go do something else mischievous or naughty."
27. tormented with the anguish dread of falsehood unatoned	feeling bad because of a guilty conscience for having told a lie
28. effect their capture	bring about their capture
29. with base deceit	with the worst kind of trickery

OPERA TIP: Watch and Listen!

The characters' faces, gestures, and repetition of lyrics help tell the story during opera performance.

THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE WORD SEARCH

J N I L L N A T U R E D F A I R Y E W X Z Z H P Q
 R A H W M M R F V P B I N O M I A L T H E O R E M
 H T A L M Y A P A U B O T L O O X V O I S I N E Q
 D A I B R R G J I L B K W N A R E Q U A T I O N S
 P L T N C G L Q O P S A Y T O R Z O M H G Z W T O
 S U C M N J V C Z R R E T L I O N H E A R T E D W
 B L M O M O J O N U G U H C X H Q H T E W R R R A
 Y A D A H Y C O Q U B E I O A K T G X N T E X O R
 B A S V T Y G E R R P F N N O L N V Y F S A R G D
 R P R E J R P A N Y Y V S E G D C X H R I R X U S
 E P U Z D W I O E T C N L H R E U U G Y A N B E I
 A R S L P E H M T L F A O I Y A N N L Y R T O R N
 K E A Q R L C L O E E I T Q D Q L I A U B Z E Y D
 E N N U Q H T E R N N G C E U L A E O T S Q V H E
 R T C I U N N X I K I U A T G A N P A U O E K W N
 S I T P I A G L C T L A S N I O D K P P S N A L T
 Y C I S B V F R Y H L H L E T O R R W A Y S E I U
 T E M A B I P I I P B Q Z A R D N I A S L E O D R
 R O O P L G L F C V Y Y K D M F I U C T Q L A F E
 R P N A E A U J D N U E Q D C B T C F A I V S R S
 X K I R S T C C W R M L S H N T I Z T R L C B D D
 R Z O A R I K W T Y H E E G G K E T C I E J A L U
 A P U D U O Y D G G H W B T K K U Z I B O D H L N
 S F S O M N A N I M A L C U L O U S E O R N O E V
 H R T X E A Z F W R F O R Y V S T G X E N D E Z W

indentures	Major General	plucky	ill-natured fairy
apprentice	categorical	elegant diction	leap year
breakers	equations	innocent fiction	natal
gyrate	quadratical	lionhearted	appalls
sanctimonious	binomial theorem	quips	navigation
rivulet	hypotenuse	quibbles	roguery
matrimonial ambition	calculus	paradox	falsehood unatoned
Wards	animalculous	ingenious	base deceit















STUDENT CHORUS MUSIC

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Come, let's celebrate, be merry MELODY

Moderato maestoso

19 (Pno.)

23 **Ruth & Chorus** *f*

Come, let's cel - e - brate, — be mer - ry; cheer, o cheer the birth - day

27 (Pno.)

boy, _____

31

Sing and let our voic - es car - ry. We are proud and fill'd — with

35

joy! _____

48 **(Ruth & King)**

Here's good luck — to Fred - 'ric's ven - tures! Fred - 'ric's out of his in - den - tures.

Ruth and Chorus
Frederic and King *ff*

Come, let's cel - e - brate, — be mer - ry; cheer, o cheer the birth - day

56

boy, Sing and let our voic - es car - ry. We are proud and fill'd — with

60 (Pno.)

joy! _____

All spoken
Hur-rah!

Pirate King's Song MELODY

24 **(Pirate King)**

Where pi - rates all are well - to - do; But I'll be true to the

28 *rall.* *a tempo*

song I sing, And live and die a Pi - rate King, For I am a Pi - rate

33 **Frederic, Ruth & Chorus**

You are! Hur - rah for the Pi - rate King!

Frederic, Ruth & Chorus

41 *f*

You are! Hur - rah for the Pi - rate King!

Frederic, Ruth & Chorus

47 *f*

It is! Hur - rah for the Pi - rate King! Hur-rah for the Pi - rate King!

52

Poor Wandering One MELODY

25 (Mabel)

Can help thee find True peace of mind— Why, take— it, it— is thine!

Chorus

33 *f*

Take heart, fair days will shine,

37

Take heart, fair days will shine.

41 (Mabel)

Take heart, fair days will shine;— Take an - y heart— take mine!

Chorus

49 *f*

Take heart, fair days will shine,

53

Take heart, fair days will shine.

57

14 *a tempo* **8**

80 (Mabel)

Take heart of grace, Thy steps re - trace, Poor— wan - d'ring

Chorus

86 *f a tempo*

Take heart, fair days will shine,

90

Take heart, fair days will shine. **13**

For he is a Major-General MELODY

**Frederic, Mabel,
Ruth & Chorus**

11 (Ruth)

For he is a Ma - jor - Gen - er - al! He is! Hur -

14 (Major-General)

rah for the Ma - jor - Gen-er-al! And it is, it is a glo - rious thing To

**Frederic, Mabel,
Ruth & Chorus**

18

be a Ma - jor - Gen - er - al! It is! Hur - rah for the Ma - jor -

21

Gen - er - al! Hur - rah for the Ma - jor - Gen - er - al!

Major-General's Song MELODY

37 (Major-General)




I'm ver - y good at in - te - gral and dif - fer - en - tial cal - cu - lus; I
(2.) mil - i - ta - ry know - ledge, tho' I'm pluck - y and ad - ven - tur - y, Has

40



know the sci - en - tif - ic names of be - ings an - i - mal - cu - lous; } In short, in mat - ters veg - e - ta - ble,
on - ly been brought down to the be - gin - ning of the cen - tu - ry; }

43



an - i - mal, and min - er - al, I am the ver - y mod - el of a In

46



short, in mat - ters veg - e - ta - ble, an - i - mal, and min - er - al, He is the ver - y mod - el of a

49



mod - ern Ma - jor - Gen - er - al. 1. (Major-General) 2. For my

For he is an orphan boy MELODY

9 **Allegro non troppo** (Frederic) Ruth & Chorus *f*

For he is an or - phan He is! Hur - rah for the or - phan

13 (Major-General) Ruth & Chorus *f*

boy! some - times is a use - ful thing — To be an or - phan It is! Hur -

18

rah for the or - phan boy! Hur - rah for the or - phan boy!

With Catlike Tread MELODY

Strong march tempo

Ruth, Frederic, Pirate King & Chorus

(Pno.) *mf* With cat-like tread Up-

6 on our prey we steal, In si-lence dread Our cau-tious way we feel! No sound at all, We

10 nev-er speak a word; A fly's foot-fall Would be dis-tinct-ly heard!

14 *mf* So stealth-i-ly the pi-rate creeps, While all the house-hold sound-ly sleeps.

19 *p* Come, friends, who sail the sea, Truce to nav-i-ga-tion, Take an-oth-er sta-tion;

23 Let's var-y pi-ra-cy With a lit-tle ro-guer-y!

27 *f* Come, friends, who sail the sea, Truce to nav-i-ga-tion, Take an-oth-er sta-tion;

31 *cresc.* *f* *ff* Let's var-y, pi-ra-cy— With a lit-tle ro-guer-y! With cat-like tread

35 Up-on our prey we steal, In si-lence dread

39 Our cau-tious way we feel!

Poor Wandering One (Reprise) MELODY

30 (Mabel) Chorus *f*

True peace of mind— Why, take it, it is Take heart,

36

fair days will shine, Take heart, fair days will shine,

42

33