

NORTHAMPTON G&S GROUP – HMS PINAFORE

Please prepare the following speeches for your character

You may be asked to read only ONE of them You are NOT expected to be off-book

Edited for audition purposes only. DO NOT LEARN!

BILL BOBSTAY (*Boatswain*)

A

- BOAT. Ah, my poor lad, you've climbed too high: our worthy captain's child won't have nothin' to say to a poor chap like you. Will she, lads?
- DICK. No, no, captains' daughters don't marry foremast hands.
- BOAT. Dick Deadeye, them sentiments o' yourn are a disgrace to our common natur'.
- RALPH. But it's a strange anomaly ... For a man is but a man, whether he hoists his flag at the main-truck or his slacks on the main-deck.
- DICK. Ah, it's a queer world!
- RALPH. Dick Deadeye, I have no desire to press hardly on you, but such a revolutionary sentiment is enough to make an honest sailor shudder.
- BOAT. My lads, our gallant captain has come on deck; let us greet him as so brave an officer and so gallant a seaman deserves.

B

- BOAT. Ah! Sir Joseph's a true gentleman; courteous and considerate to the very humblest.
- DICK. You're on a wrong tack, and so is he. He means well, but he don't know. When people have to obey other people's orders, equality's out of the question.
- BOAT. Dick Deadeye, if you go for to infuriate this here ship's company too far, I won't answer for being able to hold 'em in. I'm shocked! that's what I am – shocked!
- RALPH. Messmates, my mind's made up. I'll speak to the captain's daughter, and tell her, like an honest man, of the honest love I have for her. Is not my love as good as another's? Is not my heart as true as another's? Have I not hands and eyes and ears and limbs like another? True, I lack birth –
- BOAT. You've a berth on board this very ship.
- RALPH. Well said – I had forgotten that. Messmates – what do you say? Do you approve my determination?
- DICK. *I don't.*
- BOAT. What is to be done with this here hopeless chap? Let us sing him the song that Sir Joseph has kindly composed for us. Perhaps it will bring this here miserable creatur' to a proper state of mind.