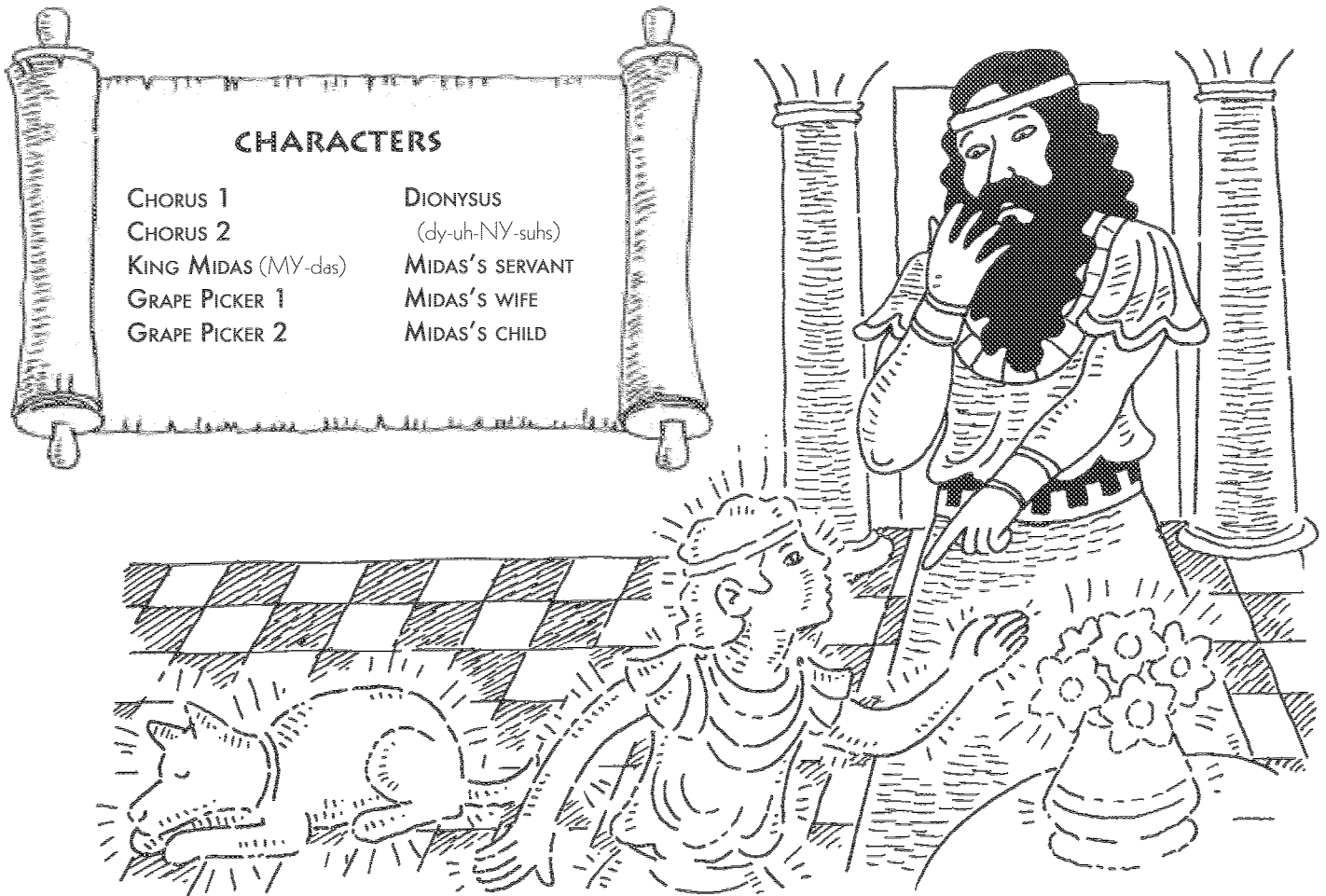


# KING MIDAS AND THE GOLDEN TOUCH



## CHARACTERS

CHORUS 1	DIONYSUS
CHORUS 2	(dy-uh-NY-suhs)
KING MIDAS (MY-das)	MIDAS'S SERVANT
GRAPE PICKER 1	MIDAS'S WIFE
GRAPE PICKER 2	MIDAS'S CHILD

**CHORUS 1:** Once there was a king named Midas. Like most kings, he was very wealthy.

**CHORUS 2:** But Midas was not satisfied with his wealth. Like many kings, he wanted more wealth.

**MIDAS:** Gold, gold, wonderful gold!  
Whenever I see it, I never feel old.  
There's one special thing that will make me feel glad—  
That's to have the most gold a mortal's ever had!

**CHORUS 1:** One day some grape pickers found a satyr (*SAY-tuhr*) asleep in Midas's field.

**CHORUS 2:** A satyr is half man and half goat, and this one was lying in the king's favorite flower bed near a stream.

**GRAPE PICKER 1:** Be on your way, satyr!

**GRAPE PICKER 2:** He's sound asleep. He won't budge!

**GRAPE PICKER 1:** Well, we have to get him away from here, or Midas might be mad!

**GRAPE PICKER 2:** Hmm . . . there must be something we can do.

**MIDAS:** Do about what?

**GRAPE PICKER 1:** This satyr, your majesty.

**GRAPE PICKER 2:** He's in your favorite flower bed.

**MIDAS:** That's no matter. Let him be. The poor creature must need his rest if he's sleeping so soundly.

**GRAPE PICKERS 1 & 2:** Yes, your majesty.

**CHORUS 1:** So the grape pickers left as the satyr slept on.

**CHORUS 2:** Suddenly, Dionysus, the god of wine appeared.

**DIONYSUS:** Well done, Midas!

**MIDAS:** (*Bowing*) Dionysus, what brings you to my vineyard?

**DIONYSUS:** I have seen the work of kindness you have bestowed upon my friend. For that you will be rewarded. What is your wish?

**MIDAS:** My wish?  
I wish for gold, gold, wonderful gold!  
Whenever I see it I never feel old.  
There's one special thing that will make me feel glad—  
That's to have the most gold a mortal's ever had!

I wish that everything I touch would turn to gold!

**CHORUS 1 & 2:** Be careful what you wish for, Midas!

**MIDAS:** Shush!

**DIONYSUS:** But you already have more gold than any mortal could ever need!

**MIDAS:** Ah, there can never be enough gold! May I have my wish?

**DIONYSUS:** If that is your wish, then it is granted. Now everything you touch will turn to gold.

**MIDAS:** Thank you, kind Dionysus!

**CHORUS 1:** After Dionysus and the satyr had left, Midas ran through his gardens, testing his wish.

**CHORUS 2:** As his feet ran on the grass, it turned to gold!

**CHORUS 1:** He touched the swaying branches of his trees. The trees turned to gold!

**CHORUS 2:** And each rosebush he touched turned to gold!

**MIDAS:** Hee, hee! Hah, hah! Hoo, hoo!

**CHORUS 1:** Midas was ecstatic.

**CHORUS 2:** Midas's servant entered, carrying a glass.

**SERVANT:** Your majesty, I have brought you a cool drink.

**MIDAS:** Wonderful. Thank you so much.

**CHORUS 1:** As Midas put his hand on the servant's shoulder, the servant froze and turned to gold!

**MIDAS:** Oh, my!

**CHORUS 2:** In came Midas's dog, barking happily and nuzzling up to Midas. She, too, turned to gold!

**MIDAS:** Oh, dear!

**CHORUS 1:** Midas's wife entered with her arms extended to embrace Midas.

**WIFE:** Darling, I've been looking all over for you!

**MIDAS:** Stay back! Do not touch me!

**WIFE:** What on earth is going on?

**MIDAS:** It's a long story. Just stay away.

**CHORUS 2:** Whew! That was close! Oh, no! Here comes his child!

**CHILD:** Daddy, daddy!

**MIDAS:** No, my child. No!

**CHORUS 1:** But it was too late. Midas's child embraced Midas and instantly turned to gold.

**MIDAS:** *(To the sky)* Oh, Dionysus! Rid me of this terrible wish!

**DIONYSUS:** But you have more gold than any mortal. And you will have even more!

**MIDAS:** My child. My precious child. Nothing is more important!

**DIONYSUS:** *(Handing Midas a large jar)* Very well. Take this amphora. Bring it to the river and fill it with water. Pour it over everything that has turned to gold, and it will be undone.

**MIDAS:** *(Taking the jar)* Oh, thank you, kind god.

**DIONYSUS:** You're welcome. And Midas?

**MIDAS:** Yes?

**DIONYSUS:** Next time, be careful what you wish for.

**CHORUS 1 & 2:** Told you so!

**MIDAS:** Oh, shush!

**CHORUS 2:** So Midas did as Dionysus said, and everything that had turned to gold was turned back.

**SERVANT:** I'll get you some bread to go with your drink.

**CHILD:** Daddy, daddy! Come play with me!  
**MIDAS:** (*Hugging his child*) Yes, my dear child. Yes!

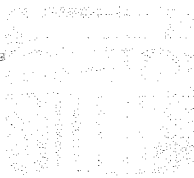
(*To audience*)

Ladies and gentlemen, take it from me.  
Some wishes are bad, as you can see.  
I've learned my lesson and now I confess  
All I need is what I already possess.

**CHORUS 1 & 2:** Told you so!

**MIDAS:** Oh, shush!

**THE END**



## Glossary

**mortal:** a human being

**satyr:** a mythological creature that is often shown as having the ears, horns, and legs of a goat and the rest of its body as human

**budge:** to move or shift

**bestowed:** gave someone a gift or prize

**granted:** given

**swaying:** moving or swinging from side to side

**ecstatic:** feeling great happiness or extreme joy

**nuzzling:** cuddling close to someone

**embrace:** hug

**shrugs:** raises ones shoulders to show doubt or lack of interest

**rid:** to remove something that is unwanted

**precious:** very special or dear

**amphora:** an ancient Greek jar with two handles and a narrow neck

**confess:** to admit that you have done something wrong

**possess:** to own