

**Characters:** Mother, Polly, Dream Fairy, Wesley Water Boatman, Shirley Whirligig Beetle, Dana Damselfly Nymph

**Prop:** Pond Polly—girl puppet with swim mask, snorkel, and paddles for extra arms

**Mother**

Polly, honey, just where are you going at this time of night?

**Polly**

Out to the pond, of course. I need a quick swim before bed.

**Mother**

But Polly, you've been swimming in the pond all day. I think that's enough! Now off to bed you go. Come on, hop to it. *[exits]*

**Polly**

Hmmm. I'd rather hop right to the pond. I wish I were a frog or a fish or a water bug; then I'd spend my whole life in the pond! Well, the sooner I fall asleep, the sooner I'll be able to go to the pond again! *[lies down; Dream Fairy enters]*

**Dream Fairy**

As an expert on dreams, I think t'would be good  
To make sure Polly knows all that she should.  
For life in the pond is not all it may seem  
As she shall discover in her very next dream.  
*[Dream Fairy leaves and dream begins]*

**Polly**

Oh, I'm so happy. Mom says I can live in the pond forever. I won't bother packing a suitcase. I'll just wear my bathing suit. *[Water Boatman enters]*

**Wesley Water Boatman**

Hold on, Polly. You're going to need more than a bathing suit.

**Polly**

Who are you?

**Water Boatman**

I'm Wesley Water Boatman, at your service.

**Polly**

Oh, I've seen you paddling around in the water. You're so quick. It must take a lot of practice to swim like that.

**Water Boatman**

It takes more than practice, Polly. We water insects are well equipped for life in the pond.

**Polly**

Well, I'd like to be well equipped, too. What should I pack?

**Water Boatman**

Well, you'll need more legs, for one thing.

**Polly**

More legs? Oh, I guess having six of them must really speed you right along. Don't worry – I'll use both my arms and my legs to help me swim.

**Water Boatman**

But how will you catch food? We use our two front legs for that.

**Polly**

Well, let's see. I'll have to use my hands to catch food. I know! I'll tie canoe paddles to my waist for pushing. Then we'll both look like little rowboats with oars sticking out to the sides!

**Water Boatman**

That might work. But maybe you should meet some more water bugs and see what other kinds of equipment you might need.

**Polly**

But what more could I possibly need? *[Water Boatman exits; Whirligig Beetle enters]* Hey, where's Wes? And who are you?

**Shirley Whirligig Beetle**

Why, hello. Let me introduce myself. I'm Shirley, a whirligig beetle.

**Polly**

Oh, you're one of those little bugs that spin about the pond like little bumper cars. It's amazing you never bump into each other.

**Whirligig Beetle**

Thanks to our antennae, we steer clear of trouble. They feel the tiny waves in the water and tell us where we can and cannot go.

**Polly**

Well, it's a good thing you have those antennae! Your eyes are split in half, so they must not work very well.

**Whirligig Beetle**

They are split, but all the better to see with, my dear. The upper half can see above the water, and the lower half can see under the water. We don't miss a trick!

**Polly**

Hmm. Maybe I should bring along swim goggles, too!

**Whirligig Beetle**

Good idea! Well, I've got to dive. See you down under! I'll just grab a bubble of air before I go. It lets me breathe under water. *[exits]*

**Polly**

Breathe under water! Oh no, I hadn't thought about that. I'd better pack a snorkel, too. Gosh! This is getting complicated! *[Damselfly Nymph enters]*

**Dana Damselfly Nymph**

You could just breathe the way I do – with gills.

**Polly**

With gills? You don't look like a fish! Who are you?

**Damselfly Nymph**

I'm Dana the Damselfly Nymph. I live under the water now, but someday I'll have wings. Then I'll be a dainty damselfly hovering over the pond.

**Polly**

Sounds exciting. Now, did you say you have gills? I don't see any.

**Damselfly Nymph**

What did you think these tails at the end of my body were for? Wagging?

**Polly**

Well, yes. I mean, no. I mean, I just thought they were tails.

**Damselfly Nymph**

Well, these tails have gills. And I couldn't breathe under water without them. Now I'd better dive, or I'll be a damselfly in distress! *[exits]*

**Polly**

Oh, now I'm in distress! I don't have tails or gills! *[Water Boatman appears]*

**Water Boatman**

So, Polly, are you all set for living in the pond?

**Polly**

Well, I'm not so sure anymore. There are so many things I'll need.

**Water Boatman**

Don't worry. I made a model for you. If we can just get you looking like this, then you'll live happily ever after in the pond! *[Water Boatman disappears, Pond Polly puppet appears]*

**Polly**

Ahhhh! *[Polly faints, Pond Polly exits, then Polly wakes up]* What a nightmare I just had! I've had bad dreams with monsters in them, but never one where I was the monster! Swimming in the pond is one thing, but living there is quite another. Good night, everyone!

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