

## Side #2: Maria and Children

**MARIA.** *(Crosses to the CAPTAIN.)* Thank you, Captain. I forgot to return this whistle, Captain. I won't need it, Captain.

*(The CAPTAIN takes the whistle and exits. MARIA turns to the CHILDREN with a hand clap, catching them off guard.)*

Well, now that there's just us, would you tell me your names again and tell me how old you are. Now you're -?

*(Each CHILD, in turn, steps forward in military manner, speaks, and then steps back.)*

**LIESL.** I'm Liesl. I'm sixteen years old and I don't need a governess.

**MARIA.** I'm glad you told me. We'll just be friends.

**FRIEDRICH.** I'm Friedrich. I'm fourteen. I'm a boy.

**MARIA.** Boy? Why, you're almost a man.

**LOUISA.** I'm Brigitta.

**MARIA.** You didn't tell me how old you are, Louisa.

**BRIGITTA.** I'm Brigitta. She's Louisa and she's thirteen years old and you're smart. I'm nine and I think your dress is the ugliest one I ever saw.

**KURT.** Brigitta, you mustn't say a thing like that.

**BRIGITTA.** Why not? Don't you think it's ugly?

**KURT.** If I did think so, I wouldn't say so. *(Snapping to attention.)* I'm Kurt, I'm eleven - almost.

**MARIA.** That's a nice age to be, eleven - almost.

**MARTA.** *(Steps forward left of MARIA, pulling her skirt.)* I'm Marta and I'm going to be seven on Tuesday and I'd like a pink parasol.

**MARIA.** Pink is my favorite color, too.

*(GRETTL steps forward and stamps her foot.)*

And you're Gretl.