The Big, Bad Wolf Meets the Blooms
A CHORAL READING TO REVIEW BLOOM’S TAXONOMY
BY NANCY McMUNN, ADAPTED FROM BARBARA HISE’S CHORAL READING

| Characters: | LENNY: (Wolf’s psychologist-wearing glasses)  |
|            | Wolf: (Wolf ears)                            |
|            | The Blooms: Recall, Application, Analysis, Synthesis, and Evaluation |
|            | The Chorus: Rest of the participants; everyone gets a part |

The play opens with the Wolf seated center front, alone with his head in his hands. The chorus can be seated in a semi-circle fashion around the Wolf.

Wolf: Why, oh why is it that I never do anything right? I have tried for years to destroy the Pig family and I can never succeed.

Chorus: Poor Wolf. He always does everything wrong.

(Enter Lenny)

Lenny: Hello Wolf. Did you blow down the brick house yet and get rid of the Three Little Pigs?

Wolf: Naw, I got mad when the 2nd Little Pig fled from the stick house. I didn't catch him...again....He keeps running to the brick house and I haven't figured out a way to blow that house down.

Chorus: Poor Wolf. He can't do anything right.

Wolf: Hey, cut that out (facing the chorus). I'm not in the mood for teasing! I've got problems.

Lenny: Come on and join the Bloom Society, Wolf. They'll teach you to think like the 3rd Little Pig.

Chorus: Go on, Wolf. Listen to Lenny.


Lenny: Of course, you can succeed. You aren't the Scarecrow character in The Wizard of Oz. You do have a brain. You just don't know how to use it!

Handout A3.2,H1, p. 1
Wolf: Well, I might as well be, because I know I've never been taught to use my brain. I sure don't seem to be able to solve my own problems. Life used to be so simple—that is, before the Three Little Pigs.

Chorus: Don't know how to use the brain you've got!

Lenny: Well, I know how to fix that. I'm going to introduce you to my brain fixers, the Bloom quintuplets! They always help me with my problems....

Chorus: The Bloom quintuplets?

Lenny: Hey, Blooms! Come on in! I have a friend that needs your help.

(Enter: the five Blooms, each clearly labeled with a sign around his/her neck.)

(As Lenny introduces each skill, they step forward and take a bow.)

Lenny: Wolf, I want you to meet my secret skills, the thinking skills: Recall, Application, Analysis, Synthesis, and Evaluation.

Wolf: What good are they going to do me? I don't even know what their names mean and what kinds of skills they are?

Recall: Then I'm the first skill you need. I'm Recall. I'm easy to use. You won't have to do much thinking at all, in fact, you're ready to take a test now. What material did the 3rd Little Pig use to build his house?

Wolf: Recall, that's easy! He used bricks. I don't understand, so what good are you?

Lenny: Recall will not help you much without the next step.

Application: And that's me. My name is Application. When you take something you have learned and put it to use, you are applying knowledge.

Wolf: Let's see. I learned that the Three Little Pigs built their houses out of straw, sticks, and bricks and that was my first level of thinking. I only used Recall of my knowledge. Now, I know your name is Application—but what can you do for me?

Application: I bet the 3rd Little Pig used Application when he built his house out of the pile of bricks.
Lenny: Well, yes, because if you think about it all the Little Pigs used **Application** when they constructed their houses. Or, you used **Application** when you demonstrated that you could blow down the straw house because you recalled that the house was constructed from straw and straw was easy to blow away.

Wolf: Oh, I think **Application** is smarter than **Recall**.

Chorus: Wolf, you're getting smarter already.

Wolf: This is fun. What's the next step?

Analysis: That's me. My name is **Analysis**. And if you think **Application** was smart, wait until you try me!

Wolf: What do I do when I analyze?

Chorus: What do you do when you analyze?

Analysis: You take things apart.

Chorus: You take things apart???? But, wolves tear things apart? Shhh!!!!

Wolf: I get it. If I know what all the different parts are, then maybe I'll understand the whole picture better. Am I analyzing if I examine the brick house closely so I could detect all its parts, and, just maybe, I'll find a weak spot? Maybe I'll find an open window or chimney large enough to enter? Or, maybe the bricks in the house are easy to break with a hammer?

Chorus: Ohoooo, a weak spot in the house. Wolf's getting the picture.

Wolf: Okay, I need to go back to the scene. See you later...

Lenny: Just wait one minute...Wolf....you have two more parts to consider. Besides, we need to make sure your brain is really working before you go back to the scene.

Wolf: Well, hurry up...What comes next?

Lenny: The most popular Thinking Skill of all, **Synthesis**.

Wolf: What is **Synthesis**?

Chorus: What is **Synthesis**?  

_handout A3.2,H1, p. 3_
**Synthesis:** I'm Synthesis, sometimes called Creativity. And I'm much more complicated than some people think and much easier than other people think.

**Wolf:** Gee...You sound more like a riddle.

**Chorus:** Synthesis sounds like a riddle.

**Wolf:** Gee...that Chorus is giving me a headache. Get rid of them!

(The Chorus members quickly hide their faces.)

**Synthesis:** Synthesis puts things together in a new or different way.

**Wolf:** You mean I analyze....

**Chorus:** Take apart.

**Wolf:** ....so I can synthesize by putting things back together?

**Lenny:** That's right!

**Chorus:** What's so hard about synthesizing?

**Lenny:** Wolf, sometimes it's hard to see a new way of doing things.

**Wolf:** That doesn't sound very easy to me. But let me try. If I look at all the parts to the whole picture then I can rearrange those parts. Like if I look at the different parts to the third Little Pig's House and then figure out how it's made then maybe I can create something to use to help me get into the house or down the chimney?

**Chorus:** Right....it's figuring out a new way in....to get to the Three Little Pigs...

**Lenny:** Well, maybe, but then if we synthesize correctly it will lead us to Evaluation and maybe to a different solution to your problem.

**Chorus:** A better solution......let's see...

**Evaluation:** Well, I thought you would never call my name.

**Chorus:** What will Wolf do when he evaluates?
**Evaluation:** He will have to make decisions...sometimes very difficult ones.

**Wolf:** But, I do that all the time...besides...**hurry up**...I'm getting hungry.

**Evaluation:** Wolf, you may make decisions all the time...but do you ever stop to consider **WHY** you make those decisions or judgments?

**Chorus:** Why? Why? Why?

**Lenny:** And the hardest part is knowing when you need to go back and start over again.

**Wolf:** You're confusing me. What do you mean?

**Chorus:** What do you mean?

**Lenny:** Well, when you are trying to synthesize...

**Chorus:** Put things together.

**Lenny:** ....it's not always easy to know if the **new way** is better or worse.

**Chorus:** But time will tell.

**Wolf:** Boy, it's sure going to take time for me to learn all this.

**Lenny:** Wolf, do you think you might need to make a new judgment on **WHY** you want to destroy the Little Pigs?

**Chorus:** **Destroy the Three Little Pigs?**

**Wolf:** Well, I don't really know, I have plenty of food to eat. Besides, I really don't like **pig meat**!

**Chorus:** He doesn't even like **pig meat**!

**Lenny:** Wolf, maybe you need to exert your energy by trying to help the other Pigs build brick houses instead of trying to figure out how to blow them down. **Just think** what you could accomplish. Maybe the Pigs would even help you build a new brick home for your grandmother; she needs more space.
Wolf: Hey, that's really a good idea, I think I like the Blooms! Do you think the Blooms will help work with my cousin? He is hiding in the woods—waiting for Red Riding Hood, you know, the cute kid, walking to Grandma's House!

Chorus: Why not? All you need to do is recall, apply, analyze, synthesize, and evaluate.