



# WHEN ROBINS APPEAR

**VISUAL GUIDE**

Welcome to the Visual Guide for When Robins Appear. This guide will tell you all about the story you are about to see and what to be prepared for.

You might find this helpful if you have sensory needs or if you haven't been to see a theatre show before.

## WHAT TO EXPECT DURING THE SHOW



The show is 55 minutes long.



There are moments of music and songs in the show.

In the visual story below, all songs are marked with this symbol.

This is to help you decide if you'd like to wear ear defenders or take a break at any point.



All performances are relaxed.

This means that that you are free to move around, step outside and come back in, and generally do whatever it is you need to do to be comfortable and enjoy the performance!



# BIG FEELINGS IN THE SHOW

When Robins Appear follows two friends, facing big changes like moving house, starting new schools and a first Christmas without Grandma. With the help of a magical robin, Ellis and Lowen are whisked away on a joyful journey through their favourite wintery memories!

<b>CHANGE</b>	Both characters are experiencing a lot of change. Ellis: Recently moved house and is starting a new school. Lowen: Is adjusting to a Christmas following the death of their Gran.
<b>LOSS</b>	Lowen's Gran (who they call 'Granbow') recently died. This is the first Christmas without their Granbow. Ellis has lost touch with their friends, as they have moved house.
<b>YOUNG CARERS</b>	Ellis is a young carer who supports their mum who has a condition called fibromyalgia which causes pain in her body.

## THE ROOM



To help tell the story, there is something called a set.

A set helps the actors tell the story.  
The set for the show has lots of cardboard boxes and big wooden trees that move during the show.

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# THE CHARACTERS

The story is told by 3 actors. One of the actors will dress up as different characters, by using different costumes and puppets.



## LOWEN

Lowen is warm, kind and full of energy. They miss Granbow and want to have a Christmas with Dad where they can both smile again.

Lowen wears bright pink and orange striped clothes and pink ear muffs.



## ELLIS

Ellis is sporty, clever and funny, but is stressed. They are worried about their mum all the time which makes it tricky to be the kid they truly are.

Ellis wears a green and blue spotted jumper and jeans with a bobble hat.



## ROBIN

Robin embodies festive joy! They know all about Ellis and Lowen and has seen all their past Christmases.

Robins wears a brown coat with red and gold sparkly tassels

Robin is sometimes a puppet and sometimes a human.

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## GRANBOW

Granbow is a ball of warmth. She loves colour, cooking and caring for others. Her favourite person to spend time with is Lowen!

Granbow wears a rainbow hand made christmas jumper, sparkly hat and glasses.



## MUM

Mum puts a brave face on and wants to make Christmas “picture perfect” for Ellis.

Mum is shown by a pair of glasses.



## DAD

Dad is sad and feels lost since his mum died. His mum (Granbow) was at the centre of their family Christmases and he doesn't know what it will be like without her.

Dad is shown by a brown beanie hat.



## ASH

Ash is Ellis' friend who helps them realise you can do whatever you want for Christmas. Ash is a puppet made of cardboard.



# WHAT HAPPENS IN THE SHOW?

In this section, we go through the whole story so you know what happens. This section does include some spoilers!

If you prefer a more detailed explanation of the story, we have created widget sentences strips. Please ask a member of the team to see this.



Robin introduces themselves and the story.

There is a song where Lowen and Ellis share that Christmas is going to be different this year.



We meet Ellis' mum. Mum pretends Christmas is going to be great, even though she isn't well.

Ellis has lost their phone charger.



We meet Lowen's Dad. Dad is sad because there is no Granbow this Christmas. Granbow has died.

Lowen has lost their Granbow's fairy lights.





Ellis and Lowen follow the footprints in the snow to look for the things they have lost.



Ellis and Lowen bump into each other and compete for who has the worst Christmas.

A Robin appears and they promise to help Ellis and Lowen find what they need.



Robin takes them both back in time to Lowen's favourite Christmas with Granbow.



There is a shadow puppet show that shows why the fairy lights are so important to Lowen and their family.



Lowen cuts their finger on a glass lantern. Lowen and Granbow sing a song about untangling knotty problems.



Robin takes them both to Ellis' favorite christmas. This was when they got a smart phone to help them contact their friends.



Ellis sings a song about all the things they have to do when helping mum as a young carer and at school.



Ellis' friend Ash helps them to realise they can do anything they like at Christmas, such as eat mac n' cheese for Christmas dinner.





Robin explains that they now have the things they need. Ellis and Lowen are confused.

Lowen and Ellis realise that Christmas can look different for everyone and doesn't have to be perfect.



Ellis and Lowen discover that they are neighbours and become friends.

They promise to always talk to each other when they have big feelings.

They both find their lost items.



The show ends with a final song.

There is a confetti throw, where small pieces of paper are released into the air.





At the end of the show, the actors will stand together and bow.

The audience will clap their hands. This is how we say “thank you” to the performers for their hard work. You can clap too if you like, but you don’t have too!



After the show finishes it is time for everyone to leave.

On the way out of the show the actors will give everyone a small gift from Robin.



There are some activities at the back of the room for after the performance. You can do these at the library or take them home!



**ENJOY THE SHOW!**

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