

## **I CAN'T PAY THE RENT** (traditional – adapted by Grandma)

A one-person (multiple personalities!) skit, OR a three person skit. Use this skit as an opportunity to have a discussion about debt.

**CHARACTERS & COSTUMES:** The use of a small black comb and a black cape, along with the voice & mannerisms, determines the character.

**SNIVELY SNODGRASS:** comb held over mouth for mustache with cape over one shoulder and one arm. Music theme is “I’m bringing home a baby bumblebee”.

**JOHN BROWN:** comb worn at neck as a bow tie with cape on back as a super hero. Music theme is “Mighty Mouse – Here I come to save the day”.

**MISS NELLY:** comb worn in hair as a hair bow with cape down front as a dress. Music theme is “Oh, Dear, What can the matter be?”

### **SCRIPT**

**MISS NELLY** is at her kitchen table (card table) gleefully working on her baking and humming or her music theme. (simply and optimistically) Oh, what a beautiful day it is – I’ve got so much to do today – La, la... - Life is so good for me now

(Knock Knock Knock) (continue with song and humming, etc.) “Oh dear, I wonder who that could be” “It’s such a treat to have company” “I can hardly wait to see who it is” “I’d better go get the door”—OH MY!

**SNIVELY** enters with a flourish: “I’m here to see you, MY beautiful gal, and today I won’t take “no” for an answer. You see, I just bought this house you live in. So if you can’t pay the rent, you’ll have to marry me.”

**MISS NELLY:** “Oh, dear, I cannot pay the rent. Could I pay you some other day? Oh, if you would just go away life could be happy again.”

**SNIVELY:** “You know I won’t just go away. I’ve wanted you for many a day. And if you can’t pay the rent, I’ll have you where I want you and you’ll have to be my wife.”

(no music theme)

**MISS NELLY:** But I CAN’T pay the rent!

**SNIVELY:** BUT, you MUST pay the rent.

**MISS NELLY:** But I can’t PAY the rent!

**SNIVELY:** But, you must PAY the rent.

**MISS NELLY:** But I can’t pay the RENT!

**SNIVELY:** But, you must pay the RENT.

(swooping in) **JOHN BROWN:** “Here I come, to save the day. I have come to pay your rent today. Furthermore, I’ll buy the house, just to save you from this big old louse!”

(no music theme) **MISS NELLY:** My hero!

**SNIVELY:** “Rats! Foiled again! (to his theme) I’ve got to find a sneakier way to get her back into my clutches. Ah, I’ve got it. I’ll send her a credit card application form. Then I’ll have her right where I want her again.”