On the Mayflower
**Cast of Characters**

**TV Crew**

- **Kobe** historian
- **Jasmine** TV director and camera
- **Ana** head of costumes and props

**Mayflower Cast**

- **Elizabeth Hopkins** mother
- **Constance Hopkins** daughter
- **Oceanus Hopkins** baby son
- **John Alden** cooper, a Pilgrim leader
- **Captain Jones** the Mayflower’s captain

**Sailors**

- **All** sounds, songs, cheers

**Place** Set for TV show  
**Time** The present
Jasmine  Okay, everyone. We have two days to tape our TV show, “On the Mayflower.”

John  I have a question.

Jasmine  Yes, John?

John  What am I wearing for this scene?

Ana  A cap, shirt, suit, stockings, garters, and shoes.

John  Stockings and garters? No way!

Ana  *(smiling)*  Yes way! Men wore stockings back then. And garters will hold up your stockings.

John  *(frowning)*  I’ll go and change.
Jasmine: Are there any other questions?

Elizabeth: Yes. What is that box on rockers?

Kobe: It’s a cradle like the one on the Mayflower.

Ana: We built it for your baby in this scene.

Elizabeth: Thanks!

Constance: I have a question. Why can’t I eat an orange in this scene?

Kobe: Sorry. There weren’t any fresh fruits OR veggies on the Mayflower.

Captain: We don’t have many props. Is that okay?
Kobe: Yes, because the Pilgrims didn’t bring much with them. There wasn’t room on the ship.

Elizabeth: What did they bring?

Kobe: Barrels of food and a few chests.

Constance: Did they bring books?

Kobe: Yes. They also brought tools for cooking and building.

Jasmine: More questions? (looking around) No? Let’s get started. Places, everyone!

(The actors move into position.)

Jasmine: (pointing the camera at the actors) Roll camera…and…ACTION!

All: (cheering) Hooray! A brand new baby boy. Hooray!
Oceanus  WAH! WAH! WAAAAHHHHH!

Elizabeth  *(rocking the baby in a cradle)*
There, there, little one. Don’t cry.

John  This is a special day.

All  Here, here!

Captain  This is the first baby born on our ship.

Oceanus  WAH! WAH! WAAAAHHHHH!

John  *(laughing)* …and a healthy one at that!

Captain  *(shooing everyone away)* Now let the baby rest.

Elizabeth  Constance, please get breakfast ready while I care for the baby.
Constance: Cold biscuits and cheese again! I wish we had fruit.

Elizabeth: Sorry, daughter. Be thankful for the food we do have.

Constance: I will set out the food. Then I will….uh…uh…uh…wash our clothing.

Jasmine: CUT!

(All of the actors look at Jasmine.)

Jasmine: You were supposed to say: “I will set out the dishes, too.”

Constance: I forgot my line! Anyway, why can’t I say that?

Kobe: The Pilgrims didn’t wash clothes on the Mayflower. They didn’t take baths either!
Constance: Why not?

Kobe: They had little fresh water. It was only used for drinking.

Jasmine: Constance, please say your line again. Then this scene is done.

ACT II

The next day on the set

Ana: John? Sailors? Do you have your tools for the next scene?

John and Sailors: Yes!

Ana (to the Hopkins family): Do you have your oilcloths?

Constance: Oilcloths? What are they?
Ana: Blankets, remember? They’re made from old sails coated with oil. Wrap one around yourself. Act as if you are cold.

Jasmine: Are we ready? Places, everyone!

(The actors move into position.)

Jasmine (pointing the camera at the actors): Roll camera…and…ACTION!

All: Whoosh…whoosh….whoosh!

Elizabeth: It is so windy and cloudy.

John: The waves are high, too.

Constance: Brrrr. I am so cold. And the ship is rocking. I feel sick!

Oceanus: Wah! Wah! WAHHHHHHH!
Elizabeth  Come, Constance. Let us go below with the baby. We will try and warm up.

John  Good idea! You will be safer and warmer down below.

(A few minutes later)

All  Creak....creeeaaaaak....CRASH!

Captain  All hands on deck!

Sailors  Aye, aye, Captain!

John  What is the problem, Captain?

Captain  The main beam has cracked!

John  Should we turn back?
Captain  We have come too far. We cannot turn back!

John  Do you think we can fix the beam?

Captain  Yes. Men, get your tools. We must fix the beam.

Sailors  Aye, aye, Captain!

Captain  John, see if the barrels are safe.

John  I will. We don’t want saltwater getting into our fresh water or our food.

(Ana’s cell phone rings.)

All  Brrring, brrring!

Jasmine  CUT! What now?

Ana  Sorry! I’ll turn my phone off. The props for the next scene just arrived.
Jasmine  That’s okay. It’s a good time to take a lunch break….

(louder) One hour, everyone!

ACT III

One hour later on the set

Jasmine  Are we ready to tape the last scene? (looking around) Places, everyone!

(The actors move into position.)

Jasmine  (pointing the camera at the actors)
Roll camera…and…ACTION!

(The ship’s bell rings.)

All  Ding, ding…Ding, ding!

Captain  Ahoy! There is land ahead. Prepare the ship.
Sailors    Aye, aye, Captain!

All    (cheering) Land! Land!

Captain    I see a long, curving beach ahead.

Elizabeth    This is the first land we’ve seen in more than two months.

John    Soon we will build our new community.

Elizabeth    I hope we find fresh water to drink.

Constance    I cannot wait to wash my clothing.

Elizabeth    We can plant fruits and vegetables.

Constance    We can have hot meals.
Coo, coo. Gurgle, gurgle.

(Everyone laughs.)

Elizabeth Your baby brother is very happy. This will be his very first home.

All Here, here!

Constance I cannot wait to meet new friends!

John (looking around) Everyone, it is time to begin our new lives.

(to the tune of “My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean”) Our ship sails along in the ocean. Our ship sails along in the sea. Our ship sails along in the ocean. We’ll soon walk on land and be free.
Sailing, sailing. We’ve traveled so far.
We are free, so free.
Sailing, sailing. We’ve traveled so far.
We are free!

**Jasmine** And....CUT! That was terrific!

**All** *(clapping and cheering)* Hooray!

**Jasmine** Great! See you at the cast party.
Glossary

captain  a person who is in charge of a ship and its sailors

cooper  a person who builds and fixes barrels

cradle  a small low bed for a baby

garter  a band worn around the leg to hold up a stocking

historian  a person who studies the past

Mayflower  the ship that sailed from England to America carrying the Pilgrims in 1620

Pilgrims  a group of people who left England and came to America to be free