LIST OF CHARACTERS:

Narrator 1  KAYLA
Narrator 2  MARIA
Narrator 3  ETHAN
Narrator 4  LOGAN
Mother      SOPHIA
Tikki Tikki EVA
Chang       SEBASTIAN
Ling Ling   HALEENA
Ping Ping   RAYMOND
Wing Wing   YOUSIF
Old Man     JOEY
Well Holders SAHAS
             LEIF
Welcome everyone and thank you for coming to our play! Once upon a time, a long time ago, it was the custom in China to give firstborn sons great, long, important names.

Second sons were given only little, short names. And now our story begins...

In a small village there lived a mother with two sons. The second son was called Chang, which means “little”. But the first son was called...

Tikki-tikki-tembo-no-sa-rembo-chari-rari-buchi-pip-peri-pembo

...which means “the most wonderful boy in the whole world”.

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NARRATOR 1:
Every morning the mother went to the river to wash the clothes and the brothers went with her.

NARRATOR 2:
Near to the river was a well, and here the boys liked to play.

MOTHER:
Do not play near the well, or you will fall in.

NARRATOR 3:
But the boys did not listen. One day when they were playing around the well, Chang fell in! His brother ran to their mother who was by the river.

TIKKI TIKKI:
Oh honored mother, Chang has fallen into the well!

MOTHER:
Speak up, my precious son. I can not hear you. The river is noisy!

TIKKI TIKKI:
Chang has fallen into the well!
MOTHER:

What a foolish boy! Run to the Old Man With the Rope and he will get him out!

NARRATOR 1:

And so...

ALL:

Tikki-tikki-tembo-no-sa-rembo-chari-rari-buchi-pip-peri-pembo

NARRATOR 1:

...ran off to find the old man. Soon he came to Wing Wing and Ling Ling who were picking flowers.

TIKKI TIKKI:

Ling Ling, Wing Wing, help! Have you seen the old man?

LING LING:

I don’t know where he is.

WING WING:

I haven’t see him!
NARRATOR 2:
...and so off ran

NARRATOR 3:

Soon he came to Ping Ping who was flying a kite.

TIKKI TIKKI:

Ping Ping, please help! Have you seen the Old Man?

PING PING:

He’s over there sleeping under the tree.

TIKKI TIKKI:

Old man! Old man! Chang has fallen into the well. Please will you come and get him out!

OLD MAN:

I will help you. I will throw my rope into the well and climb in and save poor, wet Chang!

NARRATOR 4:

Down into the well the Old Man went and when he climbed back out he had poor, wet Chang with him. He laid Chang out on the ground and pushed the water out of him and pumped the air into him.
NARRATOR 1:

And soon Change was the same as he had always been.

CHANG:

(cough, cough, cough)
Thank you for saving me Old Man and brother. I will not play near the well again.

NARRATOR 2:

Many months went by and the boys did not play near the well.

NARRATOR 3:

But several months later, after the Festival of the Eighth Moon, they went to the well to eat their rice cakes.

TIKKI TIKKI:

Let’s dangle our feet in the well.

CHANG:

I don’t know if that is a good idea.

NARRATOR 4:

Suddenly...
ALL:

Tikki-tikki-tembo-no-sa-rembo-chari-rari-buchi-pip-peri-pembo

NARRATOR 1:

...fell in! Chang ran to the river to find his mother.

CHANG:

Oh, honored Mother, Tikki-tikki-tembo-no-sa-rembo-chari-rari-buchi-pip-peri-pembo has fallen into the well.

MOTHER:

Speak more clearly! I can not hear you. The river is noisy!

CHANG:

Tikki-tikki-tembo-no-sa-rembo-chari-rari-buchi-pip-peri-pembo has fallen into the well.

MOTHER:

What! Tikki-tikki-tembo-no-sa-rembo-chari-rari-buchi-pip-peri-pembo, my most precious son, the most wonderful boy in the world, has fallen into the well! WE must do something at once! Run to the Old Man With the Rope and ask him to help!
NARRATOR 2:

And so Chang ran to find the Old Man with the rope. Soon he came to Ling Ling and Wing Wing who were picking flowers.

CHANG:

Ling Ling, Wing Wing help! Have you seen the old man?

LING LING:

I don’t know where he is.

WING WING:

I haven’t seen him.

NARRATOR 3:

Soon he came to Ping Ping who was flying a kite.

CHANG:

Ping Ping, please help! Have you seen the Old Man?

PING PING:

He’s over there sleeping under the tree.
CHANG:

Old man! Old man! Tikki-tikki-tembo-no-sa-rembo-chari-rari-buchi-pip-peri-pembo, has fallen into the well!

OLD MAN:

What is this noise that disturbs my sleep?

CHANG:

My brother, Tikki-tikki-tembo-no-sa-rembo-chari-rari-buchi-pip-peri-pembo, has fallen into the well!

OLD MAN:

Somebody has fallen into the well? What did you say his name was?

CHANG:

Tikki-tikki-tembo-no-sa-rembo-chari-rari-buchi-pip-peri-pembo! Please come and help to get him out!

NARRATOR 4:

So the Old Man rose from the grass and fetched his rope and went with Chang to the well.
NARRATOR 1:

He put the rope into the well and climbed in until he found him.

NARRATOR 2:

The Old Man carried the boy out of the well and placed him on the ground. He pushed the water out of him and pumped the air into him many, many times until his eyes opened.

NARRATOR 3:

But because...

ALL:


NARRATOR 4:

...had been in the water for so long it was many moons before he was the same as he had always been.

NARRATOR 1:

And nowadays you will find that people in China give all their children little, short names instead of great, long, important ones.