



The Scribble Creature

Summary

The play is about a family who live on the outskirts of Barnstaple, Devon. There are four children living with a Mum, all of whom have different talents, but one (Leah) isn't really accepted. When things get a bit much for Leah she withdraws into a fantasy world of drawing, with a secret friend called Tibic. Whatever Leah draws can become real, with the help of Tibic.

Tibic takes Leah into different worlds where she meets a variety of beings/creatures. In each world she is given a warning about the family by *The Scribble Creature*. She tries to share these experiences with the family, but without success. Strangely, when Leah goes into her imaginary world, time stands still.

The tale then takes a sinister turn as the family rise up against Tibic and destroy him. Leah is distraught and tries to return to her imaginary world, but finds it hard without Tibic's magic. Then she remembers some of Tibic's special verse and travels to a tropical rain forest by a river. Here she sees Tibic again, in the form of a fish. Tibic explains that he needs to do something extraordinary to save the family and bring them to their senses. Leah reaches inside the fishes mouth for a pearl and is bitten on the hand, which becomes poisoned.

Leah goes into a deep sleep, clutching the pearl and ends up in hospital unconscious. But, she can hear what the family are saying. The family gather around her bed and reflect upon their actions. One of the children (Luke) notices the pearl in her hand. This helps him remember a magical phrase that Tibic was said to have used. Leah is brought back to life, the father re-appears on the scene clutching a large Wellington boot and the family rejoice together

The Scribble Creature

Characters

Leah	Natalie
Paul	Matthew B.
Brendan	Dan
Luke	Corrie
Rachel	Megan
Mother	Billy
Tibic	Brandon
Sea Creature	Connor
King Assaray	Josh
Segment 1	Ben
Segment 2	Emily S.
Segment 3	Antonia
Segment 5	Ayesha
Heart (Segment 4)	Jack D.
Scribble 1 (Sea Creature)	Matthew L.
Scribble 2 (Witch)	Matthew L.
Scribble 3 (Jungle Creature)	Matthew L.
Scribble 4 (Finale)	Matthew L.
Doctor	Tyler R.
Nurse	Lauren
Father	Kieran
Artist	Curtis B.

Groups

King Assaray (complete)	4/5/6/W
Underwater creatures	3/4V
Jungle Creatures	3/4R
Creature mouths	4/5/6B
Earth Song	5/6J

Music

I get by with a little help from my friends	Song
Let It Be	Song
Octopus' Garden	Dance
Earthsong	Dance/Song
Yesterday	Song
Move it	Dance
One Moment in Time	Song
We are the World	Song

The Scribble Creature

I get by with a little help from my friends (Song)

Scene 1 *The children are returning from school and their Mother is at home cleaning and sorting*

Paul Come on Luke – get a move on. Hi Mum, bye Mum.
(throws his bag on the floor)

Mother Pick that up you – I’ve just cleaned this kitchen. I’m not a skivvy. Pick it up *(louder)*.
Hi Luke – what did you do at school today love ?

Luke Played Star Wars with my friend.

Mother Do anything else ?

Luke Nothing really – no didn’t do anything. What shall I do with my bag ?

Mother Just put it on the floor – Paul will pick it up (won’t you Paul)

Paul Whatever Mum *(Paul picks the things up and puts them in the corner – then goes and grabs some biscuits)*

Mother Leave them alone – I’ve just baked them this afternoon

Brendan *(Brendan comes in wearing shirt & rugby kit, filthy dirty)*
Yo Mum

Mother Get your shoes off now. Look at that mess you’ve made – I’ve just cleaned that. I’ve worked all day on that floor and you just came in and got it muddy. Get out – get those boots off.

Brendan Chill Mum – keep cool

Mother And get those things out of the corner Paul and out of my kitchen. Hang them up. And leave those biscuits alone
Brendan !

Brendan Where’s the Snickers Mum ?

Mother I’ll give you Snickers – clear off all of you. Oh where’s that Leah ? She’s always late. Probably up to her usual daydreaming again.

Paul Expect she’s talking with her special friend

Luke Tibic, Tibic, Tibic ...

Brendan That’s all she goes on about now days – Tibic this and Tibic that. Pathetic. ‘spect she’s round her friends Rachel doing some drawing *(he grabs a Snicker and legs it)* dreaming of imaginary places

Paul Leah’s probably on Mars or under the sea again, talking to the fishes or aliens. She’s round the twist she is ...
(they all laugh loudly)

Luke Me want Mars, me want Mars bar

Mother Do you want a chocolate bar Luke – really ?

Luke I can get it - with this chair
(Luke stands on a chair and reaches up for a chocolate bar)

Paul We should ask Leah to get us something useful next time she goes on her travels

Mother Yes – something valuable, like a string of pearls. To help pay for you lot

Luke I want a pearl
(and they all laugh again – Paul especially)
At this point Leah walks in, they all go quiet apart from Paul who continues to laugh sarcastically. Then he runs off

Luke Did you get me a pearl Lee ?

Leah What are you on about Luke – leave me alone.

Mother Be nice to your sister – all of you. And why are you late again Leah ? This is the third time this week and we’re only on Wednesday !

Leah Get off my case Mum. I was only with Tibic

Luke Is that your ‘maginary friend Lee

Leah Shut up you ...

Luke Tibic, Tibic ... tybical
The others chant and laugh at Leah and her imaginary friend.
Just then Rachel, Leah’s real friend comes in

Rachel Hi Mrs Johnson. How was your day ?

Mother Same as every day Rachel – nothing different. Where were you two then ?

Rachel Round my house – we were drawing, well Leah was draw

Leah *(Whispers)* – Leave it out ..

Rachel Leave what out Leah ?

Mother I had a call from your teacher today Leah, saying that you were scribbling again.

Leah We had to design our own creature. I just started my drawing and didn’t do the writing. It wasn’t scribbling – it was a Scribble Creature.
(Everyone turns and looks at Leah for a moment)

Rachel Well, anyway *(embarrassed)*, I’d better go now Mrs Johnson. I’ll call for Leah in the morning. I’ll let you two have a private word about things - bye

Leah Bye Rachel. Oh thanks Mum – she’s my only friend at school. Apart from Tibic who lives with us ... you really got it in for me at the moment. Life here is rotten. None of you are interested in me or my drawing. None of you really know me. I wish I was somewhere else

Paul So do all of us. Clear off. I’m trying to do my homework
Not !

Luke Mum, Mum – look what I found.
(Luke picks up a screwed up piece of paper from the floor)

Mother What is it ?

Leah That’s my Scribble Creature. That’s what I did at school. I want it back. I’ve got to do the writing

Mother Is that it ? *(Looks at it and gives it back to Luke)*
Is that all you did ? No wonder your teacher phoned. I’m getting a bit fed up with all this Leah – you and your drawing and your imaginary friends.

Luke Tibic ... Tibic ... tybical

Leah Oh shut up Luke. I’ve had enough ...

Mother You’re a disappointment to yourself and this family

Leah If you feel that way, why am I still here then ?
 Mother Because you are my daughter and I care for you, that's why !
 Paul *(Paul re-appears from off stage)*
 That's cute – pity its not the same with Dad eh ?
 Mother Don't talk about him. He's useless. Calls himself a fisherman.
 What sort of man spends his life fishing, but doesn't realise
 you need a hook ? I ask you anyway, tea will be ready in
 15 minutes, no thanks to your father.
 Leah Don't want to know
 Luke Can Tibic get me a pearl ?
 Leah You what ?
 Luke You know – when you go to your 'maginary lands
 Leah Oh get lost – gimme that drawing
*(Leah grabs the piece of paper from Luke and goes up to her
 room)*

Let It Be (Song)

Scene 2 *(Leah opens out the crumpled piece of paper in her room and
 starts to draw.)*
 Leah Tibic, where are you ? I need you. I wanna get out. Take me to
 a different world. Take me away Tibic.
(listening)
 They're mean, they're selfish. They're nasty, they never stop.
 Tibic are you there ? Tibic ?
(listening ... and then Tibic appears as if from nowhere)
 Tibic What are you drawing Leah ?
 Leah Where have you been Tibic ? I needed you ?
 Tibic Well I'm here now – what do you want ? What do you need ?
 Leah I wanna go – I wanna get away, I wanna be free. I want to get
 out of this family, I wanna get out of this house, I wanna get
 out of this country, I wanna get out of this world.
 Tibic What are you drawing ? Let me see. If you don't show me I
 can't help you
(Leah shows Tibic the drawing of "under the sea")
 Tibic Ah the sea – you want to go under the sea. I can take you there
 Leah, I can take you. Do you want to go ?
 Leah Yes – take me there. Just get me out of this place.
 Tibic Do you remember the words ?
 Leah Course I know the words, course I know the wordswhat
 words Tibic ?
 Tibic You know, the magic words.

Leah Tibic Not with you Tibic – sorry, forgotten
Tibic, Tibic, Tybical
Take me somewhere magical
One, two, three
Come with me
Five, six, seven
It'll be your heaven

(repeat three times – Leah joins in the third)

And the lights fade

Scene 3

The scene changes and Leah and Tibic find themselves on a beach, looking out over the sea. A small creature is emerging from the waters edge and speaks to Leah

Creature Hello Leah – we've been expecting you
Leah How do you know my name ?
And what do you mean you've been expecting me ?
Creature King Assaray is expecting you. King Assaray has called for you Leah and you must help him
Leah First things first – what are you ?
Creature It's not important, don't you remember me – I'm one of your old drawings.
Leah Oh yes – I do remember, I think. Didn't you have big flippers though ?
Creature Yea – not too good on land though. So I'll stay in the water if you don't mind thanks
Leah I can't come in there – how can I breath ?
Creature Like this Leah, like this
(The creature creates a bubble of air)
Leah That's clever, give it to me.
(The creature fits the bubble over Leah's head and she enters the water)
Tibic What about Tibic – do you need a bubble ?
Oh I've been here plenty of times, I don't need air, I don't exist remember, I don't belong anywhere

(The scene changes again as they enter the water and Leah realises that she can breathe. Leah and Tibic find themselves under the sea in an Octopus' Garden)

Creature King Assaray is awaiting you.
Leah Why is he waiting for me then ?
Creature King Assaray has a problem – Tibic says it's a gem in his heart and only you can help
Leah What do you mean – isn't it good to have a gem inside your heart ?
Creature Not when a clam puts it in. Come and meet the king

(Leah is suddenly aware that part of a great sea creature has appeared but there appear to be bits of it all over the place)

Assarsay Aja, aja, craja
Fadie cabadie
Da bukx abbra cabux

Tibic Hold it there you “Under the Sea Majesty”
Let me just change the language – you need a few adjustments

Assaray Sorry about that, I’d been speaking to my wife. And these are my subjects, I call them my segments. What can I do for you ?

Leah I heard you had a problem – a little problem with your heart.
So what can I do for you ?

Assaray I had a problem with Sammy Shark many moons ago and he threw a clam at me. The gem in the clam got stuck in my heart and since then I haven’t been the same

Creature He certainly hasn’t been himself. Only thinks about his head.
Assaray Well my body segments keep going off me – they’re all over the place. And then when I try to care about them – they don’t listen. Half the time I don’t know where there are anyway !

Segment 1 He keeps sitting on me, he don’t care.

Segment 2 You’re lucky – the only way I get any attention is by being a pain in the leg !

Segment 3 And it’s not so good being in the middle either – you get hit from the back and the front. It’s never any fun

Segment 5 I haven’t got a clue where I am or where I’ve been !

Leah So, if I reach into your heart – do you want me to take out the gem ? Will that help ?

Assaray Yes it might – I am distracted by it. What are you doing ?
That’s my mouth !

Leah I’m looking for your heart !

Assaray I don’t know where my heart is, haven’t thought about it for ages.

Heart (4) I’m here , I’m here – I’m Segment Number 4 – you never listen to me. I’m here

Assaray Oh shut up – we heard you the first time. Get on with it
(Leah reaches inside and lifts out the gem after a struggle)

Leah Hey – its not a gem It looks like a pearl

Assaray You can have it, no good to me. Take it back to your world.

Leah Are you sure – I mean. It’s valuable isn’t it ?

Assaray Not to us and I’m better off without it. Thank you for your help. I feel much better and am going to concentrate far more on looking after my segments. Come on you lot – sorry. Come on everyone – lets get together and move forwards. *(looks at heart segment)* Yes heart, I promise to listen to you more.

(Assaray gathers his segments together and they march off the stage to applause from the other sea creatures)

Creature I must take you back now as the air only lasts for so long.
Thank you for your help. Follow me back to the beach.

(Tibic, Leah and the creature turn to leave. As they move off their attention is caught by another being)

Leah What's that Tibic ? Looks a bit weird. I kind of recognise it from somewhere

Tibic Don't know really – not one to mess with I feel, perhaps we should

Scribble 1 Stand where you are and listen
I am The Scribble Creature
And I bring you a warning
A warning about your family
And one that you must not ignore
Your family is coming apart
Just like the King Assaray's body
And only you Leah can save it
Only you Leah
Only you

Leah What are you – *(The Scribble Creature fades away)* Where are you going ...

Tibic Come back strange being and tell us more
Come back, come back, come back

(The lights fade as Tibic and Leah return to their home)

Scene 4 *(Leah comes into the family kitchen. She has the "air bubble" on her head and the family are still hanging around)*

Mother I thought you'd gone to your room Leah ? And what have you got on your head ?

Leah It's an air bubble

Paul Looks like a shopping bag to me

Luke Leah's got a shopping bag, Leah's got a shopping bag on her head *(chants)*

Brendan 'bin shopping Leah ?

Leah Oh shut up all of you and listen *(takes the bag off)*
I'm not telling you where I've been or what I've been doing.
But I've had a warning about us – we need to support each other, otherwise our family is going to fall apart

Mother Is that before tea or after tea Leah ? Now will you please all get out of my kitchen so that I can get on.

Luke Where have you been Leah ?

Leah Under the sea *(she whispers)* – under the sea

Luke Under the sea *(loudly)*. Did you get me a pearl ?

Leah Of course, of course, the pearl. I got given a pearl by King Assaray. Look, look everyone, I got given a pearl
(She reaches and searches frantically in her pockets)

Mother A pearl Leah ?
Leah I can't find it – but I did have a pearl ?
Mother Of course you did love. Now, why don't you go and watch TV with the others and in about 15 minutes it'll be ready. After tea you can have a nice shower and ...
Leah I don't want a shower, I don't want any tea. I ...
Paul Can I have yours then – and if you go to the sea again, bring back some fish and chips eh ?

(They all laugh at Leah as she leaves the room and the lights fade.)

Scene 5 *(Leah returns to her room. She is quite upset and tries to draw again. Tibic is with her, watching as she draws.)*

Tibic Still drawing Leah – what is it this time ? *(He looks at her sketch)* Oh I see, a little star – beautiful. Just imagine what it must be like to drift into space Leah. To shoot high above the world and look down upon little earth.

Tibic, Tibic, Tybical
Take me somewhere magical
One, two, three
Come with me
Five, six, seven
It'll be your heaven

(The lights dim except for the sight of the world growing smaller and smaller – Tibic and Leah appear to be floating in space looking down upon the earth. Suddenly they are aware that they aren't alone)

Scribble 2 Beautiful isn't it Leah, beautiful. From a distance. And yet look more closely and what do you see ?
Leah Tibic, Tibic – are you there ? Who is that Tibic – who is that – looks like a witch
Scribble 2 I am The Scribble Creature – we've met before. Do you remember ? It was under the sea. I was a sea creature then – I've changed
Tibic You look like a witch now – come on Leah. Let's go – I don't like this. I can't move, nor can you *(struggling to move)* what about us Scribble Creature, what about us ?

Earthsong

Scribble 2 What did you see Leah, what did you see ?
Leah It's too sad – I don't want to say. I tried to see the good in the world but it's easier to see the bad.
Scribble 2 Do you want to see the good then Leah ?

Tibic Of course she does you stupid old witch. Let us go – let us go free *(He struggles to move but remains stuck)*

Scribble 2 Not until you stand up to me, only then Leah can you bring good to your family, you must defend what you believe in

Leah Defend Oh I see. You mean I must challenge you ?

Scribble 2 That’s right Leah – you must stand up for what you believe in. If you win then you can return to earth with this little star *(He holds aloft a small pearl)*. And if you lose then you can float around this world for ever.

(The witch and her followers gather together around Tibic and Leah. A great fight commences ending with Leah victorious. The lights dim and the pair return to earth.)

Scene 6

(Leah comes into the kitchen and looks in a right state.)

Mother What have you been doing Leah ?

Leah You’ll never guess what ... I’ve

Paul All right scruff bag – had your shower have you ?

Mother Don’t talk to like that Paul – what have you been doing Leah ?

Leah She was pulling my hair, ripping my shirt, look, she even wrecked my trainers. And she gave me another warning

Mother Who – who are you talking about Leah ? You’ve only been gone two secs.

Brendan Ooh Was it “Scary Tibic” ?
(stamps her foot)

Leah It wasn’t Tibic. Tibic took me there. It was a witch – up in space. She told me we have to look for the good in everyone. We have to give everyone a chance.

Mother I’m with you on that

Luke Did she give you anything for me Leah ?

Leah Yes yes – she did. You’re right Luke. The witch gave me a little star – look I’ve got it here
(Leah again searches frantically in her pockets)

Leah It don’t believe it – it’s gone again. I must have dropped it on the way back – Tibic must have it. Tibic Tibic – where are you ? Tibic – where’s the pearl ?

Children Tibic
Tibic
Tibic)
(The children march around the room chanting – at one point an almost human cry is heard)
Leah sinks to her knees in the middle of the stage

Leah *(screaming)* Stop !!
I hate you all. I hate you all – you killed my Tibic. Now what am I supposed to do with my life. I’ve had it with you all. I wanna go – I wanna get away, I wanna be free. I want to get out of this family, I wanna get out of this house, I wanna get out of this country, I wanna get out of this world.

Luke *(Leah runs out of the kitchen)*
I hate you Paul – I'll never get my pearl now
(The lights fade)

Yesterday (song)

Scene 7 *(Leah is in her bedroom, very upset)*
Leah I wish you were here Tibic. Why did you have to go – who have I got as a friend now ? My mum took Rachel and the rest killed you Tibic, my special friend

(Leah starts to draw again – she draws Tibic on a tropical island)

Rachel If I draw you Tibic – will you return ?
(The voice of Rachel is heard)
Don't give up Leah – Tibic is still alive. You can save him, you can still save your family – believe in him, believe in yourself. You can still.... *(and Rachel's voice fades)*

Leah Tell me more – what were you about to say Rachel ? What do I have to do to get him back ?
(Leah looks around)

Rachel Follow your heart, follow your drawing – remember the words. Believe in yourself. You can do it

Leah Tibic Tibic *(Leah jumps to her feet clutching her drawing)*
Tibic Tibic ...tybical
Take me somewhere magical
One, two, three
Come with me
Five, six, seven
It'll be my heaven

(the lights fade)

Scene 8 *(The lights reveal a tropical rain forest scene. There are animals everywhere and a party atmosphere. Leah wanders aimlessly around)*

Scribble 3 Leah ! Leah ! I come to guide you. I come from Tibic to help you.

Leah Who are you creature ? Please don't say I have to fight you. I just want Tibic back. I want to help my family, I want ..

Scribble 3 Don't panic, I come in peace. I only come to direct you. You will find what you seek in the river.

Leah Where's the river, what river ? I need to go now !

Scribble 3 Go to the light – go to the deepest part of the river. Its only across there – look

(Leah walks to the front of the stage by the river's and Leah's attention is caught by something in the water)

Leah Tibic – are you there ?
(She peers into the water – her attention is drawn to a shiny fishes head)

Leah What – a fish. Is this what the Scribble Creature meant ? A fish – what’s that in its mouth. Something, white and shiny. What does that remind me of ... oh yes, it’s a pearl

Tibic It’s me Leah. It’s me Leah – it’s Tibic. Don’t be afraid as I haven’t got much time. I’ve got to do something terrible to you but it will bring your family closer together. Take the pearl Leah. Take the pearl.
(Leah reaches inside the fishes mouth, takes out the little pearl and holds it tightly in her hand close to her heart)

Tibic I’m sorry Leah, I’m sorry, but I’ve got no choice

Leah What are you doing Tibic ? What are you doing Tibic ? Why have you just bitten me ? Wh
(The fish reaches out of the water and bites Leah on the arm. Leah collapses and falls downwards. The lights fade)

One Moment in Time (Song)

Scene 9 *(The family are gathered around a bed. Leah is lying motionless on the bed and the atmosphere is serious.)*

Doctor She appears to have been poisoned by something. She has a bite mark on her arm and it has caused paralysis. And yet she is breathing fine but is in a coma.

Nurse You can see that it was almost instant. See how tightly her hand is clutched around itself.

Mother Oh Leah – what have we done ? Why couldn’t we accept you for what you were. You and your drawing and your special friend

Paul I’m really sorry Leah. I should have respected you and listened to what you said. I’m really sorry for all the mean things I said to you

Brendan You’re more important than my rugby match Leah. And that means a lot to me. Come back to us

Luke What’s a coma Mum ?

Mother It means you go to sleep for ages Luke. But she’s not in any pain

Luke Can she hear us Mum ? *(he reaches and holds Leah’s hand)*

Mother I don’t think so dear
(The family freeze as the voice of Leah is heard by the audience only and an image of her appears above the bed)

Leah Yes I can hear you but you can’t hear me. I just can’t wake up. I wish you all had said those nice things earlier. Say the words, say the words. Luke open my hand, open my hand

Rachel *(enters from the side)*
 Leah Leah – are you all right ? Sorry I’m late. Is she all right ?

Mother Not sure really Rachel

Rachel What are you doing Luke – what are you doing you stupid boy. Leave her hand alone !

Luke There's something in her hand. Look closely Rachel – help me open her fingers
(Luke and Rachel open her fingers gently whilst the others look on)

Paul What's that ?

Luke It's a pearl. She's got me a pearl ! It's a pearl.

Brendan Leah was telling the truth

Luke Tibic, Tibic, Tybical ...

Rachel Wait, wait – oh yes. I remember the magical words.
Tibic Tibic ...tybical
Take me somewhere magical
One, two, three
Come with me
Five, six, seven
It'll be Leah's heaven

(nothing appears to happen)

Rachel Everyone else, join in. Say the words, you too Doc. Say the words

Tibic Tibic ...tybical
Take me somewhere magical
One, two, three
Come with me
Five, six, seven
It'll be Leah's heaven

(They repeat three times and on the last time Leah sits up and joins in)

Mother Leah, Leah - you're alive. You're back with us.

(The family rejoice together and Leah gets out of bed)

Father Have I missed anything ?

Leah Dad ! Dad ! You're back !

Father Sorry I've been fishing
(and they all groan together)
And look what I caught !

(Father holds up a large Wellington boot - groans again)

Mother Let's go and have our tea

(The family leave the hospital together)

Scribble 4 I am the Scribble Creature
Stand where you are and listen
Stand up for what you believe in
Believe in yourself
And your dreams
We all need a little help from our friends
We all need someone to love
Shine on 'til tomorrow
And look down on our beautiful world
Follow your heart
But think of others
And for one moment in time
Be more than you thought you could be
I am the Scribble Creature
And you listen to me
Take heed of these words
We are the world
We are the children

We are the World (Song)

