Lily

6 numbats at the start,

2 children

4 Rabbits at the start, with machine

The Rabbits, John Marsden and Shaun Tan

The Rabbits came many grandparents ago.

Shake hands with rabbit.

Daisy

At first we didn’t know what to think, They looked a bit like us, There weren’t many of them, Some were friendly

Shake hands

Rabbits are intrigued by land

1 numbats talks to the rest

Lily

But our old people warned us: ‘Be careful’ They won’t understand the right ways.

They only know their own country

4 more Rabbits walk

2 enter on boat?

More Rabbits Came

Daisy

They came by water

8 to help to put up house

2 talking

Numbats to look confused sitting in tree

They didn’t live in the trees like we did, they made their own houses, we couldn’t understand the way they talked.

4 more to bring on food,

2 to bring on sheep

Lily

They brought new food and they brought other animals,
We liked some of the food and we liked some of the animals

Numbats to look interested in food and sheep

Daisy

But some of the food made us sick

Numbats to feel sick and be scared of sheep.

And some of the animals scared us

All other rabbits to move in on the assembly from back and side

Lily

The Rabbits spread across the country

No Mountain could stop them, no desert no river,

Numbats to look scared and confused

Daisy

All other rabbits to move in on the assembly from back and side

All Rabbits descend onto the stage, first sounds of the performance, big cry

Still more of them came,

Sometimes we had fights

But there were too many rabbits

Lily
We lost the fights

4 Numbats to kneel on stage and wait.

2 Hiding and then run away

Rabbits to chop down the trees

Some looking intimidating

Daisy

They ate our grass, they chopped down our trees and scared away our friends.

Numbats to kneel on stage and wait.

Lily

And stole our children

Rabbits to move around the assembly area and then leave.

2 Rabbits to take away the 2 child Numbat

2 Rabbits to take away the child Numbat

Daisy

Rabbits, Rabbits, millions of rabbits, everywhere we look there are Rabbits

Lily

The land is bare and brown and the wind blows empty across the plains

Last two Numbats to wander in search of the things being described.

Then they leave.

Daisy

Where is the rich dark earth, brown and moist?
Where is the smell of rain dripping from the gum trees?

Lily

Where are the great billabongs

Alive with Long Legged Birds?

Daisy

Who will save us from the rabbits

Props

Machine

House

Tree

Boat