

My name is Caspar and I'm the youngest child in a circus family. My parents and brother and sister are all performers. My mother wears wonderful costumes and dances across a rope about fifteen metres above the ground. Sometimes she plays a violin at the same time ... Incredible!

My brother is ten years older than me, and my sister's sixteen. They're part of an act where up to twenty people balance on a motorbike and ride round the ring. The performers stand on each other's shoulders, with my sister at the top.

My dad's the ringmaster, or the boss of the circus. He's good at his job because he's tall and has a loud voice. He introduces the performers and makes sure the acts start and finish on time.

I'm not allowed to perform until I'm fifteen, but I march beside my dad ahead of the band at the beginning of the show, and lead everyone out at the end. I have some great costumes, and I love being in the ring. I can't wait to start training to be a performer.

We don't have horses or dogs. In fact the only animal in the circus is a rabbit, who doesn't do much but is always the star of the show. The children love him. The

performers have a lot of other jobs to do. We have to clean out the circus tent between each show, make the costumes, and repair the equipment. I check the audience tickets and sell ice-cream at half-time.

We only work for eight months, during good weather, and we travel around from place to place. It's a great life.