



Herb and Lois Walker's
SCRIPTS FOR SCHOOLS

**HOW TO BEAT
THE BUG**

by Lois Walker and Joanne Dickason

A Readers Theater/Choral
Combination Script
About Protecting Yourself
From the Swine Flu

This Script is Suitable for a Variety
of Ages and Reading Levels

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P-52.I-125.CH-70
HOW TO BEAT THE BUG

By Lois Walker

READERS: A variety of ages and reading levels can take part in this read-aloud script. Older readers (or a combination of teachers and older readers) can take the major solo reader lines. Older readers can also take part as Swine Flu Chorus members. Younger readers can rehearse and perform the jump rope rhyming poem at the end of the script. If you want, many grade levels from an entire school can take part.

ESTABLISHING THE RHYTHM

To find the proper rhythm for the rhyming chorus portions of this piece, first read-aloud and clap through the sections as you go. Each underlined word or word part falls directly on a beat. As you read, clap on each underlined word, keeping the rhythm steady. Be careful not to read too fast!

This is a rehearsal technique and readers will not clap throughout these sections during performance. After you have established the beat, it is time to start interpreting, experimenting, and having fun with the words by varying tempo, volume, inflection, and expression.

(Reader 1 directs opening comments to members of the audience):

READER 1: Excuse me, you – over there - move aside please, move aside. We have to make room here. Ah, would you two squeeze together other there.

READER 2: Yes, let’s create a little space. Come on, work with us people!

READER 3: Wait a minute. Why are you two bossing everybody around? Why do we need to make some space?

READER 1: Something BIG is coming. Listen, I don't really have time to talk about this. I mean big is BIG.

READER 2: You probably wouldn't understand anyway. Just trust us on this one, will you?

READER 4: Well, if what's coming is so BIG, maybe some of us can help. Can you give us just a little hint about what it is that's coming?

READER 1: OK, OK. It's the H1N1. That's all you need to know.

READER 2: Hey, over there..., move along. We don't have all day here.

READER 3: H1N1? Is that a droid related to R2D2?

(Reader 1 rolls eyes and shakes head in a hopeless manner).

READER 1: No, no. I'm talking about the SWINE INFLUENZA. Well OK, most folks call it SWINE FLU - or HOG FLU - and some folks just call it THE SWINE!

READER 2: I like to call it "THE MISTER PIGGY FLU". Has a nice ring to it, don't you think?

READER 1: Well, no matter what you call it – it's BIG.

READER 4: Hey, we like pigs as much as most anybody, but what can we do if pigs are going to get the flu? I mean, is this really our problem?

READER 2: Help! We're talking here about a PANDEMIC! A possible world-wide EPIDEMIC! AN EXTRAVAGENZA of INFLUENZA!

(To audience).

READER 3: I think he/she means this is not just about pigs.

READER 1: Riiiiight! So, I need you all to make room for my Readers Theater Chorus. They've been waiting far too long, and they have something important to say to all of us. We just need to make room for them, that's all.

READER 4: And the chorus is going to talk about this FLU?

READER 2: Duh...that's the plan.

(Reader 2 rolls eyes and shakes head in a hopeless manner, then continues).

READER 2: Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, teachers and students, please give it up for The Swine Flu Chorus...

(Chorus Voice 1 verbally sets the beat for the chant. Chorus marches in from all sides chanting the following:

CHORUS VOICE 1: One, two, three four...

ALL: Swine flu!
Influenza!
It's outrageous,
It's contagious,
It's pandemic,
Epidemic,
What can we do
To beat the flu?

ALL GIRLS: What can we do?

ALL BOYS: What can we do?

ALL GIRLS: What can we do?

ALL: To beat the flu?

(By the end of the above chant, Chorus members have taken their assigned positions in the performance area).

READER 3: OK, OK, I'm starting to get the picture. This isn't about pigs catching the flu at all, is it?

ALL: No!

READER 4: It's about **us** catching the flu from the PIGS!
Well, that settles it for me. I'm staying as far away from pigs as I can - AND - no more eating pork chops until this thing is over!

READER 1: No, you don't actually catch the flu from pigs - and eating pork chops has nothing to do with it either.

READER 2: You catch the flu from a "VIRUS" -

READER 1: Better known to us as the "FLU BUG"!

READER 3: So, the flu bug is a virus and that's what gives us the flu. Well, how can we tell if we're coming down with this Swine Flu thing?

CHORUS VOICE 2: If you are coming down with the swine flu, you'll feel pretty much the same way you do when you are coming down with any flu.

CHORUS VOICE 3: You might have a fever, cough, and sore throat!

CHORUS VOICE 4: That's true, but your head and body might also
ache.

CHORUS VOICE 5: And you might have the chills and feel really tired.

READER 3: Doesn't sound like fun to me!

READER 4: So, are you telling us that we can learn how to
protect ourselves from this nasty flu bug?

READERS 1/2: You got it!!!!

READER 3: But how?

READER 1: Well, I thought you'd never ask. We've all got to
learn how to...

READERS 1,2: BEAT THAT BUG!

CHORUS VOICE 1: One, two, three four...

ALL: Swine flu!
Influenza!
It's outrageous,
It's contagious,
It's pandemic,