

MANNERS! MANNERS!

POETRY AND PROSE

This script has been written with both poetry and prose sections. The poetry sections need to be read to a beat and may take on a “rap” quality, if desired. The prose sections do not.

RHYTHM IN THE POETRY SECTIONS

To find the proper rhythm in the poetry sections, 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.

POETRY READERS

The script involves 6 principle readers who repeat the poetry sections throughout the script. Readers 3,4,5,6 are part of the Good Manner Movement and want their classmates to become more considerate of others. Readers 1 and 2 resist, and do not buy into their program until later in the script.

PROSE READERS

For the prose sections, you can use as many readers as you want. The reader parts are not numbered, and this has been done so that you may assign the lines to as many readers as will work for your classroom. You might divide the lines up between two more readers, or four, six, ten or up to thirty!

Also, TEACHER lines may be read by student readers or actual teachers from your school, depending on which approach works for you.

NOTE: All prose lines are suggestions only. The annoying behaviors listed may or may not work for your particular school and can easily be changed to work for your situation. You may even want to add more readers and expand the list of behaviors.

ENTRANCES

A small group of poetry readers (CHORUS), including READERS 3,4,5,6 who carry their scripts, march into the performance area chanting something like "Manners! Manners! Manners!" Some carry signs that say GOOD MANNERS MOVEMENT, STAMP OUT ANNOYING ANNOYANCES! ARE YOU PART OF THE SOLUTION – OR PART OF THE PROBLEM? GOOD MANNERS COUNT!, etc. READERS 3,4,5,6, take their places facing the audience and standing (leaving room for READERS 1 and 2 in the middle). The CHORUS assembles and stands (with signs) stage right of READERS 3,4,5,6.

A group of prose readers follows the marchers and assembles stage left of READERS 3,4,5,6. They carry their scripts and sit on chairs provided there, facing the audience.

READER 1 enters shaking head. READER 1 realizes READER 2 is not following, turns and motions to READER 2 (off stage) to come along. READER 2 reluctantly enters and both take their places in the performance area facing the audience. They do not look happy about being part of this demonstration. The reading begins:

(One CHORUS member steps forward and directs CHORUS and READERS 3,4,5,6 in the chant below):

ALL: Good (Gooooooooood)

Manners, manners!

Manners, manners!

(Optional text addition to the above chant. You may or may not want to include the following):

(Wave your signs,

Fly high the banners.

Help support

GOOD MAN - NERS!)

(Chorus leader steps back into the CHORUS on the last "manners!").

(READER 1 looks disgustedly at READER 2. READER 2 returns the look).

READER 1: I'm not going there!

READER 2: I don't really care!

(To others).

READER 1: Stop your preaching.

READER 2: And stop your teaching.

(READER 3,4,5, and 6 respond. Theses lines should be ready with great expression).

(With authority).

READER 3: That won't happen,

So stop your rappin'.

READER 4: Now pay attention.

It's time to mention...

READER 5: These are bad manners

Classmates say

Bug them the most,

READER 6: Burn them like toast:

(One by one, the prose readers below stand and read their lines aloud. Once they have spoken, they remain standing).

READER Asking to borrow stuff all the time!

READER Not asking, but doing it anyway!

READER Going into someone's desk without permission!

READER Interrupting and not even saying "excuse me"!

READER Leaving old paper and junk behind when you leave
the classroom!

READER 1: Now *That's* inconsiderate!

READER 2: Please don't litter it!

Continued...