

The Levies Didn't Hold
A Readers Theater Script Concerning Hurricane Katrina
Involving Rhythm and Rhyme (Version One)
By Lois Walker

CAST: This script may involve as few as 4 readers or as many as 19. After the first 4 reader parts below, I have left the numbers blank so teachers may assign the remaining lines in any way they like.

NOTE: This story is told using rhythm and rhyme. To establish the correct rhythm, rehearse the piece by clapping on the underlined words or word parts as the script is read aloud. This is a rehearsal technique. The clapping would not be included in the final performance since Readers Theater is a reading experience and, unless music stands are being used, readers' hands will be busy holding script folders.

EXCEPTION: Some teachers have written to tell me they found the clapping very helpful and preferred using some type of sound effect to help their readers keep the beat during performance. They suggested having the teacher keep the beat with a tambourine or assigning two children to tambourine duty and positioning them stage left and right of the readers.

READER 1: Pumping, pushing, pounding,

READER 2: Sounding like fear,

READER 3: Katrina appeared,

READER 4: And the levies didn't hold

ALL: They didn't hold!

READER Tilting, toppling, tossing,

READER Crossing boundaries,

READER Causing new-found agonies,

READER And the levies didn't hold

ALL: They didn't hold!

READER Helpless, hapless, homeless,

READER Aloneness surrounding,

READER Desolation abounding,

READER And the levies didn't hold

ALL: They didn't hold!

READER Awaiting, anticipating,

READER Creating hope,

READER A way to cope,

READER And the levies didn't hold

ALL: They didn't hold!

READER Redeemed, restored, relieved,

READER Retrieved and rescued by the bold.

ALL: Darn lucky we are still alive.

READER The levies didn't hold

ALL: They didn't hold!