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**THIS SAGUARO  
IS FINE**



**CHORAL SPEAKING  
TEACHER/INTERMEDIATE  
BY LOIS WALKER**

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**THIS SAGUARO IS FINE****The Life Story of a Saguaro Cactus Told in Verse**

Written and Formatted for Intermediate  
Choral Speaking Voice Choirs.  
By Lois Walker

This choral speaking version of THE SAGUARO includes a variety of speaker experiences. As in most choral speaking, CHORUS SPEAKERS speak in unison together. But, in an effort to bring needed variety of sound and a composer's touch to the choral expression of this piece, you may find that:

1. SOLO SPEAKERS speak special lines.
2. ALL BOYS and/or ALL GIRLS speak in unison together.
3. ALL VOICES speak in unison together.

*To find the proper rhythm, first read-aloud and clap through the piece 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 the entire piece during performance.*

**VERSE I**

- 1 GIRL'S VOICES: I know a cactus hotel:
- 2 ALL VOICES: THE SAGUARO!
- 3 BOY'S VOICES: Or maybe it's a motel:
- 4 ALL VOICES: THE SAGUARO!
- 5 GIRL'S VOICES: It takes this cactus 50 years
- 6 To grow some fruit.
- 7 BOY'S VOICES: And that's like opening up
- 8 A diner on its roof.

9 ALL VOICES:            Soon lots of hungry desert critters  
10                            Come to dine  
11                            And say,  
12 SOLO VOICE 1:        "We think we'll stay here.  
13                            This saguaro is fine!  
14 ALL VOICES:           Fine, fine, fine,  
15                            SAGUARO is fine.  
16                            (rest/beat) We think we'll stay here,  
17                            This saguaro is fine!

## VERSE II

18 GIRL'S VOICES:       I know a cactus townhouse:  
19 ALL VOICES:           THE SAGUARO!  
20 BOY'S VOICES:        A prickly up and down house:  
21 ALL VOICES:           THE SAGUARO!  
22 GIRL'S VOICES:       First a Gila woodpecker  
23                            Then white winged dove  
24 BOY'S VOICES:        Build two boots for nesting,  
25                            One below, one above.  
26 ALL VOICES:           With space left for new neighbors,  
27                            To the side and behind,  
28                            They say,  
29 SOLO VOICE 2:        "We think we'll live here.

30 This saguaro is fine!  
 31 ALL VOICES: Fine, fine, fine,  
 32 SAGUARO is fine.  
 33 (beat) We think we'll live here,  
 34 This saguaro is fine!

VERSE III

35 GIRL'S VOICES: I know a cactus condo:  
 36 BOY'S VOICES: THE SAGUARO!  
 37 GIRL'S VOICES: It's one I am quite fond of:  
 38 BOY'S VOICES: THE SAGUARO!  
 39 ALL VOICES: Soon these cactus nesters,  
 40 The dove and the woodpecker,  
 41 Share the space with Harris Hawks,  
 42 Standing triple-decker.  
 43 Packrats come and then they go  
 44 With passage of time  
 45 And all agree on one thing  
 46 SOLO VOICE 3: This saguaro is fine!  
 47 ALL VOICES: Fine, fine, fine,  
 48 SAGUARO is fine.  
 49 All agree on one thing  
 50 This saguaro is fine!