IF I LIVED IN AFRICA
Written and Formatted for Choral Speaking
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Scripts For Schools
http://www.scriptsforschools.com

(To Find the Proper Rhythm: First read-aloud and clap through the piece as you read. Each underlined word or word part falls directly on a beat. As you read, clap on each underlined word, keeping the rhythm steady (except for the occasional spot where the rhythm is temporarily abandoned). Be careful not to read too fast! This is a rehearsal technique and speakers will not clap throughout the entire piece during performance.

Voice Choir Positions: Place girls together on one side of the stage or risers, boys together on the other. Place them beside each other and angle them in such a way that they are slightly facing one another. Solo speakers may be positioned in a line down front and/or slightly to the side of the choir.

The below repetitive "chorus" parts may be spoken by all voice choir members or a selection of your choice. If performing the piece for an audience, you might even invite the audience to join in. Please note that the last chorus is slightly different than the rest.

NOTE: Remember that a choral speaking "voice choir" must seem to speak in one voice. Please rehearse your speakers to speak and breath together and in unison. This piece should move along like a flowing river (as most poems probably should) but also convey a sense of lightheartedness and fun).

A free Choral Speaking Teacher's Guide can be found online at: http://www.scriptsforschools.com under "Free Teacher Aides" in the drop-down menu.

ALL: If I lived in Africa

                        I'd be a dog, I think.

                        A wild dog, because I hear

                        They're nearly extinct.

ALL GIRLS: A fat dog, skinny dog,

ALL BOYS: A tall or short dog.

SOLO 1:   But then again, I might decide

ALL: To be a warthog!

SOLO 1:   **A WARTHOG?**

ALL: **CHORUS:**

                        There are oh so many choices

                        Of animals, I find

                        That if I lived in Africa,

                        I might just change my mind.

ALL GIRLS: If I lived in Africa

                        I'd be a warthog.

                        Rooting in the desert sand

                        Under rock and log.

ALL BOYS: <u>Spor</u>ting warts and <u>bris</u>tles,

                 A <u>phys</u>ique that's clearly <u>fat</u>,

SOLO 2:   But <u>then</u> again, I <u>might</u> decide

ALL: To <u>be</u> a meer<u>kat</u>!

SOLO 2:   **A MEERKAT?**

ALL: **CHORUS:**

                 There are <u>oh</u> so many <u>choices</u>

                 Of <u>ani</u>mals, I <u>find</u>

                 That <u>if</u> I lived in <u>Africa</u>,

                 I <u>might</u> just change my <u>mind</u>.

ALL BOYS: <u>If</u> I lived in <u>Africa</u>

                 I'd <u>be</u> a meer<u>kat</u>.

                 <u>Stand</u>ing guard while <u>others</u>

                 Ate their <u>lunch</u> or baby<u>sat</u>.

ALL GIRLS: I'd <u>dig</u> for grubs and <u>ter</u>mites,

                 <u>No</u> food could be <u>sweet</u>er.

SOLO 3:   But <u>then</u> again, I <u>might</u> decide

ALL: To <u>live</u> life as a <u>cheet</u>ah!

SOLO 3:   **A CHEETAH?**

ALL: **CHORUS:**

There are <u>oh</u> so many <u>choices</u>

Of <u>animals</u>, I <u>find</u>

That <u>if</u> I lived in <u>Africa</u>,

I <u>might</u> just change my <u>mind</u>.

ALL GIRLS: <u>If</u> I lived in <u>Africa</u>

A <u>cheet</u>ah I might <u>be</u>.

I'd <u>wear</u> a coat of <u>black</u>ened spots

For <u>all</u> the world to <u>see</u>.

ALL BOYS: I'd <u>crouch</u>, approach, and <u>sprint</u>,

Scaring <u>every</u> other <u>mamm</u>al.

SOLO 4:   But <u>then</u> again, I <u>might</u> decide

ALL: To <u>simply</u> be a <u>cam</u>el!

SOLO 4:   **A CAMEL?**

ALL: **CHORUS:**

There are <u>oh</u> so many <u>choices</u>

Of <u>animals</u>, I <u>find</u>

That <u>if</u> I lived in <u>Africa</u>,

I <u>might</u> just change my <u>mind</u>.