

A TORTOISE, OF COURSE

Written and formatted for Choral Speaking

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Scripts For Schools

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(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.

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.

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).

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 SPEAKERS: What's that moving on the land

Almost invisible in the sand

(Large quick breath)

Close to the ground, patiently plodding,

Treading slowly, tetenderly bobbing

**A TORTOISE, OF COURSE/
Choral Speaking Version/Intermediate/CH-17**

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(Quick breath)

Bald head weaving, bouncing, nodding

SOLO SPEAKER 1: See?

(Pause)

SOLO SPEAKER 1: What can it be?

MALE SPEAKERS: It's a tortoise, tortoise, of course

FEMALE SPEAKERS: Of course a tortoise, it isn't horse

SOLO SPEAKER 1: And right on course, a desert force

ALL SPEAKERS: **Is the tortoise, of course!**

What's that moving on the land
Through rocky terrain, alluvial fan

(Large quick breath)

Out of the burrow, after the showers
Seeking grass and spring wildflowers

(Quick breath)

Front legs flat, back legs like towers

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SOLO SPEAKER 2: See?

(Pause)

What can it be?

MALE SPEAKERS: It's a tortoise, tortoise, of course

FEMALE SPEAKERS: Of course a tortoise, it isn't horse

SOLO SPEAKER 2: And right on course, a desert force

ALL SPEAKERS: **Is the tortoise, of course**

What's that moving on the land

Wearing a dome of brownish tan

(Large quick breath)

Finding a water pool, testing the rim

Wanting a drink, not wanting a swim

(Quick breath)

Before the sunlight begins to dim

SOLO SPEAKER 3: See?