

WE ARE ANTS!
Written and Formatted for Choral Speaking
By Lois Walker

This choral speaking version of WE ARE ANTS! involves a variety of speaker experiences. As in most choral speaking, ALL 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 will find that:

1. 6 SOLO SPEAKERS speak special lines.
2. ALL BOYS and/or ALL GIRLS speak in unison together.
3. ALL VOICES speak in unison together.

REHEARSAL TECHNIQUE

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.

NOTE: Some occasional clapping *is* required during performance and those sections are clearly marked below.

Verse 1 -----

ALL VOICES:

We are ants

(clap, clap)

Fresh from the nest.

(clap, clap)

No time for "could"

No time for "should"

We rarely rest.

(clap, clap)

Choral Speaking/Intermediate/Teacher Version

GIRL VOICES: There are thousands of siblings

In our old nest hole

BOY VOICES: Working hard for mother,

A true survivor's goal!

ALL: Some dig, find food,

Fight foe, tend eggs.

If we're run off our feet

We're truly run off our legs!

(See #1 in Teacher Notes)

Verse 2 -----

We are ants

(clap, clap)

Who can't say "can't".

(clap, clap)

No time to rave,

No time to rant,

No time to pant.

(clap, clap)

GIRLS VOICES: We may be small

But we're strong and tough,

I'M AN ANT!

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Choral Speaking/Intermediate/Teacher Version

BOYS VOICES: Carry five times our weight
When the going gets rough.

ALL: And we carry home sweets,
Insects, and seeds
They're just the ticket

SOLO VOICE 1: For a little ant's needs!

(See #2 in Teacher Notes)

Verse 3 -----

ALL: We are ants
(clap, clap)
Part of the mob.
(clap, clap)
No time to sigh,
No time to sob,
We're on the job!
(clap, clap)

GIRL VOICES: And when the job's too big,

BOY VOICES: Calls for drastic measures,

SOLO VOICE 2: When I find a candy cane,

ALL: One of life's large treasures!

SOLO VOICE 2: I always know how

I'M AN ANT!
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The story ends.

I mark my trail

And get help from my friends.

(See #3 in Teacher Notes)

Verse 4 -----

ALL:

Yes, we are ants –

(clap, clap)

And we're not jerks!

(clap, clap)

No time to shirk,

Or go berserk,

We have to work!

(clap, clap)

GIRL VOICES:

Storing food for the winter

Is the work we do.

BOY VOICES:

And who eats that food?

Not "you know who".

ALL:

The larvae eat the food!

SOLO VOICE 3:

Cold comfort for others.

ALL:

We live off our fat

And snuggle with our brothers.

I'M AN ANT!

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Choral Speaking/Intermediate/Teacher Version

(See #4 in Teacher Notes)

Verse 5 -----

We are ants –

(clap, clap)

And proud to be!

(clap, clap)

We're not spiders,

Termites, or millipedes.

(clap, clap)

GIRL VOICES:

Though other bugs try

To copy or mimic,

Look closely, you'll know

It's only a gimmick.

BOY VOICES:

No petioles near

The thorax and gaster?

SOLO VOICE 4:

Then grab the bug spray,

And press down the blaster!

(See #5 in Teacher Notes)