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The Town With a Very Special Sound

By Lois Walker

A Choral Speaking/Reading
Script for Primary Readers
Teacher Version

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ESTABLISHING THE RHYTHM:

To find the proper rhythm for this Readers Theater poem, first read-aloud and clap through the sections 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 these sections during performance.

FORMATTED FOR:

ALL VOICES, ALL GIRLS VOICES, and ALL BOYS VOICES

ALL CHORUS:

The chorus of this script asks the readers to duplicate many of the sounds that come from trains. Examples: Choo,choo/woo,woo and clickity, clack, clank and clunk. Ask your readers to imitate the actual sounds these words describe. To make the reading even more fun, the chorus can be read to the rhythm of a real train as it chug-a-lugs along the tracks.

ALL: Does a town have a sound,
 It's very own sound?
 A sound that's different
 From all the towns around?

GIRL VOICES: We know of a town
 That sounds like a hiss,

BOY VOICES: And a chug-a-chug-a clank.

Sounds something like this:

GIRLS VOICES: Hisssssssssssssssssss

BOYS VOICES: Chug-a-chug-a clank,

Chug-a-chug-a clunk.

Hisssssssssssssssssss

GIRLS VOICES: Rattle, rattle, crank

Rattle, rattle, plunk

ALL: Rickity, Pickity,

Crackity, smack

Choo-choo, woo-woo,

Clickity, Clack!

BOYS VOICES: Yes, this town sounds

Just like a train.

GIRLS VOICES: Sounds like a train

In sun, snow or rain.

ALL: Sounds like a train

In summer, winter, fall.

If not for the train,

Would it have a sound at all?

GIRLS VOICES: Hisssssssssssssssssss

BOYS VOICES: Chug-a-chug-a clank,
Chug-a-chug-a clunk.

Hisssssssssssssssssss

GIRLS VOICES: Rattle, rattle, crank
Rattle, rattle, plunk

ALL: Rickity, Pickity,
Crackity, smack
Choo-choo, woo-woo,
Clickity, Clack!

BOYS VOICES: Where is this town?
It's in Locomotive County

GIRLS VOICES: When it comes to trains,
This county has a bounty.

ALL: We call it Trainville.
Tiny little town,
With a sound that's different
From all the towns around.

GIRLS VOICES: Hisssssssssssssssssss

BOYS VOICES: Chug-a-chug-a clank,
Chug-a-chug-a clunk.

Hisssssssssssssssssssss

GIRLS VOICES: Rattle, rattle, crank
Rattle, rattle, plunk

ALL: Rickity, Pickity,
Crackity, smack
Choo-choo, woo-woo,
Clickity, Clack!

BOYS VOICES: Trainville has tracks
On all four sides.

GIRLS VOICES: So if you're going out of town
You might need a guide.

ALL: There are one hundred trains
Each and every day.
So if you need to cross the tracks
You might not find a way.

GIRLS VOICES: Hisssssssssssssssssss

BOYS VOICES: Chug-a-chug-a clank,
Chug-a-chug-a clunk.

Hisssssssssssssssssssss

GIRLS VOICES: Rattle, rattle, crank
Rattle, rattle, plunk

ALL: Rickity, Pickity,
Crackity, smack
Choo-choo, woo-woo,
Clickity, Clack!

BOYS VOICES: But you must be patient,
Calm and relaxed.

GIRLS VOICES: Wait and watch the trains go by,
Fast, along the tracks.

ALL: For without these trains
Going through the town,
Trainville wouldn't have
A very special sound:

GIRLS VOICES: Hisssssssssssssssssssss