



Herb and Lois Walker's  
**SCRIPTS FOR  
SCHOOLS**

**If I Were The Only  
Person...**

**A Choral Reading/Readers Theater  
Script for Elementary School  
Readers**

**By  
Lois Walker**

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## **If I Were The Only Person...**

By Lois Walker

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**NOTE:** To read this script, your students must be able to read simple words, phrases, and sentences. The text is formatted for **ALL GIRLS, ALL BOYS**, and a number of **SOLO READERS**.

NOTE: If needed, older readers (teachers or older students) might take the prose lines that ask the questions requiring a short **ALL** response from the readers. (See below).

The script is flexible and is formatted so that you can use only 8 solo readers to perform all the solo reader lines (just ask them to divide and share the lines that follow below) **or** pencil in additional reader numbers as the script progresses. You can probably give solo reading parts to every student in your class, depending on how you decide to divide the remaining reader lines. (You'll see that reader numbers have been left blank after the initial 8). Please fill them in, according to your class size and needs.

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### **ESTABLISHING THE RHYTHM**

To find the proper rhythm for the poetry sections of this script, 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.

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ALL GIRLS:                    If I were the only person  
                                      Living in this town,

ALL BOYS:                    I wouldn't need good manners -  
                                      Not with no one else around!

ALL GIRLS:                    No one else would be close by,  
                                      No one else would care.

ALL BOYS:                    I wouldn't say "Excuse me"  
                                      And I wouldn't have to share.

SOLO READER 1:            But, no, we're not alone here.  
                                      So the question comes to whether

SOLO READER 2:            Good manners might help everyone

READERS 1, 2:              Get along together.

**ALL:                            We say, "Thank you", We say, "Please",  
                                      Turn away when we sneeze,  
                                      Share our crackers, and our cheese,  
                                      And we don't bully, fight or tease!**

SOLO READER 3:            What do you say when someone gives you a  
                                      gift?

**ALL:**                               **Thank you!**

SOLO READER 4:               And what do you say when you ask for something?

**ALL:**                               **Please!**

SOLO READER 5:               What do you say if you walk in front of someone?

**ALL:**                               **Excuse me!**

SOLO READER 6:               And what do you say if you hurt someone?

**ALL:**                               **I'm sorry!**

ALL GIRLS:                       If I were the only person  
Going to this school,

ALL BOYS:                       I wouldn't need good manners,  
I could act just like a fool!

ALL GIRLS:                       No one else would bother me,  
No one else would dare.

ALL BOYS:                       I'd never ask, "Pardon me?"  
No one would be there.

SOLO READER 7: But, we have lots of students,  
So the question comes to whether

SOLO READER 8: Good manners might help everyone

READERS 7, 8: Get along together.

**ALL:** **We don't argue, we don't cuss,  
We listen when folks talk to us.  
Don't push our way onto the bus,  
Or loose our cool and cause a fuss!**

SOLO READER At lunch time, is it good manners to talk with  
your mouth full?

**ALL:** **No!**

SOLO READER When we play together, is it good manners to  
share and be polite to each other?

**ALL:** **Yes!**

SOLO READER When you're with your friends, is it good  
manners to whisper about classmates who are  
near by and hurt their feelings?

**ALL:** **No!**