

ESTABLISHING THE RHYTHM

To find the proper rhythm for this choral piece, 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. After you have established the beat, it is time to start interpreting, experimenting, and having fun with the words by varying tempo, volume, inflection, and expression.

THE LIST

This script features a list of 8 words and suggests a way to remember them so vividly that students will be able to recall them easily and in the exact order listed for months (or possibly years) to come. The words are: **ice cream, gingerbread, curly fries, garden hose, Christmas wreath, twins, Shrek, and bird's nest.**

FORMATTING

This script has been formatted for ALL, ALL GIRLS, ALL BOYS, and up to 18 SOLO READER PARTS. If you have fewer than 18 solo readers available, simply divide the parts between the ones you do have!

COSTUMES AND MOVEMENT

No costumes are needed to perform this script, but it might be fun to dress as magicians or sorcerers (or wear "magical" hats) and devise some magician-like hand movements for use during the repeated CHORUS.

CH-62
Magical, Mystical, Memory Tricks!

By Lois Walker

ALL:

1. CHORUS

There is magic in remembering,
Come conjure up a spell!
Come wizards and magicians,
You conjure very well.
The ways of memory
Are a mystical mix.
So listen and we'll share with you...

Our Magical, Mystical, Memory Tricks!

ALL GIRLS:

Let's suppose you want to remember
A whole long list of words.

ALL BOYS:

We'll start with the first word,
Since the first is what's preferred.

READER 1:

Imagine it as a picture,
A wild cartoon-like mixture

READER 2:

Of color, sound, and smell,
A word you know quite well.

ALL BOYS:

Don't write it down.

ALL GIRLS: Oh no!

ALL BOYS: Imagine instead...

ALL: You've placed it on your head!

ALL: 2. **CHORUS**

There is magic in remembering,
Come conjure up a spell!
Come wizards and magicians,
You conjure very well.
The ways of memory
Are a mystical mix.
So listen and we'll share with you...

Our Magical, Mystical, Memory Tricks!

ALL GIRLS: Let's suppose that word is "**ice cream**".
Hey wait, it's on your head!

ALL BOYS: It's melting in your hair,
Cold and goeey everywhere!

READER 3: You'll remember *that word*,
From the dripping that's occurred

READER 4: And so, let's move ahead.
Second word is...

ALL GIRLS: **"Gingerbread"!**

ALL BOYS: Don't write it down.

ALL GIRLS: Oh no!

ALL BOYS: Imagine instead...

ALL: It's stuck to your forehead!

ALL GIRLS: Let's suppose the bread is stuck there,
Glued with peanut butter.

ALL BOYS: The bread and glue are smelly
And should be in your belly.

READER 5: You'll remember **"gingerbread"**,
From the smell on your forehead.

READER 6: Number three is a surprise,
And the word is

ALL GIRLS: **"Curly fries"**

ALL BOYS: Don't write it down.

ALL GIRLS: Oh no!

ALL BOYS: Imagine and be wise...

ALL: Those "**curly fries**" are now your eyes!

ALL: 3. **CHORUS**
There is magic in remembering,
Come conjure up a spell!
Come wizards and magicians,
You conjure very well.
The ways of memory
Are a mystical mix.
So listen and we'll share with you...

Our Magical, Mystical, Memory Tricks!

ALL GIRLS: Let's suppose those "**curly fries**"
Bounce in and out.

ALL BOYS: They make a "boing-boing" noise
Like little wind-up toys.

READER 7: You'll remember "**curly fries**"
As they "boing" about your eyes.

READER 8: Next won't be easy, heaven knows,
For the word is

- ALL GIRLS: **"garden hose".**
- ALL BOYS: Don't write it down.
- ALL GIRLS: Oh no!
- ALL BOYS: Imagine and suppose...
- ALL: The hose is hanging from your nose!
- ALL GIRLS: Let's suppose the hose spouts water
And wiggles like a snake,
- ALL BOYS: Creating endless showers
As it waters all the flowers.
- READER 9: So, as your garden grows,
You'll remember **"garden hose"**.
- READER 10: Fifth word is...
- ALL GIRLS: **"Christmas wreath"**
- READER 10: And you'll hold it with your teeth.
- ALL BOYS: Don't write it down.