

## **CH-80 How April Fool's Day Came To Be**

By Lois Walker

---

### **DIRECTOR NOTES:**

#### **ESTABLISHING THE RHYTHM**

To find the proper rhythm for this rhyming 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 temp, volume, inflection, and expression.

#### **READERS THEATER/CHORAL READING**

This piece has been formatted for ALL CHORUS, ALL GIRL VOICES, ALL BOY VOICES, and 11 SOLO VOICES. Note: An unformatted version of the story is also included so that you may do your own formatting and assign reading parts in any way that works best for your reading group.

#### **RESEARCH**

Research into this topic indicates there are a variety of ideas and stories about how April Fool's day came to be. This approach is simply one of the many. The "Calendar-Change Theory" (among others) used in this choral reading/speaking piece was found online at:

[http://www.museumofhoaxes.com/hoax/Hoaxipedia/April\\_Fools\\_Day\\_-\\_Origin/](http://www.museumofhoaxes.com/hoax/Hoaxipedia/April_Fools_Day_-_Origin/)

ALL CHORUS: April First! April Fools!  
Jump right in, there are no rules.  
But listen now to know and see  
How April Fool's Day came to be.

ALL BOYS: In Century 16, some say it's true:  
A French Pope caused a hullabaloo!

ALL GIRLS: He changed the calendar in a way  
That put that world in disarray.

SOLO VOICE 1: And New Year's Day, forever merry,

SOLO VOICE 2: Was moved to cold, cold January.

ALL BOYS: But New Year's had been April first,  
So some folks felt this change was cursed.  
They shook their heads and shouted...

SOLO VOICE 3: "Oh! We'll fight this thing. We'll just say NO!

SOLO VOICE 4: We want this change of date reversed.

ALL SOLO VOICES: Put New Year's back on April first!"

ALL CHORUS: April First! April Fools!  
Jump right in, there are no rules.  
But listen now to know and see  
How April Fool's Day came to be.

ALL BOYS: Those strong-willed folk were not inclined  
To modify or change their minds...

ALL GIRLS: So others called them stubborn mules,  
And thought of them as April Fools...

ALL: Told jokes on them, played silly tricks,  
Then tossed some pranks into the mix.

SOLO VOICE 5: And as time passed, this mindless mission  
Became an April first tradition.

SOLO VOICE 6: The idea spread across the lands  
From mountain tops to desert sands,

ALL BOYS: Each country found its special way  
To celebrate this fun-filled day.

ALL CHORUS: April First! April Fools!  
Jump right in, there are no rules.  
But listen now to know and see  
How April Fool's Day came to be.

ALL GIRLS: In Scotland it's a two-day fest  
Involving goofy gags and jests.

ALL BOYS: The second day is Taily Day.  
Don't turn your back or you'll be prey

To "Kick Me" signs on your posterior.

ALL GIRLS: You don't need that on your exterior!

SOLO VOICE 7: They celebrate only half a day  
In New Zealand, Australia, and the UK.

SOLO VOICE 8: For a full day of fun, you'll take a chance  
On Germany, Canada, Japan, or France.

ALL BOYS: You'll maintain good humour or be thought a schmuck  
In the USA - a schmuck's bad luck!

ALL CHORUS: April First! April Fools!  
Jump right in, there are no rules.  
But listen now to know and see  
How April Fool's Day came to be.

ALL GIRLS: The French call this day the "April Fish".  
(This is not a fish on a serving dish).

CONTINUED...