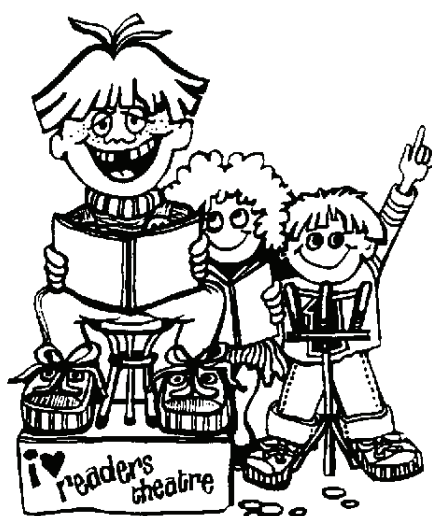


HERB and LOIS WALKER'S



TAKE PART!™
Read Aloud Scripts

JOE & THE BUTTON FACTORY

TEACHER'S SCRIPT

BY

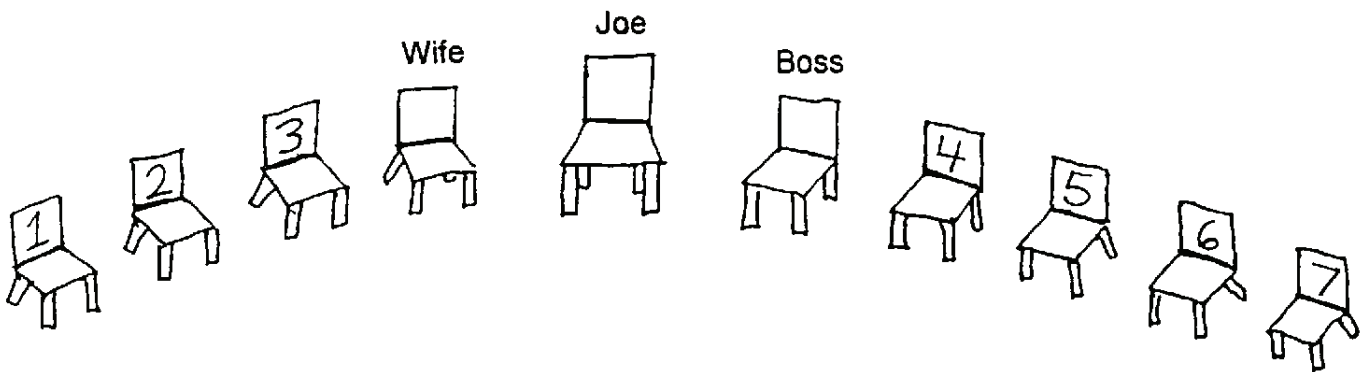
LOIS WALKER

READING LEVEL: UPPER INTERMEDIATE

JOE AND THE BUTTON FACTORY

CAST OF TEN

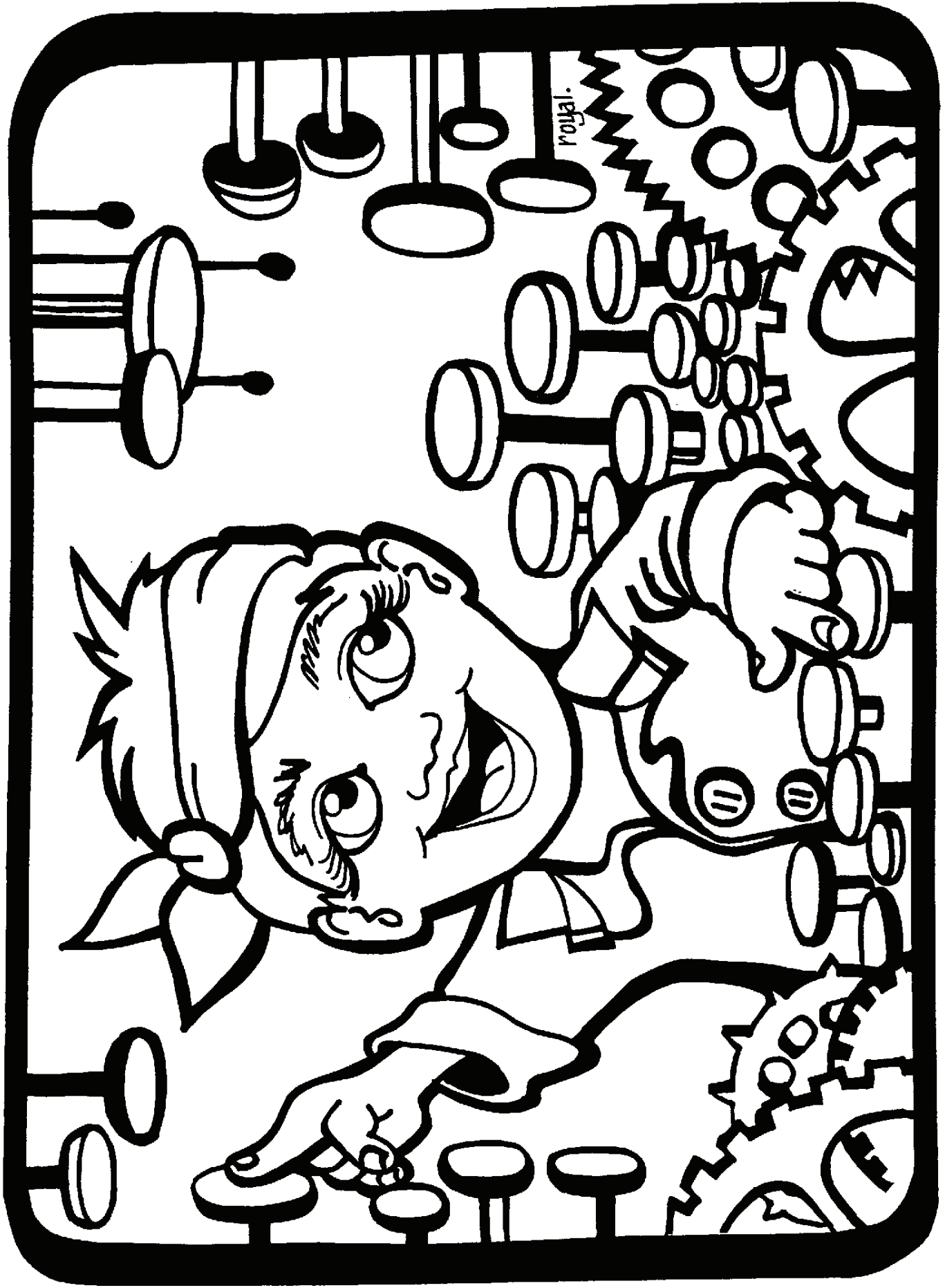
Joe
Wife
Boss
Child 1, Child 2
Child 3, Child 4
Child 5, Child 6
Child 7



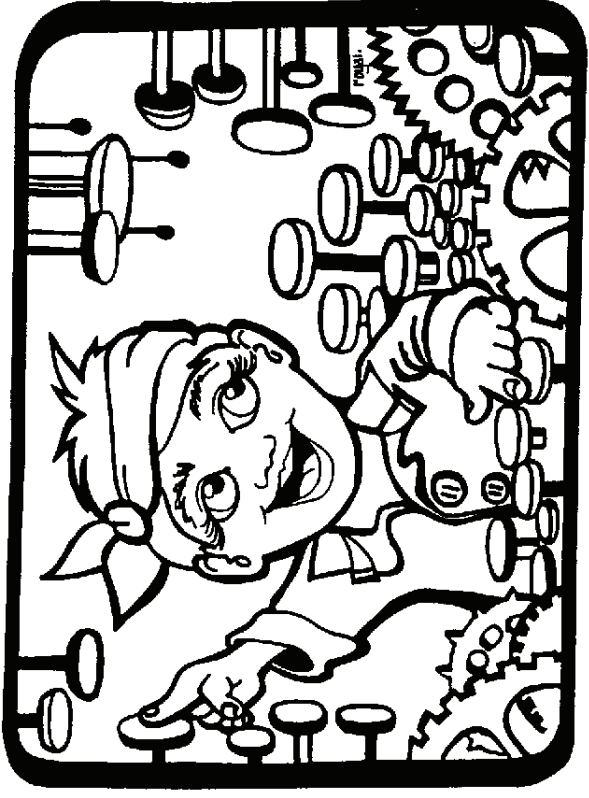
Arrange ten chairs in a shallow semi-circle, as shown.



Color-me poster:—



**Joe and the
button factory**



presented by:



(ticket): ↙
(program govern): ↗

admission

presented by:



**Joe and the
button factory**

FOCUS AND FOLDERS

Ask your readers to speak directly to the audience, not to each other. This is called "storyteller focus." Readers will focus upon the audience just as a storyteller focuses upon the listeners. (It is sometimes helpful for readers to focus eyes slightly above heads of audience members.)

Place cast scripts in colorful folders. (Ring binders allow for smooth and easy page turning.) Place folders in front of or on chairs and on music stand before reading begins. Readers should hold folders at chest level and away from their bodies so that listeners can see facial expressions and hear clearly.

MOVEMENT AND ACTION

This Teacher Script version of "Joe and the Button Factory" includes movement and action directions which may be used if preparing readers for a more formal, elaborate performance of the story. These directions appear only in the Teacher Script. Disregard directions, if you have chosen a simpler readers approach.

COLOR-ME POSTER, PERFORMANCE PROGRAM COVER, THEATRE TICKET

Included in this package are black and white drawings which are meant to be colored by your students.

Duplicate the Color-Me Poster and ask each student to color it in any way he or she might like. The posters may also be used as publicity posters which can be posted around your school or library to publicize a reading performance of the story.

The program cover is also designed to help you when planning a reading performance for an audience. Simply duplicate the program cover, copying as many as your audience will need. Fold duplicated sheets into program shape, and ask students to fill insides with the important details (cast list and reader names, synopsis of the story, director, etc.). Students may also color the front of each program. As audience members enter the room before the performance, ask student ushers to hand each a program.

If time allows, duplicate the special theatre tickets and ask your students to color them. Cut out each ticket and make the tickets available to audience members a few days before the performance. Again, ask student ushers to collect the tickets as audience enters.

ENTRANCES

Boss enters first. (NOTE: Boss may be played by a girl, with minor line changes.) Boss walks to chair with an air of superiority, head held high. Boss holds folder in upstage hand.

Boss climbs upon chair, stands straight and tall, then announces, "READY – MARCH!" Boss sets marching time by calling out "Hup, 2,3,4 - Hup, 2,3,4, etc. as readers enter. (Boss may also march in place, if you wish).

Readers 1,2,3,4,5,6,and 7 enter, single file, from any direction. Each reader carries script under upstage arm. In military fasion, the readers march in and stop abruptly in front of their assigned chairs. (Boss may call out, "Company, HALT!" and guide following movement): Starting with reader 7, each reader turns (one by one) to face audience. Again, precise military-like turns are made. When all readers face audience, readers sit in unison.

Next, Joe and Wife march in from opposite directions holding folders in upstage arms. They call out "Hup, 2,3,4, etc." as they march. Joe and Wife march to assigned chairs, halt, and turn to face audience. Wife sits.

Joe turns to Boss and salutes Boss briskly. Boss returns salute and says, "AT EASE!" Joe sits. Boss jumps to floor, sits, and opens folder to first page. All other readers open folder to the first page. Boss gives a hand or verbal signal, and the reading begins.

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(UNLIKE MOST TAKE PART READER SCRIPTS, THIS PARTICULAR STORY MUST ALWAYS BE PERFORMED WITH THE ACTOR ACTIONS WHICH ARE OUTLINED IN BOTH CLASSROOM AND TEACHER SCRIPTS. THE STORY ITSELF DOES NOT MAKE SENSE WITHOUT THE ACCOMPANYING ACTIONS.

THIS TEACHER SCRIPT CONTAINS BLOCKING FOR A STAGED READING OF "JOE AND THE BUTTON FACTORY" USING THE CHAIR SET-UP AND READER PLACEMENT SHOWN ON THE CAST PAGE. THIS BLOCKING INFORMATION IS NOT FOUND IN THE CLASSROOM SCRIPT VERSION. HOWEVER, GENERAL MOVEMENT INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND IN BOTH SCRIPTS.

REHEARSE YOUR READERS UNTIL THE REQUIRED READING AND MOVEMENTS FLOW SMOOTHLY TOGETHER. AT CERTAIN POINTS IN THE READING, YOUR READERS MAY WISH TO MEMORIZE THEIR LINES RATHER THAN BOTHER WITH THEIR FOLDERS. MEMORIZATION WILL BE EASY BECAUSE OF THE MANY REPEATED LINES AND PHRASES.

(AS READING BEGINS, ALL SIT IN CHAIRS, AS INDICATED).

(JOE STANDS).

JOE: Hi! My name's Joe.
And I work in a
Button factory.
I've got a wife...

Page 2/ Teacher Script/ JOE AND THE BUTTON FACTORY

(WIFE STANDS).

WIFE: That's me!

JOE: And one kid.

(CHILD 1 STANDS AND WAVES AT JOE).

CHILD 1: Hi Dad!

(JOE IGNORES CHILD AND CONTINUES TELLING STORY TO AUDIENCE).

JOE: One day my boss came to me and said,

(BOSS STANDS).

BOSS: "Joe! Are you busy?"

JOE: I said, "No."
He said,

(BOSS POINTS AT IMAGINARY BUTTON).

BOSS: "Push this button with your right hand!"

JOE: And I did.

WIFE: Help your father, dear!

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(JOE REACHES OUT WITH PALM OF RIGHT HAND AND BEGINS TO PUSH IMAGINARY BUTTON IN FRONT. JOE PUSHES ONCE TO EACH BEAT OF THE POEM'S 4/4 COUNT RHYTHM. HE COUNTS OUT LOUD AS HE PUSHES).

JOE: One...two...three...four,

(CHILD 1 AND WIFE JOIN IN, PUSHING WITH RIGHT HANDS. THEY JOIN JOE AS HE COUNTS OUT LOUD).

JOE, WIFE, 1: Five...six...seven...eight.

(BOSS JUMPS UP ON CHAIR. BOSS DOES NOT JOIN IN ON THE BUTTON PUSHING. INSTEAD, SHAKES FINGER IN AIR AS THOUGH DIRECTING THE COUNTING. HE DOES THIS FOUR TIMES TO THE PROPER BEAT AND COUNTS OUT LOUD).

BOSS: Nine...ten...eleven...twelve!

(JOE, WIFE, AND CHILD 1 CONTINUE PUSHING IN TIME AS JOE READS):

JOE: Hi! My name's Joe.
And I work in a
Button factory.
I've got a wife...

WIFE: Sure thing!

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JOE: And two kids.

(CHILD 2 STANDS).

CHILD 1,2: Hi Dad!

JOE: One day my boss came to me and said,

(BOSS JUMPS DOWN FROM CHAIR TO FLOOR).

BOSS: "Joe! Are you busy?"

JOE: I said, "No."

He said,

(BOSS POINTS AT IMAGINARY BUTTON).

BOSS: "Push this button with your left hand!"

JOE: And I did.

(JOE REPEATS ABOVE DIRECTIONS USING LEFT HAND, BUT ALSO CONTINUES PUSHING WITH RIGHT HAND).

JOE: One...two...three...four,

(WIFE AND CHILDREN 1 AND 2 JOIN IN PUSHING WITH BOTH RIGHT AND LEFT HANDS).

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JOE, WIFE, 1,2: Five...six...seven...eight.

(BOSS JUMPS BACK UP ON CHAIR. BOSS DOES NOT JOIN IN ON THE BUTTON PUSHING. INSTEAD, SHAKES TWO FINGERS IN AIR AS THOUGH DIRECTING THE COUNTING. HE DOES THIS FOUR TIMES TO THE PROPER BEAT AND COUNTS OUT LOUD).

BOSS: Nine...ten...eleven...twelve!

(JOE, WIFE, AND CHILDREN CONTINUE PUSHING IN TIME AS JOE READS):

JOE: Hi! my name's Joe.
And I work in a
Button factory.
I've got a wife...

WIFE: You bet!

JOE: And three kids.

(CHILD 3 STANDS).

CHILD 1,2,3: Hi Dad!

JOE: One day my boss came to me and said,

(BOSS JUMPS DOWN FROM CHAIR AND SAYS):

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BOSS: "Joe! Are you busy?"

JOE: I said, "No."
He said,

(BOSS POINTS AT IMAGINARY BUTTON).

BOSS: "Push this button with your right foot."

JOE: And I did.

(JOE LIFTS RIGHT LEG AS IF TO MARCH AND BEGINS STOMPING FOOT ON FLOOR IN TIME WITH BOTH MOVING HANDS. HE COUNTS OUT LOUD AS HE PUSHES).

JOE: One...two...three...four,

(WIFE AND CHILDREN 1,2,3 FOLLOW HIS LEAD. ALL PUSH AND STOMP TOGETHER AND JOIN JOE AS HE COUNTS OUT LOUD).

JOE, WIFE, 1,2,3: Five...six...seven...eight.

(BOSS JUMPS UP ON CHAIR, BUT DOES NOT JOIN IN ON THE BUTTON PUSHING. INSTEAD, SHAKES TWO FINGERS AND RIGHT FOOT IN AIR AS THOUGH DIRECTING THE COUNTING. HE DOES THIS FOUR TIMES TO THE PROPER BEAT AND COUNTS OUT LOUD).

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BOSS: Nine...ten...eleven...twelve!

(JOE, WIFE, AND CHILDREN CONTINUE PUSHING AND STOMPING IN TIME AS JOE READS):

JOE: Hi! My name's Joe.
And I work in a
Button factory.
I've got a wife...

WIFE: Sure do!

JOE: And four kids.

(CHILD 4 STANDS).

1,2,3,4: Hi Dad!

JOE: One day my boss came to me and said,

(BOSS JUMPS DOWN FROM CHAIR AGAIN).

BOSS: "Joe! Are you busy?"

JOE: I said, "No."
He said,

(BOSS POINTS AT IMAGINARY BUTTON).

Page 8/ Teacher Script/ JOE AND THE BUTTON FACTORY

BOSS: "Push this button with your left foot."

JOE: And I did.

(ALL READERS CONTINUE MOVING HANDS TO 4/4 COUNT BEAT. JOE ADDS LEFT FOOT AND BEGINS TO MARCH IN PLACE. HE COUNTS OUT LOUD AS HE MARCHES).

JOE: One...two...three...four,

(WIFE AND CHILDREN 1,2,3,4 JOIN IN ON THE MARCH. ALL PUSH AND MARCH TOGETHER AND JOIN JOE AS HE COUNTS OUT LOUD).

JOE, WIFE, 1-4: Five...six...seven...eight.

(BOSS DOES AS BEFORE. SHAKES TWO FINGERS AND MARCHES AS THOUGH LEADING A BAND! HE DOES THIS FOUR TIMES TO THE PROPER BEAT AND COUNTS OUT LOUD).

BOSS: Nine...ten...eleven...twelve!

(JOE, WIFE, AND CHILDREN CONTINUE PUSHING AND MARCHING IN TIME AS JOE READS):

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JOE: Hi! my name's Joe.
And I work in a
Button factory.
I've got a wife...

WIFE: Right here!

JOE: And five kids.

(CHILD 5 STANDS).

1,2,3,4,5: Hi Dad!

JOE: One day my boss came to me and said,

(BOSS JUMPS DOWN AGAIN).

BOSS: "Joe! Are you busy?"

JOE: I said, "No."

He said,

(BOSS POINTS TO IMAGINARY BUTTON).

BOSS: "Push this button with your head."

JOE: And I did.

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(JOE BEGINS BOUNCING HIS HEAD BACK AND FORTH AS THOUGH PUSHING A BUTTON WITH HIS FOREHEAD. HE DOES THIS AS HE PUSHES, MARCHES, AND COUNTS OUT LOUD).

JOE: One...two...three...four,

(WIFE AND CHILDREN 1,2,3,4,5 JOIN IN AS BEFORE. ALL PUSH, MARCH, AND BOUNCE HEADS AND JOIN IN THE COUNTING).

JOE, WIFE, 1-5: Five...six...seven...eight.

(BOSS DOES AS BEFORE. ADDS HEAD BOUNCE TO HANDS AND FEET MOVEMENTS FOR FOUR BEATS AS HE COUNTS OUT LOUD).

BOSS: Nine...ten...eleven...twelve!

(JOE, WIFE, AND CHILDREN CONTINUE PUSHING, MARCHING, AND BOUNCING IN TIME AS JOE READS):

JOE: Hi! My name's Joe.
And I work in a
Button factory.
I've got a wife...

WIFE: Not for long!