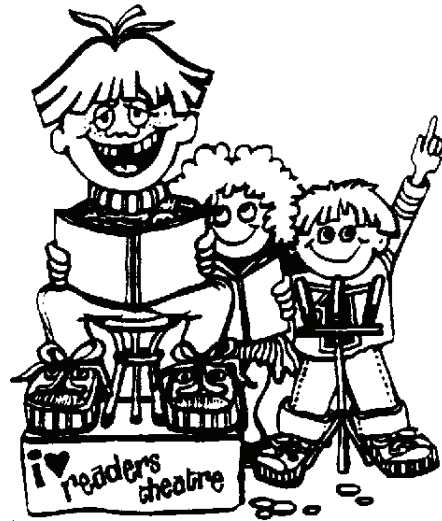


HERB and LOIS WALKER'S



TAKE PART!™
Read-Aloud Scripts

LASALLE CLAIMS LOUISIANA

TEACHER SCRIPT

BY

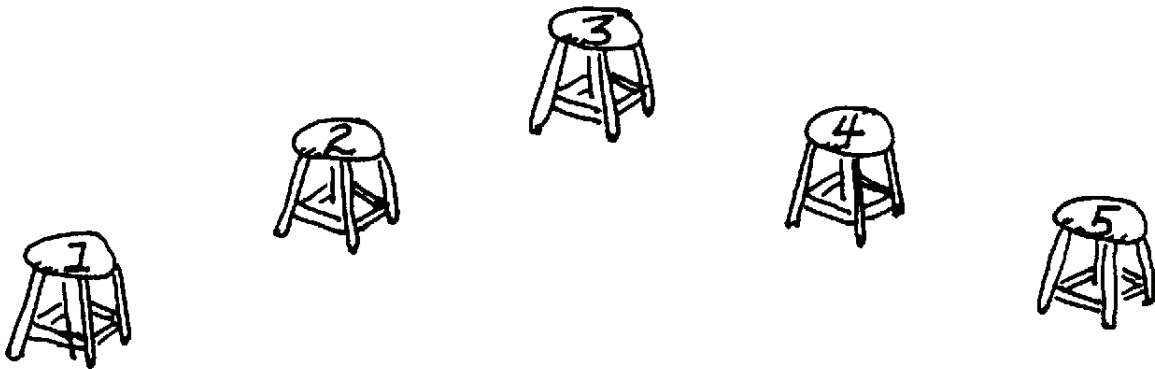
LINDA BATEN

READING LEVEL: HIGH INTERMEDIATE

LASALLE CLAIMS LOUISIANA

CAST OF FIVE

Reader 1/Hunter
Reader 2/Settler
Reader 3/carpenter
Reader 4/LaSalle
Reader 5/Trapper



Arrange five stools as shown.



VOCABULARY LIST

mutiny	n.	revolt or rebellion against constituted authority.
delta	n.	a flat plain at the mouth of a river.
aristocrat	n.	a member of the upper class, a nobleman.
demolished	v.	destroyed, ruined completely, razed.
creditor	n.	a person to whom money is owed.
current	n.	the speed at which a body of water flows.

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 colourful folders. (Ring binders allow for smooth and easy page turning.) Place folders in front of or on chairs or 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 "LaSalle Claims Louisiana" 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 reading approach.

ENTRANCES

READERS 1 - 5 walk into reading space in a single line. They all carry folders in same hand (left or right) and walk together, in unison. Readers do not march, just walk in an organized, orderly fashion.

READERS sit. READERS 4 and 5 turn sit with backs facing the audience until script indicates. When everyone is in place, the reading begins.

(WHEN CAST MEMBERS ARE ON STAGE, READERS 4 AND 5 TURN THEIR BACKS TO THE AUDIENCE AND SIT VERY STILL. WHEN EVERYONE IS READY, THE READING BEGINS.)

1/HUNTER: I tell you, LaSalle is holding out on us. He has extra food while we are starving.

(2/SETTLER LOOKS AT 1/HUNTER WITH DISBELIEF.)

2/SETTLER: You're wrong, hunter. LaSalle is our leader. He wouldn't do that!

(3/CARPENTER SHAKES HIS HEAD SADLY.)

3/CARPENTER: I'm not so sure. Look at us!. We're all in poor health and he is fine. I regret the day I signed up with LaSalle.

2/SETTLER: Me too, carpenter. But the promise of a new home in the new land sounded so glorious. I thought we were the lucky ones when the other ship of colonists had to return to France.

1/HUNTER: We were supposed to make our settlement on the delta of the Mississippi. LaSalle said it was a huge river which divided a continent. That's what he told us, isn't it settler?

(2/SETTLER HOLDS HANDS ABOVE HEAD AND LOOKS UPWARD AS IF FOR SOME EXPLANATION.)

2/SETTLER: That's what he said, alright, but we missed the Mississippi! We sailed past it by 400 miles to this desolate land—Texas.

(3/CARPENTER POINTS TO THE LAND ALL AROUND THEM AND SIGHS.)

3/CARPENTER: Because of the deadly snakes, these dreadful conditions and the poisonous plants, we are destined to die here. We started with 150 settlers, now there are only 44 of us.

(2/SETTLER STANDS AND SHAKES FIST AT 3/CARPENTER.)

2/SETTLER: We might have been a success if you hadn't lied about your carpenter skills. We didn't have adequate housing because of you! You're no carpenter!

(3/CARPENTER STANDS AND LEANS CLOSE TO THE FACE OF 2/SETTLER.)

3/CARPENTER: Well, you're no better at farming, settler! Your seeds died and you didn't know how to care for your livestock in the drought. Maybe you're to blame for the failure of the settlement!

(1/HUNTER STANDS AND PUSHES DOWN THE SHOULDERS OF BOTH 2 AND 3. ALL SIT ON STOOLS AGAIN.)

1/HUNTER: Don't waste your energy in these petty fights. LaSalle's the one to blame. I hate that rich aristocrat!

(2/SETTLER NODS AGREEMENT TO 1/HUNTER.)

2/SETTLER: He knows what it is to live well. He was educated in the best schools, given an estate by the king and a monopoly in the fur business in New France.

(3/CARPENTER CHUCKLES.)

3/CARPENTER: Even with all his advantages, he still had bad luck. One of his trading posts was demolished by Indians and a special boat he built to transport furs was lost.

(1/HUNTER NODS.)

1/HUNTER: That was the Griffon. It was a big flat boat. He was in debt and hoped to recover financially with a big load of furs, but it was lost. Most people think it sank because LaSalle had loaded it too heavily.

(2/SETTLER LEANS FORWARD AND HOLDS UP HIS POINTING FINGER AS IF REMEMBERING.)

2/SETTLER: Another of LaSalle's ships was also lost. That was a ship coming from France with goods to be used for trading for furs.

3/CARPENTER: I heard he had to give up his estate, La Chine, to satisfy his creditors. The name means China and people nicknamed the estate La Chine because that was all LaSalle ever talked about—finding a route to China.

(1/HUNTER PUTS HIS FINGER TO HIS LIPS TO HUSH THE CONVERSATION. 4/LASALLE AND 5/TRAPPER TURN AROUND AND FACE THE AUDIENCE.)

1/HUNTER: Quiet, here he comes.

(2/SETTLER HOLDS OUT HAND, POINTING TO THE CENTER OF THE AREA.)

2/SETTLER: LaSalle, Trapper, join us around the fire. As you can see, we don't have much to eat. I'm sure your meal was better than ours.

4/LASALLE: We're all hungry. We will have plenty of food when we reach the fort on the Mississippi.

(5/TRAPPER POINTS TO 1/HUNTER.)

5/TRAPPER: Maybe you could go hunting and find some meat. Then none of us would be hungry.

(4/LASALLE PATS 5/TRAPPER'S ARM TO CALM HIS ANGER.)

4/LASALLE: At ease, trapper! We've been hungry before this trip. Remember when we went down the Mississippi in 1682?

5/TRAPPER: We were very hungry then. You couldn't hunt in that swamp and alligators were everywhere.

4/LASALLE: The first part of the trip went well. Father Marquette and Louis Jolliet had been down the river as far as the Arkansas River about five years prior to our trip. We knew what to expect.

(1/HUNTER LOOKS AT 4/LASALLE.)

1/HUNTER: Did you have their maps?

(4/LASALLE SHAKES HIS HEAD.)

4/LASALLE: No. Father Marquette died soon after the trip and Jolliet's boat overturned and he lost all his notes and maps. He told us what he remembered which was helpful.

(2/SETTLER LEANS FORWARD, INTERESTED IN COMMENTS.)

2/SETTLER: Weren't you afraid of the Indians? These Indians frighten me.

(5/TRAPPER SHRUGS.)

5/TRAPPER: We had eighteen Indians with us along with 23 Frenchmen. We also took a peace pipe. We made several stops down the Mississippi and smoked the pipe of peace with the different tribes.

(3/CARPENTER LOOKS AT 4/LASALLE AND 5/TRAPPER.)

3/CARPENTER: What is the meaning of smoking a pipe with an Indian?

4/LASALLE: A tribe could give white men a peace pipe as a gesture of friendship. All tribes who respected that tribe would give safe conduct through their area.

3/CARPENTER: I understand. That was an important item to take with you.

4/LASALLE: After the smoking of the pipe, I claimed the land for king of France and the French people.

(READERS 1, 2, AND 3 EXCHANGE GLANCES.)

2/SETTLER: How long did it take for you to make the journey from New France to the mouth of the Mississippi?

4/LASALLE: Why are you curious?

2/SETTLER: Oh, maybe I'll want to go there one day and be a famous explorer like you are.

(4/LASALLE STARES COLDLY AT 2/SETTLER, BUT ANSWERS HIS QUESTION.)

4/LASALLE: We started in January of 1862 as soon as the ice broke. We took possession of the land at the mouth of the river in April.

5/TRAPPER: We were a sad sight. We were tired, hungry and discouraged because we knew we had to go back to New France—against the river's current.