

Manners! Manners!

1

RT Script Concerning Manners in the School.

Primary Teacher Version.

By Lois Walker

MANNERS! MANNERS!

POETRY AND PROSE

This script has been written with both poetry and prose sections. The poetry sections need to be read to a beat and may take on a "rap" quality, if desired. The prose sections do not.

RHYTHM IN THE POETRY SECTIONS

To find the proper rhythm in the poetry sections, 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.

POETRY READERS

The script involves 6 principle readers who repeat the poetry sections throughout the script. Readers 3,4,5,6 are part of the Good Manner Movement and want their classmates to become more considerate of others.

PROSE READERS

For the prose sections, you can use as many readers as you want. The reader parts are not numbered, and this has been done so that you may assign the lines to as many readers as will work for your classroom. You might divide the lines up between two more readers, or four, six, ten or up to thirty!

Also, TEACHER lines may be read by student readers or actual teachers from your school, depending on which approach works for you.

NOTE: All prose lines are suggestions only. The annoying behaviors or bad manners listed may or may not work for your particular school and can easily be changed to work for your situation. You may even want to add more readers and expand the list of behaviors.

ENTRANCES

A small group of poetry readers (CHORUS), including READERS 1,2,3,4,5,6 who carry their scripts, march into the performance area chanting something like "Manners! Manners! Manners"! Some carry

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2

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signs that say GOOD MANNERS MOVEMENT, STAMP OUT ANNOYING ANNOYANCES! ARE YOU PART OF THE SOLUTION – OR PART OF THE PROBLEM? GOOD MANNERS COUNT! etc. READERS 1,2,3,4,5,6, take their places facing the audience and standing. The CHORUS assembles and stands (with signs) stage right of READERS 1,2,3,4,5,6.

A group of prose readers follows the marchers and assembles stage left of READERS 1,2,3,4,5,6. They carry their scripts and sit on chairs provided there, facing the audience.

When all readers are in their proper places, one CHORUS member steps forward and directs CHORUS and READERS 1,2,3,4,5,6 in the chant below. The reading begins:

CHORUS: Good (Goooooooooooooood)

Manners, manners!

Manners, manners!

Wave the signs,

Wave the banners.

What do we want?

GOOD MANNERS!

(Chorus leader steps back into the CHORUS on the last "manners!").

(To audience)

READER 1: Now pay attention.

READER 2: **It's time to mention...**

READER 3 **Some bad manners**

READER 4: **Some people say**

READER 5: **Make them mad,**

READER 6: **Or make them sad!**

(One by one, the prose readers below stand and read their lines aloud. Once they have spoken, they remain standing and join in on the chorus lines).

READER Forgetting to say "excuse me".

READER Forgetting to say "thank you".

READER Forgetting to say "I'm sorry".

READER Not taking turns.

READER Not sharing books and toys.

READERS 1,2: And always making too much noise!

(CHORUS leader steps forward again and repeats movements as before).

CHORUS: **Good (Goooooooooooood)**

Manners, manners!

Manners, manners!

Wave the signs,
Wave the banners.
What do we want?
GOOD MANNERS!

READER 1: Now pay attention.
READER 2: It's time to mention...
READER 3 More bad manners
READER 4: Some people say
READER 5: Make them mad,
READER 6: Or make them sad!

*(One by one, the prose readers below stand and read their lines aloud.
Once they have spoken, they remain standing and join in on the
chorus lines).*

READER Budging in the lunch line.
READER Saying gross things at the lunch table.
READER Talking with your mouth full.
READER Chewing with your mouth open.
READER And throwing your food!
READER 3,4: Throwing food? That's rude!

(Same directions as before).

CHORUS: **Good (Goooooooooooooood)**
Manners, manners!
Manners, manners!
Wave the signs,
Wave the banners.
What do we want?
GOOD MANNERS!

(Same directions as before).

READER	Being a bully.
READER	Hitting people.
READER	Pushing people.
READER	Ignoring people.
READER	Making fun of people.

READER 5: Now, that would bug me too.

(Shaking head)

READER 6: Not a real good thing to do!

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6

(Same directions as before).

CHORUS: **Good (Goooooooooooooood)**

 Manners, manners!

 Manners, manners!

 Wave the signs,

 Wave the banners.

 What do we want?

 GOOD MANNERS!

READER 1: **Now pay attention.**

READER 2: **It's time to mention...**

READER 3 **Even more bad manners**

READER 4: **Our TEACHERS say**

READER 5: **Make them mad,**

READER 6: **Or make them sad!**

(Same directions as before. If students are used to take on the roles of teachers, they might wear signs saying TEACHER 1, TEACHER 2, etc. or the actual names of teachers in your school).

TEACHER **Forgetting to pay attention.**