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The Town With a Very Special Sound

By Lois Walker

A Readers Theater Script for
Primary Readers
Teacher Version

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ESTABLISHING THE RHYTHM:

To find the proper rhythm for this Readers Theater poem, 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.

FORMATTED FOR 8 READERS:

8 Solo Readers, All Boy Voices, All Girl Voices, and an All Chorus of as many readers as desired.

FLEXIBLE READING PARTS: Depending on the size of your class, you can add more solo readers than the original 8 by assigning additional reader numbers to the unassigned solo lines. (After the first 8 speak once, no reader numbers appear on the script. This is done so you may either continue using the same 8 readers OR create additional parts. Simply pencil in numbers and continue).

HISTORICAL NOTE: The train town in this story is based on a real town: Wellington, Ohio. Eighty to one hundred trains pass through this Ohio town in a 24-hour period, and the residents spend much of their time either waiting to cross train tracks or listening to train sounds. The trains might cause a lot of inconvenience, but they do help make this town a very special place!

PERFORMANCE SUGGESTION: Ask your readers to make the CHORUS of this piece sound as much like a real train as possible. You might do this by asking them to imitate the rhythm of a real train as it chugs along the track. Practice making the "cracks" crackle and the other train sounds sound like they do on a real train!

READER 1: Does a town have a sound,
Its very own sound?

READER 2: A sound that's different
From all the towns around?

READER 3: We know of a town
That sounds like a hiss,

READER 4: And a chug-a-chug-a clank.
Sounds like this:

GIRLS: Hisssssssssssssssssssss

BOYS: Chug-a-chug-a clank,
Chug-a-chug-a clunk.

Hisssssssssssssssssssss

GIRLS: Rattle, rattle, crank
Rattle, rattle, plunk

ALL: Rickity, Pickity,
Crackity, smack
Choo-choo, woo-woo,
Clickity, Clack!

READER 5: Yes, this town sounds
Just like a train.

READER 6: Sounds like a train
 In sun, snow or rain.

READER 7: Sounds like a train
 In summer, winter, fall.

READER 8: If not for the train,
 Would it have a sound at all?

GIRLS: Hisssssssssssssssssssss

BOYS: Chug-a-chug-a clank,
 Chug-a-chug-a clunk.

Hisssssssssssssssssssss (hold through the following
two lines)

GIRLS: Rattle, rattle, crank
 Rattle, rattle, plunk

ALL: Rickity, Pickity,
 Crackity, smack
 Choo-choo, woo-woo,
 Clickity, Clack!

READER 9: Where is this town?
 In Locomotive County.

READER 10: When it comes to trains,
 This county has a bounty.

READER We call it Trainville
 Tiny little town,

READER With a sound that's different
 From all the towns around.

GIRLS: Hisssssssssssssssssssss

BOYS: Chug-a-chug-a clank,
 Chug-a-chug-a clunk.

Hisssssssssssssssssssss

GIRLS: Rattle, rattle, crank
 Rattle, rattle, plunk

ALL: Rickity, Pickity,
 Crackity, smack
 Choo-choo, woo-woo,
 Clickity, Clack!

READER Trainville has tracks
 On all four sides.

READER So if you're going out of town
 You might need a guide.

\READER There are one hundred trains
 Each and every day.

READER So if you need to cross the tracks,
 You might not find a way.

GIRLS: Hisssssssssssssssssssss

BOYS: Chug-a-chug-a clank,
 Chug-a-chug-a clunk.

Hisssssssssssssssssssss

GIRLS: Rattle, rattle, crank
 Rattle, rattle, plunk

ALL: Rickity, Pickity,
 Crackity, smack
 Choo-choo, woo-woo,
 Clickity, Clack!

READER But you must be patient,
 Calm and relaxed.

READER Wait and watch the trains go by,
 Fast, along the tracks.

READER For without these trains
 Going through the town,