



Herb and Lois Walker's  
**SCRIPTS FOR SCHOOLS**

**Good Manners  
Count!**

by Lois Walker

A Readers Theater Script for  
the Primary Grades

[www.scriptsforschools.com](http://www.scriptsforschools.com)

## **ESTABLISHING THE RHYTHM**

To find the proper rhythm for this readers theater 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 the tempo, volume, inflection, and expression.

## **DIVIDING UP THE READING PARTS**

This piece has been formatted for a variety of reading parts. The entire piece can be performed by as few as 6 solo readers (including narrator) and/or all the way up to 30 readers. As you will see, reader numbers have been left blank after READER #11 so that you can pencil in reading parts as needed.

## **BEHAVIORS FEATURED IN THIS SCRIPT**

In this script, the readers tell of meeting a number of storybook characters who display some inappropriate behaviors. These behaviors lead the "readers chorus" to encourage the audience to do the following:

Please pass the message on,

And let the message grow:

**Good manners count!**

Tell everyone you know.

Near the end of the script, the readers finally meet a storybook couple who display appropriate behaviors:

They were gentle, clean, and thoughtful,  
Considerate and kind.  
And that type of behavior  
We'd wish for all mankind!

**Inappropriate behavior words:** Crude, rude, unfriendly, loud, pushing, teasing, kicking, stealing someone's property, telling lies, eating with dirty hands, and not sharing.

**Appropriate behavior words:** Gentle, clean, thoughtful, considerate, and kind.

## **Good Manners Count!**

By Lois Walker

---

ALL:                Once Upon a Time....

NARRATOR:     I met three little pigs.

READER 1:       Did they act like pigs?

NARRATOR:     Oh, yes they did.  
They were crude and rude,  
Unfriendly and loud.

READER 1:       Bad manners like that  
Shouldn't be allowed.

READER 2:       Crude and rude,

READER 3:       Unfriendly and loud.

READER 4:       Bad manners like that

READER 5:       Shouldn't be allowed.

ALL GIRLS:       Please pass the message on,  
And let the message grow:

ALL BOYS:        **Good manners count!**  
Tell everyone you know.

ALL: One day we met...

NARRATOR: Three billy goats gruff!

READER 6: And were they tough?

NARRATOR: They were tough enough.  
They pushed and teased,  
Then kicked me in the knees.

READER 6: Bad manners like that  
Are like a disease!

READER 7: Pushed and teased?

READER 8: Kicked you in the knees?

READER 9: Bad manners like that

READER 10: Are like a disease!

ALL GIRLS: Please pass the message on,  
And let the message grow:

ALL BOYS: **Good manners count!**  
Tell everyone you know.

ALL: Last month we met...

NARRATOR: Rumple Stiltskin!

READER 11: Did he smile and grin?

NARRATOR: No, with him you couldn't win.  
He stole my hat  
And told me lies.

READER 11: That kind of behavior  
Is not very wise.

READER Stole your hat?

READER Told you lies?

READER That kind of behavior

READER Is not very wise.

ALL GIRLS: Please pass the message on,  
And let the message grow:

ALL BOYS: **Good manners count!**  
Tell everyone you know.

ALL: Last week we met...

NARRATOR: A large hairy troll.

READER Was he under a bridge?

NARRATOR: Yes, hiding in a hole.  
His hands were black with dirt,  
But he was eating a snack.

READER Sounds a bit like  
A "Bad Manners Attack".

READER His hands were black with dirt?

READER But he was eating a snack?

READER Sounds a bit like

READER A "Bad Manners Attack".

ALL GIRLS: Please pass the message on,  
And let the message grow:

ALL BOYS: **Good manners count!**  
Tell everyone you know.

ALL: Yesterday we met...

NARRATOR: A Halloween witch.

READER            Was she riding on a stick?

NARRATOR:      Yes, a stick - fast and quick.  
She'd collected lots of sweets,  
But she wouldn't share.

READER            Well, that's no surprise,  
She just didn't care!

READER            She'd collected lots of sweets,

READER            But she wouldn't share.

READER            Well, that's no surprise,

READER            She just didn't care!

ALL GIRLS:        Please pass the message on,  
And let the message grow:

ALL BOYS:        **Good manners count!**  
Tell everyone you know.

ALL:                This morning we met...

NARRATOR:        A king and a queen.