Pass It On!

A Reading Script in Poetry and Prose about

Making Safe and Healthy Internet Choices

By Lois Walker

OVERVIEW: This script was written in response to teacher concerns about cyber-bullying. Most of the research I did on the topic suggested that grade school students be educated, as soon as possible, about the options and choices they will face as they grow into and function within a world consumed by the internet.

It's probably never too early to start thinking about how to deal with cyberspace, but most educators seem to agree that by grade 4 most students need to be introduced to ways to deal safely with internet options.

With this in mind, I wrote the following reading script as a way for older students within the elementary school community to model responsible, safe, and thoughtful use of the internet for younger students. (For example, a grade 6, 7 or older class might rehearse this script and perform it for individual classrooms within the school or at a school assembly). Hopefully, the performance will help springboard further discussion of the topic in individual classrooms throughout the school.

NOTE: An mp3 sound file is available to help you establish the required pace and rhythm for this piece. It can be sent to you as an email attachment. There is no charge. Email: loiswalker@hotmail.com

STAGING: This script may be performed simply, or expanded by adding projected computer graphics, hand-held signs listing PROUD, SMART, KIND, BRAVE and

HONEST to be held high at the appropriate times, expanded choreographed gestures, added sound effects, and multi-level performance staging. The possibilities are endless. The message in this script is serious, but the staging should be energetic and engaging to help call attention to what's important and make the performance fun to watch.

SOUND NOTE: If you decide to use the sound effects as suggested in the script, it's important to remember that they have been included to add a lightness of tone (perhaps even some laughter - depending on how much fun you have with them) to a serious subject. They should not detract from the message, but might serve to make receiving the message more enjoyable for all.

FORMATTING: This script combines choral and prose text and is formatted for a choral reading/speaking group of any size *and* parts for additional solo voices. You will notice that after the first 4 solo reading parts below, all solo reading numbers have been left blank so that you may pencil in as many as you have available. If your group is small, the members will simply share all the lines. If your group is large, there should be speaking lines for all.

ESTABLISHING THE RHYTHM: To find the proper rhythm for the choral text, first read-aloud and clap through these parts 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 the entire piece during performance. (*The choral sections may be performed like a rap, if that works for your reading group*).

SAMPLE PAGES, PLEASE DO NOT COPY

ALL: We <u>all</u> have a <u>choice</u> and

YES – we can <u>make</u> it.

So <u>here</u>'s some ad<u>vice</u>

And we're <u>hop</u>ing you will <u>take</u> it.

ALL GIRLS: <u>Here</u> are five <u>rules</u>

About the <u>inter</u>net,

ALL BOYS: And <u>if</u> you <u>try</u> them all,

You'll <u>have</u> no re<u>gret</u>…

ALL GIRLS: About <u>on</u>line <u>time</u> with

E<u>mail</u>, text, or <u>Twit</u>ter.

ALL BOYS: You <u>won</u>'t be <u>bull</u>ied,

You <u>won</u>'t be a <u>quit</u>ter.

SOLO READER 1: And, <u>if</u> you like these <u>rules</u>…

SOLO READER 2: <u>Share</u> them with your <u>friends</u>.

SOLO READER 3: <u>Pass</u> them on and <u>they'll</u> affect

SOLO READER 4: <u>How</u> this story <u>ends</u>.

ALL GIRLS: Now, <u>ready</u>, set, <u>go</u>!

ALL BOYS: See the numbers <u>grow</u>!

     <u>Af</u>ter you have <u>heard</u> these rules,

ALL: You'll <u>be</u> "in the <u>know</u>"!

ALL GIRLS: Number <u>ONE</u>…

(All readers hold up an index finger in unison as ONE is said above).

(Sound effect: drum, gong, flute, ukulele intro, or anything that works for your group. You might consider different sound effects for each of the five rules. Readers may create the sounds themselves, or a special sound effect person might be appointed to this job. If using sound effect, it should sound just before – or after - the following line is said):

ALL BOYS: **Be proud!**

SOLO READER : Make sure you are ***proud*** of anything you post on the worldwide web. If you doubt whether you should post something or not, that probably means you are not really **proud** of what you are planning.

SOLO READER : So, if you doubt it – DON'T DO IT!

SOLO READER : Make sure you are ***proud*** of anything you say to someone in an email or text message.

SOLO READER : The Internet is a public space, so only share photos or stuff about yourself that you'd be ***proud*** to share with family, best friends, and teachers.

(All readers clap at the specified time below. You might ask the audience to join you in the clapping throughout the piece. Getting the audience to

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participate in this way is a great way to involve them in the entire script. Take time to rehearse them on this first one and they'll join in for the others.)

ALL: **Be proud,** *(clap, clap)* **and pass it on!**

ALL GIRLS: Now, <u>ready</u>, set, <u>go</u>!

ALL BOYS: <u>See</u> the numbers <u>grow</u>!

<u>Af</u>ter you have <u>heard</u> these rules,

ALL: <u>You</u>'ll be "in the <u>know</u>"!

ALL BOYS: Number <u>TWO</u>…

(All readers hold up index and second finger as TWO is said above). (Sound effect: drum, flute, ukulele intro, or anything that works for your group, sounds just before – or after - the following line is said):

ALL GIRLS: **Be smart!**

SOLO READER :   Private means *PRIVATE – so…*

SOLO READER :   …be ***smart*** and keep your private information under control! We all know the Internet is a great way to keep in touch with friends…

SOLO READER :   …but keep your user names, passwords, full names, and even the name of your school out of text and email messages…

SOLO READER :   … *and* sites like Facebook and Twitter!

(All readers clap at the specified time below)

ALL: **Be smart,** *(clap, clap)* **and pass it on!**

ALL BOYS: Now, <u>rea</u>dy, set, <u>go</u>!

ALL GIRLS: See the numbers <u>grow</u>!

                            <u>Af</u>ter you have <u>heard</u> these rules,

ALL: You'll <u>be</u> "in the <u>know</u>"!

ALL GIRLS: Number <u>THREE</u>…

(All readers hold up three fingers as THREE is said above). (Sound effect: drum, flute, ukulele intro, or anything that works for your group, sounds just before – or after - the following line is said):

ALL BOYS: Be kind!

SOLO READER : Show respect and treat people online ***kindly****…*

SOLO READER : …the way you'd want to be treated.

SOLO READER : If someone is not being ***kind*** and being disrespectful or bullying you…

SOLO READER : … try to ignore them and use privacy tools to block them from seeing your page and contacting you.

SOLO READER : If it doesn't stop, tell a trusted adult.

(All readers clap at the specified time below)

ALL: **Be kind,** *(clap, clap)* **and pass it on!**

ALL GIRLS: Now, <u>rea</u>dy, set, <u>go</u>!

ALL BOYS: See the numbers <u>grow</u>!

<u>Af</u>ter you have <u>heard</u> these rules,

ALL: You'll <u>be</u> "in the <u>know</u>"!

ALL BOYS: Number <u>FOUR</u>…

(All readers hold up four fingers as FOUR is said above. (Sound effect: drum, flute, ukulele intro, or anything that works for your group, sounds just before – or after - the following line is said):

ALL GIRLS: **Be brave!**

SOLO READER : You have the right ***not*** to answer email or other messages that make you feel scared! You'll have to be ***brave*** to do this.

SOLO READER : If you get an inappropriate message that doesn't feel right, be ***brave*** *– and don't answer it.*

SOLO READER : Show the message to your parents or another trusted adult!

ALL: **Be brave,** *(clap, clap)* **and pass it on!**

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