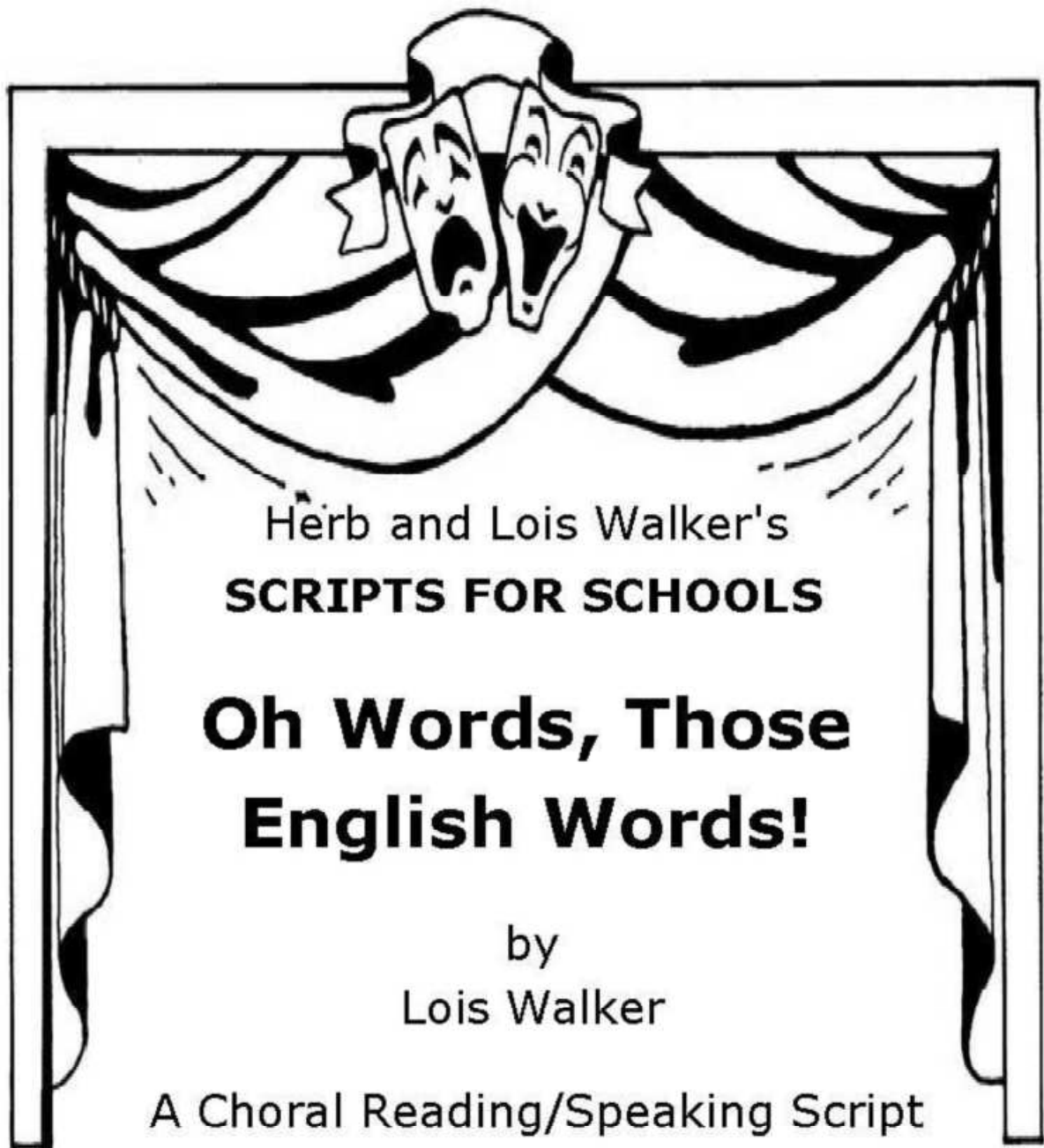




Scripts for Schools

Oh Words,
Those English Words!
Choral Reading/Speaking Script
for Interim/Advanced Readers

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Herb and Lois Walker's
SCRIPTS FOR SCHOOLS

Oh Words, Those English Words!

by
Lois Walker

A Choral Reading/Speaking Script
for Intermediate/Advanced
School Readers

www.scriptsforschools.com

Oh Words, Those English Words!

A Choral Reading/Speaking Script for Older Readers

NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR: This piece is a light-hearted look at HOMOPHONES. The dictionary defines them as: One of two or more words, such as *night* and *knight*, that are pronounced the same but differ in meaning, origin, and sometimes spelling.

Because these homophones must make the life of an EFL or ESL student very frustrating, I thought it might be fun to create a choral reading/speaking script that enables students to poke fun at these dreaded homophones while also learning some of them in the process.

VISUALS: The script calls for special prop people (**Sign Holder 1 and Sign Holder 2**) to hold up signs showing the audience the spellings of the English homophones as they are spoken in the script. You might also consider adding a "PowerPoint" presentation showing the words and/or drawings illustrating each word on a projection screen. These would also be seen at the appropriate times as mentioned below in the script.

ESTABLISHING THE RHYTHM: To find the proper rhythm, first read-aloud and clap through the piece 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. **MP3 FILE:** if you have trouble establishing the rhythm, email Lois and she will email you an mp3 sound file to help you establish the proper beat. (loiswalker@hotmail.com).

FORMATTING: Reading parts for this piece are formatted for ALL GIRL VOICES, ALL BOY VOICES, ALL, AND 12 SOLO VOICES. (**NOTE:** *You do not necessarily need 12 solo readers to perform this script. If you don't have that many, simply divide the solo lines between the readers you do have*).

ALL CHORUS: A repetitive chorus is included so that students who are having trouble with the English language can join together with others (in a non-threatening way) and at least learn the repetitive chorus as it is read in unison with others. This chorus is repeated a number of times during the reading so that all readers will be busy and remain involved throughout the performance. Students who are more advanced in the English language can take on the solo reader parts.

THESE ARE THE 6 HOMOPHONES FEATURED IN THIS SCRIPT:

WRITE/RIGHT

TO/TWO/TOO

SELL/CELL

BYE/BUY/BY

EIGHT/ATE

KNOW/NO

ALL CHORUS: Words. English words!
 So many of them sound the same,
 But don't mean the same -
 Please explain!
 If we're confused, then who's to blame?
 Oh words, those English words!

ALL GIRL VOICES: Those annoying, words are homophones.

ALL BOY VOICES: Now there's a word that's quite unknown!

(**SIGN HOLDER 1** holds up large sign *saying* **WRITE**).

SOLO VOICE 1: So, WRITE it down. Don't ask me how.

(**SIGN HOLDER 2** holds up large sign saying **RIGHT**).

SOLO VOICE 2: Don't worry, I'll do that RIGHT now!

(Keep signs up and wave them around during chorus below):

ALL CHORUS: Words. English words!
 So many of them sound the same,
 But don't mean the same -
 Please explain!

(Signs down, in unison, as sign holders shake their heads and shrug their shoulders in dismay).

ALL: If we're confused, then who's to blame?
Oh words, those English words!

ALL BOY VOICES: And how about that little word **TO**?

ALL GIRL VOICES: It will drive us crazy...

ALL BOY VOICES: That's what it will do.

(Sign Holder 1 holds up signs saying **TWO** and **TO**)

SOLO VOICE 3: Because if **TWO** of us go **TO** the beach with you,

(Sign Holder 2 holds up sign saying **TOO**)

SOLO VOICE 4: (*Unhappily*) My sister and her friends might come along **TOO**!

(Keep signs up and wave them around during chorus below):

ALL CHORUS: Words. English words!
 So many of them sound the same,
 But don't mean the same -
 Please explain!

(Signs down, in unison, as sign holders shake their heads and shrug their shoulders in dismay).

ALL: If we're confused, then who's to blame?
 Oh words, those English words!

ALL GIRL VOICES: So forget the beach! Let's go to the shops.

ALL BOY VOICES: We'll shop 'til we drop...

ALL GIRL VOICES: Make plenty of stops!

(Sign Holder 1 holds up sign saying **SELL**)

SOLO VOICE 5: Those vendors all have lots to **SELL**.

(Sign Holder 2 holds up sign saying **CELL**)

SOLO VOICE 6: If I see something great, I'll call your **CELL**!

ALL CHORUS: Words. English words!
 So many of them sound the same,
 But don't mean the same -
 Please explain!

(Signs down, in unison, as sign holders shake their heads and shrug their shoulders in dismay).

ALL: If we're confused, then who's to blame?
 Oh words, those English words!

ALL GIRL VOICES: Stay right beside me. We'll spend our cash.

ALL BOYS VOICES: That cash will be gone in just a flash!

(Sign Holder 1 holds up 2 signs saying **BY** and **BUY**)

SOLO VOICE 7: Stick **BY** my side. We'll buy, buy, **BUY**.

(Sign Holder 2 holds up sign saying **BYE**)

SOLO VOICE 8: When our cash is gone, we'll heave a sigh...

SOLO 7,8: And then wave **BYE**.