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QUIET, PLEASE

CHARACTERS: CHICKENS: "Bawk-bawk"
PIGS: "Snort, oink"
POLICEMAN: "Go this way!"
BOYS: "Ha, ha, ha!"

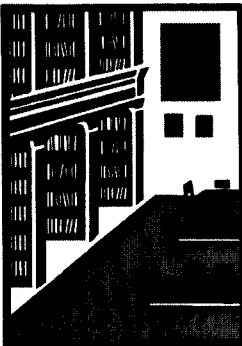
DUCKS: "Quack-quack"
FIRE TRUCK: "Woo-woo"
DOG: "Woof-woof"
LIBRARIAN: (ALL) "Quiet, Please!"

PARTICIPATION: Divide the class into 7 groups, and assign each group a role. Whenever a group hears the name of its character each member of that group makes the appropriate noise. Additionally, all audience members respond to the word "LIBRARIAN".

Allow the groups to practice their various parts before beginning the story. When reading the story for a "performance", pause when a character is mentioned. If necessary, point to the appropriate group to help students remember to do their parts.

VOCABULARY: distant, approached, intersection, glare, crates, slam, outskirts, disturbance, proper, overturned, startled, energetic, occasional, frantically, boisterously, halt, tailgate

It was a beautiful spring afternoon in the sleepy little town of Pleasantville. The only sounds to be heard were the distant siren of a FIRE TRUCK, ("Woo, woo") the far away barking of a DOG, ("Woof, woof") and the occasional whistle of the POLICEMAN ("Go *this way!*") at the town's main intersection.



Inside the library someone turned a page too loudly and the grouchy LIBRARIAN (---) said, "Sssh!!" Yes, all was peaceful in the sleepy little town of Pleasantville.

Back outside on the main road at the outskirts of the town a farmer was driving his animals to market. Each time he hit a bump, the PIGS (---) grunted, the CHICKENS (---) squawked and the DUCKS (---) quacked.

Suddenly two BOYS (---) appeared on the street. They were laughing loudly and marching as they went along. When they reached the center of town the POLICEMAN (---) blew his whistle to let them cross his intersection. Still laughing, the BOYS (---) marched to the library and right up the steps. The grouchy LIBRARIAN (---) looked up quickly and said, "Sssh!!"

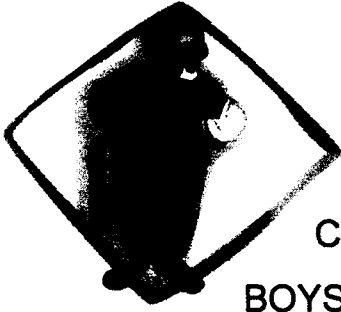
Each BOY (---) took a book, and then sat down at a table to read. After a few minutes one of them looked around the library and said, "Do they have video games here?" The grouchy LIBRARIAN (---) glared at the BOYS. (---)

Outside the POLICEMAN (---) blew his whistle as the farmer's truck approached the intersection. At exactly the same moment the DOG (---) ran out into the street. The farmer slammed on his brakes and there was a loud squeal as his truck slammed to a halt. Down went the tail gate of the truck and out tumbled the PIGS. (---) The old wooden crates burst open and suddenly out flew all the CHICKENS (---) and the DUCKS. (---) The wildly barking DOG (---) began an energetic chase.

The frightened, grunting PIGS (---) ran up the library steps. They were closely followed by squawking CHICKENS, (---) quacking DUCKS (---) and the yelping DOG. (---) The grouchy LIBRARIAN (---) was so startled that she only had time to let out one "SSSH!" before a CHICKEN (---) flew into her face.

The BOYS (---) jumped right out of their seats and started chasing the animals, trying to catch them. The POLICEMAN (---) ran in blowing his whistle frantically. Across the street old Mrs. Terwilliger saw the disturbance and called for the FIRE TRUCKS. (---)

In the next moment in the usually quiet library of the sleepy little town of Pleasantville, these things were happening: The PIGS (---) were grunting, the CHICKENS (---) were clucking loudly, the DUCKS (---) were quacking boisterously, the BOYS (---) were laughing and hollering, the siren on the FIRE TRUCK (---) was screaming, the POLICEMAN (---) was blowing his whistle, and the grouchy LIBRARIAN (---) was hopelessly saying over and over again, "SSSH! SSSH!!!" And for awhile at least, all of these sounds were being heard at the very same time. (*CUE EVERYBODY.*)



But this story has a happy ending because somehow, just one short hour later, the farmer had caught all of the PIGS, (---) the DUCKS (---) and the CHICKENS, (---) and they were all back in his truck; the BOYS (---) and the DOG (---) had gone home for supper; and the FIRE TRUCK (---) was back in the station house. Once again, the POLICEMAN (---) was standing on his corner calmly watching the traffic. Once again, everything was peaceful in the sleepy little town of Pleasantville.

And the grouchy LIBRARIAN? (---) Well, she looked around the library at the floating feathers, the muddy floor, the mixed up books, the overturned tables and the broken chair, and all of a sudden, the always quiet, usually proper, but still grouchy LIBRARIAN (---) SCREAMED! (*CUE EVERYBODY TO SCREAM.*)