

## SAMPLE PAGES:

CH-83 The Bully-Busters

By Lois Walker

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## DIRECTOR NOTES:

## ESTABLISHING THE RHYTHM

To find the proper rhythm for this rhyming 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 temp, volume, inflection, and expression.

## READERS THEATER/CHORAL READING

This piece has been formatted for ALL CHORUS, ALL GIRL VOICES, ALL BOY VOICES, and 15 SOLO VOICES. Note: An unformatted version of the story is also included so that you may do your own formatting and assign reading parts in any way that works best for your reading group.

## RESEARCH

Research into this topic came from "KidsHealth: Dealing With Bullies" online at: <http://kidshealth.org/kid/feeling/emotion/bullies.html>

In this script four "Bully-Buster" ways of dealing with bullies are mentioned:

1. Avoid the bullies.
2. When confronted, stand tall and stay strong.
3. Keep friends close: There is safety in numbers.
4. Tell an adult and keep telling until something is done about the problem.

## THE PROBLEM

ALL: They push, they scare, they grab, make fun,  
They smack you hard and then they run.

ALL BOYS: They hit, they kick, they hurt, they tease.

SOLO 1: It's like they have a strange disease!

ALL GIRLS: They always have mean things to say.

ALL BOYS: Now why do bullies act that way?

## CHORUS

ALL: The answer's still a mystery,  
For bullies throughout history  
Have been the same – we know it's so...

SOLO 2: The time has come to "just say NO!"

ALL GIRLS: So I will be a bully-buster.  
A brave and fearless world adjuster.  
I want to strike them quite a blow  
By taking charge and saying "NO!"

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ALL: They cut in line, they make you wait,  
Make fun of you, humiliate.

ALL GIRLS: They threaten, gossip, sneer, and frown.

SOLO 3: They come on strong and put you down!

ALL BOYS: They call you names, they won't obey.

ALL GIRLS: Now why do bullies act that way?

#### CHORUS

ALL: The answer's still a mystery,  
For bullies throughout history  
Have been the same – we know it's so...

SOLO 4: The time has come to "just say NO!"

ALL BOYS: So I will be a bully-buster.  
A brave and fearless world adjuster.  
I want to strike them quite a blow  
By taking charge and saying "NO!"

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ALL: And after school – if you're alone,  
They'll stop you as you walk on home,

ALL BOYS: They'll laugh at you and take your stuff,

SOLO 5: And act real tough or act real rough!

ALL GIRLS: They don't care what you have to say.

ALL BOYS: Now why do bullies act that way?

#### CHORUS

ALL: The answer's still a mystery,  
For bullies throughout history  
Have been the same – we know it's so...

SOLO 6: The time has come to "just say NO!"

ALL GIRLS: So I will be a bully-buster.  
A brave and fearless world adjuster.  
I want to strike them quite a blow  
By taking charge and saying "NO!"

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ALL:                   Then during games, they leave you out,  
They lose their tempers, scream and shout,

ALL GIRLS:           Make fun of you, accuse and blame,

SOLO 7:               They always, always cause you pain!

ALL BOYS:           They behave like birds of prey.

ALL GIRLS:           Now why do bullies act that way?

#### CHORUS

ALL:                   The answer's still a mystery,  
For bullies throughout history  
Have been the same – we know it's so...

SOLO 8:               The time has come to "just say NO!"

ALL GIRLS:           So I will be a bully-buster.  
A brave and fearless world adjuster.  
I want to strike them quite a blow  
By taking charge and saying "NO!"

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ALL:                   And when they stare and taunt or glower,  
                           Do they feel they're filled with power?

ALL BOYS:           And when they pick on someone small...

SOLO 9:              Does it make them feel real tall?

ALL GIRLS:          I guess it really makes their day!

ALL BOYS:           Is that why bullies act that way?

#### CHORUS

ALL:                   The answer's still a mystery,  
                           For bullies throughout history  
                           Have been the same – we know it's so...

SOLO 10:            The time has come to "just say NO!"

ALL GIRLS:          So I will be a bully-buster.  
                           A brave and fearless world adjuster.  
                           I want to strike them quite a blow  
                           By taking charge and saying "NO!"

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## THE BULLY-BUSTER PLAN

ALL BOYS: To bust those bullies, here's my plan:

SOLO 11: Avoid those bullies, if I can!

ALL GIRLS: If they head south, then I'll turn north -  
I'll keep my distance, back and forth.

ALL BOYS: But if I'm trapped, I will stand tall  
And send a message to them all:

SOLO 12: "Don't mess with me. Now run along!  
Because I'm feeling brave and strong"

CONTINUED...

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