

Let The Grandparents Do It!

By Lois Walker

ESTABLISHING THE RHYTHM

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

FORMATTING

This script is formatted for a number of SOLO READERS, ALL, and an ALL CHORUS. You may use the original 6 solo readers throughout the entire piece, or add any number of additional readers up to 22 readers. Simply pencil in the additional reader numbers below.

READER 1: When I was young, folks told my parents...

(Use your imagination and have fun interpreting the following line. The line is repeated throughout the script. You might try having the line said differently each time it is read).

READER 2: Beeeeeee careful, don't spoooooil **that baby!**

ALL READERS: Oh no!

READER 3: Don't cuddle that baby
Don't tickle, don't hug.

READER 4: Don't shower that baby
With too much love.

READER 5: Don't run to each cry,
Each hiccup and sigh.
Don't spoil that baby.

READER 6: That's all there is to it.

READER 5: Don't spoil that baby...

ALL: Let the grandparents do it!

ALL CHORUS: Who's the best of the family line?
Well, my grandparents just suit me fine.
They're top, top, top of the family tree
'Cause my grandparents are
Good to me!

READER 1: Then, when I was a little older, folks told my
parents...

READER 2: Beeeeeeeee careful, don't spoooooooil ***that toddler!***

ALL: Oh no!

READER Don't spoil that toddler
Who just started walking.

READER Don't make silly sounds
To encourage more talking.

READER Or kiss wounded knees
Just don't do it, please.

READER Some will say your toddler
Is sweet as ice cream.
Don't reply,

READER "We all knew it"...

ALL: Let the grandparents do it!

ALL CHORUS: Who's the best of the family line?
Well, my grandparents just suit me fine.
They're top, top, top of the family tree
'Cause my grandparents are
Good to me!

READER 1: On my first day of school, folks told my
 parents...

READER 2: Beeeeeeee careful, don't spoooooil ***that***
 youngster!

ALL: Oh no!

READER Then kindergarten!
 Now, on the first day...

READER Don't look worried,
 Or filled with dismay.

READER Don't get weepy,
 And say something creepy.

READER When teacher finally
 Shows you the door...

READER Don't bravely walk through it...

ALL: Let the grandparents do it!

ALL CHORUS: Who's the best of the family line?
Well, my grandparents just suit me fine.
They're top, top, top of the family tree
'Cause my grandparents are
Good to me!

READER 1: And, as I grew older, folks told my parents...

READER 2: Beeeeeeee careful, don't spoooooil ***that***
child!

ALL: Oh no!

READER Don't share those stories
Of long ago

READER About how to love
And how to grow,

READER Or memories to keep,
Sweet dreams for sleep.

READER Those kinds of stories
Stick like glue.

READER You don't have to glue it...