

THE BOOK PARADE!



A short 15-20 minute musical play for ages 5-11
to promote the importance of reading!

A fantastic, fun class assembly!
Particularly suitable as an item to enhance your “Book Week!”

**No musical ability needed. A CD accompanies this play. Just sing along to the song.
Or use a pianist if preferred. A basic melody-line score is provided free of charge.**

Lots of other easy musical plays available from
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Synopsis/ Teacher's Notes : The books in a library are squabbling about who is the most important book in the library. And they are grumbling because they are hardly ever taken off the shelves! They decide to go on a march to show everyone how important and valuable they are! The play features a lengthy song "The Book Parade" with unison singing, individual parts and plenty of marching action. All the children in the class should take part in the "book parade". Depending on the size of the class, you must decide whether they do this all at once or in groups.

Includes 2 audio tracks:

- Track 1: "The Book Parade"with vocals
- Track 2 "The Book Parade"without vocals

Optional: You can customize this play, depending on the talents in the class. For instance, if you have a ballet "expert" she can dress as a ballet instruction book and give a brief ballet demonstration. The same applies to children who are "experts" in other areas e.g. football, swimming, other sports, photography, martial arts, boxing, scouting, playing the trumpet etc etc.

Costumes/ Scenery : The children wear colourful "Sandwich boards" made of cardboard, depicting a range of fiction and non-fiction book covers, magazines, comics, newspapers etc. You need to make these in an art lesson beforehand! Alternatively, the children can carry "Big Books" around the stage. No scenery is needed, but a selection of "Big Books" could be displayed on stage.

Cast:

Narrator.....

Children dressed as:

Story Book.....**Animal Book**

History Book..... **Science Book**.....

Transport Book..... **Dictionary**.....

Encyclopaedia..... **Poetry Book**

ABC book.....**Cookery Book**

Joke Book

N.B. The rest of the class are dressed as books of their choice, or as characters from books. They march in the book parade and sing!

THE BOOK PARADE

(All the "books" are "asleep" onstage. Each book wakes as it is introduced.)

Narrator: Good morning and welcome to our assembly. It's all about books and how important they are! One day in the school library, all the books were snoozing on the shelves. There were so many wonderful wonderful books! For instance, there were story books....

Story book: I'm the best book in this library! I'm full of fantastic adventure stories for you to enjoy!

Narrator: There were history books.....

History Book: I'm full of facts about Kings and Queens! I'm the best book! You can learn all about the past if you read me!

Narrator: There were animal books!

Animal Book: I'm the best book, actually! I am full of pictures of animals! Elephants! Cats! Dogs! Crocodiles! Anteaters! Insects! Spiders! Borrow me from the library! I am the best!

Narrator: There were science books!

Science Book: That's right! I'm the best book, of course. If you read me you will know all about computers and inventions!

Narrator: There were books about transport!

Transport Book: (to audience) Put your hand up if you like cars! Planes! Buses! See! I knew I was the most popular book!

Narrator: There were dictionaries!

Dictionary: No you're not the most popular book! I am! I've got every word you will ever need! I'm a dictionary! Everybody needs me!

Narrator: There were encyclopaedias!

Encyclopaedia: Excuse me, but everybody knows that I'm the best book around here! I'm an encyclopaedia. I am full of knowledge. **(To audience)** Everybody say "encyclopaedia" **(Audience complies)** See! I'm so full of knowledge, I just taught all these children a new word!

Narrator: There were poetry books!

Poetry Book: I am obviously the most talented book of all! I have poems and rhymes from all over the world. **(Optional: read a short poem of your choice)** Oh, yes, I am obviously the most important book of all.

Narrator: There were ABC books!

ABC book: Let's make it quite clear, shall we? I'm the best book! I can teach you the alphabet! **(to audience)** Help me with the alphabet everyone! **(All: Sing or recite the alphabet)**

Narrator: There were cookery books!

Cookery Book: Where would you be without me? I'm the most important book! I can teach you to cook! Oh yes, I'm rather dishy, actually!

Narrator: There were joke books!

Joke Book: I'm a book of jokes. The best book you can buy! **(to audience)** Have you heard these jokes....**(Tell two jokes of your choice)**

Narrator: Books books books! Of all shapes and sizes! Books for pleasure! Books for fun! Books for information! But all they can do is squabble and argue! **(Books squabble and argue- "I'm the best", "I'm the most important" etc.)**

Narrator: (to books) Stop arguing! You are ALL important! You are ALL valuable! You are just not very clever that's all!

All Books: What do you mean?

Narrator: Well, you should stop squabbling and work together! Children are forgetting how marvellous you all are!

Animal Book: It's true! I hardly ever get taken off the shelves! Everybody watches animals on the television these days!

Cookery Book: That's right! They even watch cookery programmes and leave me on the shelf! And I am so dishy!

Encyclopaedia: I'm all dusty! Nobody borrows me! Everyone uses the internet. It's not fair! I've got such a lot to offer!

Story Book: Children are forgetting how brilliant my stories are!

Dictionary: (to audience, fiercely) Yeah! So get off your playstations! Get off your X-boxes! Switch off the television! Get off the internet! Get a book from the library instead!!!!

Poetry Book: I know! Let's go on a march! A demonstration of how good we all are!

All: Yes!!!!

***** **SONG: The Book Parade** *****

END OF SCRIPT SAMPLE

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