

Hiccups

A one-act play for children

By Douglas Evans



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CAST OF CHARACTERS

TEACHER, teacher in third-grade classroom

JENNY, third-grade girl with hiccups

CHELSEA, third-grade girl

MARCUS, third-grade boy

RILEY, third-grade girl

HARPER, third-grade girl

ROGER, third-grade boy

DRAKE, third-grade boy

SETTINGS

Modern third-grade classroom during silent reading time

PRODUCTION NOTES

CHARACTERS: 8 characters 4 female 4 male

PLAYING TIME: 15 minutes

PROPS: 6 reading books
6 student desks
Teacher desk

SETTING:
Modern third-grade classroom
during silent reading time

COSTUMES: All students wear modern school clothing
TEACHER, usual teacher clothing

LIGHTING: no special lighting

SOUND: no special sounds

MUSIC: no special music

SCENE 1

Time: Morning.

Setting: Modern third-grade classroom.

At Rise: Six student desks stand in two neat rows center stage. Desks face a teacher's desk stage right.

(Students sit at desks reading silently. TEACHER sits at her desk grading papers. JENNY in the first row starts to hiccup loudly.)

JENNY

(covers mouth with hand)

Hiccup! Hiccup! Ack! I've got the hiccups. Hiccup! Hiccup! Hiccups are weird. They come out of nowhere! Hiccup! Hiccup! And you never know when they'll go away. Hiccup!

TEACHER

(looking up from desk)

JENNY, if you have the hiccups, go to the sink and get a drink. Gulp nine times. Not eight. Not ten. That's my sure cure for hiccups. Nine gulps always work.

JENNY

Hiccup! Hiccup! OK. Sure. Hiccup!

(JENNY walks to an imaginary sink stage left and takes a long drink. She gulps nine times and returns to seat.)

JENNY (CONT'D)

Hiccup! Hiccup! Ack! Nine gulps didn't work. Hiccup! Hiccup! I still have the hiccups. Hiccup!

TEACHER

(surprised)

Really? My hiccup cure never fails. Are you sure you swallowed nine times. Not eight or ten?

JENNY

(nodding)

I counted. But wait.

(She holds up a finger and pauses)

JENNY (CONT'D)

Yes, maybe they are gone. But hiccups can be sneaky! Just when you think they're over. *Hiccup! Hiccup!*

(She sighs.)

JENNY (CONT'D)

They're back again. *Hiccup!*

CHELSEA

(raising hand)

Jenny, I know a cure for hiccups. You should spin around until you're dizzy. That always works for me. Stand up and spin. It scrambles up the hiccups and makes them stop.

JENNY

(shrugging)

OK, I'll give it a try. *Hiccup!*

(JENNY stands and turns around and around. She plops back down in her seat dizzy.)

JENNY (CONT'D)

Hiccup! Nope, spinning didn't work either. *Hiccup! Hiccup!* And now the whole room is going around and around. *Hiccup!*

CHELSEA

Well spinning always works for me. I never hiccup after I spin.

(MARCUS quietly stands up from the desk behind JENNY's. He raises arms and leans over.)

MARCUS

(loudly)

Boo! Boo!

(Jenny jumps an inch)

MARCUS (CONT'D)

Did I scare you? Did I? That's the trick. You spook the hiccups right out of somebody.

JENNY

(slumping in chair)

Hiccup! Hiccup! You scared me, all right, Marcus. Just not my hiccups. *Hiccup!*

MARCUS

(leans forward again)

Boo! Boo! Did *that* work?

JENNY

(shaking head)

Hiccup! Nope. Hiccups still there. *Hiccup!* And stop creeping up on me.

RILEY

(waving hand)

I know a better hiccup cure, Jenny. Hold your nose and jump up and down. That's what my mom tells me to do. I hold my nose and hop.

JENNY

(standing)

Hiccup! OK, here goes. *Hiccup! Hiccup!*

(JENNY hops while pinching nose.
She sits back down, exhausted.)

JENNY (CONT'D)

Hiccup! Ack! No luck! Jumping up and down? Forget it. *Hiccup!* Now I'm even more tired. *Hiccup! Hiccup!*

(She pauses to think.)

JENNY (CONT'D)

What's the point of hiccups anyway? What good does hiccupping do do? *Hiccup! Hiccup!* I understand why we cough. And I get sneezing. But hiccups? They make no sense at all. *Hiccup!*

HARPER

(turns toward JENNY)

You should run in place, Jenny. Ta-daa! No more hiccups. Lift your knees high and go as fast as you can.

ROGER

(turns toward JENNY)

No, no, do ten toe touches. It never fails. Bend over and touch your toes ten times!

JENNY

(standing)

Hiccup! OK, OK. Running in place and toe touches here I go.
Hiccup!

(JENNY runs in place and does toe touches. She runs again, and does more toe touches. She sits down more tired than ever.)

JENNY (CONT'D)

Hiccup! Hiccup! Anything else? *Hiccup! Hiccup!* Any more crazy hiccup cures? *Hiccup! Hiccup!*

DRAKE

Do twenty jumping jacks, JENNY. That's my number one hiccup cure.

(JENNY stands and starts doing jumping jacks.)

TEACHER

Try taking nine more gulps. Not eight or ten but nine.

(JENNY gets a drink at the imaginary fountain and gulps nine times. She returns to desk, still hiccuping. She resumes her jumping jacks.)

CHELSEA

Try spinning some more. That's gotta work.

(JENNY spins again.)

MARCUS

(raising arms behind JENNY)

Boo! Boo! There, that did it. I spooked the hiccups right out of you.

JENNY

(still spinning)

Nope, I don't think so.

RILEY

Jump up and down again while holding your nose.

(JENNY holds nose and hops.)

TAMMY

Run in place. Keep running in place.

(JENNY runs in place.)

ROGER

Do more toe touches. Try twenty this time.

(JENNY does more toe touches. She spins again, runs in place, and does more jumping jacks. Finally, she falls into her chair.)

JENNY

(breathing hard)

I don't know what's worse, hiccuping or doing all those hiccup cures. Hiccup!

(JENNY places her head on the desktop.)

TEACHER

(after a pause)

Listen! It's quiet. I think Jenny's hiccups are gone at last. My nine-gulp cure worked after all. So, class, let's get back to reading.

(Students start reading their books again.)

CHELSEA

You know, I bet it was my spinning cure that stopped Jenny's hiccups, not the gulping.

MARCUS

Wrong. My spooking did the trick.

TAMMY

No way. Running in place was the cure.

ROGER

Toe touches! That's what did it!

DRAKE

Sorry, doing jumping jacks cured her hiccups. It always does.

TEACHER

(looking toward Jenny)

You know, class, maybe *all* our hiccup cures worked. Poor Jenny. Look at her. We tired her out so much...she's fallen asleep.

LIGHTS DOWN

END OF PLAY