

Hiccups

A one act play for children

By Douglas Evans



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CAST OF CHARACTERS

TEACHER, teacher in third-grade classroom

ELEANOR, girl with hiccups

BARNABY, third-grade boy

MAXWELL, third-grade boy

JENNY, third-grade boy

TAMMY, third-grade boy

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: 10 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, sweater, long skirt

LIGHTING: no special lightning

SOUND: no special sounds

MUSIC: no special music

SCENE 1

Time: Morning.

Setting: Modern third-grade classroom. Six student desks stand in two rows facing a teacher's desk.

At Rise: students sit at desks reading. TEACHER sits at her desk grading papers.

(ELEANOR in the first row starts to hiccup.)

ELEANOR

(covers mouth with hand)

Hiccup! Hiccup! Hiccups are weird. They just come for no reason at all.

TEACHER

(looking up from desk)

Eleanor, go to the sink and get a drink. Gulp nine times. That will cure your hiccups.

ELEANOR

Hiccup! Hiccup! OK. Hiccup!

(Eleanor walks to imaginary sink and takes a long drink. She gulps nine times. She sits back down but she's still hiccuping.)

ELEANOR

Oh! Oh! Hiccup! Hiccup! Oh! Hiccup! Gulping didn't work.

TEACHER

(to Eleanor)

Oh dear, my hiccup cure has never failed before. Are you sure you swallowed nine times. Not eight or ten?

ELEANOR

(nodding)

Hiccup! Hiccup! Oh! Oh! How do I get rid of these hiccups? Hiccup! Hiccup!

BARNABY

(raising his hand)

I have a hiccup cure. She should spin around until she's dizzy. That always works for me. Stand up and spin, Eleanor.

(Eleanor stands up from her desk and turns around and around. She sits down dizzy.)

ELEANOR

Hiccup! Hiccup! Spinning didn't work either. *Hiccup! Hiccup!* I'm still hiccuping. *Hiccup! Hiccup!* Oh! Oh! What should I do?

(MAXWELL quietly stands up from desk behinds Eleanor's. He raises arms and leans over Eleanor)

MAXWELL

Boo! Boo! Did I scare you, Eleanor? Did I? Spooking people always makes the hiccups go away.

ELEANOR

Hiccup! Hiccup! Spooking didn't work either. *Hiccup! Hiccup!* I'm still hiccuping. *Hiccup! Hiccup!* Oh! Oh! How do I make these hiccups go away?

JENNY

(raising hand)

I know how. You should jump up and down while holding your nose, Eleanor. That's what my mom tells me to do. Hold my nose and jump up and down.

ELEANOR

Hiccup! Hiccup! OK, I'll try it. *Hiccup! Hiccup!* Anything to get rid of these hiccups. *Hiccup! Hiccup!*

(Eleanor stands up from her desk. She hold her nose and jumps up and down. She sits back down exhausted.)

ELEANOR

Hiccup! Hiccup! Jumping up and down didn't work either. *Hiccup! Hiccup!* I'm still hiccuping. *Hiccup! Hiccup!* Oh! Now my hiccups are worse than ever. *Hiccup! Hiccup!*

TAMMY

You should run in place, Eleanor. That always works for me.

ROGER

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

ELEANOR

(standing from desk)

Hiccup! Hiccup! Whatever! *Hiccup! Hiccup!* Anything to get rid of these hiccups. *Hiccup! Hiccup!*

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

ELEANOR

Hiccup! Hiccup! Running and toe touches didn't work either. *Hiccup! Hiccup!* I'm still hiccuping. *Hiccup! Hiccup!* Oh! I'll do anything to get rid of these hiccups? *Hiccup! Hiccup!*

DRAKE

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

(Eleanor stands and starts doing jumping jacks.)

TEACHER

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

(Eleanor stops doing jumping jacks. She get a drink at the imaginary and gulps nine times. She returns to desk, still hiccuping. She resumes her jumping jacks.)

BARNABY

Try spinning some more. That should work.

(Eleanor spins again.)

MAXWELL

(raising arms behind Eleanor)

Boo! Boo! Are you sure spooking you doesn't cure your hiccups?

(Eleanor jolts and keeps spinning.)

JENNY

Jump up and down again while holding your nose.

(Eleanor holds nose and jumps up and down.)

TAMMY

Run in place. Keep running in place.

(Eleanor runs in place.)

ROGER

Do more toe touches. That's gotta work.

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

ELEANOR

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

(Eleanor places head on desk.)

TEACHER

I guess my cure worked. The room is quiet. Now class, please go back to reading.

BARNABY

Teacher, I think my spinning cured Eleanor's hiccups.

MAXWELL

No, spooking was the cure.

JENNY

I'm sorry, but my cure did the trick.

TAMMY

No, no running in place cured the hiccups.

ROGER

No way, my toe touching cure worked best.

DRAKE

Obviously, doing jumping jacks cured the hiccups. It always does.

TEACHER

(calling to Eleanor who still
has head on desk)

Eleanor? Eleanor? Oh, dear. You know what, class, I think all our hiccup cures worked. I think our cures exhausted Eleanor so much, she's gone to sleep.

End of Play