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RADIO PLAYS FOR TAPING
Teacher’s Guide

Tape recording plays is an important tool for improving the oral and aural skills of students. This type of resource places the focus sharply on expressive, rather than silent, reading. Too often the silent reader simply processes printed information and misses the subtleties possible in the intonational character of the spoken word. Practice with scripts serves to remind students that the spoken word is, after all, the basic foundation for comprehending written language.

Because it is group work, and because it is entertaining, students enjoy this activity, but while they are having a good time, the teacher can work with them on diction, pace of delivery, intonation, oral emphasis, mood and the significance of punctuation signals.

EQUIPMENT

A reel-to-reel tape recorder is best for this work because, unlike the cassette recorder, the reel-to-reel recorder allows for more precision when students want to correct a mistake they have made or find a particular spot in the tape. Sound effects records are available through various catalogs, but many effects can be invented on short notice. Saying, “Bang! Bang!” by the way, is funnier than the sound of a recorded gunshot. A mike stand is useful because it frees the actors’ hands to turn the page on a script, but a bit of tape can be used along with wood to fashion a make-shift mike stand.

AUDIENCE

The peer group is a vital part of this learning activity. Tapes should be played for various classes and might even be played over the school intercom. Knowing that a ready-made audience is waiting heightens a performing group’s desire to do well, their readiness to accept instruction and help, and their willingness to work diligently.
Teacher's Guide (cont'd)

NOTE: This packet is designed to help the innovative teacher who wants to engage students in dramatic interpretive, oral expression. In too many cases material that can be found has a limited number of parts, too few for the average class load facing most teachers. This packet has 45 separate voices. There are 22 male parts and 10 female. 13 parts can be filled by either sex.
Radio Station Sign-On, Sign-Off

(Station Theme music-fast tempo instrumental-up, under, hold.)

ANNOUNCER:  It’s Station (School name or call letters)
on the air!

VOICE 1:  Did you flunk a test, though you did your
best?

VOICE 2:  Is the teacher on your case?

VOICE 3:  Does your mother glare at what you wear?

VOICE 4:  Do you feel like a social disgrace?

VOICE 1:  You give us a cheer and lend us your ear.

VOICE 2:  We’ll lessen your sense of despair.

VOICE 3:  Our programs are cool, the best in this
school.

VOICE 4:  We’re the best thing on the air!

(Theme down and fade as first program
theme fades up. Use two record players.)

SIGN-OFF

VOICE 1:  Well that’s it friends; our programming
ends.

VOICE 2:  It’s the end of our breakfast play.

VOICE 3:  But listen again and be here when . . .

VOICE 4:  You hear our announcer say.

ANNOUNCER:  It’s Station (School name or call letters)
on the air!

(Station theme fades out)
RADIO PROGRAM:  
Commercial For “Stuff”

CHORUS  
(To the tune of “Pope Goes The Weasel”)  
Whenever I am feeling low  
And life seems rather rough,  
I go to the store and spend my dough  
And buy a bunch of stuff.

ANNOUNCER:  Yes, friends, it’s STUFF! STUFF in a can, bag, or box. STUFF is the answer to your wash-day-woes. Unplug that greasy sink. Put STUFF in it! And if you’re one of the countless thousands who get up in the morning with that run-down feeling, STUFF is the answer. It’s STUFF for shinier floors and countertops; STUFF for irregularly, bad breath, and ringworm. Just listen to what Mrs. Ida Mae Mussup has to say about this miracle product:

IDA MAE:  Living in a cave is not all fun and roses, so when Mottley, your pet sheep, hurt his knee, I put some STUFF on it. Now my husband owns his own business.

ANNOUNCER:  There you have it, friends! STUFF! Made from the secret formula. (Whispering) H₂O plus other things. (Normal voice) STUFF for those hard-to-get-at places. And STUFF works in temperatures up to forty below zero. STUFF goes right on working, giving you instant relief while you sleep. Just ask Winthrop Harrison Wellington III.

WINTHROP:  Well, Mumsy had tied me to a chair at poolside, and I was sitting there playing
RADIO PROGRAM:
“Gun’s Fire”

(Western Theme music up, under, hold.)

ANNOUNCER: Return with us now to the days of broncos, buffaloes, bad guys and the sound of
(Pause) Gun’s Fire!
(Sound of a small war . . . fade.)
Dodge City, Kansas, 1878. A dry, dusty
day in July. Sheriff Fat Fasterson stands
in front of Miss Milly’s Wrong Branch
Saloon talking to old Doc.

FAT: Sure is a dry, dusty day in July, ain’t it, Doc?

DOC: Sure is, Fat, dry and dusty. Let’s go into
Miss Milly’s for a tall, cold one.

FAT: Good idea, Doc.
(Music of storm piano up, under for back-
ground.)

MILLY: Well Hi, Fat. Hi, Doc.

BOTH: Miss Milly. Howdy.

MILLY: Sure is a dry, dusty day for July.

BOTH: Yep, dry. Dusty.

MILLY: How about a tall, cold one?

BOTH: Sounds good. Fine.
(Use a gallon jug and pour forever)

MILLY: There y’are, Fat . . . Doc. Oh, here comes

FESTER: Fat, I got the stable cleaned and your

horse washed.

FAT: Good work, Fester. Have a tall, cold one?

FESTER: Sounds good on a dry, dusty day in July.
(Sound of jug is repeated)

MILLY: There y’are, Fester. Oh, here comes old