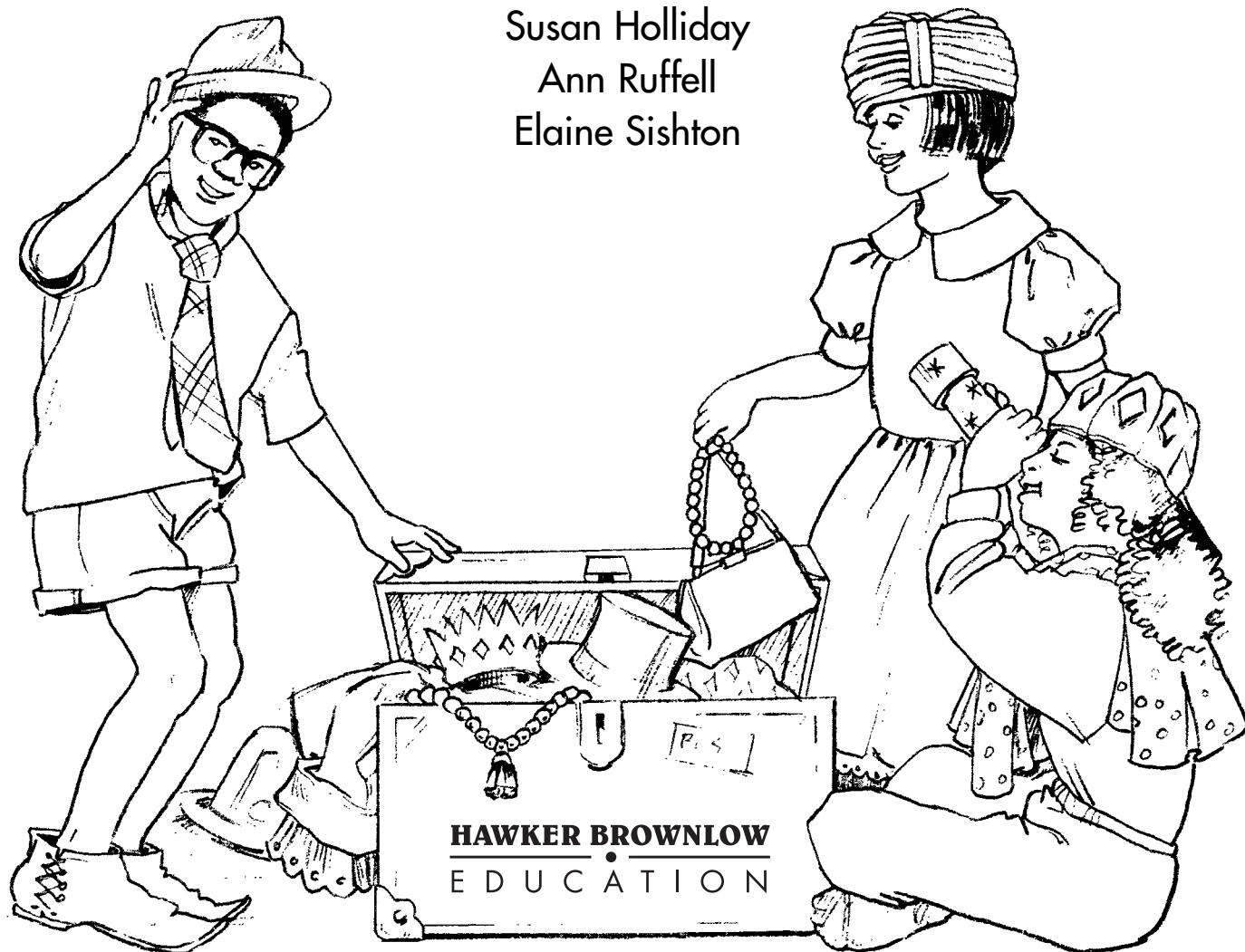
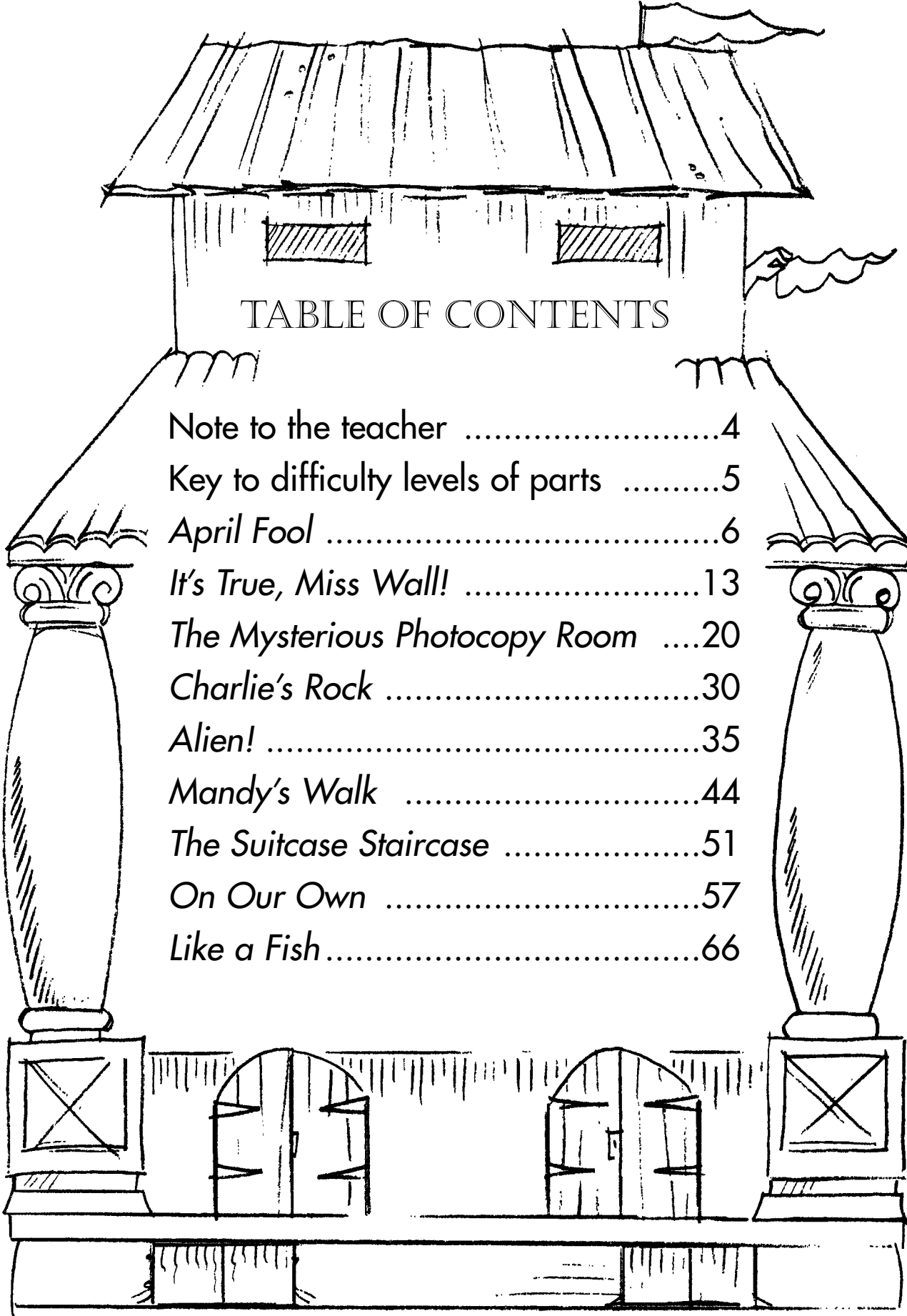


Level 1

# READERS' THEATRE

Michael Coleman  
Jacqui Farley  
Susan Holliday  
Ann Ruffell  
Elaine Sishton





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# APRIL FOOL

by Michael Coleman



## CHARACTERS

**Annie:** Ringleader of the group; sneaky; very good at getting people to do what she wants them to do

**Joe:** A bit of a joker; very bright, but good at acting dumb

**Roz:** Excitable; she follows Annie's lead at all times

**Spud:** Friendly; likes to do a good job

**Miss Brown:** Serious; has a very loud, stern voice

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### SCENE 1: **The school bus**

*Four chairs are arranged as if they were seats on the bus. Annie and Joe enter as though they are boarding the bus. They hurry to sit on two of the seats.*

**Annie:** Hey, Joe. Do you know what day it is tomorrow?

**Joe:** Friday. Yes!

**Annie:** I know it's Friday, but what's special about this Friday?

**Joe:** There's no school the next day!

**Annie:** The date, Joe! I mean, what's the date tomorrow?

**Joe:** I don't know. What's the date today?

**Annie:** March thirty-first.

**Joe:** Then tomorrow will be the day after!

**Annie:** *(Annoyed)* Of course it will be the day after! But what day? What day is it?

**Joe:** Friday.

*Annie, unable to see that he's been teasing her, pretends to punch Joe in the arm. Defending himself, Joe adds quickly...*

**Joe:** I know, I know! It's April first! I knew the whole time!

*Annie hits Joe anyway, but gently. They lurch forward as if the bus has just stopped. Roz now enters and comes back to sit on one of the seats.*

**Roz:** Hey! You know what day it is tomorrow, don't you?

**Joe:** *(Still laughing)* I do.

**Annie:** So do I! Here's what I've been trying to figure out: what are we going to do?

**Roz:** That's just what I was going to say. What April Fool's tricks are we going to play this year?

**Annie:** Good question.

**Joe:** And who are we going to play the tricks on?

**Annie:** An even better question!

*The three of them lurch forward as if the bus has stopped once again. Spud now enters. He calls from the front of the bus.*

**Spud:** Good morning, guys!

*Annie, Joe and Roz look at each other and smile.*

**Annie:** Of course!

**Joe:** That's who.

**Roz:** The one we always play tricks on.

**Annie:** Good old Spud!

*Spud hurries to a free seat, He pretends to be driving the bus as it starts off.*

**Annie, Joe**

**& Roz:** Hi, Spud!

## SCENE 2: The classroom

*Later that morning. Four chairs are stage left, with a teacher's chair and table set apart, stage right. (Other chairs can be added and occupied, if desired.) Annie, Joe, Roz and Spud are seated. Joe leans over and grabs Spud's lunchbox.*

**Joe:** What do you have today, Spud?

**Annie:** Anything good?

**Roz:** Anything we like?

**Spud:** Peanut butter. I love peanut butter!

**Joe:** So do I.

**Roz:** Me, too!

**Annie:** Mmmm. In fact, it's so good I think you should share your sandwiches with us, Spud.

**Joe:** Yes. Share them, Spud.

**Spud:** No! Leave them alone! They're mine!

**Roz:** Come on, Spud. Don't be greedy.

*They grab Spud's sandwiches and eat them quickly.*

**Spud:** You're mean. All of you!

*Miss Brown enters and sits down on her chair.*

**Miss Brown:** Quiet, please! Now, who knows what day it is tomorrow?

**Joe, Annie,**

**Roz & Spud:** April Fool's Day!

**Miss Brown:** That's right. But I do not want to see any April Fool's tricks in my classroom.

**Annie:** *(Whispers)* Spud is a fool all year round!

**Miss Brown:** I do not want you playing tricks on each other.

**Roz:** Not even little tricks, Miss Brown?

**Miss Brown:** No! Now, please get on with your work.

*Miss Brown motions to Spud. He gets up and stands next to her as she goes over some work with him.*

**Joe:** How can we play a trick on Spud, then?

**Roz:** We'll get into trouble with Miss Brown if we do.

**Annie:** I know! I have the most brilliant idea! We'll play a trick on Spud.

**Joe:** But how?

**Annie:** By tricking him into playing a trick on Miss Brown!

*They gather in a huddle as the scene ends.*

**SCENE 3: The school bus**

*The children are going home after school. Annie, Joe, Roz and Spud are all seated.*

**Annie:** What April Fool's trick are you going to play on Miss Brown tomorrow, Spud?

**Spud:** Play a trick on Miss Brown? But she said we couldn't play tricks tomorrow.

**Roz:** She said we weren't allowed to play tricks on each other.

**Joe:** But we can play one on her!

**Annie:** So that's what we're going to do. I'm going to glue her coffee mug to her desk.

**Spud:** No!

**Roz:** And I'm going to cut a hole in her newspaper.

**Spud:** Wow!

**Joe:** And I'm going to put a tack on her chair.

**Spud:** Really?

**Annie:** What are you going to do, Spud?

**Spud:** Me?

**Roz:** We've all got our tricks to play on Miss Brown.

**Joe:** So you need to think of one too.

**Spud:** Right! OK, I will!

*They lurch forward as if the bus has stopped. Spud gets up and goes out.*

**Joe:** Don't forget, Spud!

**Annie:** I wonder what he'll say when he finds out I haven't glued Miss Brown's coffee mug to her desk?

**Roz:** And I haven't cut a hole in the newspaper!

**Joe:** And I haven't put a tack on her chair!

**Annie:** And he's the only one who's played an April Fool's trick on Miss Brown!

*They collapse with laughter.*