

Civil War Events Readers Theatre Script

Developed with Dr. Rosalind M. Flynn by Teachers attending The Peace Center for the Performing Arts, Greenville, SC Summer Teacher Institute 2005

- 1 Hi, and welcome to WAR News. Today is April 9, 1865.
All 1865?? [gesture]
2 We're waiting for news from inside the Appomattox Court House.
1 Let's see what led us to this point in the Civil War....
All [Sound effect and gesture to indicate traveling back in time]
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- 4 I'm live in Virginia at Bull Run in 1861.
All [sound effects--battle]
4 Why are you here fighting?
All At Bull Run, the very first battle of the Civil War? [gesture]
SOUTH Abraham Lincoln won the election; he's going to ruin the South! [gesture]
NORTH Well, those stubborn Southerners broke up our country by South Carolina seceding. [gesture]
4 Seceding? You mean to separate?
SOUTH [gesture—SOUTH steps aside] Yes, that's right.
4 So, who won the Battle of Bull Run?
SOUTH The South won! [gesture] [sound effect]
All [Sound effect and gesture to indicate traveling back in time]
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- 1 Now we're in DC at the capital in 1863. Let's listen in.
All [gesture]
2 Effective today, all slaves in the rebelling states are free.
All The Emancipation Proclamation freed many slaves.
1 Well, that changes things around here!
All [Sound effect and gesture to indicate traveling back in time]
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- 3 1863—Where are we now?
All Gettysburg, Pennsylvania
1 Big deal, what's so special about Gettysburg?
NORTH The North won this battle—This victory changed the course of the war.
3 Do you have an address?
All Of course! The Gettysburg Address.
Lincoln's Famous Speech.
All [Sound effect and gesture to indicate traveling back in time]
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- 2 We're back at Appomattox.
1 Who's inside?
4 Robert E. Lee
SOUTH Go South! [gesture]
5 And Ulysses S. Grant
NORTH Go Yankees! [gesture]
1 We just got word!
2 The end has come!
All April 9, 1865—the South surrendered. The war is over! [sound effect] [gesture]