



2002

The Neighs Have It!

Elizabeth Moss

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Boiko, Claire. *The Neighs Have It!* Encore Performance Publishing, 1994. ISBN 1575140098. Contact publisher regarding price. 9 pp.

Reviewer: Elizabeth Moss

Reading Level: Intermediate

Rating: Dependable

Genre: Plays; Historical Plays;

Subject: Horses--Juvenile drama; Automobiles--Juvenile drama; Inventions--Juvenile drama;

Theme: Automobiles are an inevitable invention

Production Requirements: Simple contemporary sets and costumes

Acts: 1

Run Time: 20 min.

Characters: 7 male, 2 female

Cast: 3 teenagers, 6 adults

Time Period: Contemporary

The world is contemporary with one exception. Instead of automobiles, horses are the only method of transportation. A modern family discusses the use of horses, while the junior high son tries to invent the automobile.

In a world without cars, the vocabulary is nevertheless influenced by an auto-driven world. Most of the humor comes from that fact. There is a discussion of regular hay versus superhay for feeding horses as well as how many miles per bale of hay a horse will carry you. They also discuss types of horses, American horses, Japanese import horses, fancy Italian horses, etc. Though there is humor throughout, the question of "why?" is always there. There is little theme and it is difficult to see the point of this tale. The characters are stereotypical and underdeveloped. The language is humorous but pointless. The costumes are simple modern clothing. The set is one room of a modern home. If you wanted to produce a short play discussing a world that was similar to ours in every way except using horses as transportation, this play would be good to do.