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Speaker 1-3
Gramps / Bill
(small stage)

SCENE 1

End of song. Alexis and Cate enter to Down Stage Left.

SPEAKER 1 Isn't it nice to have a day off from school?

Charlie, Gramps and Bill enter Stage Right. Gramps and Bill each carry a lawn or camping chair.

Speaker 2 : *(slightly out of breath)* We got here just in time. I brought Gramps and Bill along to see the parade.

GRAMPS: Hi kids! *(Bill waves. Alexis & Cate respond: "Hi," "Good morning," ad lib.)*

GRAMPS: Looks like it's about to begin.

Gramps and Bill unfold their chairs and get seated as the conversation continues.

SPEAKER 2: I love parades.

SPEAKER 3: *(nodding)* Me too. *(scratching her head)* So...what's the parade for?

SPEAKER 1 : Veterans' Day!

SPEAKER 2 : Yeah, Veterans' Day.

SPEAKER 3 : *(brightly)* Oh! My dog got sick the other day and we took him to the veteran's office.

SPEAKER 1 : *(slightly annoyed)* That was the **veterinarian's** office.

SPEAKER 2 : Yeah, a **veterinarian** is a doctor who treats animals.

SPEAKER 3 : But what's a —

SPEAKER 1: *(interrupting)* A veteran is a person who has had long service or experience in an occupation or office.

SPEAKER 2 : Like a veteran policeman, a veteran teacher, or a veteran of many sports competitions.

SPEAKER 1: *(continuing)* But today, we honor our military veterans who have served our country in peacetime and in war.

SPEAKER 3: Oh, I get it! Like the Navy, the Army... *(music begins)*

GRAMPS: Look! Here comes the parade.

Bill: *(nodding)* Yep.

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SCENE 2

End of song.

SPEAKER 4: Hey, I know that song!

GRAMPS: Well, you should. It's been around for over 200 years, since these United States were first founded back in 1776. That's when brave young men joined the Army, Navy and Marines to make our country free.

SPEAKER 5: So those were our first veterans?

GRAMPS: You bet your whiskers.

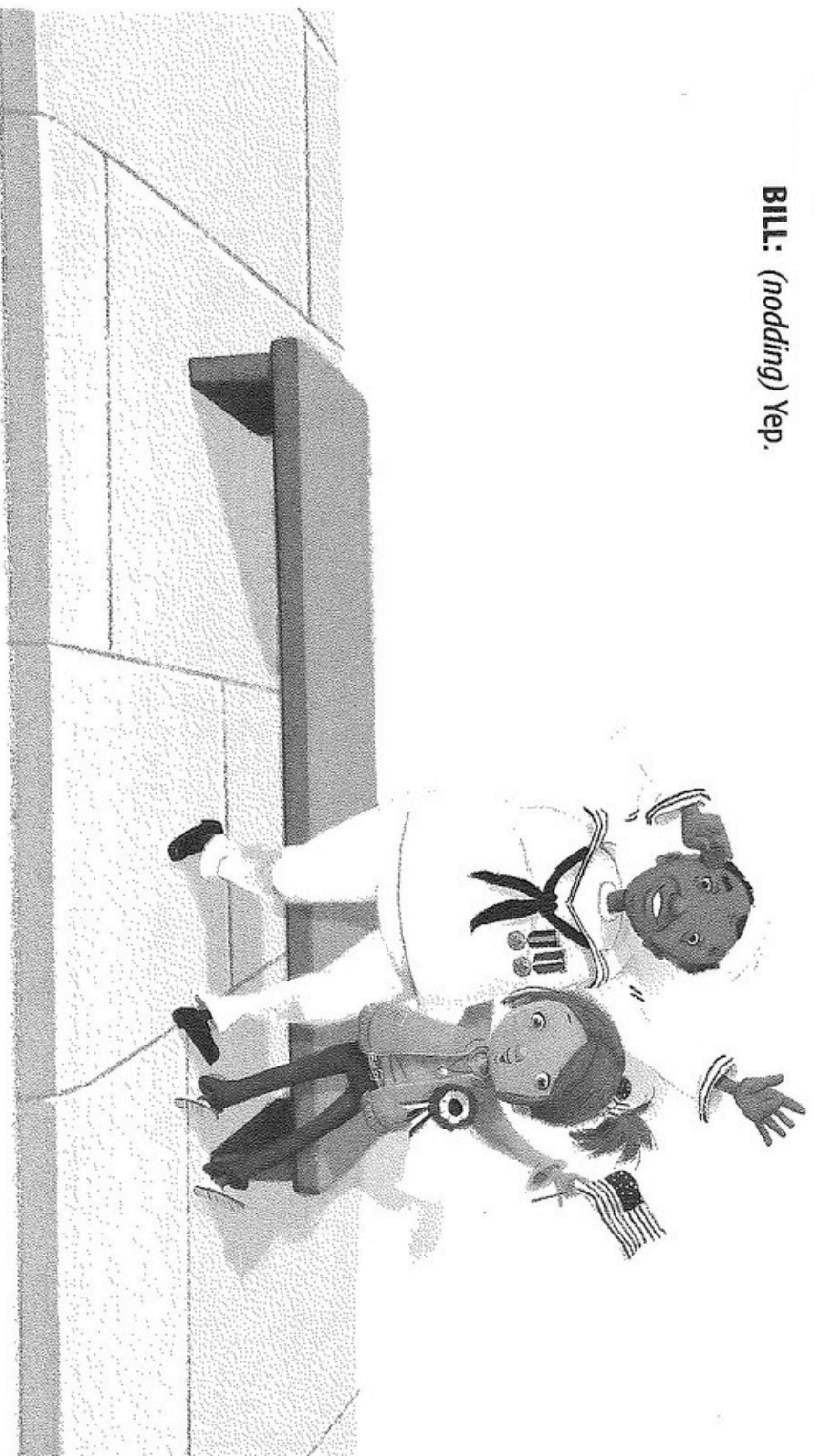
SPEAKER 6: And that's when Veterans' Day started?

GRAMPS: Well, no. That happened many years later.

Music starts.

SPEAKER 7: *(pointing)* Look! Here comes the Navy!

BILL: *(nodding)* Yep.



SCENE 3

End of song.

SPEAKER 8: So the Navy veterans are the heroes of the sea.

GRAMPS: Yep, they're all vets: from the days of the sailing ships of 200 years ago to the destroyers, submarines, and aircraft carriers of today. *(Looks off, lost in thought, then suddenly brightens.)* Hey, do you want to hear a knock-knock joke?

SPEAKER 8: Well—

SPEAKER 9: Not really.

BILL: Sure! *(to the kids)* You're gonna love this.

GRAMPS: OK. Knock, knock.

BILL: *(starts giggling in anticipation of the joke)* Who's there?

GRAMPS: Vet.

SPEAKER 10: Vet who?

GRAMPS: Vet you didn't know I was here.

Gramps chuckles to himself, Bill shakes with repressed laughter, the others groan.

SPEAKER 9: Gramps, are you a veteran?

GRAMPS: I sure am, son.

SPEAKER 8: How about you, Bill?

BILL: Yep.

SPEAKER 10: Were you in the Army...or the Navy? *(Music begins.)*

BILL: Navy.

GRAMPS: I was a Marine! *(Looks out.)* And look! Here they come.

BILL: *(nodding)* Yep.



SCENE 4

End of song.

SPEAKER 11: So the Marines are like the Army and Navy and—

SPEAKER 12: -and Air Force.

GRAMPS: And they are first to arrive by land, sea or air.

SPEAKER 11: So, when did we get Veterans' Day?

GRAMPS: Well... *(thoughtful, then brightens)* I've got another one!

SPEAKER 12: hat?

GRAMPS: A knock-knock joke.

BILL: *(nodding to Alexis)* This one's even better.

SPEAKER 13: That's okay; I don't—

GRAMPS: *(interrupting)* Knock, knock.

BILL: Who's there?

GRAMPS: Army.

SPEAKER 13: Army who?

Gramps: Army and my friend gonna stand out here forever?

Gramps snorts & chuckles, Bill shakes and stomps his foot as his laughter surfaces, and the rest give another big groan. Music begins.

SPEAKER 12: Look! Here comes the Air Force.

Bill: *(nodding)* Yep.



SCENE 5

End of song.

GRAMPS: Our Air Force goes back to World War I, when those young fellas flew new-fangled, rickety planes into the air. They were brave and daring heroes and their traditions continue with today's vets.

SPEAKER 14: But when did Veterans' Day first happen?

GRAMPS: Well, let's see. If I remember, it was December.

SPEAKER 15: Hey, that rhymes!

(Rap beat begins in background.)

GRAMPS: *(shakes his head)* Make that November, the end of World War I. Our soldiers were stuck in cold, wet, muddy trenches while bullets whizzed overhead and bombs exploded all around. Then a truce was declared on a chilly November day. *(Begin rapping.)*



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SCENE 6

End of song.

SPEAKER 16: It looks like we're coming to the end of this Veterans' Day parade with a big finale.

SPEAKER 17: Yes, and let's give a big "Thank You" to all those men and women now and through the ages who have served our country so bravely and unselfishly.

GRAMPS: As we sing this final song, I'd like to ask if the veterans in the audience would please stand when we call out your branch of the service.

BILL: *(nodding)* Yep.

SPEAKER 18: And don't forget to wave! *(Music begins.)*

SPEAKER 18: Once again, to our veterans —

ALL: A grateful nation salutes you.



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