

QUIET

<u>FIRE ENGINE</u>	"Mee-ee, Whee-ee"
<u>PIGS</u>	"Oink, Oink, Snort"
<u>LIBRARIAN</u>	"Sh-hhhhhh"
<u>DOG</u>	"ARF ARF"
<u>POLICEMAN</u>	Loud whistle
<u>BOYS</u>	"Bite, Bite"
<u>CHICKENS</u>	"Bok-bok-bok-bok"
<u>EVERYBODY</u>	ALL sounds at once

It was a beautiful spring afternoon in the sleepy little town of Blodgetville. In the balmy air the fragrance of early tulips mingled with the rich aroma of skunk cabbages in nearby marshes. The only sounds to be heard were the faint moan of a **FIRE ENGINE** in a neighbouring village, the distant barking of a **DOG** and the occasional whistle of the **POLICEMAN** at the main intersection. In the town library, someone turned a page too loudly and the **LIBRARIAN** said. On the main road, at the outskirts of town, a farmer was lazily driving his animals to market. Each time he hit a bump, the **PIGS** grunted and the **CHICKENS** squawked. Yet all was peaceful in the sleepy little town of Blodgetville.

Suddenly, two **BOYS** appeared on the quiet street. They were singing and marching in time to the rhythm. They reached the centre of town where the **POLICEMAN** blew his whistle to let them cross. Still singing, they marched up the steps of the library. The **LIBRARIAN** looked up quickly. Each boy took a book and sat down at one of the tables. One of the **BOYS** looked around the almost deserted library and said: "They'll do a lot more business around here if they had comic books." Guess what the **LIBRARIAN** said? That's right.

Outside, the **DOG** could be heard. The **POLICEMAN** blew his whistle as a car approached the intersection, followed by the farmer's truck. The woman in the car signalled for a right turn, but oddly enough her car made a left turn. The farmer slammed on his brakes and there was a loud crash. Down went the tailgate of the truck and out tumbled the **PIGS** and the **CHICKENS**. The **DOG** barked widely. Frightened, the grunting **PIGS** ran up the library steps followed by the squawking **CHICKENS** and a yelping **DOG**. The **LIBRARIAN** was startled. The **BOYS** jumped up and burst into song. In rushed the **POLICEMAN** frantically blowing his whistle. From across the street, old Miss Spinnett saw the disturbance and called 911 for the **FIRE ENGINE**.

But an hour later, everything was peaceful again in the sleepy little town of Blodgetville. The **PIGS** and **CHICKENS** had somehow been caught and put back in the truck; the **BOYS** and **DOG** and gone home for supper. The **FIRE ENGINE** was back in the station house, and the **POLICEMAN** again stood at his post by the intersection.

And the **LIBRARIAN**? Will, the **LIBRARIAN** looked around the library at the floating feathers, the muddy floor, the disarranged books, the overturned tables and the broken chairs. And then, all of a sudden, the **LIBRARIAN** screamed **EVERYBODY**!