

# JUST ONE BIG HAPPY FAMILY

A Humorous Reading

by  
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It is the last Friday afternoon of school in the tiny village of Higginsville. Miss Crockett is preparing her pupils for their final appearance before the arrival of the grown-ups.

MISS CROCKET: Now, Henrietta, when you and Henry are singing your Farewell Song, wave your handkerchief gracefully--like this! Remember you're not trying to flag a train--Yes, practice it once more---Oh, mercy on us! Just like working a pump-handle. Henrietta, wave it more like a--like a fairy queen would wave her wand---see? Now try it again!--That's better. And Maudie, I know you're having your hay fever again, but just try to forget it. No, NO, Maudie, DON'T snifle--use your handkerchief---You've LOST it? Well, I guess you'll have to sit with your sister and use hers. And Tommy, please remember you don't need to hitch up your pants this afternoon. Just--have faith in your new suspenders. (Looks out window) Oh, gracious me! Here they all come! Books in desks! Position! Josiah! (Pantomimes to him to sit up straight) Elmer! (Pantomimes to him to turn around) Susybelle! (Pantomimes to her to stop whispering) Now don't forget our song of greeting--as soon as the school board and all the parents and friends are seated! (She trips mincingly to door, opens it) OH! Good afternoon! Welcome to each and all of you! Just take those seats along the sides and rear, please. (Turns to desk, takes up pitch-pipe and blows note) Do--me--me--sol! (As she sings, she beats time with both hands)

“Glad welcome to you, Glad welcome to you,  
Glad welcome, dear parents, We're glad to see you.  
We're glad you are here, We're glad you are here,  
We're glad you are here, In our schoolroom so dear.”

Oh, thank you! We are glad you enjoyed our little song of greeting. It typifies the courteous demeanor of each and every one of the dear boys and girls who make up our One Big Happy Family. OH-H-H! Oh, I'm so sorry, Mrs. Willowby! Now WHO threw that chalk at Mrs. Willowby?---Nobody? Humph! I suppose it sailed through the air all by itself! Come now, WHO DID IT? (Taps foot menacingly)

SUSYBELLE: Please teacher, Tommy Trout did it, but he missed, (giggles) he was aiming at me!

MISS C.: I am amazed! Tommy, apologize at once to Mrs. Willowby.

TOMMY: I--I--I'm thorry I mithed Thuthybelle, Mithus Willowby.

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