

RAILWAY CHILDREN AUDITION PIECE

The excitement of seeing their first train (and becoming the railway children)

BOBBIE PETER PHYLLIS

BOBBIE So then we all rolled up our sleeves.

PETER Put our shoulders to the wheel

PHYLLIS And our noses to the grindstone. Really, I don't know what I'm talking about at least half of the time.

BOBBIE. It wasn't until quite late in the afternoon that Mother said

MOTHER. There! That'll do for today.

MRS VINEY. You've all worked like Trojans.

MOTHER. I'm going to have a lie-down.

MRS VINEY. And I'll get some tea fettle.

MOTHER. What?

MRS VINEY. Never mind.

MOTHER. What will you all do?

PETER. That was it! That was it! That was when!

BOBBIE. We all looked at each other. PHYLLIS. We all thought the same thought.

PETER. At the same time.

BOBBIE. It was like the bits of information in the Child's Guide to Knowledge.

PHYLLIS. A question.

PETER. And an answer.

BOBBIE. The question was: Where shall we go? And the answer:

ALL. To the railway!

It would be nice to have a burst of energy, running maybe, a rush that is expressed in the sound of a huge train passing. Enormous, overwhelming, exhilarating, can't hear yourself think. The climax comes when they wave.

BOBBIE. A train's coming. A train's coming. It's like a great dragon tearing by. It's going to London.

PHYLLIS, London's where Father is, Let's ask it to take our love to him

PETER. Dragons don't carry love,

PHYLLIS, They do, They do,

PETER They'd be above tl.

PHLLIS Let's wave. If it's a magic dragon it will take our love anyway

PETER It won't

PHYLLIS Wave.

BOBBIE Here if comes.

PHYLLIS. Now! B

They wave,

Oh yes, and somebody waved back.

PETER They didn't.

BOBBIE They did. I saw a hand.

PHYLLIS And a newspaper.

PETER Let's go to the station.

They begin to walk to the station.

PHYLLIS. | wonder why Father never writes to us?

BOBBIE Mother says he's been too busy. But he'll write soon, she says,

PETER I never thought we'd ever get so near to a train as that. It's the most ripping sport.

BOBBIE Better than toy engines, isn't it?

PETER. I don't know, it's different. It's so tall.