

Pick four students to perform aloud pages 8–11 from the book. Prior to a public performance, have students look through the pages and identify their character. Students can then use the scripts provided on this CD-ROM to practice their part. Suggested props: glasses for Charles Jackson, top hat for man in Paris, ruffled shirt for Samuel Morse.

## Main Script

*Scene One: Samuel Morse is sitting sadly in his artist studio. . .*

Narrator: In the late 1820s, Morse suffered several losses. His parents died. His wife then became ill, died, and was buried before Morse even received the news of her illness.

Morse: Oh Lucretia, if I had only heard sooner that you were sick, I would have been home with you.

*Scene Two: Morse is now in Europe . . .*

Narrator: Grief-stricken, Morse decided to make a change. He traveled to Europe in 1829. For the next three years, he did nothing but his work and art. While in Paris, Morse took interest in a machine that sent messages across great distances.

Man in Paris: Each position of the semaphore's arms has its own meaning. Stations miles apart see the message and pass it along.

Morse: But no one can see the semaphore's arms at night or if the stations are too far apart. (*Thinking to himself now*) The lightning would serve us better.

*Scene Three: Morse is traveling on a boat to New York . . .*

Narrator: In 1832, Morse accepted a job teaching art at New York University. During the six-week voyage to America, Morse often spoke with Charles Jackson, a chemist who studied electromagnets.

Jackson: A battery can send an electric charge through a wire to an electromagnet that is miles away.

Morse: How fast does the charge move, Mr. Jackson?

Jackson: Fast as lightning.

Morse: Then electricity could also be used to send messages.

Jackson: Well, yes. Professor Joseph Henry built a telegraph that connects his home to his laboratory.

Morse: With electricity, a telegraph should be able to do more. (*Morse demonstrates.*) Just imagine that this plate is a battery, the straw is a wire, and the glass is an electromagnet. The battery sends electricity through the wire and turns on the magnet. The magnet attracts the fork, which swings toward the magnet and makes a mark.

Jackson: What will the marks mean?

Morse: I'll have to work out a code.

*Scene Four: Later in the voyage. . . Morse runs to tell Jackson something.*

Morse: Jackson, I've got it!

Jackson: What?

Morse: The code. Look. A short burst of electricity creates a dot on paper, and a long burst makes a dash. Dots and dashes stand for numbers, and the numbers stand for words. With just a few numbers, you can send messages in an instant.

Jackson: It sounds complicated, Morse.

**Charles Jackson**

*Scene One: Samuel Morse is sitting sadly in his artist studio. . .*

Narrator: In the late 1820s, Morse suffered several losses. His parents died. His wife then became ill, died, and was buried before Morse even received the news of her illness.

Morse: Oh Lucretia, if I had only heard sooner that you were sick, I would have been home with you.

*Scene Two: Morse is now in Europe . . .*

Narrator: Grief-stricken, Morse decided to make a change. He traveled to Europe in 1829. For the next three years, he did nothing but his work and art. While in Paris, Morse took interest in a machine that sent messages across great distances.

Man in Paris: Each position of the semaphore's arms has its own meaning. Stations miles apart see the message and pass it along.

Morse: But no one can see the semaphore's arms at night or if the stations are too far apart. (*Thinking to himself now*) The lightning would serve us better.

*Scene Three: Morse is traveling on a boat to New York . . .*

Narrator: In 1832, Morse accepted a job teaching art at New York University. During the six-week voyage to America, Morse often spoke with Charles Jackson, a chemist who studied electromagnets.

**Jackson: A battery can send an electric charge through a wire to an electromagnet that is miles away.**

Morse: How fast does the charge move, Mr. Jackson?

**Jackson: Fast as lightning.**

Morse: Then electricity could also be used to send messages.

**Jackson: Well, yes. Professor Joseph Henry built a telegraph that connects his home to his laboratory.**

Morse: With electricity, a telegraph should be able to do more. (*Morse demonstrates.*) Just imagine that this plate is a battery, the straw is a wire, and the glass is an electromagnet. The battery sends electricity through the wire and turns on the magnet. The magnet attracts the fork, which swings toward the magnet and makes a mark.

**Jackson: What will the marks mean?**

Morse: I'll have to work out a code.

*Scene Four: Later in the voyage. . . Morse runs to tell Jackson something.*

Morse: Jackson, I've got it!

**Jackson: What?**

Morse: The code. Look. A short burst of electricity creates a dot on paper, and a long burst makes a dash. Dots and dashes stand for numbers, and the numbers stand for words. With just a few numbers, you can send messages in an instant.

**Jackson: It sounds complicated, Morse.**

## Man in Paris

*Scene One: Samuel Morse is sitting sadly in his artist studio. . .*

Narrator: In the late 1820s, Morse suffered several losses. His parents died. His wife then became ill, died, and was buried before Morse even received the news of her illness.

Morse: Oh Lucretia, if I had only heard sooner that you were sick, I would have been home with you.

*Scene Two: Morse is now in Europe. . .*

Narrator: Grief-stricken, Morse decided to make a change. He traveled to Europe in 1829. For the next three years, he did nothing but his work and art. While in Paris, Morse took interest in a machine that sent messages across great distances.

**Man in Paris: Each position of the semaphore's arms has its own meaning. Stations miles apart see the message and pass it along.**

Morse: But no one can see the semaphore's arms at night or if the stations are too far apart. (*Thinking to himself now*) The lightning would serve us better.

*Scene Three: Morse is traveling on a boat to New York. . .*

Narrator: In 1832, Morse accepted a job teaching art at New York University. During the six-week voyage to America, Morse often spoke with Charles Jackson, a chemist who studied electromagnets.

Jackson: A battery can send an electric charge through a wire to an electromagnet that is miles away.

Morse: How fast does the charge move, Mr. Jackson?

Jackson: Fast as lightning.

Morse: Then electricity could also be used to send messages.

Jackson: Well, yes. Professor Joseph Henry built a telegraph that connects his home to his laboratory.

Morse: With electricity, a telegraph should be able to do more. (*Morse demonstrates.*) Just imagine that this plate is a battery, the straw is a wire, and the glass is an electromagnet. The battery sends electricity through the wire and turns on the magnet. The magnet attracts the fork, which swings toward the magnet and makes a mark.

Jackson: What will the marks mean?

Morse: I'll have to work out a code.

*Scene Four: Later in the voyage. . . Morse runs to tell Jackson something.*

Morse: Jackson, I've got it!

Jackson: What?

Morse: The code. Look. A short burst of electricity creates a dot on paper, and a long burst makes a dash. Dots and dashes stand for numbers, and the numbers stand for words. With just a few numbers, you can send messages in an instant.

Jackson: It sounds complicated, Morse.

**Narrator**

**Scene One: Samuel Morse is sitting sadly in his artist studio...**

**Narrator: In the late 1820s, Morse suffered several losses. His parents died. His wife then became ill, died, and was buried before Morse even received the news of her illness.**

Morse: Oh Lucretia, if I had only heard sooner that you were sick, I would have been home with you.

**Scene Two: Morse is now in Europe ...**

**Narrator: Grief-stricken, Morse decided to make a change. He traveled to Europe in 1829. For the next three years, he did nothing but his work and art. While in Paris, Morse took interest in a machine that sent messages across great distances.**

Man in Paris: Each position of the semaphore's arms has its own meaning. Stations miles apart see the message and pass it along.

Morse: But no one can see the semaphore's arms at night or if the stations are too far apart. (*Thinking to himself now*) The lightning would serve us better.

**Scene Three: Morse is traveling on a boat to New York ...**

**Narrator: In 1832, Morse accepted a job teaching art at New York University. During the six-week voyage to America, Morse often spoke with Charles Jackson, a chemist who studied electromagnets.**

Jackson: A battery can send an electric charge through a wire to an electromagnet that is miles away.

Morse: How fast does the charge move, Mr. Jackson?

Jackson: Fast as lightning.

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Jackson: Well, yes. Professor Joseph Henry built a telegraph that connects his home to his laboratory.

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Jackson: What will the marks mean?

Morse: I'll have to work out a code.

**Scene Four: Later in the voyage... Morse runs to tell Jackson something.**

Morse: Jackson, I've got it!

Jackson: What?

Morse: The code. Look. A short burst of electricity creates a dot on paper, and a long burst makes a dash. Dots and dashes stand for numbers, and the numbers stand for words. With just a few numbers, you can send messages in an instant.

Jackson: It sounds complicated, Morse.

## Samuel Morse

*Scene One: Samuel Morse is sitting sadly in his artist studio. . .*

Narrator: In the late 1820s, Morse suffered several losses. His parents died. His wife then became ill, died, and was buried before Morse even received the news of her illness.

**Morse: Oh, Lucretia, if I had only heard sooner that you were sick, I would have been home with you.**

*Scene Two: Morse is now in Europe . . .*

Narrator: Grief-stricken, Morse decided to make a change. He traveled to Europe in 1829. For the next three years, he did nothing but his work and art. While in Paris, Morse took interest in a machine that sent messages across great distances.

Man in Paris: Each position of the semaphore's arms has its own meaning. Stations miles apart see the message and pass it along.

**Morse: But no one can see the semaphore's arms at night or if the stations are too far apart.** (Thinking to himself now) **The lightning would serve us better.**

*Scene Three: Morse is traveling on a boat to New York . . .*

Narrator: In 1832, Morse accepted a job teaching art at New York University. During the six-week voyage to America, Morse often spoke with Charles Jackson, a chemist who studied electromagnets.

Jackson: A battery can send an electric charge through a wire to an electromagnet that is miles away.

**Morse: How fast does the charge move, Mr. Jackson?**

Jackson: Fast as lightning.

**Morse: Then electricity could also be used to send messages.**

Jackson: Well, yes. Professor Joseph Henry built a telegraph that connects his home to his laboratory.

**Morse: With electricity, a telegraph should be able to do more.**

*Scene Four: Morse is showing Jackson how the current could work . . .*

**Morse: Just imagine that this plate is a battery, the straw is a wire, and the glass is an electromagnet. The battery sends electricity through the wire and turns on the magnet. The magnet attracts the fork, which swings toward the magnet and makes a mark.**

Jackson: What will the marks mean?

**Morse: I'll have to work out a code.**

*Scene Five: Later in the voyage. . . Morse runs to tell Jackson something.*

**Morse: Jackson, I've got it!**

Jackson: What?

**Morse: The code. Look. A short burst of electricity creates a dot on paper, and a long burst makes a dash. Dots and dashes stand for numbers, and the numbers stand for words. With just a few numbers, you can send messages in an instant.**

Jackson: It sounds complicated, Morse.