

Pick six 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 parts.

Main Script

Scene One: Thomas Edison and another scientist are outside . . .

Narrator: By 1877, Thomas Edison was already well known as the inventor of the phonograph. In 1878, Edison was looking for his next great invention. He joined a group of scientists in Rawlins, Wyoming, to see the total eclipse of the sun. Edison wanted to test an invention that could measure the heat from the sun's corona.

Scientist: How does it work, Edison?

Edison: The heat from the sun's corona is focused on a rod inside this funnel. When heated, the rod expands and pushes on a carbon button. This gauge measures pressure changes on the button. I can calculate the heat from the corona based on the gauge's readings.

Scientist: Amazing!

Narrator: With another success under his belt, Edison relaxed with his fellow scientists.

Scientist: You know, Thomas, I've heard some scientists are close to perfecting an electric lamp. Just imagine a city lit up like these stars light up the sky.

Edison: It would be beautiful. But building a lamp is only half the problem. You would need a reliable supply of electrical power as well.

Scene Two: Later, in a laboratory . . .

Narrator: In the summer of 1878, Edison discussed his ideas about lightbulbs and electricity with his business advisor, Grosvenor Lowrey.

Lowrey: A citywide electrical power system could make you a lot of money. Your Menlo Park laboratory would be funded for a long time.

Edison: Then let's make it official and find some investors.

Lowrey: All right. But you'll have to invent a better lightbulb and the system to power it.

Scene Three: Thomas Edison is speaking to a group . . .

Narrator: Lowrey and Edison got Drexel, Morgan & Company to finance the project. The Edison Electrical Company was formed in America and later branched out into England.

Edison: The electric light is the light of the future and it will be my light.

Scene Four: In William Wallace's workshop . . .

Narrator: In September 1878, Edison and his assistant Charles Batchelor visited William Wallace's shop in Ansonia, Connecticut. Wallace was working on a machine called a dynamo that generated electricity.

Wallace: The magnet spins, creating an electric current.

Edison: Could dozens of dynamos be connected to form a citywide electric network, William?

Wallace: It's possible. But you'd need more insulated wire than I could imagine.

(Edison speaks privately with his assistant.)

Edison: Can we improve on this dynamo technology?

Batchelor: I don't see why not.

Edison: Then we'll use the dynamo as our power source. Now all we need is a long-lasting lightbulb.

Charles Batchelor

Scene One: Thomas Edison and another scientist are outside . . .

Narrator: By 1877, Thomas Edison was already well known as the inventor of the phonograph. In 1878, Edison was looking for his next great invention. He joined a group of scientists in Rawlins, Wyoming, to see the total eclipse of the sun. Edison wanted to test an invention that could measure the heat from the sun's corona.

Scientist: How does it work, Edison?

Edison: The heat from the sun's corona is focused on a rod inside this funnel. When heated, the rod expands and pushes on a carbon button. This gauge measures pressure changes on the button. I can calculate the heat from the corona based on the gauge's readings.

Scientist: Amazing!

Narrator: With another success under his belt, Edison relaxed with his fellow scientists.

Scientist: You know, Thomas, I've heard some scientists are close to perfecting an electric lamp. Just imagine a city lit up like these stars light up the sky.

Edison: It would be beautiful. But building a lamp is only half the problem. You would need a reliable supply of electrical power as well.

Scene Two: Later, in a laboratory . . .

Narrator: In the summer of 1878, Edison discussed his ideas about lightbulbs and electricity with his business advisor, Grosvenor Lowrey.

Lowrey: A citywide electrical power system could make you a lot of money. Your Menlo Park laboratory would be funded for a long time.

Edison: Then let's make it official and find some investors.

Lowrey: All right. But you'll have to invent a better lightbulb and the system to power it.

Scene Three: Thomas Edison is speaking to a group . . .

Narrator: Lowrey and Edison got Drexel, Morgan & Company to finance the project. The Edison Electrical Company was formed in America and later branched out into England.

Edison: The electric light is the light of the future and it will be my light.

Scene Four: In William Wallace's workshop . . .

Narrator: In September 1878, Edison and his assistant Charles Batchelor visited William Wallace's shop in Ansonia, Connecticut. Wallace was working on a machine called a dynamo that generated electricity.

Wallace: The magnet spins, creating an electric current.

Edison: Could dozens of dynamos be connected to form a citywide electric network, William?

Wallace: It's possible. But you'd need more insulated wire than I could imagine.

(Edison speaks privately with his assistant.)

Edison: Can we improve on this dynamo technology?

Batchelor: I don't see why not.

Edison: Then we'll use the dynamo as our power source. Now all we need is a long-lasting lightbulb.

Grosvenor Lowrey

Scene One: Thomas Edison and another scientist are outside . . .

Narrator: By 1877, Thomas Edison was already well known as the inventor of the phonograph. In 1878, Edison was looking for his next great invention. He joined a group of scientists in Rawlins, Wyoming, to see the total eclipse of the sun. Edison wanted to test an invention that could measure the heat from the sun's corona.

Scientist: How does it work, Edison?

Edison: The heat from the sun's corona is focused on a rod inside this funnel. When heated, the rod expands and pushes on a carbon button. This gauge measures pressure changes on the button. I can calculate the heat from the corona based on the gauge's readings.

Scientist: Amazing!

Narrator: With another success under his belt, Edison relaxed with his fellow scientists.

Scientist: You know, Thomas, I've heard some scientists are close to perfecting an electric lamp. Just imagine a city lit up like these stars light up the sky.

Edison: It would be beautiful. But building a lamp is only half the problem. You would need a reliable supply of electrical power as well.

Scene Two: Later, in a laboratory . . .

Narrator: In the summer of 1878, Edison discussed his ideas about lightbulbs and electricity with his business advisor, Grosvenor Lowrey.

Lowrey: A citywide electrical power system could make you a lot of money. Your Menlo Park laboratory would be funded for a long time.

Edison: Then let's make it official and find some investors.

Lowrey: All right. But you'll have to invent a better lightbulb and the system to power it.

Scene Three: Thomas Edison is speaking to a group . . .

Narrator: Lowrey and Edison got Drexel, Morgan & Company to finance the project. The Edison Electrical Company was formed in America and later branched out into England.

Edison: The electric light is the light of the future and it will be my light.

Scene Four: In William Wallace's workshop . . .

Narrator: In September 1878, Edison and his assistant Charles Batchelor visited William Wallace's shop in Ansonia, Connecticut. Wallace was working on a machine called a dynamo that generated electricity.

Wallace: The magnet spins, creating an electric current.

Edison: Could dozens of dynamos be connected to form a citywide electric network, William?

Wallace: It's possible. But you'd need more insulated wire than I could imagine.

(Edison speaks privately with his assistant.)

Edison: Can we improve on this dynamo technology?

Batchelor: I don't see why not.

Edison: Then we'll use the dynamo as our power source. Now all we need is a long-lasting lightbulb.

Narrator

Scene One: Thomas Edison and another scientist are outside ...

Narrator: By 1877, Thomas Edison was already well known as the inventor of the phonograph. In 1878, Edison was looking for his next great invention. He joined a group of scientists in Rawlins, Wyoming, to see the total eclipse of the sun. Edison wanted to test an invention that could measure the heat from the sun's corona.

Scientist: How does it work, Edison?

Edison: The heat from the sun's corona is focused on a rod inside this funnel. When heated, the rod expands and pushes on a carbon button. This gauge measures pressure changes on the button. I can calculate the heat from the corona based on the gauge's readings.

Scientist: Amazing!

Narrator: With another success under his belt, Edison relaxed with his fellow scientists.

Scientist: You know, Thomas, I've heard some scientists are close to perfecting an electric lamp. Just imagine a city lit up like these stars light up the sky.

Edison: It would be beautiful. But building a lamp is only half the problem. You would need a reliable supply of electrical power as well.

Scene Two: Later, in a laboratory ...

Narrator: In the summer of 1878, Edison discussed his ideas about lightbulbs and electricity with his business advisor, Grosvenor Lowrey.

Lowrey: A citywide electrical power system could make you a lot of money. Your Menlo Park laboratory would be funded for a long time.

Edison: Then let's make it official and find some investors.

Lowrey: All right. But you'll have to invent a better lightbulb and the system to power it.

Scene Three: Thomas Edison is speaking to a group ...

Narrator: Lowrey and Edison got Drexel, Morgan & Company to finance the project. The Edison Electrical Company was formed in America and later branched out into England.

Edison: The electric light is the light of the future and it will be my light.

Scene Four: In William Wallace's workshop ...

Narrator: In September 1878, Edison and his assistant Charles Batchelor visited William Wallace's shop in Ansonia, Connecticut. Wallace was working on a machine called a dynamo that generated electricity.

Wallace: The magnet spins, creating an electric current.

Edison: Could dozens of dynamos be connected to form a citywide electric network, William?

Wallace: It's possible. But you'd need more insulated wire than I could imagine.

(Edison speaks privately with his assistant.)

Edison: Can we improve on this dynamo technology?

Batchelor: I don't see why not.

Edison: Then we'll use the dynamo as our power source. Now all we need is a long-lasting lightbulb.

Scientist

Scene One: Thomas Edison and another scientist are outside . . .

Narrator: By 1877, Thomas Edison was already well known as the inventor of the phonograph. In 1878, Edison was looking for his next great invention. He joined a group of scientists in Rawlins, Wyoming, to see the total eclipse of the sun. Edison wanted to test an invention that could measure the heat from the sun's corona.

Scientist: How does it work, Edison?

Edison: The heat from the sun's corona is focused on a rod inside this funnel. When heated, the rod expands and pushes on a carbon button. This gauge measures pressure changes on the button. I can calculate the heat from the corona based on the gauge's readings.

Scientist: Amazing!

Narrator: With another success under his belt, Edison relaxed with his fellow scientists.

Scientist: You know, Thomas, I've heard some scientists are close to perfecting an electric lamp. Just imagine a city lit up like these stars light up the sky.

Edison: It would be beautiful. But building a lamp is only half the problem. You would need a reliable supply of electrical power as well.

Scene Two: Later, in a laboratory . . .

Narrator: In the summer of 1878, Edison discussed his ideas about lightbulbs and electricity with his business advisor, Grosvenor Lowrey.

Lowrey: A citywide electrical power system could make you a lot of money. Your Menlo Park laboratory would be funded for a long time.

Edison: Then let's make it official and find some investors.

Lowrey: All right. But you'll have to invent a better lightbulb and the system to power it.

Scene Three: Thomas Edison is speaking to a group . . .

Narrator: Lowrey and Edison got Drexel, Morgan & Company to finance the project. The Edison Electrical Company was formed in America and later branched out into England.

Edison: The electric light is the light of the future and it will be my light.

Scene Four: In William Wallace's workshop . . .

Narrator: In September 1878, Edison and his assistant Charles Batchelor visited William Wallace's shop in Ansonia, Connecticut. Wallace was working on a machine called a dynamo that generated electricity.

Wallace: The magnet spins, creating an electric current.

Edison: Could dozens of dynamos be connected to form a citywide electric network, William?

Wallace: It's possible. But you'd need more insulated wire than I could imagine.

(Edison speaks privately with his assistant.)

Edison: Can we improve on this dynamo technology?

Batchelor: I don't see why not.

Edison: Then we'll use the dynamo as our power source. Now all we need is a long-lasting lightbulb.

Thomas Edison

Scene One: Thomas Edison and another scientist are outside . . .

Narrator: By 1877, Thomas Edison was already well known as the inventor of the phonograph. In 1878, Edison was looking for his next great invention. He joined a group of scientists in Rawlins, Wyoming, to see the total eclipse of the sun. Edison wanted to test an invention that could measure the heat from the sun's corona.

Scientist: How does it work, Edison?

Edison: The heat from the sun's corona is focused on a rod inside this funnel. When heated, the rod expands and pushes on a carbon button. This gauge measures pressure changes on the button. I can calculate the heat from the corona based on the gauge's readings.

Scientist: Amazing!

Narrator: With another success under his belt, Edison relaxed with his fellow scientists.

Scientist: You know, Thomas, I've heard some scientists are close to perfecting an electric lamp. Just imagine a city lit up like these stars light up the sky.

Edison: It would be beautiful. But building a lamp is only half the problem. You would need a reliable supply of electrical power as well.

Scene Two: Later, in a laboratory . . .

Narrator: In the summer of 1878, Edison discussed his ideas about lightbulbs and electricity with his business advisor, Grosvenor Lowrey.

Lowrey: A citywide electrical power system could make you a lot of money. Your Menlo Park laboratory would be funded for a long time.

Edison: Then let's make it official and find some investors.

Lowrey: All right. But you'll have to invent a better lightbulb and the system to power it.

Scene Three: Thomas Edison is speaking to a group . . .

Narrator: Lowrey and Edison got Drexel, Morgan & Company to finance the project. The Edison Electrical Company was formed in America and later branched out into England.

Edison: The electric light is the light of the future and it will be my light.

Scene Four: In William Wallace's workshop . . .

Narrator: In September 1878, Edison and his assistant Charles Batchelor visited William Wallace's shop in Ansonia, Connecticut. Wallace was working on a machine called a dynamo that generated electricity.

Wallace: The magnet spins, creating an electric current.

Edison: Could dozens of dynamos be connected to form a citywide electric network, William?

Wallace: It's possible. But you'd need more insulated wire than I could imagine.

(Edison speaks privately with his assistant.)

Edison: Can we improve on this dynamo technology?

Batchelor: I don't see why not.

Edison: Then we'll use the dynamo as our power source. Now all we need is a long-lasting lightbulb.

William Wallace

Scene One: Thomas Edison and another scientist are outside . . .

Narrator: By 1877, Thomas Edison was already well known as the inventor of the phonograph. In 1878, Edison was looking for his next great invention. He joined a group of scientists in Rawlins, Wyoming, to see the total eclipse of the sun. Edison wanted to test an invention that could measure the heat from the sun's corona.

Scientist: How does it work, Edison?

Edison: The heat from the sun's corona is focused on a rod inside this funnel. When heated, the rod expands and pushes on a carbon button. This gauge measures pressure changes on the button. I can calculate the heat from the corona based on the gauge's readings.

Scientist: Amazing!

Narrator: With another success under his belt, Edison relaxed with his fellow scientists.

Scientist: You know, Thomas, I've heard some scientists are close to perfecting an electric lamp. Just imagine a city lit up like these stars light up the sky.

Edison: It would be beautiful. But building a lamp is only half the problem. You would need a reliable supply of electrical power as well.

Scene Two: Later, in a laboratory . . .

Narrator: In the summer of 1878, Edison discussed his ideas about lightbulbs and electricity with his business advisor, Grosvenor Lowrey.

Lowrey: A citywide electrical power system could make you a lot of money. Your Menlo Park laboratory would be funded for a long time.

Edison: Then let's make it official and find some investors.

Lowrey: All right. But you'll have to invent a better lightbulb and the system to power it.

Scene Three: Thomas Edison is speaking to a group . . .

Narrator: Lowrey and Edison got Drexel, Morgan & Company to finance the project. The Edison Electrical Company was formed in America and later branched out into England.

Edison: The electric light is the light of the future and it will be my light.

Scene Four: In William Wallace's workshop . . .

Narrator: In September 1878, Edison and his assistant Charles Batchelor visited William Wallace's shop in Ansonia, Connecticut. Wallace was working on a machine called a dynamo that generated electricity.

Wallace: The magnet spins, creating an electric current.

Edison: Could dozens of dynamos be connected to form a citywide electric network, William?

Wallace: It's possible. But you'd need more insulated wire than I could imagine.

(Edison speaks privately with his assistant.)

Edison: Can we improve on this dynamo technology?

Batchelor: I don't see why not.

Edison: Then we'll use the dynamo as our power source. Now all we need is a long-lasting lightbulb.