

MOTHER MOUSE AND HER BRATS

by Daniel Curzon

— play version

CHARACTERS: (6)

NARRATOR

MOTHER MOUSE

4 MICE CHILDREN

NARRATOR Seven little mice were playing behind the wall
when their mother found them.

MOTHER Come, children. It is time now for some lessons.

NARRATOR She looked very stern, her brow furrowed as she
lined them up.

MOUSE #1 Oh, do we *have* to?

NARRATOR Several of them complained.

MOUSE #2 We aren't finished playing yet.

NARRATOR They giggled and jumped on each other and bit
each other's tails.

MOTHER Children, children! It's time to learn how to avoid the
cat who lives out there!

NARRATOR Said their mother.

MOTHER It is very important that you learn this.

MOUSE #1 I'll just bet!

NARRATOR They did not seem to want to pay attention.

MOTHER That cat is very dangerous.

MOUSE #3 Oh, you aren't going to lecture us, for heaven's
sake?

NARRATOR Said Molly Mouse, rolling her eyes.

MOUSE #4 Yeah, that's so boring!

NARRATOR Agreed Manny Mouse. Mother Mouse twitched her
whiskers.
 "Do you know what happened to the last litter
around here?"she snapped.

MOUSE #1 Oh, you're just saying that to scare us!

NARRATOR Said Morris Mouse, punching one of his brothers.
(He does.)

MOTHER I just want to point out some precautions you must
take when you go out looking for food.

NARRATOR Mother Mouse was getting very irritated. But the
mice children
 would not listen. They stuck out their tongues and
made faces
 behind their paws.

MOUSE #2 Our mother is *so* serious. She's no fun at all! Just because she's
 afraid of an old cat, whatever that is, there's no reason *we* have to be!

MOTHER It won't take very long.

NARRATOR Promised Mother Mouse as she began her instructions on how her children should behave. But the children began to nod off. (They do.) Alas, their attention span just wasn't what it should have been.

MOTHER Are you listening to me, children?

NARRATOR But no one was.

MOTHER Children! Children, wake up! What's wrong with you? Don't you realize what could happen to you?

NARRATOR Their mother pleaded with them.

MOTHER I want to warn you about the cat who lives on the other side of the wall!

NARRATOR Molly Mouse opened one drooping eyelid.

MOUSE #3 Can't you make the lessons *fun*? That way we might stay awake.

MOTHER I'm telling you something very important about your future. There's nothing *fun* about it.

MOUSE #1 Can't we make paper cut-outs of Mickey Mouse?

MOUSE #2 Or paint our faces like clowns?

MOUSE #3 Or maybe sit in a circle and give our opinions about what catness means to each of us?"

NARRATOR The suggestions were many, and it took the whole lesson for

Mother Mouse to answer them all. But still the mice children would not sit still and listen. They insisted on doing paper cut-outs and painting their faces and giving their opinions even though not one of them had ever seen a cat.

MOUSE #4 That was fun, getting her to argue with us.

NARRATOR Said the mice children when the 'lesson' was over.

MOUSE #3 Let's do it again next time she tries to tell us about that dumb old whatever on the other side of the wall.

NARRATOR But there was to be no next lesson.

MICE CHILDREN (as one, snottily) And why's that?

NARRATOR Because when they went out for food for the very first time, the dumb old whatever ate every one of the seven mice children.
Every single one!

(The MICE CHILDREN all scream.)

NARRATOR And for the cat what FUN that was!

(MOTHER MOUSE grabs her head sadly.)

Blackout

