

*(The action moves to the main stage. Six 'novice headteachers, 3 men and 3 women, dressed in mortar-board caps and gowns, sit in a line towards the back of the stage. A blackboard stands to one side, on which 'Headteacher Training' is written in large letters.)*

**Novice 1** ~ I'm tremendously excited. First day of Headteacher Training!

**Novice 2** ~ Me too. *(holding up an agenda)* Look at all these things we're going to learn how to do.

**Novice 3** ~ Well, *(looking at own sheet)* I'm particularly looking forward to the 'How To Give A Menacing Scowl' session. I find my scary face tends to amuse children, rather than scare them.

**Novice 4** ~ *(in a meek voice)* It's the 'Reading A List Of Announcements To A Full Assembly Hall With A Voice Of Authority' workshop that I can't wait for.

**Novice 5** ~ I think my favourite is going to be this one; 'Ten Different Ways To Say - "Your son, Mrs Jones, is an idle waste of space and needs to learn some self-discipline!" ' Seminar. That'll be very useful.

**Novice 6** ~ Well we don't have to wait any longer – here come the instructors!

*(Two stern-looking Headmasters (male) enter . They too wear caps and gowns. They hold 'training manuals' in which their many lines should be written as cues.)*

**Headmaster 1** ~ Good afternoon gentlemen, and welcome to our training session for new headmasters.

**Headmaster 2** ~ *(aside to Headmaster 1)* It's head teachers. There are ladies in attendance.

**Headmaster 1** ~ Ladies? You mean women? *(peering at the novices)* Good gracious! Who'd have thought it? Whatever will they come up with next? Well, in that case, good afternoon gentlemen.....and ladies.

**Headmaster 2** ~ Now, the purpose of this session is to equip you all with the necessary skills to become efficient headteachers, and to run your schools with a firm hand.

**Headmaster 1** ~ Firstly, there has been a change to today's timetable. All sessions have been replaced with one single workshop on an area of head-teaching that we believe is at the root of doing the job well.

**Novice 3** ~ *(disappointed)* So nothing about learning to give a menacing scowl?

**Novice 4** ~ Or how to make announcements in assembly?

**Headmaster 2** ~ I'm afraid not. Those things should come naturally to you, and can't really be taught. No, what we'll be concentrating on today is a skill that will be the most useful weapon in your armoury when fighting ill-discipline amongst the pupils. *(to Headmaster 1)* If you could fetch the...tools of the trade...

*(The novices mutter to each other in anticipation, as Headmaster 1 exits. He returns with 8 canes which he distributes among the novices. He and Headmaster 2 take one also. The novices' eyes light up in glee as they hold their canes!)*