The kids in Mr. Clover’s class were putting on a play. It was called “The Cranky Teacher.” The class had worked together as writers to make up the script. The students had rehearsed for five weeks, and it was time to perform the play for the entire school. The timid kids were nervous but also excited. With all the actors getting ready at the same time, there was a lot of commotion backstage.

When the music started and the curtain went up, the audience got very quiet. Then they started laughing at all the funny parts. The play had a lot of humor in it. At the end of the play, the crowd stood and clapped. “You have all become fine actors!” exclaimed Mr. Clover. “Let’s celebrate with a party!” The class returned to the classroom and ate cheese and crackers to toast their success.

There are many different kinds of plays. A musical is one type of play. In a musical, there are some spoken words, but much of the play is in song. An actor in a musical has to focus on singing and dancing as well as acting. Many actors in a musical have a singing or dancing specialty.

When rehearsing for a musical, the entire cast has to follow a rigid schedule. They cannot get behind in learning the songs or dances or the show may not open in time. Even the actors with minor parts have to rehearse a lot. When a show begins, the actors cannot be distracted by the audience. They must always focus. Being in a musical can be very rewarding but is a lot of hard work.

Find a partner and write a short scene from a play or musical.