

## Readings

Practice saying each of these speeches. Speak clearly and not too fast. The words in italics in parentheses are stage directions, or indications about how you should say the lines. Put those emotions into your voice and also show that expression on your face. You do not have to memorize these lines for the audition, but you should be comfortable and confident in saying all of the words.

### GIRLS

#### ANNIE

No! Please don't make me take my locket off. I don't want a new one! (*sadly*) This locket...My Mom and Dad left it with me when...when they left me at the orphanage. And there was a note, too. (*with hope*) They're coming back for me. I know they are. (*gratefully*) And oh, I know being here with you for Christmas, I'm real lucky. But...I don't know how to say it...The one thing I want in all the world, more than anything else, is to find my mother and father. And to be like other kids...with folks of my own.

#### GRACE

(*Business-like. Polite but cool*) Good afternoon. Miss Hannigan? I'm Grace Farrell and I'm the private secretary to Oliver Warbucks. Mr. Warbucks has decided to invite an orphan to spend the Christmas holidays at his home. I'm here to select one for him. (*She sees Annie gesturing to her during the following dialog*) And he... she should be friendly. And intelligent. (*Grace starts to smile*) And cheerful. And, well age doesn't really matter. Say eight or nine. (*She sees Annie gesturing higher*) Ten? E---leven? (*Annie nods.*) Yes. Eleven would be perfect. (*Noticing Annie's hair*) And Mr. Warbucks prefers red-headed children. (*She winks at Annie*)

#### HANNIGAN

(*She walks in and catches Annie trying to escape the orphanage*) Aha! Caught you! (*fakely sweet*) Oh, you poor punkin, out here in the freezing cold with just that thin sweater. I hope you didn't catch the influenza. (*angrily*) Get up. (*Shouting to all the orphans*) All of you...get up! Now, for this one's shenanigans, you'll all get down on your knobby knees and clean this dump until it shines like the top of the Chrysler Building! Now! (*aside to the audience, wearily*) Why any kid would want to be an orphan I'll never know.

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### BOYS

#### WARBUCKS

*(proudly)* By the time I was twenty-three I had made my first million. And in those days, that was a lot of money. Anyway, making money is all I've ever cared about. And I might as well tell you, Annie, I was ruthless to those I had to climb over to get to the top. *(softer, caring)* But lately I've realized something, no matter how many fancy cars or expensive paintings you've got, if you're alone with no one to share your life, you might as well be broke and on Skid Row. Annie, do you understand what I'm trying to say?

#### BERT HEALY

*(In a Radio Announcer voice)* You're listening to America's favorite radio program, the Oxydent Hour of Smiles, starring the old softy, yours truly, Bert Healy. And remember folks...Smile, darn ya, smile! *(In a more conversational voice)* Today we welcome the Wall Street tycoon Oliver Warbucks. Good evening, Mr. Warbucks, it's nice of you to drop by. I understand that you have something to tell the folks at home about wonderful little Annie here. Aren't you conducting a coast-to-coast search for Annie's parents?

#### ROOSTER

*(excitedly)* This is gonna be our best con job ever, Aggie. I know a guy out in Brooklyn who can doctor up a fake birth certificate or any other papers you want. But we need your help, Sis, and if you help us, I'll give you half the money. Split it straight down the middle. Twenty five grand each. *(Slick and devilish)* Give 'em some of the old Rooster "razzle-dazzle". Get the money, get the kid, and get out of town!