

Theatre Arts I Unit I - Voice & Body Exercises The following is an exercise in speech and articulation.  
You are to select a partner in class and perform this piece for the group.

You will be graded on the following:

Projection (20 points), Articulation (40 points), Preparation and creativity(20 points) Memorization (20 points)

I had a hippopotamus, I kept him in a shed  
And fed him upon vitamins and vegetable bread.  
I made him my companion on many cheery walks  
And had his portrait done by a celebrity in chalks.

His charming eccentricities were known on every side,  
The creatures popularity was wonderfully wide.  
He frolicked with the rector in a dozen friendly tousles  
Who could not but remark upon his hippopotamuscles.

If he should be afflicted by depression or the dumps,  
By hippopota-measles or the hippopota-mumps.  
I never know a particle of peace 'till it was plain,  
He was hippopota-masticating properly again.

I had a hippopotamus I loved him as a friend  
But beautiful relationships are bound to have an end.  
Time takes alas our joys from us and robs us of our blisses,  
My hippopotamus turned out a hippopota-misses.

My housekeeper regarded him with jaundice in her eye  
She did not want a colony of hippopotami-  
She borrowed a machine gun from her soldier nephew Percy,  
And showed my hippopotamus no hippota-mercy.

My house now lacks the glamour that the charming creature gave,  
The garage where I kept him is as silent as a grave.  
No longer he displays among the motor tyres and spanners,  
His hippopota-mastery of hippopota-manners.

No longer now he wanders in the orchard in the spring,  
No longer do I lead him through the village on a string.  
No longer in the morning does the neighborhood rejoice  
To his hippota-musically modulated voice.

I had a Hippopotamus but nothing upon earth,  
Is constant in it's happiness or lasting in it's mirth.  
No joy that life can give me can be strong enough to smother,  
My sorrow for what might have been a hippota-mother.