

Have You Ever Seen a House Fly?

Have you ever seen a housefly?
Have you ever seen a *house* fly
with its gables as wings,
back porch as a tail,
like a glider that clings
to a windy gale?
Have you ever in your life seen a house fly?
Neither have I!

Have you ever seen a horsefly?
Have you ever seen a *horse* fly,
running circles in space,
its mane in the breeze
in a high derby race
over roofs and trees?
Have you ever in your life seen a horse fly?
Neither have I!

Have you ever seen a fire-breathing dragonfly
with a trail of smoke in the sunny sky?
Have you ever seen a creamy butterfly
as it lights and it melts on a slice of shoo-fly pie?
Have you ever seen a house fly?
(Shoo, fly! Don't bother me!)
Have you ever seen a horse fly?
(Shoo, fly! Don't bother me!)
Have you ever seen a shoe fly?
(Shoo, fly! Don't bother me!)
Fly away! Don't bother me!

Have you ever seen a fruit fly?
Have you ever seen a *fruit* fly;
shooting star fruit that zoom
through dark of the night,
a banana half-moon
in its orbit flight?
Have you ever in your life seen a fruit fly?
Neither have I!

If I ever see a house, ever see a horse,
ever see a fruit in the sky, of course,
I'll say: "Shoo, fly! Don't bother me!"
Never, ever bother me!"

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Performance Suggestion

Visually enhance the text's play on words and provide a fun performance option with "flies" flying above the singers.

Preparation:

Create four placards with pictures of various "flies" mentioned in the piece, and attach them to long dowel rods.

Placard 1 (double-sided)

Side 1: a medium-sized housefly

Side 2: a house

Placard 2 (double-sided)

Side 1: a large horsefly

Side 2: a horse

Placard 3 (single-sided): a shoe

(A real shoe attached to a rod would also do the trick.)

Placard 4 (double-sided)

Side 1: a small fruit fly

Side 2: a cluster of bananas, and star fruit

Choreography:

The four placard "flies" are maneuvered by persons hidden behind the choir. At the appropriate time, each "fly" appears over one end of the choir, moves over the heads of the singers and eventually disappears when it reaches the opposite end of the choir.

Placard 1, Side 1 (housefly) appears at M. 2, and begins to "fly" above the choir.

On beat 2 of M. 4, it is spun around to reveal *Side 2* (house) as it continues to move over the choir. It disappears when it reaches the opposite end of the choir at M. 10.

Placard 2, Side 1 (horsefly) appears on the repeated M. 2. It is spun around on

beat 2 of M. 4, revealing *Side 2* (horse). It continues to move over the choir, disappearing at M. 10.

Placard 3 (shoe) appears at M. 22 and flies over the choir in a more "active" manner, disappearing at M. 26.

Placard 4, Side 1 (fruit fly) appears at M. 28, is spun around on beat 2 of M. 30, revealing *Side 2* (fruit), and disappears at M. 36.

At Ms. 38-39, on the words: "house," "horse," and "fruit," the corresponding placards (*Side 2*) pop up and all remain in mid-air above the choir until M. 40 when all three suddenly disappear as the "shoe" (*Placard 3* or real shoe) pops up. The "shoe fly" dances above the choir and immediately disappears on the last piano note of the final measure.

In smiling memory of my grandfather, Lawrence M. Yarbrough,
and for the 2006 Wake County Elementary Honors Chorus, Wake County, North Carolina

Have You Ever Seen a House Fly?

(quoting "Shoo, Fly! Don't Bother Me!")

Lawrence E. Schultz
Ryan Lawrence Schultz

Unison/Opt. Two-Part* Choir and Piano

Larry E. Schultz

Playfully ♩ = 84 *mf* animated

Playfully ♩ = 84 *mf*

Have you
Have you

(deliberately)

ev-er seen a house-fly? Have you ev-er seen a *house* fly with its
ev-er seen a horse-fly? Have you ev-er seen a *horse* fly, run-ning

ga - bles as wings, back porch as a tail, _____ like a
cir - cles in space, its mane in the breeze, _____ in a

*Part II (lower part) is optional.

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AMP - 0627

7

gli - der that clings to a wind - y gale? _____ Have you
high der - by race o - ver roofs and trees? _____ Have you

9

ev - er in your life seen a house fly? _____ *Nei - ther have
ev - er in your life seen a horse fly? _____ Nei - ther have
* pronounced: nī - ther

11

1. _____ 2. _____ *rit.*

1. _____ 2. _____ *rit.*

13 *in a serious tone, legato* $\text{♩} = 78$

Have you ev - er seen a fire-breath-ing drag - on - fly —

13 *legato* $\text{♩} = 78$

15 with a trail of smoke in the sun - ny sky? —

15

17 — Have you ev - er seen a cream - y but - ter - fly —

17