

A small, cluttered room, where they eat and sleep. There may be a door to the kitchen, and there should be a front door: The room is several flights up. Important furnishings include a bed with a lightly colored quilt, a desk littered with paper, notebooks, etc. A candelabrum, a music box, perhaps a dresser for Joanna. There is a Ferris wheel which Lawrence has made; a large, colorful, highly decorated wheel which turns and has (perhaps ten or twelve) seats which swing as the wheel turns, all but two seats are on the wheel. A colorful box with a decorated lid, the Surprise Box, where gifts are placed. Perhaps a blackboard somewhere, and stools or chairs for Edna and Claypone, two imaginary characters who share the room. Joanna is about six months pregnant.

At rise we see Lawrence in the room alone. He is tapping the wall with the end of a coat hanger to get the attention of his "audience": Claypone and Edna, his students for the moment.

LAWRENCE. Now, if you'll only pay attention! The Pleiades are called the Seven Sisters because they're grouped closely together and with the unaided eye you can only see seven of them. Actually they're about thirty stars in the whole cluster. Now you know that the universe is expanding; we discussed that -Billy, sit down and don't chew your eraser -we discussed that last time. I know your name isn't Billy, Claypone, but you're pretending to be Billy: can't you just sit still like a good student? You're in Astronomy 101. If Edna can sit quietly, so can you. Now. As the universe is expanding and all of our galaxy is rotating, within the galaxy the stars are moving at incredible speeds in various directions. It's part of the expansion -Edna! -theory that all stars are moving farther and farther from each other. But the Seven Sisters- although they seem to be perfectly stationary to us, it has been proved that they are shooting away from the center -moving apart, at an incredible speed -everyone getting farther from the others, so in a million years we won't be able to tell that they ever were a part of the same cluster. They're shooting out this way! *(Drawing, as with chalk, on the wall.)* And over here, and zoom -at about a hundred light-years a minute! Up and down and out and across - *(Getting uncontrollably excited, he starts tracing their path around the room as if following an exploded skyrocket.)* -and bang! And pow! And, if we was there, Whizz! Burn! Zing! Ssssstt Ssssstt! Zooommmmm! Kachowwie! Whamm! *(He has knocked sowpapers off the desk. He turns to Claypone, calming down.)* Hey, did I scare you? Did I? Where's Edna? *(His eyes focus under the desk across the room. Panting.)* You -come on back here, now. Come on. Sit down. You too, Claypone. It's part of the lesson. I'm busy now. You do something. I don't care; do anything. Don't bother me. *(He walks to the Ferris wheel, sitting, looking at it; turning it gently. To himself.)* No, no, if it went faster you wouldn't need the seats, because the gravity would throw you against the bars; either that or it would throw you off altogether. Well, that way is all right, too; it's just that it's a different ride altogether. You'll have to experiment and see which principle applies to this particular size model. Well it might mean the death of a hundred-thirty-seven human guinea pigs, but if it's for the advancement of entertainment, what's a sacrifice? I am an engineer, a scientist, I can only make the models; you can either use them or disregard my advancements. *(To Claypone and Edna.)* No, she went to the grocery-she'll be back in a minute. No, you can't go out and look for her. They'd grab you and lock you in jail in a minute. Because you don't watch for street lights. You do not -every time -*(He is getting nervous, frightened.)* -you go out, you get almost hit with some car or truck and it just drives me crazy trying to keep track of you. And besides you hate it out there. You know how you are! You make me so ashamed stuttering! And not talking to a person and wilting into some corner like a shade plant. No. She'll be back! She went to the grocery to get a few things! *(Almost uncontrolled.)* And she said she'll be back and she will. You must stay here. No, you stay too. You're not going to leave me here alone; you'd wilt into some corner and they'd come and take you off. *(He forces and bed, on the floor.)* She'll be right back. look in the Surprise Box. She just went out for a minute; and she'll be about the adventure, now. *(Pause. now, like you were at a social tea with ice peppermint frosting and little sugar flavoring. And little sugar crystals on yellow and white.... (There is a soft but Shhhhhhh! (Violently whispered to (The knock is repeated a little louder.) Shhh!*