

THE RAILWAY CHILDREN

AUDITION SPEECHES *MOTHER*

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Mr Szezcpanksy is a writer; he's written wonderful books. In Russia, under the Tsar, you daren't say anything about the rich people doing wrong, or about the things that ought to be done to make the poor people better and happier. If you do, you're sent to prison. Sometimes people are sent away when judges *think* they've done wrong. He wrote a beautiful book. About poor people. And how to help them. I've read it. There's nothing in it but goodness and kindness. And they sent him to prison for it. He was in a horrible dungeon, all alone, for three years. Then they sent him in chains as a convict, made to walk for hundred of mile, watched by overseers who whipped them if they stumbled or fell. And finally to work in the mines in far Siberia - condemned to stay there for life - just for writing a book. When the war came, some of the prisoners were allowed to volunteer as soldiers, so he did, but he deserted the first chance he got. Children, when you say your prayers tonight, ask God to show his pity on all prisoners and captives.