

# First Thanksgiving

by Aileen Fisher

FOUR BOYS and FOUR GIRLS enter and line up across stage.

- 1ST BOY: The harvest has been gathered now,  
it's time that we took stock.
- 1ST GIRL: Just half of us are living now  
who came to Plymouth Rock.
- 1ST GIRL and BOY (Together): Fifty graves  
are on the hill . . .  
yet we praise this freedom still  
and face our hardships with a will.
- 2ND BOY: The first long months are over  
now,  
our colony takes form:
- 2ND GIRL: Eleven buildings have been  
built,  
secure against the storm:
- 2ND GIRL and BOY (Together): Seven  
dwellings, plus the four  
for common use and common store  
where there was wilderness before.
- 3RD BOY: The months of fear are ended  
now,  
and no one will forget  
how Squanto came . . .
- 3RD GIRL: And Massasoit and friendly  
Samoset.
- 3RD GIRL and BOY (Together): They gave  
our frightened hearts release  
and made our dread of Indians cease.  
We live together here in peace.
- 4TH BOY: The first lean year is ended  
now,  
we've had good land to till:
- 4TH GIRL: Twenty acres sowed to corn,  
three herrings in each hill.
- 4TH GIRL and BOY (Together): Our barley  
patch was not too bad,  
and there were green-things to be had.  
Our harvest makes us humbly glad.
- GIRLS: To signify our gratitude,  
we'll hold a feast of thanks.
- BOYS: Let Squanto tell our Indian friends  
to come and join our ranks!
- ALL: We'll share the feast and dine in  
state.  
Raise the cup and fill the plate!  
In thankfulness we'll celebrate.

THE END

# The Book That Saved the Earth

by Claire Boiko

How the Macronite invasion of 1988  
was prevented . . . .

## Characters

HISTORIAN  
GREAT AND MIGHTY THINK-TANK  
APPRENTICE NOODLE  
CAPTAIN OMEGA  
LIEUTENANT IOTA  
SERGEANT OOP  
OFFSTAGE VOICE

TIME: 2543 A.D.

BEFORE RISE: *Spotlight shines on HISTORIAN, who is sitting at table down right, on which there is a movie projector. A sign on an easel beside him reads:* MUSEUM OF ANCIENT HISTORY: DEPARTMENT OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY. *He stands and bows to audience.*

HISTORIAN: Good afternoon. Welcome to our Museum of Ancient History, and to my department — curiosities of the good old, far-off twentieth century. The twentieth century was often called the Era of the Book. In those days,

there were books about everything from anteaters to Zulus. Books taught people how to, and when to, and where to, and why to. They illustrated, educated, punctuated and even decorated. But the strangest thing a book ever did was to save the Earth. You haven't heard about the Macronite invasion of 1988? Tsk, tsk. What *do* they teach children nowadays? Well, you know, the invasion never really happened, because a single book stopped it. What was the book, you ask? A noble encyclopedia? A tome about rockets and missiles? A secret file from outer space? No, it was none of these. It was (*Pauses, then points to projector*) — here, let me turn on the historiscope and show you what happened many, many centuries ago, in 1988. (*He turns on projector, and points it left. Spotlight on HISTORIAN goes out, and comes up down left on THINK-TANK, who is seated on raised box, arms folded. He has huge, egg-shaped head, and he wears long*