

Reader's Theatre Scripts

Grades K-2

By Meg Mechelke, Iowa Reading Research Center Communications Assistant



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Introduction

Reader's theatre is an excellent way to provide students with the opportunity to practice important fluency skills, especially when paired with assisted and repeated reading strategies. The following scripts include roles for 7 to 8 readers and are written for Grades kindergarten–2. Each script includes a list of potentially unfamiliar vocabulary words. Students may benefit from parents or caregivers preteaching these words due to their pronunciation and/or definition. Some scripts also feature a list of idiomatic or colloquial expressions used within the piece, which teachers and caregivers can pre-teach, especially for bilingual students.

For more information on how to incorporate these scripts into a lesson plan, see our blog post titled ["Drama in the Classroom: Reader's Theatre as Fluency Practice."](#)

The Three Billy Goats Gruff



A Norwegian Folktale

Characters:

NARRATOR 1

NARRATOR 2

NARRATOR 3

BABY GOAT

MEDIUM GOAT

BIG GOAT

TROLL

Vocabulary:

field [feeld] – a large, open area filled with plants

meadow [MED-oh] – a large, grassy area

guarded [GAHR-did] – protected, defended

decided [dih-SAHY-did] – chose, picked

cries [krahyz] – shouts, exclamations

NARRATOR 1: Once upon a time, there lived three billy goats by the name of Gruff.

NARRATOR 2: There was a big, strong goat, a little baby goat, and a medium sized goat.

BIG GOAT: I'm the biggest of the billy goats Gruff!

BABY GOAT: And I'm the baby of the billy goats Gruff!

MEDIUM GOAT: And I'm right in between!

NARRATOR 3: The three goats lived in a grassy area next to an old stone bridge.

NARRATOR 1: The goats had lived in this area for a long, long time.

NARRATOR 2: Now, there was almost no grass left to eat!

BABY GOAT: I'm hungry! Can't you hear my tummy rumbling?

MEDIUM GOAT: I'm hungry, too, but there is nothing left for us to eat here.

BIG GOAT: We will have to cross the bridge. There is a big green field on the other side.

BABY GOAT: But wait! Everyone knows that the bridge is protected by a mean old troll.

MEDIUM GOAT: Trolls like that eat billy goats for breakfast!

BABY GOAT: I don't want to be breakfast!

BIG GOAT: Don't worry. We will come up with a plan to beat that mean old troll.

NARRATOR 3: The goats thought long and hard. Then, the medium goat had an idea.

MEDIUM: I know how we can trick the mean old troll. Listen to this!

NARRATOR 1: The medium goat told the other goats the plan. Then, they were ready to cross the bridge.

NARRATOR 2: First, the baby goat tried to cross the bridge.

BABY GOAT: Clip-clop, clip-clop, clip-clop.

NARRATOR 3: Suddenly, the mean old troll jumped out from under the bridge.

TROLL: How dare you cross this bridge! I'm the mean old troll. I eat goats like you for breakfast!

NARRATOR 1: But the baby goat was not afraid.

BABY GOAT: I'm sorry to bother you, troll. But you don't want to eat me.

TROLL: Why not?

BABY GOAT: Well, I'm only the baby goat. I am the smallest goat in my family! If you wait a little longer, the rest of my family will come. They are much bigger than me. Wouldn't you rather eat a big, meaty goat than a little baby goat like me?

NARRATOR 2: The troll thought about this. He decided that the baby goat was right.

TROLL: Very well. I will let you pass.

NARRATOR 3: So the baby goat crossed the bridge safely and made it over to the big green field.

NARRATOR 1: Next, the medium goat crossed the bridge.

MEDIUM GOAT: Clip-clop, clip-clop.

NARRATOR 2: Suddenly, the mean old troll jumped out from under the bridge.

TROLL: How dare you cross this bridge! I'm the mean old troll. I eat goats like you for breakfast!

NARRATOR 3: But the medium goat was not afraid.

MEDIUM GOAT: Here's the thing, troll. You could eat me, it's true. A poor little medium goat like me would not stand a chance against a big strong monster like you. But I have a secret to tell you.

TROLL: What's the secret?

MEDIUM GOAT: I come from a family of three billy goats. I am only the middle goat. If you wait a little longer, the biggest billy goat Gruff will come across this bridge. He will make a much more filling meal than I would.

NARRATOR 1: The troll thought about this. He was pretty hungry, and the medium goat was pretty skinny. Maybe it would be better to wait.

TROLL: All right, goat. I'll let you go, just this once.

MEDIUM GOAT: Thank you, Troll!

NARRATOR 2: So the medium goat crossed the bridge safely. He joined the baby goat over in the big, green field.

NARRATOR 3: Now, there was only one goat left. It was time for the big goat to cross the bridge.

BIG GOAT: Clip-clop, clip-clop.

NARRATOR 1: Just like before, the mean, old troll jumped out from under the bridge.

TROLL: How dare you cross this bridge! I'm the mean, old troll. I eat goats like you for breakfast! And now I'm really hungry!

NARRATOR 2: But the big goat was not afraid.

BIG GOAT: You greedy troll! I'm way too big for you to eat! If you come any closer to me, I will kick you right in the eye!

NARRATOR 3: The troll thought about this. He looked at the big, strong goat. He knew what the goat had said was true.

TROLL: Argggh! You terrible goats tricked me!

NARRATOR 1: While the troll yelled, the big goat ran across the bridge. He joined the others in the big green field.

TROLL: Now I'll never get my supper!

NARRATOR 2: But the three billy goats Gruff didn't hear the greedy old troll's cries.

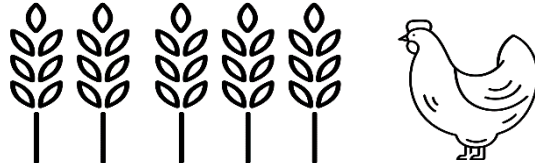
NARRATOR 3: They were too busy enjoying the delicious green grass of the field.

NARRATOR 1: And they all lived happily ever after.

NARRATOR 2: And they never ran out of food to eat ever again!

NARRATOR 3: The end!

The Little Red Hen



An American Fable

Characters:

NARRATOR 1

NARRATOR 2

NARRATOR 3

HEN

DOG

CAT

MOUSE

Vocabulary:

seeds [seedz] – tiny, hard shells that grow into plants

wheat [weet] – a plant that can be made into flour

ripe [rahyp] – fully grown, ready to eat

flour [FLOU-er] – soft, ground up wheat, used to make bread and other foods

batter [BAT-er] – a mixture of flour, eggs, and milk, used to make cake or other foods

piece [pees-siz] – one part of a whole

NARRATOR 1: Once upon a time, there was a little red hen.

HEN: Cluck, cluck!

NARRATOR 2: She lived in a little house with her best friends, Dog, Cat, and Mouse!

DOG: Woof!

CAT: Meow!

MOUSE: Squeak!

NARRATOR 3: One day, the little red hen found some seeds.

HEN: I have an idea! I will plant these seeds. They will grow into wheat!

NARRATOR 1: The little red hen went to her friends.

HEN: Who will help me plant these seeds?

DOG: Not me! I am busy chasing my tail.

CAT: Not me! I am busy taking a nap.

MOUSE: Not me! I am busy eating some cheese.

NARRATOR 2: No one wanted to help the little red hen.

NARRATOR 3: So, she planted the seeds all by herself.

NARRATOR 1: Weeks went by. The seeds started to grow.

NARRATOR 2: Soon, the seeds had grown big and ripe. It was time to cut the wheat.

NARRATOR 3: The little red hen went to her friends.

HEN: Who will help me cut the wheat?

DOG: Not me! I am busy playing fetch.

CAT: Not me! I am busy taking a bath.

MOUSE: Not me! I am busy running on my wheel.

NARRATOR 1: No one wanted to help the little red hen.

NARRATOR 2: So, she cut the wheat all by herself.

HEN: This is hard work!

NARRATOR 3: Next, the little red hen had to make the wheat into flour.

HEN: Who will help me make the wheat into flour?

NARRATOR 1: But again, her friends said:

DOG: Not me!

CAT: Not me!

MOUSE: Not me!

NARRATOR 2: So, the little red hen made the wheat into flour all by herself.

NARRATOR 3: The little red hen took all the flour and went into the kitchen.

HEN: I have an idea! I can use this flour to make a cake!

NARRATOR 1: The little red hen started to make the cake. First, she cracked some eggs.

DOG: What are you doing, Hen?

HEN: I'm baking a cake. Do you want to help?

DOG: No thanks.

NARRATOR 2: Next, the little red hen mixed up the batter.

CAT: What are you doing, Hen?

HEN: I'm baking a cake. Do you want to help?

CAT: No thanks.

NARRATOR 3: Last, the little red hen put the cake in the oven.

MOUSE: What are you doing, Hen?

HEN: I'm baking a cake.

MOUSE: It smells good. Can I have some?

NARRATOR 1: The little red hen felt angry. Why should she share her cake with her friends? They had not helped her make it!

HEN: No, you can't have any!

MOUSE: Why not?

HEN: I have worked so hard to make this cake. And you have not helped at all!

NARRATOR 2: Mouse went to Cat and Dog. He told them what the little red hen had said.

CAT: We have not been very good friends to Hen.

DOG: We should have helped her.

MOUSE: But what can we do to fix it?

NARRATOR 3: Then, Cat had an idea. She and the others went up to Hen.

CAT: Hen, we are very sorry that we did not help you. It was not very nice of us.

HEN: Thank you, Cat.

CAT: To make it up to you, we will help you clean the kitchen.

MOUSE: I can wash the dishes!

DOG: And I can dry them!

CAT: And I can clean up the floor!

HEN: That is very nice of you! Thank you!

NARRATOR 1: Cat, Mouse, and Dog cleaned up the kitchen. They did a good job of it, too.

NARRATOR 2: Soon, the cake was done.

HEN: You guys can have some cake if you want. It was nice of you to help clean the kitchen.

CAT: Thank you, Hen!

NARRATOR 3: Cat cut the cake into four pieces.

NARRATOR 1: But she made sure that the biggest piece went to the little red hen.

MOUSE: This cake is so yummy, Hen!

DOG: You are a great cook!

NARRATOR 2: The four friends ate their cake. And the next time the little red hen found some seeds...

HEN: Who will help me plant these seeds?

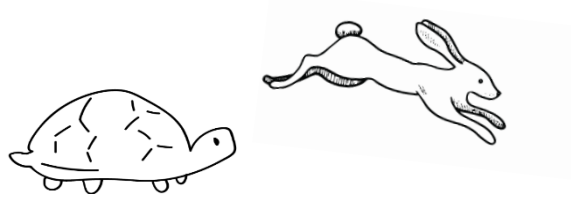
DOG: I will!

CAT: I will!

MOUSE: I will!

NARRATOR 3: The end!

The Tortoise and the Hare



An Aesop Fable

Characters:

NARRATOR 1	HARE
NARRATOR 2	HEDGEHOG
NARRATOR 3	BLUEBIRD
TORTOISE	SQUIRREL

Vocabulary:

tortoise [TAWR-*tuhs*] – a large turtle that lives on land

hare [hair] – a large rabbit

jealous [JEL-*uhs*] – the feeling of being upset because someone can do something you cannot

pride [praɪd] – the feeling of being proud or confident

Idioms:

get the better of you – to beat or harm

stick in the mud – someone who is boring and grumpy

you're on – a phrase used to accept a challenge or bet

back out – to quit or withdraw

NARRATOR 1: Once upon a time, there lived a tortoise, a hare, and a whole forest full of animals.

NARRATOR 2: The hare was the most popular animal in all the forest.

HARE: I'm the hare. I'm the fastest, coolest, most fantastic animal in the world!

NARRATOR 3: All the other animals wanted to be the hare's friend.

HEDGEHOG: Hare, you're the best!

BLUEBIRD: Do you want to hang out later?

SQUIRREL: You're my hero, Hare!

NARRATOR 1: All the animals, except for the tortoise, that is.

TORTOISE: To be honest, I don't think Hare is very nice. It is no fun to have a friend who only talks about themselves.

HARE: Oh, come on, Tortoise. You're just jealous.

HEDGEHOG: Yeah. Everyone knows you're the slowest animal in the forest.

HARE: And everyone knows that I'm the fastest!

BLUEBIRD: And the coolest.

SQUIRREL: And the most fantastic!

TORTOISE: I don't know, Hare. Someday, all that pride is going to get the better of you.

NARRATOR 2: But no one listened to Tortoise. All the animals laughed and laughed.

ALL ANIMALS (except Tortoise): Hahahahaha.

HEDGEHOG: Come on, Hare. Let's get out of here.

BLUEBIRD: Yeah. This tortoise is nothing but a stick in the mud!

NARRATOR 3: Tortoise felt sad that the other animals had laughed at him.

NARRATOR 1: But then, Tortoise had an idea.

TORTOISE: Just a minute, Hare. If you're so fantastic, why don't you prove it?

HARE: What do you mean?

TORTOISE: You think that you're the fastest animal in the forest, right?

HARE: Ha! I *know* I'm the fastest animal in the forest.

TORTOISE: Okay. Then let's have a race.

NARRATOR 2: The other animals could not believe what Tortoise had said.

SQUIRREL: *You want to race with Hare?*

HEDGEHOG: That's crazy!

BLUEBIRD: You won't stand a chance.

SQUIRREL: Can you believe this guy, Hare?

NARRATOR 3: But Hare was excited by the idea of a race. There was nothing he loved more than winning.

HARE: You know, what, Tortoise? Let's do it. Let's have a race.

TORTOISE: You're on, Hare.

NARRATOR 1: The animals worked out a plan for the race. Tortoise and Hare would run through the forest, up the big hill, down into the valley, across the stone bridge, and up to the base of the old oak tree.

NARRATOR 2: It was a long race. The longest Hare had ever run.

NARRATOR 3: But Hare was not worried. After all, everyone knew that he was the fastest animal in the forest.

NARRATOR 1: Tortoise and Hare went to the starting line. All the other animals went to the finish to wait for them.

HEDGEHOG: Poor Tortoise. He doesn't know what he is doing.

BLUEBIRD: Hare is going to beat him for sure.

SQUIRREL: And we'll all be home in time for lunch!

NARRATOR 2: At the starting line, Hare and Tortoise got ready to race.

HARE: You know, you can still back out, Tortoise.

TORTOISE: You wish.

NARRATOR 3: The race was about to begin. 3, 2, 1...

ALL NARRATORS: Go!

NARRATOR 1: Hare took off like a rocket, running as fast as he could.

NARRATOR 2: Tortoise went as fast as he could, too. But he was no match for Hare's speed.

NARRATOR 3: Hare ran through the forest, up the big hill, and down into the valley.

NARRATOR 1: Meanwhile, Tortoise moved slowly forward, taking the race one step at a time.

NARRATOR 2: When Hare came to the stone bridge, he felt tired and out of breath. This was the longest race he'd ever run.

NARRATOR 3: But he was almost to the finish line. Tortoise was nowhere in sight.

HARE: It will take that tortoise hours to catch up to me. It won't hurt if I take a little break.

NARRATOR 1: Hare sat down next to the bridge to catch his breath.

NARRATOR 2: Soon, he fell asleep.

NARRATOR 3: Meanwhile, Tortoise crawled through the forest, up the big hill, and down into the valley.

NARRATOR 1: When he came up to the stone bridge, he did not feel tired at all.

NARRATOR 2: Tortoise walked across the stone bridge, and soon, he could see the old oak tree.

NARRATOR 3: At the finish line, the other animals were still waiting.

HEDGEHOG: This is taking forever.

BLUEBIRD: I thought for sure Hare would be here by now.

SQUIRREL: I'm hungry!

NARRATOR 1: But then, they saw someone coming across the old bridge.

HEDGEHOG: There's Hare now!

BLUEBIRD: Why is he moving so slowly?

SQUIRREL: Come on, Hare! You can do it!

NARRATOR 2: But as that someone came closer, the animals saw that it was not the hare at all.

HEDGEHOG: Is that?

BLUEBIRD: No way!

SQUIRREL: It can't be!

NARRATOR 3: But it was! It was Tortoise.

NARRATOR 1: As the other animals watched, Tortoise made his way up to the old oak tree.

NARRATOR 2: Tortoise had won the race!

NARRATOR 3: A while later, Hare woke up from his nap.

HARE: I slept longer than I thought! But I'm sure that silly old tortoise is still way behind.

NARRATOR 1: Hare ran across the bridge and up to the old oak tree.

NARRATOR 2: To Hare's surprise, Tortoise was already there!

TORTOISE: Too late, Hare. You lost.

HARE: But how? Everyone knows I'm the fastest animal in the forest!

TORTOISE: That may be true. But I told you your pride would get the best of you. I passed you while you were napping by the bridge. And you know what they say: slow and steady wins the race!

NARRATOR 3: It was then that Hare realized he had not been fair to Tortoise.

HARE: You know what, Tortoise. You were right. I should not have bragged so much. I'm sorry I've been so mean to you.

TORTOISE: Thank you, Hare. Now, who wants some lunch!

HEDGEHOG: I do!

BLUEBIRD: Me too!

SQUIRREL: Me three!

NARRATOR 1: All of the animals ate lunch together.

NARRATOR 2: And the forest friends lived happily ever after.

NARRATOR 3: The end!

Rabbit Learns a Lesson



A Micmac Legend

Characters:

NARRATOR 1

NARRATOR 2

NARRATOR 3

GRANDMOTHER

RABBIT

OTTER

WOODPECKER

Vocabulary:

neighbor [NEY-ber] – someone who lives near someone else

stream [stream] – a small body of running water

caught [kawt] – past tense of catch

talked [tawkd] – past tense of talk

embarrassed [em-BAR-uhsd] – feeling sad or upset after making a mistake or doing something silly

skills [skilz] – things a person is good at

NARRATOR 1: Once upon a time, there was a little rabbit.

NARRATOR 2: He lived in the woods with his grandmother.

NARRATOR 3: One day, Grandmother Rabbit left to visit her sister on the other side of the woods.

GRANDMOTHER: I will be back tonight, little rabbit. Try to stay out of trouble.

RABBIT: I will. Have a safe trip!

NARRATOR 1: The little rabbit waited for his grandmother to come back.

NARRATOR 2: He read a book. He played outside. He cleaned his room.

NARRATOR 3: But soon, the little rabbit got hungry.

RABBIT: I can't wait until Grandmother comes back. I have to eat now!

NARRATOR 1: The little rabbit could not find any food in his house.

NARRATOR 2: So he went to visit his neighbor, Otter.

RABBIT: Hello, Otter.

OTTER: Hello, Rabbit. How are you?

RABBIT: I'm hungry. Do you have any food I could eat?

OTTER: No. But I could catch us some fish to eat!

NARRATOR 3: Otter took the little rabbit to the stream behind his house.

NARRATOR 1: He jumped in and caught a bunch of fish.

NARRATOR 2: Then, he buttered them up and fried them over the stove.

OTTER: Here you go, Rabbit.

RABBIT: Yum! That smells great!

NARRATOR 3: The little rabbit went back to his house.

NARRATOR 1: He played with his toys. He brushed his fur. He put away his laundry.

NARRATOR 2: But soon, the little rabbit got hungry again.

RABBIT: I am so hungry! I will go to the stream and catch myself some fish, just like Otter did.

NARRATOR 3: The little rabbit went to the stream.

RABBIT: Ahh! This water is so cold! And I cannot see anything! How does Otter do this?

NARRATOR 1: The little rabbit tried his best, but he could not catch a single fish.

RABBIT: Now what?

NARRATOR 2: The little rabbit climbed out of the stream. Just then, Woodpecker flew by.

WOODPECKER: Hello, Rabbit. Why are you all wet?

RABBIT: I was trying to catch some fish to eat, but I could not do it.

WOODPECKER: If you are hungry, I can help you find some food.

RABBIT: Really?

WOODPECKER: Of course!

NARRATOR 3: Woodpecker flew over to a nearby pine tree.

NARRATOR 1: He pecked his beak into the wood and pulled out some nice, juicy bugs.

WOODPECKER: Here you go, Rabbit.

RABBIT: Yum! Thank you!

WOODPECKER: Any time.

NARRATOR 2: Woodpecker flew away.

NARRATOR 3: But the little rabbit was still hungry.

RABBIT: I know! I will get some more bugs from the tree, just like Woodpecker.

NARRATOR 1: The little rabbit tried to peck his nose into the tree.

RABBIT: Ouch!

NARRATOR 2: But it did not work.

NARRATOR 3: By this time, it was getting dark.

NARRATOR 1: The little rabbit hopped back home. His fur was still wet, and now his nose hurt too!

NARRATOR 2: When he got there, he saw that his grandmother was home.

RABBIT: Grandmother!

GRANDMOTHER: Hello, little rabbit. But why are you so wet? And what happened to your nose?

NARRATOR 3: The little rabbit told his grandmother what had happened. As he talked, he started to cry.

GRANDMOTHER: Why are you crying, little rabbit?

RABBIT: I tried so hard to get food for myself. If Otter and Woodpecker can do it, why can't I?

NARRATOR 1: The little rabbit felt silly and embarrassed. Grandmother Rabbit gave him a big hug.

GRANDMOTHER: Don't worry about that! You do not have to have the same skills as Otter and Woodpecker to be a good rabbit.

RABBIT: But what skills do rabbits have?

GRANDMOTHER: Let me show you.

NARRATOR 2: The little rabbit and his grandmother went to the big garden behind their house.

GRANDMOTHER: Do you see these carrots? With our big teeth, we can pull them out of the dirt. Also, we can chew them up better than any other animal.

RABBIT: I do like carrots.

GRANDMOTHER: Watch me.

NARRATOR 3: Grandmother Rabbit used her big teeth to pull a carrot out of the ground. She took a big bite and chewed it all up.

GRANDMOTHER: Now you try.

RABBIT: Okay... here goes nothing.

NARRATOR 1: The little rabbit sunk his big teeth into the stem of the carrot.

NARRATOR 2: He pulled as hard as he could.

NARRATOR 3: And it worked! The carrot came out off the ground.

RABBIT: I did it!

GRANDMOTHER: Of course, you did! Remember, we all have our own gifts. Not everyone can be good at everything. But everyone is good at something!

NARRATOR 1: With that, the little rabbit and his grandmother went back inside.

GRANDMOTHER: How about we make some carrot soup for dinner?

RABBIT: Sounds good to me!

NARRATOR 2: The little rabbit and his grandmother made some yummy soup to eat.

NARRATOR 3: And the little rabbit never went hungry again.

NARRATOR 1: The next day, he showed Otter and Woodpecker his new talent!

NARRATOR 2: And they all lived happily ever after.

NARRATOR 3: The end!