

The Stinky Cheese Man



by Jaime Locke

firstgradebloom@blogspot.com

Reader's Theater

Putting on a short play, based on a story, where students read from a script is what Reader's Theater is all about. The purpose of Reader's Theater is to practice reading fluency and to have fun! True Reader's Theater uses no costumes or props and focuses on fluency and expression to entertain.

But adding costumes and props is a fun touch!

You can find many pre-made scripts out there or you can create your own.

I prefer to create my own so I can tailor the language to my student's reading abilities. It's also a fun guided writing activity to write a script, as a class.

Putting on a Reader's Theater play requires preparation, practice and performance. Here's how we do all 3 in my classroom:

preparation	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Find or write a script. **Highlight, ahead of time, the lines for each character on each script.**2. Read the selected book to your students.3. Show the script to students so they get a sense of how long the play will be. (Using an overhead, document camera or SmartBoard).4. Assign or choose roles for students.5. Students highlight their lines in their scripts (if they're older).
practice	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Teacher reads the <i>entire</i> play to show how to use expression when reading. Students follow along.2. Teacher reads the <i>entire</i> play again but this time the characters read along.3. Same characters meet to rehearse lines together, working on expression and possibly gestures.4. Each play (usually 3, so all kids are included) meets to rehearse for the big performance.
performance	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. One play at a time performs for the rest of the class.<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Remind actors that they need to: read loud enough, keep their script down (not in front of their face), and change their voices (expression) to make the play interesting.- Remind the audience that they need to: stay seated on their bottoms, pay attention with eyes and ears and clap at the end.2. At the end of each play debrief with the audience.<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Using thumbs up, to the side and down: How did the actors do with reading loud enough? Keeping their scripts down? Changing their voices?- "What did you like about the play/What did the actors do a good job of?"- "Is there anyway they could make the play better?"

From start to finish this process can take as long as you'd like.

You can split it up over a few days (in the place of Guided Reading, for example) or complete it in an hour. It just depends on your needs, style and time available.

Reader's Theater is so fun and really brings the best out of kids!

This is also a great thing to invite parents to, so they can watch their kid's reading in action.



Name _____ Character: _____

THE STINKY CHEESE MAN

Narrator	Old Woman	Cow	Boy
Old Man	Stinky Cheese Man	Girl	Fox

Narrator: Raise your hand if you know the story of the Gingerbread Man.
Well this story is a *stinky* twist on that classic tale.

Stinky: Yeah, who needs gingerbread when you can have Roquefort [roke for].

Narrator: What?

Stinky: You know, one of the stinkiest cheeses in the world. It's made from raw sheep's milk and kept in caves in Southern France.

Narrator: Are you kidding me?

Stinky: No. The French love their cheese, the stinkier the better!

Narrator: Anyways, can we get back to our story?

Stinky: Oh, excuse-moi [mwah].

Narrator: Once upon a time...

Woman: I lived with my husband, a little old man.

Man: We didn't have any children, so we were very lonely.

Narrator: One day they decided to make a man out of the stinky cheese.

Woman: Don't ask me why we decided to use stinky cheese.

Man: Well I'll tell you why. I LOVE cheese, the stinkier the better. So why not make a little man out of it?

Woman: Let's see now, what do I have in the fridge that I can use for the eyes and nose?

Man: How about olives for the eyes and a nice piece of bacon for the mouth?

Woman: Okay. I guess it can't get any stinkier than it already is!

Narrator: 5 minutes later...

Man: I think you should check on our stinky little man my dear.

Narrator: When she opened the oven to see if he was done, the smell knocked her back.

Woman: Pew! What is that terrible smell?

Man: I think he's done!

Narrator: The Stinky Cheese Man hopped out of the oven and ran out the door calling

Stinky: Run, run as fast as you can. You can't catch me, I'm the Stinky Cheese Man!

Narrator: The little old lady and the little old man sniffed the air.

Man: I'm not really very hungry.

Woman: I'm not really all that lonely.

Narrator: So they didn't chase the Stinky Cheese Man. But he kept running until he met a cow eating grass a field.

Cow: Holy cow, what's that awful smell?

Stinky: It's me! I've run away from a little old lady and a little old man and I can run away from you too.

Cow: I bet you could.

Stinky: Run, run as fast as you can. You can't catch me, I'm the Stinky Cheese Man!

Cow: I bet you could give someone two or three stomachaches. No thank you. I think I'll just eat weeds.

Narrator: So the cow didn't chase the Stinky Cheese Man either.

Cow: (*sniffing*) Smells like that guy is made of Munster.

Narrator: What?

Cow: You know, one of the stinkiest cheeses in the world. It's French. The French love their cheese, the stinkier the better!

Narrator: Yeah, I've heard that before. So he kept running until he met some kids playing outside a school.

Girl: Gross! What's that nasty smell?

Boy: It's coming from over there.

Stinky: It's me! I've run away from a little old lady, a little old man and a cow and I can run away from you too.

Girl: I'm sure you could.

Boy: If we catch him, our teacher will probably make us eat him. Let's get out of here!

Stinky: Run, run as fast as you can. You can't catch me, I'm the Stinky Cheese Man!

Narrator: So the kids didn't chase the Stinky Cheese Man either.

Girl: (*sniffing*) Smells like that guy is made of Camembert [cah mom bear].

Boy: (*sniffing*) No. I think he's made of Epoisses [ay pwah ss].

Narrator: Let me guess. You're talking about French cheeses?

Girl: Yep. The French love their cheese, the stinkier the better!

Boy: Yeah, Epoisses [ay pwah ss] is so stinky that it's against the law to eat it on busses and the subway in France.

Narrator: I'm getting quite the cheese lesson today. So the Stinky Cheese Man kept running until he came to a river with no bridge.

Stinky: How will I ever cross this river? It's too big to jump, and if I try to swim across I'll probably fall apart.

Narrator: Just then the sly fox (who shows up in a lot of stories like these) poked his head out of the bushes.

Fox: Well hello little guy.

Stinky: It's me!

Fox: What?

Stinky: Oh, I thought you were going to ask what stinks so bad.

Fox: Well you **are** pretty pungent. If you want to get across this river, then just hop on my back and I'll carry you across.

Stinky: Wait a minute. How do I know you won't eat me?

Fox: Trust me. Look at this face. Don't I look like a cute, harmless fox?

Stinky: Hmmmm. Okay.

Narrator: So the Stinky Cheese Man hopped on the fox's back. The fox swam to the middle of the river and caught a whiff of something.

Fox: Oh man, what is that funky smell?

Stinky: You were supposed to ask me that about two minutes ago.

Narrator: The fox coughed.

Fox: *(coughing)*

Narrator: He gagged.

Fox: *(gagging)*

Narrator: He sneezed.

Fox: *(sneezing)*

Narrator: And the Stinky Cheese Man flew off the fox's back and into the river.

Stinky: Ahhhhhhhh!

Narrator: Where he fell apart.

Man, Woman, Cow, Boy, Girl: Good riddance!

Cow: I wonder if stinky cheese is still stinky when it's wet?

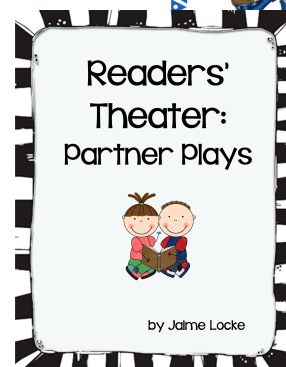
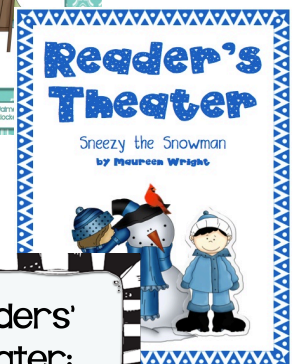
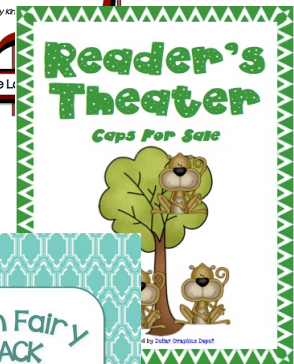
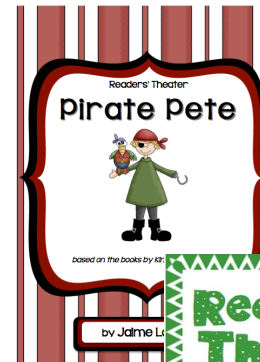
Boy: Who cares?

Woman: Next time I think I'll just use gingerbread.

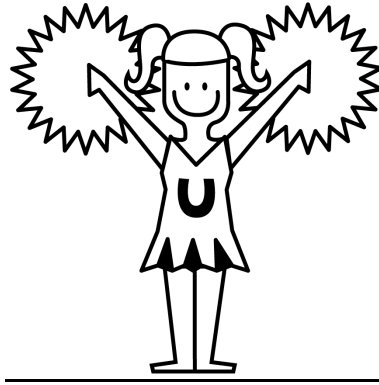
Narrator: THE *Stinky* END.

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