



Readers' Theater



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Sir Isaac Newton

Scientist, Thinker, Inventor



GRL: J
DRA: 18

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Each reader's part is highlighted in color.

List of Characters

(in order of appearance)

Group 1: Green

Group 2: Blue

Group 3: Orange

Isaac Newton: Red



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Group 3: In 1687, Isaac published a book that contained all his ideas. People realized that he was a genius.

Group 1: In 1705, Queen Anne of England made Isaac a knight. He became Sir Isaac Newton. It was the first time a scientist had received this honor.

Group 2: Sir Isaac Newton died in 1727, when he was 84.

Group 3: Thanks to this scientist, thinker, and inventor, we know much more about our world.



Sir Isaac Newton Scientist, Thinker, Inventor

Group 1: More than 300 years ago, in 1643, Isaac Newton was born on a farm in England.

Group 2: Isaac was such a small and weak baby that his mother thought he wouldn't live.

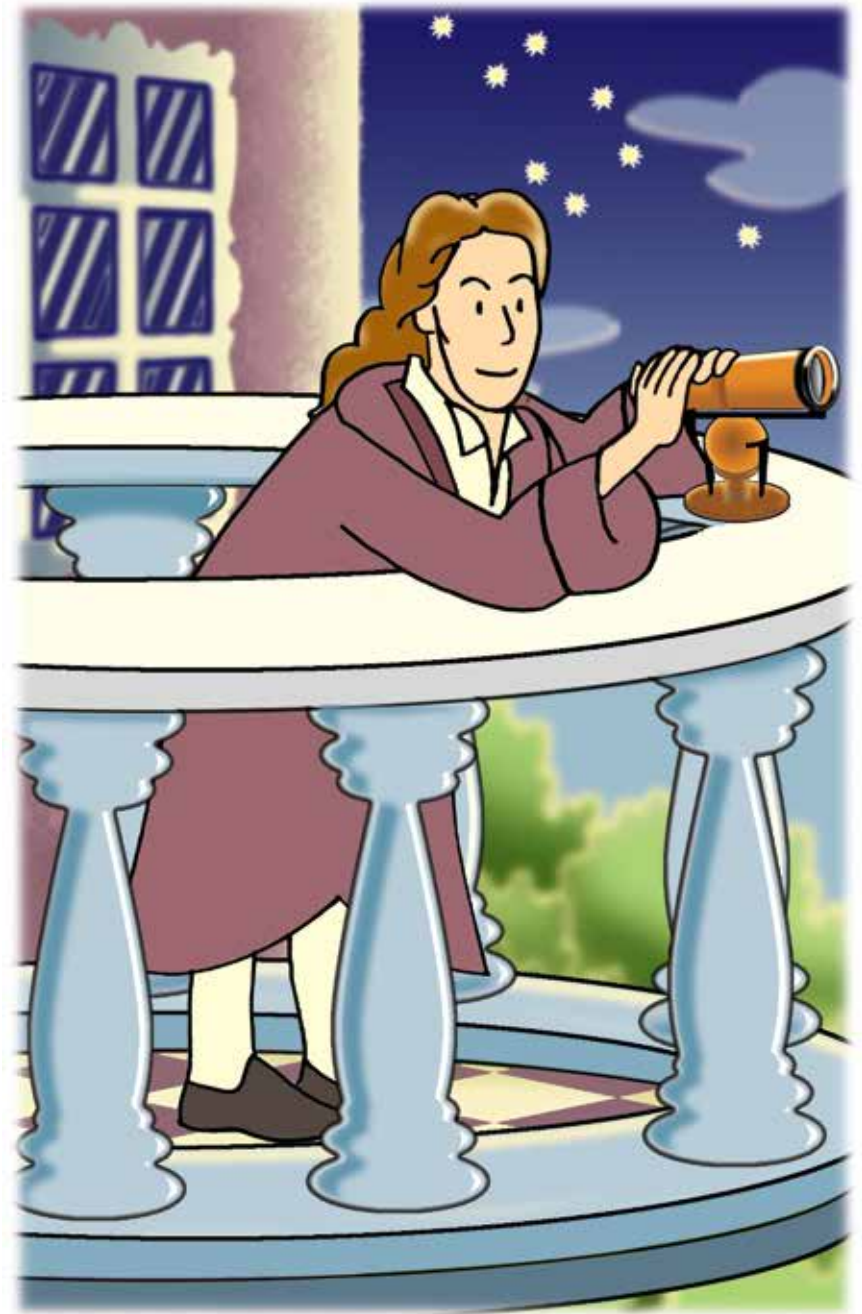
Group 3: But he did, and Isaac became one of the world's greatest scientists, thinkers, and inventors.



Group 1: As a boy, Isaac was curious about everything. He wanted to know how things worked and was always asking questions.

Group 2: He liked to draw, and he liked to build models.

Group 3: He made a sundial with strings and pegs.



Group 2: Isaac had more questions about the stars and the planets.

Isaac Newton: Why do the stars stay in the sky? Why do the planets revolve around the Sun? How can I get a better look at them?

Group 3: At the time, telescopes were big and clumsy. When you used them, you couldn't see very far.

Isaac Newton: So I invented and built a new kind of telescope using two mirrors.

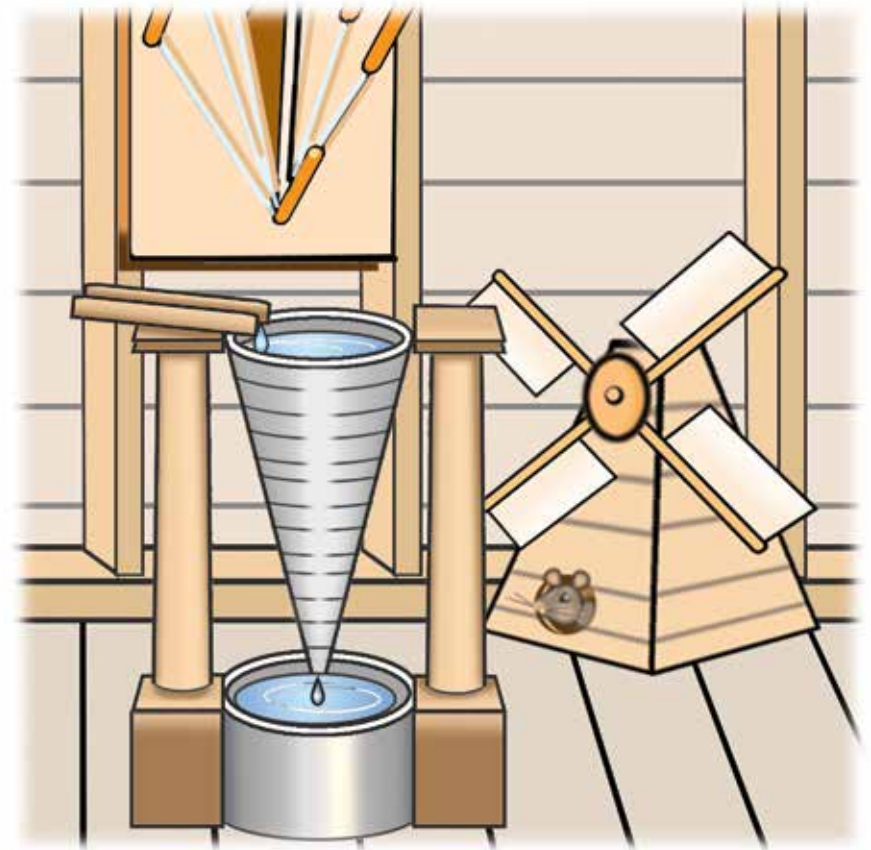
Group 1: The telescope was only 12 inches long.

Group 2: But with it, Isaac could see stars and planets that were thousands of miles away.

Group 1: Isaac made a water clock by dripping water through a tiny hole.

Group 2: He built a windmill with cloth sails that was run by a mouse.

Group 3: All the models worked!



Group 1: Isaac was also good at making kites.

Group 2: One day, he invented a special paper lantern. He made a few and tied them to a kite's tail.

Group 3: On a dark and windy night, he flew his lantern kite. Some people thought it was a falling star, and they ran away and hid.



Group 2: Isaac also started thinking about light and performing experiments.

Group 3: Using a special piece of glass, Isaac discovered that white light contains all the colors of the rainbow!

Group 1: And he always saw the colors in the same order: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet!



Group 3: Then Isaac started thinking about the moon. And he asked more questions.

Isaac Newton: What keeps the moon in the sky? Why doesn't it shoot off into space? What makes the moon revolve around Earth?

Group 1: Again, he came up with the answer. It was gravity, too!



Group 1: As a young man, Isaac continued to ask questions and was always looking for answers.

Group 2: When faced with a problem, he would think and think until he found a solution.

Group 3: He spent many, many hours reading, thinking, and writing. Sometimes, he even forgot to eat.



Group 1: From 1665 to 1667, Isaac did some of his greatest work.

Group 2: Some people called that period of his life his “miracle years.”

Group 3: One day, while he was sitting in the garden, an apple fell from a tree.

Group 1: Isaac started asking questions.

Isaac Newton: Why did the apple fall down?
Why didn't it fall up?
Why didn't it fall sideways?

Group 2: Isaac figured out that a force was pulling the apple to the ground. He had discovered gravity.

