



# Readers' Theater



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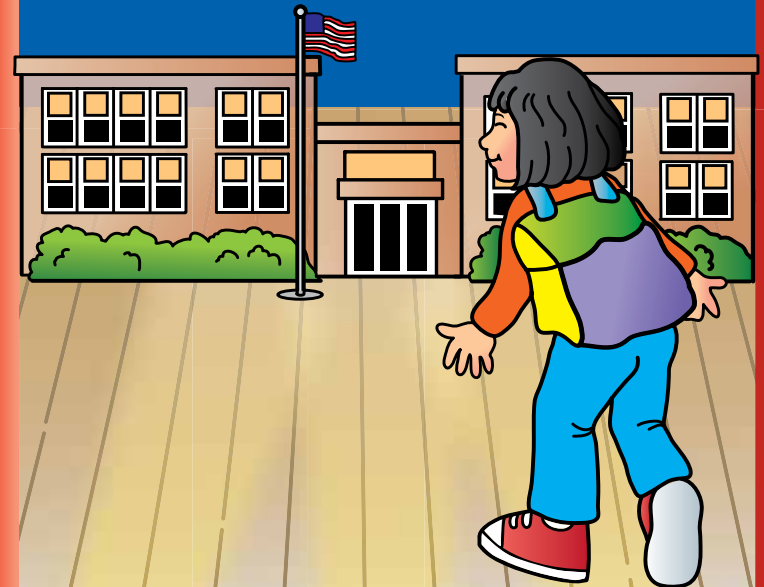
# Readers' Theater



## School, Community, Country

Poems for 2 or More Voices

By Betsy Franco



Each reader's part is highlighted in color.

Voice 1: Red

Voice 2: Blue

Voice 3: Green

Voice 4: Orange

All Voices Together: Purple

If you have too few readers for the number of voice parts in the poem, just do your own thing! Have students double up on parts or choral read. Remember, the object of Readers' Theater is to have fun!



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# Walking to School

(2 voices at the same time)

Walk, walk,  
kick a rock.  
Hurry up, it's 8 o'clock!

Skip, skip,  
watch for cracks!  
Crunch some leaves  
and yakkity-yak.

Whirr, whirr,  
bikers pass.  
Wave to the kids  
you know from class.

Bounce, bounce,  
feel your pack,  
feel it jouncing  
on your back.

Run, run  
down the block.  
Walk back home  
at 3 o'clock.

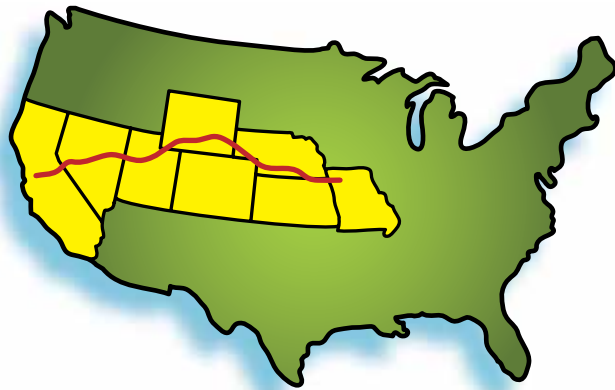
Talk, walk,  
kick a rock.  
Hurry up, it's 8 o'clock!

Hop, skip,  
watch for cracks!  
Crunch some leaves  
and yakkity-yak.

Whirr, whirr,  
scooters pass.  
Wave to the kids  
you know from class.

Bang, bounce,  
feel your pack,  
feel it jouncing  
on your back.

Race, run  
down the block.  
Walk back home  
at 3 o'clock.



# When I Shared My Cat

(2 voices)

I shared my cat.

Way to go!

He was scared about that.

Uh, oh!

He made his escape

Hey, whoa!

through the videotapes.

Watch out below!

He tried to eat

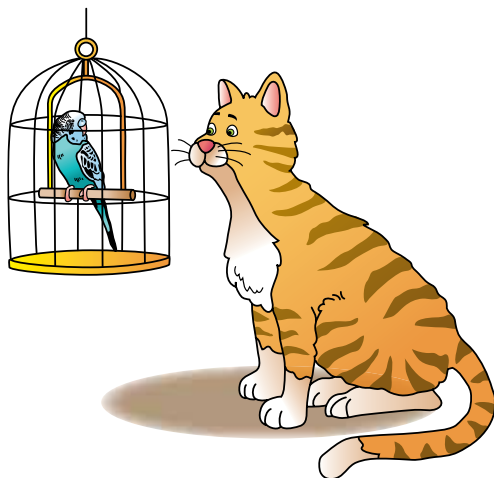
Oh, no!

our parakeet.

Wouldn't you know?

He was slick and fast,

Look at him go!



We ride where the land is

wet

and dry,

flat

and steep.

We don't ask why.

With seven ponies

on every ride,

for 100 miles,

we take great pride

that we never stop.

We go, go, go

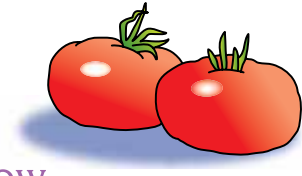
through rain, the sun,

and chilling snow.



Tomatoes that the farmers grow!  
By transportation fast and slow,  
they get to the stores  
where you go.

Dad buys lots of berries.  
He says they're good for you.  
He buys some red, some blue, some black.  
Some boysenberries, too.

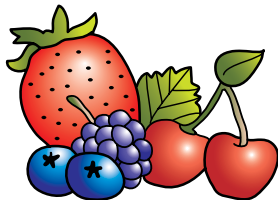


Berries that the farmers grow  
By transportation fast and slow,  
they get to the stores  
where you go!

## Pony Express Riders

(2 or more voices)

We ride through  
deserts,  
streams,  
and plains,  
through snowy  
mountains,  
on rough terrains.



I caught him at last.  
Bingo!  
He licked my face,  
Nice and slow.  
Mom took him home.  
Time to go.  
Teacher was stressed.  
Wouldn't ya know?  
The room was a mess!  
High and low!  
She counted to ten,  
Nice and slow.  
Said, "No more pets!"  
And that's how it goes!



# Building a Town

(2 voices or 18 voices)

I'll build the school  
from wood and bricks.

I'll bring the desks  
and lots of books.



I'll build a nifty place  
to eat.

I'll bring the food  
and hire some cooks.

I'll build a theater  
filled with screens.

I'll bring the movies  
and the snacks.

I'll build a big  
department store.



I'll bring the clothes  
and all the racks.

Mom buys lots of apples.  
She says they're good for you.  
She picks out red and yellow ones.  
Some sour apples, too.

Apples that the farmers grow!  
By transportation fast and slow,  
they get to the stores  
where you go.



Dad buys lots of lettuce.  
He says it's good for you.  
He picks fresh leaves for salad gr  
It's nice and crunchy, too.

Lettuce that the farmers grow!  
By transportation fast and slow,  
they get to the stores  
where you go.

Mom buys red tomatoes.  
She says they're good for you.  
She gets some hanging on the vine  
and pear tomatoes, too.



But three months later, I arrived.  
Your food supplies were lean.

With ships restocked, I traveled on.  
You reached the Philippines.

So now, we need to finish the tale.  
for it's where Magellan died.

But he's famous for sailing around the globe.  
In that, he took great pride!

## From Farm to Store to Me

(4 or more voices)



I'll build a station  
for fighting fires.

I'll bring the hoses  
and the poles.

I'll plant some fields  
with plenty of  
grass.

I'll bring the nets  
for making goals.

I'll build a parlor  
with twirly stools.

Tubs of ice cream—  
that's what I'll bring.

What are we missing  
in our town?

I can't think  
of a single thing.  
Wait, what about  
a grocery store?



I'll bring the food  
and stock the aisles.

That's what we'd build  
to make a town.

I think this project  
will take a while!

## Magellan

(2 or more voices)



I was born in the country of Portugal.  
But the king of Spain gave you ships.

I wanted to find the Islands of Spice.  
You never returned from the trip.

I sailed west across the Atlantic.  
You stopped a mutiny.

By the time I got through the  
"Strait of Magellan,"  
you'd sailed uncharted seas.

I named the ocean "Pacific,"  
because it was very calm.  
I thought it would take a mere three days  
to sail and land in Guam.

