

A one-act dramatic play
The Farmer's Wife
By Idries Shah



CAST

Narrator 1
Narrator 2
Narrator 3
The Farmer's Wife
A Bird
A Cat
A Dog

A Bee
A Beekeeper
A Rope
A Fire
A Puddle of water
A Cow
The Wind

(If there are not enough students to play the parts, have students read multiple roles. If there are too many students, you may choose to have more than one reader's theater going on.)

PROPS, SCENERY and COSTUMES*

Allow students to think about and create their own props, costumes and scenery.

Some ideas for props and costumes are on the next page.

(*Note: You do not need to use costumes or props in order to successfully do a reader's theater. However, these suggestions are here if you wish to use them.)

Suggested Costumes

(Encourage students to come up with their own ideas for the costumes.)

Narrator 1: Narrator 1 can wear or make a funny hat, or some other distinctive item of clothing. Wear all the same color.

Narrator 2: Narrator 2 can wear all of the same color of clothing, but a different color from Narrators 1 & 2.

Narrator 3: Narrator 3 can wear a beard and wig made from colored paper.

The Farmer's Wife: The Farmer's Wife can wear an apron made from colored paper or tie a large scarf around her head. She can wear an apron or use a scarf to tie around her waist, to look like an apron.

A Bird: The Bird can wear a set of wings from construction paper or butcher paper. The bird can wear a beak and tie it on his face with string. Make sure the bird's mouth is not covered so that the words of the play can be heard.

A Cat: The Cat can wear a set of whiskers and ears from fabric, a paper bag or butcher paper. They can be attached by using string.

A Dog:

A Bee: The Bee can wear a bee suit made from fabric, or butcher paper, that has been colored or painted yellow and black. The Bee can wear black and yellow clothing.

A Beekeeper: The Beekeeper can wear a sheet that has a square opening cut into it, and a piece of window screening material added to make the head cover a beekeeper wears.

A Rope: The Rope can wear a long piece of rope, draped around her shoulders and midsection.

A Fire: A Fire can wear a flame made by Make flames by cutting black, red, yellow construction or butcher paper and make it large enough that the Fire can stand in the center.

A Puddle of Water: The Puddle of Water can stand in the middle of a "pool" made from blue construction or butcher paper.

A Cow: The Cow can wear a brown and white covering made from construction or butcher paper or cloth. She can wear horns made from the center paper rolls from towel or toilet paper.

The Wind: The Wind can hold a pinwheel made from paper and a straw or stick.

Suggested Props

(Encourage students to come up with their own ideas for the props and scenery.)

Use a real apple or one made from papier-mâché. Have students make scenery of a wooded area for the backdrop.

The Lion Who Saw Himself in the Water

by Idries Shah

THE SCRIPT

Narrator 1: Once upon a time there was a farmer's wife.

Narrator 2: One day when she was picking apples from a tree,

Narrator 3: one of the apples fell into a hole in the ground

Narrator 1: and she couldn't get it out.

Narrator 2: She looked all around for someone to help her,

Narrator 3: and she saw a bird sitting on a nearby tree.

The Farmer's Wife: Bird, Bird, fly down the hole and bring back the apple for me!

Narrator 1: But the bird answered

The Bird: Tweet, tweet, tweet

Narrator 2: which means "No".

All of the Narrators: He was rather a naughty bird, you see.

The Farmer's Wife: What a naughty bird!

Narrator 3: And then she saw a cat

The Farmer's Wife: Cat, Cat, jump at the bird until he flies down the hole and brings back the apple for me.

Narrator 1: But the cat said

A Cat: Miaow, miaow

Narrator 2: which means "No"

All of the Narrators: She was rather a naughty cat, you see.

The Farmer's Wife: What a naughty cat!

Narrator 3: And then she saw a dog

The Farmer's Wife: Dog, Dog, chase the cat until she jumps at the bird, until he flies down the hole and brings back the apple for me.

Narrator 1: But the dog said

The Dog: Bow-wow -wow

Narrator 2: which means "No"

All of the Narrators: He was rather a naughty little dog, you see.

The Farmer's Wife: Good gracious, what a naughty little dog!

Narrator 3: Then she looked around and she saw a bee

The Farmer's Wife: Bee, Bee, sting the dog until he chases the cat, until she jumps at the bird, until he flies down the hole and brings back the apple for me.

Narrator 1: But the bee said

The Bee: Bzz-bzz

Narrator 2: which means "No"

All of the Narrators: He was rather a naughty bee, you see.

The Farmer's Wife: Good gracious! What a naughty bee!

Narrator 3: Then she looked around and she saw a beekeeper.

The Farmer's Wife: Beekeeper, Beekeeper, tell the bee to sting the dog, until he chases the cat, until she jumps at the bird, until he flies down the hole and brings back the apple for me.

Narrator 1: And the beekeeper said

The Beekeeper: No, I won't.

The Farmer's Wife: Good gracious! What a naughty beekeeper!

Narrator 2: And she looked around again. This time she saw a rope on the ground.

The Farmer's Wife: Rope, Rope, tie up the beekeeper until he tells the bee to sting the dog, to chase the cat, to jump at the bird, to fly down the hole and bring back the apple for me.

Narrator 3: But the rope didn't take any notice at all. It just lay there.

The Farmer's Wife: Good gracious! What a naughty rope!

Narrator 1: And then she looked around and she saw a fire.

The Farmer's Wife: Fire, Fire, burn the rope until it ties up the beekeeper, until the beekeeper tells the bee to sting the dog, to chase the cat, to jump at the bird, to fly down the hole and bring back the apple for me.

Narrator 2: But the fire said nothing at all. It just didn't take any notice. It wasn't going to burn the rope.

The Farmer's Wife: Good gracious! What a naughty fire!

Narrator 3: And she looked around again and she saw a puddle of water.

The Farmer's Wife: Water, Water, put out the fire, because it won't burn the rope, because it won't tie up the beekeeper, because the beekeeper won't tell the bee to sting the dog, because the dog won't chase the cat, because the cat won't jump at the bird. And because the bird won't fly down the hole and bring back the apple for me.

Narrator 1: But the water didn't take any notice at all.

The Farmer's Wife: Good gracious! What a very naughty puddle of water you are!

Narrator 2: And then the farmer's wife looked around and she saw a cow.

The Farmer's Wife: Cow, Cow, drink up the water, because it won't put out the fire, because the fire won't burn the rope, because the rope won't tie up the beekeeper, because the beekeeper won't tell the bee to sting the dog, to chase the cat, to jump at the bird, to fly down the hole and bring back the apple for me.

Narrator 3: But the cow only said

The Cow: Moo, moo

Narrator 1: which means "No"

The Farmer's Wife: What a naughty cow!

Narrator 2: And then the farmer's wife looked around once more and she saw the bird again.

The Farmer's Wife: I want you just to peck that cow a little.

The Bird: All right, I don't mind pecking that cow. As long as you don't expect me to fly down the hole and bring back the apple for you.

The Farmer's Wife: You just peck the cow.

Narrator 3: So, the bird, who was a bit naughty, pecked the cow.

Narrator 1: And the cow started to drink up the water

Narrator 2: and the water started to put out the fire

Narrator 3: and the fire started to burn the rope

Narrator 1: and the rope started to tie up the beekeeper

Narrator 2: and the beekeeper started to tell the bee

Narrator 3: and the bee started to sting the dog

Narrator 1: and the dog started to chase the cat

Narrator 2: and the cat started to jump at that very same bird that had pecked the cow.

Narrator 3: And then the wind flew down the hole and brought back the apple for the farmer's wife.

All of the cast: And everyone lived happily ever after.

This script is based on the book 'The Farmer's Wife', by Idries Shah.
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ASSESSMENT: Reading Skills for Readers' Theater

Levels of mastery 1- 4

	Mark	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
		Proficiency is not yet developed.	Some proficiency is evident.	Adequate proficiency is evident.	Above-average proficiency is evident.
<u>Comprehension / Interpretation:</u>	_/4	Characters are interpreted literally, superficially, or inappropriately.	Characters are interpreted appropriately, but conventionally.	Characters are interpreted appropriately and imaginatively.	Characters are interpreted creatively. Reading style deepens characterization.
<u>Thinking / Communication:</u>	_/4	Makes no recommendations for improvements to the production while planning and rehearsing.	Makes some superficial recommendations for improvements to the production while planning and rehearsing.	Makes some thoughtful recommendations for improvements to the production while planning and rehearsing.	Consistently makes insightful recommendations for improvements to the production while planning and rehearsing.
<u>Personal Response</u> <u>Speaking / Performance:</u>	_/4	Speaks inaudibly and rarely in the voice of the character.	Speaks audibly, and inconsistently in the voice of the character.	Speaks clearly and somewhat expressively, consistently in the voice of the character.	Speaks very clearly and expressively, communicates credibly in the voice of the character.