



Herb and Lois Walker's

SCRIPTS FOR SCHOOLS

A Vegetable Valentine

**A Choral Reading/Readers
Theater Script for
Elementary School Readers**

By Lois Walker

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NOTE: This script is formatted for 6 SOLO READERS, ALL GIRLS, ALL BOYS, and ALL. The script is very flexible and allows a director to use as few or as many readers as required by dividing the reading parts between all available readers. If the class is very small, double up on solo reader parts. If the class is very large, you can still include everyone by assigning all readers to the ALL GIRL, ALL BOY, ALL lines.

ESTABLISHING THE RHYTHM

To find the proper rhythm for this choral piece, first read-aloud and clap through the sections as you go. Each underlined word or word part falls directly on a beat. As you read, clap on each underlined word, keeping the rhythm steady. Be careful not to read too fast! This is a rehearsal technique and readers will not clap throughout these sections during performance. After you have established the beat, it is time to start interpreting, experimenting, and having fun with the words by varying tempo, volume, inflection, and expression.

NOTE: 18 garden plants are named in this rhyming story-poem. Most can be found in the vegetable garden including sage (a plant leaf used for seasoning). However, there is one impostor! The cantaloupe is mentioned, and it is a fruit. Ask your students to identify the one non-vegetable in the group.

PERFORMANCE TIP: When reading this script aloud, it might work best to verbally *over-emphasize* all the plant names so that your audience quickly gets the point of the piece.

This script was inspired by a short 6-line poem found online. The original author is unknown.

ALL GIRLS: Will you be my **sweet** *potato*?

 Don't **turnip** your nose.

ALL BOYS: You're quite the hot **tomato**,

 The best the garden grows!

ALL: Valentine, **peas** be mine?

 If not my dear one, I will pine.

 But say "O.K." and I'll be fine.

 I love my Veggie Valentine!

READER 1: You might not **carrot** all for me,

 I'm just a poor **string bean**.

READER 2: But at a veggie banquet

 I think I'm fine cuisine.

ALL: Valentine, **peas** be mine?

 If not my dear one, I will pine.

 But say "O.K." and I'll be fine.

 I love my Veggie Valentine!

ALL GIRLS: If you **squash** all my hope,
 I'll end up sick in bed.

ALL BOYS: I'll cough and **artichoke**
 And pain will fill my head.

ALL: Valentine, **peas** be mine?
 If not my dear one, I will pine.
 But say "O.K." and I'll be fine.
 I love my Veggie Valentine!

READER 3: If you tell me to "Go away",
 I'll break out in **chives**.

READER 4: I **shallot** not be happy
 And I might not survive.

ALL: Valentine, **peas** be mine?
 If not my dear one, I will pine.
 But say "O.K." and I'll be fine.
 I love my Veggie Valentine!

ALL GIRLS: I would be so good to you,
 Bring sweets and **cauliflowers**,

ALL BOYS: Bouquets of **sage** and **celery**,
 Then sing to you for hours.

ALL: Valentine, **peas** be mine?
 If not my dear one, I will pine.
 But say "O.K." and I'll be fine.
 I love my Veggie Valentine!

READER 5: My heart **beets** for only you
 Forever will I hope

READER 6: You'll never find a reason
 Why we two **cantaloupe**.

ALL: Valentine, **peas** be mine?
 If not my dear one, I will pine.
 But say "O.K." and I'll be fine.
 I love my Veggie Valentine!