

**Read-Aloud Script/THE CITY MOUSE AND THE
COUNTRY MOUSE/Scripts For Schools**

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**By Lois Walker
3 readers, 7 ½ script pages**

READER 1: Phoebe

READER 2: Mrs. Chipmunk/The Cat

READER 3: Valerie

This script is meant to be read aloud and has been blocked or staged as a Readers Theater piece, not as a traditional theater piece.

STAGE SET-UP: Arrange three stationary stools in a line facing audience area. (Piano stools with swivel seats may be used, if desired). Leave enough space between stools to allow for movement in-between and around stools. Place three music stands in front of stools to hold script binders. Lower stands to a level which allows audience to see readers faces and upper bodies.

READER FOCUS:

Readers are asked to read all lines front (toward the audience) and not to each other. (As a reader, it is sometimes helpful to look just above the heads of the audience members and address all lines there).

ACTION AND MOVEMENT:

All mimed action is also directed to the audience. No traditional theater blocking is used. After each character enters for the first time, each remains on stage throughout the entire reading and simply turns his or her back to the audience and sits when not in the immediate scene.

DIRECTOR/READER OPTIONS:

However, if you do not wish to read the script as described above, ask your readers to read-aloud while relating to and establishing eye contact with each other, and create simple mime and stage movements to enhance the dialogue. Simple props and costume pieces might also be added. Unless your readers are entering an adjudicated Readers Theater competition, no strict rules need apply!

COSTUME POSSIBILITIES:

The script calls for a simple bonnet for the country mouse and an elaborate hat for the city mouse. Additional costume pieces might

include a shawl for Mrs. Chipmunk and cat ears and whiskers for the cat. All costume pieces must be pre-set on or beside stools before the reading begins.

ENTRANCE: Pheobe and Mrs. Chipmunk enter from opposite sides of the reading area carrying their scripts with them. Both take their assigned places in front of stools and behind music stands. Both place their scripts on music stand in front of them. Mrs. Chipmunk sits on stool and turns her back to the audience as Phoebe speaks:

READER 1/Phoebe: I'm so excited! I've just received an invitation from my cousin Valerie who lives in the city! I've never been in the city, but I hear it's very glamorous and exciting. Oh, I can't wait! I'd better get ready. Let's see... I guess I won't bake today after all!

(Mrs. Chipmunk turns to face audience, stands, and reads):

READER 2/Mrs Chipmunk: Good morning, Phoebe. I've brought that recipe you wanted.

READER 1/Phoebe: Thank you, Mrs. Chipmunk, but I won't need it. I'm not going to the fair tomorrow.

READER 2/Mrs. Chipmunk: Not going! Why?

READER 1/Phoebe: My cousin Valerie invited me to visit her in the city. I'm leaving right away!

READER 2/Mrs. Chipmunk: Why, how lovely! I hope you have a marvelous time. I went to the city once. It's quite - well - different.

READER 1/Phoebe: So I hear! And *so much fun!*

(hesitating)

READER 2/Mrs.

Chipmunk: Er - well, that is a matter of opinion. Goodbye, my dear. Enjoy yourself.

(Mrs. Chipmunk sits and turns her back to audience once again)