

**Read-Aloud Script/THE SHOEMAKER AND THE ELVES**  
**Scripts For Schools**

2

Formatted as a Readers Theatre script by Lois Walker  
6 readers, 9 ½ script pages

**READER 1: Shoemaker**

**READER 2: Shoemaker's Wife**

**READER 3: Rich Lady and Elf #1**

**READER 4: Rich Man, Elf #2, Narrator**

**READER 5: Elf #3**

**READER 6: Elf #4**

**NOT NECESSARILY A CHRISTMAS SCRIPT:**

This script has been written as a Christmas script, but can be performed at other times during the year by simply eliminating all references to Christmas. For example, the script may be set on Thanksgiving eve or Easter eve or even the day before the wife's birthday.

**SEATING ARRANGEMENT:**

Four stools are arranged in a line. Readers may hold their scripts in their hands or rest them on music stands set in front of each stool. The Shoemaker and his wife will sit on the two middle stools. READERS 3 and 4 will take the other two stools. READERS 5 and 6 do not need stools or music stands. They will hold their scripts in their hands as they read and move about the stage.

**ACTION AND MOVEMENT:**

This script has been blocked with a mixture of Readers Theater and traditional theatre action and movement. Some readers are asked to read all lines from behind a music stand, while others are given more space in which to enter, move, and exit. Even so, this is still a reader's experience! There is no need to ask the characters to memorize their lines. The use of stools and music stands identify this as a reader's piece.

**READER FOCUS:**

In most Readers Theatre readings, readers do not look at each other but deliver all their lines directly to the audience. If your group is going into a Readers Theatre competition, this approach might be

something to consider when you rehearse this script. However, if you are planning to use the script for a local performance or as a

classroom reading activity, use the suggested staging in this script or create your own. Anything goes!

**DIRECTING TIPS:**

If you need to involve more than 6 readers in this script reading, simply add as many elves as you want during the marching and the chanting sections where ALL ELVES participate. These elves would enter when READER 3 says: "Come in elves, and get to work!"

*Shoemaker and Wife are already in place in front of their stools with script binders on music stands and backs to audience when READER 4 enters carrying script binder, takes assigned place in front of stool, and begins the reading:*

**Narrator/READER 4**

It was a snowy Christmas Eve in the little village, and everywhere people were making happy preparations for the next day... except at the home of the poor shoemaker and his wife.

*(READER 4 sits on assigned stool and turns back to audience).*

*Shoemaker and wife have been standing in front of their stools with backs to audience. Dejectedly they both turn to face audience. The Shoemaker sighs and shakes his head, then begins to read. Scripts may be held by readers or may rest in front of them on music stands.*

**Shoemaker/READER 1**

I know you are tired, my dear wife, and I wish with all my heart I could give you a hot supper and tell you to rest, but until we finish these shoes there will be no money for food and no time for rest.

**Wife/READER 2**

*(wearily)*

I know, dear husband, I know. I'll try to work. I am no hungrier than you are.

**Shoemaker/READER 1**

To be hungry is bad enough, but to be hungry on Christmas Eve . . .