

Run Turkey, Run!

Inspired by a Thanksgiving Finger Play Poem. Revised,
Expanded and Formatted for Choral Speaking
By Lois Walker

To find the proper rhythm for this reading, 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 the reading during performance.

This script comes in a package with two other versions of the same title. The voice choir might want to look at both the Readers Theater Version and the Finger Play Version as suggestions for added gestures or movement that could also be included in performance of this Choral Speaking/Reading Version.

VERSE 1

ALL: Five fat turkeys stand in a line.
 They wiggle their toes and are feeling fine.

ALL GIRLS: They look to the sky,

ALL BOYS: They look to the ground.

ALL: Then they twist and turn and prance around.
 But they won't be prancing on Thanksgiving Day,
 'Cause when it comes, they'll run away!

ALL CHORUS: Run turkey, run.
 Thanksgiving is fun.
 It's fun for most,

 But not for the roast!

(All speakers raise a hand above their heads and proceed with the following count down by folding thumb into palm as the letter 5 is spoken, then pulling down pointer finger as the letter 4 is spoken. This continues all the way down the line until the little finger is folded down as the letter 1 is spoken).

Five, four, three, two, one....

(Speakers have now formed a fist. They will thrust that fist into the air each time the word "run" is said in the following):

 So, run turkey,
 Run turkey,
 RUN!

VERSE 2

ALL BOYS: Five fancy turkeys stand in a row.
 They ruffle and fluff their wings just so.

ALL GIRLS: They look to the left.
 Then look to the right.

ALL GIRLS: When they shake their feathers, they're quite a sight!

ALL: But they won't show off on Thanksgiving Day,
'Cause when it comes, they'll run away!

ALL CHORUS: Run turkey, run.
Thanksgiving is fun.
It's fun for most,
But not for the roast!

(Same hand movements as above).

Five, four, three, two, one...

(Speakers have formed a fist. They will thrust that fist into the air each time the word "run" is said in the following)

So, run turkey,
Run turkey, RUN!

VERSE 3

ALL: Five proud turkeys stand on a path.
They like themselves, and it makes them laugh!

ALL BOYS: They look at themselves,
They look at each other.

ALL BOYS: Each one thinks he's better than (his brother).

ALL: They will still be proud on Thanksgiving Day,
'Cause when it comes, they'll run away!

(Same motions as before throughout the chorus).

ALL CHORUS: Run turkey, run.
Thanksgiving is fun.
It's fun for most,
But not for the roast!

Five, four, three, two, one...

(Speakers have formed a fist. They will thrust that fist into the air each time the word "run" is said in the following):

So, run turkey,
Run turkey, RUN!

VERSE 4

ALL: Five sad turkeys stand by a fence.
November is here and it makes them tense.

(NOTE: Substitute October for Canadian Thanksgiving)