



Herb and Lois Walker's
SCRIPTS FOR SCHOOLS

**Holiday Harvest,
Thanksgiving
Time!**

A Readers Theater Script for
Intermediate/Advanced
Readers

By Lois Walker

www.scriptsforschools.com

Holiday Harvest, Thanksgiving Time!

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READERS THEATER FORMATTING: 12 SOLO READERS, 1st HALF OF THE READERS, 2nd HALF OF THE READERS, ALL, and an ALL CHORUS. (Note: You may involve as many more readers as you wish by including them in all ALL and ALL CHORUS reading lines).

ESTABLISHING THE RHYTHM:

To find the proper beat or rhythm for this script, 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. Once your readers feel comfortable with the beat and pace, it's time to interpret, improvise, experiment, and have fun with the piece.

- READER 1: The first Thanksgiving was in 1621.
 (Sixteen twenty one).
 The pilgrims celebrated when harvesting was done.
- READER 2: The Wampanoags (wamp-a-NO-ags) joined them
 With their chief named Massasoit (mass-a-soy-it).
- READER 3: And all were asked to offer thanks,
 Then sit, eat, and enjoy it.

READER 4: What did they eat? Well, no one really knows.
Foods from the woods and garden, and seafood, we
suppose.

READER 5: The list is long. It would give your tongue a twisting.
But here are possibilities from facts so far existing:

1st HALF OF

THE READERS: Cod, bass, herring, shad, eel - bluefish too,
Lobster, clams, mussels, and oysters in a stew.

2nd HALF OF

THE READERS: Duck, crane, partridge, swan, eagle, chicken, goose,
And, of course, wild turkeys that were always
running loose.

ALL CHORUS:

Holiday harvest! Thanksgiving time!
Stomachs grumble with a rumble and a rhyme.
Soon we'll have a steaming plateful.
We are blessed and we are grateful.
Glorious food - oh so sublime...
Holiday harvest! Thanksgiving time!

READER 6: Raspberries, strawberries, blueberries, grapes,
Gooseberries, cherries, and plums on a plate.

READER 7: All were dried, and this is the reason:
By harvest time they were all out of season!

ALL CHORUS:

Holiday harvest! Thanksgiving time!
Stomachs grumble with a rumble and a rhyme.
Soon we'll have a steaming plateful.
We are blessed and we are grateful.
Glorious food - oh so sublime...
Holiday harvest! Thanksgiving time!

READER 8: Corn meal biscuits, wheat flour bread,
Peas, beans, squash, (or pumpkins instead).

READER 9: Hickory nuts or chestnuts - toasted and warm,
Acorns, walnuts, and Indian corn.

ALL CHORUS:

Holiday harvest! Thanksgiving time!
Stomachs grumble with a rumble and a rhyme.
Soon we'll have a steaming plateful.
We are blessed and we are grateful.
Glorious food - oh so sublime...
Holiday harvest! Thanksgiving time!

READER 10: Onions, lettuce, carrots, cabbage,
From garden seeds, brought in their baggage.

READER 11: Maple syrup, eggs and cheese
 Honey gathered from wild bees.

ALL CHORUS:

Holiday harvest! Thanksgiving time!
Stomachs grumble with a rumble and a rhyme.
Soon we'll have a steaming plateful.
We are blessed and we are grateful.
Glorious food - oh so sublime...
Holiday harvest! Thanksgiving time!

2nd HALF OF

THE READERS: The first Thanksgiving was in 1621.
 The pilgrims celebrated when harvesting was done.

1st HALF OF

THE READERS: What didn't they serve that we serve these days?
 Well, you might be surprised, in a number of ways.

READER 12: We don't think they had pigs, so didn't serve ham,

READER 1: No corn on the cob, sweet potatoes or yams.

READER 2: And since Indian corn wasn't good to pop,
 They didn't make popcorn from that corn crop.

READER 3: And no cranberry sauce was served with the meat.