



Herb and Lois Walker's
SCRIPTS FOR
SCHOOLS

Babushka's Story
**A Russian
Christmas Legend**

**A Readers Theater Script for
Intermediate to Advanced Readers**

**By
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www.scriptsforschools.com

Babushka's Story

A Russian Christmas Legend

Adapted by Lois Walker

ESTABLISHING THE RHYTHM

To find the proper rhythm for this story-poem 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.

FORMATTING: This script has read-aloud parts for 10 readers, including character lines for Babushka and five shepherds.

- READER 1: In Russia – many, many years ago,

 A grandmother, sheltered away from the snow,

 Sat comfy and warm.
- READER 2: She had no desire,

 But to snuggle in bed by a crackling fire!
- READER 3: Her name was Babushka, content near the heat,

 She'd eaten her fill and now warmed her feet.

READER 4: The dishes were done, she'd swept up the floor,
When suddenly there was a knock at her door.

READER 5: And outside that door stood shepherds and sheep.
The shepherds said,

READER 6/SHEPHERD: Grandma, you can't go to sleep!
Please join us, Babushka, so old and so wise,
Together we'll find where a baby prince lies.

READER 7/SHEPHERD: He's come here to rule and to spread the good news,
To tell us we all have a path we can choose,
To help us discover a new point of view,
And teach all of us to be loving and true.

READER 8/SHEPHERD: He sleeps in a manger, lit by a star.
Come join us, Babushka, and travel afar.

READER 9/SHEPHERD: We know you can help. Bring meat, sweets, and
bread,

READER 10/
SHEPHERD:

A wooly knit cap to warm his small head.

READER 1:

The grandmother listened to all that was said.

She had plenty of everything, stored in her shed.

Her kitchen still smelled of newly baked bread.

READER 2:

But mostly her thoughts were about her warm bed.

She said,

READER 3/
BABUSHKA:

"I'll come tomorrow, so wait until then."

READER 4:

And she shut the door, but the knock came again.

A Shepard said,

READER 6/SHEPHERD: Grandma, what we've said is true.

READER 7/SHEPHERD: The tiny prince needs you, so listen, please do!

READER 3/
BABUSHKA:

Tomorrow, tomorrow! I'm old and I'm tired.

I can't go tonight, it's time I retired!

I will help tomorrow. You go on ahead.

I can't go tonight. I must go to bed.

READER 5: The shepherds gave up. They knocked no more,
They quietly herded their sheep from the door.

READER 8: Then grandmother slept, but her dreams were bad.
She awoke the next morning feeling quite sad.

READER 9: So quickly she packed food wholesome and sweet:
Dried fruit and loves, two cakes and some meat,

READER 10: A shawl for the mother, clothes for her child,
And toys for the baby so tender and mild.

READER 1: On that winter morning, with no more delay,
She took her packed basket and went on her way.

READER 2: She searched many days and asked every stranger
Where she might find the child in a manger.