

## **I-111 THE BACK TO SCHOOL KIT BAG**

By Lois Walker

-----

This is a Readers Theater script inspired by a number of online descriptions of a "Back to School Kit Box" for school use.

This script might be read by older students and/or teachers and performed for individual classes or the entire school. You might even assemble the fifteen kit items into small zip lock bags and present them to your audience members after the reading is finished. (If the orange doesn't fit, pass those out separately).

**SCRIPT HOLDERS:** Scripts are pre-set on assigned music stands for 15 Solo Readers. But, if you can't find 15 music stands in your school, simply ask readers to carry and hold their scripts in colorful 3-ring binders.

**COSTUMES:** Readers will be dressed in costumes or hats designed to communicate what item they are representing or with large signs hung around their necks showing large colorful drawings of the items they are representing. READER 1 wears a sign that says: KIT MANAGER

**CAST:** READER 1- Kit Manager, READER 2 - Pipe Cleaner, READER 3 - Rubber Ball, READER 4 - Wiggly Eye, READER 5 - Battery, READER 6 - Animal Crackers, READER 7 - Smiley Sticker, READER 8 - Flashlight, READER 9 - Candy Bar, READER 10 - Snowflake, READER 11 - Flower Pot, READER 12 - Clothespin, READER 13 - Tissue, READER 14 - button, READER 15 - Toothpick.

(READER 1 RUNS OUT TO CENTER STAGE, LOOKS AROUND FRANTICALLY, POSITIONS HIM/HERSELF BEHIND CENTER MUSIC STAND, AND THEN CALLS OUT):

READERS 1

Kit Manager:

Come on everyone! Where are you? We don't have time to mess around here. The school year has already started and we've got to "get our act together" NOW! Come on out here. (Principal's name) is depending on us to get this project "off the back burner," uh - "set this school year off on the right foot," uh - "leave no stone unturned," uh - "get the arrow in the quiver," "call the tune, light the fire..."

(FRUSTRATED)

Oh, you know what I mean!

(DURING THE LAST OF THE ABOVE, READER 2 AMBLES IN AND SLOWLY POSITIONS HIM/HERSELF)

READER 2

Pipe Cleaner:

Calm down, calm down. We're all ready. I know I'm usually quite flexible, but we need a little more time. We've all been stuck in that Back to School Kit Bag and it was crowded in there, ya know!

(READER 3 AND 4 STUMBLE ON STAGE SUPPORTING EACH OTHER. THEY ARE OBVIOUSLY STIFF FROM BEING STUCK IN THE BAG SO LONG).

READER 3

Rubber Ball:

Slow down! You're bouncing along way too fast. Give us a minute, will ya?

(READER 4 MOTIONS OFFSTAGE)

READER 4: Yeah, we're still having trouble getting that candy bar out of the zip lock bag. He's (she's) partially melted from being in there so long and is sticking to the sides.

READERS 1  
Kit Manager: I know. I'm sorry. I just want to start this school year "off with a BANG!"

(ALL READERS ENTER RUBBING SORE MUSCLES, BRUSHING THEMSELVES OFF, DOING STRETCHES, ETC. THEY'RE FINALLY OUT OF THE BOX AND NEED TO MOVE THEIR BODY PARTS. THEY MUMBLE AND GRUMBLE, BUT FINALLY POSITION THEMSELVES BEHIND THEIR ASSIGNED MUSIC STANDS.).

(READER 2 HAS BEEN COUNTING THEM AS THEY MOVE INTO POSITIONS).

READER 2  
Pipe Cleaner: O.K. We're finally all here. Let's get this show on the road!

READERS 1  
Kit Manager: (CLEARS THROAT) Ah-Hummm! Ladies and gentlemen and students of (Name of your school), you, "the cream of the crop," "the pick of the litter," see before you – the contents of your very own *BACK TO SCHOOL KIT!*

READER 3  
Rubber Ball: Yes, you heard right! Your Back to School Kit includes all the necessary items to guarantee you a...

**ALL: TERRIFIC SCHOOL YEAR!**

READER 2  
Pipe Cleaner: Aaaaaand... that's my cue! *Flexibility* is important for a successful school year and that's why I'm included in your Back to School Kit. What could be more flexible than a pipe cleaner?

READER 4: A rubber band?

READER 5: Play dough?

READER 6: Silly putty?

**ALL: A MELTED MARSHMALLOW?**

READER 2  
Pipe Cleaner: (To AUDIENCE) Everybody's a wise guy!

READER 7  
Smiley Sticker: (WEARING HUGE SMILE) Oh, come on now!  
*Don't worry, be happy...*

READERS 1  
Kit Manager: I agree. Let's "pick up the pace," let's keep  
the show moving, OK?

READER 3  
Rubber Ball: This year will be full of ups and downs, so  
you'll find me in your Back to School Kit. But  
just like a Rubber Ball, everything will  
eventually *settle and roll along smoothly.*

READER 8  
Flashlight: You'll find me in your kit too. I'll be there  
when you need a *light* to help you find your  
way or you get the chance to *light* the way for  
a classmate. That's what flashlight do, you  
know.

(EXCEPT FOR MANAGER AND READER 8, ALL READERS BREAK INTO  
SONG):

**ALL: "This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it  
shine, etc."**

(MANAGER ALLOWS THIS SILLINESS TO GO ON FOR A FEW LINES,  
THEN CALLS FOR ORDER):

READERS 1

Kit Manager:                   Order in the Kit Bag! ORDER, I say!!!!!!

(READERS LOOK CONTRITE, AND STOP SINGING EXCEPT FOR READER 7 - Smiley Sticker). SHE/HE IS LOST IN SONG AND CONTINUES ON UNTIL SHE/HE NOTICES NOBODY ELSE IS SINGING).

READER 7

Smiley Sticker:               (BIG SMILE) Oops!

READERS 1

Kit Manager:                 (TO READER 4 - Wiggly Eye) AND NODDING TOWARD READER 7 - Smiley Sticker) Watch that one, will ya?

READER 4

Wiggly Eye:                   Well, that's my job in the Kit Box too. I'm there to remind you to keep an eye on your classmates to discover how you can be helpful and kind to them. If you keep your *eyes wide open*, you'll learn how to be a good friend. I'm also here for you on those days that you wish you had *eyes in the back of your head*.

READER 5

Battery:                       Hey, if you're going to do all of that, you are definitely going to need me. I'm in your Kit Bag and I'm a battery. Like the Energizer Bunny, I'm here to help you keep *going, and going, and going...*

READER 6

Animal Crackers:           OK, now it's my turn and I have no idea why I'm included in the Kit Bag. Why in the world do we put a box of Animal Crackers in there?

READERS 1

Kit Manager:                 You really don't know?

(READER 6 – Animal Crackers SHAKES HEAD).