



Herb and Lois Walker's
SCRIPTS FOR SCHOOLS

The Unicorn and The
Young Arabian Oryx
by Lois Walker

A Readers Theater
Script for
Intermediate Readers

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(With special thanks to songwriter Shel Silverstein.

A slightly revised version of his chorus from

"The Unicorn Song" is inserted it below)

READER 1: Long ago, in the Kingdom of Unicorn-on-the cobia,
there lived a young Arabian oryx. He was a
handsome young oryx with a brown coat and special
markings on his knees and tail.

READER 2: However, his very best features were on his head.
These were two long slender horns. They were the
longest and straightest two horns in his entire herd.

READER 3: Now you might think that special markings and
spectacular horns would be enough to make the
young oryx happy - but you would be wrong about
that.

READER 4: The oryx actually hated his two horns. Day after day
and night after night he dreamed of only one thing.
He dreamed of being a unicorn!

READER 5: And unicorns, of course, have only...

ALL: ONE HORN.

READER 5: The young oryx didn't dream about being...

ALL: A green alligator or long-necked geese,
 Not a humpty backed camel or a chimpanzee,
 Not a cat, rat or elephant, but sure as you're born
 He just wanted to be a unicorn.

READER 1: All the other oryx in his herd considered this dream
 totally inappropriate.

READER 2: Mother said,

READER 3
(MOTHER): “What's wrong with my little one? Why in the world
 would he want to be a silly old unicorn? My boy is
 handsome, clever, and talented - and he has two
 spectacular horns.”

READER 2: And unicorns, of course, have only

ALL: ONE HORN.

READER 4: Then Father said,

READER 5

(FATHER): "Mother, you've babied that young one. I hate to say it, but you're turning him into a sissy. There's no such thing as a unicorn anyway. Unicorns are myths. What our son needs is a taste of the *real world!*"

READER 1: But none of his parents' advice made a difference. The young oryx still didn't dream about being...

ALL: A green alligator or long-necked geese,
Not a humpty backed camel or a chimpanzee,
Not a cat, rat or elephant, but sure as you're born
He just wanted to be a unicorn.

READER 2: Now, as rumor had it, there **was** a unicorn living right there in the Kingdom of Unicorn-on-the-cobia. According to the story, a magnificent unicorn lived in the king's palace. This unicorn wore a coat of gold and his single horn was also golden. It sparkled in the sunlight.

READER 3: And **this** unicorn lived in the *real world* because he had a *real* job. He served as the Queen's private coat rack. Whenever the queen took off her royal robe, she hung it on the unicorn's golden horn. She couldn't hang up any other pieces of her clothing because unicorns, of course, have only...

ALL: ONE HORN.

READER 4: And that's where this story gets really interesting - because, one day, the king and queen of Unicorn-on-the-cobia welcomed an important visitor to the palace.

READER 5: The visitor was The Grand Duchess of the Kingdom of Uni-cornucopia. And as with all Cornucopians, she brought with her an abundance of everything. That means - she had a lot of stuff!

READER 1: The queen wanted to make their guest feel at home, and so she made arrangements to have her beautiful golden unicorn coat rack led to the bedroom of The Grand Duchess. But when the duchess saw the coat rack, she was not pleased. She cried:

READER 2
(DUCHESS): "This will never do! I not only have a royal robe to hang up, but a special royal cap too. In my kingdom these two *must* hang together, but not on the same hook. It's our custom - it's tradition! No, no, this unicorn coat rack will never do because unicorns, of course, have only..."

ALL: ONE HORN.

READER 3: Now, you can see the end of this story coming. The king immediately sent messengers out to search the kingdom for a suitable replacement.

READER 4: And **who** did they find? Well they found a young Arabian Oryx who was busy dreaming. The young oryx still didn't dream about being...

ALL: A green alligator or long-necked geese,
Not a humpty backed camel or a chimpanzee,
Not a cat, rat or elephant, but sure as you're born
He just wanted to be a unicorn.

READER 5: Because unicorns, of course, have only

ALL: ONE HORN.

READER 1: Even so, the messengers escorted the oryx right back to the palace, right through the large palace entry doors, and right into the bedroom of The Grand Duchess of Uni-cornucopia.

READER 3: The Grand Duchess was extremely pleased. She hung her royal robe on one of the young oryx's horns and her royal cap on the other. Then she cried: