

(WHEN ALL READERS ARE IN PLACE, THE READING BEGINS).

**READER 1:** Once upon a time in the dilapidated Kingdom of Yak, there lived an ill-tempered princess who talked too much. Whenever anyone said anything to the princess, the princess responded by saying,

(FOLLOWING IS READ IN UNISON. PRACTICE GIRL READERS UNTIL CHANT RUNS SMOOTHLY).

**ALL GIRL READERS:** "YAKETY YAK, YAKETY YAK, YAKETY YAKETY YAK!"

**READER 2:** Then the princess said everything there was to say on the subject at hand, and always got the last word. Because of her nature and bad manners, the princess had few friends.

**READER 3:** The princess' father, the king, had troubles too. The Kingdom of Yak was almost bankrupt. There was very little money left in the treasury. Towns, cities, and even the palace of Yak were falling into disrepair.

**READER 4:** Every morning the king met with his financial advisors to try and think of a way to raise funds for the Kingdom of Yak. But no one had a good idea. One morning the Prime Minister said,

(5/MINISTER STANDS AND STRIKES A REGAL POSE).

**5/MINISTER:** "The problem with the Kingdom of Yak is that there is nothing special here to sell, nothing different or unique."

(7/JESTER STANDS AND JUMPS UP ON CHAIR. JESTER STRIKES SILLY POSE).

**READER 6:** It was then that the court jester, who sat behind the king's throne, jumped to his feet and cried,

**7/JESTER:** "But we do have something unique! We have a princess who always gets the last word."

(5/MINISTER LOOKS UP AT JESTER).

**5/MINISTER:** "What good is that?"

**7/JESTER:** "It is very good indeed, if you like games."

**READER 8:** And then the court jester proposed a plan.

(JESTER JUMPS DOWN TO FLOOR AND MIMES A CONVERSATION WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AS THE FOLLOWING IS READ):

**READER 8:** He suggested that the Kingdom of Yak hold a contest in which contestants would try to get the last word in a conversation with the princess.

**READER 9:** Each contestant would pay an entry fee of one golden ducat. The winner of the contest would be awarded half the collected coins, while the Kingdom of Yak would keep the other half. Everyone agreed that this was a good plan. And the Prime Minister said,

(5/MINISTER TURNS TO AUDIENCE AND PRONOUNCES IN AN IMPORTANT SOUNDING VOICE):

**5/MINISTER:** "Knowing the princess' nature and bad manners, this contest could go on forever. Why, we could become rich!"

(5/MINISTER AND 7/JESTER SIT).

**READER 10:** Word about the contest spread far and wide. Soon hundreds of contestants lined up at the palace gates. Each paid a golden ducet. Each hoped to get the last word in a conversation with the princess. Of course no one did, and the collection of golden coins grew larger and larger and larger.

**READER 1:** Now, far away in the ancient Kingdom of Gottado there lived three brothers - an older brother,

(2/BROTHER STANDS AND NODS TO AUDIENCE).

a middle brother,

(3/BROTHER STANDS AND NODS TO AUDIENCE).

and a younger brother.

(4/HENRY STANDS AND NODS TO AUDIENCE).

**READER 5:** The older brother was tall, handsome, and very popular with the ladies.

(2/BROTHER BOWS CONFIDENTLY TO AUDIENCE).

**READER 6:** The middle brother was not as tall or handsome as the older brother, but he had a quick wit, twinkling eyes, and was well known in social circles.

(3/BROTHER SMILES AND WAVES BROADLY TO AUDIENCE).

**READER 7:** The younger brother was neither tall nor handsome and was slow witted, but he did have one interest. He loved collecting old things. His room was filled with treasures other people had thrown away.

(4/HENRY IS SHY AND EMBARRASSED. HE COVERS FACE WITH FOLDER, THEN PEEKS AROUND TO LOOK AT AUDIENCE).

**READER 8:** When the two older brothers heard about the contest, they made up their minds to enter. But when the younger brother also expressed an interest in entering, his older brothers laughed at him. They said,

**READERS 2,3:** "Oh Henry, you're not much of a talker. You'll never get the last word in a conversation with the princess."

**READER 6:** But Henry said,

(FOLLOWING IS READ IN UNISON. REHEARSE BOY READERS UNTIL CHANT RUNS SMOOTHLY).

**Page 5/ Teacher Script/ THE PRINCESS WHO TALKED TOO MUCH**

**ALL BOY READERS:** "A FELLA'S GOTTA DO WHAT A FELLA'S GOTTA DO."

(AS ABOVE LINE IS READ, HENRY SMILES AT AUDIENCE AND SHRUGS HIS SHOULDERS).

**READER 6:** And so they told him to come along.

(THE THREE BROTHERS SIT).

**READER 7:** Each brother packed his belongings in a brown sack and, together, started off on the three day journey to the Kingdom of Yak. The older brothers walked ahead, whistling merrily, confident that either good looks or a quick wit would surely win the contest.

(HENRY STANDS, PUTS FOLDER ON CHAIR, WALKS DOWNSTAGE, AND MIMES SEARCHING).

**READER 8:** Henry, however, lagged behind, his eyes focused upon the ground, searching for treasures.

(HENRY MIMES PULLING ARROW FROM TRUNK AND FINDING BOWL. REAL PROPS MAY BE USED, IF DESIRED).

**READER 9:** On the first day, Henry found a crooked arrow stuck in the stump of a tree, and a bowl with a chip in it. But his oldest brother said,

(2/BROTHER STANDS AND ADDRESSES FOLLOWING LINE TO HENRY).

**2/BROTHER:** "Oh Henry, throw those things away. That arrow will never be useful again, and who wants a bowl with a chip in it?"

**READER 10:** And Henry said,

(HENRY SMILES AT AUDIENCE AND SHRUGS SHOULDERS AS THE FOLLOWING IS READ):

**ALL BOY READERS:** "A FELLA'S GOTTA DO WHAT A FELLA'S GOTTA DO."

(2/BROTHER SITS. HENRY MIMES FOLLOWING AND CONTINUES SEARCHING).

**READER 10:** He carefully placed the arrow and the bowl into his brown sack.

(HENRY MIMES FISHING).

**READER 1:** On the second day, Henry found an old fishing pole. That evening, after supper, he went fishing in a nearby stream and caught a fish.

(3/BROTHER STANDS AND SPEAKS TO HENRY).

**READER 4:** But the middle brother laughed and said,

**3/BROTHER:** "Oh Henry, throw that fish back into the stream. We've already had our evening meal, and tomorrow we'll win the contest and be invited to dine at the palace in the Kingdom of Yak."

**READER 5:** And Henry said,