

Page 1/ Teacher Script/ THE GREAT RACE

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

READER 1: Once, when animals ran the government,

READER 2: a Mother Groundhog from British Columbia won an election in her riding,

READER 3: and became an Honorable Member of Parliament!

(ALL READERS LOOK AROUND AT EACH OTHER AND AD LIB AS THOUGH HAPPILY CELEBRATING A VICTORY!).

ALL: Hooray! Cheer! Alright! Yea!

(READER 4 JUMPS TO FEET AND GOES WILD, SHOUTING):

READER 4: Groundhog Power! Groundhog Power!

(ALL READERS LOOK AT READER 4 DISAPPROVINGLY. READER 4 LOOKS EMBARRASSED FOR OVERDOING IT AND SITS).

(READER 5 CLEARS THROAT LOUDLY, LOOKS TO SEE IF A READERS ARE READY TO RESUME, THEN READS):

READER 5: Mother Groundhog, Father Groundhog, and their two little groundhogs were delighted by mother's success.

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READER 6: They packed their belongings and, together,

READER 7: shuffled off to Ottawa, Ontario,

READER 8: on their bandy little legs.

(THE FOLLOWING MUST BE READ TO A STEADY RHYTHM OR BEAT AND REHEARSED SO IT GOES SMOOTHLY EACH TIME).

READER 1: SHUFFLE

READER 2: JOG

READER 3: SHUFFLE

READER 4: JOG

5,6,7,8: HOP HOP

(READERS 1,2,3,4,5,8 LOUDLY STOMP A FOOT ON THE WORD "STEP." READERS 6,7 SLAP A HAND ON THE FLOOR AT THE SAME TIME).

ALL: STEP!

READER 1: Now it is true that most groundhogs look quite a bit like each other.

READER 2: And so it is not surprising that the members of this particular groundhog family were as alike as

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READER 3: peas in a pod!

READER 4: Mother looked just like Father.

READER 5: Father looked just like Mother.

READER 6: And the two little groundhogs looked just like their parents.

READER 7: The look-alike goundhogs settled happily into their new life in Ottawa.

READER 8: Father shuffled off to university where he studied Canadian literature.

READER 1: The children shuffled off to French school where they learned to be bilingual.

READER 2: And Mother shuffled off to the parliament buildings where she planned to whip the government into shape.

(THE FOLLOWING MUST BE READ TO A STEADY RHYTHM OR BEAT AND REHEARSED SO IT GOES SMOOTHLY EACH TIME).

READER 1: SHUFFLE

READER 2: JOG

READER 3: SHUFFLE

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READER 4: JOG

5,6,7,8: HOP HOP

(READERS 1,2,3,4,5,8 LOUDLY STOMP A FOOT ON THE WORD "STEP." READERS 6,7 SLAP A HAND ON THE FLOOR AT THE SAME TIME).

ALL: STEP!

READER 3: The look-alike groundhogs worked hard all winter long and, finally, it was spring.

READER 4: One beautiful sunny day, Mother and Father Groundhog decided it was time for a family outing.

READER 5: They packed a picnic lunch,

READER 6: called the children,

READER 7: and shuffled off to the banks of the Ottawa river.

(AGAIN, READERS READ TO A STEADY BEAT).

READER 1: SHUFFLE

READER 2: JOG

READER 3: SHUFFLE

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READER 4: JOG

5,6,7,8: HOP HOP

(FEET STOMPED, HANDS SLAPPED, AS USUAL).

ALL: STEP!

READER 8: Soon the children ran off to gather drift wood, Father arranged the lawn chairs, and Mother had a chance to do what she loved best:

READER 1: go for a short jog to stretch her bandy little legs.

(READER 8/MOTHER STANDS AND MIMES JOGGING IN PLACE, FACING AUDIENCE).

READER 2: Now, Mother Groundhog had just begun to build up a bit of speed when she saw,

READER 3: jogging toward her,

(READER 3/RABBIT STARTS TO JOG IN PLACE, FACING AUDIENCE).

READER 4: a rabbit MP from the backbenches who was well known for the high regard in which he held

READER 5: himself!

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READER 6: On this glorious day, Mother Groundhog was filled with an overwhelming sense of good will.

READER 7: She smiled and gave the rabbit a friendly western,

(8/MOTHER STOPS JOGGING IN PLACE AND DELIVERS LINE STRAIGHT AHEAD TOWARD AUDIENCE).

8/MOTHER: "Good morning!!"

(3/RABBIT STOPS JOGGING IN PLACE).

READER 1: The rabbit, feeling especially handsome and athletic in the springtime sun,

(READER 3/RABBIT SMIRKS).

READER 2: openly smirked and sneered at her greeting.

(3/RABBIT SPEAKES DIRECTLY TO AUDIENCE).

3/RABBIT: "Well, what do we have here? What, may I ask,

3/RABBIT: has brought the likes of you out into the fresh air, madam groundhog?"

8/MOTHER: "A picnic with my family and a springtime jog."