

THE MAGIC CARROT CAPER TEACHER/DIRECTOR SCRIPT

Re-told and Formatted as a Readers Theater Script
By Lois Walker

FOCUS AND FOLDERS

Ask your readers to speak directly to the audience, not to each other. This is called "storyteller focus." Readers will focus upon the audience just as a storyteller focuses upon the listeners. (It is sometimes helpful for readers to focus eyes slightly above heads of audience members.)

Place cast scripts in colorful folders. (Ring binders allow for smooth and easy page turning.) Place folders in front of or on chairs and on music stand before reading begins. Readers should hold folders at chest level and away from their bodies so that listeners can see facial expressions and hear clearly.

MOVEMENT AND ACTION

This Teacher Script version of "THE MAGIC CARROT CAPER includes movement and action suggestions that may be used if preparing readers for a more formal, elaborate performance of the story. These directions appear only in the Teacher Script. Disregard directions, if you have chosen a simpler readers approach.

THE READING BEGINS

PLAYWRIGHT, SET DESIGNER, COSTUME DESIGNER, DIRECTOR
ENTER, SR. THEY CARRY OR WEAR SIGNS IDENTIFYING
THEMSELVES. SOME SIMPLE COSTUME PIECES WOULD ALSO BE
APPROPRIATE, IF DESIRED. ALL READERS CARRY THEIR SCRIPTS IN
COLORFUL SCRIPT BINDERS. THEY FACE THE AUDIENCE AND BEGIN
TO READ:

THE MAGIC CARROT CAPER

PLAYWRIGHT: Welcome to our play!

I wrote the caper
About carrot tugging
A little carrot yanking
And a little carrot hugging.

SET DESIGNER: I set the scene
And I beg your pardon
Make way for a cottage
And a magical garden.

COSTUME DESIGNER: I sewed costumes
From cotton, fur and leather
Made tusks and teeth
The bigger, the better.

DIRECTOR: And I cast the play
You're about to see now
So when the play is over
We can all take a bow!

(ALL EXIT AS NARRATORS ENTER AND TAKE THEIR PLACES BEHIND MUSIC STANDS WHICH HAVE BEEN SET DSR. SCRIPTS HAVE BEEN PRE-SET ON THE APPROPRIATE STANDS).

(MAN/WOMAN ENTER CARRYING THEIR SCRIPTS IN COLORFUL BINDERS AND SIT ON CHAIRS THAT HAVE BEEN PRE-SET, CS).

NARRATOR 1 BEGINS THE READING:

NARRATOR 1: Once upon a time a little old man and a little old woman

NARRATOR 2: Lived in a tiny cottage near an overgrown garden.

NARRATOR 3: And, luckily, they lived in a magical place!

(OLD MAN/WOMAN RISE)

OLD WOMAN: On such a fine spring morning...

- OLD MAN: It's time to plant vegetables!
- (MAN AND WOMAN MIME THROWING SEEDS INTO AREA IN FRONT OF CHAIRS)
- NARRATOR 1: And that's exactly what they did. They planted beans and potatoes, beets and peas. Last of all they planted...
- OLD MAN/WOMAN: Carrots!
- ALL CHANT: Grow little carrot
Big and round
Then we'll tug, tug, tug, you
From the ground
- (MAN/WOMAN DO A "HIGH FIVE AND SIT).
- NARRATOR 2: Spring passed and the vegetables grew big and round. The old man and woman ate the beans and potatoes, beets and peas, and the...
- (MAN /WOMAN MIME EATING. THEY STOP, SMILE, AND LOOK AT AUDIENCE FOR):
- OLD MAN/WOMAN: Carrots!
- NARRATOR 3: Well, they ate all except one *special* carrot. They didn't eat this carrot because it was more than big and long and round. It was...
- OLD MAN/WOMAN: GIGANTIC!
- NARRATOR 1: One day the old man said...
- OLD MAN: It's time to tug up that gigantic carrot!
- (MAN/WOMAN STAND AND, CARRYING SCRIPT BINDER IN ONE ARM, MOVE TO OPEN AREA IN FRONT OF THEM. MAN MIMES PICKING UP IMAGINARY CARROT STEM WITH FREE HAND. WOMAN STANDS BEHIND AND ALSO MIMES

TAKING HOLD OF CARROT STEM WITH HER FREE HAND).

NARRATOR 2: The old woman and man grabbed hold of the carrot stem and began to tug.

OLD WOMAN: One, two three...

ALL CHANT: Gigantic carrot
Big and round

(THEY MIME TUG)

We'll tug, tug, tug you
From the ground!

(THEY MIME TUG AGAIN)

(BOTH FALL OVER ON LAST TUG, LANDING IN A SITTING POSITION. MAN AND WOMAN RISE AND RETURN TO SIT ON CHAIRS. THEY SHAKE THEIR HEADS, LOOK DISCOURAGED, AND FACE AUDIENCE).

NARRATOR 3: They tugged and tugged, but the gigantic carrot stayed put!

NARRATOR 1: Luckily, the old man had an idea.

OLD MAN: We need someone LARGE to help us tug on this carrot stem.

OLD WOMAN: How about a WALRUS? Walruses are large. I wish we had a large walrus!

NARRATOR 2: And a large walrus appeared before them.

(WALRUS ENTERS CARRYING SCRIPT BINDER AND SITS ON FLOOR IN FRONT OF WOMAN AND MAN. ONCE WALRUS IS IN PLACE, MAN/WOMAN RISE AND RESUME THE TUGGING POSITION. WALRUS POSITIONS HIMSELF BEHIND WOMAN AND MIMES

GRABBING HOLD OF THE CARROT STEM WITH FREE HAND).

OLD MAN: Your wish is my command, dear.

NARRATOR 3: The old woman, the old man, and the large walrus grabbed hold of the carrot stem and began to tug.

WALRUS: One, two three...

ALL CHANT: Gigantic carrot
Big and round

(TUG)

We'll get you now
Look who we've found

(TUG)

With help from walrus
Large and strong
We'll tug, tug, tug you
From the ground!

(TUG, FALL)

(ALL FALL OVER ON LAST TUG, LANDING IN A SITTING POSITION. MAN AND WOMAN RETURN TO CHAIRS AND WALRUS RETURNS TO SITTING POSITION ON FLOOR. ALL SHAKE HEADS, LOOK DISCOURAGED, AND FACE AUDIENCE).

NARRATOR 1: They tugged and tugged, but the gigantic carrot stayed put!

NARRATOR 2: Luckily, the old woman had an idea.

OLD WOMAN: We need someone HUGE to help us tug on this carrot stem.