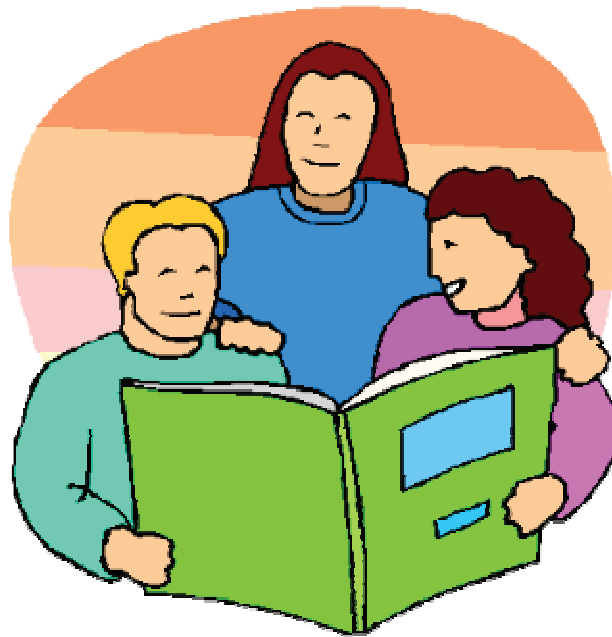


Herb and Lois Walker's  
**SCRIPTS FOR SCHOOLS**

# **A TORTOISE OF COURSE**



**READERS THEATER SCRIPT/INTERMEDIATE  
BY LOIS WALKER**

[WWW.SCRIPTSFORSCHOOLS.COM](http://WWW.SCRIPTSFORSCHOOLS.COM)

**A TORTOISE, OF COURSE**

Written and Formatted for Readers Theater

By Lois Walker

**Scripts For Schools**

**<http://www.scriptsforschools.com>**

*To Find the Proper Rhythm: First read-aloud and clap through the piece as you read. Each underlined word or word part falls directly on a beat. As you read, clap on each underlined word, keeping the rhythm steady (except for the occasional spot where the rhythm is temporarily abandoned). Be careful not to read too fast! This is a rehearsal technique and readers will not clap throughout the entire piece during performance.*

**("Teacher Tips" for Readers Theater can be found under "Free Teacher Aides" in the drop-down menu at the Scripts For Schools website mentioned above).**

READER 1:        What's that moving on the land  
                      Almost invisible in the sand,

READER 2:        Close to the ground, patiently plodding,

READER 3:        Treading slowly, tenderly bobbing

READER 4:        Bald head weaving, bouncing, nodding

READER 5:        See?

(Pause)

What can it be?

**A TORTOISE, OF COURSE**  
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ALL READERS:    It's a tortoise, tortoise, of course  
                            Of course a tortoise, it isn't horse

READER 6:            And right on course, a desert force

ALL READERS:    **Is the tortoise, of course**

READER 1:           What's that moving on the land  
                            Through rocky terrain, alluvial fan

READER 2:           Out of the burrow, after the showers

READER 3:           Seeking grass and spring wildflowers

READER 4:           Front legs flat, back legs like towers

READER 5:           See?

(Pause)

What can it be?

ALL READERS:    It's a tortoise, tortoise, of course  
                            Of course a tortoise, it isn't horse

READER 6:           And right on course, a desert force

ALL READERS:    **Is the tortoise, of course**

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READER 1:        What's that moving on the land  
                      Wearing a dome of brownish tan

READER 2:        Finding a water pool, testing the rim

READER 3:        Wanting a drink, not wanting a swim

READER 4:        Before the sunlight begins to dim

READER 5:        See?

(Pause)

What can it be?

ALL READERS:    It's a tortoise, tortoise, of course  
                      Of course a tortoise, it isn't horse

READER 6:        And right on course, a desert force

ALL READERS:    **Is the tortoise, of course**

READER 1:        What's that moving on the land  
                      A Gopher Tortoise, I understand

READER 2:        Some live in Texas,  
                      So I'm told