

**Pop Until We Drop:  
A Popcorn Story**  
By Lois Walker

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**ADDING MORE READERS**

You will notice the script is numbered for 5 SOLO READERS and an ALL CHORUS. After the first 5 solo reading lines, the parts are not numbered. This is done so you may easily pencil in as many solo readers as you'd like. You can include 10, 15, 20, 25, or 30 individual solo readers if you wish (6 verses, 5 solo readers per verse). However, if you want to use only the original 5 solo readers, please divide the remaining lines up between them as indicated below.

**ESTABLISHING THE RHYTHM**

To find the proper rhythm, first read-aloud and clap through the text as you go. Each underlined word or word part falls directly on a beat. As you read, clap on each underlined word, keeping the rhythm steady. Be careful not to read too fast! This is a rehearsal technique and readers will not clap throughout these sections during performance. However, in this particular script the readers are asked to *clap, click their fingers, or pause* in certain sections during performance. These sections are clearly indicated in the text below.

**DIRECTIONS FOR VOICE CHORUS ROUND AT END OF PIECE**

In the closing Voice Chorus Round (page 8), work on making each set of two lines different in tone, volume, and dynamics from the others. For example, one set of two lines might be spoken softly throughout, another spoken loudly. Yet another may be spoken in normal tones, but the word POP shouted throughout. Your readers might also clap or click fingers on every time the word POP is spoken. The last two lines might be read by putting "sizzle" into that word by drawing out the "s" sound and emphasizing "izzle" by speeding it up and hitting it hard. On the word "sizzle" readers might hold a hand in the air and shake hand and fingers quickly to indicate a "sizzle". Have fun with this round. Try to make the vocal interpretations and gestures mimic the words and their true sounds. If wanted, your voice choir may even sing the following round to the tune of "Frerre Jacques". Anything goes...

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A Readers Theater Scripts for Intermediate/Advanced Readers

**VERSE ONE**

READER 1: I was a seed (Clap, clap) or *click, click or pause, pause*.  
Down in the ground. (Clap, clap) or *click, click or pause, pause*.

READER 2: I grew ten days and didn't make a sound.

READER 3: I popped through the soil  
Down in the countryside,

READER 4: Soaked up the sun  
And carbon dioxide.

READER 5: I built new leaves,  
Twiggy roots all around.  
And all that time

READERS  
1,2,3,4,5: I didn't make a sound.

ALL: We are popcorn, popcorn,  
We like to make noise.  
That's what we like to do,  
What each of us enjoys.  
To tip tap, bing bang,  
Duba-duba POP!

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READERS

1,2,3,4,5: Ka-boom, ka-bam,

ALL: Let's pop until we drop!

### **VERSE TWO**

READER I grew some ears (Clap, clap). *Same options as above.*  
Oh it was bliss! (Clap, clap)

READER And did it all using photosynthesis.

READER My stalk grew tall,  
It was quite a creation!

READER My ears grew kernels,  
Thanks to pollination.

READER I finally dried out,  
Became brittle and brown.  
And all that time

READERS  
I didn't make a sound.

ALL: We are popcorn, popcorn,  
We like to make noise.  
That's what we like to do,  
What each of us enjoys.

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To tip tap, bing bang,  
Duba-duba POP!

READERS

Ka-boom, ka-bam,

ALL: Let's pop until we drop!

**VERSE THREE**

READER My ears were picked (Clap, clap). *Same options as above.*  
One autumn day (Clap, clap)

READER The farmer came and took those ears away.

READER In the barn we dried,  
Each kernel on the cob.

READER Then we kernels were removed  
For it was the farmer's job.

READER He stored us in a bottle  
All glassy and round.  
And all that time

READERS

We didn't make a sound.

ALL: We are popcorn, popcorn,

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We like to make noise.  
That's what we like to do,  
What each of us enjoys.  
To tip tap, bing bang,  
Duba-duba POP!

READERS

Ka-boom, ka-bam,

ALL: Let's pop until we drop!

**VERSE FOUR**

READER The farmer's wife (Clap, clap). *Same options as above.*  
She loved to cook (Clap, clap)

READER She placed our glassy bottle in a special kitchen nook.

READER And we watched as she made  
Bread and pies,

READER Cookies and biscuits,  
Piled to the skies,

READER Roasted turkey,  
Potatoes in a mound.  
And all that time

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READERS

We didn't make a sound.

ALL: We are popcorn, popcorn,  
We like to make noise.  
That's what we like to do,  
What each of us enjoys.  
To tip tap, bing bang,  
Duba-duba POP!

READERS

Ka-boom, ka-bam,

ALL: Let's pop until we drop!

**VERSE FIVE**

READER One night in March (Clap, clap). *Same options as above.*  
All rain and sleet (Clap, clap)

READER The farmer said, "My dear, let's have a treat!"

READER They found our little bottle  
And then took off the lid.

READER Put a pot upon a burner  
And here is what they did:

READER They heated up oil,