



Herb and Lois Walker's

SCRIPTS FOR SCHOOLS

**THE STORY OF THE
DRAGON GOD
OF RICE**

by Lois Walker

Based on a Fanciful Folk Tale:
Celebrating The Lantern Festival

A Readers Theater Script
for
for Intermediate Readers

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THE STORY OF THE DRAGON GOD OF RICE

A Fanciful Folk Tale: Celebrating The Lantern Festival
Adapted and Formatted for Readers Theater by Lois Walker

Cast: 5 Readers, including 3 Character Voices.

READER 1: A long time ago, a snake was caught in the forest and sold at market.

(READER 5)

SNAKE: I'm the snake! It's no fun being a snake, you know.

READER 2: Right! Folks are always crying and running when snakes are around.

(READER 5)

SNAKE: Well, in this story I get to do the crying.

READER3: Go ahead and get it out of your system.

(READER 5)

SNAKE: Help! Help! I'm a wild creature and I don't want to be sold at market!

READER 4: Good job, but it won't do you any good. In this story you are sold at market. An old farmer pities you and takes you home with him.

(READER 5)

SNAKE: I told you being a snake is no fun.

READER 1: May we continue with this story?

(All respond below except SNAKE).

ALL:

YES!

READER 1: The old man bought the crying snake and brought him home.

READER 2: But the snake went right on crying.

(READER 5)

SNAKE: Help! Help! I'm thirsty and hungry!

READER 3: The old man and his neighbors were all farmers. They grew lots of crops.

READER 4: But this was a bad year for them.

READER 1: It hadn't rained in a long time and there wasn't enough water for their plants.

(READER 5)

SNAKE: Hey, nobody's paying attention to me. Did I mention I'm thirsty? I need some water!

READER 2: Well you're not the only thirsty thing. The farmers and their crops were thirsty too.

(READER 5)

SNAKE: Am I surprised? Snakes never have any luck.

READER 3: All the farmers were worried and prayed for rain.

READER 4: Then one night, the old man had a dream.

READER 1: And in this dream he was talking to his snake...

(READER 5)

SNAKE: Who, me?

(All respond below except SNAKE).

ALL: YES, YOU!

READER 1: When all of a sudden...

READER 2: The snake turned into a large dragon!

(READER 5)

SNAKE: I don't believe it!

READER 3: And this dragon was no ordinary dragon. He was the Dragon God of Rice.

(READER 5)

SNAKE: This is perfect. I've always known I should have been a god of something.

READER 4: May we continue?

(READER 5)

SNAKE: Sorry!

READER 1: The dragon said to the farmer:

(READER 2)

DRAGON: "In return for buying me at the market and saving my life, I will tell you a secret."

READER 3: The farmer listened carefully.

(READER 2)

DRAGON: "When you awake, you must put your snake in the river. He will represent me. When you do this, you will soon get enough rain for the crops."

(SNAKE emphasizes rhythm and rhyme below)

(READER 5)

SNAKE: Oh, this is a perfect plan.

I've been thirsty since this story began!

READER 4: Thank you for that little bit of poetry.

(READER 5)

SNAKE: You're welcome.

READER 1: The old man did what the dragon said and it started to rain the very next day.

READER 2: The old man and his neighbors were very happy.

READER 3: They poured a lot of rice into the river.

READER 4: They did this to thank the Dragon God of Rice for telling them the secret of rain-making.

READER 1: However, when the almighty God of All Things learned about people pouring rice into the river, he was furious.

READER 1: He said to the farmers: