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SCRIPTS FOR SCHOOLS

Turkey in the Barnyard

by Lois Walker

A Read-Aloud Finger Play
Script for Primary Readers

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A Thanksgiving Finger-Play Read-Aloud Script

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To find the proper rhythm for this script, first read-aloud and clap through the sections as you go. Each underlined word or word part falls directly on a beat. As you read, quietly 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 the reading during performance. Once the readers become comfortable with the rhythm, you can then experiment, improvise, interpret, and make changes to suit your goals.

If using this script as a read-aloud, you may want to use music stands to hold each reader's script and enable each reader to freely use his/her hands.

Verse 1

Turkey in the barnyard, *(Hold up open hand, with thumb folded in front of palm. Fingers are the turkey feathers, thumb is turkey head and neck).*

Happy as can be. *(Wave hand up and down).*

Wiggle all your feathers *(Wiggle fingers).*

And show them to me. *(On the word "me"- turn hand toward your face. At same time turn face toward your hand so you can see the turkey).*

Wobble, wobble turkey,

You are fat and fine. *(Turn hand back to original position and shake hand sideways. On the word "fine" make the hand into a fist).*

Wobble off to hide,

It's Thanksgiving time! *(On the word "hide" thrust fist behind your back to hide the turkey).*

Yum, yum! *(Place opposite hand on tummy and rub on "Yum, yum!").*

Poem and finger play can stop here or continue as below:

Verse 2

Turkey in the barnyard, *(Hold up open hand, with thumb folded in front of palm. Fingers are the turkey feathers, thumb is turkey head and neck).*

Proud as can be. *(Wave hand up and down).*

Ruffle up your feathers *(Wiggle fingers).*

For everyone to see. *(On the word "see"- turn hand toward your face. At same time turn face toward your hand so you can see the turkey).*

Gobble, gobble turkey

You are plump and prime. *(Turn hand back to original position and shake hand sideways. On the word "prime" make the hand into a fist).*

But you'd better gobble softly

It's Thanksgiving time! (*On the word "softly" place a finger in front of your lips and say "shhhhhh" after the word "time"*).

Verse 3

Turkey in the barnyard (*Hold up open hand, with thumb folded in front of palm. Fingers are the turkey feathers, thumb is turkey head and neck*).

Delighted as can be. (*Wave hand up and down*).

Fluff up your feathers (*Wiggle fingers*).

Please fluff them up for me. (*On the word "me" - turn hand toward your face. At same time turn face toward your hand so you can see the turkey fluffing*).

I see a roasting pan,

And that's a sign, (*Turn hand back to original position and shake hand sideways. On the word "sign" make the hand into a fist*).

So you'd better make tracks -