



Herb and Lois Walker's

SCRIPTS FOR SCHOOLS

Turkey in the Barnyard

by Lois Walker

A Read-Aloud Finger Play
Script for Primary Readers

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Run Turkey, Run! Finger Play for Thanksgiving

Inspired by a Thanksgiving Finger Play Poem. Revised,
Expanded and Formatted for Readers Theater
By Lois Walker

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 or recite too fast! This is a rehearsal technique and readers will not clap during performance.

NOTE: Two hands are needed to make the finger play part of this script work. If your students are reading, they will need music stands to hold their scripts in front of them.

There are five verses to this Finger Play Poem Script. You may use one, some, or all of them - depending on the age and abilities of your students.

VERSE 1

(Hold up fingers and thumb of one hand).

READER 1: Five fat turkeys stand in a line.

(Flip fingers back with base of palm extended. Wiggle base of palm back and forth).

They wiggle their toes and are feeling fine.

(Raise hand and arm up "into the sky").

READER 2: They look to the sky,

(Push hand and arm down "to the ground").

READER 3: They look to the ground.

(Bring hand back to original position, twist around clockwise at the wrist, turn hand from side to side, and bounce it up and down).

READER 4: Then they twist and turn and prance around.

(Child shakes his/her own head from side to side).

READER 5: But they won't be prancing on Thanksgiving Day,

(Quickly place hand behind back on the words "run away").

'Cause when it comes, they'll run away!

(Place both hands up on either side of the head and wiggle

them from side to side during the following chorus):

ALL: Run turkey, run.
Thanksgiving is fun.
It's fun for most,
But not for the roast!

(Put one hand down to side. Keep other hand in position. Fold thumb into palm as the letter 5 is spoken. Pull down pointer finger as the letter 4 is spoken. This continues all the way down the line until the little finger is folded down as the letter 1 is spoken. If children have a hard time folding their thumbs and fingers down, they can use their other hand to help in the process).

Five, four, three, two, one....

(Children have formed a fist. They will thrust that fist into the air each time the word "run" is said in the following)

So, run turkey,
Run turkey, RUN!

Poem and finger play can stop here or continue with one or more of the following verses. To include finger play, model new movements after those in Verse 1, follow spoken descriptions, use same chorus.

VERSE 2

(Hold up fingers and thumb of one hand).

READER 6: Five fancy turkeys stand in a row.

(Wiggle and ruffle fingers and thumb).

They ruffle and fluff their wings just so.

READER 7: They look to the left.

(Turn palm and fingers to face left).

READER 8: Then look to the right.

(Turn palm and fingers to face right).

READER 9: When they shake their feathers, they're quite a sight!

(Bring up both hands, quiver and shake them).

READER 10: But they won't show off on Thanksgiving Day,

(Child shakes his/her own head from side to side).

'Cause when it comes, they'll run away!

(Quickly place hands behind back on the words "run away").

(Place both hands up on either side of the head and wiggle them from side to side during the following chorus):

ALL: Run turkey, run.
Thanksgiving is fun.
It's fun for most,
But not for the roast!

(Put one hand down to side. Keep other hand in position. Fold thumb into palm as the letter 5 is spoken. Pull down pointer finger as the letter 4 is spoken. This continues all the way down the line until the little finger is folded down as the letter 1 is spoken. If children have a hard time folding their thumbs and fingers down, they can use their other hand to help in the process).

Five, four, three, two, one...

(Children have formed a fist. They will thrust that fist into the air each time the word "run" is said in the following)