



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

# The Monster Named Year!

by Lois Walker

A Readers Theater Script  
for Primary Readers

A Fanciful Folk Tale: Celebrating  
The Chinese New Year

**[www.scriptsforschools.com](http://www.scriptsforschools.com)**

## THE MONSTER NAMED YEAR!

A Fanciful Folk Tale: Celebrating The Chinese New Year

Adapted and Formatted for Readers Theater by Lois Walker

Cast: 12 Readers, Including 1 Narrator and 2 Character Parts.

-----

NARRATOR:           Once upon a time,  
                              Lived a monster named Year.

CHILD 1:            I'm sorry, please repeat.  
                              I guess I didn't hear.

NARRATOR:           Year! Year!  
                              The monster's name was Year.

CHILD 2:            Was that really his name?

**ALL                   YES, THE MONSTER'S NAME WAS YEAR!**

-----

NARRATOR:           Year lived at the bottom  
                              Of a deep, deep sea.

CHILD 3:            The bottom of a sea?

CHILD 4:            It's the only place to be!

NARRATOR:           And he came out only  
                              On New Year's Eve.

**ALL:                   THAT'S WHAT WE'VE BEEN TOLD,  
                              AND THAT'S WHAT WE BELIEVE!**

-----

NARRATOR: Whenever Year came out,  
He shrieked and growled:

YEAR: "I'm Hungry – woo – hungry,  
I'll shout it out loud!"

CHILD 5: Then people in the street,

CHILD 6: And the people in the crowd,

CHILD 7: Shivered and shook,  
Cried and howled.

-----  
NARRATOR: They called:

**ALL: "YEAR IS COMING!  
DON'T LOOK OR TURN AROUND.  
HOLD TIGHTLY TO EACH OTHER,  
OH, PLEASE DON'T MAKE A SOUND."**

-----  
NARRATOR: Whenever Year came out,  
He shrieked and growled

YEAR: "Hungry – woo – hungry,  
I'll shout it out loud!"

CHILD 8: The animals were frightened.  
They met in the dark,

CHILD 9: They tried to be quiet,  
And didn't wince or bark.

-----

NARRATOR: They whispered:

**ALL: "YEAR IS COMING!  
DON'T LOOK OR TURN AROUND.  
STAND CLOSELY TO EACH OTHER,  
WE DON'T WANT TO BE FOUND."**

-----

NARRATOR: Then a wise old beggar  
Stepped up to save the day.

(CHILD 10)  
BEGGAR: "Don't be afraid."

NARRATOR: He said,

(CHILD 10)  
BEGGAR: "We can chase the Year away."

NARRATOR: He told the people what to plan  
And gather in advance:

CHILD 1: Red paper,

CHILD 2: Firecrackers,

(CHILD 10)  
BEGGAR: "A lion who can dance!"

-----

NARRATOR: They said:

**ALL: "YEAR IS COMING!  
DON'T LOOK OR TURN AROUND,  
DO JUST AS THE BEGGAR SAID,  
OUR ANSWER HAS BEEN FOUND!"**

-----

NARRATOR: Soon Year came out,  
He shrieked and growled:

YEAR: "Hungry – woo – hungry,  
I'll shout it out loud!"

CHILD 3: He grabbed at folks and swallowed.

CHILD 4: Clutched animals and chewed.

NARRATOR: And everyone cried,

**ALL: "HELP, HELP US, PLEASE DO!"**

-----

CHILD 5: Then the crackers exploded,

CHILD 6: The paper flared red,

CHILD 7: The lion danced dramatically  
With ribbons on his head.

-----

NARRATOR: Year stopped and stared.  
Didn't shriek, moan, or growl.

YEAR: "I'm Hungry – woo – hungry,  
But I won't shout it now!  
I hate firecrackers.  
Despise the color red.  
And I can't stand that dancing thing  
With ribbons on its head."

-----

CHILD 8: Year turned around,  
Ran back into the sea.

**ALL: "HURRAY! THE YEAR IS GONE."**

NARRATOR: Folks shouted happily.

CHILD 9: The animals and people