Reader’s Theater

Reader’s theater encourages kids to practice reading Fluency in an engaging way.

**How it works:**
- Decide who will read each part. There are five characters in this script.
- If there are fewer than five readers, an adult can read for multiple characters.
- Readers will follow along and read aloud their character’s lines throughout the script.
  - Scripts can be printed and highlighted to make parts easier to see.
- Support your child by reading with expression. This is an important part of fluency.
- Swap characters and scripts to build fluency.
- After practicing the script, try reading it for an audience.

**Characters:**
- Narrator
- Little Goat
- Middle Goat
- Big Goat
- Grumpy Lion
**Narrator:** Once upon a time there were three goats who lived on a hillside. They were very hungry.

**Little Goat:** I am so hungry!

**Middle Goat:** Me too!

**Big Goat:** Me three!

**Narrator:** They had gobbled up all the grass on their side of the hill. But across the bridge, there was another hill with the greenest grass to eat.

**Little Goat:** Can we go over there?

**Middle Goat:** It is so green!

**Big Goat:** Yes! Let’s go but be quiet.

**Narrator:** They all knew there was a grumpy mountain lion who took naps under the bridge. Their clip-clops would have to be as quiet as can be!

**Middle Goat:** Shhh. Maybe he won’t wake up.

**Little Goat:** Yeah! He's visiting his mother, let's go across the bridge.

**Big Goat:** You go first, Little Goat.

**Little Goat:** Why me?

**Big Goat:** Because you will make the least noise.

**Little Goat:** You are right. I will go first. And I will get to the grass first!
Narrator: Clip, clop. Clip, clop. Little Goat slowly padded across the bridge. They were almost to the other side when they stepped on a creaky board! Squeak!

Grumpy Lion: Who is making all that noise?

Little Goat: It is me, Little Goat.

Grumpy Lion: How rude! I am trying to sleep! Please be quiet.

Little Goat: Sorry, Lion. I will sing you a song. Then you will sleep well.

Narrator: Little Goat sang their favorite song. Soon enough Lion’s eyes grew heavy and Little Goat tiptoed away without making a peep. Now it was Middle Goat’s turn.

Middle Goat: Here I come, grass!

Narrator: Middle Goat was even stealthier than Little Goat. They were almost to the other side when they stepped on a rotten board and their hoof broke through. The board made a loud, Crack! And Lion was startled awake again.

Grumpy Lion: What does a lion have to do to get some shut eye?

Middle Goat: So close! I will tell you a story. Then you will sleep well.

Narrator: Middle Goat shared their favorite tale and Lion’s eyes closed once more. Now it was Big Goat’s turn and they were ready.

Big Goat: Big Goat for the win!
Narrator: Big Goat didn’t get far before they stubbed their hoof on a loose nail and let out the loudest yowl!

Big Goat: Oops!

Grumpy Lion: Will I ever get to sleep with all this noise?

Narrator: Big Goat had an idea! They gathered up grass in their teeth and stuffed it into Lion’s ears.

Big Goat: This should help.

Grumpy Lion: Thank you!

Narrator: The grass helped so much, Lion couldn’t tell they were yelling their thanks. They closed their eyes and in sweet silence, they finally fell fast asleep.

Turns out the goats are very noisy eaters. They chewed and chomped on grass like lawn mowers and Lion never woke up. When their bellies were full they stuffed grass in each other's ears and joined Lion in the shade of the bridge for a long nap.

They all yelled, “good night,” to each other but no one heard a thing.

Little Goat: Good night!

Middle Goat: Good night!

Big Goat: Burp! Good night!

Grumpy Lion: Zzzzzzzz...