



# Reader's Theater

## Christian Poetry

Susan Brown

Special thanks to God. You inspired the writers of these poems and you inspired me to create this book from their great works.

*Reader's Theater: Christian Poetry* by Susan Brown

Copyright © 2014 by Susan Brown. All rights reserved.

Warm Hearts Publishing

The purchase of this material entitles the buyer to reproduce the pages for homeschool, classroom and small group use only. The reproduction of this book for an entire school or district is prohibited. Reproduction of these pages for other larger groups requires the prior written consent of the author.

ISBN 978-1-939869-06-7

Disclaimer and terms of use:

Any perceived slights of specific persons, peoples, or organizations in this book are unintentional.

Portions of this book are based on text from the following works:

*One Thousand Poems for Children: A Choice of the Best Verse Old and New.* Edited by Roger Ingpen.

*Louisa May Alcott: Her Life, Letters, and Journals.* Edited by Ednah D. Cheney.

*Child Songs of Cheer.* Written by Evaleen Stein.

*Hymns, Songs, and Fables, for Young People.* Written by Eliza Lee Follen.

*Poems for Catholics & Convents and Plays for Catholic Schools.* By The Sisters of Mercy.

*A Nonsense Anthology.* Collected by Carolyn Wells.

*Nonsense Books.* Written by Edward Lear.

*Prayers for Little Children and Young Persons.* Written by Robert Brett.

*The Wild Knight.* Written by G. K. Chesterton.

For information on how to purchase more copies of this book or to learn about our other products, please visit: [www.WarmHeartsPublishing.com](http://www.WarmHeartsPublishing.com)

# Introduction

## What is Reader's Theater?

Reader's Theater is the oral presentation of a written work that is performed with two or more readers. Memorization is not required because the focus of this form of drama is on *reading* the work with expression rather than reciting it. The readers help the audience to understand and visualize the text through their vocal performance.

## Benefits of Using Reader's Theater

- It gives purpose to reading.
- It helps children develop reading fluency through repetition.
- It increases comprehension since the text must be interpreted for performance.
- It motivates children to read.
- It improves not only reading skills, but listening and speaking skills as well.
- It encourages children to work together.
- Performing Reader's Theater helps increase self-confidence.

## Tips for Teaching Children How to Perform Reader's Theater

- Encourage the children to read with expression and to enunciate the words clearly.
- Teach the children how to project their voices so that they can be heard. Good posture helps with this.
- Pacing is important. Remind the children that they must be careful not to read too fast nor too slow, especially on unison parts.
- Show children how the script should be held. It's best if it is positioned below chin level so that the audience can see the faces of the performers. You may want to put the scripts in a three ring binder or attach them to construction paper or card stock for ease of use.
- Explain the importance of using facial expressions and gestures. This will make the presentation more interesting for the audience.
- Costumes and props may be used if desired, but are not a requirement.
- The positions of each reader on stage is up to you and the performers. Keep in mind that the scripts were written with the concept of having Reader 1 on the audience's left and the rest of the readers standing in number order to the right.
- Practice makes perfect, especially on unison parts. Encourage the children to rehearse their parts both individually and with their group.



## **What You'll Find in This Book**

This book contains scripts for 2 - 7 readers. The pieces are grouped into sections according to the number of readers required for each performance. While these scripts were created with Reader's Theater in mind, they could also potentially be memorized and used for other forms of dramatic presentation.

## **Where to Find More Scripts**

If you like these scripts, you can find more on our website at [www.WarmHeartsPublishing.com](http://www.WarmHeartsPublishing.com).

Also, if you would like to share your success stories with me, offer suggestions, or ask questions, please visit the Contact page on the Warm Hearts Publishing website. I would love to hear from you.

Preview Copy

# Contents

Scripts for Two Readers.....	1
How Doth the Little Busy Bee.....	2
Little Things.....	3
The Sermon of St. Francis .....	4
Easter Day .....	6
Robinson Crusoe's Hymn .....	7
On Prayer .....	8
A Christmas Carol.....	9
Shepherd Boy's Song.....	10
A Little Carol .....	11
The Lord's Day .....	12
Guess What I Have Heard.....	13
Envoy of the Guardian Angels.....	15
Scripts for Three Readers.....	16
What Christ Said.....	17
Lo, the Lilies of the Field.....	19
How the Leaves Came Down .....	21
Autumn .....	23
Learned Fred .....	25
On the Road .....	26
Suffer Little Children to Come Unto Me.....	27
We Never Part from Thee .....	28
Spring.....	29
Thanks for a Pleasant Day .....	30
Simply to Thy Cross I Cling.....	32
Scripts for Four Readers .....	33
Praise to God! .....	34
The Tiger.....	36
The Lamb.....	38
A Child's Thought of God.....	39
The Son of God Goes Forth to War .....	40
A Little Lamb Went Straying.....	42
My Kingdom.....	44
The Little Fir Trees .....	46
The Ancient of Days .....	49
Hope in God.....	50
There's a Friend for Little Children.....	52
Night Thoughts .....	54
Scripts for Five or More Readers.....	56
Let Dogs Delight to Bark and Bite .....	57
Will God.....	58
God is Good .....	60
It Was My Heavenly Father's Love .....	62
Another Midnight Hymn.....	64
Evening Hymn .....	67

The Table and the Chair .....	68
The Spirit Giveth Light .....	70
The Ministry of Angels .....	72

Preview Copy

# On Prayer

Eliza Lee Follen

## CHARACTERS

READER 1

READER 2

READER 1: As through the pathless fields of air  
Wandered forth the timid dove,

READER 2: So the heart, in humble prayer,  
Essays to reach the throne of love.

READER 1: Like her it may return unblessed,  
Like her again may soar,

READER 2: And still return and find no rest,  
No peaceful, happy shore.

READER 1: But now once more she spreads her wings,  
And takes a bolder flight,

READER 2: And see! the olive branch she brings,  
To bless her master's sight.

READER 1: And thus the heart renews its strength,  
Though spent and tempest driven,

READER 2: And higher soars, and brings at length  
A pledge of peace with Heaven.

# What Christ Said

George Macdonald

## CHARACTERS

JESUS

NARRATOR

PERSON

NARRATOR: I said,

PERSON: "Let me walk in the fields;"

NARRATOR: He said,

JESUS: "No, walk in the town;"

NARRATOR: I said,

PERSON: "There are no flowers there;"

NARRATOR: He said,

JESUS: "No flowers, but a crown."

NARRATOR: I said,

PERSON: "But the skies are black,  
There is nothing but noise and din;"

NARRATOR: And He wept as He sent me back

JESUS: "There is more,"

NARRATOR: He said;

JESUS: "there is sin."

NARRATOR: I said,



# A Child's Thought of God

Elizabeth Barrett Browning

## CHARACTERS

READER 1

READER 3

READER 2

MOTHER

READER 1: They say that God lives very high!

READER 2: But if you look above the pines

READER 3: You cannot see our God. And why?

READER 2: And if you dig down in the mines

READER 1: You never see Him in the gold,

READER 3: Though from Him all that's glory shines.

READER 2: God is so good, He wears a fold

READER 3: Of heaven and earth across his face

READER 1: Like secrets kept, for love, untold.

READER 3: But still I feel that His embrace

READER 1: Slides down by thrills, through all things made,

READER 2: Through sight and sound of every place:

READER 3: As if my tender mother laid

READER 2: On my shut lids, her kisses' pressure,

READER 1: Half waking me at night; and said

MOTHER: "Who kissed you through the dark, dear guesser?"

# Will God

Eliza Lee Follen

## CHARACTERS

READER 1

READER 4

READER 7

READER 2

READER 5

READER 3

READER 6

READER 1: Will God, who made the earth and sea,  
The night, and shining day,

READER 4: Regard a little child like me,  
And listen when I pray?

READER 7: If I am hungry, poor, and cold,  
Then will he hear my cry?

READER 5: And when I shall be sick and old,  
O, then will God be nigh?

READER 3: Yes; in his holy word we read  
Of his unfailing love;

READER 6: And when his mercy most we need,  
His mercy he will prove.

READER 2: To those who seek him, he is near;  
He looks upon the heart,

READER 7: And from the humble and sincere  
He never will depart.

READER 3: He sees our thoughts, our wishes knows,  
He hears our faintest prayer;

READER 5: Wherever the faithful Christian goes,  
He finds his Father there.