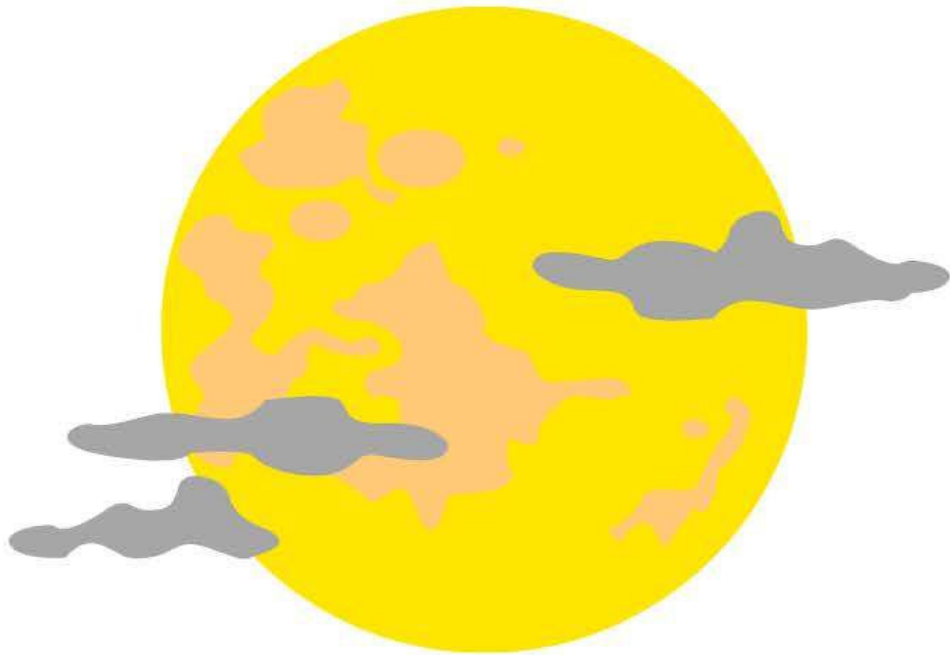


**NO PREP! PRINT AND GO!**

# **THE HARVEST MOON**



**READER'S THEATER  
FREEBIE**

**FOR MIDDLE GRADE READERS**

**MRSBEERS.COM**

# WHY READER'S THEATER?

Reader's Theater is one of my favorite tools to utilize in my middle grades classroom. While I have listed the 4<sup>TH</sup>-8<sup>TH</sup> grade common core standards that this package covers, Reader's Theater directly improves fluency and comprehension. In addition, Reader's Theater allows students the opportunity to climb inside of a character and perform. While you can read through a passage just one time, students gain a greater understanding and build fluency when read multiple times.

## DIRECTIONS:

- Copy the passage and extension activities for students.
- Give students 2-5 minutes to preview the passage and determine which character they might like to perform
- Based on class size, you may be able to have multiple groups perform the same play.
- Display characters/parts in the classroom for students to see.
- Because this is a script with few characters, possibly form different groups of students to perform this same script.
- I pull Popsicle sticks with student names to make character selection most fair. As I pull a student's name, they get to pick which part they would like
- I then write the student's name next to the character/part as a reminder.
- Once all parts have been selected, I give students another 2-5 minutes to scan through to locate their part.
- Finally, begin the passage. Read aloud as many times as you find suitable for your students.
- Answer reader response questions, word work, and journal prompt.

## **Common Core Focused Reader's Theater High Interest/Realistic Fiction Passage for Middle Grade to Middle School Learners**

CCS: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 RL 1. Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

CCSS: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 RL 2. Determine a theme or central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.

CCSS: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 RL 3. Describe how a particular story's or drama's plot unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters respond or change as the plot moves toward a resolution.

CCSS: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 RL 4. Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of a specific word choice on meaning and tone.



# Characters

**Narrator 1**

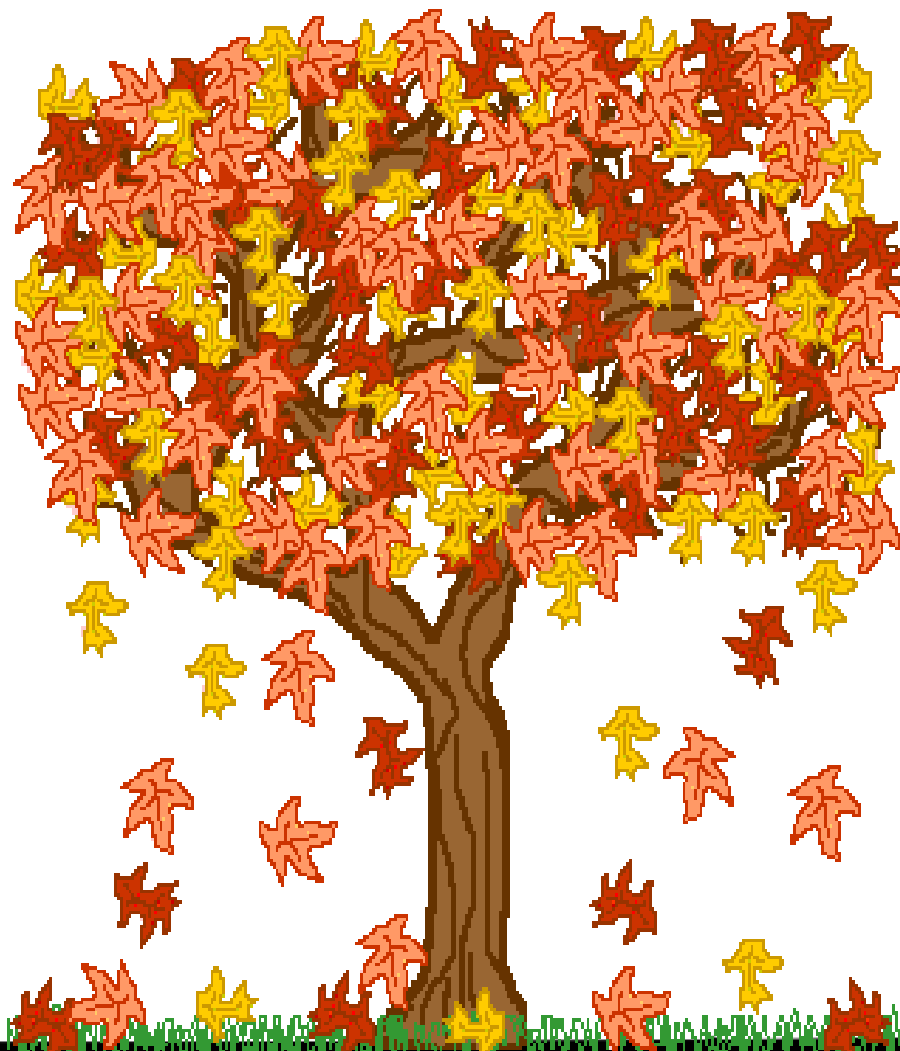
**Narrator 2**

**Max-6<sup>th</sup> grader**

**Kate-6<sup>th</sup> grader**

**Ellie-6<sup>th</sup> grader**

**Mr. Zander-6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher**



# The Harvest Moon

**Narrator #1:** It was finally Friday and the students were anxious to gather their backpacks and head out the door. Problem was, there were still 15 minutes left before the bell would ring indicating that the last class of the day was over.

**Narrator #2:** Mr. Zander was one of those educators that used up every last minute of instructional time and would not let his students sit around wasting a moment.

**Mr. Zander:** (as he collected the social studies tests off of students' desks) What was the easiest question on the test?

**Max:** I didn't think any of those questions were easy!

**Kate:** I thought the vocabulary was the easiest part since we spent so much time talking about it in class, but the extended response questions all had tricky parts.

**Ellie:** I agree.

**Mr. Zander:** Ok, glad to hear it didn't seem too bad! Last question before I let you grab backpacks and head out for the weekend...does anyone have any fun adventures planned for the weekend?

**Max:** I have a football game and I just want to play outside with my friends.

**Ellie:** We wanted to go to that brand new haunted house they have been building, but it doesn't open for another week.

**Kate:** I have no idea what we are doing. I have two soccer games, but I have no idea if we will do anything else.

**Max:** What are you doing this weekend, Mr. Zander?

**Narrator #1:** Mr. Zander was listening and consolidating all of the tests he had collected, clipping them together, and placing them on his desk to be graded.

**Mr. Zander:** My family will be headed to the Harvest Moon Festival this weekend. Has anyone heard of that? It is in Montgomery on Saturday evening.

**Ellie:** No, what do you do there?

**Mr. Zander:** Have you ever heard of the Harvest Moon?



**Narrator #2:** All of the students in the classroom shook their heads signifying that this was not something they had ever heard of.

**Mr. Zander:** The Harvest Moon is the full moon that falls closest to the autumnal equinox, which is the beginning of fall in the Northern Hemisphere. This year fall begins on September 22, so the full moon in September that comes closest to that time is called the Harvest Moon. Would you believe it is actually going to take place tonight?

**Ellie:** So why don't they call it the Fall Moon instead of the Harvest Moon?

**Mr. Zander:** Great question! It is called the Harvest Moon because so many of our crops tend to be their ripest toward the end of summer and into early fall for us in North America. Before there were advancements and technology for farmers, like tractors with headlights, they had to rely on the light of the moon to work late into the evening in order to harvest their crops.

**Kate:** So are you going to take your family to gather crops somewhere and help a local farmer?

**Mr. Zander:** (laughing) I am sure some farmer somewhere would appreciate that! But, no, we are going to a festival where we drink hot chocolate, roast marshmallows, take hayrides, and paint pumpkins. My wife and I have been taking our children to this special event since they were babies, and it is a tradition we do every year. We will get to enjoy a beautiful full moon while we do all of those fall rituals, however.

**Ellie:** I will have to let my mom know about this Harvest Moon. Her garden is starting to look a bit tired. It might benefit her to get outside tonight and harvest the rest of her fruits and veggies that actually grew this year!

**Max:** You are funny, Mr. Zander. We just took a test and somehow you managed to cram in more learning in the few minutes we had before leaving. I will tell you, my little brother would love that festival, and I will definitely be watching to see the moon. It sounds like it will be really extraordinary.

**Mr. Zander:** Have a great weekend, everyone!

**Narrator #1:** The bell rang and the students filed out of the classroom to their lockers for their backpacks. Mr. Zander was just as enthusiastic about heading on his way and enjoying this fun yearly tradition with his family. He loved this time of year! Then just like those ambitious farmers harvesting their crops and preparing for fall, later in the weekend, Mr. Zander would be grading those social studies tests and preparing for another week of learning.





Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# The Harvest Moon

## Word Work

**Directions:** Find the word in the text. Write the sentence that the word is in in the "Word in Sentence" box. Using context clues, write the meaning of the word in the "Meaning using context clues" box.

Word	Word in Sentence	Meaning using Context Clues
indicating		
consolidating		
signifying		
autumnal equinox		
harvest		
rituals		
extraordinary		



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## The Harvest Moon: Reader Response Questions

**Directions:** After completing the Reader's Theater, answer the following questions in complete sentences citing specific details from the text.

1. What is the Harvest Moon? Cite evidence from the text to support your response.

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2. Why do you think that the Harvest Moon might not be as beneficial to present day farmers? Cite evidence from the text to support your response.

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3. Would you like to go to the Harvest Moon Festival with your family? Why or why not? Cite evidence from the text to support your response.

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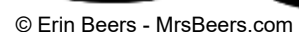

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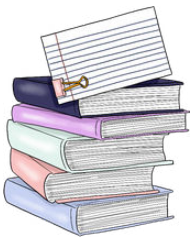




**Directions:** In the space provided below, respond to the journal topic. Your writing needs to be in complete sentences, with correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

**Topic #1:** Mr. Zander loves going to the Harvest Moon Festival every year because it is a tradition he has shared with his children since they were babies. Share a tradition that you take part in with your family. What is the tradition? When did this tradition begin? Why is this tradition so important to your family? If or when you have children of your own, will you continue this tradition? Why or why not?





# THANK YOU!



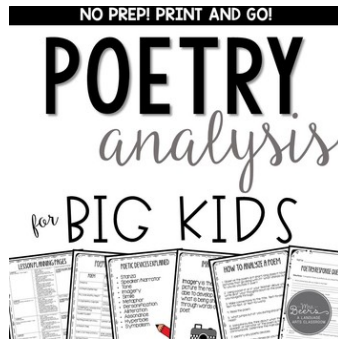
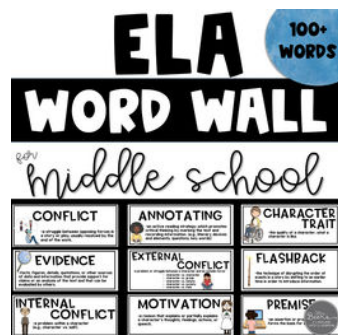
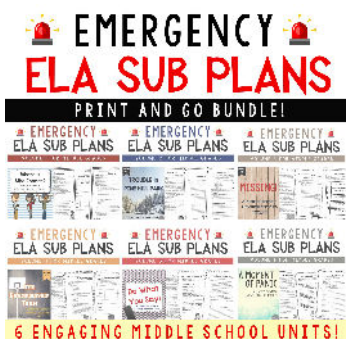
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