



Reader's Theater:

The Easter Egg Dance Off



Characters:

- Narrator
- Benny the Bunny (a mischievous but lovable Easter Bunny)
- Ella (a smart and curious kid)
- Max (Ella's enthusiastic but slightly clueless best friend)
- Grandma Lou (wise and full of surprises)
- Henrietta (a giant, sassy chicken)

Optional Props:

- Bunny Ears – For Benny the Bunny
- Chicken Headband or Feather Boa – For Henrietta
- Easter Baskets – For Ella and Max
- Colorful Plastic Eggs – To represent the missing Easter eggs
- A Rocking Chair – For Grandma Lou
- A Toy Radio or Boombox – To play "music" for the dance-off

Narrator:

It was a bright and sunny Easter morning in the town of Hoppington. Kids were ready for the annual Easter egg hunt—except something was very, very wrong.

Ella:

(Max holding an empty basket) Max, is it just me, or do you also notice the complete and total lack of eggs?

Max:

(Checking under a bush) I thought maybe they were just really well hidden this year... like, super well hidden.

Narrator:

Just then, a flash of fluffy white zipped past them, zigzagging across the park.

Ella & Max (together):

Benny the Bunny!

Benny the Bunny:

(Stops and waves, looking guilty) Oh, hey, kids. Uh, lovely day for an egg hunt, huh?

Ella:

Benny, where are the eggs? Did you forget to hide them?

Benny the Bunny:

(Holding up one paw) Now, let's not throw around words like forget. Let's say, uh, a tiny mix-up.

Max:

(Tilting his head) A mix-up?

Benny the Bunny:

(Sighing) Okay, okay. I was up late watching 'Dancing with the Ducks,' and I may have accidentally left the eggs in the worst possible place.

Ella:

Oh no... where?

Benny the Bunny:

Grandma Lou's backyard.

Max:

(Eyes wide) The one with the GIANT, TERRIFYING CHICKEN?

Narrator:

Everyone in Hootington knew about Grandma Lou's hen, Henrietta—a chicken the size of a small horse with a major attitude.

Ella:

Well... I guess we have to get them back!

Max:

(Holding basket tightly) I'd rather just start a new tradition... you know, the Invisible Egg Hunt.

Max:

But he was already marching toward Grandma Lou's house, with Benny and Max reluctantly following behind.
(Scene shift: Grandma Lou's backyard)

Grandma Lou:

(Rocking in her chair) Well, well, well. It isn't the Scrambled Egg Squad.

Benny the Bunny:

(Nervously) Hi, Grandma Lou! Uh, so, funny story.

Grandma Lou:

(Chuckling) Oh, I know. Henrietta found the eggs, and now she thinks they're HER babies.

Max:

(Whispers) This is why I don't trust chickens.

Ella:

Grandma Lou, how do we get them back?

Grandma Lou:

(Laughing) Well, you could ask Henrietta nicely.

Narrator:

The trick cautiously approached Henrietta who stood protectively over a pile of brightly colored eggs.

Bunny the Bunny:

(Upending his paws) Hey, Henrietta, those eggs aren't actually baby chicks. They're just Easter eggs filled with candy!

Henrietta:

(Clutching the eggs dramatically) Yes! My precious babies are not made of sugar!

Max:

(Nodding) Actually... they kinda are.

Ella:

(Kindly) Henrietta, we promise they're just for fun. No baby chicks, just delicious treats for the kids in town.

Henrietta:

(Squinting) Hmm... well, I might believe you, but I'm not giving them up that easily.

Benny the Bunny:

(Shrugging) So... what do we have to do?

Henrietta:

(Grinning) It's a dance-off. You win, you get the eggs. You lose, I keep 'em.

Max:

(Clutching his head) I can't believe this is happening.

Benny the Bunny:

(Stretching) Alright, Henrietta! Let's DANCE!

Narrator:

Before Benny could reconsider, Grandma Lou turned on her radio. A funky tune played, and Henrietta strutted out of the corner, looking ready to boogie.

Benny wiggled, spun, and twirled around in perfect rhythm. Henrietta tapped her wrists, tapped her feet, and spun in a circle. The crowd gasped—it was close!

Ella:

(Whispering to Grandma Lou) Who's winning?

Grandma Lou:

(Grinning) Henrietta. But she's impressed.

Narrator:

Finally, with a dramatic flourish, Henrietta clucked proudly.

Henrietta:

(Nods) Alright! I admit it- you've got moves, Bunny! technically wrong, but I respect the effort. And since I don't actually eat chocolate, I suppose you can have your eggs back.

Benny the Bunny:

(Bowing) Thank you Henrietta. You truly are the queen of funky moves.

Max:

(Relieved) Can we please go now before she changes her mind?

Narrator:

With the eggs safely returned, the Great Easter Egg Hunt was back on.

Ella:

(Waving a hand) Next year, Benny, maybe don't leave the eggs with a giant chicken.

Benny the Bunny:

(Grinning) But then we wouldn't have this amazing story to tell!

Narrator:

And so, the kids of Hoppington celebrated with a hunt filled with laughter, candy, and a new town legend—the time Benny the Bunny challenged a chicken to a dance-off... and almost won.

The End!

Name: _____

Date: _____

Why were the Easter eggs missing at the start of the story?

Why did Henrietta decide to give the eggs back anyway?

If you were in this story, what other creative way could you have tried to get the eggs back?

Benny



Ella



Max



Grandma Lou



Henrietta



Narrator



Benny



Ella



Max



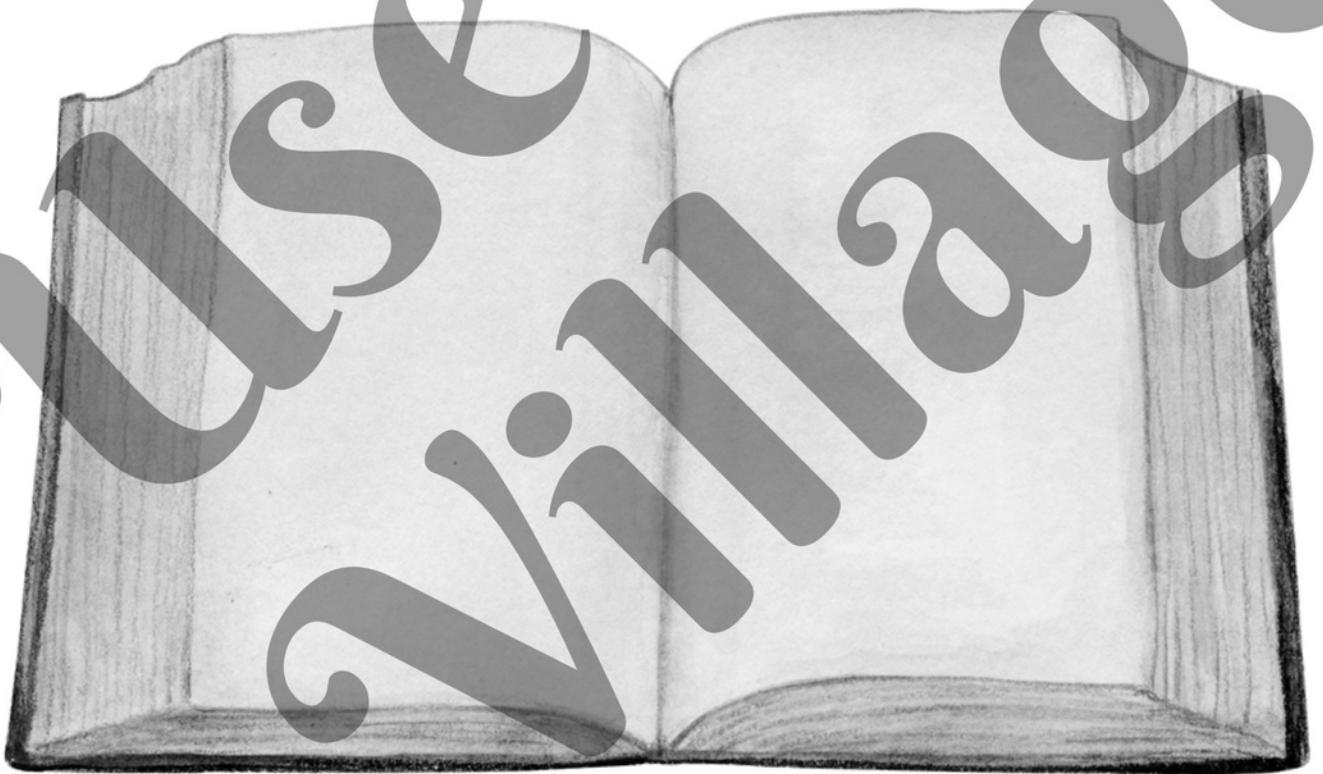
Grandma Lou



Henrietta



Narrator



Teacher Suggestions:

Assigning Roles: Consider your students' reading levels and confidence when assigning roles. Encourage students to practice their parts at home or during independent reading time.

Practicing Fluency: Have students practice their parts multiple times to build fluency and expression.

Props & Costumes: Use the optional props list to create simple, engaging props.

Character Labels: Students can also use the provided character names to either cut out to hang around their neck to help identify characters to the audience or alternatively draw and illustrate what they imagine their character to look like.

Performance: Arrange a space in the classroom where students can perform. Invite other students to watch the final performance to boost students' confidence and make it more special.

Reader Response Questions: Use the provided questions to facilitate a post-performance discussion. This will help assess comprehension and encourage students to think critically about the play.

Extension Activities:

- **Choreograph Your Own Dance-Off:** Have students create their own dance moves and hold a friendly class-wide dance battle.
- **Design an Easter Egg Hunt Map:** Students can draw a creative map of where they would hide Easter eggs in their own version of the story.
- **Rewrite the Ending:** What if Henrietta didn't give up the eggs? Have students brainstorm and write an alternative ending where they still manage to retrieve the eggs.
- **Create a Puppet Show:** Using simple paper puppets or stick figures, students can act out the story with their own creative twists.
- **Henrietta's Diary Entry:** Have students write a diary entry from Henrietta's perspective, describing how she felt about the whole situation.
- **Easter Egg Art Challenge:** Each student decorates an egg with a design that represents their favorite scene from the story.