



Reader's
Theater:

Mother's Day
Surprise



Characters:

- Narrator
- Jordan (thoughtful, creative student)
- Riley (funny, dramatic friend)
- Grandma Lou (Jordan's wise and warm grandmother)
- Ms. Rivera (caring and clever teacher)
- Aunt Nia (cool and energetic)
- Principal Thompson (serious but soft-hearted)
- Ella (classmate with a traditional mom)
- Leo (classmate who lives with his aunt)
- Jordan's Mom (voice only, through video chat)

Optional Props:

- Construction paper, glue, scissors (for crafts)
- Sun hat or apron (Grandma Lou)
- Clipboard or coffee mug (Ms. Rivera)
- Colorful scarf or sunglasses (Aunt Nia)
- Microphone or ruler (Principal Thompson)
- Gift bag or box with tissue paper
- Tablet or phone prop (for FaceTime call)
- Pipe cleaner fruit hat
- Handmade cards and paper crafts
- Paper flower bouquet and candy

Narrator:

It was the week before Mother's Day, and Ms. Rivera's classroom was buzzing with excitement. Most of the kids were working on surprises for their moms—painting flower pots, writing poems, or gluing glitter onto cards. But not everyone knew exactly what to make.

Jordan:

(Sighing) Everyone in class is making gifts for their moms... but my mom is on a research boat in Antarctica!

Riley:

(Grinning) Whoa! That's cool! But yeah... kinda hard to hand her a gift through a snowstorm.

Jordan:

Exactly. I want to make something for her... but it feels strange since she's so far away. I won't even see her this weekend.

Narrator:

That's when Grandma Lou, Jordan's grandmother who lives with his family, shuffled in wearing her baking apron and humming to herself.

Grandma Lou:

I made banana muffins at snack time! What's all this mumbling about?

Jordan:

We're making Mother's Day surprises at school... but Mom's not here.

Grandma Lou:

Happy Mother's Day! It's about celebrating the people who love and guide you. It doesn't have to be your mom in person. You can still make something and show her over video. And don't forget—you've got me, Ms. Rivera, Aunt Nia—your superhero squad.

Riley:

I'm giving my gift to my babysitter, Yolanda. She packs my lunch AND taught me how to moonwalk.

Jordan:

(Smiling) That actually makes me feel better. Thanks, Grandma. We got a plan now.

Narrator:

Nearby, Leo sat quietly cutting out paper hearts.

Ms. Rivera:

That looks great, Leo. Who are you giving yours to?

Leo:

My Aunt Nessa. She's not my mom, but she's raised me since I was little. She deserves a card AND a medal.

Narrator:

At the next table, Ella was putting the finishing touches on a flower crown.

Ella:

I can't wait to surprise my mom. She always does so much for us. Yesterday, she made 12 cupcakes for the bake sale AND fixed my science project.

Riley:

Legendary mom skills!

Jordan:

That's awesome, Ella. We've all got someone special, huh?

Narrator:

The next day, Jordan brought a tablet to school. He held it up excitedly.

Jordan:

Okay! I've got a surprise gift with Mom in 3... 2... 1!

Jordan's Mom (on video):

Hi sweetie! It's so good to see your face! What's all the glitter on your shirt?

Jordan:

(Laughing) That's from my surprise! I made a card with a poem, a drawing of your cat, and... look, I even made a snow globe with a penguin inside!

Jordan's Mom:

(Choked up) Jordan, that's beautiful. Thank you! I miss you so much. This means the world to me.

Narrator:

Jordan beamed. Even though his mom was far away, he felt close to her. Finally, the day of the Mother's Day assembly arrived. Everyone took their seats and Principal Thompson stepped up to the microphone.

Principal Thompson:

(Speaking into microphone) Welcome families, friends, and honored guests! Today, our students will present surprise gifts to the special women in their lives.

Narrator:

One by one, students gave their gifts: handmade cards, bookmarks, and even a fruit hat made entirely of pipe cleaners.

Riley:

(Whispering to Jordan) I hope mine doesn't explode. I may have added too much baking soda.

Narrator:

Leo stepped onto the stage, holding a bouquet made of paper flowers and candy.

Leo:

This is for my Aunt Nessa. You're the one who cheers me on and makes me believe in myself. You might not be my mom, but you're definitely my heart.

Narrator:

Aunt Nessa gave Leo a huge hug, wiping tears from her eyes. Then Ella walked up, placing a handmade crown on her mom's head.

Ella:

For my amazing mom: You're queen of cupcakes and queen of my heart. Happy Mother's Day!

Narrator:

The crowd laughed and cheered. Finally, Jordan stood with Grandma Lou, Ms. Rivera, and Aunt Nia.

Jordan:

This is for my mom, who's watching from Antarctica... and for Grandma Lou, Ms. Rivera, and Aunt Nia—who are always here when I need them. Thanks for teaching me to bake muffins, read poetry, and ride my bike without training wheels.

(Everyone applauds. Grandma Lou dabs her eyes with a tissue. Aunt Nia blows a kiss. Ms. Rivera claps excitedly.)

Narrator: And though not every family looked the same, the classroom was full of love, laughter, and sparkly glue.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Why was Jordan unsure about how to celebrate Mother's Day at first?

How did Grandma Lou, Ms. Rivera, and Aunt Nia help support Jordan?

What is the main message or lesson of the play?

Jordan



Riley



Grandma Lou



Ms. Rivera



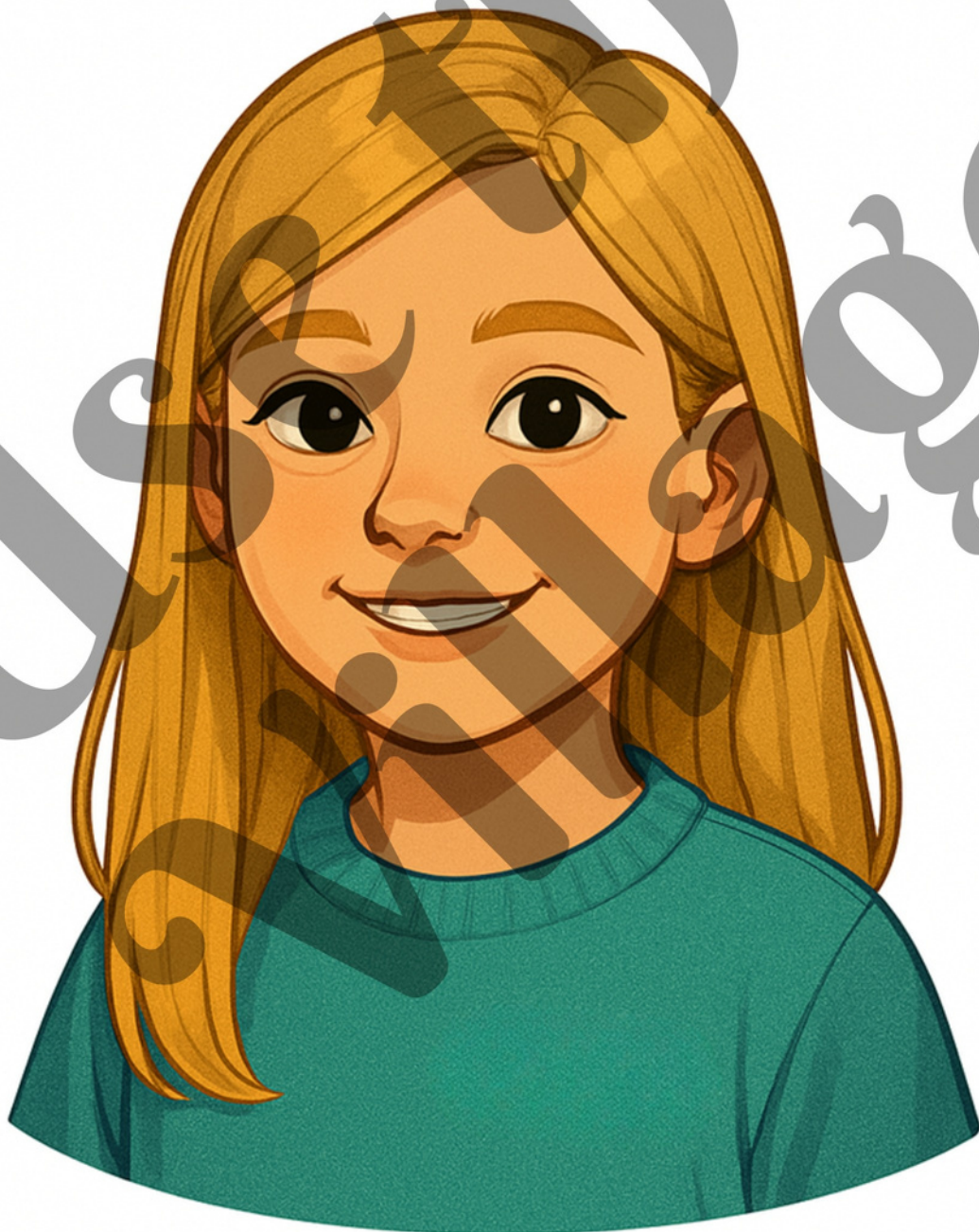
Aunt Nia



Principal Thompson



Ella



Leo



Jordan's Mom



Narrator



Jordan



Riley



Grandma Lou



Ms. Rivera



Aunt Nia



Principal Thompson



Ella



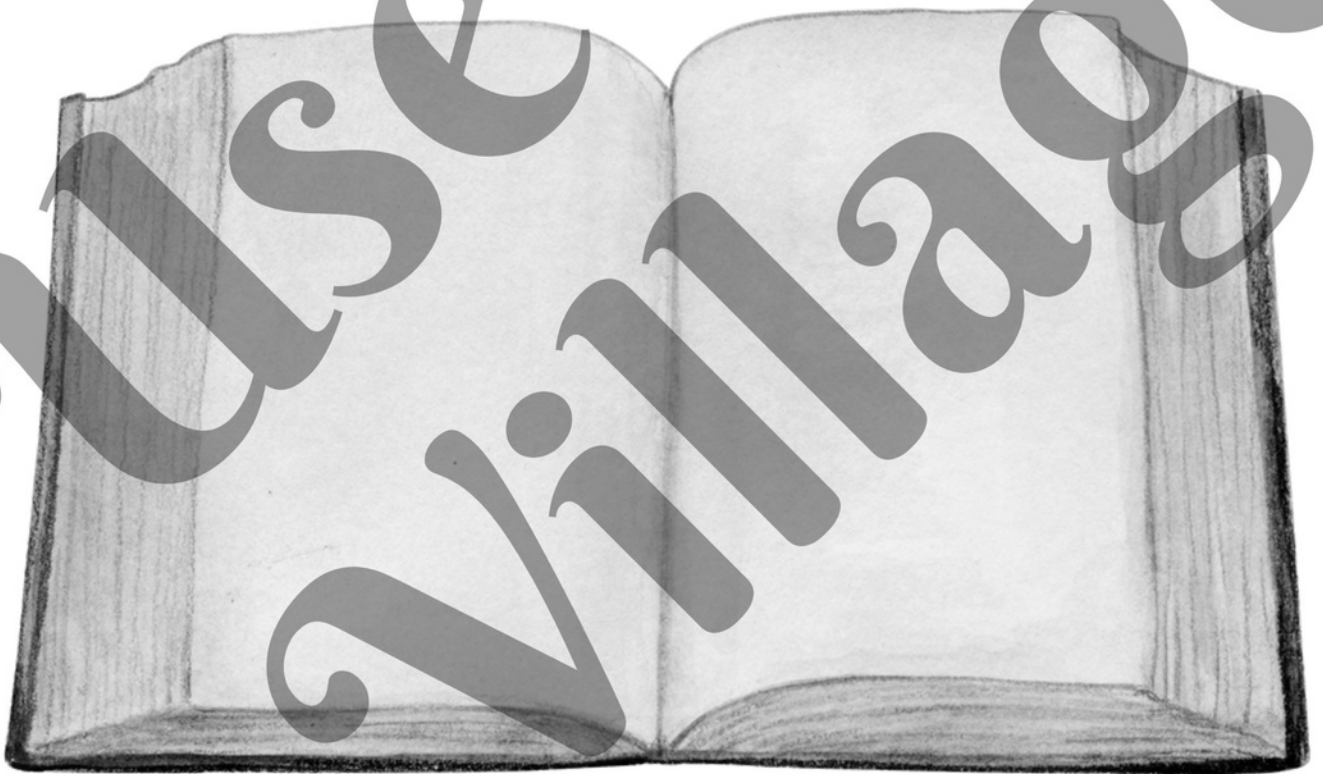
Leo



Jordan's Mom



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

- **Who's Your Hero?** Have students write a short paragraph or draw a picture of the feminine figure they would honor most, explaining why they chose that person.
- **Kindness Chain:** Create a classroom paper chain where each link has a word or phrase about what makes someone caring. Link them together for a visual celebration.
- **Card Craft Station:** Set up a card-making table with supplies. Encourage students to make a card for any important figure in their life.
- **Drama Freeze Frame:** Review scenes from the play and have groups or pairs create "frames" to capture key moments (e.g., glitter explosion, big hug, boy's fruit hat).
- **Video Showings:** Invite students to record short videos or voice memos thanking someone special in their life, which can be compiled and shared with family.