

Reader's Theater:

Back to School Friendships



Characters

- Emma (a friendly student)
- Liam (a new student))
- Narrator
- Maya (a student)
- Aiden (a playful student)
- Mrs. Garcia (the teacher)

Optional Props:

- **Desks and Chairs:** Arrange small desks and chairs to mimic a classroom setting. This helps create a realistic environment for the characters.
- **Backpacks:** Each student character can carry a backpack, which they can place on or near their desks. This adds to the back-to-school theme.
- **Notebooks and Pencils:** Provide the student characters with notebooks and pencils to hold or place on their desks. They can pretend to take notes or write during the play.
- **Name Tags:** Create name tags for each character to wear. This helps the audience easily identify the characters and adds to the classroom feel.
- **Welcome Banner:** Hang a "Welcome Back to School" banner in the background to set the stage and create a festive atmosphere.
- **Teacher's Desk:** Set up a larger desk for Mrs. Garcia with items like a coffee mug, papers, and a pencil holder to distinguish her as the teacher.
- **Whiteboard or Chalkboard:** Use a small whiteboard or chalkboard with a "Welcome Students" message written on it. This can be part of Mrs. Garcia's introduction.
- **Summer Vacation Props:** Small items that represent summer activities (e.g., a toy beach ball for Maya, a small bike for Aiden) can be used during the introduction activity.

Narrator:

It's the first day of school, and everyone is excited and nervous about meeting new friends and teachers. In Mrs. Garcia's classroom, there are some familiar faces and some new ones. Let's see how they all get to know each other!

(Scene: A classroom with desks arranged in groups. Children are entering, looking around nervously. Emma and Maya are already seated together, chatting.)

Emma:

Hi, Maya! I missed you over the summer! Did you go anywhere fun?

Maya:

Hi, Emma! I missed you too. We went to the beach. It was so much fun. How about you?

Emma:

I went to visit my grandparents. I can't wait to tell you all about it. Oh, look, there's a new student. Let's say hi!

(Liam walks in, looking around nervously. He sees Emma and Maya and hesitates.)

Emma:

Hi! You must be new here. I'm Emma, and this is Maya.

Liam:

Hi. I'm Liam. It's nice to meet you. I'm a little nervous because I don't know anyone here.

Maya:

Don't worry, Liam. We're all friends here. You'll fit right in.

(Aiden runs in, excitedly)

Aiden:

Hey everyone! Guess what? I learned how to ride a bike with no training wheels this summer!

Emma:

That's awesome, Aiden! This is Liam. He's new to our school.

Aiden:

Hi, Liam! Welcome to our class. Do you want to play with us at recess?

Liam:

Sure! I'd love to. Thanks for inviting me.

(Mrs. Garcia enters the room smiling.)

Mrs. Garcia:

Good morning, class! Welcome back to school. I see some familiar faces and some new ones. Let's all take a seat so we can get to know each other better.

(The children sit down at their desks.)

Mrs. Garcia:

Let's start with a fun activity. Everyone will share one thing they did over the summer and one thing they're excited about this school year. Emma, would you like to start?

Emma:

Sure! I visited my grandparents over the summer and I'm excited to learn new things in science class this year.

Mrs. Garcia:

That's wonderful, Emma. Maya, how about you?

Maya:

I went to the beach, and I'm looking forward to making new friends.

Mrs. Garcia:

Excellent, Maya. Liam, would you like to share next?

Liam:

I just moved here, so I'm excited to make new friends and learn about our new school.

Mrs. Garcia:

We're so happy to have you, Liam. Aiden, your turn.

Aiden:

I learned to ride my bike without training wheels, and I'm excited to have fun in gym class.

Mrs. Garcia:

That's great, Aiden. It sounds like you have an exciting year ahead of us. Remember, it's okay to be nervous. We're all here to help each other. Let's make this the best school year ever!

Narrator:

And so, the students of Mrs. Garcia's class started their new school year with new friends and exciting adventures. They learned that being kind and welcoming makes everyone feel at home, no matter how nervous they might be. The end.

Name: _____

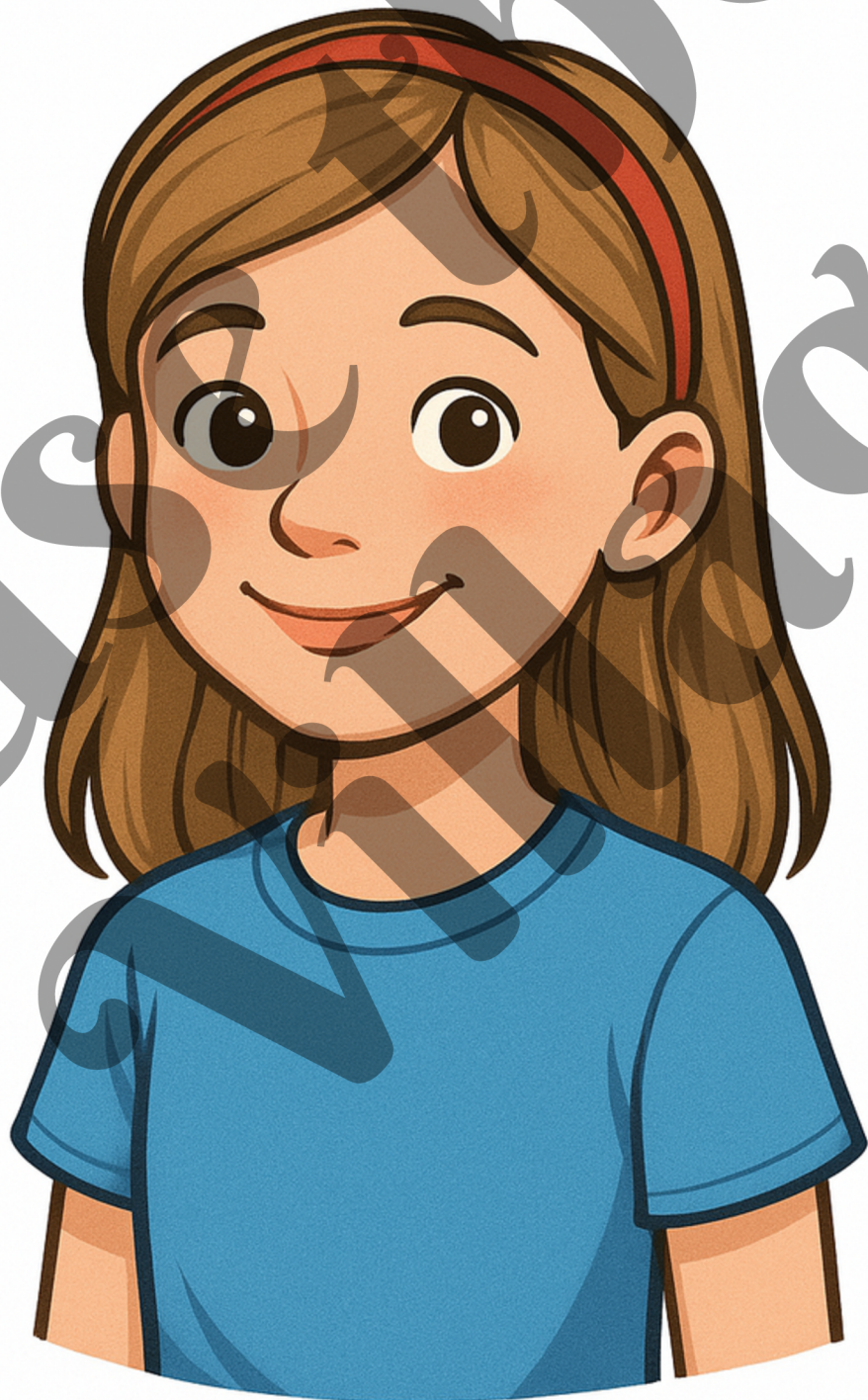
Date: _____

What activity does Mrs. Garcia start with on the first day?

Why is Liam nervous at the beginning of the play?

How do Emma and Maya make Liam feel welcome?

Emma



Liam



Maya



Aiden



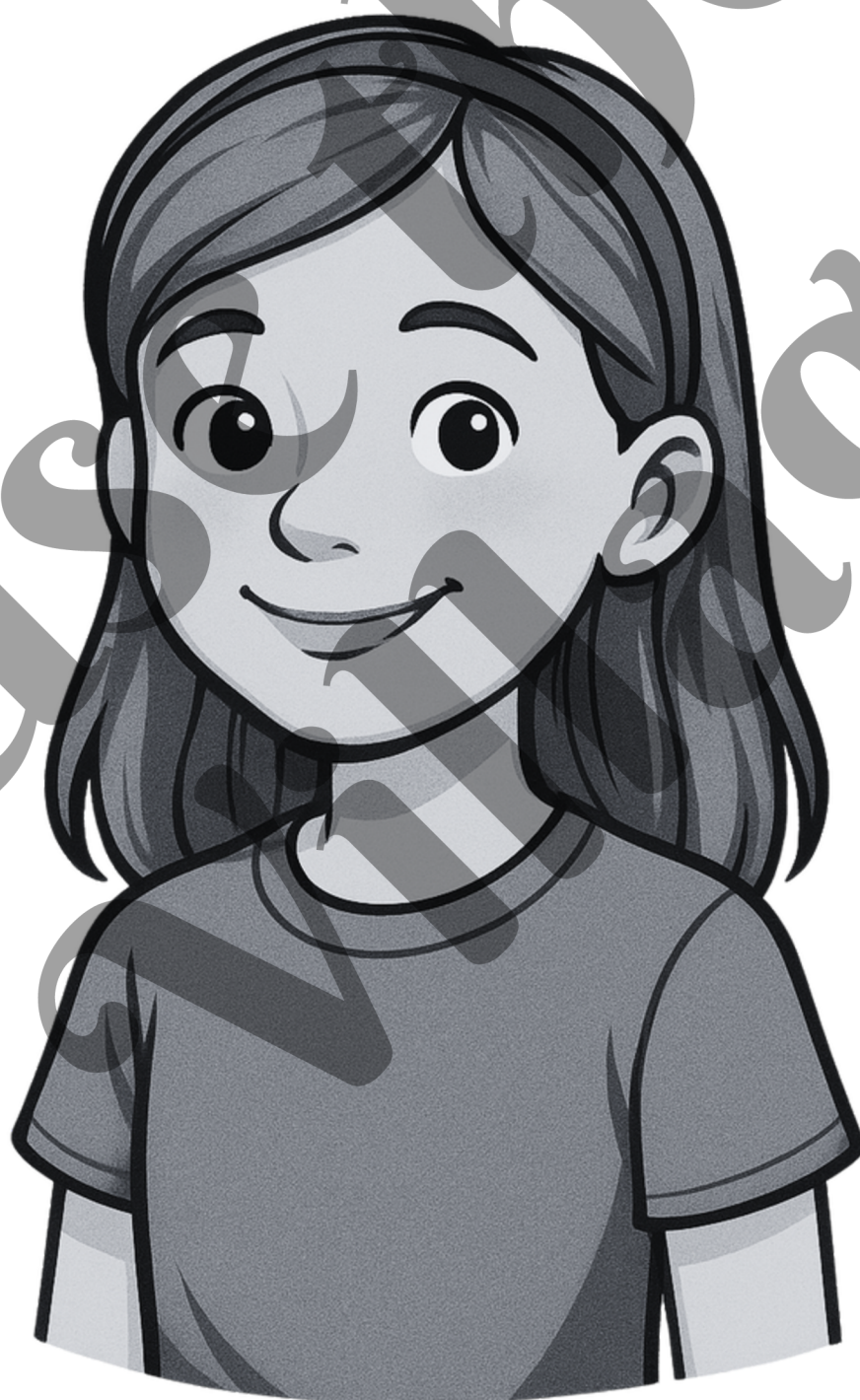
Mrs. Garcia



Narrator



Emma



Liam



Maya



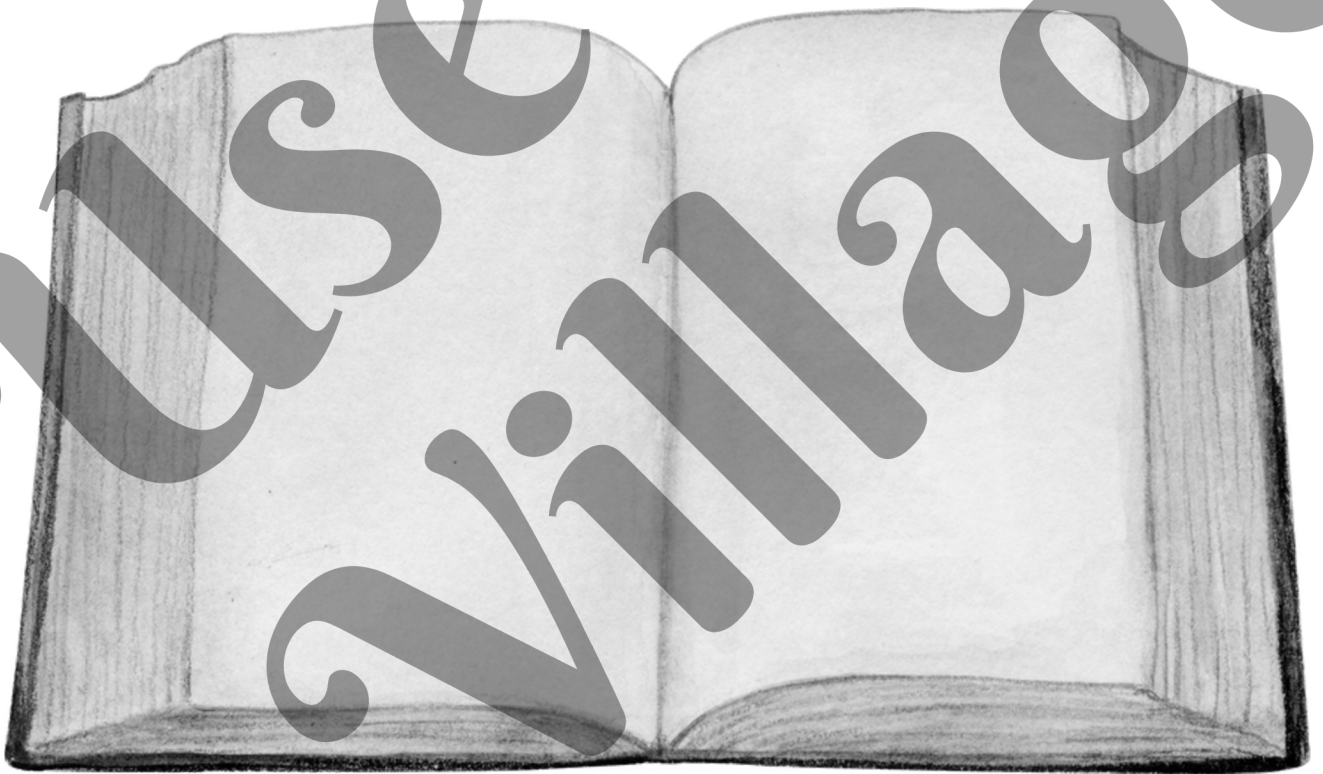
Aiden



Mrs. Garcia



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 read their parts multiple times to build fluency and expression.

Props & Costumes: Use the optional prop 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, alternatively draw and illustrate what they imagine that 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:

Friendship Poster Project:

Have students create posters that illustrate the importance of friendship and inclusion. Provide art supplies like markers, crayons, and construction paper. Encourage them to include slogans or quotes about friendship and to decorate the posters with drawings or magazine cut-outs.

Write a Letter to a New Student

Ask students to write a friendly letter to an imaginary new student, welcoming them to the school. They can describe their favorite things about school, offer tips for making friends, and share a little about themselves.

Friendship Chain

Create a "classroom friendship chain." Give each student a strip of paper to write their name and one positive quality or thing they like about school. Link the strips together to form a chain that can be displayed around the classroom.

Classroom Friendship Tree:

Create a large tree on a bulletin board and give each student a leaf cut-out. Have students write a way they can be a good friend or one act of kindness they plan to do. Attach the leaves to the tree to create a "Friendship Tree."

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