

Reader's
Theater:

The Great Lemonade Stand-Off



Characters:

- Narrator
- Riley (serious, professional, into quality)
- Jordan (creative, playful, into fun)
- Kai (neutral friend, practical and honest)
- Maya (hype friend, loves attention and color)
- Customer 1 (funny and opinionated)
- Customer 2 (chill and kind)

Optional Props:

Lemonade Stand Signs

- Two large signs for each original stand:
- “Riley’s Lemonade – Best in Town”
- “Jordan & Co. – Lemon-Amazing!”
- Optional combined sign for the final scene: “R&J’s Lemonade Lounge”

Table Setup

- Two small tables or desks to represent each lemonade stand
- Lemons & Ingredients
- Toy or paper lemons
- Empty containers labeled “Organic Lemons” and “Lemonade Mix”
- Small jars or pitchers
- Cups & Glitter
- Clear plastic or paper cups (optional glitter tape around them for Jordan’s stand)
- One “fancy” cup for Riley’s organic version

Aprons or Costumes

- Apron and clipboard for Riley
- Bright accessories, silly sunglasses, or hats for Jordan and Maya

Customer Accessories

- Toy money or tip jar
- Sunglasses or reusable cup for Customer 1
- A chill summer hat for Customer 2

Decor

- Streamers, signs with puns (“Squeeze the Day!”), paper lemons
- A chalkboard prop or paper menu with lemonade flavors

Narrator:

It was a scorching August Saturday, and two best friends—Riley and Jordan—had one goal in mind: to run the best lemonade stand in the neighborhood.

Riley:

(scribbling in a notebook) Okay, organic lemons, glass jars, pure cane sugar, and biodegradable cups. We'll keep it simple and classy.

Jordan:

(taping glittery signs together) Simple? We need flair! Neon posters! Glitter cups! We can do lemon-themed jokes and free stickers!

Riley:

(frowning) That doesn't sound like a real business. That sounds like a circus.

Jordan:

(grinning) Yeah! A lemonade circus!

Narrator:

The two stared at each other. And then, at the exact same moment—

Riley & Jordan:

Let's just do our own stands.

Narrator:

By noon, the two lemonade stands stood side by side on Maple Drive. Riley's stand was sleek and clean, with labeled ingredients and neat rows of glass cups. Jordan's stand was a glittered explosion with plastic flamingos, pun-filled signs, and lemonade in bright colors.

Maya:

(joining Jordan) This is amazing! We're gonna have a line down the block!

(joining Riley) This tastes legit. Like restaurant-quality.

Jordan:

(shouting to passersby) Try the Lemon-Amazing! It'll make your taste buds dance!

Riley:

(calling calmly) Refresh yourself with real ingredients. Fresh-squeezed. No dyes.

Narrator:

At first, it was friendly. But then... the counting started.

Maya:

(pointing) We've had 14 customers. How many have they had?

Kai:

(counting) Actually, Riley's had more returning customers.

Jordan:

(defensive) Ours had bubbles. Of course they came back!

Riley:

(utterly calm) At least mine didn't have glitter floating in the lemonade.

Narrator:

The competition turned serious. Each stand added more gimmicks—orange, ingredients. They spent more, stressed more, and smiled less.

Customer 1:

(to Jordan) This is... interesting. Do I eat the glitter or sip around it?

Customer 2:

(to Riley) Your lemonade is great, but it's kind of... quiet over here.

Narrator:

That evening, as they packed up, the air was still hot, but the mood was... frosty.

Jordan:

(softly) This was supposed to be fun. We haven't even talked all day.

Riley:

(sighing) I know. I just wanted to be doing something we were proud of.

Jordan:

Me too. But maybe we were so focused on beating each other that we forgot why we started.

Riley:

(smiling a little) Your stand was fun. People liked the atmosphere.

Jordan:

(grinning) And yours tasted the best. Everyone said it. Maybe... we should combine the best parts?

Narrator:

And just like that, an idea was born.

Narrator:

The next weekend, one big, beautiful stand sat at the corner of Maple Drive: “R&J’s Lemonade Lounge – Fresh Taste, Big Fun!”

Kai:

(wide-eyed) Organic lemons... glitter cups?

Maya:

And a chalkboard where you can draw your own lemon face?!

Customer 1:

Now this is how you lemonade.

Customer 2:

(slurping happily) Best of both worlds.

Narrator:

That weekend, they made more money than ever. But more importantly...

Riley:

(pouring lemonade) We're working again. That's what really matters.

Jordan:

(smiling) And we're finally a team. The ultimate lemonade team.

Narrator:

And so the great lemonade stand-off ended not with glitter or sugar—but with friendship and fresh-squeezed teamwork.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Why did Riley and Jordan decide to create separate lemonade stands?

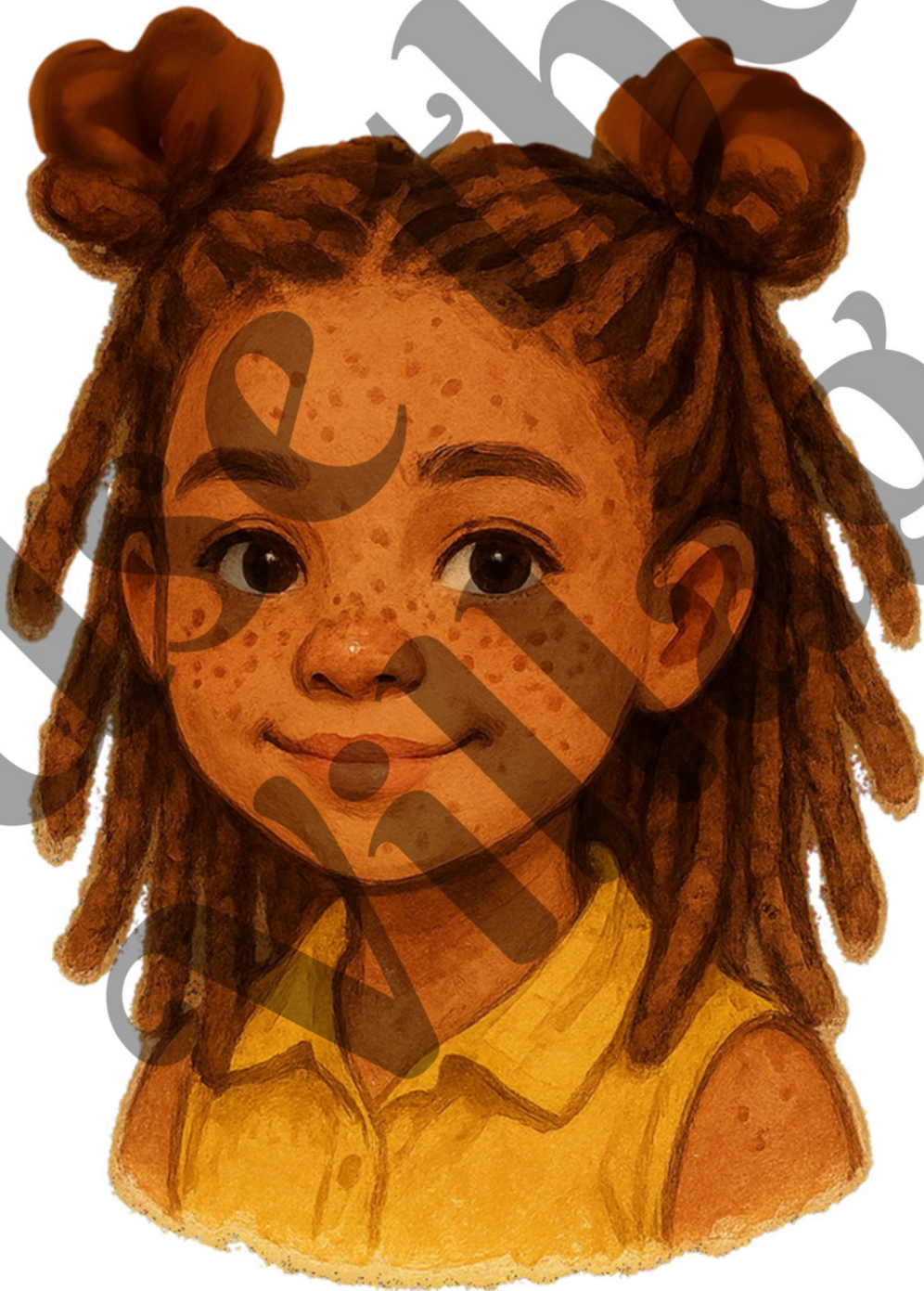
How did the rivalry affect their friendship and their businesses?

Do you think their combined stand was a good idea? Explain.

Riley



Jordan



Kai



Maya



Customer 1



Customer 2



Narrator



Riley



Jordan



Kai



Maya



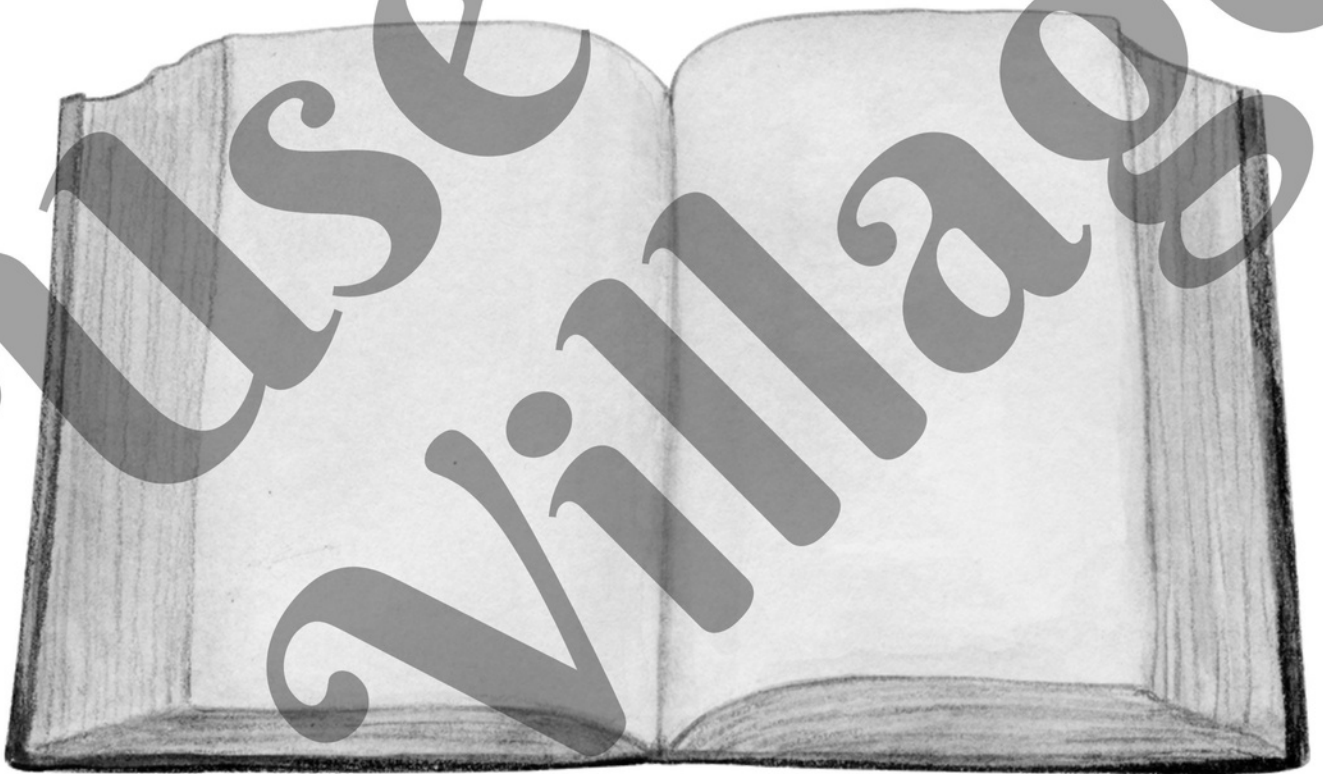
Customer 1



Customer 2



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

- Design a New Lemonade Stand Poster: Have students create a poster for Riley and Jordan's lemonade stand, blending professionalism with creativity.
- Write a Dialogue Skit: In pairs, students can write and perform a short skit that shows a funny customer interaction at either Riley or Jordan's stand.
- Create Your Own Lemonade Flavor: Students invent and name a new lemonade flavor. They can describe the ingredients, price, and what kind of sound would sell it best.
- Conflict Resolution Comic Strip: Students illustrate the story conflict and resolution in a 4-panel comic strip showing how Riley and Jordan learn to compromise.
- Business Plan Challenge: Small groups write a pretend "business plan" that combines creative marketing with quality ingredients—just like Riley and Jordan's lemonade stand.

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