

Reader's
Theater:

The
Thanksgiving
Feast Mystery

Characters

- Narrator
- Tommy the Turkey (a mischievous and clever turkey)
- Emma (a helpful and kind-hearted kid)
- Ben (Emma's brother, who loves to eat)
- Grandma (the wise and skilled cook)
- Cousin Mia (a fun cousin who loves to plan games)
- Uncle Jake (a jokester who's always ready with a pun)

Optional Props:

1. Turkey Costume or Turkey Hat (for Tommy the Turkey)
2. Apron for Grandma
3. Chef Hat for Uncle Jake
4. Thanksgiving Feast Decorations (small table setup with pretend or real plates, cups, cutlery, etc.)
5. Plastic or Paper Food (toy fruits, veggies, or mini pies to represent the feast)
6. Feathers (fake turkey feathers to scatter around for the feather trail)
7. Autumn Leaves (fake leaves for the pile Tommy hides behind)
8. "Missing Turkey" Sign (small, humorous sign to enhance the mystery)
9. Pie Prop (plastic or paper pumpkin pie for Mia's "first slice" moment)
10. Gobble Sound Effect (recording or off-stage sound for Tommy's reveal)
11. Chef Apron for Ben (for the character helping in the kitchen)
12. Thanksgiving Hats (optional festive hats for family members)

Narrator:

Thanksgiving is just around the corner, and the table is set for a wonderful feast. Emma and Ben are getting ready to help Grandma and Uncle Jake prepare the meal. But there's one little problem—Tommy the Turkey is missing! Will they find Tommy in time for the feast? Or will Thanksgiving take a surprising twist?

(Scene: The kitchen is busy. Pots and pans are clanging, and delicious smells fill the air. Emma and Ben stand at the counter helping Grandma chop vegetables while Uncle Jake tells a joke.)

Uncle Jake:

(Laughing) What did the turkey say to the computer?
“Google, gobble, gobble!”

Ben:

(Laughing) Good one, Uncle Jake! But where's the turkey? It's not Thanksgiving without turkey!

Grandma:

(Smiling) The turkey's around here somewhere... but it seems like Tommy has gone missing! We need to find him before the big feast.

Emma:

(Looking around) We've got to find him! He can't have gone far, right?

Narrator:

Just then, they hear a noise—a gobble from the pantry! The family rushes to check, but all they find are cans of pumpkin pie filling and a pile of mashed potatoes.

Ben:

(Sighing) No turkey in here. Where could he be?

Emma:

(Looking determined) Don't worry, Tommy's clever, but we can find him! Let's keep searching.

Narrator:

As the family searches the house, Cousin Mia arrives, excited to join the feast preparations.

Mia:

(Excited) What's going on? Are we playing hide-and-seek with the turkey?

Uncle Jake:

(Laughing) Something like that. Tommy the Turkey has pulled a disappearing act!

Mia:

(Clapping) Oh, this sounds like fun! I love a good mystery. Let's make it into a game! Whoever finds Tommy gets the first slice of pumpkin pie!

Grandma:

(Smiling) Now that's some motivation! But don't forget—Thanksgiving is about more than just food. It's about being thankful for family and friends.

Narrator:

The group splits up and searches every corner of the house, but Tommy is nowhere to be found. Just when they're about to give up, Emma notices a trail of feathers leading outside.

Emma:

(Laughing) I think I found something! Follow me!

Narrator:

They follow the trail of feathers to the backyard, where they find Tommy the Turkey hiding behind a big pile of leaves, looking mischievous.

Ben:

(Laughing) There you are, Tommy! Trying to skip out on dinner?

Tommy the Turkey:

(Giggling) Gobble, gobble! I wasn't hiding from dinner—I was just playing a game of my own. You found me fair and square!

Mia:

(Smiling) Does that mean I get the first slice of pumpkin pie?

Grandma:

(Laughing) We'll see about that. But first, let's all sit down to our Thanksgiving meal together.

Narrator:

And so, the family gathers around the table, thankful for a delicious meal and the time they've spent together. Tommy the Turkey joins them at the table—not on the table—and everyone laughs and shares what they're most thankful for this year.

Emma:

(Gratefully) I'm thankful for family and for finding Tommy!

Ben:

(Smiling) I'm thankful for food... and pie!

Mia:

(Laughing) I'm thankful for fun games and time spent with all of you.

Grandma:

(Wisely) And I'm thankful for the laughter, the love, and the memories we make together.

Uncle Jake:

(With a grin) And I'm thankful for a good turkey joke. You could say I'm "stuffed" with happiness!

Narrator:

And with that, the family enjoys their Thanksgiving feast, filled with laughter, love, and the knowledge that sometimes, the best part of Thanksgiving isn't what's on the table—it's the people around it.

Name: _____

Date: _____

How did the family work together to solve the mystery of the missing turkey?

What role did Cousin Mia play in helping the family?

What was Grandma's message about the true meaning of Thanksgiving?

Tommy the Turkey



Emma



Ben



Grandma



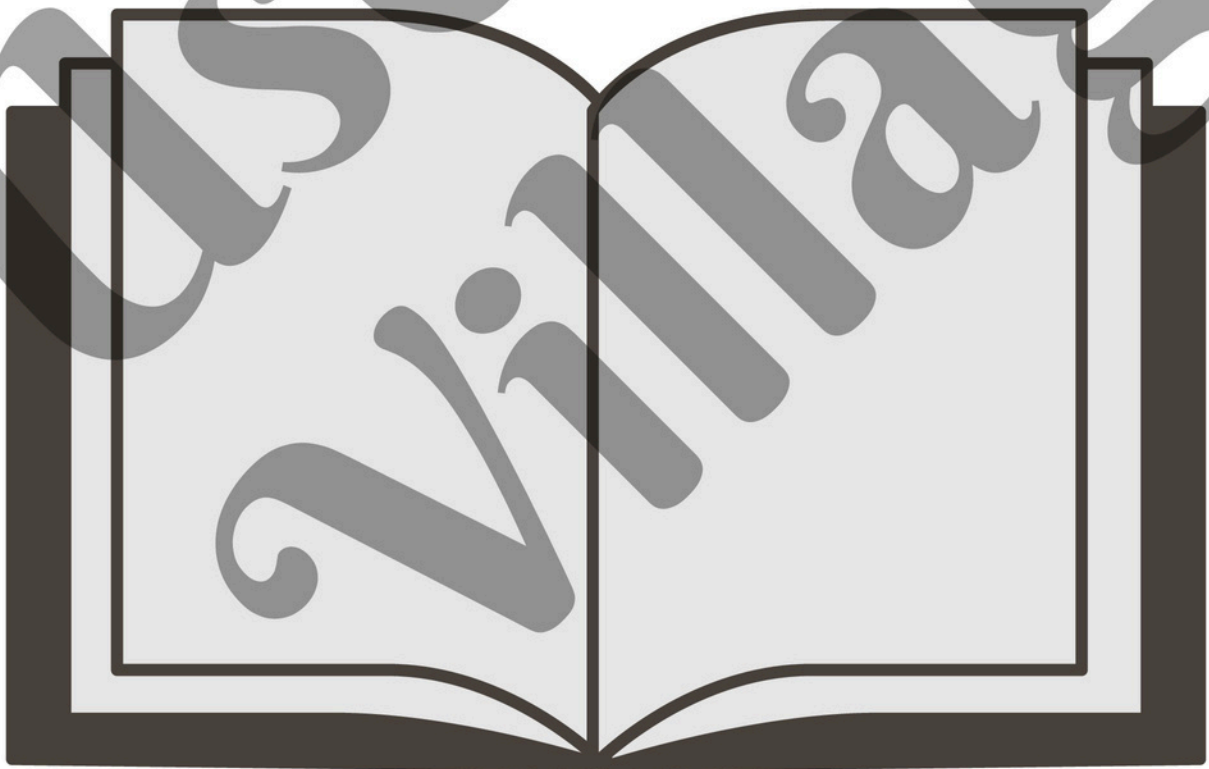
Cousin Mia



Uncle Jake



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:

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1. Thankfulness Tree:

- Have students create a “Thankfulness Tree” by writing what they’re thankful for on leaves and attaching them to a paper tree on the wall.

2. Cooking and Sharing:

- Ask students to imagine their own family Thanksgiving or Friendsgiving meal. What dishes would they cook? Who would they share it with? Have them draw and write about it.

3. Turkey Hunt Game:

- Set up a classroom game where students search for hidden “turkeys” (small cutouts or decorations) and then share what they’re thankful for when they find one.