

Reader's
Theater:

Back to School
Blues

BACK
TO
SCHOOL

Characters:

- Narrator
- Sam (new student, shy but curious)
- Jamie (friendly classmate, energetic)
- Taylor (creative classmate, helpful)
- Ava (funny classmate, loves telling jokes)
- Mrs. Johnson (Teacher)
- Principal Lee
- Mr. Wilson (Custodian)
- Mrs. Carter (Lunch Lady)

Optional Props:

- A backpack
- A lunchbox
- Lost and Found box
- Broom and dustpan (for Custodian)
- Name tags for each character
- School signs (Welcome, Lunchroom, etc.)

Narrator:

It was the first day of school, and the hallway buzzed with laughter and chatter. Backpacks swung, sneakers squeaked, and the smell of new pencils and fresh paper filled the air. But for one student, the day felt extra long and extra lonely.

(Sam enters, looking around nervously, clutching a backpack.)

Sam:

(whispering) Wow, this place is so big. I hope I can find my classroom.

Jamie:

(entering, waving) Hi there! You look a little lost. I'm Jamie—what's your name?

Sam:

(sighing) I'm Sam. It's my first day, and I don't know anyone yet.

Jamie:

(grinning) No problem! Stick with me, and I'll show you around.

Narrator:

Jamie led Sam into the bright, cheerful classroom, where students were busy unpacking supplies and chatting excitedly.

Mrs. Johnson:

(smiling) Good morning, class. We have a new student today. Would you like to introduce yourself?

Sam:

(nervously) Um... hi, I'm Sam. I just moved here and I like reading and soccer.

Taylor:

(excitedly) Soccer? Me too! You'll fit right in.

Ma:

(grinning) Welcome, Sam. Did you hear about the time I spilled spaghetti on my head at lunch? (laughs)

Sam:

(smiling, a little more relaxed) No! That's so funny!

Narrator:

Just as Sam started feeling comfortable, a new problem appeared.

Sam:

(rummaging through backpack) Oh no... where's my lunchbox? I had it this morning, but now it's gone!

Jamie:

(thinking) Don't panic, Sam. Let's think. When was the last time you saw it?

Taylor:

Maybe it's still in the hallway or by the cubbies.

Ava:

(silly voice) Or maybe it sprouted legs and ran away!

Sam:

(chuckling) Very funny, Ava. But I'm really worried—I don't want to be hungry all day.

Narrator:

The friends decided to search the school, determined to find Sam's missing lunchbox.

Jamie:

(pointing) Let's start in the hallway.

Taylor:

(grabbing a notepad and pencil) I'll keep track of where we look.

Ava:

(pointing dramatically) To the Lost and Found!

Narrator:

They looked under benches, behind cubbies, and even in the recycling bin (thanks to Ava's silly suggestion).

Mr. Wilson:

(sweeping) Hey, kids! Are you looking for something?

Sam:

(holding) Yeah, my lunchbox. It's blue with soccer stickers on it.

Mr. Wilson :

(grinning) I saw a blue lunchbox in the cafeteria earlier. Maybe it got left there.

Jamie:

(excited) Let's go check!

Narrator:

The friends hurried into the cafeteria, where the Lunch Lady was busy stacking trays.

Mrs. Carter:

(cheerfully) What can I do for you, kiddos?

Taylor:

(excited) We're looking for Sam's lunch box. Did you see one here?

Mrs. Carter:

(thinking) Hmm... I did see a lunch box left on a table this morning. Let me check.

(Mrs. Carter walks over and holds up a blue lunch box with soccer stickers.)

Sam:

(tearful) That's mine! Thank you so much!

Mrs. Carter:

(smiling) No problem, sweetie. Glad you found it.

Narrator:

Sam felt a huge weight off his shoulders.

Sam:

(grinning) Thanks, everyone! I was so worried.

Jamie:

(smiling) Hey, that's what friends are for.

Taylor:

(nodding) Yeah, we're a team now.

Ava:

(grinning) And next time, we'll put a tracker on that lunchbox!

Sam:

(laughing) Good idea!

Narrator:

As the group walked back to class, they passed the Principal, who overheard them laughing.

Principal Lee:

(smiling) Sounds like you've solved a mystery today.

Jamie:

(grinning) We make a pretty good team.

Principal Lee:

(nodding) Remember, Sam, you're never alone here. We all help each other.

Sam:

(happily) Thanks, Principal. I'm really glad I came to this school.

Mrs. Johnson:

(welcoming them back to class) Well, I'm glad you're here too, Sam. Let's get ready to learn!

Narrator:

And from that day on, Sam knew that with friends by his side, any problem could be solved—and that even the biggest school could feel like home.

Name: _____

Date: _____

How did Jamie help Sam feel welcome?

Who helped Sam look for the missing lunchbox?

How would you have helped Sam if you were in the story?

Sam



Jamie



Taylor



Ava



Mrs. Johnson



Mr. Wilson



Mr. Lee



Mrs. Carter



Narrator



Sam



Jamie



Taylor



Ava



Mrs. Johnson



Mr. Wilson



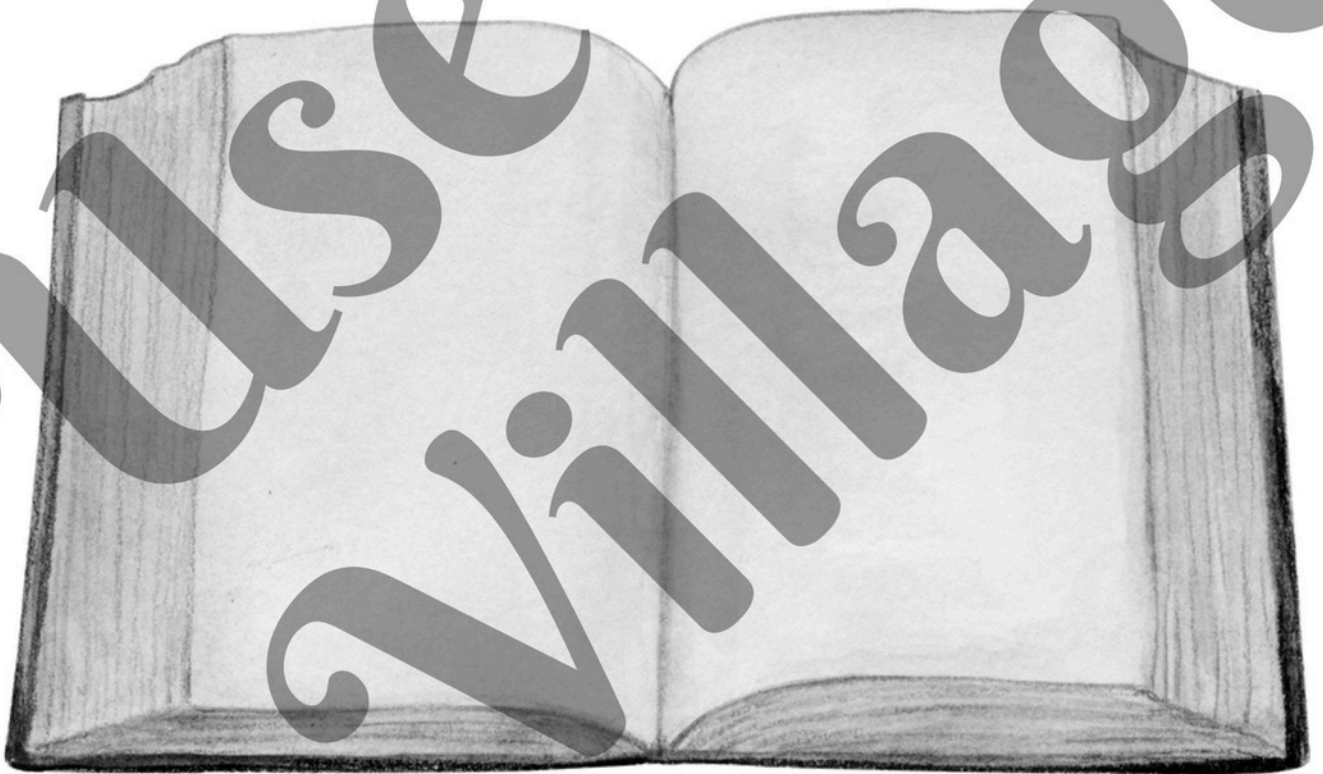
Mr. Lee



Mrs. Carter



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:

- Character Diary Entries — Write a short diary entry from the perspective of one character in the play.
- Design a School Map — Draw a map showing key places from the story, labeling where Sam's lunchbox might have gone.
- Role-Play Conflict Resolution — Practice helping someone who is new, lost, or feeling left out, just like Sam.
- Friendship Acrostic Poem — Create a poem using the word "FRIENDSHIP" that describes what it means to be a good friend.
- Build a Welcome Kit — Design a small kit with a friendly note, a drawing of the school, and tips to help new students feel at home.