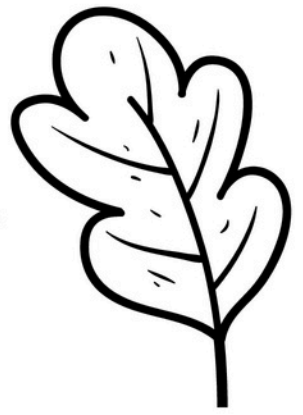
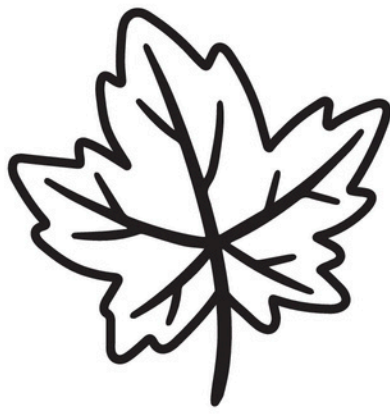




Reader's Theater:

The Thankful Tree



Characters

- Narrator
- Emma (thoughtful and creative, loves coming up with ideas)
- Liam (curious and always asking questions)
- Sophie (a bit shy but has a big heart)
- Carlos (playful and sometimes forgetful, loves to make his friends laugh)
- Mrs. Thompson (the wise and kind teacher)

Optional Props:

1. Paper Leaves: Different colored paper leaves for each student to write their “thankful” items on.
2. Markers or Pencils: For the students to write on the leaves.
3. Large Paper Tree: A paper or cardboard tree on the wall to attach the leaves to, or a small artificial tree with branches where leaves can be hung.
4. Golden Leaf: A special, larger leaf for Sophie’s message, to emphasize her gratitude for “everyone who makes the world kinder.”
5. Teacher’s Desk Accessories: Items like a notebook or planner for Mrs. Thompson to set her apart as the teacher.
6. Taco Drawing or Cutout: To represent Carlos’s humorous addition of being thankful for tacos.
7. Family Photo or Pet Toy: Small items that students can hold to represent what they’re thankful for, like a photo for family or a toy for a pet.
8. Fall Decorations: Small pumpkins, leaves, or fall-themed garlands to set the autumnal mood.

Narrator:

It's fall, and Mrs. Thompson's class is getting ready for Thanksgiving. Every year, they come together to think about what they're thankful for. This time, Mrs. Thompson has an extra special project in mind: a Thankful Tree.

(Scene: The students are sitting in their classroom as Mrs. Thompson introduces the project.)

Mrs. Thompson:

(Smiling) Class, this year we're going to make a Thankful Tree. Each of you will write something you're thankful for on a paper leaf, and we'll add it to the tree. By the end, we'll have a beautiful tree full of all the things that make us happy.

Emma:

(Excited) That sounds amazing, Mrs. Thompson! Can I make a really big leaf?

Mrs. Thompson:

(Laughing) Of course, Emma! You can make your leaf as big or as small as you'd like. What's important is what you write on it.

Liam:

(Curiously) But... what if I don't know what to write? How do I know what I'm thankful for?

Mrs. Thompson:

(Her tone gentle) Well, Liam, sometimes we have to look around and think about the things and people that make us feel happy and safe.

Narrator:

The students start to think about what they might write. Emma is already doodling ideas on her paper, while Sophie stares at her blank leaf, looking unsure.

Sophie:

(Quietly) I'm not sure what to write. I mean, I know I'm thankful, but it's hard to pick just one thing.

Carlos:

(Shrugging) Yeah, it's kinda tough. I feel thankful for a lot of things, like... tacos! Can I be thankful for tacos?

Mrs. Thompson:

(Grinning) Absolutely, Carlos! Food is something to be grateful for. If it's make you happy, then it's a perfect thing to add.

Emma:

(Looking thoughtful) I think I'm going to write about my family. I'm thankful for my mom and dad because they always help me with my homework and listen to me.

Liam:

(Smiling) That's a good one, Emma. I think I'm going to write about my dog, Max. He's always happy to see me, no matter what.

Narrator:

One by one, the students start to write on their leaves. Some write about family, others write about friends, pets, or even their favorite foods. Sophie sits quietly, still thinking.

Mrs. Thompson:

(Noticing Sophie) Sophie, would you like some help?

Sophie:

(Hesitant) I... I don't know. I feel thankful for everything, and it's hard to pick just one thing.

Carlos:

(Giggling) Write "everything" then! There's a lot of stuff to be thankful for.

Sophie:

(Smiling) Maybe I will. I think... I think I'm thankful for my friends and family and just everyone who's kind to me.

Narrator:

Mrs. Thompson hands Sophie a beautiful golden leaf, and Sophie carefully writes, "I'm thankful for everyone who makes the world a little kinder."

(Scene: The students gather around a big paper tree on the wall and start placing their leaves on the branches.)

Emilia:

(Looking at the tree) Wow, it's already looking so full! I love seeing everyone's thankful message in one place.

Liam:

(Proudly) I think it's the best Thankful Tree ever.

Carlos:

(Pointing) Look! There's my leaf. Right next to Sophie's "everyone" leaf.

Mrs. Thompson:

(Beaming) Every leaf is special, just like each of you. Together, they create something beautiful—a reminder of all the things we have to be thankful for.

Narrator:

The students stand back and admire the Thankful Tree, feeling a sense of warmth and happiness as they see all the things that make their lives special.

Sophie:

(Softly) I think every day should be like this. We should always remember the things we're thankful for.

Emma:

(Nodding) Yeah! And maybe we can keep adding leaves, even after Thanksgiving.

Mrs. Thompson:

(Smiling) That's a wonderful idea. Being thankful is something we can do all year long. The Thankful Tree can be our reminder.

Narrator:

And so, the Thankful Tree stayed in their classroom, growing leaf by leaf, as the students continued to add things they were thankful for, day by day.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Why was the Thankful Tree important to Mrs. Thompson and her students?

What did Sophie decide to write on her leaf?

What lesson did the students learn from the Thankful Tree?

Liam



Emma



Sophie



Carlos



Mrs. Thompson



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:

- **Create Your Own Thankful Tree:** Set up a Thankful Tree in the classroom, and have students add new leaves throughout the month. I have one in my TPT store! Check out the link on the last page to find a collaborative group thankful tree project!
- **Thank-You Letters:** Students can write thank-you letters to people they appreciate, like family members, friends, or community helpers.
- **Class Gratitude Journal:** Start a gratitude journal where each student adds one thing they're thankful for every week. Read entries aloud and celebrate moments of kindness.