

When I'm old, I'll Live With My Kids

This Readers Theater Script is Based on a Poem

by Joanne Bailey Baxter

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NOTE: I found this poem freely published online in a number of sites. I've made attempts to contact the author or the author's representative, but have had no response. I wanted permission to re-format the text and develop it as a Readers Theater piece. As far as I know, this is acceptable, as long as the piece is not used for commercial purposes. At any rate, I have now re-formatted it and offer it free to any seniors who are interested. If anyone can connect me with the author, I'll be truly grateful! Sincerely, Lois Walker

ESTABLISHING THE RHYTHM

To find the proper rhythm for this RT piece, first read-aloud and clap through the sections as you go. Each underlined word or word part falls directly on a beat. As you read, clap on each underlined word, keeping the rhythm steady. Be careful not to read too fast! This is a rehearsal technique and readers will not clap throughout these sections during performance. After you have established the beat, it is time to start interpreting, experimenting, and having fun with the words by varying tempo, volume, inflection, and expression.

FORMATTING

This script is formatted for 4 SOLO READERS and ALL.

READER 1: When I'm old, I plan to live with my kids.

READER 2: I'll make them so happy, just as *they* did.

READER 3: I want to pay back all the joy they've provided,
Returning each deed...

READER 4: Oh, they'll be so excited!

ALL: When I'm old and live with my kids!

READER 1: I'll write on the wall with reds, whites and blues,

READER 2: And bounce on the furniture wearing my shoes.

READER 3: I'll drink from the carton and then leave it out.

READER 4: I'll stuff up the toilets, and oh, how they'll shout.

ALL: When I'm old and live with my kids!

READER 1: When they're on the phone and just out of reach,

READER 2: I'll get into things like sugar and bleach,

READER 3: Oh, they'll snap their fingers and each shake a
head,

READER 4: And when that's all done, I'll hide under the bed

ALL: When I'm old and live with my kids!

READER 1: When they cook dinner and call me to meals,

READER 2: I'll not eat my green beans or salads congealed.

READER 3: I'll gag on my okra, spill milk on the table

READER 4: And when they get angry, run fast as I'm able.

ALL: When I'm old and live with my kids!

READER 1: I'll sit close to the TV, through the channels I'll click,

READER 2: I'll cross both my eyes to see if they stick.

READER 3: I'll take off my socks and throw one away,

READER 4: And play in the mud 'til the end of the day.

ALL: When I'm old and live with my kids!

READER 1: And later in bed, I'll lay back and sigh.

READER 2: Thank God in prayer and then close my eyes.

READER 3: My kids will look down with a smile slowly creeping,

READER 4: And say with a groan...

ALL: "She's so sweet when she's sleeping."

(The following text was added to help finish off the reading. This text was not written by the original author. Inclusion is optional).

READER 1: And it may be quite true: turn-about is fair play,

But that's certainly something I'll never say –

And I won't bore my kids with old "do's and did's"

READER 2: When I'm finally

READER 3: Finally,

READER 4: Finally,

READER 1: Finally...

ALL: I'm finally old and live with my kids!