



Herb and Lois Walker's  
**SCRIPTS FOR SCHOOLS**

**THE PINE TREE  
ENCOUNTER**

by Lois Walker

**A Readers Theater Script  
About Three Winter  
Olympics Mascots**

**Winter Olympics, 2010  
Vancouver, British Columbia  
Canada**

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**The Pine Tree Encounter**  
A Winter Olympics Story Poem  
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**ESTABLISHING THE RHYTHM**

To find the proper rhythm for this rhyming 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.

**READERS**

You can use from 8 to 22 solo readers to perform this script. As you will see below, I've numbered the first 8 reader parts only. The rest of the reader numbers have been left blank so you can pencil in as many reader parts as you need. Simply pencil them in and divide the lines as evenly as possible. If you wish to use only 8 readers, those 8 can perform the entire piece by following the model below. The script is formatted for SOLO READERS and ALL CHORUS.

**THE MASCOTS**

**Quatchi** is a young sasquatch who comes from the mysterious forests of Canada. Quatchi is shy, but loves to explore new places and meet new friends. **In this script, his love of exploration gets him in a little underwater trouble!**

Although Quatchi loves all winter sports, he's especially fond of hockey. Because of his large size, he can be a little clumsy. But no one can question his passion for the game.

**Miga** is a young sea bear who lives in the ocean with her family pod, beyond Vancouver Island, near Tofino, British Columbia. Sea bears are part killer whale and part bear. (Miga is part Kermode bear, a rare white bear that only lives in British Columbia).

All summer long, Miga rides waves with local surfers. **In this script, she uses her surfboard to save Quatchi from drowning and then decides she might like to try a little snow surfing too!**

**Sumi** is an animal spirit who lives in the mountains of British Columbia. Like many Canadians, Sumi's background is drawn from many places. He wears the hat of the orca whale, flies with the wings of the mighty thunderbird and runs on the strong furry legs of the black bear.

Sumi's name comes from the Salish word "Sumesh" which means "guardian spirit". He works hard to protect the land, water and creatures of his homeland. Sumi is a great fan of the Paralympic Games. **In this script, Sumi uses his thunderbird wings to catch Quatchi and Miga as they fall from the pine tree. He protects the creatures of his homeland! Once he has saved them, he carries them off to Vancouver and the Olympic Games.**

## STYLE

This script has been written in the style of Robert William Service (January 16, 1874 – September 11, 1958). Service was a poet and writer, sometimes referred to as "The Bard of the Yukon". He is best known for his writings on the Canadian North, including the poems "The Shooting of Dan McGrew", "The Law of the Yukon", and "The Cremation of Sam McGee". This story poem is patterned after the Sam McGee poem. The poem is made up of 8 line stanzas. The metric pattern is 4.3 (4 beats to a line followed by a 3 beat line) with internal rhymes in lines 1,3,5 and 7. Examples:

### From "The Cremation of Sam McGee"

LINE 1: (4 beats) There are strange things done in the midnight sun

LINE 2: (3 beats) By the men who moil for gold;

LINE 3: (4 beats) The Arctic trails have their secret tales

LINE 4: (3 beats) That would make your blood run cold;

LINE 5: (4 beats) The Northern Lights have seen queer sights,

LINE 6: (3 beats) But the queerest they ever did see

LINE 7: (4 beats) Was that night on the marge of Lake Lebarge

LINE 8: (3 beats) I cremated Sam McGee.

### From "The Pine Tree Encounter"

LINE 1: (4 beats) Three critters roam our Canadian home,

LINE 2: (3 beats) And they seek Olympic gold.

LINE 3: (4 beats) From West Coast caves to Pacific waves,

LINE 4: (3 beats) Their tale can now be told.

LINE 5: (4 beats) Our Northern lights have seen many sights,

LINE 6: (3 beats) But the best they ever did see

LINE 7: (4 beats) Was the time our Olympic mascots met

LINE 8: (3 beats) Under a tall pine tree.

READER 1:        Three critters roam our Canadian home,  
And they seek Olympic gold.

READER 2:        From West Coast caves to Pacific waves,  
Their tale can now be told.

**ALL CHORUS:    Our Northern lights have seen many sights,  
But the best they ever did see  
Was the time our Olympic mascots met  
Under a tall pine tree.**

READER 3:        Quatchi, a fan of hockey, lived  
Where the tall trees grow.

READER 4:        How it came to be, he fell in the sea,  
I'm afraid we'll never know.

READER 5:        He was a clumsy guy of gigantic size,  
So he sank just like a stone!

READER 6:        A sasquatch body, all wet and shoddy,  
In a clear "no swimming" zone.

READER 7:        Then Miga the sea bear, looking for air,  
Saw a shoddy body sinking.

READER 8:        She called her pod, formed a surfing squad,  
And they swam off, wishful thinking.

READER            Well, they broke the fall, and as I recall,  
Rose up to catch a wave.

READER            Miga found the pocket, took off like a rocket,  
And the sasquatch dude was saved!

READER            When they reached the land, they collapsed on sand,  
And Quatchi said with a laugh,

READER            “Because I’m so stocky, I’ll just stick to hockey,  
And leave water sports to the bath”.

READER            But Miga was smitten, the surf bug had bitten.  
The thought of it left her aglow.

READER            She roared, “Where’s my board, it must be restored.  
From now on I’ll surf in the snow!”

READER 1:        Three critters roam our Canadian home,  
And they seek Olympic gold.

READER 2:        From West Coast caves to Pacific waves,  
Their tale can now be told.

**ALL CHORUS:    Our Northern lights have seen many sights,  
But the best they ever did see  
Was the time our Olympic mascots met  
Under a tall pine tree.**

READER            Soon Sumi, just like a tsunami, flew  
In like the wind in the morning.

READER            And when spirits come, there's always a drum.  
The drumming sounds just like a warning.

READER            So Miga and Quatchi climbed a tall tree  
And frightened, they went into hiding.

READER            But that all went wrong, when a gust came along,  
And out they blew, twisting and gliding.

READER            As both of them fell, each gave out a yell,  
And Sumi quite quickly responded.

READER            Spread his wings in mid-air, caught them right there,  
And that's when all three of them bonded.

READER            And then these prime movers flew off to Vancouver  
To take part in Winter Olympics.

READER            Quatchi played hockey, Miga surf-jockeyed,  
And Sumi embraced Paralympics.

READER 1:        Three critters roam our Canadian home,  
And they seek Olympic gold.

READER 2:        From West Coast caves to Pacific waves,  
Their tale has now be told.

**ALL CHORUS:    Our Northern lights have seen many sights,  
But the best they ever did see  
Was the time our Olympic mascots met  
Under a tall pine tree.**