



Herb and Lois Walker's
SCRIPTS FOR SCHOOLS

**THE DOUBLE
NINTH DAY**

by Lois Walker

The Origins of
The Double Ninth Day

A Readers Theater Script
for
Intermediate/Advanced
Readers

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THE DOUBLE NINTH DAY

A Fanciful Folk Tale: The Origins of The Double Ninth Day

Adapted and Formatted for Readers Theater by Lois Walker

Cast: 5 Readers, Including 2 Character Parts

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- READER 1: In the Han Dynasty, many years ago,
- READER 2: lived a master of the immortal arts.
- READER 3: His name was Fei Chang-fang.
- READER 4: One day, the master spoke to his student, Huan Ching.
He said,
- MASTER/5: "On the 9th day of the 9th lunar month, a plague will
strike your homeland.
- HUAN CHING/1: "That's terrible! What do you think I should do,
master?"
- MASTER/2: "If you want to escape from it, and ward off this kind of
bad luck in the future, you must quickly lead your family
to the high mountains."
- READER 3: These instructions sounded reasonable to Huan Ching,
but his master was not finished. He then said,
- MASTER/5: "Take some dogwood branches with you. When you
reach the top, stop and drink some chrysanthemum
wine."
- READER 3: The second set of instructions sounded strange to Huan
Ching, but he did as the master said.

READER 4: He quickly gathered his family together, told them the plan, and told them,

HUAN CHING/1: "Follow me!"

READER 5: Huan Ching's family began climbing up a nearby mountain carrying cloth sacks filled with dogwood branches and jugs of chrysanthemum wine.

READER 1: Huan Ching's children enjoyed the journey. They laughed and sang as they marched up the mountain. They knew they were going on a great adventure,

READER 2: so they celebrated by chanting these words:

READERS 1,2: The ninth day of the ninth moon,
Bad things may happen to you.

READERS 3,4,5: The ninth day of the ninth moon,
Here's just what you must do.

**ALL: Climb high into the mountains,

 Take dogwood on your hike,

 Drink wine from the chrysanthemum.**

READER 1: And then you just might

READER 1: Go fly a kite!

READERS 1,2: The ninth day of the ninth moon,
Calamity may strike,

READERS 3,4,5: The ninth day of the ninth moon,

READER 5: That's something you won't like!

ALL: So take a tip from Fei Chang-fang,

He's shown us the way,

READER 3: To run and duck,

READER 4: And beat bad luck

ALL: On every Double Ninth Day!

READER 1: At the very tip top of the mountain, the whole family
rested and drank chrysanthemum wine.

READER 2: When the family returned to their home a few days later,
they found that all the farm animals were dead.

HUAN CHING/1: We've certainly had bad luck here, but the good luck is:
we're still alive.

ALL: **Our family survived!**

READER 3: Then the master explained that the animals had been
punished for the sins people had committed. He said,

MASTER/5: "All of this has been done so that you may escape
death."

READER 2: The children knew their family had been truly
blessed, so they celebrated again by chanting:

READERS 1,2: The ninth day of the ninth moon,

Bad things may happen to you.

READERS 3,4,5: The ninth day of the ninth moon,

Here's just what you must do.