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**SCRIPTS FOR SCHOOLS**

**MAX AND THE  
TOMB SWEEP**

by Lois Walker

A Readers Theater Script:  
The Tomb Sweeping Festival

for  
for Intermediate Readers

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Max and the Tomb Sweep  
A Readers Theater Script for Intermediate Readers

## **MAX AND THE TOMB SWEEP**

A Readers Theater Script: The Tomb Sweeping Festival

Adapted and Formatted by Lois Walker

Cast: 3 Narrators and 2 Character Voices

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READER 1: Cabbage and carrots!

READER 2: Celery and bean sprouts!

READER 3: Fried egg and chicken!

MAX: Pork and sausage and ground peanuts! Wow, so much food. What's the occasion, Mom?

MOM: Well Max, today is a special day. We are going to see your Granny.

MAX: Granny? What do you mean? Are we going to visit her in heaven?

READER 1: Max's mother stopped working on her spring rolls and smiled.

MOM: No. We are going to Granny's tomb and after that, our whole family is having a feast together.

READER 2: Did you hear that? It sounds like we're just in time for the Tomb Sweeping Festival.

READER 3: Really? Then it must be the 5th day of the 4th lunar month.

READER 1: Tell me more. What's a Tomb Sweeping Festival?

READER 2: Qing Ming Jie, the Tomb-Sweeping Festival, is a time to pay respect to your ancestors.

READER 3: That's right. The date of the festival used to be on the 3rd day of the

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3rd lunar month. It's now celebrated on April 5th.

READER 1: Oh, I remember now. Every year on Tomb Sweeping Day, people visit their loved ones' graves, clean them up, and then have a feast together.

READER 2: And that's what Max and his Mom are planning. Listen...

MAX: A feast? Great! Since we're having a feast, I'm going to make a big spring roll just for Granny.

MOM: That's a wonderful idea. What do you think Granny will like to have in her spring roll?

MAX: Sausage, chicken, cabbage, pork, fried egg, and ground peanuts. They're my favorite fillings!

MOM: OK, come help me roll it up. I think Granny will enjoy her spring roll very much.

MAX: I wonder what else we should bring to the tomb.

READER 3: Did you hear that? Well, I think they'll need to pack more than spring rolls.

READER 2: Yes, they'll also need cleaning tools, fruits, drinks, flowers and paper money.

MOM: Good work, Max. It looks like we have everything we need. We can leave now.

READER 1: Max and his mom left the house. When they arrived at the tomb, Max noticed how dirty and untidy everything was.

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MAX: Oh, oh, it's really dusty here, and weeds are everywhere, and the grass has grown too high.

MOM: Well, it should look like this. The tomb hasn't been cleaned for almost a year. It won't take us long to make a difference, though. Let's get started.

READER 1: And she was right. Once they got started, they worked hard, and the tomb was clean in no time at all.

MAX: Is it time to place the food, drinks, and flowers in front of the tombstone, Mom?

Mom: Yes it's time, Max. It's also time to burn the paper money we brought with us.

READER 3: They're burning money? Why are they doing that?

MAX: We're burning money? Why are we doing that?

MOM: Well, it's not real money. But the yellow papers we're burning symbolize the money your Granny can use in heaven. The more we burn, the more she receives.

MAX: Wow! Granny can become rich up there!

READER 1: Max's mother smiled again and gathered up their tools.

READER 2: And as they left the tomb, something quite magical happened.

READER 3: Max felt something brush his cheek and then he thought he heard the wind whispering in his ear.

MAX: But it wasn't the wind, after all. It was Granny voice. He heard...