

READERS' THEATER BASED ON
Count the Monkeys
Written By Mac Barnett
Illustrated By Kevin Cornell

Copyright 2013 by Mac Barnett
Published by Disney-Hyperion,
an imprint of Disney Publishing Worldwide, New York, NY
Reproduced by permission of the author and the publisher, Disney-Hyperion

Arranged by CYRM committee members for classroom use only

Characters:

Narrator 1	Narrator 4
Narrator 2	Narrator 5
Narrator 3	Narrator 6
Kid 1	Kid 3
Kid 2	Kids 4

Narrator 1: Yikes! One King Cobra has scared off all the monkeys in our book.

Narrator 2: Oh no! Let's see if we can get some help finding the monkeys so we can count them.

Narrator 3: Hey Kids! Can you please help us find the monkeys so we can count them?

All Kids: SURE! We'd love to. We love counting and we LOVE books!

Narrator 4: Be sure to turn the page slowly so the King Cobra doesn't notice.

Narrator 5: Look! Two mongooses have chased away that cobra.

Narrator 6: Or, is that two mongeese?

Narrator 1: Let's vote! Kids, please raise your hand for... mongooses.

(Kids look at each other and raise hands.)

Narrator 2: Raise your hand for mongeese.

(Kids look at each other again and raise their hands.)

Narrator 3: Hmmmmmmm, interesting.

Kid 1: Turn the page. I'll bet the monkeys will come back then.

Narrator 4: Uh-oh! Three crocodiles frightened those mongooses.

Narrator 5: I dislike those crocodiles.

Kid 2: Maybe, move your hand in a zig-zag motion while you turn the page (makes motion)

Kid 3: That will confuse them. All nod.

Narrator 6: Four Grizzly bears! Even worse!

Kid 4: We're never going to count the monkeys.

Narrator 1: Try this. Put your arms above your head.

(Kids put their hands above their head.)

Narrator 2: Make a loud roar!

All Kids: ROAR!

Narrator 3: Bang some pots and pans together.

(Kids look at each other and shrug shoulders.)

Narrator 4: ...if you have them.

Narrators (Together): Hurry! Turn that page!

All Kids: Oh! No! Five Bee swarms drove off those bears!

Narrator 5: Bees can smell fear. You aren't afraid, are you?

All Kids: No.

Narrator 6: That's good! Hum a happy tune and smile while you turn that page.

Narrator 1: Phew! Look, six sweet old beekeepers have shooed off all those bees.

Narrator 2: Now say, "Thank you" six times very politely because these ladies care about good manners.

All Kids: (Look at each other and shrug shoulders) Thank you. (6 times)

(Narrators give Kids a stern look.)

(Kids shrug their shoulders and look back at Narrators.)

Narrator 3: Now, finally, the monkeys can come back.

Kid 1: Turn the page so we can count the monkeys.

All Kids: NOOOOOOOOOO!

Narrator 4: Seven wolves sent those lady beekeepers packing along.

Narrator 5: Wolves and grandmas never get along.

(All Kids and Narrators look at each other and nod in agreement.)

Narrator 6: Kids, listen, this is very important.

Narrator 1: Whatever you do, don't look those wolves in the eyes.

Narrator 2: In fact, cover your eyes while you turn the next page.

Narrator 3: Oh good! Eight lumberjacks took care of those wolves.

Narrator 4: Thanks guys! Now it's safe to count the monkeys.

Narrator 5: Why don't we give each lumberjack a high five and turn the page?

(All Kids and Narrators give high fives to each other.)

Narrator 6: HMMMMMMMM. There are STILL 8 lumberjacks.

Kid 2: They seem to be settling in.

Kid 3: Don't they understand we're trying to count the monkeys?

Kid 4: Maybe we should yell, "Scram."

All Narrators: Scram.

All Kids: Louder!

All Narrators: SCRAM!

Kid 1: Good. Let's turn the page.

Narrator 1: Great! Now there are nine lumberjacks. They invited a friend. Any ideas?

All: Look at that!

Kid 2: Ten polka-dotted rhinoceroses with bagpipes and bad breath cleared out those lumberjacks.

Kid 3: Was that your idea? It wasn't mine.

Kid 4: Okay! We are finally ready to....

Kid 1: Oh no! It looks like we are out of pages. This is terrible!

Kid 2: We made it to the end and there are...

All: Zero monkeys!!!

All Kids: (Disappointed) Now we will never get to count the monkeys.

(Have Kid 3 finally look at the endpapers of the book. Have that child point wildly to all the monkeys, grabbing the attention of the other Kids and Narrators. Have all Kids and Narrators rush over and start counting!).