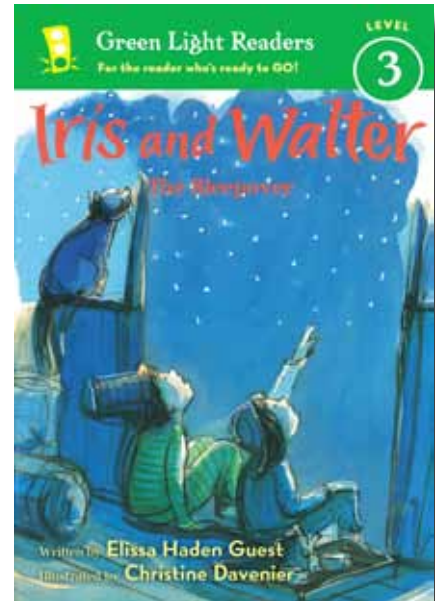


A Common Core State Standards  
Aligned Reader's Theater  
Production for

# Iris and Walter: The Sleepover



Grades K-2 ISBN: 978-0-15-216487-4

Written by Elissa Haden Guest

Illustrated by Christine Davenier

Published by Sandpiper

(An imprint of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Children's Books)

*Synopsis: Iris cannot wait to have her first sleepover at her best friend Walter's house. They will put on a puppet show. They will ride Walter's horse Rain in their pajamas. They will stay up very, very late. But on the big night, when it is time for bed after all the fun, Iris lies awake missing Grandpa's songs, her parents' kisses, and Baby Rose sleeping nearby. Maybe, just maybe, this sleepover wasn't such a good idea after all.*

Script Created by Debbie Gonzales  
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## Introduction

### What is Readers' Theater?

Readers' Theater is a joint dramatic reading from a text, usually with no memorization, no movement and a minimum of props. It involves children in oral reading through reading parts in scripts. Unlike traditional theater, the emphasis is on oral expression of the part - rather than on acting and costumes - which celebrates the theme of *Iris: the Sleepover* perfectly!

### What is its Purpose?

It enables students to bring a text to life and together create a powerful interpretation. It offers less confident readers support from peers and provides a genuine social purpose for attentive reading. It also provides students with models for creating 'the voice behind the page' in their own silent reading. Readers' Theater provides a real context for reading and has obvious benefits for students by increasing their skills as readers, writers, listeners and speakers. In the same way that a television adaptation can push book sales through the roof, Readers' Theater can take students into the world of a text and entice them into enthusiastic reading.

### Getting Started

The following pages contain all that is necessary to present a Readers' Theater Production of *Iris and Walter: The Sleepover*.

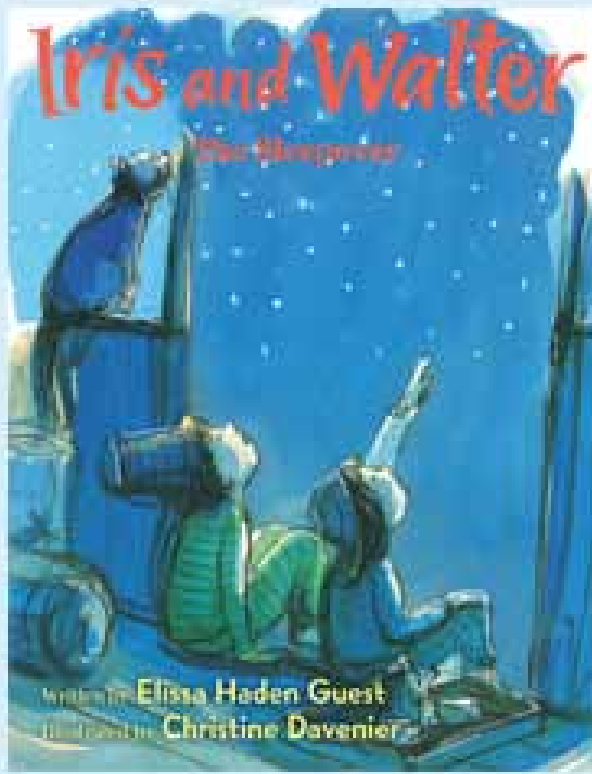
- ~ Promotional flyer in which multiple copies can be printed out to be distributed to members of the audience.
- ~ Performance Tickets can be printed and distributed to the audience.
- ~ Cast List
- ~ Speaking Cast Members in Order of Appearance
- ~ The Script



## Production Poster

Print several copies of the poster below. Write the Date, Time, and Location of the performance in the spaces provided. Promote your Reader's Theater Performance by taping or pinning poster in prominent places.

# Presenting a Reader's Theater Performance



*Date* \_\_\_\_\_

*Time* \_\_\_\_\_

*Place* \_\_\_\_\_

*Starring* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# Production Tickets

Print several copies of the tickets below. Distribute them prior to your Reader's Theater Performance or make them available at the door at the time of the production.



## Cast List

Write cast members' names beside assigned role.

Narrator 1	_____	Grandfather	_____
Narrator 2	_____	Baby Rose	_____
Narrator 3	_____	Armando	_____
Narrator 4	_____	Lulu	_____
Iris	_____	Jenny	_____
Walter	_____	Benny	_____
Iris's Father	_____	Walters' father	_____
Iris's Mother	_____	Walter's mother	_____

**Optional Props:** a doll (Pearl), pillow, blanket, suitcase, pajamas, two sleeping bags,



## Speaking Cast Members in Order of Appearance

### **Big Plans (pp. 8-9):**

Iris  
Grandpa  
Mother  
Baby Rose  
Father

### **Worries (pp. 10-11):**

Iris  
Armando  
Lulu  
Jenny  
Walter  
Benny

### **The Sleepover (pp. 12-15):**

Iris  
Baby Rose  
Mother  
Father  
Grandpa  
Walter's Father  
Walter's Mother  
Walter

### **Home Sweet Home (pp. 16-18):**

Iris  
Walter  
Walter's Mother  
Walter's Father  
Father  
Mother  
Grandpa





# Iris and Walter: The Sleepover

Written by Elissa Haden Guest

## Big Plans

Narrator 1: Iris couldn't wait for Saturday.

Iris: (Grinning excitedly)

Narrator 1: On Saturday, Iris was going to sleepover at her best friend Walter's house. It was all she could talk about.

Iris told Grandpa...

Iris: It will be my *first* sleepover.

Grandpa: How exciting!

Narrator: Iris told her mother...

Iris: Walter and I are going to put on a puppet show.

Mother: What fun!

Narrator: Iris told her father...

Iris: We're going to ride Rain in our pajamas.

Father: You don't say.

Narrator: And, Iris told baby Rose...

Iris: And we're going to sleep out on Walter's porch and stay up very, very late. That's what big kids do on sleepovers, Rosie.

Baby Rose: (Listen intently)





- Narrator 1: At bedtime, Iris's mother told her...
- Mother: Okay, my big girl, hop into bed. (Smooths the blanket and fluffs the pillow.)
- Iris: (Snuggles Pearl, her doll, and lays down on pillow and blanket.)
- Baby Rose: (Lays down beside Iris)
- Narrator 1: Grandpa sang the girls a song.
- Grandpa: (Sings softly)
- Narrator 1: Iris's father tucked them in.
- Father: (Tucks blanket under Iris and Baby Rose) Good night, Little Rosie.
- Baby Rose: Ba ba.
- Father: Good night, my Iris.
- Iris: Night night.
- Narrator: Then Iris's mother turned on the night-light and closed the door.



## Worries

- Narrator 2: The next day at school, Iris told her friends about the sleepover.
- Iris: (Excitedly) And we're going to ride Rain in our pajamas and put on a puppet show and have such a good time!
- Armando: Sleepovers are fun.
- Lulu: You can stay up all night.
- Jenny: And have pillow fights.
- Iris & Walter: (Look at another) Wow!
- Narrator 2: But Benny didn't say a word.
- Benny: (Concerned)
- Narrator 2: After lunch, Benny whispered to Iris...
- Benny: I don't like sleepovers.
- Iris: (Surprised) You don't?
- Benny: (Shakes head) No. I like to sleep in my own room in my own bed. One time, I went to my cousin's house, but . . .  
(Lowers eyes)
- Iris: But what?
- Benny: I got really homesick.
- Iris: Why?
- Benny: Because I missed my pillow.



Iris: What did you do?

Benny: My aunt had to take me home in the middle of the night.

Iris: (Wide-eyed) Oh.

Narrator 2: And, Iris thought . . .

Iris: (Look to the audience) I hope that doesn't happen to me.



## The Sleepover

- Narrator 3: Saturday afternoon Baby Rose watched as Iris packed her suitcase.
- Baby Rose: (Standing beside Iris)
- Narrator 3: Iris packed her cozy pajamas.
- Iris: (Places pajamas in suitcase)
- Narrator 3: Iris packed her favorite doll, Pearl.
- Iris: (Give doll and kiss and then place it in the suitcase.)
- Narrator 3: Iris packed her baby pillow, so she wouldn't get homesick.
- Iris: (Nodding, place pillow in suitcase.)
- Narrator 3: Then Iris told baby Rose. . .
- Iris: Now, Rosie, I'm not going to be here tonight because I'm sleeping at Walter's. Remember?
- Baby Rose: (Smiles at Iris)
- Mother & Father: (Look to one another and smile)
- Iris: But Mama will still read a story, and Grandpa will sing a song, and Daddy will tuck you in. And when you're a big girl, you'll go a sleepover, too.
- Baby Rose: Ba, ba, ba.
- Iris: Okay, Mama and Daddy, I'm ready to go to Walter's.



- Mother: Have fun, my Iris.
- Father: We'll see you tomorrow.
- Grandpa: Come on, Iris. I'll drive you over to Walter's house.
- Narrator 3: When they arrived, Walter and his parents were waiting for her.
- Walter's Father: Come in, Iris.
- Walter's Mother: Would you like some cookies?
- Walter: Let's go play!
- Narrator 3: And so they did. . .
- Iris and Walter put on a puppet show.
- Iris & Walter: (Pantomime playing with puppets)
- Narrator 3: They rode Rain in their pajamas.
- Iris & Walter: (Pantomime riding Rain)
- Narrator 3: They sat on the porch and watched the stars come out.
- Iris & Walter: (Pantomime looking at the stars in the nighttime sky)
- Narrator 3: Then they snuggled into their sleeping bags. Iris made sure Pearl and her pillow were nearby.
- Iris: I think sleepovers are great. I'm not homesick at all.
- Walter: We should have a sleepover every week!
- Narrator 3: Iris and Walter laughed together. They drank hot cocoa and shared the last cookie.



Narrator 3: Then Walter's mother said . . .

Walter's Mother: It's getting late, kids. Time for bed.

Narrator 3: Iris thought about home. She wondered if Baby Rose was still awake and if Rosie missed her.

Walter's mother kissed Walter good night.

Walter's Mother: (Kiss Walter on the top of his head)

Narrator 3: She kissed Iris good night, too.

Walter's Mother: (Kiss Iris on the top of her head)

Narrator 3: Walter's Father turned out the lights.

Walter's Father: Good night, sleep tight.

Narrator 3: When Walter's parents left the porch, Iris said . . .

Iris: I'm not sleepy, are you?

Walter: (Yawning) No.

Iris: Let's stay up *all* night.

Walter: What do you want to do?

Iris: (Sitting up, excitedly) Let's tell stories.

Walter: Okay. You go first. I'll just get comfortable.

Narrator 3: Walter snuggled down into his sleeping bag. He was warm and cozy.

Iris told a long, long, *long* story . . .



- Iris: (Pantomime actively telling an elaborate story)
- Walter: (Fighting to stay awake)
- Narrator 3: When Iris was finished, she said . . .
- Iris: Now it is your turn, Walter.
- Narrator 3: Walter remained silent. . .
- Iris: (Sits up and turns to sleeping Walter) Walter?
- Narrator 3: But there was no sound.
- Iris: (Leaning close to Walter, whispering) Walter, it's your turn to tell a story.
- Narrator 3: But Walter was fast asleep.
- Iris: (Turns to audience) Uh, oh.





## Home Sweet Home

- Narrator 4: It was very quiet on the porch.
- Iris: (Wide-eyed, looking around)
- Narrator 4: Iris hugged Pearl close.
- Iris: (Holds Pearl closely)
- Narrator 4: She tried to get comfortable.
- Iris: (Toss and turn in sleeping bag)
- Narrator 4: Suddenly, Iris felt all alone.
- Iris: (Worried expression, holding Pearl tightly)
- Narrator 4: She missed her mother's stories. She missed her Grandpa's songs. She missed the way her father tucked her in and kissed her good night.
- Iris: (Becoming very sad)
- Narrator 4: And, she missed sleeping in her own room, in her own bed, with her own baby sister close by.
- Iris whispered in the dark . . .
- Iris: Walter. . . *Walter*, wake up.
- Narrator 4: Iris gave Walter a little shake.
- Walter: (Groggy) Huh?
- Iris: Walter. . . I think I want to go home.
- Walter: You do? Why?



Iris: I'm homesick.

Narrator 4: And then Iris started to cry.

Walter said . . .

Walter: Gosh.

Narrator 4: And went to get his mother, who said . . .

Walter's Mother: (Tenderly) Iris, honey, are you sure you want to go home?

Iris: (Sadly, nodding) Yes, I'm sure.

Walter's Mother: It's okay—we'll take you home. You can sleep over another time. Right, Walter?

Walter: (Concerned) Sure.

Narrator 4: Iris packed her suitcase, and climbed into the car.

Iris: (Whisper to doll) We're going home now, Pearl.

Narrator 4: The drive seemed to take forever.

Walter's Father: (Pantomime driving)

Iris: (Sadly looking out the car window)

Walter: (Concerned for his friend)

Narrator 4: But when she arrived, *everyone* was waiting.

Iris: (Smiling broadly)

Father: Welcome home.

Mother: How about a hug?



Grandpa: Why, Iris, you've grown!

Narrator 4: Iris laughed and hugged them all.

Then she went into her own room and climbed into her own bed. Her own Baby Rose was fast asleep close by.

Iris: (Snuggle into the blanket, yawning)

Narrator 4: Her mother kissed Iris good night.

Iris: I'll sleep over at Walter's another time. (Closes eyes)

Mother: Of course you will.

Iris: (Fast asleep)

Narrators 1,2,3 & 4: And she did.

The End



## Common Core State Standards

### English Language Arts Standards - Reading: Literature

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.K.3	With prompting and support, identify characters, settings, and major events in a story.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.K.10	Actively engage in group reading activities with purpose and understanding.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.1.10	With prompting and support, read prose and poetry of appropriate complexity for grade 1.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.2.10	By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories and poetry, in the grades 2-3 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range

### English Language Arts Standards - Reading: Foundational Skills

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.K.1	Demonstrate understanding of the organization and basic features of print.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.K.3	Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.K.4	Read emergent-reader texts with purpose and understanding.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.1.1	Demonstrate understanding of the organization and basic features of print.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.1.2	Demonstrate understanding of spoken words, syllables, and sounds (phonemes).
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.1.3	Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.1.4	Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.2.3	Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.2.4	Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.

### English Language Arts Standards - Reading: Speaking & Listening

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.K.2	Confirm understanding of a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media by asking and answering questions about key details and requesting clarification if something is not understood
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.K.6	Speak audibly and express thoughts, feelings, and ideas clearly.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.1.2	Ask and answer questions about key details in a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.2.5	Create audio recordings of stories or poems; add drawings or other visual displays to stories or recounts of experiences when appropriate to clarify ideas, thoughts, and feelings.

