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• Page 8



From The Recess Queen

■ The Recess Queen Reader's Theater • Page 14

■ How to Analyze Online Sources Library Lesson • Page 17

The Recess Queen

• Reader's Theater •

by | Toni Buzzeo

Read the book aloud to children first, so that they can enjoy the illustrations and become familiar with the story. Then, hand out a set of photocopied scripts to ten children. Ask the remaining children to be the audience. Have performers face the audience and simply read their parts on the first run-through. Once all readers are comfortable with their parts, have a second reading with the opportunity to use props or costumes, if desired, and to act out the story while reading.

Roles

Mean Jean

Katie Sue

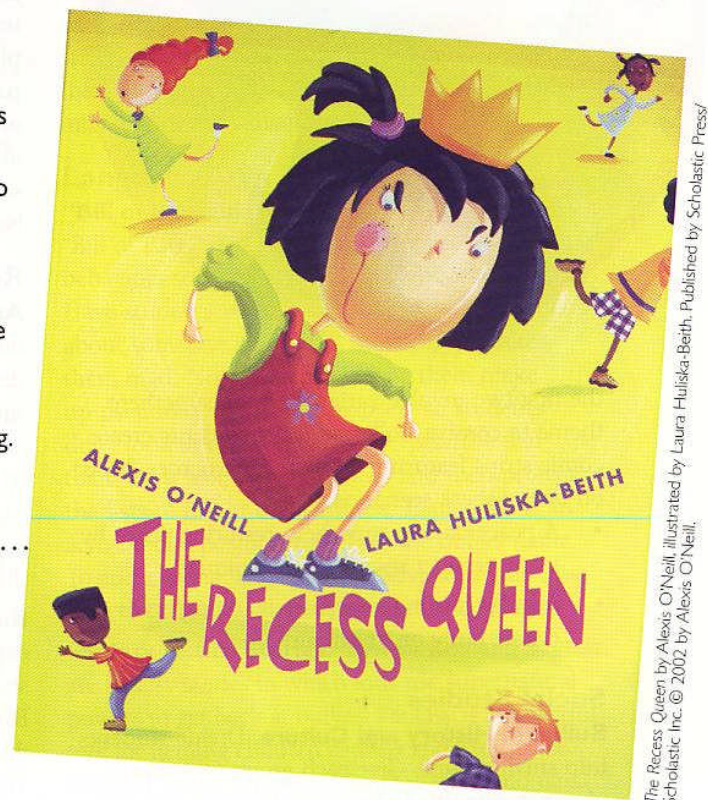
Kid One

Narrator One

Narrator Two

Narrator Three

Chorus (four—or more—readers)



After Reading

Visit www.librarysparks.com for an interview with Alexis O'Neill about *The Recess Queen*. Find out more about Alexis by visiting www.alexisoneill.com.



Toni Buzzeo, MA, MLIS, is an author as well as a career library media specialist and member of the Maine Association of School Libraries Executive Board. She is the author of four picture books, most recently *Ready or Not, Dawdle Duckling* (Dial, 2005) and many professional books and articles. Visit www.tonibuzzeo.com.

The Recess Queen

Chorus: Mean Jean was Recess Queen and nobody said any different.

Narrator One: Nobody swung until Mean Jean swung.

Narrator Two: Nobody kicked until Mean Jean kicked.

Narrator Three: Nobody bounced until Mean Jean bounced.

Narrator One: If kids ever crossed her, she'd ...

Chorus: push 'em and smoosh 'em, lollapaloosh 'em, hammer 'em, slammer 'em, kitz and kajammer 'em.

Mean Jean: (Growl.) Say what?

Mean Jean: (Howl.) Say who?

Mean Jean: Say you! Just who do you think you're talking to?

Narrator One: Mean Jean always got her way.

Narrator Two: Until one day ...

Narrator Three: ... a new kid came to school.

Katie Sue: Me, Katie Sue!

Narrator One: A teeny kid.

Narrator Two: A tiny kid.

Narrator Three: A kid you might scare with a jump and a ...

Chorus: Boo!

Narrator One: But when the recess bell went ...

Chorus: ringity-ring,

Narrator Two: this kid ran ...

Chorus: zingity-zing,

Narrator Three: for the playground gate.

Narrator One: Katie Sue swung before Mean Jean swung.

Narrator Two: Katie Sue kicked before Mean Jean kicked.

Narrator Three: Katie Sue bounced before Mean Jean bounced. The kid you might scare with a jump and a ...

Chorus: Boo!

Katie Sue: Me, Katie Sue!

Narrator Three: was too new to know about ...

Chorus: Mean Jean the Recess Queen.

Narrator One: Well, Mean Jean bullied through the playground crowd. Like always, she ...

Chorus: pushed kids and smooshed kids, lollapalooshed kids, hammered 'em, slammed 'em, kitz and kajammered 'em

Narrator Two: as she charged after ...

Katie Sue: Me, Katie Sue!

Mean Jean: (Growl.) Say what?

Mean Jean: (Howl.) Say who?

Mean Jean: (Snarl.) Say you!

Narrator Three: She snarled and grabbed Katie Sue by the collar.

Mean Jean: Nobody swings until Queen Jean swings. Nobody kicks until Queen Jean kicks. Nobody bounces until Queen Jean bounces.

Narrator One: She figured that would set the record straight.

Narrator Two: She figured wrong.

Narrator Three: Katie Sue talked back! Just as sassy as could be.

Katie Sue: How did you get so bossy?

Narrator One: Then that puny thing, that loony thing,

Narrator Two: grabbed the ball and bounced away.



Reader's Theater

Narrator Three: Oh! Katie Sue was one quick kid. She bolted quick as lightning.

Chorus: Bouncity bouncity **bounce**. Kickity kickity **kick**. Swingity swingity **swing**.

Narrator One: Mean Jean thundered close behind.

Chorus: Bouncity, kickity, swingity.

Narrator Two: The Recess Queen was not amused.

Narrator Three: She raced and chased and in-your-faced ...

Katie Sue: Me, Katie Sue!

Narrator One: No one spoke.

Narrator Two: No one moved.

Narrator Three: No one **breathed**.

Narrator One: Then from her pack pulled Katie Sue a jump rope clean and bright.

Katie Sue: (Sing.) Hey, Jeanie Beanie, let's try this jump rope out!

Narrator Two: Here's one thing true—until that day, no one **dared** ask Mean Jean to play.

Narrator Three: But that Katie Sue just hopped and jumped and skipped away.

Katie Sue: I like ice cream, I like tea, I want Jean to jump with me!

Narrator One: Jean just gaped and stared as if too **scared** to move at all.

Narrator Two: So Katie Sue sang once more.

Katie Sue: I like popcorn, I like tea, I want Jean to jump with me!

Narrator Three: Then from the side a kid called out,

Kid One: Go, Jean, go!

Narrator Three: And too surprised to even shout, Jean jumped in with Katie Sue.

Mean Jean & Katie

Sue: I like cookies, I like tea, I want **you** to jump with me!

Narrator One: The rope whizzed and slapped,

Chorus: faster, faster,

Narrator Two: the rope spun and flapped,

Chorus: faster, faster!

Narrator Three: Till it caught in a tangled disaster. But they just giggled and ...

Chorus: jumped again!

Narrator One: Well—now when recess rolls around that playground's one great place.

Narrator Two: At the school bell's ...

Chorus: ringity-ring,

Narrator Two: those two girls race ...

Chorus: zingity-zing,

Narrator Two: out the classroom door.

Narrator Three: Jean doesn't

Chorus: push kids and smoosh kids, lollapalooosh kids, hammer 'em, slammer 'em, kitz and kajammer 'em—

Narrator Three: 'cause she's having too much fun

Chorus: rompity-romping,

Narrator Three: with her friends.

Chorus: Bouncity, kickity, swingity, hoppity, skip-pity, jumpity, ringity, zingity,

All: Yesssss!

