

“Let God Write Your Story”

by
Paul Neil

- What** Encourage and celebrate people who are hitting a milestone, like graduation, with this Readers Theater. Audiences are challenged to consider the story of their lives so far, and to let God take the reins moving forward.
Themes: Graduation, Commencement, Milestone, Life Story, God’s Sovereignty, Future
- Who** Reader 1
Reader 2
Reader 3
Reader 4
- When** Present
- Wear (Props)** Your stage. Black folders for each reader. Alternately, you could use folders that look like leather bound books in keeping with the “story” theme.
- Why** Psalm 13:5-6
- How** Make sure to rehearse picking up the cues – especially on the very short lines that are part of a list. Readers should strive to match each other’s tone when picking those up but should vary in delivery. For more ideas, [watch “How To Perform a Reader’s Theatre”](#) on SkitGuys.com.
- Time** Approximately 6 minutes

Readers enter and address audience

Reader 1: Great books depend on a great opening line to draw in the reader.

Reader 2: Charles Dickens wrote, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." He also wrote, "Marley was dead, to begin with."

Reader 3: George Orwell's 1984 sets an uneasy tone with, "It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen."

Reader 4: Herman Melville launched his book about the great white whale with the simple sentence, "Call me Ishmael."

Reader 1: And the first line of the best-selling book of all time is this: "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."

Reader 2: So, what about you? What's the first line of your novel?

Reader 1: You might think you don't have one.

Reader 4: But you do. You have a story.

Reader 3: All of us have a story.

Reader 1: Comedian Groucho Marx famously said, "I must confess, I was born at a very young age."

Reader 3: That's the first line of all of our stories.

Reader 2: We entered the world, with a seemingly endless parade of blank pages stretching out ahead of us.

Reader 4: And from there, all of our stories began to diverge.

Reader 1: We went home to different houses,

Reader 2: in different towns.

Reader 1: We were an only child,

Reader 4: or the oldest child,

Reader 3: or the baby of the family,

Reader 4: or somewhere in the middle.

Reader 1: We were raised by the parents who birthed us,

Reader 3: or chosen by an adoptive family,

Reader 2: or taken care of by family members.

Reader 1: Before we could speak, we each began our story.

Reader 4: We didn't have much choice, then. Our stories had a lot of passive verb forms.

Reader 3: We were carried,

Reader 2: we were fed,

Reader 1: we were picked up

Reader 4: We were put down for a nap.

Reader 2: We were strapped into car seats

Reader 3: and we were nurtured.

Reader 4: But then slowly, the verb forms changed. Active words crept in.

Reader 2: We rolled over.

Reader 3: We crawled.

Reader 1: We stood.

Reader 4: We walked.

Reader 3: We cried.

Reader 2: We cooed.

Reader 1: We smiled.

Reader 4: We laughed.

Reader 2: Chapter 1, Chapter 2. Without even realizing it, our stories were forming.

Reader 3: We spoke our first word, and then never stopped talking.

Reader 1: We started school, and we flourished, or we struggled.

Reader 4: We met people, and we made many friends, or we stuck close to just one or two.

Reader 3: In biology, you may have learned that we are made of cells and organs and systems, but that's only part of the truth.

Reader 2: We are made of stories, you and I.

Reader 1: Who we are today is the direct result of the preceding chapters in our books of life.

Reader 4: It is not a perfect metaphor.

Reader 3: We are not novels.

Reader 2: We are not works of fiction.

Reader 1: We are biographies, but we are incomplete ones.

Reader 4: And we have little to no control over the other characters in our stories.

Reader 3: Every day, we expect and need others to act in a certain way...

Reader 1: and they can't, or just simply won't.

Reader 2: The crush who won't acknowledge our existence.

Reader 3: The teacher who won't give extra credit.

Reader 4: The parent who won't show up.

Reader 1: The loved one who passed away.

Reader 4: The friend who betrays us.

Reader 2: There have been and will be unlikable characters and dark chapters in your story.

Reader 4: But it's ok, all the best stories have them.

Reader 1: Every story has conflict.

Reader 2: Every story has moments where the reader reads with breath held, turning the page gingerly because the outcome is uncertain.

Reader 4: And every story has moments like today.

Reader 3: Graduations. Turning points. Celebrations.

Reader 1: Literally the end of one chapter and the start of another.

Reader 4: Comedy and drama, light-hearted celebration and closely held thoughts all weave together in our stories.

Reader 2: The question of the moment is this: Who is writing your story?

Reader 3: You might think that's your job.

Reader 1: You probably think you're the main protagonist.

Reader 2: But you aren't either of those things.

Reader 4: Did you get that?

Reader 2: The story you call yours...it really isn't about you.

Reader 1: And you definitely shouldn't be the author.

Reader 3: You can try. Most of us have tried it at some point.

Reader 1: But we don't do it very well.

Reader 4: It's hard to pen the right present when we can't flip ahead with any accuracy.

Reader 2: And we can't even look back very well. We flip back, and the pages are fuzzy, and unclear.

Reader 1: Some chapters are so clouded by emotion – both good and bad – that our recollections are very untrustworthy.

Reader 4: So, what's the right solution? Simple...

All: Let God write your story.

Reader 1: Here's the thing about God – He doesn't need us.

Reader 2: *(with wonder)* But He WANTS us.

Reader 1: *(with excitement)* And that's so much better.

Reader 3: *(with awe)* He LOVES us.

Reader 1: *(with excitement)* And that's better still.

Reader 4: *(with eyes wide)* He is writing us into HIS story.

Reader 1: *(almost with a shiver of delight)* And that's just indescribably wonderful.

Reader 2: In Proverbs, it says "The mind of man plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps."

Reader 4: God wants to write you into an epic story that He has been writing throughout history with the whole human race.

Reader 1: And often, it's the roughest things in life that God uses to mold and make us into His image.

Reader 3: That is part of the mystery of His love.

Reader 2: We celebrate with you today.

Reader 4: And there will be many more things to celebrate in your future—

Reader 1: college degrees, weddings, careers, babies.

Reader 3: You can't write those things.

Reader 4: Mother Teresa said, "I am a little pencil in God's hands. He does the thinking. He does the writing. He does everything and sometimes it is really hard because it is a broken pencil and He has to sharpen it a little more."

Reader 2: Embracing our identity as broken pencils does not diminish our worth in God's eyes.

Reader 1: It simply magnifies His greatness. He can take you—

Reader 2: with all your lessons learned,

Reader 3: your knowledge gained,

Reader 4: your relationships built—

Reader 1: He can take all of that and sharpen it.

Reader 3: There will be tears and frustration and difficulty, but OH will there be celebration, and joy, and fulfillment.

Reader 4: Let Him write your romance,

Reader 2: your career,

Reader 1: your family,

Reader 4: your friendships.

Reader 2: Let Him change the narrative.

Reader 3: Let Him author those dramatic twists that might upend you for a while but will send the story in a thrilling and fulfilling new direction.

Reader 1: And with the Psalmist, you can sing these words to the Author:

Reader 2: I trust in your unfailing love;

Reader 3: my heart rejoices in your salvation.

Reader 4: I will sing the Lord's praise,

All: for he has been good to me.

End.

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