**The Great Pasta Escape**

**A reader’s theater**



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**It takes many ingredients to create a whole recipe. Similarly, it takes many parts to create a successful Reader’s Theater. Celebrate the theme of working together in this script geared towards 14-30 performers. Work together to make**

***The Great Pasta Escape* come alive!**

**\*If you’re performing this script in your classroom, summer camp, or after school activity group, feel free to snap photos or share a video clip and tag Author Miranda Paul on social media!**

**#greatpastaescape**

**@Miranda\_Paul (Twitter)**

**@littlebeebooks (Publisher’s Twitter)**

**Facebook.com/AuthorMirandaPaul**

**Cooking up a plan: Character Descriptions**

**Read the descriptions below. Which character would suite you best?**

Narrators (May be played by 1-3 performers) -For those who love to tell and read stories with expression.

Workers (2)- Two hungry people that have worked up an appetite

Fettuccine (1)- A nervous, fearful sort of pasta dude

Bow Tie (1)- A realist

Ramen (1)- Driven by emotions, mostly anger and cynicism

Mac (1)- A peacemaker

Rotini Gang (3)- Three friends that like to present evidence

Jumbo Shell (1)- An anxious pasta that prefers planning over spontaneity

Wagon Wheel (1)- A thinker; a problem-solver.

Angel Hair (1-5)- A group of pasta friends that act as a united angel or one performer in a multi-stranded costume.

Nonspeaking Performers:

Spaghetti (1)- The silent type with a talent for writing

Ravioli (1-5)- A whole group of stuffed pasta friends who stand up for their rights.

Tortellini (1-5)- Cousins to Ravioli, who also stand strong with their stuffed friends.

**Assigned Roles:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Character** | **Student Performer** |
| Narrator 1Narrator 2Narrator 3 |  |
| Worker 1Worker 2 |  |
| Fettuccine |  |
| Bow Tie |  |
| Ramen |  |
| Mac |  |
| Rotini Gang (3) |  |
| Jumbo Shell |  |
| Wagon Wheel |  |
| Angel Hair |  |
| Nonspeaking Performers: |  |
| Spaghetti |  |
| Ravioli (5) |  |
| Tortellini (5) |  |

Possible **PROPS**: 1 box wagon wheels pasta, a larger cardboard box marked To: Average Joe’s Supermarket, 1 box macaroni, 1 box rotini, 1 box fettuccine, 1 package Ramen, 1 canister of Bow Ties, 1 box Jumbo Shells, Large pasta packages (from costumes) that display: Cooking instructions, a picture of a woman eating spaghetti, and a picture of pasta baking in the oven, two brooms, do not disturb sign, plan-map for Angel Hair, out-of-order signs.

**SET:** Large painted pasta sections of factory, a conveyor belt that splits like a fork in the road,

*[The scene opens with character pasta in package costumes, standing in front of their designated pasta section back-drop like statues.]* Giant cardboard shipping trifold (with handles on back) labeled: Mail to: Super Awesome Island, Paradise. Paradise island trees and scenery on back of factory backdrop.Giant cardboard box boat (with handles on back to allow the characters to hold the boat and cruise along with it while walking.)

**Narrator 1:** Since the beginning of their lives (which was earlier that morning), the pasta at the factory followed the rules.

**Narrator 2:** They stuck to their own kind.

**Narrator 3:** They stayed still in their packaging.

**Narrator 1:** And they never spoke to humans.

*[Workers pass by silently inspecting.]*

Nar**rator 1:** Pasta that obeyed, they believed, got sent to a super place.

*[Worker 1 puts a box of wagon wheels in a large box marked To: Average Joe’s Supermarket.]*

**Narrator 2:** So Macaroni went one way, and Rotini went another.

*[A box of Macaroni and Rotini are on the conveyor belt. Each worker grabs a box and takes it off and puts it on in a separate section.]*

**Narrator 3:** Fettuccine was boxed, while Ramen got vacuum-sealed.

*[Workers put real fettucine noodles in a box and ramen in a package.]*

**Narrator 1:** Bow Ties filled elegant canisters, and Jumbo Shells were stuffed.

*[Workers fill canister and stuff shells in box.]*

**Narrator 2:** They didn’t mix, move, or mingle.

**Narrator 3:** They were very good noodles. Until…

**Worker 1:** These noodles are making me hungry. Let’s eat.

**Worker 2:** Good idea! I’m having pasta salad. You?

**Worker 1:** Leftover Pho.

*[Packaged Fettucine character gulps and shows horror on face. Workers exit and pasta comes to life, ditching their packages.]*

**Narrator 1:** Fettucine quickly called a meeting.

**Fettucine:** Aaaaah! They’re going to EAT us!

**Bow Tie:** Calm down. Why would the humans make us, only to get rid of us?

*[Rotini gang begins examining boxes. As they locate horrifying pictures, their faces display dread.]*

**Ramen:** What a load of meatballs!

**Mac:** Chill, dude. You’ll get yourself in knots.

**Rotini 1:** We present exhibits A, B, and C.

*[Rotini gang uses pasta pointers to indicate clues on pasta boxes: Cooking instructions, a picture of a woman eating spaghetti, and a picture of pasta baking in the oven.]*

**Narrator 2:** Everyone examined their packages. The evidence was overwhelming.

**Fettucine:** *[Hopeless]* Just cover me in Alfredo sauce now.

**Ramen:** *[Joking]* You mean, Afraid-o-sauce.

**Bow Tie:** Mind your manners.

**Mac:** Yeah, peace and love.

**Jumbo Shell:** *[Worried]* We need a plan.

**Fettucine:** *[Covers eyes and cries]* Let’s hide!

**Bow Tie:** Let’s politely protest. We’ll sit here quietly until they change their minds.

**Ramen:** No way! Let’s BURST out of our packages and give them a piece of our minds!

**Mac:** *[In a Zen yoga pose]* Now let’s not get carried away. What about that super place we’ve been hearing and dreaming about?

*[Workers enter, sweeping across the stage. Noodles faces freeze with dreamy looks.]*

**Worker 1:** I can’t wait until vacation time. To feel the sun on my face…

**Worker 2:** To sink my toes in the warm toasty sand…

**Worker 1:** I can already feel the gentle mist from the waves…kissing my skin…

*[Workers exit while finishing lines.]*

**Worker 2:** Filling my lungs…

**Wagon Wheel:** Snap out of it, guys! Any more ideas? Spaghetti? You’re awfully quiet over there.

*[Spaghetti hangs a “Do not disturb: Writer at work” sign on the wall. She is busy writing.]*

**Rotini:** *[Referring to a mapped-out plan.]* Forget Spaghetti. If we execute this plan perfectly, it will work. But it means sacrificing Ravioli. It’s the only way.

*[Ad lib: Upon hearing of their sacrifice, Ravioli group voices disgust with “Hey!” “Wait a minute!” and the like.]*

**Narrator 3:** The ravioli were outraged. They called the Tortellini for backup.

*[Ravioli and Tortellini band together and face the others, ready for battle.]*

**Ramen:** FIGHT!

*[Ravioli and Tortellini groups charge at the others.]*

**Fettucine:** *[Fighting off biting and kicking Ravioli]* We need a miracle!

**Angel Hair:** No! *[Voice booms in angelic unison as she enters from the conveyor belt. Everyone stops. All eyes shift to Angel Hair.]*

**Angel Hair:** You need…an angel. *[Angel spins magically while a musical harp sound fills the air.]* It’s simple. We just have to use our noodles. Together.

**Narrator 1:** She huddled them all and they quickly cooked up the perfect plan.

*[Angel present plan-map to the group. Spaghetti begins making out-of-order signs.]*

**Narrator 2:** They stuck to their own kind,

*[Spaghetti hangs out-of-order signs on factory backdrop and noodle get back in their own boxes.]*

**Narrator 3:** They stayed in their packaging,

**Narrator 1:** And no one spoke a word…

*[They get behind a giant trifold of cardboard that appears to be a shipping box. It is labeled: Mail to: Super Awesome Island, Paradise. They grasp the handles and walk off stage “in” the box. Off stage, they get behind the cardboard boat.]*

**Narrators in unison:** …until they were on vacation, in a very super place.

*[Factory backdrop is rotated to reveal an island. Pasta sails back on stage behind boat, waving to crowd. Sign on boat reads: Do not disturb: ~~Writer~~ Geniuses at work.]*