



**Sample Pages from
The Redemption of Gertie Greene:
Competition Version**

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THE REDEMPTION OF GERTIE GREENE: COMPETITION VERSION

A DRAMEDY BY
Taryn Temple



The Redemption of Gertie Greene: Competition Version
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Characters

4W 4M + 8 Any Gender, Easily Expandable

GERTIE GREENE: Female. The new kid in school, rumored to be a terrible bully.

MRS. FILLMORE: Any gender. The drama teacher, kind, good-humored, and energetic.

CURT: Male. Loves drama class but wishes he was good at sports to please his dad.

NICOLE: Female. Quiet and shy, drama class is her chance to finally come out of her shell.

ALEX: Any gender. Struggles in school, drama class is her only escape.

RACHEL: Female. Outgoing, spirited, the kind of person you'd want to have as a friend.

SHANNON: Any gender. The queen of sarcasm.

JESSIE: Any gender. Often caught up in gossip.

JACOB: Male. Energetic and enthusiastic.

C.J.: Male. An over-the-top dude who doesn't always pay attention in class.

JEFF: Male. A theater enthusiast, tries to keep the other guys on track.

ANNA: Any gender. Nerdy, over-eager, always has her hand in the air, oblivious to social dynamics.

BRYAN: Any gender. The class joker, has a pun for everything.

CASEY: Any gender. Fun and reliable friend, the music expert of drama class.

BETH: Female. Drama class student who is game to try anything.

REBECCA: Any gender. The fashionista of the group.

Additional Characters

(Can be double-cast using the actors that play the characters above)

FOOTBALL JOCKS 1-4

MRS. CRANBERRY: Any gender. The bubbly school counselor.

PETE MACKLESON: Male. The popular guy with a dark side.

GOSSIPERS 1-7

Casting Notes

The gender of all characters is flexible except for Nicole, Gertie, Curt, and Pete Mackleson. If you change the name and gender of a character you may alter the dialogue accordingly. For a smaller cast, several students may be combined into one part. For a larger cast, add more students and distribute student lines among the extra actors.

Additional characters can be double-cast from actors playing the principal roles. You don't need to match the script's gender for these roles. For example, in the original production, most of the Football Players were girls wearing backward hats, and Mrs. Hinklebrick was played by a boy in a wig and dress.

Setting

The present day in school.

Production Notes

"Middle school" may be changed to "junior high," "high school," etc. The play takes place primarily in Mrs. Fillmore's drama classroom. The other locations in the school can be suggested with simple lighting changes or the characters onstage adding/moving a few set pieces to indicate a different place. Mrs. Fillmore's drama classroom should contain a prop box and costume rack so actors can quickly grab props and add simple costume pieces while onstage to transform into the additional characters.

Any pop culture references in the production may be adapted to suit the time or location in which the play is being performed.

First Production

The Redemption of Gertie Greene was first performed on July 25, 2014 by the Take Two Players at Topeka Civic Theatre in Topeka, Kansas, directed by Taryn Temple. The cast was as follows:

GERTIE GREENE: Laura Bearse

MR. FILLMORE: Drew Hodgkinson

CURT, PETE MACKLESON, PIG 2: Riley Champney

NICOLE: Kaitlyn Rawlings

ALEX, GOSSIPER: Gwen Appenfeller

RACHEL, GOSSIPER: Haley Piper

SHANNON, FOOTBALL JOCK, GOSSIPER: Kassy Marable

JESSIE, GOSSIPER: Lea Ramos

JACOB, FOOTBALL JOCK: Trenton Wagner

C.J., FOOTBALL JOCK, MRS. HINKLEBRICK: Jason Schroeder

JANE (JEFF), GOSSIPER: Ally Swart

ANNA, GOSSIPER: Madison King

BRYAN, FOOTBALL JOCK, PIG 1: Tate Donohue

CASEY, PIG 3: Ann Beall

BETH, MRS. CRANBERRY: Kara McClendon

REBECCA, GOSSIPER: Zorina Swart

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: Gregory Richardson

CHOREOGRAPHER: Melanie Remp

LIGHTING DESIGN: Brenda Blackman

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE: The Technical
Theatre Campers

*A special thanks to the Take Two Players,
who courageously brought this script to life,
and to my parents, who cheer enthusiastically
for all of my ideas.*

Lights come up as the STUDENTS enter and speak to the audience.

RACHEL: No one ever tells you how tough middle school is going to be.

SHANNON: The pimples.

JESSIE: The cliques.

BRYAN: The hormones.

ANNA: The smelly boys.

JEFF: The terrifying girls!

NICOLE: The gossip.

CURT: Getting picked last in gym class every single day.

CASEY: Trying not to look like a huge dork all the time.

Everyone looks at ALEX.

ALEX: Feeling like everyone is watching you every single minute, waiting for you to mess up so they can make fun of you.

Everyone laughs and points at ALEX.

RACHEL: The uncertainty.

BETH: Not knowing how tall you're going to be...

JACOB: *(his voice squeaks as he speaks)* Or how your voice will sound when you open your mouth...

REBECCA: Or if your clothes will be out of style next week.

NICOLE: Or who is going to be your friend tomorrow. *(several girls whisper and point at NICOLE)* Or even today!

CURT: Figuring out the kind of person you want to be...

C.J.: Without ruining your cool reputation.

ALL: Ugh!

REBECCA: Middle school would have been terrifying enough just dealing with all of that.

JEFF: But we had to face something even more frightening.

CASEY: Or should we say someone.

ALL: Gertie Greene!

JESSIE: Gertie Greene was the meanest girl in school!

JACOB: No one knew exactly where she came from. Some say it was jail. Others swear she hitched a ride into town with a motorcycle gang. And someone even claimed she was from Missouri!

STUDENTS gasp. Feel free to replace with your own cultural reference. GERTIE stomps onstage, looking angry and mean.

C.J.: Wherever she came from, Gertie Greene just appeared one day, out of the mists of evil, and started terrorizing our school.

STUDENTS move into positions to pantomime the following scenes as they are being described. The pantomimes should be in slow motion, greatly exaggerated, almost cartoonish.

SHANNON: (as GERTIE pantomimes knocking down a football team) She knocked down the entire football team in one fell swoop!

RACHEL: And she punched Pete Mackleson right in the face!

GERTIE pantomimes punching PETE in the face.

REBECCA: She wore weird clothes.

ANNA: She never smiled.

C.J.: And she was huge, dude! She towered over us, ready to stomp us to bits with one of her gigantic feet if we got in her way! (Or “Sure, Gertie Greene wasn’t big, but what she lacked in size she made up for in pure, terrifying strength.”) She could twist your arm until your bones would break!

JEFF: Not that we ever saw her do that...

JACOB: But she made it very clear that she could if she wanted to!

BRYAN: The one place we were safe from the rampages of “Mean, Mean Gertie Greene” was in drama class.

STUDENTS disperse around the stage and settle into the drama classroom.

CASEY: We knew she wouldn’t touch that class with a 10-foot pole.

GERTIE looks disgusted and stomps off.

RACHEL: And we were truly thankful.

MRS. FILLMORE: (*entering energetically*) Okay, students, welcome to class! Today we are going to continue our study of protagonists and antagonists with some improvised scenes.

C.J.: What the heck are protagonists and antagonists?

Most of the STUDENTS groan or sigh and shake their heads.

MRS. FILLMORE: Who can help C.J. with his question?

Several hands go in the air, including JEFF's.

ANNA: Oh pick me, Mrs. Fillmore! Me me me! I know what a protagonist is!

MRS. FILLMORE: Alright, Anna, take a breath. What is a protagonist?

ANNA: The protagonist is the main character in the story. The audience should care about the protagonist and want them to succeed.

MRS. FILLMORE: Exactly. Brilliant answer, Anna. And Jeff? The antagonist?

JEFF: The antagonist creates obstacles the protagonist must overcome.

SHANNON: Yeah, like C.J. antagonizes the class with his stupid questions.

MRS. FILLMORE: Now now, Shannon, I think we've got it. Who would like to start? (*several hands in the air*) Beth and Rachel, start us off. Beth will express a desire for something, and Rachel, you will create the obstacles. (*they nod and come forward*)

BETH: (*Thinks for a few seconds, then gets an idea. She dramatically clasps her hands and swoons.*) Oh my, lunchtime is nearly over and I need to use the restroom.

RACHEL is confused so BETH whispers in her ear. RACHEL nods, laughs, and becomes an evil witch.

RACHEL: Well you can't, muah ha ha haaaaa!

BETH: But please, good madame, I need to tinkle!

The other STUDENTS smile, nod, and chuckle. They are engaged in the scene.

RACHEL: Too bad for you. I am the guardian of the girls' bathroom. I stay in here all lunch cooking my witch's brew and casting spells on little, wormy sixth graders. No one may pass!

BETH: (*clenching her legs together*) Oh my, I really don't want to have to change my pants!

RACHEL: You should change them; your pants are too normal. You should wear weird clothes like mine! (*BETH desperately makes a run for the "door" and RACHEL catches her by the arm*) Just where do you think you're going, ugly runt?

BETH: Please let me in or my tiny bladder will explode!

RACHEL: Better an exploded bladder than a broken face! (*throws BETH on the ground and BETH cowers dramatically*) Muah ha ha haaaaa! (*Bows her head, drops the character. Dramatically.*) And scene. (*BETH pops to her feet as the class applauds*)

MRS. FILLMORE: All right. Those were... interesting choices. Class, who was the protagonist and what did she want?

Several hands go up but ANNA answers before MRS. FILLMORE can call on anyone.

ANNA: It was Beth, and she wanted to use the bathroom.

MRS. FILLMORE: Yes. Correct. And who was the antagonist?

THE CLASS: Gertie Greene!

Everyone but CURT and NICOLE laugh and clap as RACHEL bows at her successful portrayal.

MRS. FILLMORE: Who?

JESSIE: Rachel was playing Gertie Greene. She's this new, scary girl that camps out in the bathroom every lunchtime.

BETH: Yeah, all of us are afraid to go in there.

REBECCA: Who knows what she's doing in there. She's so weird.

MRS. FILLMORE: Hmmm. She sounds like a very lonely person. Imagine spending your entire lunch alone in a bathroom. Have any of you asked her to sit with you at lunch?

CASEY: No way! She's a freak!

REBECCA: She wears the strangest clothes!

JACOB: And she would probably punch us in the face if we didn't give her all of our food!

The class laughs except for CURT and NICOLE, who do not join in with the rest of the class's laughter or comments about GERTIE.

MRS. FILLMORE: I'm disappointed in you all. Why don't you try to be kind to her?

JEFF: You don't understand, Mrs. Fillmore. She's fearsome!

CASEY: She's intimidating!

BETH: She's scary. She'd beat us up!

JESSIE: She knocked down the entire football team!

BETH: And she punched Pete Mackleson in the face!

MRS. FILLMORE: (*thoughtfully*) Ahhh. I see. (*after a pause she moves on*) I guess we'll leave it there for now. Alright class, let's get in groups and review basic dramatic structure. Find a partner who has the same favorite play or musical as you.

As the STUDENTS bustle around finding partners the lights fade on the classroom but stay up on CURT. As CURT steps forward and narrates his scene, STUDENTS from the class put on costume pieces and act out what he is saying. The STUDENTS that are not in the scene stay onstage, quietly seated with their partner, and pantomime talking. They do not distract from or respond to CURT's scene.

CURT: I have a confession to make. I'm part of the reason everyone's scared of Gertie Greene. Let me explain. You know the rumor about how Gertie Greene knocked the whole football team to the ground? Well, it's true. And I'm the reason she did it. It was the day after football auditions, I mean tryouts, and we were all anxiously waiting for the team roster to come out. (*several STUDENTS come forward to play stereotypical macho FOOTBALL JOCKS*) When they posted the list, big surprise, I wasn't on the team. When I didn't see my name on the list I got really upset because I knew my dad was going to be really disappointed in me. Again. My face turned red and I felt like I was going to cry. That's when it started...

FOOTBALL JOCK I: What, are you gonna cry, you big pansy?

FOOTBALL JOCK 2: Oh, look, little Curtsy-wurtsy didn't make the teamy-weemy. Poor baby.

FOOTBALL JOCK 3: As if you ever had a chance!

FOOTBALL JOCK 4: It would be an advantage for the other team if you played for us! You're terrible.

FOOTBALL JOCK 3: The fact that you even tried out is embarrassing. You can't play football. Everyone knows you're just a theater geek.

GERTIE enters and joins the scene, standing behind the football players, and watching them without their knowing it. FOOTBALL JOCK 2 jumps up onto a bench.

FOOTBALL JOCK 2: Oh wook, I'm wittle Curtsy-wurtsy in drama class. Oooooo ooooo, I'm in a play!

FOOTBALL JOCK 4: (*jumps onto the bench and sings obnoxiously*) No, I'm the prince in a musical! Laaaaa laaaa laaaaaa!

FOOTBALL JOCK 2: Make that the princess! (*they all crack up*)

FOOTBALL JOCK 3: (*also jumps onto the bench*) I like wearing tights. And makeup. And dancing!

CURT: (*to the FOOTBALL JOCKS*) Guys, stop it! Just leave me alone!

FOOTBALL JOCK 1: (*Gets in CURT's face. He should be positioned directly in front of the three football players on the bench.*) Oh shut up, wimp. Look, why don't you go back to drama class, put on a skirt, and do a play about it, you little fairy!

CURT: That's when Gertie Greene stepped in. Before they knew what had happened, she grabbed the bench and flung them all into a heap!

Be careful staging this! GERTIE grabs the bench and it looks like her muscles are straining. The STUDENTS jump off of the bench before GERTIE actually picks it up and moves it dramatically. FOOTBALL JOCKS 2-4 should fall on top of FOOTBALL JOCK 1 into a groaning heap.

GERTIE: (*standing menacingly in front of the pile of FOOTBALL JOCKS*) You guys say one more word to him and I'll knock you into next week. You understand? (*They look fearful and all rapidly nod yes. To CURT.*) You let me know if they give you any more trouble.

GERTIE stomps off after one more long, threatening look at the pile of FOOTBALL JOCKS. The FOOTBALL JOCKS get up and look at CURT. He feints toward them and they run away quickly back into the darker area of the stage where they remove their costume pieces and become the drama class STUDENTS again.

CURT: Those guys never came near me again. But the rumor went around that Gertie Greene had taken down the entire football team. People were more scared of her than ever. And I never told anyone what really happened. I feel kinda bad about that.

As CURT goes back to sit with his partner, the lights go up on the rest of the class and a school bell rings.

MRS. FILLMORE: That's the bell. We'll continue tomorrow!

After bidding farewell to several STUDENTS, MRS. FILLMORE thoughtfully exits the stage.

BRYAN: Mrs. Fillmore's drama class "filled" us with joy.

JESSIE: We knew once we walked through her door we were safe from everyone, including scary weirdos like Gertie Greene.

RACHEL: Until Mrs. Fillmore and our school counselor, Mrs. Cranberry, ruined everything.

Focus shifts to MRS. CRANBERRY and GERTIE seated across from one another as if they are in a school counselor's office. RACHEL sits down and quietly watches the scene.

MRS. CRANBERRY: Gertie, dear, I've been talking to Mrs. Fillmore, the drama teacher. She had the best idea! She suggested we enroll you in drama class! Doesn't that sound fun? (*Waits for GERTIE's reaction. GERTIE sits silently.*) Mrs. Fillmore is one of the best teachers in our school and she specially requested to have you in her class! Isn't that fantastic? (*no response*) Great! I'll enroll you straightaway.

RACHEL: (*standing up*) And that's how the next afternoon Gertie Greene showed up in our drama class.

RACHEL enters the drama classroom. There is lots of chatting and laughing among the STUDENTS until GERTIE enters. The STUDENTS fall silent, staring at her. GERTIE pauses for a moment to look at everyone, as if she's hoping someone will be friendly. When no

one responds, GERTIE frowns, trudges to a seat, sits down, crosses her arms, and ignores everyone.

MRS. FILLMORE: (*entering*) Hello, everyone, I'd like to welcome a new student to our class. Everyone please give a warm welcome to Miss Gertie Greene.

The STUDENTS applaud halfheartedly. A few say welcome. MRS. FILLMORE notices the class' lackluster greeting but doesn't push the issue.

MRS. FILLMORE: Nicole, could you do me a favor, please?

NICOLE: Umm, yes, Mrs. Fillmore?

MRS. FILLMORE: Could you help Gertie out as she gets to know our class routines? Answer her questions, show her where things are, etcetera?

NICOLE: Umm, okay, Mrs. Fillmore. (*tentatively takes a step toward GERTIE, who turns away and refuses to look at anyone*)

MRS. FILLMORE: For our lesson today, we'll pair up and write a short script containing a tragic hero. Then each pair will read their script aloud while other students in the class pantomime it. Gertie and Nicole, why don't you work together? Everyone else, find a partner and get started.

Lights fade on the rest of the class, who write quietly in pairs through the next monologue. NICOLE comes forward and talks to the audience.

NICOLE: There's something I didn't say earlier. Something I didn't tell anyone about Gertie Greene. I should have spoken up, I should have said something. But it all happened so fast. (*pauses to collect her thoughts*) I mean, everyone in school knows that Gertie Greene punched Pete Mackleson in the face. But nobody but me knows why. You see, I'd gone out on my first date the night before she did it. My very first date. With Pete Mackleson. The most handsome, popular guy in school. I didn't think he even knew I existed, but then he was really nice to me in math class, helping me out when I was having trouble. (*PETE walks onstage near NICOLE*) One day after class he came up to me and asked me,

PETE: (*confident and cocky*) Hey. Would you like to go to that new *Transformers* movie (*replace with a more timely reference*) with me tonight?

NICOLE: (to PETE) Who me? (PETE nods and laughs) Oh. Umm, yeah! Okay! (back to the audience) I tried to play it cool, but my heart was racing! The most popular guy in school had just asked me to a movie! (through the next several lines she moves to sit down beside PETE as if they are in a movie theater) My parents dropped me off at the theater and Pete was nice to me at first. But then he started getting... pushy. I didn't know what to do. When the credits rolled he leaned over to kiss me and I stopped him. I told him I wasn't ready to kiss him yet, that I hadn't kissed anyone before. He said,

PETE: Well, duh. That's why I asked you out.

NICOLE: That hurt my feelings! But I didn't want to be rude, so I just turned away and started talking about something else. But he wouldn't let it go. He kept saying,

PETE: Come on, let me kiss you. Just one kiss. Come on. I took you to the movie. So kiss me, already.

NICOLE: I told him again that I was sorry, but I didn't want him to kiss me. That's when he got mad. He grabbed my arm and said,

PETE: I paid for the movie and bought you popcorn and you won't even kiss me? You're so lame. No wonder nobody at school wants to kiss you.

NICOLE: I was furious! (acting out the scene as she narrates it) I yanked my arm out of his grasp and marched out of the theater with my head held high. I was NOT going to waste my first kiss on that creep! As I left Pete shouted after me,

PETE: You just wait! You'll be sorry you treated me like this!

NICOLE: The next day at school the rumor mill was churning.

The lights shift to include the rest of the STUDENTS. They start to whisper to one another, stare, point, laugh, etc. at NICOLE. PETE stands smugly, arms crossed, looking triumphantly at NICOLE. The GOSSIPERS' lines are delivered quickly and nearly overlap.

GOSSIPER 1: Did you hear about last night?

GOSSIPER 2: He went out with her??!

GOSSIPER 3: I can't believe she would do anything like that!

GOSSIPER 4: No way!

GOSSIPER 5: I always knew she wasn't what she seemed.

GOSSIPER 6: That's scandalous!

GOSSIPER 7: No! She wouldn't do that! Would she?

NICOLE: Then I found out what they were all saying. They said that me and Pete had gone to the movies together but we hadn't even watched the movie because we were so busy making out the whole time! (*GOSSIPERS make kissing noises or pantomime making out to make fun of NICOLE*) I felt like everyone was talking about me, laughing at me, judging me. But what could I do? If I denied it no one would believe me!

Lights fade on the rest of the class, leaving NICOLE and PETE in the light. The STUDENTS go back to writing their scripts.

That afternoon I found Pete alone in the hallway and confronted him. He grabbed my arm, grinned at me, and said,

PETE: It doesn't matter that you wouldn't kiss me. Now the whole school thinks you're a –

NICOLE: (*cuts him off*) And he used a horrible word. No one's ever called me anything like that before! That's when Gertie Greene came around the corner. She saw me trapped. She heard what he said. (*the following is pantomimed in slow motion by GERTIE, PETE, and NICOLE*) Before I could say or do anything, her face turned red, she balled up her fists, and she punched him so hard in the face it knocked him right to the ground. She said,

GERTIE: Touch her again and you won't have any teeth left to talk with.

NICOLE: Suddenly the bell rang and students poured into the hallway.

The STUDENTS stand up, come forward and gawk at GERTIE, PETE, and NICOLE. They point and pantomime whispering to each other.

They saw Gertie Greene, fists clenched, standing over a bleeding, moaning Pete. Mr. Harrison hauled her to the office, but she didn't defend herself. She didn't say a word.

GERTIE stomps through the crowd back to her seat.

And I was too scared to tell him what really happened. So Gertie Greene was suspended for two days. Everyone started talking about her and forgot about me.

The STUDENTS exaggeratedly gossip with one another as they walk back to their spots, then go back to writing their scripts.

And that creep, Pete, never bothered me again.

PETE stands up holding his nose and walks away looking disgusted.

I know. I know why she punched Pete Mackleson. I know that Gertie Greene isn't a mean, terrible person. And I still haven't told anyone yet.

NICOLE goes back to stand by GERTIE as lights come up on the classroom. STUDENTS write more busily and there is general classroom bustle and clatter.

MRS. FILLMORE: I see some good stuff. Let's wrap it up.

NICOLE: *(standing awkwardly beside GERTIE)* Umm. Do you have any ideas? *(no response)* I think I might have one. *(no response)* Okay, I'll just go with it.

GERTIE doesn't look at her.

MRS. FILLMORE: Now, who would like to start? *(Several hands go in the air eagerly. ANNA jumps up and down. MRS. FILLMORE waits patiently, looking at NICOLE.)* Nicole?

NICOLE: Umm, sure, okay. We'll go.

NICOLE stands up and comes forward to do the scene. She beckons to GERTIE but GERTIE doesn't move. NICOLE looks helplessly at MRS. FILLMORE.

MRS. FILLMORE: Ah, Gertie, I forget, it's your first day. We are an intimidating group, aren't we? If you'd like to sit this one out that would be fine. *(She waits expectantly. No response from GERTIE.)*

SHANNON: That's not fair! We never get to sit anything out. She should have to do it!

NICOLE: Leave her alone, Shannon! She doesn't have to if she doesn't want to. *(everyone is slightly taken aback at NICOLE's outburst)*

MRS. FILLMORE: All right, who can pantomime Nicole and Gertie's scene? *(several hands go in the air)*

ANNA: I'll do it. Pick me! *(jumps up and runs forward without being chosen)*

REBECCA: (*coming forward too*) I'll do it, too.

NICOLE: Okay, umm, we need a guy.

JEFF: I'll help! (*comes forward*)

NICOLE: Okay, this is a story for kids. A fable.

MRS. FILLMORE: Very good, Nicole, whenever you're ready.

NICOLE looks slightly nervous but begins. As NICOLE tells the story, she cues the actors to pantomime their parts. The STUDENTS watching are engaged in the story, saying "Awww," gasping, etc. as NICOLE tells the story. GERTIE pretends not to pay attention, but it is obvious that she is listening and reacting, too.

NICOLE: Once upon a time there was a big, strong bear. She had huge muscles, sharp teeth, and gigantic paws with long, sharp claws. Everyone in the forest knew she was the biggest and the strongest. But underneath her gigantic muscles and shaggy fur beat a kind, tender heart.

As the scene progresses, GERTIE becomes more and more involved in the story. She tries not to show it, but NICOLE's scene affects her.

One day the bear came across a helpless bird trapped in the paws of a weasel. The weasel was well-known in the forest. Everyone thought he was handsome and clever, and everyone wanted to be his friend. The poor bird was shy and quiet. In fact, she couldn't even speak. But as the weasel tightened his grip and bared his teeth, the little bird's eyes pled with the bear to help her. With a giant roar, the bear reared up on her haunches and lifted her massive paw. She swung it with a mighty force so strong the weasel flew all the way across the clearing. All the teeth were knocked from the weasel's jaw so he couldn't bite the little bird ever again. (*NICOLE gestures for a few other STUDENTS to join in. They help act out the rest of the scene.*) The other forest animals came running when they heard the bear's bellow. They saw their friend weasel crumpled on the ground. They blamed the bear, attacking her and driving her from the clearing. (*As the actors drive the bear away, GERTIE stands up and takes several steps toward the actors as if she wants to save the bear herself*) The shy little bird was too scared to help her. From then on, everyone in the forest was scared of the bear. They called her names and ran away when she came near. (*As NICOLE says the final lines of her story she walks toward GERTIE and looks her right in the eye*) And because



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