FISCHOFF NATIONAL CHAMBER MUSIC ASSOCIATION

Giraffes Can't Dance: Reader's Theater

Fischoff's SAM i am stories & music

Cast:

Narrator 1

Narrator 2

Narrator 3

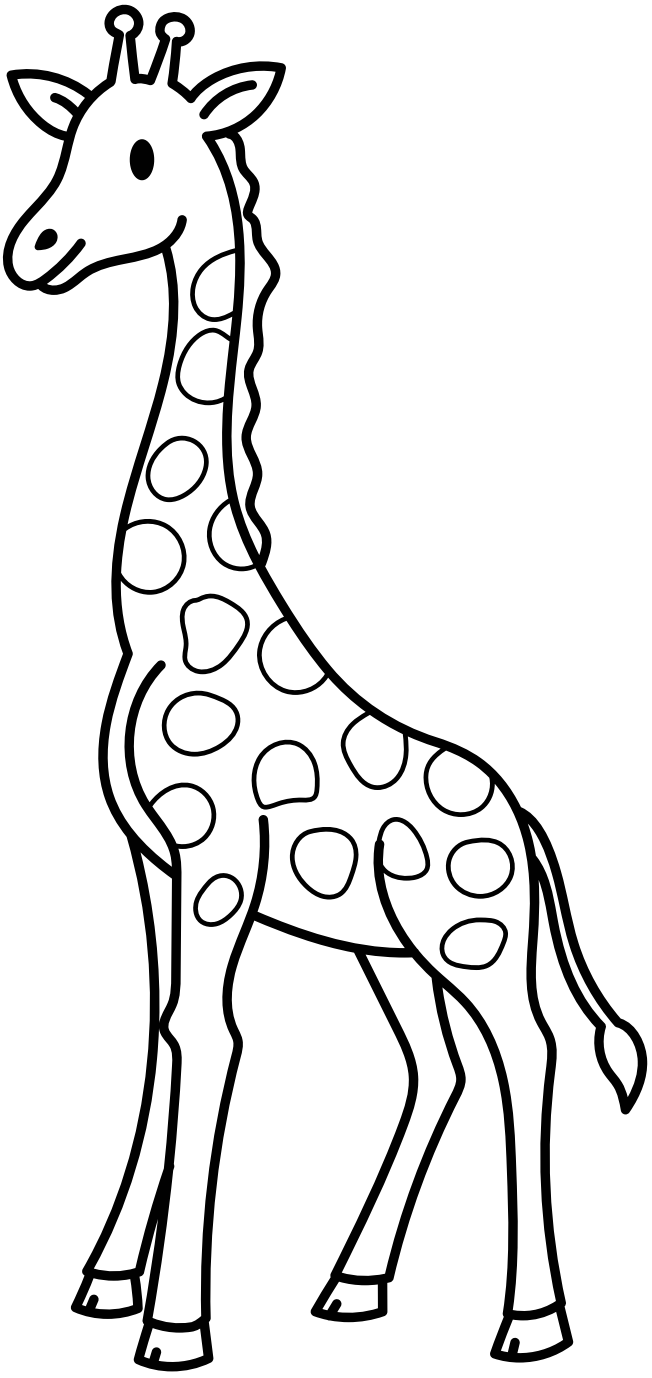
Lion

Rhino

Warthog

Gerald

Cricket



Scenes:

1- All About Gerald

2- The Jungle Dance

3- The Cricket's Advice

4- Gerald Dances

5- The Animals Return

Extension Activity:

If time allows, have students complete a directed drawing of their character. You can have students cut them out to “wear” as they read their lines.

Narrators 1, 2, & 3:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5a7anGhsRQM

Gerald (Giraffe):
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2nr587hSR7o

Lion:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dWGsch52q70

Rhino:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O1PHZqEPjoY

Warthog:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GfA02AXA2AI

Cricket:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dM0scmK9-fQ

Tips & Tricks

Assign Roles

While student choice is valuable, consider assigning roles based on each student's strengths and reading abilities. Thoughtful role assignments help ensure every student feels confident and experiences success.

Model Fluent Reading

Model what fluent reading with expression and appropriate prosody sounds like. Read sections of the script aloud, emphasizing pacing, volume, and emotion. Then provide students with multiple opportunities to practice their lines so they build confidence and perform with fluency.

Promote Independence

Encourage students to stand while reading to simulate the performance. Have them highlight or color-code their lines so they can easily follow the script and recognize when it is their turn to read.

Scene 1: All About Gerald

Narrator 1, Narrator 2, Narrator 3

Narrator 1:

Gerald was a tall giraffe
whose neck was long and slim
but his knees were awfully crooked
and his legs were rather thin.

Narrator 2:

He was very good at standing still
and munching shoots off trees,
but when he tried to run around
he buckled at the knees

Narrator 3:

Now every year in Africa
they hold the Jungle Dance,
where every single animal
turns up to skip and prance.

Narrator 1:

And this year when the day arrived
poor Gerald felt so sad,
because when it came to dancing
he was really very bad.

Scene 2: The Jungle Dance

Narrator 1, Narrator 2, Narrator 3, Lion, Rhino, Warthog, Gerald

Narrator 2:

The warthogs started waltzing,
and the rhinos rock' n' rolled.
The lions danced a tango
that was elegant and bold

Narrator 3:

The chimps all did a cha-cha
with a very Latin feel,
and eight baboons then teamed up
for a splendid Scottish reel.

Narrator 1:
Gerald swallowed bravely
as he walked toward the floor,
but the lions saw him coming,
and they soon began to roar.

Lion:
Hey, look at clumsy Gerald!

Narrator 1:
The animals all sneered.

Rhino:
Giraffes can't dance, you silly fool!

Warthog:
Oh, Gerald, you're so weird.

Narrator 2:
Gerald simply froze up.
He was rooted to the spot.

Gerald:
They're right. I'm useless.
Oh, I feel like such a clot.

Narrator 3:
So he crept off from the dance floor,
and he started walking home.
He'd never felt so sad before–
so sad and so alone.

Scene 3: The Cricket's Advice

Narrator 1, Gerald, Cricket

Narrator 1:
Then he found a little clearing,
and he looked up at the sky.

Gerald:
The moon can be so beautiful.

Narrator 1:
He whispered with a sigh.

Cricket:
Excuse me!

Narrator 1:
Coughed a cricket
who'd seen Gerald earlier on.

Cricket:

But sometimes when you're different
you just need a different song.

Listen to the swaying grass
and listen to the trees.
To me the sweetest music
Is those branches in the breeze.

So imagine that the lovely moon
Is playing just for you –
Everything makes music
If you really want it to.

Narrator 1:

With that, the cricket smiled
And picked up his violin.
Then Gerald felt his body
Do the most amazing thing.

Scene 4: Gerald Dances

Narrator 1, Narrator 2, Narrator 3, Gerald

Narrator 3:

His hooves had started shuffling,
making circles on the ground.
His neck was gently swaying,
and his tail was swishing around

Narrator 1:

He threw his legs out sideways,
and he swung them everywhere.
Then he did a backward somersault
and leapt up in the air.

Narrator 2:

Gerald felt so wonderful!
His mouth was open wide.

Gerald:

I'm dancing! Yes, I'm dancing!
I AM DANCING!

Narrator 2:

Gerald cried.

Scene 5: The Animals Return

Narrator 1, Narrator 2, Narrator 3, Gerald, Lion, Rhino, Warthog

Narrator 3:

Then, one by one, each animal
who'd been there at the dance
arrived while Gerald boogied on
and watched him, quite entranced.

Lion

It's a miracle!

Rhino:

We must be in a dream!

Warthog:

Gerald's the best dancer
That we've ever, ever seen!

Lion:

How did you learn to dance like that?
Please, Gerald, tell us how.

Narrator 1:

But Gerald simply twirled around
and finished with a bow.

Narrator 2:

Then he raised his head and looked up
at the moon and stars above.

Gerald:

We all can dance
when we find music that we love.