

Reader's Theater: Fall Festival



Cast of Characters

- Narrator
- Alexander
- Harper
- Mom

Scene 1

On a chilly Friday afternoon in October, Alexander has just gotten home from school with his best friend Harper. He walks into the living room and drops his backpack near the front door. He is disappointed and glum.

Alexander: (speaking in a flat voice) Hey mom, I'm home. Harper is with me.

Mom: Hi guys! Happy Friday! How was school today?

Alexander: (quietly) It was okay.

Mom: Just okay?

Harper: (smiling and talking loudly) Well, Mrs. Clemmons, Alexander doesn't want to tell you because he's embarrassed, but he was chosen to be the giant pumpkin at the fall festival next week.

Alexander: Come on, Harper. Why'd you have to tell her?

Harper: Because it's so cool! You should be proud, and you should definitely tell your mom about it. The giant pumpkin is pretty much the most important job at the fall festival!

Alexander: But that means I have to dress up like a pumpkin. Everyone is going to laugh at me.

Narrator: The fall festival is an annual event at Cape Hawk Elementary. Each year, a respectful and responsible student is chosen to be the festival's beloved giant pumpkin.

Mom: It sounds like congratulations are in order, Alexander! This is exciting!

Scene 2

It is the day of the fall festival, and Alexander's mom is helping him get dressed as a pumpkin. They're in their living room.

Mom: Looking good, buddy.

Alexander: (sighing) I guess so.

Mom: Being chosen as the pumpkin for the fall festival is an honor, isn't it? You are the main attraction and all eyes will be on you. And you were chosen because you're an awesome kid.

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Narrator: Harper, who helped design and make the costume, knocks on the front door. Alexander's mom opens the door and lets Harper into the living room. Harper grins when she sees Alexander in his pumpkin costume.

Harper: What's up, pumpkin? Are you ready for a fun night of taking pictures with all the little kids?

Alexander: (upset) Is there any way I can get out of being the giant pumpkin? I don't think I can do this!

Harper: Look, they're not going to let you off the hook with this. You have to be the pumpkin. The festival will be ruined if there's no giant pumpkin!

Mom: Alex, she's right. Sometimes you have to be brave and do things you don't want to do.

Harper: I'll hang out with you the whole time.

Alexander: (holding out his pinky) Pinky promise?

Harper: (connecting pinky fingers with Alexander) Pinky promise!

Mom: (grabbing her camera) Ok, let's get in the car and head over to the festival!



Scene 3

Alexander and his mom are home after the fall festival. They are sitting at the kitchen table, talking and eating ice cream.

Narrator: Alexander and Harper stuck together the whole night at the fall festival. Alexander took pictures the whole evening with little kids, his friends, and even some teachers.

Mom: It wasn't so bad, was it?

Alexander: (smiling) It was actually kind of fun.

Mom: See? When you put on a brave face, sometimes the thing you're scared about turns out to be not so scary!

Alexander: Yeah, you're right. And so was Harper. I'm glad I went as the giant pumpkin!

Mom: (holding her phone and showing a picture to Alexander) I'm proud of you for making the best of it. And I'm glad I got to take a picture with the beloved giant pumpkin at this year's fall festival. I think it's a framer!

Alexander: (laughing) Oh geez, Mom.

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Directions: Answer the questions below.

1. How can you tell that the passage is a drama?

2. What is the theme, or the central message of the drama?

- a. Never give up.
- b. It is important to face your fears.
- c. If you work hard now, you will have fun later.
- d. If a friend feels sad, it is nice to make them feel better.

What evidence helped you choose the correct answer?

3. Describe how Alexander feels in Scene 1. Circle three words.

proud

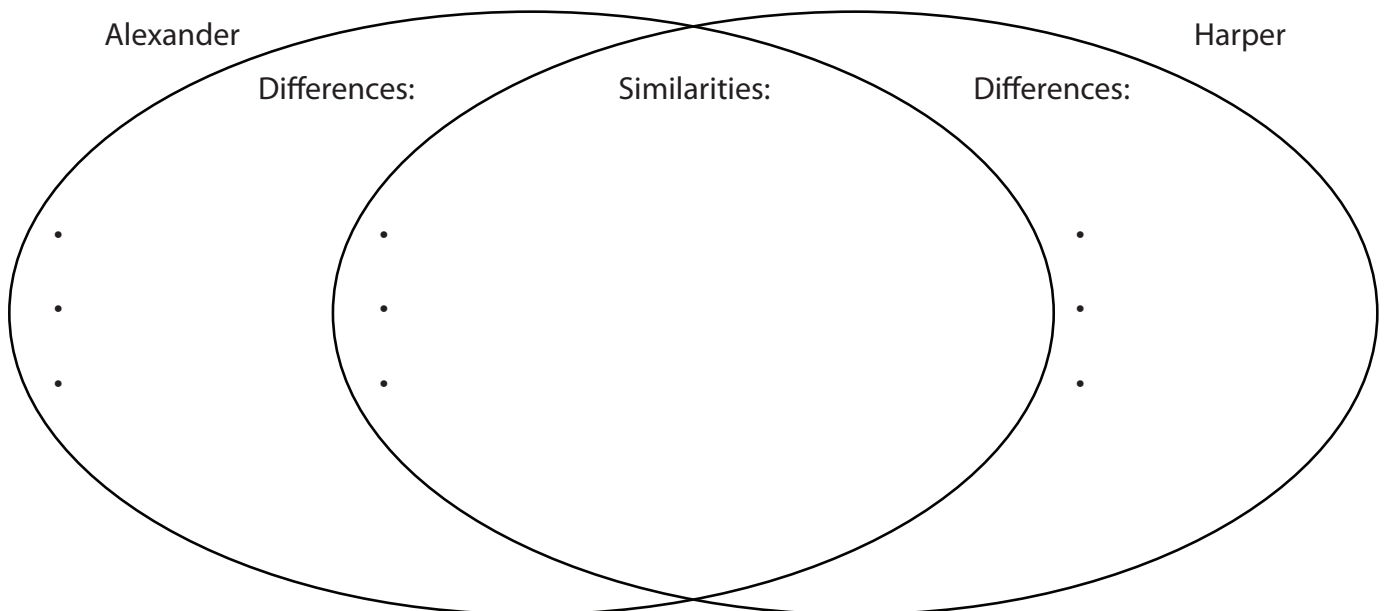
embarrassed

anxious

nervous

confident

4. What do Alexander and Harper have in common? How are they different? Complete the Venn diagram below.



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5. In Scene 1, how should the stage be set up?

6. What are two ways in which Harper supports Alexander in the story?

Draw an image to illustrate Scene 2. Write 1-3 sentences to describe your illustration.
