

A Big Mooncake for Little Star: Reader's Theater

On the opening pages of Grace Lin's **A Big Mooncake for Little Star** (Little, Brown), Mama and Little Star are making a mooncake in their kitchen. Here are some suggested ways to involve your read aloud audience from the endpaper to endpapers



PROPS:

- Oven mitts
- Printed and assembled

A Big Mooncake for Little Star: Nibble, Nibble Yum activity available in the Activities section of GraceLin.com

- Additional printout and moon cut-out from the 1st page of the *A Big Mooncake for Little Star: Nibble, Nibble Yum* activity with tape on the back
- Place to hang *Big Mooncake for Little Star: Nibble, Nibble Yum* for kids to see

SCRIPT:

- **Bold Text = Your Suggested Lines**
- *Italic Text = Audience's Lines*
- [Bracketed Text = Suggested Actions]

[BOOK: Show kitchen scene] **Little Star and her mama are in the kitchen making a mooncake. Do you want to help me make a very big mooncake? Okay, let's start by mixing some mooncake dough.** [BOOK: Put it down.]

First, pull a big mixing bowl out of the air. [Reach your arms out.] **Reach out for your bowl. Good. And put it in your lap.** [Pull your arms toward you and circle your arms at your waist parallel with the floor.] **Let's see your bowls. Perfect.**

Reach for some golden syrup and pour in your bowl. [Mime reaching and pouring.] **Pour-Pour, Pour. Can you say that with me?** *Pour-Pour, Pour.*

Now add some water. [Mime pouring.] **Add-Add, Add. Can you say this after me?** *Add-Add, Add.*

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Now, in goes a little bit of oil. [Wiggle your fingers above the bowl.]

Drizzle-Drizzle, Drizzle. [Point at them, they should now know to repeat after you.]

Drizzle-Drizzle, Drizzle.

Now sift in some flour. Your flour sifter has a crank. [Make a fist and rotate it.] **Crank-Crank, Crank.** *Crank-Crank, Crank.*

Now stir with your spoon. [Mime stirring.] **Stir-Stir, Stir.** *Stir-Stir, Stir.*

You are doing great. Now we are going to knead the dough. Make your hands into fists and press down, one hand after the other. [Mime kneading.] **Knead-Knead, Knead.** *Knead-Knead, Knead.* **Your dough looks perfect.**

[BOOK: Show title page] **Mama is putting their mooncake in the oven. Let's put on our oven mitts like Mama so we don't get burned.** [BOOK: Put down the book.] [Pretend to put on oven mitts and slide dough into an oven.]

Can you count to twelve with me while the mooncake is in the oven?
1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12. Okay, let's see if it's done.

[Pull out your *A Big Mooncake for Little Star: Nibble, Nibble Yum* assembled sheet from the oven and hang it up.] **I think it is done! Let's hang it up here in the sky to cool down.** [Pick up the book.] **Let's see how Little Star's mooncake came out.**

[BOOK: Read Spread 1]

[BOOK: Read Spread 2] **Shall we pretend to be Little Star? Okay, let's brush our teeth.** [Mime.] **Wash our face.** [Mime.] **Snuggle in.** [Hug your arm across your chest.] **And fall asleep.** [Close your eyes and breathe heavily.]

Wake up! Let's see what Little Star is going to do next. [BOOK: Read Spread 3.]

[BOOK: Read Spread 4. Point to *A Big Mooncake for Little Star: Nibble, Nibble Yum* sheet.] **It is hard to not think about such a beautiful mooncake.**

[BOOK: Read Spread 5.] **Let's tiptoe like Little Star. To tiptoe, I am going to pat my leg three times.** [Patting leg.] **Pat-Pat, Pat.** Now you try it. *Pat-Pat, Pat.*
Good tiptoeing!

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[BOOK: Read Spread 6.] **That makes me a little hungry. Can we all have a nibble of the mooncake? Try this.** [With one hand, tap your thumb to your other fingers in front of your face.] **Nibble, Nibble.** [Splay fingers wide with palm facing out.] **Yum! Nibble, Nibble. Yum!**

[BOOK: Read Spread 7.] **Run back to bed.** [Patting leg.] **Pat-Pat, Pat. Now you. Pat-Pat, Pat.**

[BOOK: Read Spread 8.] **Do you think the mooncake is still there?**

[BOOK: Read Spread 9.] **Let's take another nibble.** [With hand gestures.] **Nibble, Nibble. Yum! Now you. Nibble, Nibble. Yum!**

[BOOK: Read Spread 10.] **Fly back to bed.** [Patting leg.] **Pat-Pat, Pat. Now you. Pat-Pat, Pat.**

[BOOK: Read Spread 11.] **Let's take another nibble.** [With hand gestures.] **Nibble, Nibble. Yum! Now you. Nibble, Nibble. Yum!**

[BOOK: Read Spread 12.] **Another night, another nibble!** [With hand gestures.] **Nibble, Nibble. Yum! Now you. Nibble, Nibble. Yum!**

[BOOK: Read Spread 13. Put down book.] **I cannot help it, I am going to eat this Mooncake. If you want to taste it with me, let's keep chanting... Nibble, Nibble. Yum!** [Pulling from the bottom, peel every layer of the *A Big Mooncake for Little Star: Nibble, Nibble Yum* sheet and pretend to eat it, keeping the scraps in your fist.]

[BOOK: Read Spread 14.] **Can you say, "Uh-oh?"** *Uh-oh!*

[BOOK: Read Spreads 15-16.]

[BOOK: Show Final Spread.] **They are back in the kitchen! Can we make some more dough fast to get the moon back in the sky?** [BOOK: Put the book down.] **Okay! Repeat after me.**

[Say and do rapidly.]

Bowl-bowl. Bowl. [Circle your arms.] *Bowl-bowl. Bowl.*

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Pour-Pour, Pour. [Mime reaching and pouring.] *Pour-Pour, Pour.*

Add-Add, Add. [Mime reaching and pouring.] *Add-Add, Add.*

Drizzle-Drizzle, Drizzle. [Wiggle your fingers above the bowl.] *Drizzle-Drizzle, Drizzle.*

Crank-Crank, Crank. [Make a fist and rotate it.] *Crank-Crank, Crank.*

Stir-Stir, Stir. [Mime stirring.] *Stir-Stir, Stir.*

Knead-Knead, Knead. [Press your fists down.] *Knead-Knead, Knead.*

Mitts-Mitts, Mitts. [Put on your oven mitts.] *Mitts-Mitts, Mitts.*

Oven-Oven, Oven. *Oven-Oven, Oven.*

Count-count, count. *Count-count, count.*

Let's count 1-12 together. 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12...

I think the new mooncake is ready... It is a new Big Mooncake for Little Star! [Pull out the printout and moon cut-out of 1st page of the *A Big Mooncake for Little Star: Nibble, Nibble Yum* sheet. Tape it to the remaining black circle of the moon.]