

Dear Teacher:

Thank you for trying *Read-Along Radio Dramas*. I think you will agree that radio drama has a place in the classroom. Teachers of on-grade level and remedial students find these units especially helpful in developing the motivation necessary for students to improve their reading, listening and visualization skills. All students, including gifted students, can gain valuable language experience writing and producing their own audio dramas.

Permission is hereby granted for home-school or classroom teachers to use these materials with their students. Any other use is strictly forbidden and may be considered infringement of copyright laws.

Suggested procedure for using "The Perfect Touch" *Read-Along Radio Drama*:

1. After you have downloaded all the materials to your computer. Print the print materials. Adobe Acrobat Reader must be installed on your computer to view and print these files. You may download Acrobat Reader for FREE from: [http://www.adobe.com/.](http://www.adobe.com/))
2. Hole-punch printed materials and place in a three-ring binder for convenient access.
3. Listen to the recording of "The Perfect Touch" and read along with the script. For the mp3 recording you may use your computer equipped with audio software and hardware to play the mp3 file OR make a CD of the File and play it on a CD player with mp3 file playing capability.
2. Look through the teaching suggestions section to get ideas for using the unit.
3. Make copies of the word-for-word script for your students.
4. Look through the student materials. Select and duplicate activity sheets appropriate for your students.
5. Introduce the unit. Give the students some information about the author (see the Specific Teaching Suggestions section). Listening to the tape ahead of time will give you some effective ways to introduce the story to your specific students. ("The Perfect Touch" is based upon a true incident in the life of the author, Eli Glass.)
6. Inform the students that they will be reading along as they listen to the recording. Insist that they do so. (Especially those students who watch a great deal of TV, need something to watch. Soon they will discover that the pictures are in the words.)
7. Give each student a copy of the script.
8. Play the recording.
9. Observe the students as they read along. If a student loses his/her place in the script, help the student find the place.)
10. Unless the students have extreme difficulty understanding spoken English, let the tape play all the way through without stopping. Stop and review only when several students seem to be confused. (ESL students may need this help.)
11. Follow up with appropriate activities: summarizing, sequencing, writing, discussing issues, etc.
12. Students may want to try their hand at writing some dialogue scenes, performing them, and adding background music and sound effects. More information is available on our web site to help with this kind of activity. Go to:

<http://www.balancepublishing.com/freestuff.htm>

Best wishes for a great school year!

Don Kisner  
Teacher, Author, Publisher

# Catalog of Materials

**Radio Drama Related Classroom Materials  
since 1984**

**Read-Along Kits  
Writing and Producing in the Classroom  
Classroom Production Kits  
Read-Aloud Scripts  
CDs**

*(prices valid through June 2008)*

**Balance Publishing Company  
1346 South Quality Avenue  
Sanger, California 93657  
Phone/FAX 559-876-1577  
<http://www.balancepublishing.com>  
<http://www.bpcbooks.com>  
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# Read-Along Radio Dramas

**Two Formats:** Deluxe Binder Kits, Basic Kits

## Key Benefits:

- High interest promotes excitement and enthusiasm in class.
- May be used with all ability levels.
- The whole class reads the story, so all students are able to participate in related activities.
- Improves comprehension.
- Improves listening skills.
- Increases reading and listening vocabulary.
- Develops an intuitive sense for the sound patterns of the English language.
- Develops reading rate appropriate to the material being read.
- Improves visualization skills.
- Develops reading confidence.
- Appropriate for all levels (6 grade through adult).

## Read-Along Radio Dramas are used:

- As Models for Writing Plays — Many teachers use the tapes and scripts as models to help students write and produce their own classroom audio productions (see Theatre of the Mind).
- In Learning Stations — In addition to whole-class read-along, the kits may be used for individual or small group activities .
- As Emergency Lesson Plans — Leave them for substitute teachers and feel confident that students are engaged in appropriate activities when you can't be in class.
- In Language Arts Classes.
- In Drama Classes.
- In Reading Classes.
- In Reader's Theatre Productions.
- In ESL classes.
- In Special Education Classes.

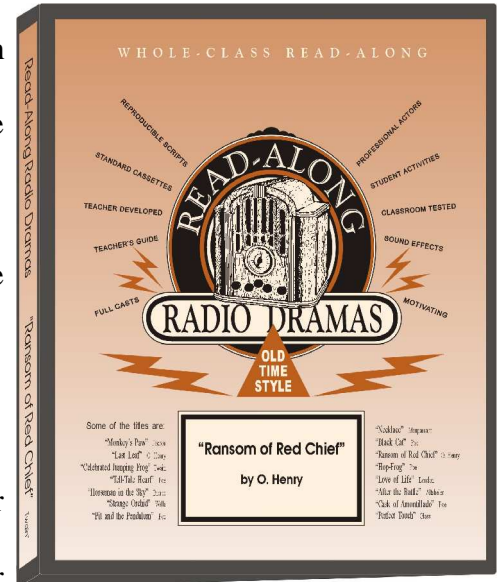
## When used as whole-class read-along:

- Each student (the whole class) has a copy of the word-for-word script.
- The teacher plays the cassette of the radio play.
- Using the script, the students read along (silently) as they listen to the voices of talented actors and image enhancing sound effects.
- The read-along session is followed by appropriate activities designed to enhance comprehension and motivate writing and discussion.
- A read-along session can easily extend the students' learning activities to: other stories, other authors, research projects, play writing projects, radio play production projects, reader's theatre projects, etc. The sky is the limit.

# Deluxe Binder *Read-Along Radio Drama Kits*

## Deluxe Kits include:

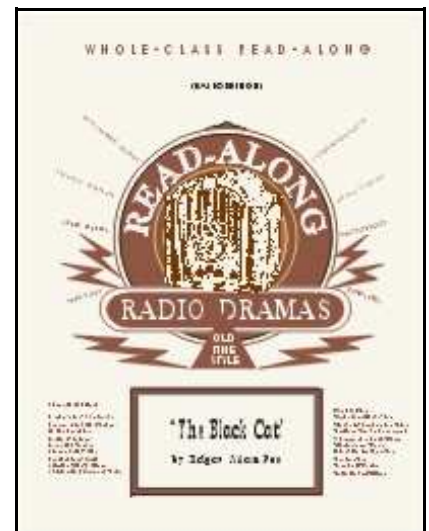
- A recording of the radio play with full cast and sound effects (except when identified as a reading). Readings are one voice, no sound effects.
- A word-for-word read-along script. Duplicate and maintain a classroom set.
- Ready-to-use student activity sheets. Includes at least the following:
  - Cloze Activity.
  - Sequence Activity.
  - Vocabulary Activity (one or more, depending upon the difficulty of the vocabulary used in the story).
  - Literal Comprehension Activity.
  - Listening Skills Activity.
  - Crossword Puzzle (one or more).
  - A list of Writing/Discussion Questions.
  - A literary terms study packet. Duplicate these pages for students to keep in their binders.
- Teaching suggestions for the specific title. Includes answer keys for the student activity sheets.
- Strategies for teaching read-along in the secondary classroom.
- An annotated script of the original story. With questions comparing the original with the adaptation (included when important changes are made in adapting the story).
- A sample lesson plan.
- Using Read-Along Radio Dramas.
- Materials are packaged in a three-ring binder with divider tabs and descriptive cover sheets.



# Basic *Read-Along Radio Drama Kits*

## Basic Kits include:

- A CD recording of the radio play with full cast and sound effects (except when identified as a reading—readings are one voice, no sound effects).
- A word-for-word read-along script.
- Duplication rights to make and maintain a classroom set of the printed materials.
- A set of questions for thought, discussion and writing.
- Answer key for questions.
- A word list for vocabulary study.
- Kits are unbound. Printed materials are 3-hole punched, ready for insertion into your 3-ring binder (binder not included).



# *Theatre of the Mind*

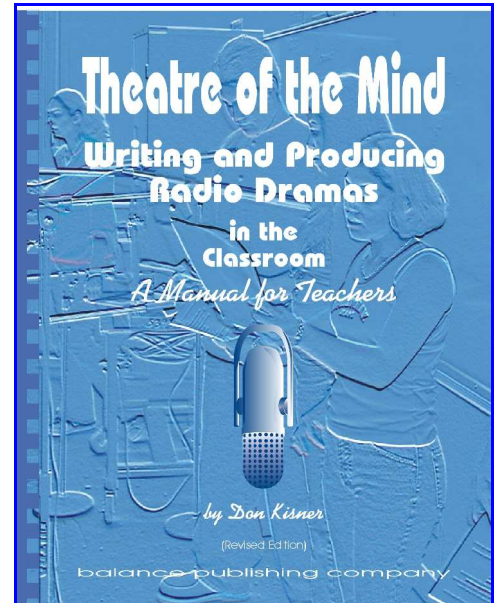
*Writing and Producing Radio Drama in the Classroom by Don Kisner*  
(revised in August 2004)

## **Key Benefits.**

- Provides a venue for students to develop and practice ALL their language skills.
- Bridges the gap between the media of the eye (television/film) and the media of the mind (reading/writing).
- Encourages and develops internal visualization skills.
- Motivates students to become involved in the subject matter.
- Helps students rediscover the need to create.

## **Contents.**

- Recorded sound effects (on CD) for “The Last Leaf” scripts.
- Unit plans for a variety projects.
- Five production scripts:
  - “The Last Leaf” (Level I, Level II and Level III from the classroom production kit of the same title. These three scripts are keyed to the included sound effects CD.)
  - “Planet RT-1” an original script.
  - “Pandora’s Box” adapted from the Greek myth.
- Reproduction rights for scripts, information sheets, and student worksheets.
- Detailed instructions for producing radio dramas using:
  - Uncomplicated equipment available in most schools, OR.
  - Full (professional) equipment and procedures.
- Includes a section on digital recording and editing of sound files! Record and edit on your computer.
- A data CD containing .pdf files of:
  - All Scripts
  - Student Information Sheets
  - Student Worksheets
  - Unit Plans
  - Adobe Acrobat Reader for viewing and printing .pdf files.
  - Audacity (A free software program for recording and editing sound files on a computer.)



# Classroom Production Kits

## Kits Contain:

- **Three versions of the script.**

- **Level I (least challenging).**

The Level I version is technically the least challenging. This version of the script is intended for producing the play with a limited number of background effects only. The background effects used may include such things as music, wind, rain, crickets, etc. These effects do not require precise synchronization with the dialog. Some Level I versions have altered vocabulary for easier reading, but because only the most unusual or difficult words have been eliminated, it may still be necessary for some students to work on pronunciation and definitions. This is as it should be, for an activity without challenge has little purpose in the classroom.

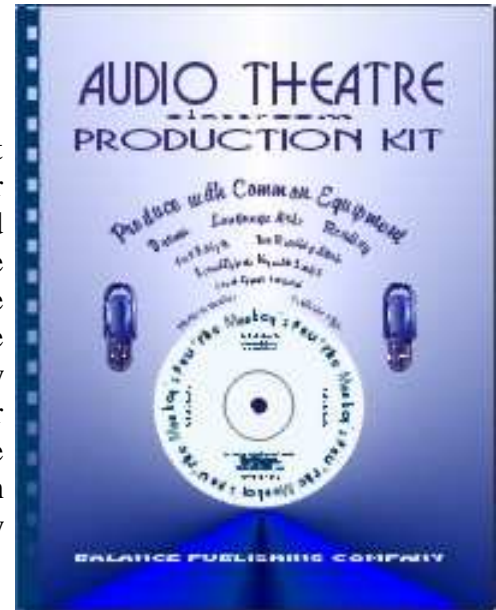
- **Level II (more challenging).**

This version is slightly more challenging than Level I; it is intended for producing the play with limited equipment (2 boom boxes) and most include some manual sound effects (SFX). The recorded SFX tracks used in Level II scripts are mainly background effects that do not require precise synchronization with the dialog.

- **Level III (challenging technical requirements).**

The technical needs of Level III scripts require precise synchronization between the recorded SFX and dialog. The intended use of this version is creating a recording of the play. Effects requiring a high degree of teamwork, such as footstep and door sequences, are included. Manual SFX are also included. Level III versions may require as many as three CD players. Level III scripts may also be presented for an audience as a radio drama stage presentation.

- **Sound Effects (SFX) CD** containing background and hard to find sound effects keyed to the scripts. (Student technicians operate CD players as indicated in the script.) The included SFX CD contains tracks (keyed to the scripts) that are intended to be played at appropriate times as the actors read their lines. The CD contains all the recorded SFX mentioned in the script. Tracks are of appropriate lengths for script requirements. Tracks used in the script are listed at the beginning of the script.
- **Rights to make up to two additional copies of the Sound Effects CD.** (All scripts require 2 or 3 CD players (boom-boxes).
- **Detailed instructions for:**
  - Informal classroom use.
  - Producing the play for an audience.
  - Recording the play.



Comb Bound Book Version

## **Drama/Theatre Classes Use Production Kits:**

- To stage an audio theatre production for an audience.
- As classroom exercises to teach acting, voice and performance skills.
- To record a production and broadcast it over the school public address system.
- To Promote collaborative skills.
- To develop technical skills.

## **Reading/Language Arts Classes Use Production Kits To:**

- Motivate and develop oral reading skills.
- Develop vocabulary and comprehension.
- Teach listening, speaking, and thinking skills.
- Develop group process skills.
- Motivate reluctant learners.

## **Classroom Production Titles Available**

- “Toltec’s Tomb” by Roger Rittner
  - Cast: (Narrator, 5 m, 1 f). Length: 21 minutes
  - Brief Summary: A group of archeologists are excavating an ancient Toltec ruin deep in the jungles of Mexico. There is a myth that states: “He who seeks the treasure of the Toltecs, has death at his shoulder.”
- “The Necklace” by Guy de Maupassant
  - Cast: (Narrator, 1 m, 2 f, 1 m or f). Length: 17 minutes.
  - Brief Summary: A young woman borrows a diamond necklace for an important party. She loses the necklace and sets in motion events that alter the rest of her life.
- “The Monkey's Paw” by W. W. Jacobs
  - Cast: (Narrator, 4 m, 1 f). Length: 18 minutes.
  - Brief Summary: The story of a mummified, monkey's paw that can bring three people three wishes each. The paw carries a curse, causing the wishes to always be answered with disastrous results.
- “The Perfect Touch” by Eli Glass
  - Cast: (Narrator, 2 m, 1 f). Length: 16 minutes.
  - Brief Summary: David and Rob are out driving in the hills when they discover a “haunted” house and explore it. On the way home, Rob reveals a plan to take his girlfriend up to the house. The ending has an unexpected twist.
- “The Last Leaf” by O. Henry
  - Cast: (Narrator, 2 m, 2 f). Length: 15 minutes.
  - Brief Summary: O. Henry's famous story of love and self-sacrifice. Johnsy, a young woman living in New York's Greenwich Village during the late 1800's becomes ill with pneumonia and convinces herself that she will die when the last leaf falls off an ancient ivy vine outside her window.
- “High Moon” by Jerry Stearns
  - Cast: (Announcer, 4 m, 1 f, 1 either) Length: 15 minutes.
  - Brief Summary: Brief Summary: Marvin the Magician is challenged to a duel. He agrees to meet his challenger at high moon on a hill outside town. A satirical science fiction fantasy. “High Moon” is an imaginative view of the classic film High Noon set in a fantasy future. Great fun for students!

- “Cyber Bob and the Silicon Kid” by Brian Price and Jerry Stearns
  - Cast:11 characters: 7 male, 1 female, 3 either (by changing names, 3 males may be cast as female) Length: 18 minutes.
  - Brief Summary: A 12 year old boy suspects he may be an android. He hires a computer hacker to find out.

## *Read-Aloud Scripts*

### **Read-Aloud Scripts are used to:**

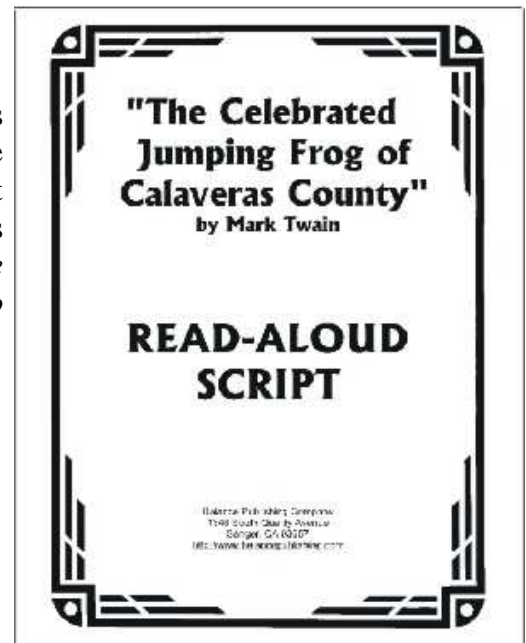
- Improve oral language skills.
- Develop vocabulary and pronunciation skills.
- Develop a love of reading.
- Motivate ESL and reluctant readers.
- Improve public speaking skills.
- Develop an appreciation for good literature.

**Read-Aloud Scripts are Printed on 8 1/2 by 11 inch sheets.** Scripts are three-hole punched ready to be inserted into your three-ring binder.

**Read-Aloud Scripts are in play script format.**

**Read-Aloud Scripts include a set of Discussion/Writing Questions for story analysis, with possible answers (except where indicated on the order blank).**

**Please Note:** Most of our Read-Aloud Scripts are altered versions of our *Read-Along Radio Drama* scripts. They MAY NOT be word-for-word with our radio drama recordings and are not intended to be used for read-along. If you plan to use the scripts for read-along activities we suggest you consider our *Deluxe Binder Read-Along Radio Drama* kits, *Basic Read-Along Radio Drama* kits OR *Deluxe CD Read-Along Radio Drama* kits.





# CDs for Listening



The recordings are with full cast and sound effects except when identified as a reading. Premium disks are used to make duplicates. The CD is enclosed in a white paper envelope. These are the same recordings as those used in *Read-Along Radio Drama* kits. Recordings are intended for: listening for pleasure, whole class listening activities, developing listening skills, developing a love for literature, motivating students to write and produce their own plays, and as a basis for writing/discussing.

## Story Descriptions

*of Available Titles*

The following titles are available in the following formats: *Read-Along Radio Dramas (Deluxe Binder Kits, Basic Kits)*, *Read-Aloud Script only*, *CDs for Listening*. Not all titles are available as Classroom Production kits (see pages 6 and 7 for available Production Kit titles).

“**THE OUTCASTS OF POKER FLAT**” by Bret Harte, adapted to radio by Carol Adorjan and Yuri Rasovsky — Forrest Tucker stars in Bret Harte’s tragic tale. The story relates the fate of a group of people banished by a vigilante committee from the “Gold Rush” town of Poker Flat, California. The “Outcasts” have horses but no food. The group of “undesirables” are befriended by an innocent young couple who offer to share their food with the “Outcasts.” This unlikely combination of characters must survive a winter storm in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

“**ANTIETAM: THE LOST COMMAND**” by Lee Davis — A Civil War adventure story set in the days leading up to the bloodiest battle of the American Civil War. Written from the Confederate perspective.

“**CELEBRATED JUMPING FROG OF CALAVERAS COUNTY**” by Mark Twain, adapted by Cathleen Chamberlain — Mark Twain’s wonderful story that made the gold mining camp of Angel’s Camp, California, famous for its frog jumping contest.

“**THE CASK OF AMONTILLADO**” by Edgar Allan Poe, adapted by Brenta Blevins — Poe’s famous story of revenge. Because of an insult, a man uses brick and mortar to seal his live enemy into a tomb in the catacombs beneath his ancestral villa. The story is set in Italy during the early 18th century.

“**THE MONKEY’S PAW**” by W. W. Jacobs, adapted by Don Kisner and Dennis Rhodus — The story of a mummified, monkey’s paw that can bring three people three wishes each. The paw carries a curse, causing the wishes to always be answered with disastrous results.

- “THE BLACK CAT”** by Edgar Allan Poe, adapted by Dennis Rhodus — The account, in diary form, details a man’s crimes of passion. It is the story of a man gone mad. He accidentally walls his pet cat up inside his murdered wife’s makeshift tomb.
- “HOP-FROG”** by Edgar Allan Poe, adapted by Dottie Havlik — The story depicts a king and his court as self-indulgent buffoons. Hop-Frog, a grotesquely deformed dwarf, and his friend were captured and forced to serve the king. The king’s cruelty drives Hop-Frog to revenge.
- “THE NECKLACE”** by Guy de Maupassant, adapted by Dennis Rhodus — A young woman borrows a diamond necklace for an important party. She loses the necklace and sets in motion events that alter the rest of her life.
- “LOVE OF LIFE”** by Jack London (a reading with sound effects) [read by Peter Nazaretian] — Inside the arctic circle, an injured man is deserted by his partner. This is London’s classic tale of man’s will to survive even when all the odds are against him.
- “RIP VAN WINKLE”** by Washington Irving (reading with sound effects), rewritten by Don Kisner [read by Tara Sitsler] — This is Washington Irving’s famous tale of a good-natured but hen-pecked man who ventures deep into the Kaatskill Mountains and goes to sleep before the Revolutionary War and wakes up twenty years later.
- “A HORSEMAN IN THE SKY”** by Ambrose Bierce (mostly one voice with sound effects) — Bierce’s tragic story of a father and son who end up on opposite sides during the Civil War.
- “CHICKAMAUGA”** by Ambrose Bierce (a reading) [Peter Nazaretian reads this story of the Civil War.] The story presents the horrors of war as seen through the eyes of a deaf-mute child.
- “THE TELL-TALE HEART”** by Edgar Allan Poe — Poe’s famous story of a man obsessed with the “Evil Eye” of the old man for whom he works.
- “THE RANSOM OF RED CHIEF”** by O. Henry, adapted by Don Kisner and Rick McVey — Two down-on-their-luck con men, kidnap the son of a prosperous banker in a small town. The boy loves the adventure and gives his kidnappers so much trouble that they end up paying the boy’s father to take him back.
- “THE PIT AND THE PENDULUM”** by Edgar Allan Poe (a reading) [read by Peter Nazaretian] — This is Poe’s classic story of the horrors of the inquisition. A man struggles to survive a razor sharp pendulum and hordes of rats.
- “AFTER THE BATTLE”** by Joseph Altsheler, adapted by Dennis Rhodus and Don Kisner — During the Civil War, two enemy soldiers meet on a battlefield. The Confederate soldier decides to help the wounded Union soldier.
- “HEAT LIGHTNING”** by Robert F. Carroll, adapted by Don Kisner — Deep into a raging summer storm, a young woman runs out of gas and starts out, on foot, in search of help. She blunders into a situation full of terror and suspense.
- “THE LAST LEAF”** by O. Henry, adapted by Don Kisner — O. Henry’s famous story of love and self-sacrifice. Johnsy, a young woman living in New York’s Greenwich Village during the late 1800’s becomes ill with pneumonia and convinces herself that she will die “When the last leaf falls off an ancient ivy vine outside her window.”
- “THE PERFECT TOUCH”** by Eli Glass — David and Rob are out driving in the hills when they discover a “haunted” house and explore it. On the way home, Rob reveals a plan to take his girlfriend up to the house. The ending has an unexpected twist.
- “HEADFIRST”** by Dennis Rhodus — A young man pits his brain against a gang of boys (from a rival high school football team) determined to “get” him, his girlfriend, and a member of the home team.
- “TRAFFIC INCIDENT”** an original radio play by Roger Rittner — A newspaper reporter and her fiancé are almost forced off the road by a drunk driver. They watch the drunk driver’s car run off the road into a deep canyon. When the police come and search the canyon, no car is found. The reporter investigates the accident, uncovering conflicting information. A ghost story with a twist.
- “THE MATEMAKER”** by Dennis Rhodus — A matchmaking computer makes a match. He is white and she is black. A positive view of interracial relations.

**“THE LADY OR THE TIGER”** by Frank Stockton (a reading) [read by Peter Nazaretian] — This is Stockton’s classic story of trial by choice. A young man must decide between two doors. Behind one is a beautiful lady and behind the other is a ferocious tiger.

**“THE LONG NIGHT”** by Lowell D. Blanton, adapted by Don Kisner — An air traffic controller finds himself trying to bring an inexperienced pilot and his young son down through a thick cloud layer.

**“THE STRANGE ORCHID”** by H. G. Wells, adapted by Don Kisner — An orchid collector purchases some new bulbs for his collection. The bulbs are from a remote area of an unexplored jungle. After they are planted, one of the bulbs develops into a blood-sucking monster.

**The following Titles are Available as Read-Aloud Scripts Only.**

**“OF MAGIC AND MEPHISTOPHELES”** by Roger Rittner — An untalented magician sells his soul for amazing powers.

**“PERILS AT SEA”** by Susan Manning — Murder on the high seas.

**“THE NEW YEARS EVE MURDERS”** by Susan Manning — Murder mars a New Years Eve party.

**“TOLTEC’S TOMB”** by Roger Rittner — A group of archeologists are excavating an ancient Toltec ruin deep in the jungles of Mexico. There is a myth that states: "He who seeks the treasure of the Toltecs, has death at his shoulder."  
(This title is also available as a Classroom Production Kit.)

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<b>SUB TOTAL PAGE 1</b>																																																																																																																																																																																	

(prices valid through June 2008)

TITLES (PAGE 2)	CDs for Listening			Q	READ ALoud SCRIPT	TOTAL
	Length	Q	CD			
"Outcasts of Poker Flat" Harte	51 min		\$12.98		\$15.00	
"Ransom of Red Chief" O. Henry	28 min		\$11.98		\$15.00	
"Celebrated Jumping Frog" Twain	28 min		\$11.98		\$15.00	
"Rip Van Winkle" Irving	37 min		\$12.98		N/A	
"Necklace" Guy de Maupassant	22 min		\$10.98		\$15.00	
"Perfect Touch" Glass	20min		\$10.98		\$15.00	
"Monkey's Paw" Jacobs	23 min		\$10.98		\$15.00	
"Last Leaf" O. Henry	20 min		\$10.98		\$15.00	
"Toltec's Tomb" Rittner	N/A		N/A		\$15.00	
"High Moon" Stearns	N/A		N/A		No Quest \$15.00	
"Cyber Bob & Silicon Kid" Stearns/Price	N/A		N/A		No Quest \$15.00	
"Perils at Sea" Manning	N/A		N/A		No Quest \$15.00	
"New Years Eve Murders" Manning	N/A		N/A		No Quest \$15.00	
"Of Magic and Mephistophles" Rittner	N/A		N/A		\$15.00	
"Tell-Tale Heart" Poe	17 min		\$10.98		N/A	
"Black Cat" Poe	34 min		\$10.98		\$15.00	
"Cask of Amontillado" Poe	30 min		\$11.98		\$15.00	
"Hop-Frog" Poe	28 min		\$11.98		\$15.00	
"Pit and the Pendulum" Poe (a reading)	39 min		\$10.98		N/A	
"A Horseman in the Sky" Bierce	15 min		\$10.98		N/A	
"Chickamauga" Bierce	15 min		\$10.98		N/A	
"Antietam: Lost Command" Davis (Shipped in plastic box)	56 min		\$15.99		\$15.00	
"After the Battle" Altsheiler	20 min		\$10.98		\$15.00	
"Long Night" Blanton	20 min		\$10.98		\$15.00	
"Matemaker" Rhodus	35 min		\$10.98		\$15.00	
"Traffic Incident" Rittner	26 min		\$10.98		\$15.00	
"Headfirst" Rhodus	33 min		\$10.98		\$15.00	
"Heat Lightning" Carroll	17 min		\$10.98		\$15.00	
"Love of Life" London (reading w/SFX)	48 min		\$10.98		N/A	
"Lady or the Tiger" Stockton (a reading)	15 min		\$10.98		N/A	
"Strange Orchid" Wells	25 min		\$10.98		\$15.00	
Tread Softly Bill Lizard by Roger Gregg (Shipped in plastic box)	2 CDs		\$24.95		N/A	
"The Curse of Dracula" by Lee Davis (Shipped in plastic box)	55 min		\$12.99		N/A	
<b>Production Kits</b>		Q	1 SFX CD Only	Q	Comb Bound Book	
Comb Bound Book includes 1 SFX CD plus duplication rights to make two copies.	"Necklace" Guy de Maupassant		\$7.00		\$29.95	
	"Perfect Touch" Glass		\$7.00		\$29.95	
	"Monkey's Paw" Jacobs		\$7.00		\$29.95	
	"Last Leaf" O. Henry		\$7.00		\$29.95	
	"Toltec's Tomb" Rittner		\$7.00		\$29.95	
	"High Moon" Stearns		\$7.00		\$29.95	
	"Cyber Bob & Silicon Kid" Stearns/Price		\$7.00		\$29.95	
<b>COMMENTS:</b>	<b>SUB TOTAL PAGE 2</b>					
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	<b>Shipping/Handling</b>					
	<b>California residents include Applicable Sales Tax</b>					
	<b>ORDER TOTAL</b>					

(prices valid through June 2008)

# Ordering Information

**Order by quantity, title, format and price.**  
(Formats are: **Deluxe Binder Kit, Basic Kit, Deluxe CD Kit, Comb Bound Production Kit, CD Production Kit, Cassette, CD, Read-Aloud Script, Book.**)

## Shipping/handling Charges

Under \$25.00 add \$5.00  
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**Secure Online Credit Card orders may be made on our websites, as well.** You may use your credit card to purchase our products online at: <http://www.bpcbooks.com> \* or <http://www.balancepublishing.com>. Other websites (amazon.com, abebooks.com, valorebooks.com and biblio.com) carry Deluxe Binder Read-Along kits, Theatre of the Mind, and Audio Theatre Classroom Production kits.

*\* Some products may not be available at bpcbooks.com*

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# Catalog of Materials

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since 1984

Read-Along Kits  
Writing and Producing in the Classroom  
Classroom Production Kits  
Read-Aloud Scripts  
CDs

*(prices valid through June 2009)*

Balance Publishing Company  
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<http://www.bpcbooks.com>  
[service@balancepublishing.com](mailto:service@balancepublishing.com)



# Read-Along Radio Dramas

## Two Formats: Deluxe Binder Kits, Basic Kits

### Key Benefits:

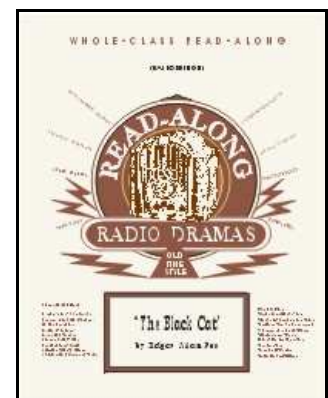
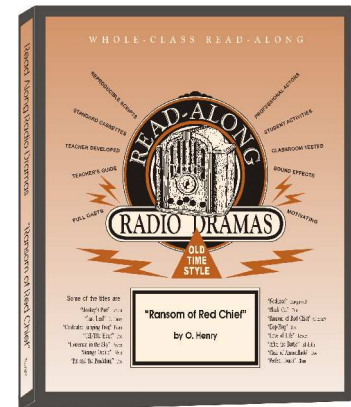
- High interest promotes excitement and enthusiasm in class.
- May be used with all ability levels.
- The whole class reads the story, so all students are able to participate in related activities.
- Improves comprehension.
- Improves listening skills.
- Increases reading and listening vocabulary.
- Improves visualization skills.
- Develops reading confidence.
- Develops an intuitive sense for the sound patterns of the English language.
- Develops reading rate appropriate to the material being read.
- Appropriate for all levels (6 grade through adult).

### Read-Along Radio Dramas are used:

- As Models for Writing Plays — Many teachers use the tapes and scripts as models to help students write and produce their own classroom plays.
- In Language Arts Classes.
- In Drama Classes.
- In Reading Classes.
- In Reader's Theatre Productions.
- In ESL classes.
- In Special Education Classes.
- In Learning Stations — In addition to whole-class read-along, the kits may be used for individual or small group activities.
- As Emergency Lesson Plans — Leave them for substitute teachers and feel confident that students are engaged in appropriate activities when you can't be in class.

### When used as whole-class read-along:

- Each student (the whole class) has a copy of the word-for-word script.
- The teacher plays the cassette of the radio play.
- Using the script, the students read along (silently) as they listen to the voices of talented actors and image enhancing sound effects.
- The read-along session is followed by appropriate activities designed to enhance comprehension and motivate writing and discussion.
- A read-along session can easily extend the students' learning activities to: other stories, other authors, research projects, play writing projects, radio play production projects, reader's theatre projects, etc. The sky is the limit.

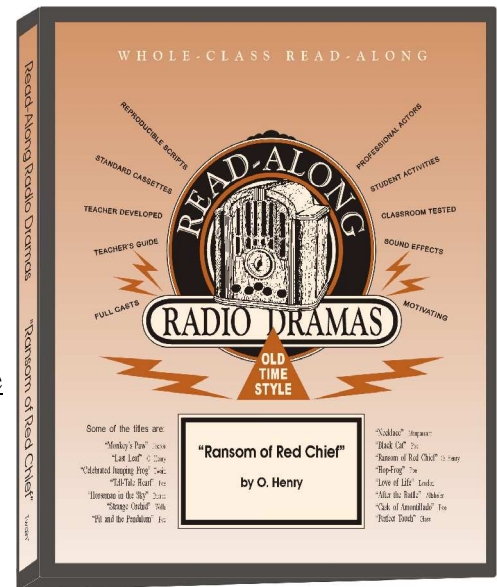


# Deluxe Read-Along Radio Drama Kits

(available in a 3-Ring Binder or in a CD Package –CD Package includes all materials on 2 CDs)

## Deluxe Kits include:

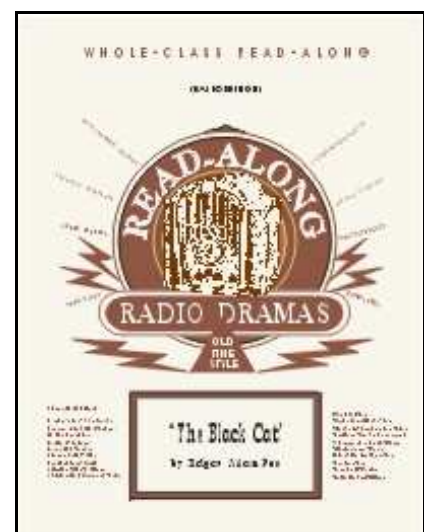
- A recording of the radio play with full cast and sound effects (except when identified as a reading). Readings are one voice, no sound effects.
- A word-for-word read-along script. Duplicate and maintain a classroom set.
- Ready-to-use student activity sheets. Includes at least the following:
  - Cloze Activity.
  - Sequence Activity.
  - Vocabulary Activity (one or more, depending upon the difficulty of the vocabulary used in the story).
  - Literal Comprehension Activity.
  - Listening Skills Activity.
  - Crossword Puzzle (one or more).
  - A list of Writing/Discussion Questions.
  - A literary terms study packet. Duplicate these pages for students to keep in their binders.
- Teaching suggestions for the specific title. Includes answer keys for the student activity sheets.
- Strategies for teaching read-along in the secondary classroom.
- An annotated script of the original story. With questions comparing the original with the adaptation (included when important changes are made in adapting the story).
- A sample lesson plan.
- Using Read-Along Radio Dramas.
- Materials are packaged in a three-ring binder with divider tabs and descriptive cover sheets.



# Basic Read-Along Radio Drama Kits

## Basic Kits include:

- A CD recording of the radio play with full cast and sound effects (except when identified as a reading—readings are one voice, no sound effects).
- A word-for-word read-along script.
- Duplication rights to make and maintain a classroom set of the printed materials.
- A set of questions for thought, discussion and writing.
- Answer key for questions.
- A word list for vocabulary study.
- Kits are unbound. Printed materials are 3-hole punched, ready for insertion into your 3-ring binder (binder not included).



# *Theatre of the Mind*

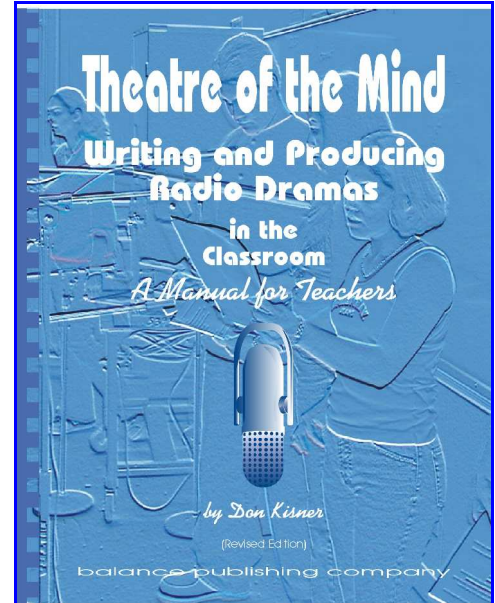
*Writing and Producing Radio Drama in the Classroom by Don Kisner*  
(revised in August 2004)

## **Key Benefits.**

- Provides a venue for students to develop and practice ALL their language skills.
- Bridges the gap between the media of the eye (television/film) and the media of the mind (reading/writing).
- Encourages and develops internal visualization skills.
- Motivates students to become involved in the subject matter.
- Helps students rediscover the need to create.

## **Contents.**

- Recorded sound effects (on CD) for “The Last Leaf” scripts.
- Unit plans for a variety projects.
- Five production scripts:
  - “The Last Leaf” (Level I, Level II and Level III from the classroom production kit of the same title. These three scripts are keyed to the included sound effects CD.)
  - “Planet RT-1” an original script.
  - “Pandora’s Box” adapted from the Greek myth.
- Reproduction rights for scripts, information sheets, and student worksheets.
- Detailed instructions for producing radio dramas using:
  - Uncomplicated equipment available in most schools, OR.
  - Full (professional) equipment and procedures.
- Includes a section on digital recording and editing of sound files! Record and edit on your computer.
- A data CD containing .pdf files of:
  - All Scripts
  - Student Information Sheets
  - Student Worksheets
  - Unit Plans
  - Adobe Acrobat Reader for viewing and printing .pdf files.
  - Audacity (A free software program for recording and editing sound files on a computer.)



# *Classroom Production Kits*

## **Printed Materials (comb bound) includes:**

- Detailed teacher instructions for:
  - Informal classroom productions.
  - Producing the play for an audience.
  - Recording the play.
- Rights to duplicate materials on the Data CD.
- Rights to make up to two additional copies of the Audio CD. (All scripts require 2 or 3 CD players – boom-boxes. Recording or advanced productions may require additional equipment.)



Comb Bound Printed Material Book

## **Data CD Contains (print from your computer):**

- Student materials forms, work sheets, student guides, etc.
- Three Scripts (see **About the Scripts** below)
- Adobe Acrobat Reader (Windows & Mac versions).
- Audacity for Windows (a free audio editor).

## **Sound Effects (SFX) CD contains:**

- Background and hard to find sound effects.
- Student technicians operate CD players as indicated in the script. The SFX CD are keyed to the scripts and are intended to be played at appropriate times as the actors read their lines.
- The CD contains all the recorded SFX mentioned in the script.
- Tracks are of appropriate lengths for script requirements.

## **About the Script (three versions):**

- **Level I (least challenging).** The Level I version is the least challenging, technically. This version of the script is intended for producing the play with a limited number of background effects only. The background effects used may include such things as music, wind, rain, crickets, etc. These effects do not require precise synchronization with the dialog. Some Level I versions have altered vocabulary for easier reading, but because only the most unusual or difficult words have been eliminated, it may still be necessary for some students to work on pronunciation and definitions. This is as it should be, for an activity without challenge has little purpose in the classroom.
- **Level II (more challenging).** This version is slightly more challenging than Level I; it is intended for producing the play with limited equipment (2 boom boxes) and most include some manual sound effects (SFX). The recorded SFX tracks used in Level II scripts are mainly background effects that do not require precise synchronization with the dialog.
- **Level III (challenging technical requirements).** The technical needs of Level III scripts require precise synchronization between the recorded SFX and dialog. The intended use of this version is creating a recording of the play. Effects requiring a high degree of teamwork, such as footstep and door sequences, are included. Manual SFX are also included. Level III versions may require as many as three CD players. Level III scripts may also be presented for an audience as a radio drama stage presentation.

## **Production Kits are used by Drama/Theatre Classes:**

- To stage an audio theatre production for an audience.
- As classroom exercises to teach acting, voice and performance skills.
- To record a production and broadcast it over the school public address system.
- To Promote collaborative skills.
- To develop technical skills.

(Production Kits, Continued)

**Production Kits are used by Reading/Language Arts Classes to:**

- Motivate and develop oral reading skills.
- Develop vocabulary and comprehension.
- Teach listening, speaking, and thinking skills.
- Develop group process skills.
- Motivate reluctant learners.

**Production Titles Include:**

- “Toltec’s Tomb” by Roger Rittner
  - Cast: (Narrator, 5 m, 1 f). Approximate length: 21 minutes
  - Brief Summary: A group of archeologists are excavating an ancient Toltec ruin deep in the jungles of Mexico. There is a myth that states: “He who seeks the treasure of the Toltecs, has death at his shoulder.”
- “The Necklace” by Guy de Maupassant
  - Cast: (Narrator, 1 m, 2 f, 1 m or f). Approximate length: 17 minutes.
  - Brief Summary: A young woman borrows a diamond necklace for an important party. She loses the necklace and sets in motion events that alter the rest of her life.
- “The Monkey’s Paw” by W. W. Jacobs
  - Cast: (Narrator, 4 m, 1 f). Approximate length: 18 minutes.
  - Brief Summary: The story of a mummified, monkey’s paw that can bring three people three wishes each. The paw carries a curse, causing the wishes to always be answered with disastrous results.
- “The Perfect Touch” by Eli Glass
  - Cast: (Narrator, 2 m, 1 f). Approximate length: 16 minutes.
  - Brief Summary: David and Rob are out driving in the hills when they discover a “haunted” house and explore it. On the way home, Rob reveals a plan to take his girlfriend up to the house. The ending has an unexpected twist.
- “The Last Leaf” by O. Henry
  - Cast: (Narrator, 2 m, 2 f). Approximate length: 15 minutes.
  - Brief Summary: O. Henry’s famous story of love and self-sacrifice. Johnsy, a young woman living in New York’s Greenwich Village during the late 1800’s becomes ill with pneumonia and convinces herself that she will die when the last leaf falls off an ancient ivy vine outside her window.
- “High Moon” by Jerry Stearns
  - Cast: (Announcer, 4 m, 1 f, 1 either) Approximate length: 15 minutes.
  - Brief Summary: Brief Summary: Marvin the Magician is challenged to a duel. He agrees to meet his challenger at high moon on a hill outside town. A satirical science fiction fantasy. “High Moon” is an imaginative view of the classic film High Noon set in a fantasy future. Great fun for students!
- “Cyber Bob and the Silicon Kid” by Brian Price and Jerry Stearns
  - Cast: 11 characters: 7 male, 1 female, 3 either (by changing names, 3 males may be cast as female) Approximate length: 18 minutes.
  - Brief Summary: A 12 year old boy suspects he may be an android. He hires a computer hacker to find out.

# *Read-Aloud Scripts*

## **Read-Aloud Scripts are used to:**

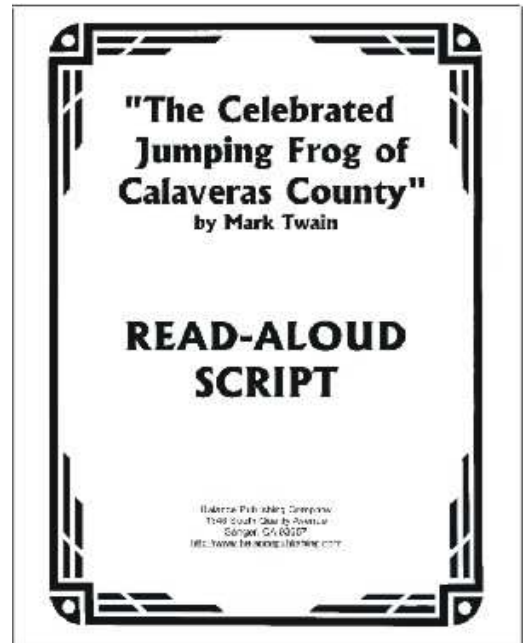
- Improve oral language skills.
- Develop vocabulary and pronunciation skills.
- Develop a love of reading.
- Motivate ESL and reluctant readers.
- Improve public speaking skills.
- Develop an appreciation for good literature.

**Read-Aloud Scripts are Printed on 8 1/2 by 11 inch sheets.** Scripts are three-hole punched ready to be inserted into your three-ring binder.

**Read-Aloud Scripts are in play script format.**

**Read-Aloud Scripts include a set of Discussion/Writing Questions for story analysis, with possible answers (except where indicated on the order blank).**

**Please Note:** Most of our Read-Aloud Scripts are altered versions of our *Read-Along Radio Drama* scripts. They MAY NOT be word-for-word with our radio drama recordings and are not intended to be used for read-along. If you plan to use the scripts for read-along activities we suggest you consider our *Deluxe Binder Read-Along Radio Drama* kits, *Basic Read-Along Radio Drama* kits OR *Deluxe CD Read-Along Radio Drama* kits.



# CDs for Listening



The recordings are with full cast and sound effects except when identified as a reading. Premium disks are used to make duplicates. The CD is enclosed in a white paper envelope. These are the same recordings as those used in *Read-Along Radio Drama* kits. Recordings are intended for: listening for pleasure, whole class listening activities, developing listening skills, developing a love for literature, motivating students to write and produce their own plays, and as a basis for writing/discussing.

## Story Descriptions

### of Available Titles

**The following titles are available in the following formats: *Read-Along Radio Dramas (Deluxe Binder Kits, Basic Kits), Read-Aloud Script only, CDs for Listening. Not all titles are available as Classroom Production kits (see pages 6 and 7 for available Production Kit titles).***

**“THE OUTCASTS OF POKER FLAT”** by Bret Harte, adapted to radio by Carol Adorjan and Yuri Rasovsky — Forrest Tucker stars in Bret Harte’s tragic tale. The story relates the fate of a group of people banished by a vigilante committee from the “Gold Rush” town of Poker Flat, California. The “Outcasts” have horses but no food. The group of “undesirables” are befriended by an innocent young couple who offer to share their food with the “Outcasts.” This unlikely combination of characters must survive a winter storm in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

**“ANTIETAM: THE LOST COMMAND”** by Lee Davis — A Civil War adventure story set in the days leading up to the bloodiest battle of the American Civil War. Written from the Confederate perspective.

**“CELEBRATED JUMPING FROG OF CALAVERAS COUNTY”** by Mark Twain, adapted by Cathleen Chamberlain — Mark Twain’s wonderful story that made the gold mining camp of Angel’s Camp, California, famous for its frog jumping contest.

**“THE CASK OF AMONTILLADO”** by Edgar Allan Poe, adapted by Brenta Blevins — Poe’s famous story of revenge. Because of an insult, a man uses brick and mortar to seal his live enemy into a tomb in the catacombs beneath his ancestral villa. The story is set in Italy during the early 18th century.

**“THE MONKEY’S PAW”** by W. W. Jacobs, adapted by Don Kisner and Dennis Rhodus — The story of a mummified, monkey’s paw that can bring three people three wishes each. The paw carries a curse, causing the wishes to always be answered with disastrous results.

- “THE BLACK CAT” by Edgar Allan Poe, adapted by Dennis Rhodus — The account, in diary form, details a man’s crimes of passion. It is the story of a man gone mad. He accidentally walls his pet cat up inside his murdered wife’s makeshift tomb.
- “HOP-FROG” by Edgar Allan Poe, adapted by Dottie Havlik — The story depicts a king and his court as self-indulgent buffoons. Hop-Frog, a grotesquely deformed dwarf, and his friend were captured and forced to serve the king. The king’s cruelty drives Hop-Frog to revenge.
- “THE NECKLACE” by Guy de Maupassant, adapted by Dennis Rhodus — A young woman borrows a diamond necklace for an important party. She loses the necklace and sets in motion events that alter the rest of her life.
- “LOVE OF LIFE” by Jack London (a reading with sound effects) [read by Peter Nazaretian] — Inside the arctic circle, an injured man is deserted by his partner. This is London’s classic tale of man’s will to survive even when all the odds are against him.
- “RIP VAN WINKLE” by Washington Irving (reading with sound effects), rewritten by Don Kisner [read by Tara Sitsler] — This is Washington Irving’s famous tale of a good-natured but hen-pecked man who ventures deep into the Kaatskill Mountains and goes to sleep before the Revolutionary War and wakes up twenty years later.
- “A HORSEMAN IN THE SKY” by Ambrose Bierce (mostly one voice with sound effects) — Bierce’s tragic story of a father and son who end up on opposite sides during the Civil War.
- “CHICKAMAUGA” by Ambrose Bierce (a reading) [Peter Nazaretian reads this story of the Civil War.] The story presents the horrors of war as seen through the eyes of a deaf-mute child.
- “THE TELL-TALE HEART” by Edgar Allan Poe — Poe’s famous story of a man obsessed with the “Evil Eye” of the old man for whom he works.
- “THE RANSOM OF RED CHIEF” by O. Henry, adapted by Don Kisner and Rick McVey — Two down-on-their-luck con men, kidnap the son of a prosperous banker in a small town. The boy loves the adventure and gives his kidnappers so much trouble that they end up paying the boy’s father to take him back.
- “THE PIT AND THE PENDULUM” by Edgar Allan Poe (a reading) [read by Peter Nazaretian] — This is Poe’s classic story of the horrors of the inquisition. A man struggles to survive a razor sharp pendulum and hordes of rats.
- “AFTER THE BATTLE” by Joseph Altsheler, adapted by Dennis Rhodus and Don Kisner — During the Civil War, two enemy soldiers meet on a battlefield. The Confederate soldier decides to help the wounded Union soldier.
- “HEAT LIGHTNING” by Robert F. Carroll, adapted by Don Kisner — Deep into a raging summer storm, a young woman runs out of gas and starts out, on foot, in search of help. She blunders into a situation full of terror and suspense.
- “THE LAST LEAF” by O. Henry, adapted by Don Kisner — O. Henry’s famous story of love and self-sacrifice. Johnsy, a young woman living in New York’s Greenwich Village during the late 1800’s becomes ill with pneumonia and convinces herself that she will die “When the last leaf falls off an ancient ivy vine outside her window.”
- “THE PERFECT TOUCH” by Eli Glass — David and Rob are out driving in the hills when they discover a “haunted” house and explore it. On the way home, Rob reveals a plan to take his girlfriend up to the house. The ending has an unexpected twist.
- “HEADFIRST” by Dennis Rhodus — A young man pits his brain against a gang of boys (from a rival high school football team) determined to “get” him, his girlfriend, and a member of the home team.
- “TRAFFIC INCIDENT” an original radio play by Roger Rittner — A newspaper reporter and her fiancé are almost forced off the road by a drunk driver. They watch the drunk driver’s car run off the road into a deep canyon. When the police come and search the canyon, no car is found. The reporter investigates the accident, uncovering conflicting information. A ghost story with a twist.
- “THE MATEMAKER” by Dennis Rhodus — A matchmaking computer makes a match. He is white and she is black. A positive view of interracial relations.



**“THE LADY OR THE TIGER”** by Frank Stockton (a reading) [read by Peter Nazaretian] — This is Stockton’s classic story of trial by choice. A young man must decide between two doors. Behind one is a beautiful lady and behind the other is a ferocious tiger.

**“THE LONG NIGHT”** by Lowell D. Blanton, adapted by Don Kisner — An air traffic controller finds himself trying to bring an inexperienced pilot and his young son down through a thick cloud layer.

**“THE STRANGE ORCHID”** by H. G. Wells, adapted by Don Kisner — An orchid collector purchases some new bulbs for his collection. The bulbs are from a remote area of an unexplored jungle. After they are planted, one of the bulbs develops into a blood-sucking monster.

**The following Titles are Available as Read-Aloud Scripts Only.**

**“OF MAGIC AND MEPHISTOPHELES”** by Roger Rittner — An untalented magician sells his soul for amazing powers.

**“PERILS AT SEA”** by Susan Manning — Murder on the high seas.

**“THE NEW YEARS EVE MURDERS”** by Susan Manning — Murder mars a New Years Eve party.

**“TOLTEC’S TOMB”** by Roger Rittner — A group of archeologists are excavating an ancient Toltec ruin deep in the jungles of Mexico. There is a myth that states: "He who seeks the treasure of the Toltecs, has death at his shoulder." (This title is also available as a Classroom Production Kit.)

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"Necklace" Guy de Maupassant	22 min		\$10.98		\$15.00	
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"High Moon" Stearns	N/A		N/A	No Quest	\$15.00	
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"Perils at Sea" Manning	N/A		N/A	No Quest	\$15.00	
"New Years Eve Murders" Manning	N/A		N/A	No Quest	\$15.00	
"Of Magic and Mephistophles" Rittner	N/A		N/A		\$15.00	
"Tell-Tale Heart" Poe	17 min		\$10.98		N/A	
"Black Cat" Poe	34 min		\$10.98		\$15.00	
"Cask of Amontillado" Poe	30 min		\$11.98		\$15.00	
"Hop-Frog" Poe	28 min		\$11.98		\$15.00	
"Pit and the Pendulum" Poe (a reading)	39 min		\$10.98		N/A	
"A Horseman in the Sky" Bierce	15 min		\$10.98		N/A	
"Chickamauga" Bierce	15 min		\$10.98		N/A	
"Antietam: Lost Command" Davis (Shipped in plastic box)	56 min		\$15.99		\$15.00	
"After the Battle" Altsheier	20 min		\$10.98		\$15.00	
"Long Night" Blanton	20 min		\$10.98		\$15.00	
"Matemaker" Rhodus	35 min		\$10.98		\$15.00	
"Traffic Incident" Rittner	26 min		\$10.98		\$15.00	
"Headfirst" Rhodus	33 min		\$10.98		\$15.00	
"Heat Lightning" Carroll	17 min		\$10.98		\$15.00	
"Love of Life" London (reading w/SFX)	48 min		\$10.98		N/A	
"Lady or the Tiger" Stockton (a reading)	15 min		\$10.98		N/A	
"Strange Orchid" Wells	25 min		\$10.98		\$15.00	
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