

Room for More

by Anne M. Miranda

CAST:

Narrator

Mom

Gramps Pierre

Grandma Claire

Dad

Molly

Auntie Jane

Uncle Lee

Buster

Bill

Blair

Bobbie Dee

Puddin'head

Cousin Sue

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Narrator: Once, not very long ago,
Dad fixed a lunch from Mexico:
refried beans and hot tamales—
a favorite dish of daughter Molly's.
Mother made some mango punch.
Then the three sat down to lunch.
Mom was just about to pour,
when someone knocked on the
front door.

[Knock, knock!]

Mom: Who's there?

Gramps Pierre: It's Gramps Pierre and Grandma Claire.

Grandma Claire: We've just come from the county fair.
We have our little cat, Ling Shoo, and a
pot of Irish stew.

Mom: Molly, would you show them in?

Dad: Sit down and tell us how you've been.

Molly: It's good to see you, Grandma Claire.
It's good to see you, Gramps Pierre.

Dad: Come in, come in, and take a chair.

Narrator: Gramps sat here and Grandma there.
Ling Shoo curled up beneath a chair.
Mom got each a cup and plate.
Then someone slammed the garden gate.

[Knock, knock!]

Mom: Who can it be?

Auntie Jane: It's Auntie Jane and Uncle Lee.
We drove from Knoxville, Tennessee.

Uncle Lee: So glad you're home. We took a chance.
Here's some cheese from Paris, France.

Mom: Molly, would you show them in?

Dad: Sit down and tell us how you've been.

Molly: It's good to see you, Uncle Lee
and Auntie Jane from Tennessee.

Gramps Pierre: Howdy do!

Grandma Claire: How are you?

All: Come in, come in!
Sit down! What's new?

Narrator: Then Uncle Lee gave Mom the cheese,
while Auntie Jane gave Dad a squeeze.
Just then a car pulled in the drive.
They heard more unexpected guests arrive.
[Knock, knock!]

Mom: Who's there?

Buster: Your cousins, Buster, Bill, and Blair.

Bill: And Bart, our dog with shaggy hair.

Blair: Our mother said it would be nice
to bring a dish of Spanish rice.



Mom: Molly, would you show them in?

Dad: Sit down and tell us how you've been.

Molly: It's good to see you, Bill and Blair,
and Buster and Bart with

Gramps Pierre: Howdy do!

Grandma Claire: How are you?

Auntie Jane: Hello there.

Uncle Lee: Pull up a chair.

All: Come in, come in! There's lots to share!



Narrator: The triplets, Buster, Blair, and Bill,
sat upon the windowsill.
And Bart, the dog with shaggy hair,
flopped in Daddy's favorite chair.
There was hardly room for more,
when someone else knocked on the
door!

[Knock, knock!]

Mom: Who can it be?

Bobbie Dee: It's your nephew, Bobbie Dee.
My ship is in. I'm home from sea.

Puddin'head: And I'm his parrot, Puddin'head.
We've brought some nice Italian bread.

Mom: Molly, would you show them in?

Dad: Sit down and tell us how you've been.

Molly: I'm glad to see you, Bobbie Dee.
Bring Puddin'head and sit by me.

Gramps Pierre: Howdy do!

Grandma Claire: How are you?

Auntie Jane: Hello there.

Uncle Lee: Pull up a chair.

Buster: Oh, my.

Bill: Oh, me.

Blair: Long time, no see.

All: Come in, come in and have some tea.

Narrator: So Grandma Claire, and Gramps Pierre,
and Buster, Bart, and Bill and Blair,
and Auntie Jane and Uncle Lee,
and Mom's young nephew, Bobbie Dee,
gave hugs and kisses all around
until they heard an awful sound.

Puddin'head: SQUEAK-A, CREAK-A, Bobbie boy!
CRICK-A, CROAK-A, ship ahoy!

Narrator: Yes, Puddin'head began to squawk
so loud that no one else could talk.
Bart began to chase Ling Shoo
and Molly wondered what to do.



Molly: There's no more room for us in here.
I wish that I could disappear.

Mom: Let's go outside for some fresh air.

Dad: Go out, go out and take a chair!

Narrator: Mom picked up the cat, Ling Shoo.
Out went Dad and Molly, too.
Grandma Claire and Gramps Pierre,
and Buster, Bart, and Bill and Blair,
and Auntie Jane and Uncle Lee,
and Puddin'head and Bobbie Dee,
all went out for some fresh air.
Each one dragged a folding chair.

Mom: Everybody have a seat.
There's lots and lots of food to eat.

Dad: That's right! Dig in! It sure looks great!
Does anybody need a plate?

Narrator: They tasted food from France and Spain.
Not one relative complained.
As Mom served Grandma's Irish stew,
Molly smiled at what she knew.

Molly: We'll always welcome a new guest.
Unplanned things are often best.

Mom: There's always room for just one more.
[Knock, knock!]



Molly: Oh, boy! There's someone at the door!

Cousin Sue: It's your second cousin, Sue.
I just flew in from Kalamazoo!

Gramps Pierre: Howdy do!

Grandma Claire: How are you?

Auntie Jane: Hello there.

Uncle Lee: Pull up a chair.

Buster: Oh, my.

Bill: Oh, me.

Blair: Long time, no see.

Bobbie Dee: Have some bread.

Puddin'head: My name is Puddin'head.

Molly: Come on out and take a seat.

Cousin Sue: Seeing you is such a treat.

Molly: If someone knocks at our front door—

All: There's always room for just one more!



★ Activities

DRAMA ACTIVITIES:

Room for More



Comprehension Check

Use the dialogue in *Room for More* to answer these questions. Remember that dialogue is what characters say.

1. How does Dad feel about the people coming to his house? Give evidence from his dialogue.
2. How is Puddin'head different from the others?
3. Why does Bart say nothing?
4. Why do you think Molly says, "I wish that I could disappear"?

Talk about your answers with a partner.
If your answers were different, discuss why.

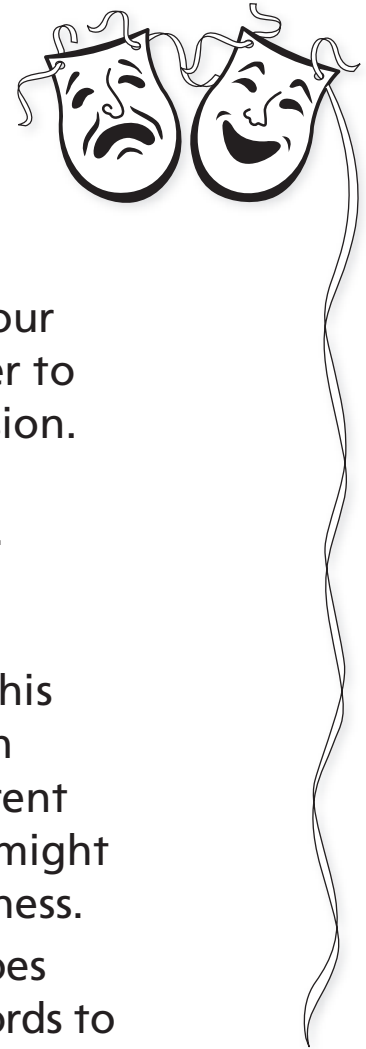
Dialogue Activity

Think of a character in a story you like. Pretend to be that character. What might he or she say? Match your words and voice to that character.

Find a partner. Keep your characters a secret. Talk to each other as your characters would. Guess who each other's character is.

DRAMA ACTIVITIES:

Room for More



Let's Perform!

Now it's time to perform *Room for More*! Your teacher will help you decide which character to read. Say the character's words with expression. This helps the audience understand your character. Think of your voice as a costume.

Performance Activity: Emotion Party

- To learn to speak with expression, try this game. Pretend that you are going to an emotion party. Everyone brings a different emotion to share. Some emotions you might choose are excitement, fear, joy, or sadness.
- One person acts as the host. The host does not have an emotion. The guests use words to express their emotions.
- The host tries to guess each guest's emotion. Don't worry if the host doesn't guess yours the first time. It takes practice!