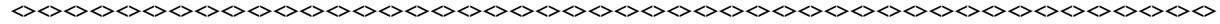


The One in the Middle Is the Green Kangaroo
by Judy Bloom

PARTS (9): Narrator 1 Narrator 2 Narrator 3 FREDDY DISSEL
 MIKE DISSEL MR. DISSEL MRS. DISSEL MISS GUMBER MISS MATSON

TIME REQUIRED: 15 MINUTES



Narrator 1: FREDDY DISSEL HAD TWO PROBLEMS.

Narrator 2: ONE WAS HIS OLDER BROTHER MIKE.

Narrator 3: THE OTHER WAS HIS YOUNGER SISTER ELLEN.

Narrator 2: FREDDY THOUGHT A LOT ABOUT BEING THE ONE IN THE MIDDLE.

Narrator 1: BUT THERE WAS NOTHING HE COULD DO ABOUT IT.

Narrator 2: HE FELT LIKE THE PEANUT BUTTER PART OF A SANDWICH, SQUEEZED BETWEEN MIKE AND ELLEN.

Narrator 1: EVERY YEAR MIKE GOT NEW CLOTHES.

Narrator 2: HE GREW TOO BIG FOR HIS OLD ONES.

Narrator 1: BUT MIKE'S OLD CLOTHES WEREN'T TOO BIG FOR FREDDY.

Narrator 2: THEY FIT HIM JUST FINE.

Narrator 1: FREDDY USED TO HAVE A ROOM OF HIS OWN.

Narrator 2: THAT WAS BEFORE ELLEN WAS BORN.

Narrator 1: NOW ELLEN HAD A ROOM OF HER OWN.

Narrator 2: FREDDY MOVED IN WITH MIKE. MR. AND MRS. DISSEL SAID:

MR. & MRS.: "IT'S THE BOY'S ROOM."

Narrator 1: BUT THEY COULDN'T FOOL FREDDY.

Narrator 2: HE KNEW BETTER.

Narrator 1: ONCE FREDDY TRIED TO JOIN MIKE AND HIS FRIENDS.

Narrator 3: MIKE SAID:

MIKE: "SCOOT, KID! YOU'RE IN THE WAY!"

Narrator 1: SO FREDDY TRIED TO PLAY WITH ELLEN.

Narrator 2: ELLEN DIDN'T UNDERSTAND HOW TO PLAY HIS WAY.

Narrator 1: SHE MESSED UP ALL OF FREDDY'S THINGS.

Narrator 2: FREDDY GOT MAD AND PINCHED HER.

Narrator 3: ELLEN SCREAMED.

MRS. DISSEL: "FREDDY DISSEL!"

Narrator 3: MOM YELLED.

MRS. DISSEL: "YOU SHOULDN'T BE MEAN TO ELLEN. SHE'S SMALLER THAN YOU. SHE'S JUST A BABY!"

Narrator 1: ELLEN DIDN'T LOOK LIKE A BABY TO FREDDY.

Narrator 2: SHE DIDN'T SOUND LIKE A BABY EITHER.

FREDDY: "SHE EVEN GOES TO NURSERY SCHOOL."

Narrator 3: FREDDY THOUGHT.

FREDDY: "SOME BABY"

Narrator 1: FREDDY FIGURED THINGS WOULD NEVER GET BETTER FOR HIM.

Narrator 2: HE WOULD ALWAYS BE A GREAT BIG MIDDLE NOTHING.

Narrator 1: THEN FREDDY DISSEL HEARD ABOUT THE SCHOOL PLAY.

Narrator 3: MIKE HAD NEVER BEEN IN A PLAY. ELLEN HAD NEVER BEEN IN A PLAY.

Narrator 1: THIS WAS HIS CHANCE TO DO SOMETHING SPECIAL.

Narrator 2: FREDDY DECIDED HE WOULD TRY IT.

Narrator 1: HE WAITED TWO WHOLE DAYS BEFORE HE WENT TO HIS TEACHER.

FREDDY: "MISS GUMBER"

Narrator 3: HE SAID.

FREDDY: "I WANT TO BE IN THE SCHOOL PLAY."

Narrator 1: MISS GUMBER SMILED AND SHOOK HER HEAD.

MS. GUMBER: "I'M SORRY, FREDDY."

Narrator 3: SHE SAID.

MS. GUMBER: "THE PLAY IS BEING DONE BY THE FIFTH AND SIXTH GRADERS... THE BIG BOYS AND GIRLS LIKE MIKE."

Narrator 1: FREDDY LOOKED AT THE FLOOR AND MUMBLED:

FREDDY: "THAT FIGURES!"

Narrator 2: HE STARTED TO WALK AWAY.

MS. GUMBER: "WAIT A MINUTE, FREDDY."

Narrator 3: MISS GUMBER CALLED.

MS. GUMBER: "I'LL TALK WITH MISS MATSON ANYWAY. SHE'S IN CHARGE OF THE PLAY. I'LL FIND OUT IF THEY NEED ANY SECOND GRADERS TO HELP."

Narrator 1: FINALLY, MISS GUMBER TOLD FREDDY THAT MISS MATSON NEEDED SOMEONE TO PLAY A SPECIAL PART.

Narrator 3: MISS GUMBER SAID:

MS. GUMBER: "GO TO THE AUDITORIUM THIS AFTERNOON. MAYBE YOU'LL GET THE PART."

FREDDY: "OH, BOY!"

Narrator 3: FREDDY HOLLERED.

Narrator 1: LATER, HE WENT TO THE AUDITORIUM.

Narrator 2: MISS MATSON WAS WAITING FOR HIM.

Narrator 1: FREDDY WALKED RIGHT UP CLOSE TO HER.

Narrator 3: HE SAID:

FREDDY: "I WANT TO BE IN THE PLAY."

Narrator 1: MISS MATSON ASKED HIM TO GO UP ON THE STAGE AND SAY THAT AGAIN IN A VERY LOUD VOICE.

Narrator 2: FREDDY HAD NEVER BEEN ON THE STAGE.

Narrator 1: IT WAS BIG..

Narrator 2: IT MADE HIM FEEL SMALL.

Narrator 1: HE LOOKED OUT AT MISS MATSON.

FREDDY: "I AM F R E D D Y !"

Narrator 3: HE SHOUTED.

FREDDY: "I W A N T T O B E I N T H E P L A Y !"

MS. MATSON: "GOOD."

Narrator 3: MISS MATSON CALLED.

MS. MATSON: "NOW THEN, FREDDY, CAN YOU JUMP?"

FREDDY: "WHAT KIND OF QUESTION WAS THAT?"

Narrator 3: FREDDY WONDERED.

Narrator 2: OF COURSE HE COULD JUMP. HE WAS IN THE SECOND GRADE WASN'T HE?

Narrator 1: SO HE JUMPED. HE JUMPED ALL AROUND THE STAGE.

Narrator 2: BIG JUMPS AND LITTLE JUMPS.

Narrator 1: WHEN HE WAS THROUGH MISS MATSON CLAPPED HER HANDS

Narrator 2: AND FREDDY CLIMBED DOWN FROM THE STAGE.

MS. MATSON: "I THINK YOU'LL BE FINE AS THE GREEN KANGAROO, FREDDY."

Narrator 3: MISS MATSON SAID.

MS. MATSON: "IT'S A VERY IMPORTANT PART."

Narrator 1: FREDDY DIDN'T TELL ANYONE AT HOME ABOUT THE PLAY UNTIL DINNER TIME.

Narrator 3: THEN FREDDY SAID,

FREDDY: "GUESS WHAT, EVERYONE! GUESS WHAT I'M GOING TO BE!"

Narrator 1: NO ONE PAID ANY ATTENTION TO WHAT FREDDY WAS SAYING. THEY WERE TOO BUSY EATING.

FREDDY: "I'M GOING TO BE IN A PLAY."

Narrator 3: FREDDY SAID.

FREDDY: "I'M GOING TO BE THE GREEN KANGAROO."

Narrator 1: MIKE CHOKED ON HIS POTATO AND KNOCKED OVER A WHOLE GLASS OF MILK.

Narrator 2: ELLEN LAUGHED BECAUSE MIKE SPILLED HIS MILK.

Narrator 1: MR. DISSEL JUMPED UP.

Narrator 2: HE PATTED MIKE ON THE BACK TO MAKE HIM STOP CHOKING.

Narrator 1: MRS. DISSEL RAN TO GET THE SPONGE.

Narrator 2: SHE CLEANED UP THE SPILLED MILK.

Narrator 1: FREDDY JUST SAT THERE AND SMILED.

MIKE: "WHAT DID YOU SAY?"

Narrator 3: MIKE ASKED.

FREDDY: "I SAID I'M GOING TO BE IN THE SCHOOL PLAY. I SAID I'M GOING TO BE THE GREEN KANGAROO!"

MIKE: "IT CAN'T BE TRUE."

Narrator 3: MIKE YELLED.

MIKE: "YOU? WHY WOULD THEY PICK YOU?"

Narrator 1: EVERYONE SETTLED DOWN.

Narrator 2: FREDDY TOLD THEM JUST HOW HE GOT THE PART.

FREDDY: "IT'S REALLY TRUE."

Narrator 3: HE SAID.

FREDDY: "JUST ME. ALL BY MYSELF. THE ONLY GREEN KANGAROO IN THE PLAY."

MR. DISSEL: "THAT SOUNDS WONDERFUL."

Narrator 3: HIS DAD SAID.

Narrator 1: AND HIS MOM KISSED HIM RIGHT AT THE DINNER TABLE.

MRS. DISSEL: "WE'RE ALL PROUD OF YOU, FREDDY."

Narrator 3: SHE SAID.

Narrator 1: ELLEN WAS EXCITED, TOO. SHE KEPT LAUGHING.

Narrator 2: BUT MIKE JUST SHOOK HIS HEAD AND REPEATED:

MIKE: "WOW! HE'S GOING TO BE THE GREEN KANGAROO!"

Narrator 1: THE NEXT TWO WEEKS WERE BUSY ONES FOR FREDDY. HE HAD TO PRACTICE BEING THE GREEN KANGAROO A LOT.

Narrator 2: HE PRACTICED AT SCHOOL ON THE STAGE.

Narrator 1: HE PRACTICED AT HOME, TOO.

Narrator 2: HE MADE KANGAROO FACES IN FRONT OF THE MIRROR.

Narrator 1: HE DID KANGAROO JUMPS ON HIS BED.

Narrator 2: HE EVEN DREAMED ABOUT GREEN KANGAROOS AT NIGHT.

Narrator 1: FINALLY, THE DAY OF THE PLAY CAME.

Narrator 2: THE WHOLE FAMILY AND THE NEIGHBORS PLANNED TO BE THERE.

Narrator 1: MRS. DISSEL HUGGED FREDDY EXTRA HARD AS HE LEFT FOR SCHOOL.

MRS. DISSEL: "WE'LL BE THERE WATCHING YOU, GREEN KANGAROO."

Narrator 3: SHE SAID.

Narrator 1: AFTER LUNCH MISS GUMBER CALLED TO FREDDY.

MS. GUMBER: "TIME TO GO NOW. TIME TO GET INTO YOUR COSTUME."

Narrator 1: MISS GUMBER WALKED TO THE HALL WITH FREDDY.

Narrator 3: THEN SHE WHISPERED:

MS. GUMBER: "WE'LL BE IN THE SECOND ROW. GOOD LUCK!"

Narrator 1: FREDDY WENT TO MISS MATSON'S ROOM.

Narrator 2: THE GIRLS IN THE SIXTH GRADE HAD MADE HIS COSTUME.

Narrator 1: THEY ALL GIGGLED WHEN MISS HATSON HELPED FREDDY INTO IT.

Narrator 2: HIS GREEN KANGAROO SUIT COVERED ALL OF HIM.

Narrator 1: IT EVEN HAD GREEN FEET.

Narrator 2: ONLY HIS FACE STUCK OUT.

Narrator 1: MISS MATSON PUT SOME GREEN DOTS ON IT.

Narrator 2: MISS MATSON LAUGHED.

MS. MATSON: "WE'LL WASH THE DOTS OFF LATER. OK?"

FREDDY: "OKAY."

Narrator 3: FREDDY MUMBLED.

Narrator 1: HE JUMPED OVER TO THE MIRROR.

Narrator 2: HE LOOKED AT HIMSELF.

Narrator 1: HE REALLY FELT LIKE A GREEN KANGAROO.

Narrator 2: IT WAS TIME FOR THE PLAY TO BEGIN.

Narrator 1: FREDDY WAITED BACKSTAGE WITH THE FIFTH AND SIXTH GRADERS WHO WERE IN THE PLAY.

Narrator 2: THEY LOOKED AT HIM AND GIGGLED.

Narrator 1: HE TRIED TO SMILE BACK.

Narrator 2: BUT THE SMILE WOULDN'T COME.

Narrator 1: HIS HEART STARTED TO BEAT FASTER.

Narrator 2: HIS STOMACH BOUNCED UP AND DOWN.

Narrator 1: HE FELT FUNNY.

Narrator 2: THEN MISS MATSON LEANED CLOSE TO HIM.

Narrator 3: SHE SAID:

MS. MATSON: "THEY'RE WAITING FOR YOU, FREDDY. GO AHEAD."

Narrator 1: HE JUMPED OUT ONTO THE STAGE.

Narrator 2: HE LOOKED OUT INTO THE AUDIENCE.

Narrator 1: ALL THOSE PEOPLE WERE DOWN THERE---SOMEWHERE.

Narrator 2: HE KNEW THEY WERE.

Narrator 1: IT WAS VERY QUIET.

Narrator 2: HE COULD HEAR HIS HEART.

Narrator 1: HE THOUGHT HE SAW HIS MOM AND DAD.

Narrator 2: HE THOUGHT HE SAW ELLEN.

Narrator 1: HE THOUGHT HE SAW MIKE AND HIS SECOND GRADE CLASS AND MISS GUMBER AND ALL OF THE NEIGHBORS, TOO.

Narrator 2: THEY WERE ALL OUT THERE SOMEWHERE.

Narrator 1: THEY WERE ALL IN THE MIDDLE OF THE AUDIENCE.

Narrator 2: PUT FREDDY WASN'T IN THE MIDDLE.

Narrator 1: HE WAS ALL BY HIMSELF UP ON THE STAGE.

Narrator 2: HE HAD A JOB TO DO.

Narrator 1: HE HAD TO BE THE GREEN KANGAROO.

Narrator 2: FREDDY SMILED.

Narrator 1: HIS HEART SLOWED DOWN.

Narrator 2: HIS STOMACH STAYED STILL.

Narrator 1: HE FELT BETTER.

Narrator 3: HE SMILED A BIGGER, WIDER SMILE.

Narrator 1: HE FELT GOOD.

FREDDY: "H E L L O E V E R Y O N E !"

Narrator 3: FREDDY SAID.

FREDDY: "I A M T H E G R E E N K A N G A R O O. W E L C O M E !"

Narrator 1: THE PLAY BEGAN.

Narrator 2: FREDDY DID HIS LITTLE JUMPS.

Narrator 1: EVERY NOW AND THEN ONE OF THE FIFTH OR SIXTH GRADERS IN THE PLAY SAID TO HIM:

Narrator 2: AND WHO ARE YOU?"

FREDDY: "ME? I A M T H E G R E E N K A N G A R O O !"

Narrator 3: IT WAS EASY.

Narrator 1: THAT WAS ALL HE HAD TO SAY.

Narrator 2: IT WAS FUN, TOO.

Narrator 1: EVERY TIME HE SAID IT, THE AUDIENCE LAUGHED.

Narrator 3: FREDDY LIKED IT WHEN THEY LAUGHED.

Narrator 1: IT WAS A FUNNY PLAY.

Narrator 2: WHEN IT WAS ALL OVER EVERYONE ON THE STAGE TOOK A BOW.

Narrator 1: THEN MISS MATSON CAME OUT AND WAITED FOR THE AUDIENCE TO GET QUIET.

Narrator 3: SHE SAID:

MS. MATSON: A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SECOND GRADER FREDDY DISSEL. HE PLAYED THE PART OF THE GREEN KANGAROO.

Narrator 1: FREDDY JUMPED OVER TO THE MIDDLE OF THE STAGE.

Narrator 2: HE TOOK A BIG BOW ALL BY HIMSELF.

Narrator 3: THE AUDIENCE CLAPPED HARD FOR A LONG TIME.

Narrator 2: FREDDY DIDN'T CARE MUCH ABOUT WEARING MIKE'S CLOTHES ANYMORE.

Narrator 1: HE DIDN'T CARE MUCH ABOUT SHARING MIKE'S ROOM EITHER.

Narrator 2: HE DIDN'T CARE MUCH THAT ELLEN WAS SMALL AND CUTE.

Narrator 3: HE DIDN'T EVEN CARE MUCH ABOUT BEING THE ONE IN THE MIDDLE.

Narrator 1: HE FELT JUST GREAT BEING FREDDY DISSEL.