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 DE 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 OID 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 G0 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 SECONO ROW. G00D 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 MATSONLEANED 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---SOMEBWHERE.
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.
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?"
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.