

A Reader's Theater adaptation of Kimberly Willis Holt's *Piper Reed Navy Brat*

By Dixie Allen

April, 2009

©*Piper Reed Navy Brat* by Kimberly Willis Holt; Henry Holt Books for Young Readers, an Imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group.

Readers:

Narrator 1	Narrator 2
Piper Reed	Mom
Chief	Tori
Sam	

Narrator 1: This is taken from the pages of *Piper Reed Navy Brat* by Kimberly Willis Holt.

Piper Reed: It was pizza night. Every Friday night, Chief picked up two large pepperoni pizzas on his way home from the base. I had just pulled the cheese off my slice and was about to put the pepperoni back on when Chief tapped a spoon against his glass of sweet tea.

Narrator 2: Ting, ting, ting. (the sound of spoon against glass)

Chief: "Girls, I have an announcement to make."

Piper Reed: "Are we going to get a dog?"

Narrator 1: Chief grinned, and then shook his head.

Chief: "We've been assigned to Pensacola, Florida."

Narrator 2: Chief always said "we" when he talked about being assigned somewhere even though he was really the only person in the family being assigned to a new base. He would say,

Chief: "When a man joins the Navy, his family joins the Navy."

Narrator 1: That's because every year or two Piper, her older sister, Tori, younger sister, Sam, and mother had to pick up and move. They've lived everywhere. Before moving to San Diego, they lived in Texas, Guam, Mississippi, and New Hampshire.

Tori: "Pensacola?"

Narrator 2: Tori looked like her eyes were going to pop out of their sockets.

Piper Reed: “When?”

Chief: “Two weeks from today.”

Tori: “It’s only October. We’ve never moved during the school year! The Navy is ruining my life!”

Narrator 1: Two weeks later, the family is packed. Their belongings and furniture are in a moving van headed to Florida and the Reeds are in their car driving cross country to their new home.

Sam: “Are we there yet?”

Mom: “No. We’re in Arizona.”

Narrator 2: On the way to Florida, the Reeds were going to stop by and visit the grandparents in Louisiana.

Piper Reed: There were only two good things about being cooped up in the car with crazy sisters—snack breaks and McDonald’s.

Sam: “Are we there yet?”

Mom: “No. We’re in Texas.”

Narrator 1: Miles and miles the family drove. A few hours later...

Sam: “Are we there yet?”

Piper Reed: “No. We’re still in Texas.”

Sam: “But this doesn’t look like that other Texas.”

Mom: “Texas is big.”

Chief: “It used to be a whole other country.”

Mom: “It still is.”

Narrator 2: And still the family drove on and on. Then right smack in the middle of a song on the radio, the highway turned from smooth to bumpy and they passed a sign that read WELCOME TO LOUISIANA. It happened so fast it was like a blur.

Sam: “Are we in Louisiana yet?”

- Everyone:** (shouted) “Yes!”
- Narrator 1:** After a short visit with the family, the Reeds headed for Florida. Upon arriving, Piper already knew she was not going to like her new home.
- Piper:** The empty townhouse smells like fresh paint. And our words bounce off the bare walls.
- Narrator 2:** And if that wasn’t bad enough,
- Piper:** “I have to share a room with Sam?” My old bedroom was twice this size, and I didn’t have to share with anybody.
- Mom:** “Well someone has to share a room. There are only three bedrooms. It’s only fair that Tori has her own room. She’s the---“
- Piper:** “Oldest! Why isn’t there ever anything special for the middle child?”
- Narrator 1:** What was Piper to do? She has a new home-again. But now she has to share a bedroom with her little sister AND there is only one bathroom. And what about the new school and making new friends?
- Narrator 2:** To find out more about how Piper Reed makes it in her new home and school and will she ever find happiness, you’ll have to read *Piper Reed Navy Brat* by Kimberly Willis Holt.