ABC's of the First Thanksgiving Marci McGowan

Narrator 1 Narrator 2 Narrator 3 Narrator 4

Assign Readers for Letters A-Z

Parts(30):

Narrator 1: Thanksgiving is one of our favorite holidays. We have been learning about

early America and the very first Thanksgiving celebration.

A is for Americans: Some of the earliest Americans were the Pilgrims. They wanted to be free to

have their own religion.

B is for Big Ship: The Pilgrims sailed across the Atlantic Ocean in a big ship called the

Mayflower.

C is for Cramped: The ship was very cramped or crowded. There was little room for children

to play. Many people became sick.

D is for Danger: The trip was filled with danger. Often there were storms with great winds.

Everyone was afraid.

E is for Explore: After 66 days the happy Pilgrims reached land. Some of the men went to

shore to explore. They wanted to see what was there.

F is for Fields: They found forests and fields where the native people had planted corn.

They found clean water to drink.

G is for Grateful: Everyone was happy and grateful. They found a safe place to live the way

they wanted.

H is for Hard: That first winter was very cold and hard for the Pilgrims. There was not

enough food. Many people got sick and died.

I is for INDIAN: (Now we say Native American.) A friendly Indian named Squanto helped the

Pilgrims. He showed them how to plant corn and where to find fish.

J is for JONES: In the spring, Captain Jones, the captain of the Mayflower, went back to

England. The Pilgrims stayed in their new home, America.

K is for KEPT: The Pilgrims kept working hard. They planted gardens and built houses and

furniture.

L is for Land: They learned how to hunt and fish in the new land.

M is for MANY: By summer, the Pilarims had built many houses. Their vegetable gardens grew

well.

N is for NO ONE: By November, there was plenty to eat. No one would be hungry this winter.

O is for ONE: One day, Governor Bradford said, "We should be thankful for our harvest."

P is for Pilgrims: The Pilgrims harvested pumpkins, corn, squash, beans, and carrots. They

found nuts and berries in the woods.

Q is for QUAIL: The men hunted for wild quail, turkey, geese, and deer. They caught fish

in the rivers.

R is for READY: They caught lobsters, clams, and oysters in the ocean. They got everything

ready for a big celebration.

S is for SHARE: The Pilgrims wanted to share what they had with the Indians, their new

friends.

T is for THANKFUL: The Pilgrims were thankful. Now they had food, homes, and friends.

U is for US: The Pilgrims said to their new friends, "Please join us!"

V is for VISIT: They invited the Indians to visit them for their special harvest celebration.

W is for When: When everyone came, they ate together and played games.

X is for EXCITED: The Pilgrims were EXCITED and very happy. Their celebration lasted for

three days!

Y is for YELLED: The children played and laughed and yelled.

Z is for Zany: The children acted zany, running all around with their new friends. They

had a wonderful time.

Narrator 2: Most people don't know that the Pilgrims did not celebrate again the next

year. Later on, several Presidents, including George Washington, made

one-time Thanksgiving holidays.

Narrator 3: It became an official holiday in 1863, when President Abraham Lincoln, said

to set aside the last Thursday in November to give thanks.

Narrator 4: In 1941, Congress made Thanksgiving an annual national holiday to be

celebrated on the 4th Thursday of November. Now it's a time for family and friends to give thanks together, eat lots of good food, watch parades and

football games. It's also the start of the winter holiday season!