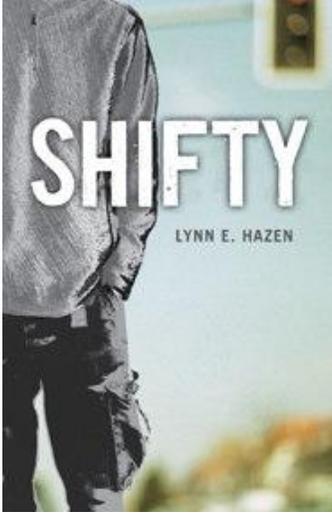


Ten Ways to Use **SHIFTY** Readers Theater in Your Classroom or Youth Group



1. Read it in the Round

Make copies of the script. Gather students in a seated circle for a non-theatrical reading. Don't assign roles. Simply have one student read the first character's line(s), then each successive student will read the next, taking turns until the script is finished.

2. Read Theatrically

Assign roles and have a few students or a reading group read the script aloud to the rest of the class. Performers can read seated in a circle, standing or sitting in the front of the classroom, or performance-style on stage.

3. Enhance the Script

Ask students for ideas to enhance the script for performance. Do they have any ideas for props? Gestures? Sound effects? Stage directions? Images or backdrops? Music? Discuss, and then put students' ideas into the performance.

4. Discuss what might happen next

After reading or performing the script, ask the students what they think will happen next. Discuss where Shifty might take his "new grandma." Did Shifty avoid trouble or is he setting himself up for more?

5. Write!

Individually or in small groups, have students write a narrative scene, guessing what they think might happen next. Or they can create their own short script.

6. Discuss Relevant Themes

Use the script or the book as a lead-in to Social Studies discussions related to topics such as Urban Living, Homelessness, Foster Care, The Role of Law in Society. When is it okay to break the rules?

7. Research

Use the script as the basis for research on any of the above topics. What can your students learn online, in the library, or by interviewing people in the community on these and other related themes?

8. Read the book, **SHIFTY**

Read the book, **SHIFTY**, then have small groups script *another* favorite scene from the book. Read it aloud, too.

9. Imagine Shifty's future

After reading the book, **SHIFTY**, have small groups (or individuals) write a short narrative, or a script imagining what happens 6 months to a year after the book ends.

10. Visit www.ShiftyTheBook.com

Read the Teacher & Classroom Discussion Guides & try other activities at www.ShiftyTheBook.com

11. Brainstorm!

Discover ideas of your own and tell them to the author, please! I'd love to hear how *you* are using **SHIFTY** & Readers Theater. Lynn@ShiftyTheBook.com. Thanks! Jot down your ideas on the back.