

Name: _____

Readers Theatre

THE PRINCIPAL'S NEW CLOTHES by Stephanie Calmenson

Narrator 1	Narrator 2	Narrator 3	Narrator 4	Ivy	Moe
Student 1	Student 2	Ms. Moore	Mr. Bundy	Roger	Alice

Narrator 1: Mr. Bundy is the principal of H.C. Andersen Elementary School. He is also the sharpest dresser in town.

Narrator 2: His students never miss a day of school. They like to see what he's wearing.

Students 1 and 2: "Looking good, Mr. B!"

Narrator 3: Mr. Bundy has so many clothes, he can go a whole month and not wear the same suit twice. Sometimes he changes clothes at lunchtime, just to show off.

Narrator 4: One day a man and a woman who said they were tailors, called on Mr. Bundy. Their card said:

Moe and Ivy: 'WE MAKE A SUIT THAT SUITS YOU FINE'

Narrator 1: But they were not really tailors. They were tricksters.

Ivy: "Greetings, Mr. B, How would you like to buy an amazing, one-of-a-kind suit?"

Mr. Bundy: "I have so many suits already,"

Moe: "Ah, but this is no ordinary suit. It has special powers."

Mr. Bundy: "What do you mean?"

Narrator 1: Moe looked to his left. He looked to his right. Then he whispered in Mr. Bundy's ear...

Moe: "We make our clothes from special cloth. It is invisible to anyone who's no good at his job or anyone who's just plain stupid."

Mr. Bundy: "Really?"

Ivy: "Yes. Not only will you look great, but you can find out if anyone in your school is no good at his job or not learning anything."

Mr. Bundy: "That is amazing!"

Ivy: "Now if you'll take off your jacket and lift up your arms, sir, we will take your measurements,"

Moe: (whispering to himself) "We will also take your money,"

Narrator 2: The next day, Moe and Ivy set up a workshop in the gym. It was not long before the whole school heard about the amazing cloth and wanted to see it. Students asked to be excused to get a drink of water. Then they ran to the gym to peek. Teachers said they were going next door to borrow something. Then they ran to the gym too, but no one could see a thing.

Narrator 3: By the end of the week, Mr. Bundy began to wonder what his new clothes looked like. But he was also a little worried. What if he could not see the cloth? So he sent his assistant principal, Ms. Moore, to have a look. Ms. Moore was smart and good at her job. She would have no trouble seeing the special cloth. Ms. Moore hurried to the gym and knocked on the door.

Ms. Moore: "Mr. Bundy sent me to see his new clothes,"

Narrator 4: A moment later the door opened a crack and Ms. Moore slipped inside.

Moe: "What do you think? Have you ever seen anything like it?"

Narrator 1: Poor Ms. Moore! She could not see a thing.

Ms. Moore: "Can it be that I am stupid, or unfit for my job? I've tried so hard to be a good assistant principal."

Narrator 2: She took off her glasses, wiped them, and looked again. But it was no use. Ms. Moore had to think fast. If she told the truth, she might get fired.

Ms. Moore: "It's...it's beautiful! I'll go tell Mr. Bundy right now how much I like it."

Mr. Bundy: "Well. What did you think?"

Ms. Moore: "Your suit is great! I've never seen anything quite like it! But now I've got to run and make a phone call. 'Bye!"

Narrator 3: Mrs. Moore hurried off before Mr. Bundy could ask any questions. And now Mr. Bundy was more curious than ever about the suit.

Narrator 4: He stopped Roger in the hall. Roger was one of the smartest students in the school. If he couldn't see the suit, nobody could.

Mr. Bundy: "Say, Roger, do me a favor and find out how my new suit is coming along. I want to know exactly how it looks, so pay close attention to all the details."

Narrator 1: Roger couldn't believe his ears.

Roger: "Wow! I'll be the first one to see the principal's new suit! Wait till I tell the class."

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Narrator 2: And he raced off to the gym.

Narrator 3: The door was still open, so Roger peeked inside. He could see Moe and Ivy at their sewing machines, hard at work. But he could not see the cloth!

Roger: "Oh, no! If Mrs. Feeney finds out I can't see this cloth, she'll think I'm stupid. She'll give me bad grades, and then I'll be in big trouble for sure."

Narrator 4: On the way back to his class, Roger poked his head into Mr. Bundy's office.

Roger: "Super suit!"

Mr. Bundy: "What does it look like? Describe it to me."

Roger: "I can't stop now, Mr. B. I'm in a big hurry. We're having a science quiz today and I don't want to be late for it."

Narrator 1: Mr. Bundy couldn't stand it any longer.

Mr. Bundy: "I'll have to go see for myself."

Narrator 2: He marched down the hall and walked into the gym. Mr. Bundy looked at the empty machines. He blinked once. He blinked twice. He began to tremble.

Mr. Bundy: "How can this be? Am I really no good at my job?"

Ivy: "Is there anything wrong?"

Mr. Bundy: "Oh, no! The suit is...it's...well...it's fantastic! I can hardly wait to try it on."

Narrator 3: Mr. Bundy handed Moe and Ivy two gold stars to show how much he liked his new suit.

Mr. Bundy: "I'd like to wear the suit to the assembly tomorrow, but I guess it won't be ready."

Moe: "Oh yes, it will! We will work on it all night and bring it to your house in the morning."

Narrator 4: That night, Mr. Bundy dreamed cold and drafty dreams. Early the next morning Moe and Ivy appeared, holding their empty hangers in the air. Ivy waited in the other room while Moe helped Mr. Bundy put on his new clothes.

Moe: "You must be careful stepping into the pants. This cloth is very delicate."

Narrator 1: Ivy tried not to look at Mr. Bundy.

Ivy: "Aren't your new clothes light? It's almost like having nothing on at all, isn't it?"

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Narrator 2: Mr. Bundy stared at himself in the mirror. He prayed that the rest of the world was smarter than he was.

Mr. Bundy: "Are you two coming to the assembly?"

Ivy: "Thanks, but no thanks. We have a bus to catch. And now, if you could pay us, we'll just run along."

Narrator 3: Moe handed Mr. Bundy the bill for the new suit. Mr. Bundy handed Moe a great deal of money.

Narrator 4: On the way to school, Mr. Bundy's neighbors all raved about the clothes they did not see. After all, they did not want their friends to find out that they were stupid or no good at their jobs.

Narrator 1: At school, Mr. Bundy walked into the auditorium. As he walked down the aisle, he could hear whispers all around him. Teachers and students were 'oohing and aahing' over his beautiful new suit. Mr. Bundy thought he must be the only stupid person in town.

Narrator 2: Suddenly, the kindergarteners started giggling. Then one little girl called out...

Alice: "Look at the principal! Mr. Bundy's in his underwear!"

Narrator 3: That did it! Everyone burst out laughing. The truth had been told. Mr. Bundy and the teachers and students knew they had been tricked. No one had been willing to tell the truth because they were worried about what others would think of them.

Narrator 4: Mr. Bundy just stood there on the stage, red in the face, knees shaking from the chill.

Narrator 1: But not for long. The kids and teachers wanted to help Mr. Bundy. They began passing up shirts and sweatpants, jackets and ties and caps.

Narrator 2: Soon Mr. Bundy had a new set of clothes.

Students 1 and 2: "Looking good, Mr. B!"

Narrator 3: Mr. Bundy called little Alice up onto the stage. He shook her hand and gave her a gold star.

Mr. Bundy: "Thank you for telling the truth, Alice,"

Narrator 4: Everyone cheered. They knew Mr. Bundy was smart and good at his job. And they all agreed...Mr. Bundy was still the sharpest dresser in town.