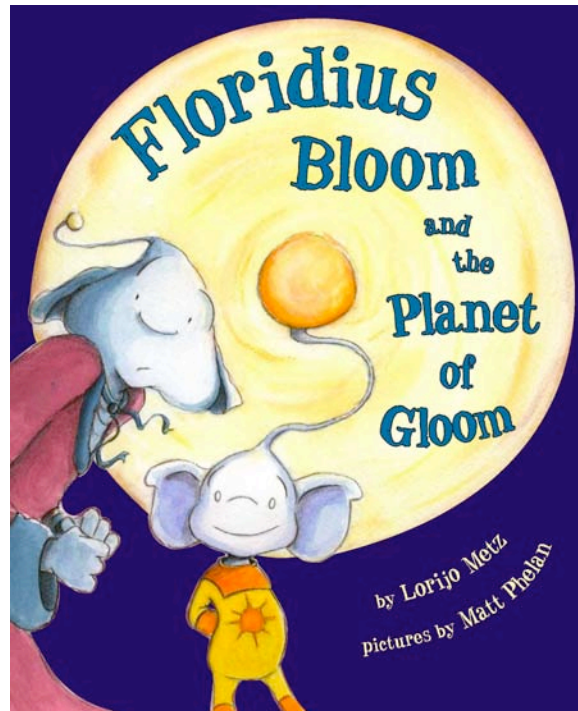


# FLORIDIUS BLOOM AND THE PLANET OF GLOOM -

## Readers Theatre

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## CHARACTERS:

- NARRATOR (Teacher)
- FLORIDIUS BLOOM
- ZRILL
- MONSTERS OF GLOOM (Several)
- ZRILL'S MOTHER
- ZRILL's FRIENDS (2)

## IN ADDITION:

- THE BRICK - Sound Effects Person (or persons)  
*(Specific sound effects are noted; however, others may be added as desired.)*

## STAGING:

Below is one suggested staging. However you decide to arrange your actors, keep it simple. Sit the narrator on a tall stool, stage right. Arrange the Monsters of Gloom and Zrill's friends behind her/him. Place Mother, Floridius and Zrill center stage – in that order. When Zrill's friends “pop in behind” they may literally do so, popping over by Zrill to say their lines and returning to the Monsters when finished. If you choose to use a sound effects person or persons, place them stage left and back. You might also use the monsters for sound effects.

**X**  
Narrator

**x**  
Mother

**x**  
Floridius

**x**  
Zrill

xxxxxxxxx  
Monster's of Gloom  
& Zrill's Friends

### BEFORE YOU BEGIN:

Readers Theater is meant to be fun – not embarrassing. As several of the words in this story are made up and/or may be above your students' current reading level, I suggest you:

1. Read the story aloud to your students.
2. Have the class read the story aloud together.
3. Make a list of words you think your students might have trouble with and then go over these words with the class.
4. Hold auditions for the various parts or if you feel more comfortable, assign roles.
5. Hand out scripts and instruct your actors to practice their parts at home.
6. Either highlight the actor's parts for them or instruct them to highlight their own parts
7. Hold at least 2 rehearsals before performance day.

### REMEMBER:

In Readers Theatre the actors are staged, on script (meaning reading directly from a script, as opposed to memorization) and there is a minimal of movement. The setting for the story takes place in the audience's mind. Scenery can be indicated through mime or by holding up simple props.

### FINALLY:

Don't forget to have fun, be creative—or better yet—let your students be creative. The instructions above are simply suggestions.

## FLORIDIUS BLOOM AND THE PLANET OF GLOOM

NARRATOR: A tiny star fell  
to the planet of Gloom,  
into the yard  
of Floridius Bloom.

Shining so brightly  
it pierced Gloom's gray night,  
and Floridius thought,  
"I must have this Light!"

So a wall he began  
and he built it so tall,  
that it captured the Light—  
encircled it all.

NARRATOR: Floridius Bloom shook his head and wriggled his  
toes. As always, the wigglyfluffs and Monsters of  
Gloom had invaded his dreams.

FLORIDIUS: (Stretching and yawning.) Another day, another  
brick.

(Sound effect [loud]: tap, tap, THUNK!)

NARRATOR: Floridius Bloom sat up.

(Sound effect [louder]: tap, tap, PLUNK!)

FLORIDIUS: Yipes! Those bothersome wigglyfluffs are nibbling  
on my prize cherriflox!

NARRATOR: Floridius jumped out of bed and rushed to his  
garden... but he saw no wigglyfluffs.

(Sound effect [loudest]: tap, tap, CLUNK!)

NARRATOR: Floridius turned. Someone had knocked some bricks out of his wall.

FLORIDIUS: Just as I've feared. The Monsters of Gloom have come to steal my Light!

NARRATOR: Floridius ran to the wall, picked up a brick, and was about to shove it back into place, when—

(Sound effect: tap, tap, WUNK!)

FLORIDIUS: (Hopping on one foot) YE-OUCH!

ZRILL: Sorry.

FLORIDIUS: Sorry? Sorry?!

(Sound effect: kerplunk, kerplunk, kerplunk, KERPLUNK!)

ZRILL: Wanted a peek.

NARRATOR: ... said a little head attached to a voice.

FLORIDIUS: WHO are you?

ZRILL: Zrill!

NARRATOR: ... squeaked the voice, and disappeared from the opening.

FLORIDIUS: Wait! OW! You broke my toe. What am I to do? How am I to climb my wall?

NARRATOR: Floridius stuck his head through the hole and watched Zrill disappear into the darkness. Just when he thought there was nothing left to see... Two bright shiny eyes stared out of the gloom.

ZRILL: Follow.

NARRATOR: ... squeaked Zrill. And for some reason, Floridius did. Limping after Zrill, teetering and tripping through the grim gray darkness of Gloom, Floridius began to see “things.” Some were tall and some were small, but all had eyes that glowed.

FLORIDIUS: The Monsters! You’ve led me straight to the Monsters!

NARRATOR: And then it happened... The Monster’s of Gloom began to wave and smile!

MONSTER: What is it?

NARRATOR: Zrill turned, pointed at Floridius, and squeaked,

ZRILL: Broken.

MONSTERS: Ahhh... AHHHHH!

NARRATOR: On they traveled, further and further. Floridius began to notice small gray dwellings dotting the darkness. Zrill stopped and pointed at one.

ZRILL: Mother.

FLORIDIUS: Monster?!

ZRILL: Mother!

NARRATOR: he squeaked, grabbing Floridius by the hand. Inside was a creature that looked just like Zrill—only much larger.

MOTHER: You’re late,

NARRATOR: ... she said, followed by

MOTHER: Oh my!

NARRATOR: Zrill pointed to Floridius's toe and squeaked,

ZRILL: Fix Mother?

NARRATOR: Floridius remembered his toe and felt silly because it didn't hurt as much anymore. He looked around the room. It was gray like the rest of Gloom, but also filled with pictures of smiling, Zrill-like faces. And, for some reason, Floridius felt lonely.

MOTHER: May I look, Mr...?

FLORIDIUS: Bloom.

MOTHER: Ah... Bloom!

NARRATOR: Zrill hopped out of the room. Mother helped Floridius to a chair. She lifted his foot and looked at his toe.

MOTHER: Needs rest, Mr. Bloom... Someone to look after you?

FLORIDIUS: No one.

MOTHER: Ahhh...

NARRATOR: said Mother, looking deep into his eyes.

MOTHER: AHHHHH!

NARRATOR: Mother propped Floridius's foot on a cushion, placed a blanket on his lap, and brought him a dish of warm gray mush.

MOTHER: Better?

NARRATOR: ... she asked, when suddenly Zrill popped into the room.

ZRILL: Mother fixed?

NARRATOR: ... he squeaked, as two more just like him popped in behind.

FRIEND 1: Your Light—hurt?

FRIEND 2: Awful?

FLORIDIUS: What silly notions. The Light fills my home with cheezblooms and cherriflox, brickelseeds and starshines!

FRIENDS 1&2: Brickelseeds?

FLORIDIUS: (Bragging.) And I have a bench outside for sitting and gazing upon my star whenever I please.

MOTHER: And friends, Mr. Bloom... Any friends?

ZRILL: Me!

NARRATOR: Floridius Bloom opened his mouth, but for once, he had nothing to say. That night Mother brought a pile of soft covers and a warm drink. She tucked him in and trilled,

MOTHER: Sweet Dreams, Bloom.

NARRATOR: And, for the first time, Floridius did not dream of Monsters. He awoke rested, but with a slight throb in his toe.

FLORIDIUS: Perhaps I should stay a bit longer.

NARRATOR: But as he closed his eyes, an image appeared: not one wigglyfluff, but hundreds of them—munching on his garden! Floridius jumped up and rushed out of the house. Dashing madly across Gloom, back to

his wall, Floridius popped his head through the opening, and stopped. His Light, it seemed almost—too bright?

Squinting his eyes, Floridius squeezed through the hole and made his way to the garden. He groped about, picked a blossom, held it to his nose, and sniffed.

FLORIDIUS: Ahhh, cheezbloom, ahhhhh!

NARRATOR: Then Floridius closed his eyes and heard—

FLORIDIUS: Silence.

NARRATOR: No wigglyfluffs. No Monsters. Nothing at all. Floridius was completely alone. He walked back to the wall and stared at the hole.

FLORIDIUS: I suppose I should close it up.

NARRATOR: Suddenly—out of the gray gloom walked Zrill.

ZRILL: Another peek?

NARRATOR: Floridius smiled... Floridius beamed!

Zrill climbed through the hole, blinking and rubbing his eyes. Finally, he walked over to Floridius. Together, they turned and peered at the top of the wall.

FLORIDIUS: I believe my wall is complete. Now what am I to do?

ZRILL: Down, down, DOWN!

NARRATOR: ... squeaked Zrill, as he ran back to the wall.

FLORIDIUS: Why yes! Take it ALL down, of course! Another day, another brick!

ZRILL: 'Nother day!

NARRATOR: ... squeaked Zrill, and began to climb.

FLORIDIUS: Wait, Zrill! Where are you going?!

NARRATOR: But Zrill did not answer.

(Sound effect: tap, tap, tapping.)

NARRATOR: Floridius looked up. There was Zrill, waving from the top of the wall.

(Sound effect: tap, tap, THUUUUUUUUUUNK!)

ZRILL: 'NOTHER BRICK!

NARRATOR: ... he squeaked, as two more bricks went,

(Sound effect: KERRRRRPLUNK, KERRRRRRRPLUNK!)

FLORIDIUS: Ahhh...

NARRATOR: ... said Floridius Bloom.

EVERYONE: AHHHHH!

NARRATOR: And when the very last brick was removed from the wall,

EVERYONE: the little star's light encircled them all.