



A Reader's Theater

Developed by Linda Trice

Script adapted from the book

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Kenya can't seem to get anything right. When her teacher asks her to bring in the word that names her favorite animal, she brings in the animal itself—a live tarantula! What will happen when she is asked to choose her favorite describing word? Warm, expressive illustrations show the cultural richness and diversity of Kenya's world.

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Ages 5–8



Cast of characters:

Kenya

Narrator

Mrs. Garcia

Kenya's mom

Kenya's dad

Mosi, Kenya's sister

Students 1, 2, 3

Chorus

Narrator: Kenya liked just about everything. She liked spinach.

Chorus: Yuck!

Narrator: She liked spiders.

Chorus: Yuck!

Narrator: She liked her teacher, Mrs. Garcia.

Chorus: Yeah!

Narrator: One day Kenya was in school. She was looking out the window and didn't listen as Mrs. Garcia said:

Mrs. Garcia: Tomorrow, class, bring in the word that names your favorite pet.

Narrator: The next day Kenya brought a box to school. She opened the box and a tarantula crawled out.

Chorus: No!

Narrator: Finally Kenya caught her tarantula.

Mrs. Garcia: Kenya, I didn't say to bring in your pet. We just needed the naming word. Tomorrow, class, bring in the word that names your favorite food.

Narrator: The next day, Kenya brought a bag to school. When she picked the bag up, melted ice cream leaked out. Children slipped and slid on the melted ice cream. It was *everywhere!*

Chorus: Oh!

Mrs. Garcia: Kenya, I didn't say to bring in your favorite food. We just needed the naming word. Tomorrow, class, bring in your favorite describing word.

Narrator: When Kenya got home, she said:

Kenya: My homework is to find my favorite describing word.

Mosi: My pajamas feel silky.

Kenya's mom: A mango smells fruity.

Kenya's dad: Jazz sounds happy or sad.

Narrator: The next day in school, Mrs. Garcia asked the class to tell her what describing words they had chosen.

Student 1: Slippery!

Student 2: Delicious!

Student 3: Sparkly!

Kenya: My favorite describing word is black. Black is the color of my favorite things.

Student 1: Black like your tarantula?

Student 2: Black like my new puppy!

Student 3: Black like my shiny party shoes!

Mrs. Garcia: Black like a velvety night sky.

Kenya: Black is all the colors of the rainbow mixed together. Black is a beautiful word.

Chorus: Yeah!

THE END



Linda Trice

*“Linda Trice shows that a story can be fun,
original, and educational.”*

— Walter Dean Myers

Linda Trice, Ph.D., a former elementary school teacher and Black Studies professor, is the author of many children’s works, including *Charles Drew: Pioneer of Blood Plasma*, a biography of the African American surgeon who created blood banks during World War II.

A graduate of Howard University, she received a Master of Fine Arts degree from Columbia University’s Creative Writing Program, where she studied with the noted African American author John Oliver Killens. Her Ph.D. is from the Center for Minority Studies. She also received a J.D. from Brooklyn Law School.

Trice taught writing and Black Studies at Trinity College in Connecticut, the graduate program of Lincoln University in Pennsylvania, and the City University of New York. She was a Fellow at numerous writers’ colonies, is listed in Poets and Writers’ *Directory of American Poets and Fiction Writers*, and is a full member of the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators and the National League of American Pen Women.

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