

Hodja Gives a Speech

Reader's Theater Script

Based on a story titled "Delivering a Khutba (speech)" found online at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nasreddin>

Characters:

Nasreddin Hodja

The People (rest of class with no other speaking part)

First half of the people ($\frac{1}{2}$ of the class)

Second half of the people (other $\frac{1}{2}$ of the class)

Narrator #1

Narrator #2

Narrator #3

Narrator #1:

In a small town in central Anatolia, the great teacher and leader Nasreddin Hodja was invited to come and give an inspirational speech to the town.

Narrator #2:

Hodja was not that interested in giving the speech. He had been traveling a long time and was very tired. However, he was greatly respected by the people so they pleaded with him and he agreed to give a speech.

Narrator #3:

When Hodja arrived, there was a great crowd gathered.

Hodja:

Do you know what I am going to say?

The People:

No, we do not know great Hodja.

Narrator #1:

Hodja becomes annoyed and says to the people.

Hodja:

I have no desire to speak to people who don't even know what I will be talking about.

Narrator #2:

The people were a bit surprised and felt embarrassed. After much more pleading from the people, Hodja agrees to come back the next day and give his speech.

Hodja:

People, do you know what I am going to say?

The People:

Yes, we know great Hodja.

Narrator #3:

Once again, Hodja becomes annoyed and says to the people.

Hodja:

Well, since you already know what I am going to say, I won't waste any more of your time.

Narrator #1:

Now the people were really perplexed. They decided to try one more time and once again invited him to speak the following week. Hodja agrees, once again, and returns to give his speech to the people.

Hodja:

People, do you know what I am going to say?

Narrator #2:

Now, the people were prepared for Hodja's question.

First $\frac{1}{2}$ of the People:

YES!

Second $\frac{1}{2}$ of the People:

NO!

Narrator #3

The people believed they had tricked Hodja. But Hodja, being the cleverest then says

Hodja:

Well then, the half who know what I am going to say, please tell it to the other half!

Narrator #1

Then Hodja left!