

A Reader's Theater Play

adapted from the book

***The Little Red Lighthouse
and the Great Gray Bridge***

by Hildegarde H. Swift and Lynd Ward

CHARACTERS

Narrator 1

Narrator 2

Little Red Lighthouse

Steamship

Canoe

Tug Boat

Lighthouse Keeper

Bridge Builder 1

Bridge Builder 2

Great Gray Bridge

1	Narrator 1:	There once was a lighthouse whose bright, shining beam was the lightest and brightest folks had ever seen.
	Narrator 2:	He was faded and rusty and not very tall, but that didn't bother the lighthouse at all.
	Lighthouse:	To warn the boats of danger, I ring my bell loud. I am quite important! I am very proud!
	Narrator 1:	Each morning the lighthouse's friends would appear. Sometimes they whistled. Sometimes they cheered.
2	Steamship:	Well, hooty-toot-toot! And how do you do?
	Narrator 2:	Said the big steamship from the water so blue.
3	Canoe:	Well, hello my friends! What a day for a glide!
	Narrator 1:	Said the slender canoe taking folks for a ride.
4	Tugboat:	Chug, chug, chug, and cheerio!
	Narrator 2:	Said the tug who had quite a long way to go.

	Narrator 1:	When night came, the lighthouse keeper arrived to make the now quiet lighthouse come alive.
5	Lighthouse Keeper:	It's my job to keep the lighthouse shining bright so he can warn ships in the darkness of night.
6	Narrator 2:	The lighthouse then flashed his bright beam of light. He rang his bell with all his might.
	Lighthouse:	Watch out for rocks! Please keep away! Watch me closely, so safe you'll stay.
7	Narrator 1:	One day some workers came to dig in the river which was so big.
	Narrator 2:	They planted steel beams in the river floor. They rested a bit, then planted some more.
8	Narrator 1:	The beams stretched up high and before they were through, The steel beams were crossing the water so blue!
9	Bridge Builder 1:	We build beams over the river wide.
	Bridge Builder 2:	So people can reach the other side.
10	Lighthouse:	What is this strange new sight? Somehow I don't feel quite right.

1 1	Narrator 2:	The workers stopped building late one day. And there stood a bridge that was big and gray.
	Lighthouse:	That big bridge sure is tall! But now I feel incredibly small.
1 2	Narrator 1:	Then the bridge gave off a beam of light, and the lighthouse felt a terrible fright.
1 3	Lighthouse:	Oh no! She is much brighter than me! She is much easier for boats to see! I don't feel needed anymore. The bridge can guide boats to shore.
1 4	Narrator 2:	The lighthouse sniffled. Then he cried. He felt so very sad inside.
	Narrator 1:	When night came, the lighthouse began to fret. The lighthouse keeper had not come yet.
	Lighthouse:	Without my lighthouse-keeper friend, my fun job has come to an end. I guess the keeper stayed at home because the bridge can do it alone.
1 5	Narrator 2:	Just then the wind began to blow. It tossed the tug boat to and fro.

	Tugboat:	Oh, where is the lighthouse's shining light? I need it to guide me on this stormy night.
1 6	Narrator 1:	Just when the tug thought he had reached the docks, CRASH! He went tumbling against the rocks.
1 7	Narrator 2:	The bridge saw this and she began to shout down to the lighthouse whose light was still out.
	Bridge:	Hello there, my friend. Why don't you blink? Without your beam the ships will sink.
1 8	Lighthouse:	But I thought that your light was enough to guide the boats when the water is rough.
1 9	Bridge:	I shine for airplanes, the boats of the sky. Your light shines down low and my light shines up high.
2 0	Narrator 1:	Just then the lighthouse keeper appeared. When the lighthouse saw him he let out a cheer.
2 1	Lighthouse:	Where have you been? You gave me a scare. I could not tell the boats to beware.

	Lighthouse Keeper:	I lost my keys, but now they're found. We sure missed your light and sound.
22	Bridge:	You see, my friend. Please have no doubt. Your light is something boats can't do without.
23	Tugboat:	That is for sure. You're telling me! If your light had shown I'd have been able to see.
24	Narrator 1:	Just then the steamship and canoe came by.
	Narrator 2	The wanted to cheer up that sad little guy.
	Steamship:	You are our lighthouse. You are our friend.
	Canoe:	We never want your job to end.
25	Lighthouse:	So, even though I'm short and small, I am still needed after all.
	All:	Yes, you are still needed after all.
THE END		