**Reader’s Theatre**

This Reader’s Theatre was written by the author of Lights Out, Marsha Diane Arnold. Most of the words have been taken directly from the book, but some have been changed or moved around to make a fun Reader’s Theatre for children.

The characters/cast move around the room or outside, if outside is possible, as if they are going on a journey, like Fox and Beetle in *Lights Out.*

**Cast:** Narrator, Fox, Beetle/Beetle, Songbird, Frog, Bear, Turtles (as few or as many as you wish; just two lines.)

**Chorus of Children:**

House lights

Car lights

Truck lights

Street lights

Red lights

Yellow lights

Blue lights

Green lights

Floodlights

Boat lights

Searchlights

Bridge lights

Blinking lights

Flashing lights

Blazing lights

Flicking lights

**Fox:** Lights out!

**Beetle:** Where is Darkness? Where is Night?

**Fox:** I wonder if Night is only lost.

**Beetle:** Out there. Somewhere.

**Narrator:** Across the wide, wide world, they search…for the Dark of Night.

(Fox and Beetle walk toward Songbird.)

**Songbird:** Everywhere- Lights! I’m so confused. Where are the stars to guide me?

(Songbird joins Fox and Beetle and walk toward Frog.)

**Narrator:** Across the wide, wide world, they search…for the Dark of Night.

**Frog:** Where is Darkness? How long must I wait to join a nighttime chorus?

(Frog joins Songbird, Fox, and Beetle.)

**Narrator:** Across the wide, wide world, they search…for the Dark of Night.

**Bear:** ROAAAARRR! There’s too much light to hibernate.

(Bear joins Frog, Songbird, Fox, and Beetle.)

**Narrator:** Across the wide, wide world, they search…for the Dark of Night.

**Fox**: We search through forests.

**Beetle:** And meadows.

**Songbird:** Across highlands, deserts, dunes.

**Frog:** Tundra, prairies.

**Bear:** High mountains.

**Fox:** And seashores. What is happening on the beach?

**Bear:** Baby turtles hatching!

**Beetle:** Baby turtles scattering!

*Action: The animals run to an area designated as water.*

**Fox, Beetle, Songbird, Frog, and Bear:** Follow us! Away from the lights! Follow us!

**Beetle:** I’m sparking. Sparkling! Glowing!!

**Fox:** You’re more than a beetle.

**Fox, Songbird, Frog, Bear:** You’re a firefly!

**Fox:** Follow Firefly!

**Turtle Hatchlings:** We’re following!

**Firefly:** And the moon’s glow on the water.

**Turtle Hatchlings:** We’re following! We’re following!

**Narrator:** Patterns of the Night emerge. The hatchlings paddle safely away.

**Turtle Hatchlings:** Good-bye. Thank you.

**Fox:** There’s an island in the distance.

*Action:The animals climb onto the island seashore.*

**Fox:** We can see…

**Fox, Firefly, Songbird, Frog, Bear**: Everything.

**Children’s Chorus:**

Shadowy shapes

Dappled gray

Silvery white

Shimmering bay

Mushrooms glowing

Fireflies

Moonlit garden

Shining eyes

Nightime weavers

Webs of stars

Constellations

Venus, Mars

Great Bear, Little

Comet play

Dancing moonbeams

Milky Way

**Fox:** Lights On.