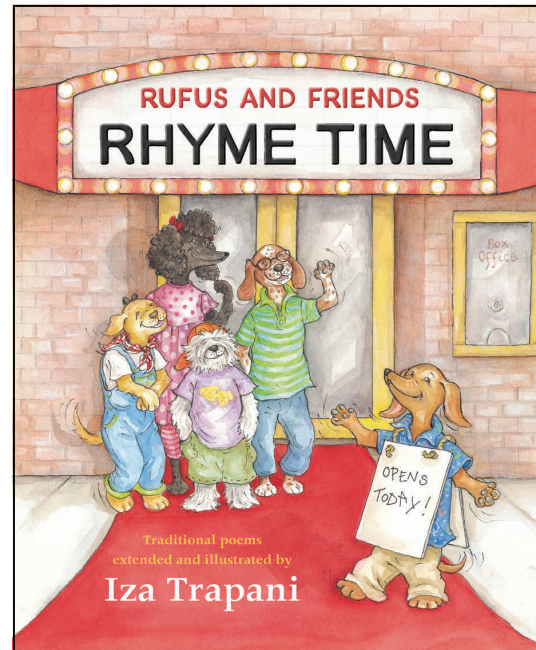


# Staging a Reader's Theater

Author and illustrator Iza Trapani used nursery rhymes when she was young to learn the English language, “My love for nursery rhymes began when I was seven years old. I had just arrived in the United States from Poland and was given a big, beautiful Mother Goose collection. Speaking only Polish at the time, I soon began to learn English while I spent many magical hours immersed in that book. The sounds, rhythms, and playful language in the verses captivated me.”

The repetition and rhythm in tongue-twisters and nursery rhymes are a great way to help young children build phonemic awareness. By staging a reader's theater with *Rufus and Friends: Rhyme Time* your students can have fun practicing sounds, learning to read, and building their memories! Follow the instructions below and have a hippity hoppity handy spandy time!



Illustrations © 2008 by Iza Trapani from *Rufus and Friends: Rhyme Time*

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Ages: 4 - 7

## Step One

*Rhyme Time* has fourteen nursery rhymes. Assign one or several students to each one. Then divide up the lines in the rhyme and assign them to a student. For example, Betty Botter has four parts to it, meaning that four students can each read one part.

## Step Two

Write each student's lines on a sheet of paper. If the students are advanced enough, ask them to take home their lines and memorize them. Practice in class for several days to help them remember. If students are younger, allow them to read their lines from the sheet of paper.

## Step Three

Print out the playbill and tickets for the play provided in this downloadable. Write in each student's name by the nursery rhyme that they will recite. Hand out tickets to all guests or other students who will be watching the show. Optional: Make costumes and create a set based on those in the book or from your own imagination!

# Playbill

## Rufus and Friends



## Rhyme Time

# RHYME TIME

## Cast of Characters



- Betty Botter .....
- From Wibbleton to Wabbleton .....
- Hickety, Pickety .....
- Cackle, Cackle, Mother Goose .....
- Doctor Foster Went to Gloucester .....
- Swan Swam Over the Sea .....
- Hippity Hop to the Barbershop .....
- Fiddle Dee Dee .....
- Peter Piper Picked a Peck of Pickled Peppers ...
- Handy Spandy, Jack-a-dandy .....
- Tweedledum and Tweedledee .....
- Sippity Sup, Sippity Sup .....
- Diddle, Diddle, Dumpling .....
- Wee Willie Winkie .....

