

A Reader's Theater Script for
Flora and Ulysses
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Readers:

Donald Tickham

Mrs. Tootie Tickham

Flora

Narrator 1

Narrator 2

Narrator 1: Flora's neighbors are the Tickhams. In the Tickham kitchen, late on a summer afternoon, Donald came home to surprise his wife with a birthday present...

Donald: Ahem, Happy Birthday to Youuuuuu.

Mrs. Tickham: What's this Donald?

Donald: This is your birthday present. (excitedly) It is a Ulysses Super-suction, multi-terrain 2000X! Happy Birthday!

Mrs. Tickham: It's a vacuum cleaner.

Donald: (emphasize) It's a Ulysses 2000X. (proudly) Yep, It's the crown jewel of vacuums. (Sell it!) It features an extra-long cord so that absolutely no mess, no dirt, is ever out of your reach. It's indoor/outdoor. It goes everywhere. It does everything!

Mrs. Tickham: (sarcastically) Goody.

Donald: You have to try it out. Turn it on!

Narrator 2: Donald plugged in the vacuum and then Mrs. Tickham turned it on. It instantly was sucking every speck of anything into it. It stole Mr. Tickham's pants, startled Mrs. Tickham who knocked over a chair with a book of poetry and box of crackers on it. No sooner had they hit the ground when the Ulysses 2000X sucked them up.

Donald: (scared) Whoa. Hey, now.

Mrs. Tickham: What in the world, Donald?

Donald: (opens the door) (still trying to sell it) It's multi-terrain! You should try it outside.

Narrator 1: As soon as the door was open, the vacuum shot out the door into the backyard with Mrs. Tickham still holding on. And that's how it all began. With a vacuum cleaner. Really.

Narrator 2: Flora was in her room thinking about how much she hated her mother's profession as a Romance Novelist when a loud noise caught her attention. She went to the window and saw Mrs. Tickham running around the backyard with a shiny, oversize vacuum.

Flora: (to self) Who vacuums their yard?

Narrator 1: It was more like the vacuum cleaner was in charge. And it seemed to be out of its mind. Or its engine. Or something.

Flora: (to no one in particular) A few bolts shy of a load.

Narrator 2: That was when Flora saw the vacuum cleaner and Mrs. Tickham racing toward a squirrel.

Flora: Watch out! You're going to vacuum up that squirrel!

Narrator 1: Even if Mrs. Tickham had been able to hear the warning over the vacuum, there was nothing she could do.

Flora: (superhero voice) This malfeasance must be stopped.

Narrator 2: There was nothing Flora could do from her room but watch as the squirrel was vacuumed up.

Flora: (astonished) Holy Bagumba.

Narrator 1: Swallowing a squirrel was a bit much even for the powerful, indomitable, indoor/outdoor Ulysses 2000X. It roared and then sputtered to a stop. Mrs. Tickham leaned

over and could see a tail sticking out. She tried tugging on the squirrel's tail to get it out.

Mrs. Tickham: Help! I think I've killed a squirrel.

Narrator 2: Flora rushed from her room, ran down the stairs, out the door and into the Tickham's backyard.

Flora: (to Mrs. Tickham) Move out of the way.

Narrator 1: Flora picked up the vacuum and shook it hard until the squirrel landed with a plop on the grass. He didn't look that great and he was missing a lot of fur. He was not breathing.

Narrator 2: Thinking of her favorite comic *The Illuminated Adventures of the Amazing Incandesto!*, she thought of a bonus comic in it about life saving techniques. But, how do you give a squirrel CPR?

Flora: I'll figure it out.

Mrs. Tickham: What will you figure out?

Narrator 1: Flora didn't respond, but leaned over and started to give the squirrel rescue breaths and compressions.

Mrs. Tickham: Have you lost your mind?

Narrator 2: One minute he had been thinking about how hungry he was and then everything had gone blank for Ulysses. But then there came a light so beautiful, so bright, that the squirrel had to turn away. But then he heard a voice.

Flora: Breathe!

Narrator 1: Mrs. Tickham and Flora were relieved when he started breathing. The squirrel was unsteady on his feet and he felt as if his brain was larger. It was very weird, but like all squirrels, all he could think about was that he was very hungry.

Narrator 2: That's when he did the most amazing thing. Flora and Mrs. Tickham stared at the Ulysses 2000X and at the squirrel, who was holding it over his head with one paw. That is when Flora realized that he was like a superhero. The vacuum must have given him

super powers.

Mrs. Tickham: Surely you're not implying....

Flora: Mrs. Tickham. Go inside. Feed your husband. Say nothing to him or anyone else about any of this.

Narrator 1: And that is how it all started. She is a natural born cynic! He is an unassuming squirrel! Together, Flora & Ulysses will conquer villains, defend the defenseless, and protect the weak. (pauses) Or something.

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