



## A Reader's Theater Script

Based on a Cherokee folktale

Retelling by Marlene Perez

Word Count: 409

### Characters:

Narrator

Bear

Fox

Possum

Grandmother Spider

Buzzard

### Narrator:

In the beginning, Earth was in darkness. The animals and people didn't like to be in the dark all the time. The animals called a meeting to see what they could do about it.

### Bear:

I've heard about a wondrous thing called the Sun. It is kept far, far away. Maybe we can steal part of it.

### Fox and Possum:

That's a great idea! But who will do it?

### Narrator:

The animals looked at each other. Finally, they agreed Fox would be first to try.

**Fox:**

I'll sneak up and grab a piece of the Sun when no one is looking.

**Narrator:**

So he did. The Sun burned Fox's mouth, and Fox dropped it. His mouth was black from where the Sun had burned him. That is why all foxes now have black mouths.

**Possum:**

I'll try. I'll sneak up and hide a piece of the Sun in my bushy tail.

**Narrator:**

So Possum stole a piece of the Sun and hid it in her long, bushy, tail. But the Sun burned all the hair from Possum's tail. That is why all possums now have skinny, hairless tails.

**Bear:**

What should we do next? The Sun is too hot to steal.

**Grandmother Spider:**

I'll try. I won't sneak up and grab a piece of the Sun. I won't hold it in my mouth or put it on my tail. I have a better idea.

**Narrator:**

Grandmother Spider wove a strong bag, made out of her webbing. She traveled far to capture a piece of the Sun and put it in her strong bag. She brought it back to the other animals.

**Grandmother Spider:**

I have brought you the Sun.

**Bear:**

Where should we put it?

**Grandmother Spider:**

The Sun belongs in the sky, where we all can see it.

**Possum:**

But we can't fly that high. How will we get it up in the sky?

**Fox:**

Let's ask Buzzard to help us. He can fly the highest of any of us.

**Buzzard:**

I'll take the Sun up to the sky. But the Sun is very hot. I'll keep it in Grandmother Spider's bag and put the bag on top of my head.

**Narrator:**

Buzzard had lots and lots of feathers on his head to help protect him from the Sun. Buzzard flew up and up, as far as he could go. But the higher he flew, the hotter the Sun got. The Sun burned away Buzzard's feathers and left a red mark on his head.

Buzzard flew to the edge of the sky. He put the Sun where everyone could see its light.