



Reader's Theatre: A Note from Book-It Arts Education

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Amelia Earhart Forever has roles for four readers. Characters are written with she, he, or singular they for specific characters to maintain clarity, but **pronouns can be adjusted as needed to match the pronouns of the readers in your class**, with the exceptions of Amelia Earhart and Percy Fawcett, because—though this is a fictionalized account—both were real people. However, any reader may read the role of Amelia or Percy. Please do not change the names of the characters.

When you read the script, try different ways of speaking as your character. Your **character voice** can sound however you want it to but start with your own voice. Imagine the world of the play, listen to the lines of the other readers, take a deep breath, and speak as if the character is really you.

Lines written (*like this*), in parentheses and italicized, are **stage directions**. They give you information about how a character is feeling or what is happening at that moment in the script. (You can read them out loud, if you want to.) **Use these guidelines to incorporate action, tableaux, or scenic art into your reading.**

This script uses **line numbering**. Use these numbers to help find your spot or to work on a certain part of the script. You can also use a highlighter to highlight your lines or responsibilities.

Happy reading!

AMELIA EARHART FOREVER

by Annika Bennett

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CHARACTERS

AMELIA: (she/her) a dreamer, a doer, a daredevil

PLANE: (she/her) a bright red Lockheed 5B Vega and a very good friend

BIOGRAPHER: (they/them) Amelia's biggest fan, sometimes gets a little lost in the details

PERCY: (he/him) a very famous explorer; probably, like, *the* most famous of all time. If you haven't heard of him it's definitely your fault, not his.

1 *(Setting: An airport tarmac in Oakland, California.*
2 *Then, the sky — so high up that everything on the earth below*
3 *feels small and insignificant.*
4 *Then, a tropical island in the Bermuda Triangle that probably*
5 *doesn't actually exist.)*

6 **AMELIA:** Radio?

7 **PLANE:** Check.

8 **AMELIA:** Map?

9 **PLANE:** Got it.

10 **AMELIA:** Snacks?

11 **PLANE:** So. Many. Snacks.

12 **AMELIA:** Then I think we're ready.

13 **PLANE:** I can't believe this. We're actually going to circumnavigate the
14 *world!* Are you a little nervous?

15 **AMELIA:** Nervous? Pssh. Why would I be nervous? Now, let's get out of
16 here before...

17 **BIOGRAPHER:** Amelia Earhart!

18 **AMELIA:** ...Before that biographer shows up and starts telling stories
19 about me.

20 **BIOGRAPHER:** Amelia Earhart first saw an airplane at the State Fair when
21 she was ten years old, and wrote in her diary that night that she didn't
22 understand why anyone would care so much about "a thing of rusty wire
23 and wood."

24 **PLANE:** Did you really say that? How rude.

25 **AMELIA:** I was only ten! I hadn't met *you* yet.

26 **BIOGRAPHER:** Years later, Amelia went to an aviation show, and a pilot
27 flew his plane so close to her that the wind ruffled her hair and stung her
28 eyes. Later, she told her sister, "I believe that little red airplane said
29 something to me as it swished by."

30 **PLANE:** Yeah, it was probably saying "GET OUT OF MY WAY."

31 **AMELIA:** What matters is that I heard it, right?
32 That's when I knew what I wanted to do. That's when I started looking for
33 you.

34 **BIOGRAPHER:** Amelia Earhart's favorite color was brown. When she
35 graduated high school, her yearbook described her as "the girl in brown
36 who walks alone." Her favorite food was cheesecake. As she wandered the
37 country, working odd jobs and saving up to buy her very own airplane, she
38 must have eaten quite a few slices of cheesecake on lonely nights in lonely
39 diners.

40 Strawberry cheesecake. Chocolate cheesecake. Lemon raspberry
41 cheesecake, coconut cheesecake, cookie dough cheesecake...

42 **PLANE:** *(to the Biographer)*
43 Excuse me?

44 **BIOGRAPHER:** Yes?

45 **PLANE:** Thanks so much, but I think we can take it from here.

46 **AMELIA:** Right. Time to go. Ready?

47 **PLANE:** Ready.

48 **AMELIA:** Then let's fly.

49 *(AMELIA and PLANE fly together.)*

50 **PLANE:** So... where exactly are we headed first, captain?

51 **AMELIA:** I was planning to take us west. But instead... can we head east,
52 please?

53 **PLANE:** You want to go east? From here?

54 **AMELIA:** Then southeast, then we'll loop-de-loop over the equator and fly
55 straight into the light of the setting sun.

56 **PLANE:** But that'll put us...

57 **AMELIA:** Right over the Bermuda Triangle! Good, you get it.

58 **PLANE:** But Amelia, nobody's ever flown over the Bermuda Triangle and
59 lived to tell the tale!

60 **AMELIA:** And why shouldn't we be the first? Plane, I don't know how to
61 describe this, but it's like something's calling me there.

62 **PLANE:** Well, then we should definitely...
63 Wait. Something's wrong. These clouds are strange. They're making me all
64 dizzy. The sea's where the sun should be, and the sun's where the sky is,
65 and... Amelia, I think you'd better hold on.

66 **AMELIA & PLANE:** AHHH!

67 *(They crash!)*

68 **BIOGRAPHER:** Greetings from the Bermuda Triangle! It's a strange little
69 sliver of the Atlantic Ocean, where ships, planes, and people sometimes
70 vanish – poof! – into thin air.

71 Some say it's the home of the long-lost underwater city of Atlantis, while
72 others insist that aliens live on its ocean floor. All I can say for sure is that

73 **BIOGRAPHER (*continued*)**: Amelia and her Plane crash-landed on a little
74 island smack-dab in the center of it, going from a wild storm into a peaceful
75 sunny day.

76 And that's *all* I'm gonna tell you, because I have to find a way out of here
77 before I get lost...

78 (*ominously*)

79 ...forever.

80 **AMELIA**: PLANE! Are you okay?

81 **PLANE**: Well... my tail is a little dinged up, and I think the radio's broken,
82 but I'm all right. Are *you* okay?

83 **AMELIA**: I think so. That storm came out of nowhere – I've never seen
84 anything like it.

85 **PERCY**: Amelia Earhart! You're here! You're finally here!

86 **AMELIA**: Where is "here," exactly? And who are you?

87 **PERCY**: You... don't recognize me?

88 **AMELIA**: No, sorry.

89 **PERCY**: Oh no no no no it doesn't matter a bit!

90 (*It definitely matters.*)

91 I'm Percy Fawcett. I'm an *extremely* famous explorer. But... it's whatever,
92 don't worry about it.

93 **PLANE**: Wait. Didn't Percy Fawcett vanish from the Amazon rainforest?

94 **AMELIA**: Oh, I do remember hearing about that.

95 **PERCY:** I was exploring the Amazon, searching for the great Lost City of Z
96 and having no luck whatsoever.

97 **PLANE:** Right. Because the Lost City of Z doesn't exist.

98 **PERCY:** What do you know about it? You're just a talking airplane!
99 *Anyways.* I couldn't go home to England empty-handed! I was panicking.
100 *And sad.*

101 **PERCY:** What if humans had explored everything there was to explore?
102 What if there was nothing left to discover? Would I matter anymore?
103 I set sail the next morning, not really knowing where I was going, and found
104 myself in the Bermuda Triangle. And I realized that if I could get enough
105 explorers to join me here in this strange place, the rest of the world would
106 always wonder what had happened to us – where we could have gone,
107 what we might have seen. Here, we can become their *dreams*.

108 **AMELIA:** So you sent that storm to pull us in here?

109 **PERCY:** The Triangle works in mysterious ways!
110 Now, come with me, Amelia – I want to introduce you to the others. Lillian
111 Alling has been so excited to meet you.

112 **PLANE:** The Russian adventurer who disappeared from the Alaskan
113 territories in 1929?

114 **PERCY:** That's right! And Ludwig Leichhardt is here too!

115 **PLANE:** The German explorer who vanished from the Australian outback in
116 1848?

117 **AMELIA:** But that was ninety years ago!

118 **PERCY:** Oh, time moves differently here. It's... well, it's triangular. It slams
119 into corners. Time has short sides and long sides and all kinds of strange
120 angles and honestly, if you think about it too hard, it hurts your brain.

121 **AMELIA:** Have any of you ever tried to *leave* the triangle?

122 **PERCY:** Of course we have! But... see, most maps are square, and
123 latitudinal lines run parallel to each other. But here...

124 **AMELIA:** Let me guess: it's all triangles?

125 **PERCY:** I think you're starting to catch on. Now... come along. Your hard
126 work is done. You've vanished. You're a mystery! Now you can come play
127 limbo and work on your tan with me and all the other explorers!

128 **AMELIA:** We'll be there in a second.

129 ...Plane? I lied about not being nervous. Of course I was, or I never would
130 have panicked and switched up the plan at the last minute. I'm sorry – if I
131 hadn't brought us here, we could be halfway around the world by now.

132 **PLANE:** I do hope we get to finish that flight someday. But... we're here
133 now. And I think this place... *needs* exploring.

134 **AMELIA:** I'm glad you can feel that too. Yeah – this isn't the adventure we
135 planned, but I think maybe we can make something amazing out of it.

136 Hey! There's that biographer again. Did you get stuck in here too?

137 **BIOGRAPHER:** I sure did! Now, before you venture off into the triangle:
138 can I tell you one more story?

139 **AMELIA:** Okay, fine. But just one.

140 **BIOGRAPHER:** A lot of people don't know this, but Amelia Earhart was
141 married to a fellow pilot, who she first met on a flight over the Atlantic –
142 maybe just miles above the Bermuda Triangle. They loved each other very
143 much, but they loved the sky just as much, or maybe even more. On their
144 wedding day, Amelia wrote him a letter, telling him,

145 **PLANE:** "I may have to find some place where I can go to be myself now
146 and then."

147 **AMELIA:** Not famous. Not a mystery. Not a dream.
148 Just... myself.
149 Because after all – isn't that the whole point?

150 **—THE END—**