

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

Book-It grants permission for *Hyacinthus and Apollo* by Sien Méndez to be used by readers, teachers, and librarians in classrooms or educational settings. If you would like to use this script outside of these settings, please contact Book-It Repertory Theatre at [education@book-it.org](mailto:education@book-it.org).

*Hyacinthus and Apollo* has roles for six readers. Make casting choices with the information each character description, then, once cast, change pronouns to align with those of the reader. 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!**

## HYACINTHUS AND APOLLO

by Sien Méndez

Original Material Published by Book-It Repertory Theatre, ©2022.  
All rights reserved by Book-It Repertory Theatre and Sien Méndez.

### CHARACTERS

**APOLLO:** a goddess, she/her or they/them pronouns

**HYACINTHUS:** a young lover, they/them or she/her pronouns

**THE WIND:** who guides them, any pronouns

**ZEPHRYUS:** the goddess of the wind, any pronouns

**A PETAL:** who rises, even when you think nothing will, any pronouns

**CYNTHIA:** who is always asking questions, granddaughter of Apollo; she/her pronouns

*\*\*Though Apollo is traditionally known as a god with he/him pronouns, this version of the myth is different. Once roles are cast, adjust pronouns to match those of the reader.\*\**

1        *(The story begins in the home of APOLLO, and in between two*  
2        *gusts of wind. The wind should carry the story. Love should be*  
3        *palpable in the air, and these people will do anything for it.)*

4        **CYNTHIA:** One afternoon

5        **THE WIND:** incredibly long from now,

6        **APOLLO:** Apollo was pressing a flower between the pages of the  
7        dictionary she had had forever,

8        **THE WIND:** and ever,

- 9 **ZEPHYRUS:** and ever....
- 10 **APOLLO:** And her granddaughter
- 11 **CYNTHIA:** Cynthia!—
- 12 **APOLLO:** was watching her, growing more and more curious....
- 13 **THE WIND:** Until finally, she said
- 14 **CYNTHIA:** Grandma, why do you always press those flowers?
- 15 **THE WIND:** And it was as if time itself told Apollo to pause.
- 16 **CYNTHIA:** And she looked at her granddaughter’s big, curious eyes.
- 17 **APOLLO:** It’s a long story. One I thought I would never tell again.
- 18 **CYNTHIA:** But the flowers are so beautiful!
- 19 **APOLLO:** I know.
- 20 **CYNTHIA:** I want to know the story!
- 21 **APOLLO:** Apollo breathed a sigh
- 22 **THE WIND:** so strong the curtains danced a bit in its wind
- 23 **APOLLO:** And she told her granddaughter the story,
- 24 **ZEPHYRUS:** The Myth

25 **APOLLO:** Of Apollo

26 **HYACINTHUS AND PETAL:** And Hyacinthus.

27 **THE WIND:** Who loved each other, if only for a moment

28 **ZEPHYRUS:** and who learned and traveled together in a chariot

29 **THE WIND:** led by a swan!

30 **CYNTHIA:** Wait, stop— that’s your name! You were in love?

31 **APOLLO:** I’ve been in love a few times.

32 **CYNTHIA:** But this one was

33 **APOLLO:** Very special.

34 **THE WIND:** It all started when the swan took us to a music lesson

35 *(HYACINTHUS and APOLLO travel by chariot led by a swan*  
36 *and guided by THE WIND.)*

37 **APOLLO:** I wanted to teach them everything.

38 **THE WIND:** Starting with

39 **HYACINTHUS:** the piano.

40 *(And we see APOLLO trying to teach HYACINTHUS how to*  
41 *play a beautiful song on the piano. It isn’t going too well—it*  
42 *sounds terrible—but they are loving it.)*

43 **APOLLO:** Even the things they weren't the best at.

44 **HYACINTHUS:** Because I want to learn it all from you.

45 **THE WIND:** So, Apollo and Hyacinthus kept learning together.

46 **HYACINTHUS:** And, they went to an art studio!

47 *(THE WIND pushes the chariot with HYACINTHUS and*  
48 *APOLLO, led by a swan.)*

49 **APOLLO:** Even the things I wasn't the best at.

50 **HYACINTHUS:** Because you wanted to see what I love to do

51 **APOLLO:** And Hyacinthus was an incredible painter.

52 *(And they paint together.)*

53 **THE WIND:** And one day,

54 **APOLLO:** Apollo wanted to throw discs with Hyacinthus.

55 **HYACINTHUS:** Something Hyacinthus already knew quite well...

56 **ZEPHYRUS:** Because they used to play it with someone else.

57 **THE WIND:** The goddess of the West Wind—

58 **ZEPHYRUS:** Zephyrus.

59 **THE WIND:** Who had always noticed how beautiful and skilled Hyacinthus  
60 was

61 **ZEPHYRUS:** And wanted to teach them things, too.

62 **HYACINTHUS:** And we went to a big, open field together.

63 *THE WIND pushes the chariot with HYACINTHUS and*  
64 *APOLLO, led by a swan. And ZEPHYRUS watches.*

65 **APOLLO:** We had so much fun together. Throwing and chasing. And  
66 throwing!

67 **THE WIND:** WHOOSH!

68 **HYACTINTHUS:** And chasing

69 **THE WIND:** ZOOM!

70 *(And HYCINTHUS starts to run—)*

71 **THE WIND and APOLLO:** WHOOSH!

72 *(And APOLLO throws the disc again.)*

73 **THE WIND and HYACINTHUS:** ZOOM!

74 *(And HYACINTHUS runs—)*

75 **APOLLO:** And I threw it so far

76 **THE WIND:** WHOOSH!

77           *(And APOLLO throws the disc, father.)*

78   **HYACINTHUS:** But not farther than I could run!

79   **THE WIND:** ZOOM!

80           *(And HYACINTHUS runs—)*

81   **APOLLO:** Because Hyacinthus was incredibly fast and incredibly strong

82   **HYACINTHUS:** And I can always catch it!

83   **THE WIND:** ZOOM!

84           *(And HYACINTHUS keeps running—)*

85   **ZEPHYRUS:** WHOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOSH!

86   **THE WIND:** whoooosh.... And it was as if

87   **APOLLO:** Time itself told Hyacinthus to stop running.

88   **ZEPHYRUS:** As Zephyrus told the wind—

89   **THE WIND:** WHOOSH-

90   **ZEPHYRUS:** To TURN—

91   **THE WIND:** WHOOSH—

92   **ZEPHYRUS:** The disc

93 **APOLLO:** In mid-air—

94 **HYACINTHUS:** Heading right toward me—

95 **THE WIND:** whoosh....

96 *(And the wind has been controlled by ZEPHYRUS. And the disc*  
97 *starts to charge right toward HYACINTHUS, until—)*

98 *(silence)*

99 **ZEPHYRUS:** Right into Hyacinthus.

100 **HYACINTHUS:** And Hyacinthus fell to the ground

101 **THE WIND:** And Apollo ran to them

102 **APOLLO:** Faster than she'd ever run before

103 **THE WIND:** Zoom...

104 **APOLLO:** And she fell to her knees

105 **THE WIND:** And she wept

106 **HYACINTHUS:** And she wept

107 **APOLLO:** And she wept

108 **HYACINTHUS:** And Hyacinthus began to fade away.

109 **ZEPHYRUS:** Because of Zephyrus' jealousy.



- 110 **THE WIND:** And Apollo wept.
- 111 **APOLLO:** And she wept.
- 112 **HYACINTHUS:** And her tears mixed with Hyacinthus' blood...
- 113 **THE WIND:** And from it grew
- 114 **APOLLO:** The most beautiful flower
- 115 **PETAL:** A hyacinth, a brand new flower, unlike anything she had seen  
116 before.
- 117 **CYNTHIA:** Just like the flowers you press in the dictionary!
- 118 **THE WIND:** And right out there, out that window
- 119 **APOLLO:** Apollo pointed past their kitchen and into the yard
- 120 **PETAL:** It blossoms every Spring
- 121 **APOLLO:** And I press them here
- 122 **PETAL:** So that Hyacinthus and Apollo
- 123 **HYACINTHUS:** Will be together for all of time
- 124 **APOLLO:** Always teaching each other new things
- 125 **PETAL:** Always loving.
- 126 **CYNTHIA:** Whoa...

127 **APOLLO:** Will you go pick me one more hyacinth from the garden?

128 **CYNTHIA:** I—of course.

129 **APOLLO:** And Apollo turned the page again, ready to press another  
130 memory

131 **HYACINTH:** To remember her love forever.

132 **PETAL:** And ever, and ever.

133 **—THE END—**