

Are We Pears Yet? Stage Play for Young Actors is adapted from the book *Are We Pears Yet?* By Miranda Paul, illustrated by Carin Berger. Published by Neal Porter Books, Roaring Brook Press, an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group. Stage play and book text ©2017 Miranda Paul. All rights reserved. For licensing information and teacher resources, visit www.mirandapaul.com.

Are We Pears Yet? The Script



Readers' Theatre / Stage Play for Young Actors

This play is adaptable for a cast of 6-14+ actors of any gender.
Recommended for ages 4+.

CHARACTERS:

Narrator
Seed 1/Tree 1*
Seed 2/Tree 2*
Seed 3
Seed 4
Gardener
Rain Cloud
Sun
Father Time**
Mother Nature**

*Seed 1 and Tree 1 can be played by the same actor or different actors depending on costume practicality and number of speaking roles desired. Likewise, Seed 2 and Tree 2 can be played by the same actor or different actors depending on costume practicality and number of speaking roles desired.

**In large groups, students can be part of a Father Time/Mother Nature procession with seasonal props to show the passage of years. In small groups, the Gardener/Rain Cloud/Sun may be played by the Narrator or single actor, or combined with Mother Nature/Father Time role(s).

PROPERTIES (PROPS):

Keep things simple, keep things fun! Your students will enjoy making cardboard weather props.

- Soil (can be in a wagon or wheelbarrow, or a shovel)
- Rain Cloud
- Sun
- 2 Pears
- Signs that read: One Year Later
Two years Later
Costume Change
"The End" (or alternate, see script)
- Diagram with pictures of a seed growing into a pear tree
- Stick or branch

ACT ONE

[Narrator enters]

Narrator: Stage plays introduce us to characters who grow and change. Sometimes, nature is like a grand stage where living things constantly grow and change. Science knows how to put on a good show, and fruit trees are incredible "characters" to watch. They start out small and fragile. They grow and blossom. Eventually, they provide animals and people with nutrients and delicious ingredients that make us feel cozy and happy. I could go on telling you amazing things about nature and plant life cycles, but a good narrator knows when to make an exit. So I'll take a bow and let the show begin!

[Narrator bows, exits. Seed 1 and Seed 2 enter.]

Seed 1: Guess what? We are going to be pears.

Seed 2: *[Overjoyed]* Hooray! I love pears. *[Waits.]* Are we pears yet?

Seed 1: No, we are seeds.

Seed 2: When will we be pears?

Seed 1: After we find soil.

Gardener: *[Enters with a wagon of soil, dumps or sprinkles soil on top of Seed 1 & Seed 2]*

Seed 1 and Seed 2: *[In unison]* Hooray, soil!

[Gardener exits]

Seed 2: Are we pears yet?

Seed 1: Just wait.

Seed 1: For what?

Seed 2: Rain.

[Rain Enters the stage, stops to "rain" over seeds]

Seed 1 and Seed 2: *[In unison]* Hooray, rain! *[Rain takes a bow and exits]*

Seed 2: Are we pears yet?

Seed 1: No, we need sunshine.

Seed 2: But you said...

[Seed 2 is interrupted by Sun, who enters the stage and stops to "shine" on them]

Seed 1 and Seed 2: *[In unison]* Hooray, sun!

[Sun takes a bow and exits]

Seed 2: Are we pears yet?

Seed 1: Be patient. We are waiting for the cold.

Seed 2: Oh no. I do not love the cold.

Seed 1: *[Offers pillow]* You could take a nap.

[Seed 2 Lays down and rests. Father time enters and exits the stage with a sign that reads "Two Years Later."]

Seed 2: *[Wakes up, stretches]* Are we pears now? Are we, are we?
[Repeat as necessary]

Seed 1: We are N-O-T pears.

Seed 2: But I've been waiting so V-E-R-Y L-O-N-G. *[Optional, if audience is very young: Father Time enters stage quickly to explain what V-E-R-Y L-O-N-G spells.]*

[Seed 2 sighs and lies down to take a nap. Mother Nature enters and exits the stage with a sign that shows a diagram of seeds sprouting and becoming saplings, then trees, then trees with fruit - see book Are We Pears Yet? for ideas.]

Seed 1: *[Using "stick" as a pointer tool.]* Listen up! First, we must grow into trees.

Seed 2: Seeds? I thought we were going to be pears.

Seed 1: A-pear-ently, you need another lesson. And maybe another nap!

[Father Time enters and exits the stage with a sign that reads: One Year Later]

Seed 2: *[Wakes up, immediately jumps to feet with excitement.]*
I'm awake!

Seed 1: Already?

Seed 2: And I'm wondering. . .Are we pears yet? Are we pears yet? Are we. . .?

Seed 1: *[Visibly frustrated]* You are un-pear-able! You know what? I lied. We will never be pears. Never, ever, ever, EVER!

[Seed 2 gasps or cries. Turns away from Seed 1 sadly. Seed 1 also turns away, but looks remorseful.]

[Father Time enters and exits the stage with a sign that reads "Two Years Later." Mother Nature enters and exits the stage with a sign that reads "Costume Change." While they walk, Sun, Rain, and Gardener change their costumes into trees with leaves. A pear should be placed in each Seed's hands but concealed from the audience. Costume changes can happen offstage if actors need more time or if Tree 1 and Tree 2 are played by different actors. Tree 1 and Tree 2 enter again from different sides before speaking.]

Tree 1: I'm sorry I got so frustrated. I didn't mean it.

Tree 2: *[still upset, back turned, plugging ears]* I'm not listening. La la la.

Tree 1: *[Pulls out pear to show the audience as though it is hanging from his/her own tree.]* But please, look!

Tree 2: *[still not facing Tree 2]* I don't want to look. You're a big, fat...*[turns to give Tree 1 a piece of his/her mind]* juicy . . .pear? *[Tree 2 looks at their own leaves, and "pulls out" a pear]*

Tree 1 and Tree 2: [in unison] WE ARE PEARS!!! [*Tree 1 and 2 are both so excited they forget that they are mad at each other and embrace*]

Tree 2: Can we be. . . a pair of friends?

Tree 1. Yes, indeed! A pair of friends with something very special on the inside.

Tree 2: Something special inside? What could that be?

Tree 1: Just be patient.

Tree 2: It figures you'd say that. [*Sighs*]

[*Gardener, Sun, and Rain (or group of children) come and "pick" the pears and pretend to eat them.*]

Gardener: Look! There's something inside the pear. Seeds! If only seeds could talk, I wonder what they would say. [*exit Gardener, Sun, and Rain - or Gardener can remain onstage, pretending/daydreaming about two pear seeds*]

[*Seed 3 and Seed 4 enter, or replace them with X-ray vision posters of seeds and Tree 1 and 2 can perform speaking roles for the new seeds.*]

Seed 3: Guess what? We are going to be pears.

Seed 4: Hooray, I love pears! [*Pauses a second*] Are we pears yet?

[*Seed 3 is wide-eyed and looks surprised. Mother Nature walks across stage which says, "NOT the end!" or "Nature = To Be Continued..." or another phrase to suggest that the growth cycle will go on and on.*]

[*Exit all / curtain call*]

THE END