

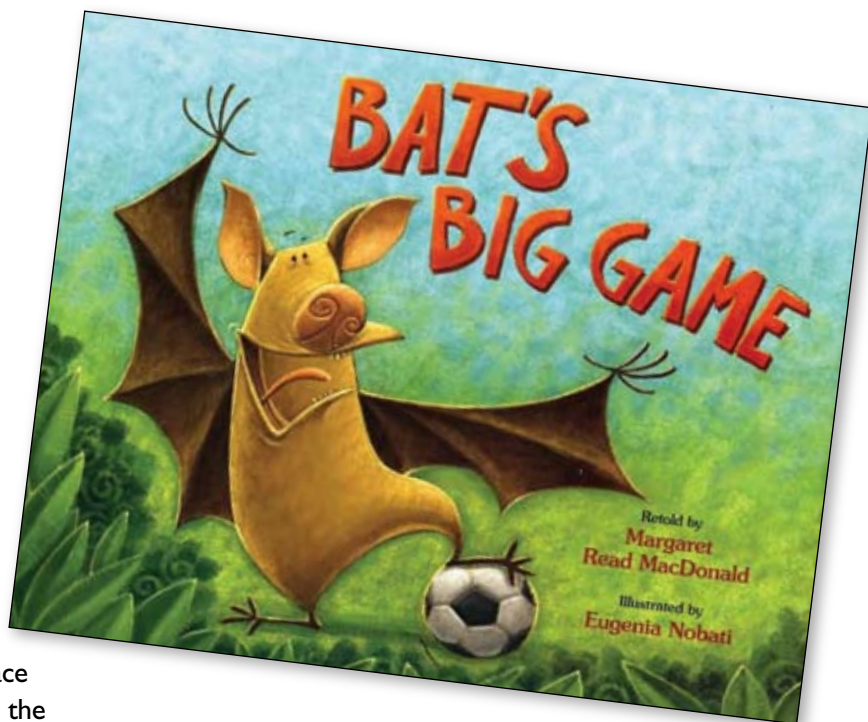
Bat's Big Game

• Reader's Theater •

by | Toni Buzzeo

Grades
2-4

Read the book aloud to children first, so that they can enjoy the illustrations and become familiar with the story. Then, hand out a set of photocopied scripts to thirteen students. (Note: Assign the part of Raccoon to a challenged reader, as he only reads in concert with other characters.) Ask the remaining children to be the audience. If you have plenty of time set aside, allow students to practice their parts individually or as a group until they are reading fluently. If time is limited, have performers face the audience and simply read their parts on the first run-through. Once all readers are comfortable with their parts, have a second reading with the opportunity to use props while reading.



Roles

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Bear

Deer

Kangaroo

Ostrich

Sparrow

Wren

Robin

Eagle

Bat

Raccoon

Narrator One

Narrator Two

Narrator Three

After Reading

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Visit www.librarysparks.com for an interview with Margaret Read MacDonald, and visit Margaret's website at www.margaretreaddmacdonald.com.



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Toni Buzzeo, MA, MLIS, is an author as well as a career library media specialist. She is the author of twelve picture books, most recently *Adventure Annie Goes to Kindergarten* (Dial, 2010) and many professional books and articles. Visit www.tonibuzzeo.com or e-mail Toni at tonibuzzeo@tonibuzzeo.com.

Based on the children's book *Bat's Big Game* by Margaret Read MacDonald, illustrated by Eugenia Nobati. (Albert Whitman & Company, 2010). Permission granted by Albert Whitman & Company.

Reader's Theater

Bat's Big Game

Narrator One: The Animals and the Birds decided to have a ball game.

Narrator Two: The Animals came onto the field first.

Narrator Three: They had big blue shirts with a great big "A."

Narrator One: Bear put his shirt on and paraded around.

Bear: I am strong.

Narrator Two: Deer put her shirt on and got ready to run down the field.

Deer: I am fast.

Narrator Three: Kangaroo put her shirt on and practiced her kicks.

Kangaroo: If I get the ball, I'll just drop it in my pouch, hop down the field, and kick a goal!

Narrator One: The animals were exercising and stretching out, getting ready for the big game.

Narrator Two: At the other end of the field, the Birds began to arrive.

Narrator Three: Sparrow came.

Narrator One: Wren and Robin flew in.

Narrator Two: Big Birds, too—Eagle and Ostrich.

Ostrich: I can't fly, but if I get the ball in my beak I can *run*.

Narrator Three: The Birds all had little red shirts with a little "B."

Narrator One: They put on their shirts and stretched their wings, getting ready for the big game!

Sparrow, Wren, Robin, Eagle, and

Ostrich: We're the BIRDS! Look at that B! Birds are gonna win! B! B! B!

Narrator Two: At the other end of the field, the Animals were ready to go.

Bear, Deer, Raccoon, and Kangaroo:

We're the ANIMALS! Look at that A! Animals are gonna win! A! A! A!

Narrator Three: In flew Bat. He took a look at those two teams.

Bat: Look at those Birds—what a scrawny lot.

Narrator One: He didn't want to play on the LOSING team.

Bat: Look at those Animals—strong and fast.

Narrator Two: He was going to join the Animal team.

Bat: Here I am, cousins! Where's my shirt? I am ready to play on the Animal team!

Narrator Three: The Animals looked Bat over.

Bear, Deer, Raccoon, and Kangaroo: Are you an Animal? What's that folded behind your back? Are those *wings*?

Bat: Sure, I'm an Animal. Look at these teeth! Do birds have teeth? Feel this fur. Do birds have *fur*? Of course I'm an Animal!

Narrator One: So the Animals gave Bat a shirt with "A."

Narrator Two: Bat jumped up and down, shouting.

Bat: Go Animals! Gonna win this game! GO! GO! GO! I'm on the winning side!

Narrator Three: And the game started!

Bear: I kick the ball down the field and make a goal.

Narrator One: Then Sparrow took the ball and flew down the field.

Sparrow: I make a goal.

Narrator Two: Then Deer kicked the ball down the field.

Deer: But Robin snatches the ball!

Robin: I fly down the field and make another goal!

Narrator Three: And the Birds were winning 2 to 1.

Bat: Uh, oh. Looks like I made a mistake. I'm on the *losing* team! I should have joined the Bird team.

Narrator One: Bat took off his Animal shirt and hung it on a bush.

Narrator Two: He tiptoed down the field to the Bird's side.

Bat: Hi there, cousins! I've come to join the game! Where's my shirt? Looks like we're gonna win!

Narrator Three: The Birds looked Bat over.

Sparrow, Wren, Robin, Eagle, and

Ostrich: We didn't know you were a Bird. Weren't you playing for the Animals a minute ago?

Bat: I'm no Animal. Look at these wings! Do Animals have wings? OF COURSE I'm a Bird!

Narrator One: So the Birds gave Bat a shirt with a "B."

Bat: Go Birds! Gonna win this game! GO! GO! GO! I'm on the winning side!

Narrator Two: The game started again.

Wren: I get the ball and fly down the field and make a goal.

Deer: Then I get the ball and run down the field and make a goal.

Eagle: I take the ball and fly down the field.

Narrator Three: But Eagle dropped the ball.

Kangaroo: I kick the ball and make a goal!

Narrator One: Now the Animals had the ball.

Narrator Two: Raccoon passed to Kangaroo.

Kangaroo: I kick another goal!

Narrator Three: And the Animals were leading, 4-3!

Bat: Uh, oh. These Birds are losing. I'd better switch back to the Animal team.

Narrator One: Bat took off his Bird shirt and hung it on a bush.

Narrator Two: He tiptoed up the field . . . put on his Animal shirt . . . and ran back into the game, shouting.

Bat: Go Animals! Gonna win this game! GO! GO! GO! I'm on the winning side!

Narrator Three: Bear stopped the game.

Bear: Wait a minute! Eagle, bring your Birds over here. Animals, you all come here! Look at this Bat. Wasn't he playing on the Bird team a minute ago?

Sparrow, Wren, Robin, Eagle, and

Ostrich: Yes . . . he was.

Bear: And wasn't he playing on the Animal team a while ago?

Deer, Raccoon, and Kangaroo: Yes . . . he was.

Bear: Well, Bat, which side are you on? Are you a Bird or an Animal?

Narrator One: Everyone waited.

Bat: (mumble) Well . . . I just wanted to play on the winning side.

Bear: I'm sorry for you, Bat. But a good player sticks with the team . . . even when they are *losing*. Looks like you are not on *any* side now.

Narrator Two: Bat gave back the shirt with the "A."

Narrator Three: Bat gave back the shirt with the "B."

Bear, Deer, Raccoon, Kangaroo, Sparrow, Wren, Robin, Eagle, and Ostrich: And Bat leaves the field.

Bat: (whisper) Bat wants to win . . . go . . . go . . . go!

Narrator One: They say Bat is still practicing his game.

Narrator Two: I'm not sure which side he plans to play on.

Narrator Three: But that's the last time he'll play both sides at once!