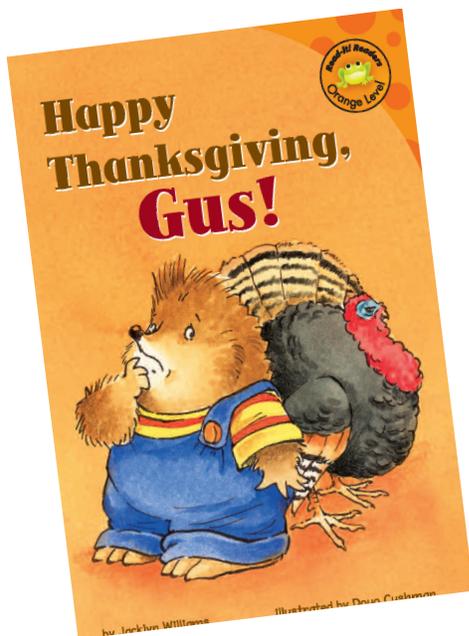


# CREATIVE DRAMATICS

Picture Window™  
Books



## Happy Thanksgiving, Gus!

by **Jacklyn Williams**

- Characters:** Mom  
Gus  
Bean  
Farmer Franklin  
Mr. T
- Props:** Vegetables (real or fake)  
Baskets
- Genre:** Realistic Fiction
- Ages:** 4 - 6

# Happy Thanksgiving, Gus! page 1

## NOTES TO THE LEADER OF THE CREATIVE DRAMATICS SESSION

Before acting out the story, read *Happy Thanksgiving, Gus!* to the entire class.

The leader/narrator of the creative dramatics session needs to give clear, simple clues to the children who are acting out the story. First, select the children who will be playing the separate parts. Gus and Bean can be played by two individuals or by a group. The same for Farmer Franklin, Mom, and Mr. T.

The leader might want to ask the children to describe the characters before the session begins. For example, "What are words to describe Gus and Bean?" Answers could include friendly, curious, smart, happy, excited, etc. Also, "What are words to describe Billy and Mr. T?"

The children can act out the story from their chairs, sitting on the floor, or by standing in clearly marked places where the action will take place. The front of the room could be Gus's house while the back is the farm. It's always a good idea to make sure that the characters and locations (if you decide to use them) are clearly established before the play session begins.

**Narrator:** The day before Thanksgiving, Bean came to Gus's house extra early in the morning. Gus's mom was taking them to the farm to pick vegetables for Thanksgiving dinner.

*(Narrator could prompt, "What kinds of vegetables does your family eat at Thanksgiving dinner? What's your favorite vegetable? Have you ever been to a farm to pick vegetables? Where do you get your vegetables?")*

Gus and Bean needed to bring a picture to school of what they were most grateful for this year. Bean brought his camera to take pictures at the farm.

*(Narrator could prompt, "What kinds of things do you think Bean and Gus will see at the farm? What are some things you are thankful for?")*

"Everybody ready?" Gus's mom asked.

**Mom:** Everybody ready?

**Narrator:** "We're ready," Gus and Bean said.

**Gus and Bean:** We're ready!

**Narrator:** "Then let's go," she said.

**Mom:** Then let's go.

**Narrator:** They drove through the gates of Franklin Farm. Everywhere they looked there were things to pick — vegetables in the garden, pumpkins in the patch, apples in the orchard.

## Happy Thanksgiving, Gus! page 2

**Narrator:** *(Narrator could prompt, "Have you ever picked any of those things? Pumpkins, apples, etc.?" )*

"Let's go!" hollered Gus.

**Gus:** Let's go!

**Narrator:** "Hold on a minute," said Farmer Franklin.

**Farmer Franklin:** Hold on a minute.

**Narrator:** Farmer Franklin wanted to warn them about Mr. T. "He'll get you if you don't watch out," he said.

**Farmer Franklin:** He'll get you if you don't watch out.

**Narrator:** Gus and Bean froze. "Who's Mr. T?" they asked.

**Gus and Bean:** Who's Mr. T?

**Narrator:** "He is the biggest, meanest turkey that ever gobbled," said Farmer Franklin.

**Farmer Franklin:** He is the biggest, meanest turkey that ever gobbled.

**Narrator:** *(Narrator could prompt, "Mr. T is a turkey. What sound turkeys make? Farmer Franklin said Mr. T is mean. Do you think Bean and Gus are scared?")*

Just then, a HUGE turkey strutted by.

**Mr. T:** *(Student/students playing the turkey walk by. Narrator can instruct them to bob their heads like a turkey while they walk and make gobbling noises.)*

**Narrator:** Farmer Franklin told Gus and Bean that Mr. T didn't like anybody, especially if they were bigger or meaner than he was. "Mind your manners while you're here," said Farmer Franklin.

**Farmer Franklin:** Mind your manners while you're here.

**Narrator:** *(Narrator could prompt, "What do you think it means to 'mind your manners'? What are some good manners?")*

Gus thought it was lucky Billy wasn't around. Billy was a bully. "Mr. T would get him for sure!" Gus said.

**Gus:** Billy's lucky he's not around. Mr. T would get him for sure!

## Happy Thanksgiving, Gus! page 3

**Narrator:** Just then, the barn door swung open. Out walked Billy.

“What are you doing here?” Gus asked.

**Gus:** What are you doing here?

**Narrator:** Farmer Franklin was Billy’s grandpa. Billy told Gus and Bean he’d help them pick vegetables for Thanksgiving dinner. But he didn’t say it nicely....

*(Narrator could prompt, “It doesn’t seem like Billy is going to help in a nice way. What do you think he’s going to do?”)*

“I don’t think we’re going to like his kind of help,” whispered Bean.

**Bean:** *(whispering)* I don’t think we’re going to like his kind of help.

**Narrator:** Gus and Bean made their way through the rows of vegetables. They filled their baskets as they went.

**Gus and Bean:** *(Pretend to pick vegetables and put them in their baskets. Have students name the vegetables as they choose them.)*

**Narrator:** *(Narrator could show students the illustrations on pp. 20-21 and prompt, “What kinds of vegetables are Gus and Bean picking to put in their baskets? What else can you see?”)*

The whole time Gus and Bean picked vegetables, Billy tried to scare them. He hid behind a scarecrow and made them drop their vegetables. He made Gus fall in the water. He wasn’t very nice.

*(Narrator could prompt, “Billy is being mean to Gus and Bean. What did Farmer Franklin say about being mean on the farm? Who remembers what happens in the story?”)*

**THE END**