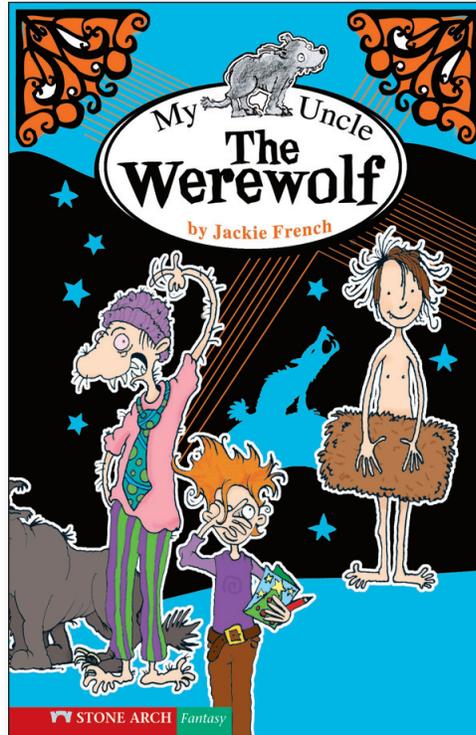




## READER'S THEATER



### **My Uncle the Werewolf** **by Jackie French**

**Characters:**      **Narrator**  
                         **Buster**  
                         **Aunt Paws**  
                         **Uncle Wal**

**Genre:**              **Fantasy**

**Ages:**                **8-11**

## My Uncle the Werewolf page 1

**Aunt Paws:**

Buster? What are you doing?

**Buster:**

Nothing, Aunt Paws.

**Aunt Paws:**

You're not spoiling your dinner, are you?

**Buster:**

Me? No way!

**Narrator:**

Buster had just eaten the fattest, juiciest rat he had ever seen. He dropped the rat's tail and quickly sat on it.

**Aunt Paws:**

Where have you been? It's not safe on the mountain now! You haven't been hunting for your parents, have you? You know what Uncle Wal said!

**Buster:**

Me? No! Of course not.

**Aunt Paws:**

Look at you! You've got rat juice on your tummy. And you know the rule: Change when you come home!

**Buster:**

It was just one rat.

**Narrator:**

Buster picked up the rat tail and offered it to his aunt. She gazed at the tail and then crunched it in her strong jaws.

**Aunt Paws:**

You know Uncle Wal doesn't like us eating rats. Why don't you have a bowl of broccoli with peanut butter?

**Buster:**

I hate broccoli! You don't like broccoli and you haven't changed either!

**Aunt Paws:**

We both should change. Uncle Wal will be upset if he comes home and we don't look human.

## My Uncle the Werewolf page 2

**Narrator:**

Two weeks ago, Buster's mom and dad had disappeared and Uncle Wal took over the werewolf pack. Buster's parents had gone out for a run and they never came back. Buster, Uncle Flea, and Aunt Paws had searched everywhere, trying to follow Buster's parents' scent. Then Uncle Wal ordered them to leave the hunt to him. But there'd never been the faintest sniff of Buster's parents again. That meant Uncle Wal was now leader of the pack. Uncle Wal kept saying that everyone had to try to be human, instead of wolves. Totally human, not just some of the time.

**Buster:**

Uh-oh! Here comes Uncle Wal's car. Hide! Before he sees that we haven't changed back.

**Uncle Wal:**

Buster! I can smell a rat! Come out here this minute!

**Buster:**

Hello, Uncle Wal. Um, did you find any scent of Mom and Dad?

**Uncle Wal:**

No. Change when I'm talking to you!

**Buster:**

Yes, Uncle Wal.

**Narrator:**

Buster shut his eyes and nodded his head twice. It was like a sneeze, with a tickle in the middle. His tail got shorter, his ears got lower, his fur disappeared, his body stood up on his legs. He was human.

**Uncle Wal:**

That's better. Now, what do you think you're doing, eating rats and prowling around in a dog form?!

**Buster:**

I've been out on the mountain trying to track Mom and Dad! And I'm not a dog, I'm a wolf! Dad said eating rats was part of being a wolf, too! Dad was proud to be a werewolf!

**Uncle Wal:**

What did I tell you, boy? You can't roam around the mountain by yourself anymore! It's my job to hunt for your parents. Are you the head of the pack?

**Buster:**

No, Uncle Wal.

**Narrator:**

Uncle Wal began listing Buster's crimes.

## My Uncle the Werewolf page 3

- Uncle Wal:** Not changing for dinner, disobeying, and catching rats. That's three black marks. You know what happens when you get three black marks, don't you?
- Narrator:** Buster looked up in alarm.
- Uncle Wal:** Yes! A bath!
- Narrator:** Buster couldn't believe what his uncle was saying. It took weeks to smell as good as he did and Dad always said Werewolf Rule Number One was make sure you stink!
- Aunt Paws:** Buster didn't eat the rat. I ate the rat. I felt hungry. I just can't get used to broccoli and peanut butter! And that spaghetti stuff doesn't taste like anything!
- Uncle Wal:** Silence! Things are going to be different around here! It's not safe up here on the mountain since your parents disappeared. We're too isolated. So I've made a decision. I'm selling the Tower.
- Aunt Paws:** But you can't! The Tower is our home!
- Uncle Wal:** I'm sorry, but there's no choice. We're going to move into town. We're going to learn to be human. And Buster is going to school.
- Buster:** School? It's not fair! Werewolves don't go to school!!!
- Aunt Paws:** Buster, dear, I'm sure your uncle knows best.
- Buster:** He just wants us to be human because he likes being human! But I'm a wolf.
- Uncle Wal:** Then you'll do what your pack leader orders! Now go get changed.
- Narrator:** Buster was confused about his uncle's behavior and worried about his parents. Would Buster ever be able to find them? Did Uncle Wal even want to find them? How would Buster deal with having to be human all the time? And would he really have to go to school? Read the rest of the book *My Uncle the Werewolf* to uncover the answers to these questions and to share in Buster's exciting adventures.

**THE END**