



READER'S THEATER (Teacher's Version)



Creature Chase **by Jonny Zucker**

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Characters: **Rex, a high school hero — struggling reader**
 Dave, Rex's friend — reads slightly below grade level
 Carl, Rex's friend — reads below grade level
 Harry, a young boy — reads above grade level
 Dazers, a group of deadly creatures — reads at grade level
 Narrator — reads slightly above grade level

Genre: **Fantasy**

Ages: **10-14**

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- Narrator:** Rex Jones has a cell phone that can send him on amazing adventures. One day, he was in gym class with his friends Dave and Carl when the phone buzzed.
- Rex:** What do you guys think?
- Dave:** Go for it, Rex.
- Narrator:** Rex pushed the EXPLORE button on his phone. They boys disappeared in a flash of white light.
- Dave:** Wow! Where are we?
- Narrator:** The boys saw they were in a grassy ditch. Next to them was a boy.
- Harry:** Don't make a sound. We're all in danger.
- Carl:** What kind of danger?
- Rex:** Look! Over there, down the road.
- Narrator:** Just then a weird creature stepped out from behind a tree. It had silver skin, black eyes, and cracked, brown teeth.
- Rex:** What is that?
- Harry:** It's a Dazer, a creature that feeds on human souls. If it touches you, your soul goes right into the creature. And then you become a Dazer too.
- Carl:** So you mean some people look normal, but they're really Dazers?
- Harry:** Yes. And they hate the light. That's why they only come out during the night.
- Narrator:** The Dazer looked straight at them. Then it started coming down the road!
- Harry:** Run!

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- Narrator:** The boys all ran as fast as they could. Rex looked back quickly. He could not see the Dazer.
- Rex:** Where are we going?
- Harry:** There's a police station just down the road.
- Carl:** But it's nighttime. There won't be anyone there.
- Harry:** There is always someone at the station.
- Narrator:** Harry was right. When boys reached the station, they told the policeman what had happened. The policeman told the boys to stay inside the station while he went to get help. After the policeman left, the boys heard noises outside.
- Rex:** What is that?
- Carl:** Look out the window. The police are coming back.
- Harry:** Oh no! They're Dazers!
- Dazers:** Mmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmm.
- Dave:** And if they touch us, we're all dead!
- Rex:** Come on!
- Narrator:** Rex threw a chair through a large window. Glass went everywhere. The boys climbed through the window and escaped.
- Harry:** Run for your lives! Don't let any of them touch you!
- Dazers:** Mmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmm.
- Narrator:** The boys ran down a hill toward some railroad tracks. Right behind them, the Dazers were floating quickly down the hill.
- Dave:** Where now?
- Harry:** Through the train tunnel.

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Rex: But we need to find a place where it's light. Dazers hate light.

Harry: Trust me.

Narrator: The boys ran along the tracks as hard as they could. Then they heard the moans of the Dazers behind them.

Dazers: Mmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmm.

Harry: A door! This way!

Dave: But it's dark in there.

Harry: There's a light inside.

Narrator: All the boys ran through the door in the side of the tunnel. They got in and closed the door. They could hear the Dazers right behind them.

Carl: Turn on the lights, Harry!

Dave: Harry?

Narrator: But the lights stayed off.

THE END