

Theodora Bear: Readers' Theatre Version

by Carolyn Jones

Scene 1: Sick Day

Characters in this scene:

Theodora Bear, also known as T-Bear (a teddy bear)

Harriet (a girl with a large collection of stuffed animals)

Vera (a penguin)

Violet (a sheep)

Annabelle (an elephant)

Lion (a lion)

Ginny (a penguin)

Group of stuffed animals (they speak all together, in unison)

T-Bear: I like visiting you, Harriet.

Harriet: That's great, Theodora. We like having you here.

T-Bear: There's just one problem.

Harriet: *(Coughs)* Oh? What's that?

T-Bear: You don't have any candy or chocolate or anything.

Harriet: Sugar is bad for your teeth.

All the animals: We know, Harriet.

Harriet: And that's not all. It's also...

All the animals: ... bad for your tummy. We know, Harriet.

Harriet: Yes. And sugar has no...

All the animals: ... food value. We know, Harriet.

Harriet: That's right. *(Coughs)* Now could we have a little quiet? I'm sick today and I'm trying to rest.

T-Bear: (*Brightly*) Harriet, did you know that most colds only last ten days?

Harriet: (*Coughs*) No, I didn't.

T-Bear: So that's only, let's see, nine more days to go, after today.

Harriet: (*Sarcastically*) That's good to know. I feel better already. Thanks, Theodora.

T-Bear: You're welcome.

Vera the Penguin: (*Proudly*) I once had a cold that lasted for six weeks.

Violet the Sheep: (*Even more proudly*) That's nothing. I once had a cold that lasted for six months.

Harriet: I don't think...

Vera: Penguins are from Antarctica. We really know about colds.

Annabelle the Elephant: Be quiet, Vera. You don't get a cold from being cold.

Lion: Yeah. Everybody knows that.

Ginny the Penguin: You do so get sick from being cold. It shocks your body.

Lion: How shocking could it be if you were born there?

Ginny: Well, I must say...

Harriet: Quiet! Some of you may have had colds in the past. But I'm the one who's sick today. And I want some peace and quiet. I need to rest.

Vera (*to Violet*): Some people really like to feel sorry for themselves.

Violet (*to Vera*): I agree. I don't think Harriet really wants to get better.

Scene 2: Chores

Characters in this scene:

Harriet (a girl)

Tiger (a cat)

Theodora Bear, also known as T-Bear

Constance (a teddy bear)

Vera (a penguin)

Lambie (a lamb)

Harriet: I hate making my bed every morning. It's so boring.

Tiger: I agree. At least with cooking you get nice food when you're done. Harriet, you missed that corner. Tuck it in.

Harriet: Thanks, Tiger. And why am I the only one who ever makes the bed? You guys sleep on it, too.

T-Bear: It's because you're the only one with thumbs, Harriet.

Constance: That's right. Bears don't have thumbs. That makes it hard for us to do jobs like that.

Tiger: Harriet, don't forget to plump up the pillows.

Harriet: Thanks, Tiger.

Vera: Penguins don't have thumbs either.

Lambie: Nor do sheep. Otherwise I'd help you, Harriet. Sorry about that.

Tiger: Cats don't have thumbs either. But that's not why we don't make beds.

Constance: Well? Is this a riddle or something? Why don't cats make beds?

Tiger: We just don't feel like it. Cats don't like working.

(Harriet leaves.)

Lambie: Tiger, don't push. You may have half the pillow if you ask.

Tiger: (*Sarcastically*) May I have MY half of the pillow, please and thank you? Oh, look at that. Harriet forgot to fold the blanket the way I like it. She's getting very careless.

Vera: I don't think Harriet forgot.

Tiger: No?

Vera: No. I think she's mad at you.

Tiger: Who could get mad at me? I'm so attractive. Cats always are, you know.

Constance: So you've told us.

Lambie: Yes, over and over.

Tiger: Uh huh. I'm glad you were listening. Could you wake me up when breakfast is ready? I sure hope Harriet remembers to put it in my favourite bowl. She's getting so forgetful.