



**ANDY SHANE AND THE VERY BOSSY
DOLORES STARBUCKLE**

By

Jennifer Richard Jacobson

Scripted for Readers Theatre by Lucy Rioux

Reader 1: Narrator 1 for Andy
Reader 2: Andy
Reader 3: Narrator 2 for Dolores & Kids
Reader 4: Dolores
Reader 5: Narrator 3 for Granny & Teacher
Reader 6: Granny & Teacher

N2 Dolores N1 Andy Granny N3
 O O O

Andy: Andy Shane

Dolores: and the Very Bossy Dolorest Starbuckle

Granny: by Jennifer Richard Jacobson

All Narrators: Chapter 1

Andy: I Hate School

N1: Andy Shane did not want to be

Andy: in school.

N1: He did not want to be

Andy: at morning meeting.

N1: He did not want
Andy: to sit up straight on the rug.
N1: He flopped down on his belly
Andy: and watched an ant carry a cracker crumb across the floor.
N3: The ant reminded Andy
Granny: of his Granny Webb.
N3: Granny Webb loved to catch bugs
Granny: and hold them up to the sunlight.
N1: Andy wished that he were at home
Andy: catching bugs with her right now.
Dolores: “Ms. Janice,”
N2: said a voice like a squeaky fiddle.
Dolores: “Ms. Janice, someone is not sitting properly!”
N1: Andy Shane sat up quick.
N2: He knew that voice.
N3: But Andy’s teacher didn’t seem to hear it—
Andy: even though the voice was loud, even though the voice was sitting right in front of her, even though the voice belonged to
ALL: Dolores Starbuckle.

Teacher: "This morning,"

N3: said Ms. Janice,

Teacher: "we're going to find rhyming words. Can anyone tell me two words that rhyme?"

N1: Andy Shane thought of two words:

Andy: *bug* and *rug*.

N1: He looked up. Should he raise his hand?

N2: Other kids were raising their hands. Dolores Starbuckle

Dolores: jumped up and down

N2: on her knees and waved her arms

Dolores: like a willow tree in a windstorm.

N3: Ms. Janice motioned for Dolores

N3 & Teacher: to sit back down.

Teacher: "Andy,"

N3: said Ms. Janice.

N1: She looked right at him.

Teacher: "Do you know two words that rhyme?"

N1: Andy Shane opened his mouth

Andy: to tell Ms. Janice the words,

N1: but they were stuck in his throat

Andy: like fruit flies caught in maple syrup.

N3: Ms. Janice waited.

N2: The other children waited, too.

Dolores: “I know two words,”

N2: called out Dolores Starbuckle.

N1: Andy looked at Dolores.

Dolores: “I know two words!”

N2: she yelled.

N3: And before Ms. Janice

Teacher: could call on her,

N2: Dolores shouted,

Dolores: “*Hullabaloo* and *Kalamazoo!*”

N3: Ms. Janice looked surprised. She smiled.

Teacher: “Yes, Dolores,”

N3: said Mr. Janice.

Teacher: “Those words *do* rhyme.”

Andy: *I hate school,*

N1: thought Andy Shane.

All Narrators: After morning meeting,

N1: Andy Shane looked at
Andy: a chart on the wall.
N1: It was his turn
Andy: to go to the math center.
N1: Andy liked the math center. He liked
Andy: playing with the fraction puzzles and the pattern blocks.
N1: He liked solving the tough problems
Andy: that Ms. Janice placed there each day.
N1: But this morning, Andy wished that he could go to any
Other center.
Andy: Yumi was in the math center.
N1: Peter was in the math center.
Andy: And so was Dolorest Starbuckle.
N1: Andy Shane decided to work by himself. He would
Andy: solve a problem with pattern blocks.
N1: He tried to pull out the block bin,
Andy: but it was stuck on the math shelf.
N1: Andy Shane pulled harder
Andy: and then harder still.
All Narrators: The container sprang free,

All Characters: but all the blocks went flying into the air.

Dolores: “MS. JANICE,”

N2: yelled Dolores Starbuckle.

Dolores: “SOMEONE IS MISUSING THE MATH MATERIALS!”

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All Narrators: Chapter 2

N1: Being Stubborn

Andy: “I don’t want to go to school,”

N1: said Andy Shane.

Granny: “Why not?”

N3: asked Granny Webb, catching a dragonfly on her finger and holding it close to her nose.

Granny: “The *Anax junius*,”

N3: she said, calling the dragonfly by its fancy name.

N1: Andy Shane ignored the dragonfly, even though he knew

Andy: that the *Anax junius* had a bright blue tail,

Granny: his favorite color.

N1: he crossed his arms and said,

Andy: “I hate school.”

Granny: “That can’t be,”

N3: said Granny Webb.

Granny: “Why, Andy Shane, I loved school.”

Andy: “Well, you didn’t have morning meeting when you were in school,”

N1: said Andy.

Andy: “And you didn’t have math center.”

Granny: “That’s true,”

N3: said Granny Webb.

Andy: “*And* you didn’t have Dolores Starbuckle,”

N1: Andy added.

N3: Granny Webb smiled.

Granny: “No, Andy Shane, I can’t say I did.”

Andy: *So there,*

N1: thought Andy.

N3: Andy Shane had lived with Granny Webb

Granny: all his life.

N3: When he came into the world,

Granny: he needed someone who could take good care of him.

N3: Granny Webb needed someone

Granny: to share the fun of hilly woods, salamanders, and stories.

N1 & N3: So the two of them became a family.

Andy & Granny: Just like that.

N1: Andy Shane never longed for more.

Granny: "I hear the bus down the road, Andy Shane. Go get your lunch box,"

N3: said Granny Webb.

N1: Andy Shane

Andy: didn't move.

Granny: "Don't be stubborn, Andy. You have to do to school. You know that."

N1: There was only one person in the world more stubborn than Andy Shane,

Andy: and that was Granny Webb.

N3: Granny stood up

Granny: straight.

N3: She put her shoulders

Granny: back.

N3: She stared

Granny: at Andy Shane.

N3: She didn't move

Granny: a muscle.

N3: She didn't blink

Granny: an eyelash.

N3: She just waited.

Andy: "Oh, fine. I'm going,"

N1: said Andy Shane.

N3: That Granny Webb Stare

Granny: worked every time.

N1 & Andy: The bus pulled up,

N1: and Andy Shane stepped on. He chose an empty seat

Andy: and looked out the window at Granny Webb.

N3: She looked like she had just stepped on a pricker.

N1: Andy thought he must look the same way, too.

All Narrators: Chapter 3

Granny: Granny's Surprise

N1: Andy had no sooner hung up his sweatshirt in his cubby when he heard

Andy: a familiar voice.

N1: It was a voice that Andy Shane

Andy: would know anywhere.

N3: It was the voice of his Granny Webb.

Granny: "It's a monarch caterpillar,"

N3: said Granny to the kids who had gathered around her.

N1: Andy came closer.

Granny: "Hi, Andy Shane,"

N3: said Granny.

Granny: "As I was walking back to the house, I found this caterpillar here. I thought you and Ms. Janice might like to keep it in the science center."

N1: Andy knew that their field

Andy: was full of caterpillars,

N1: but he was truly happy

Andy: that Granny Webb had found this one.

N2: All the kids wanted to talk to Granny at once.

Kid: "When will the caterpillar turn into a butterfly?"

N2: asked Marcus.

Kid: "How long do monarch butterflies live?"

N2: asked Jordan.

Kid: "Monarchs migrate all the way to Mexico,"

N2: said Samantha.

Kid: "I like your pockets, Granny Webb,"

N2: said Polly.

Dolores: “Ms. Janice, *my* mother told me that visitors can’t come to school until October,”

N2: said Dolores Starbuckle.

Teacher: “Why don’t you join us anyway, Granny Webb,”

N3: said Ms. Janice.

Teacher: “We’re about to have morning meeting.”

Andy: Morning meeting? Already?

N1: Andy Shane felt like he’d *swallowed* a caterpillar.

N3: Ms. Janice asked the class to think of action words—

Teacher: words that told about *doing* something.

N2: Dolores Starbuckle raised her hand.

Teacher: “Yes, Dolores,”

N3: said Ms. Janice.

Teacher: “Do you know an action word?”

N2: Dolores stood up and took the pointer from the board.

Dolores: “Class, today I will teach you about *verbs*. Verbs are action words,”

N2: said Dolores.

Dolores: “*Write* is a verb; *read* is a verb, and so is *learn*. Do any of you know an action word?”

All but Dolores: No one raised a hand.

N2: Dolores looked at Andy Shane.

Dolores: “Andy Shane, do you know an action word?”

N1: Andy Shane slunk down
Andy: on the rug.

Teacher: “Thank you, Dolores,”

N3: said Ms. Janice,
N2: but Dolores didn’t sit down.

Teacher: “Dolores,”
N3: said Ms. Janice.

N2: But Dolores had forgotten
Dolores: all about Ms. Janice.

N2: She tapped her foot,
Dolores: waiting for Andy to answer.

Granny: “I like action words,”
N3: said Granny Webb.

Granny: “And I recollect a song with lots of them.”
N3: Granny stood up and sang,
Granny: “A mermaid splashed with the fishies in a bay.”

All but Granny: Everyone looked at Granny.

Granny: “She flipped her tail, and a whale said, ‘Hey!’”

N3: sang Granny.

Dolores: “DOES ANYONE KNOW A VERB?”

N2: shouted Dolores.

Dolores: “I SAID—“

N2: Before Dolores could finish her sentence,

All but Dolores: everyone,

N3: even Ms. Janice,

All but Dolores: began flipping and flopping, twisting and twirling,
wiggling and jiggling, and squiggling and giggling.

N2: Everyone, that is

All but Dolores: except for Dolores Starbuckle.

N2: She was still holding her pointer and gritting her teeth.
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All Narrators: Chapter 4

Andy & Granny: Beware the Stare

Granny: “Come on, Andy,”

N3: said Granny after morning meeting.

Granny: “Let’s work in the math center.”

Andy: “It’s not our turn,”

N1: whispered Andy Shane.

N3: But before he could stop her,

Andy: Granny was in the math center

N3: and she had pulled out

Granny: all the pizza puzzle pieces.

Dolores: “You’re not supposed to mix the pizzas,”

N2: warned Dolores, coming into the math center.

Dolores: “You’re not supposed to put the pepperoni with the peppers.”

N3: Granny Webb kept making mixed-up pizzas.

Granny: “I like my pizzas with the works—don’t you, Andy Shane?”

N1: Andy Shane

Andy: stepped back.

N1: He knew

Andy: what was coming.

Dolores: “MS. JANICE,”

N2: yelled Dolores Starbuckle.

Dolores: “SOMEONE IN THE MATH CENTER IS MISUSING THE MATERIALS!”

N1: Andy hoped that Ms. Janice wouldn’t hear Dolores,

Andy: but she heard all right.

N3: She came over to the math center to see what was going on.

Teacher: “Dolores,”

N3: said Ms. Janice,

Teacher: “Granny Webb isn’t misusing the materials; she’s using them in a new way.”

N2: Dolores Starbuckle’s face

Dolores: turned the color of a fire ant.

N2: She swept the pizza pieces onto the floor

Dolores: and stomped out of the math center.

N1: Andy

N3: and Granny Webb

Andy & Granny: decided to see how the caterpillar liked his new home

N1 & N3: in the science center.

N2: Dolores Starbuckle wandered over, too.

Dolores: “I’ll be the teacher,”

N2: said Dolores, pointing to a picture on the wall.

Dolores: “What is this, Granny Webb?”

Granny: “I believe that that is a *Musca domestica*, Dolores,”

N3: said Granny.

Dolores: “Wrong,”

N2: said Dolores.

Dolores: “This is a picture of a housefly. And what is this?”

N2: asked Dolores.

Granny: “That is a *Photinus pyralis*,”

N3: said Granny Webb.

Dolores: “Wrong again!”

N2: shouted Dolores.

Dolores: “That is a firefly. Everyone knows that. And what is this?”

N2: Dolores pointed to a dragonfly.

N3: Granny Webb didn’t say anything.

Dolores: “What is *this*?”

N2: repeated Dolores.

Dolores: “I’m *waiting!*”

Andy: “That is an *Anax junius*,”

N1: said Andy Shane.

Andy: “My Granny Webb taught me all the fancy names for bugs, and she knows them better than anyone.”

Dolores: “OH YEAH?”

N2: said Dolores.

Andy: “Yeah,”

N1: he said. And then Andy Shane did something he’d never done before.

All Narrators: He gave Dolores Starbuckle

Andy: the Granny Webb Stare.

N1: He stood up

Andy: straight.

N1: He put his shoulders

Andy: back.

N1: He stared

Andy: at Dolores Starbuckle.

N1: He didn’t move

Andy: a muscle.

N1: He didn’t blink

Andy: an eyelash.

N1: He just waited.

All Narrators: Finally he asked,

Andy: “What is this bug, Dolores Starbuckle?”

Dolores: "Fine,"

N2: she said.

Dolores: "It's an *Anax junius*."

N3 & Granny: The Granny Webb Stare worked every time.

Granny: "I just remembered that my apples need picking,"

N3: said Granny Webb.

Granny: "I'm sorry, Andy Shane. I have to go."

Andy: "That's okay,"

N1: said Andy, smiling.

Dolores: "Andy Shane, will you teach me the fancy names of these bugs?"

N2: Dolores asked.

N1: Andy Shane thought for a moment.

Dolores: "*Please?*"

N2: asked Dolores.

Andy: "All right,"

N1: said Andy. Andy told Dolores

Andy: the fancy name for monarch caterpillar.

N1: He told her that soon the caterpillar would build a case called a chrysalis,

Andy: which was a lot like a cocoon.

Dolores: “A COCOON?”

N2: asked Dolores.

N1: Andy stepped back.

Dolores: “That rhymes with *cartoon!*”

N2: said Dolores with a laugh.

Andy: “And *lagoon!*”

N1: said Andy Shane. He laughed, too.

Dolores: “And *baboon!*”

N2: said Dolores.

Andy: *Maybe school isn't so bad,*

N1: Andy thought.

Andy: *And maybe, just maybe, Dolores and I can share our Rhymes*

ALL at tomorrow's morning meeting.

