

Sack Lunch Flying (Simplified)

Author Unknown

Adapted for Readers Theater by Carol Montgomery

Time = about 4 minutes

Readability = grade 3.1 (several 3-4 syllable words; some listed here)

Cast, 9:

N. 1 (Narrator)

N. 2 (Narrator)

The Man

Stew (Steward or Stewardess, Flight Attendant)

Soldier 1

Soldier 2

Passenger 1

Passenger 2

Captain

Vocabulary:

Afghanistan

Petawawa

destination

luggage

aisle

vacant

gathering

surrounded

special

deployed

announcement

destination

deserve

remarked

military

embarrassing

belongings

terminal

passenger

erupted

deplane



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N. 1: The Man put his carry-on in the luggage space of the jet and sat down in his seat. He knew it would be a long flight. He thought...

The Man: I'm glad I have a good book to read. Perhaps I'll get a short nap, too.

N. 2: Just before take-off, a line of soldiers came down the aisle and filled all the vacant seats. The Man was totally surrounded.

The Man: Where are you headed?

N. 1: The Man asked the soldier seated next to him.

Soldier 1: Petawawa. We'll be there for two weeks for special training. After that we're being deployed to Afghanistan.

N. 2: Answered the soldier.

N. 1: After flying for about an hour, an announcement was made.

Stew: Sack lunches are ready for five dollars. If you want one, please tell your attendant as we come by.

N. 1: The Man knew it would be hours before they reached their destination. A lunch would help pass the time.

N. 2: As The Man reached for his wallet, another soldier asked his buddy...

Soldier 2: Are you going to buy a lunch?

Soldier 1: No, that seems like a lot of money for just a sack lunch. It wouldn't be worth the five bucks. I'll wait 'til we get to base.

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Soldier 2: (*nods*) You're right. I'll wait, too.

N. 1: The Man looked around at the other soldiers. None were buying lunch. He walked to the back of the plane and handed the attendant a fifty-dollar bill.

The Man: Take a lunch to all those soldiers, please. This is for them.

N. 2: The attendant grabbed The Man's arm and squeezed tightly.

Stew: My son was a soldier in Iraq; it's almost like you're doing this for him. Thank you so much!

N. 2: Picking up ten sack lunches, the attendant headed up the aisle to where the soldiers were seated. She stopped at The Man's seat and asked...

Stew: Which do you like best—beef or chicken?

The Man: Chicken.

N. 1: But, The Man wondered why she asked.

N. 2: The attendant turned and hurried to the front of the plane. She returned a minute later with a dinner plate from first class.

Stew: This is yours. Thanks.

The Man: (*surprised*) Thank you. But, that's not needed.

Stew: I know. But, you deserve it. You are first class.

N. 1: After the meal The Man slipped to the back of the plane again, heading for the rest room. Another passenger stopped him.

Passenger 1: I saw what you did. I want to be part of it. Here, take this.

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N. 2: And, the passenger handed The Man twenty-five dollars.

N. 1: Soon after The Man returned to his seat the Flight Captain came down the aisle, looking at the aisle numbers. The Man hoped he was not looking for him. When the Captain got to The Man's row he stopped, smiled, and held out his hand.

Captain: I want to shake your hand.

N. 1: The Man quickly unfastened his seat belt and stood. He took the Captain's hand.

Captain: (*boldly*) I was a soldier and a military pilot. Once, someone bought me a lunch. It was an act of kindness I never forgot.

***Passengers and Soldiers:** (*applaud?*)

N. 2: Applause erupted around The Man.

The Man: This is a little embarrassing.

N. 1: Later, The Man walked to the front of the plane to stretch his legs. A passenger a few rows up reached a hand out, wanting to shake hands.

Passenger 2: Thanks for blessing the soldiers.

N. 2: The passenger remarked while putting twenty-five dollars in The Man's hand.

N. 1: The Man was too stunned to speak. When the plane landed, The Man gathered his belongings to deplane.

N. 2: Waiting just inside the airplane door was a third passenger who stopped The Man, put something in his shirt pocket, turned, and walked away without saying a word.

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The Man: (*shakes head*) Another twenty-five dollars!

N. 1: Upon entering the terminal, The Man saw the soldiers gathering for their trip to the base. He walked over to them and handed them seventy-five dollars.

The Man: It will take you awhile to reach the base. It will be about time for a sandwich. God Bless You.

N. 1 & N. 2: The End.

* Passengers and Soldiers (and others, if you want) may applaud with the script, or with the script stuffed under the arm, or with the script on a music stand. OR you may leave this action out. (Typically scripts are in folders, so it's easy to use a script as a prop.)



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Curriculum Links (Valid May 2021):

<http://www.loc.gov/vets//stories/themes.html>

Library of Congress “Experiencing War--Stories from the Veteran’s History Project”. This site has countless stories with many different themes. You’ll have to preview the stories for your students.

<http://www.amillionthanks.org/>

“A Million Thanks is a year-round campaign to show our appreciation for our U.S. Military Men and Women, past and present, for their sacrifices, dedication, and service to our country through our letters, emails, cards, and prayers.

<http://www.vietvet.org/thewall.htm>

“The Wall”--The National Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C. Many extra links

<http://www.vietvet.org/pwrname.htm>

Make sure you read this! “The Power of a Name,” by Valerie, an eighth-grader from California.

<http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/calendar-activities/memorial-observed-united-states-30557.html>

Grades 3-12 Memorial Day (U.S.) lesson from the International Reading Association. (Uses our the first link on this list for several activities and links to other helpful resources and websites.)

<http://www.amervets.com/warlib6/warlib5m.htm>

Memorial Day Resource Guide with alphabetical links to everything--wars, letters, and more!

You Tube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wK0T4pVHP28&feature=related>

“Amazing Grace” beautifully sung a capella with slide show with pictures of soldiers, US flags, services, (some funerals, graves, and coffins; some soldiers crying, some with disabilities). Very respectful. 4:06

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_klwtm67ogg

“Memorial Day Song and Video”--slides and video with a lovely song honoring the fallen heroes...(includes John 3:16) 4:08



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Cheering you on,
Carol Montgomery
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<http://www.readerstheaterallyear.com/categories/20101006>