

# On Top of Spaghetti–Again

Adapted for Readers Theater by Carol Montgomery

**Time** = about two minutes when spoken  
(about four minutes if sung to the tune of “On Top of Old Smoky”)

**Readability Level** = Grade 4.4

**Cast (2):** Pasta and Parmesan

**Suggestions:** Try this as Choral Readers Theater or as a partner play.

## Vocabulary:

beautiful

bush

cheese

could

covered

door

early

end

ever

floor

garden

grew

lost

meatballs

moss

mush

next

nothing

onto

pasta

please

rolled

sauce

sneeze

sneezed

somebody

spaghetti

summer

table

tasty

tomato

under

unless



## **On Top of Spaghetti–Again**

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**Pasta:** On top of spaghetti all covered with cheese,

**Parmesan:** I lost my poor meatball when somebody sneezed.

**Pasta:** It rolled off the table, and onto the floor.

**Parmesan:** And, then my poor meatball...

**Pasta and Parmesan:** Rolled out of the door!

**Pasta:** It rolled in the garden and under a bush.

**Parmesan:** And, then my poor meatball...

**Pasta and Parmesan:** Was nothing but mush.

**Pasta:** The mush was as tasty as tasty could be,

**Parmesan:** And, then my poor meatball...

**Pasta and Parmesan:** Grew into a tree!

**Pasta:** The tree was all covered with meatballs galore,

**Parmesan:** From one lonely meatball

**Pasta and Parmesan:** That rolled out the door!

**Parmesan:** You want more?

**Pasta & Parmesan:** Okay!

**Parmesan:** On top of spaghetti all covered with cheese,

**Pasta:** I lost my poor meatball...

**Pasta & Parmesan:** When somebody sneezed!

On Top of Spaghetti–Again

**Parmesan:** It rolled off the table, and onto the floor.

**Pasta:** And, then my poor meatball...

**Pasta & Parmesan:** Rolled out of the door!

**Parmesan:** It rolled in the garden and under a bush.

**Pasta:** And then my poor meatball...

**Pasta & Parmesan:** Was nothing but mush.

**Parmesan:** The mush was as tasty as tasty could be

**Pasta:** And early next summer...

**Pasta & Parmesan:** It grew to a tree.

**Parmesan:** The tree was all covered with beautiful moss

**Pasta:** It grew great big meatballs...

**Pasta & Parmesan:** And tomato sauce!

**Pasta:** So...

**Parmesan:** If you eat spaghetti all covered with cheese,

**Pasta:** Hold on to your meatball...

**Pasta & Parmesan:** And, don't ever sneeze! The End.

**Pasta:** Unless you want MORE!

**Parmesan:** I want more, please...

*(Repeat switching parts?)*



## On Top of Spaghetti–Again

### Curriculum Links (Valid in September 2022)

#### Spaghetti History and More

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spaghetti>

**Wiki article on spaghetti:** history, production, preparation, serving, dishes, consumption, world records, and more.

<https://mobile-cuisine.com/did-you-know/spaghetti-fun-facts/>

**“Spaghetti Fun Facts”** includes random facts about spaghetti in small font with side bar ads. **January 4th is National Spaghetti Day.** Who knew? And, on April 1, 1957 the BBC did an April Fool’s spoof to make people believe that spaghetti did grow on trees. :)

#### “On Top of Spaghetti”

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/On\\_Top\\_of\\_Spaghetti](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/On_Top_of_Spaghetti)

**Wiki article on the history of the song. (No lyrics.)** Includes a link to the song “On Top of Old Smokey,” an American folk song that “On Top of Spaghetti” is based on. (The lyrics to “On Top of Old Smokey” reflect a man who was disappointed because he lost his true love.)

<https://www.lyrics.com/lyric/31859486/Tom+Glazer/On+Top+of+Spaghetti>

**Original lyrics to the silly folk ballad, “On Top of Spaghetti.”** I wrote the Readers Theater script as I remembered the lyrics from my childhood; but, I knew the ending must be a bit different. It turns out that I missed the next to the last stanza; as a child, I made up my own. That is what I have in this Readers Theater script. But, I also included the original option (which you’ll hear in the videos of the song).

#### YouTube Song: “On Top of Spaghetti”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tSbSjRJ9xz4>

Here’s a video with a static slide of the composer “On Top of Spaghetti.” I believe that this is **from the recording of the original folk ballad “On Top of Spaghetti by Tom Glazer & the Do Re Mi Children’s Chorus 1963.”** (It’s based on the old American folk tune “On Top of Old Smokey.”) He sings it once with an echo and then does it again feeding the words to the children—including the fun ending. (No lyrics to read, but he’s easy to understand.) 2:34

**Warning:** YouTube may insert random ads on this video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CbO7KwgxYq4>

“On Top of Spaghetti” song with an **old video of children eating spaghetti , plus the lyrics** to the song. 2:00

## On Top of Spaghetti–Again

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yU2GqcjJcdM>

Animated video without lyrics from Rock and Learn, “On Top of Spaghetti.” It’s kind of odd because there’s one plate of spaghetti for two children. The second time through the song the Italian Chef coaches the words. 3:39

**Warning:** YouTube may insert random ads on this video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JGBE3eLpvm0>

Animated video from Vintage Nursery Rhymes, “On Top of Spaghetti Song–English Nursery Rhyme with Lyrics.” 2:55

**Warning:** YouTube may insert random ads on this video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AF2Ou6uoD7k>

Animated video with some humorous additions, “On Top of Spaghetti–Camp Song–Scratch Garden.” Includes a harmonizing voice, but no lyrics. 2:06

**Warning:** YouTube may insert random ads on this video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6itnCysogsA>

Cute real life reenactment video with two children “On Top Of Spaghetti (chasing meatball)” includes the biggest meatball I’ve ever seen! Clever ending. 2:16

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c\\_Ec-8TP7v8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c_Ec-8TP7v8)

“On Top of Spaghetti” LYRICS VIDEO, easy to read. Simple, with a colorful image in the corners of the slides. Children’s chorus with a little jazzy instrumental. You could use this for students to arrange a different Readers Theater adaptation of the lyrics. Or, just use this to teach the song. 1:56

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mO2Za2j4P74>

“Pasta Song” with LYRICS could also be adapted by your students into a Readers Theater script. Same style as the above video: easy to read, colorful image in a corner of the slide, children’s chorus with an upbeat instrumental backup. FESTIVE! 2:08

### Extension Activity

Borrow the children’s library book *Hard-Boiled Bugs for Breakfast: And Other Tasty Poems* by Jack Prelutsky. Check out the poem on page 88, “I’ve Always Loved Spaghetti” for a fun Choral Readers Theater or to adapt to small group Readers Theater. (I don’t have permission to copy it here.) It’s clever, creative, and fun. Did you ever hear of the macaroni hills and “mining for spaghetti”?

