

# Booktalk!

## Best Friend Next Door Script

### For this Book Talk activity you'll need:

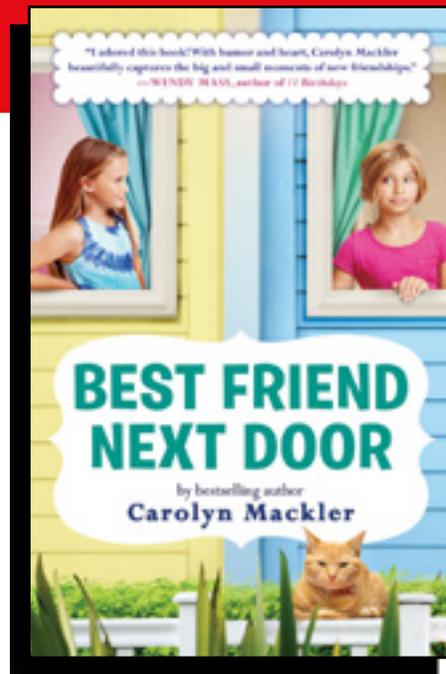
- 2 actors (Emme, Hannah)
- Hannah & Emme: matching t-shirts, shorts & shoes
- Additional props: small table or desk with a copy of *Best Friend Next Door* on it

**Hannah:** *(standing on one side of stage, facing audience; table/desk is set up halfway across stage to divide her from Emme; copy of book is on table/desk)* Hi. I'm Hannah. Right now things are pretty terrible in my life. Reason number 1 *(holding up 1 finger)*: My best friend, Sophie, just moved away to Canada. That's almost 300 miles from here and...well, I can't imagine life without her. Reason number 2 *(holding up a 2nd finger)*: Sophie's house was only empty SIX HOURS when the "SOLD" sign went up! Reason number *(stopping in the middle of a sentence and looking over at Emme as Emme begins speaking)*

**Emme:** *(standing on other side of stage, facing audience the entire time she's onstage)* Hi. I'm Emme – that's Emme with an 'e' on the end. My name's a palindrome. That means it's the same forward and backward. Anyhow, I'm new in this neighbourhood, but the real estate agent told us there's a girl my age living right next door!

**Hannah:** *(looking back at audience & pointing to herself)* That would be ME. *(pausing momentarily, then adding)* And, just so you know, BOTH our names are palindromes.

**Emme & Hannah:** *(facing the audience & speaking at exactly the same time)* I'm 10 years old and going into fifth grade... At Greeley Elementary. *(Hannah looking surprised & glancing over at Emme)*



👁 continued on next page...

# Booktalk!

## Continued

**Emme:** *(shaking her head while continuing to look at audience)* This whole move happened REALLY fast. We just found out two weeks ago that we were moving for sure. Actually I just found out. *(pointing her thumb over her shoulder)* They'd been planning it for a while. *(pausing for a moment)* Everyone thinks I'm younger, but I turn eleven on New Year's Day.

**Hannah:** *(looking from Emme to the audience with a shocked expression on her face, then shaking her head)* No way! No. Way. That's MY birthday, too! New Year's Day. *(shaking her head again)* OK. Here's something different...

**Emme & Hannah:** *(again, speaking simultaneously)* I love ANYTHING peanut butter *(pausing)* almost as much as I HATE pizza.

**Emme:** I'd better go and start unpacking. *(turning to leave but stopping momentarily)* Moving's tough but, with any luck, my neighbour and I will become good friends... *(walking offstage)*

**Hannah:** It may sound like we have a lot – practically EVERYthing – in common, but actually MY life is way more complicated than hers... Definitely more complicated... To read why, make sure to grab a copy of *Best Friend Next Door* *(holding up a copy of Best Friend Next Door)* at your Scholastic Book Fair!

