

Assembly Scripts for
Judy Moody Was in a Mood (2000)
by Megan McDonald

1. **“From a Pet’s Perspective” Skit** – In this skit, we eavesdrop on the three pets from the Moody household – Mouse the cat, Toady the Toad, and Jaws the Venus flytrap. We learn about Judy and Stink from the pets’ point of view. This is the perfect assembly for schools using both *Judy Moody Was in a Mood* and *Triple Pet Trouble* for their state reading program. You can introduce the three pets at the center of both books, all at the same time! It can also be used by schools who are reading just *Judy Moody Was in a Mood*.

Set up your stage to look like Judy’s living room. Place a small sofa or a few comfy chairs around with other props that give off the impression of a cozy family living area.

Be creative with your costume design! For Mouse, have someone dress in gray and wear cat ears and paint on whiskers. For Jaws, make a planter out of a cardboard box to put around your actor’s midsection, then have them wear a green shirt to represent Jaws’ leaves. (Red face paint and red hand gloves can be worn to make those parts look like Jaws’ lobes.) For Toady, green pants, shirt, and a green baseball hat with googly eyes glued on will make him look very toad-like.

Skits opens to the inside of Judy’s living room. Mouse is lounging on the chair or sofa. Jaws is standing in a corner, presumably on a windowsill, sunning himself. Toady is hopping around the stage (seemingly excited and nervous at the same time.)

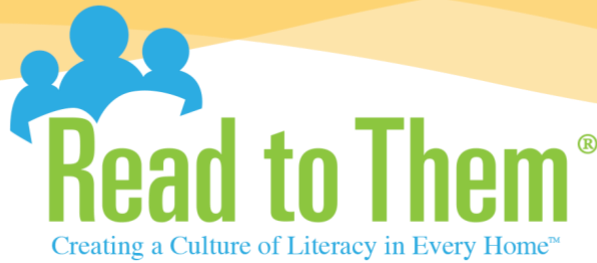
Mouse: *(making an exaggerated stretch)* Hey Toady...Could you calm down for a bit? All your hopping is making it hard for me to get my cat nap in.

Toady: *(still hopping)* You’re a cat, Mouse. All you *do* is take cat naps.

Mouse: *(yawning and stretching out his claws)* Yes, well, that’s my job. To nap. So, if you don’t mind, could you please stop distracting me.

Toady: *(stops hopping for a minute...then starts again)* It’s a little hard, you know. You are a cat...a predator that may enjoy eating toads, like me. And I may be your breakfast if I’m not careful.

Jaws: *(stretching neck and arms toward the others)* Breakfast? Did someone say breakfast? *(moves hand-lobes around)* I’m starving!



Toady hops over to Jaws.

Toady: Why hello there, Plant. You are a new addition here at the Moody house. *(looks him up and down)* And a quite interesting-looking addition, I must say. You *are* a plant, correct?

Jaws: *(nodding)* Yes, but I'm a very special type of plant. My name is Jaws. I'm a Venus flytrap. Judy brought me home from the pet store. And that's what she calls me...a pet. But I'm a hungry pet, and one that is ready to eat something.

Toady hops backward, away from Jaws.

Toady: *(looking around nervously)* Well, I sure hope you aren't thinking about eating me!

Jaws: *(shakes his head and arms)* Nah. You're too big. I'm afraid your legs would get stuck in my lobes *(move hands and head around)* ...and then what would I do? *(looks Toady up and down)* And who are you?

Toady: *(hopping more excitedly)* I'm Toady! Judy brought me to live at the Moody house too. *(points to Mouse)* That over there is Mouse. He's the Moody's cat. And was the only pet ...that is, until we came along.

Jaws: *(whispering to Toad)* Do you think that cat called Mouse would be willing to hunt me up a cricket? Or a big fat fly?

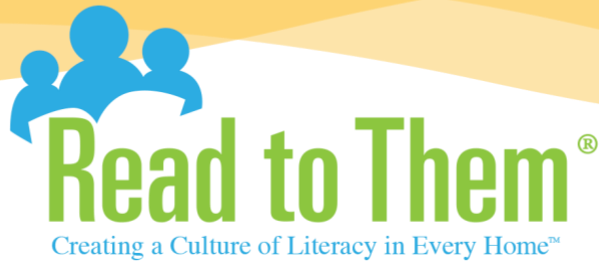
Toady: *(hopping more excitedly)* Yes! A cricket and a fly! *(hops over to Mouse)* What do you say, Mouse? Can you find my new friend Jaws and me some big yummy bugs for breakfast?

Mouse: *(rolls eyes and stretches again)* I've got my own breakfast to worry about. *(gets up and moves to the front of the stage, arching back, then letting out a loud yowl.)* Meeeeooooowwww...where is Judy anyway? It's definitely breakfast time!

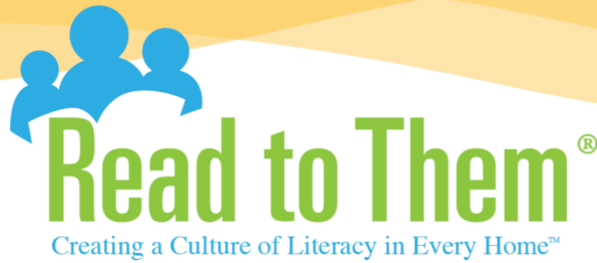
Toady: *(looking up toward the ceiling)* Hold on...what is today? *(snaps fingers then starts hopping again)* Oh, right! It's a school day! No wonder Judy hasn't come to feed us yet.

Jaws: *(cocks head to side)* What do you mean?

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- Toady:** You know Judy...sometimes she can be a little – shall we say *moody* – on school days.
- Jaws:** Moody? Judy? Ever since she brought me home, I've only seen her be in an excited mood...and a curious mood about me.
- Mouse:** (*sighs*) Everyone who knows Judy knows that being moody is a big part of her personality. Good moods, curious moods, bad moods, mad-face moods...she has them all. (*shrugs*) Don't get me wrong...I'm a cat. (*licks self*) Being moody is part of *my* personality, too.
- Jaws:** (*scratches head*) So ...what causes all these moods?
- Mouse:** (*shrugs*) It depends. Sometimes she can be in an extra cheerful mood when she's with her best friend, Rocky, and they are having an adventure together. (*smiles widely*) Or, in a super excited mood, like when she found you. She can also be in a curious mood, like when she's practicing to be a doctor. (*frowns*) or in a very grouchy mood when certain people annoy her.
- Toady:** (*nods head*) Like Stink.
- Jaws:** (*stares at Toady*) What stinks? (*sniffs air*) I don't smell anything.
- Mouse:** Stink isn't a smell. He's a person.
- Toady:** (*bouncing up and down*) A boy!
- Jaws:** A boy named Stink? (*points to self*) That's even better than a Venus flytrap being named Jaws!
- Mouse:** (*sauntering up and down the stage*) Stink can really get on Judy's nerves. Like all little brothers and sisters can ...But they can also be great friends.
- Toady:** (*hopping up and down excitedly*) Yeah! Judy might even let Stink be in the T.P. Club!
- Jaws:** What's the T.P. Club?



Mouse: *(laughing)* I'm sure you'll find out soon enough. Just like you are going to find out lots of things about Judy, her family and friends, and her many different adventures and moods. *(looks at both Toady and Jaws then jumps back up on the sofa/chair and curls into a ball)* Now, if you all will excuse me, I think I'll finish my cat nap while I wait for my breakfast to be served.

Jaws: Another nap?

Mouse: *(stretching, then curling back into a ball)* Napping is important for cats. Particularly for a cat who lives in a house with two busy humans like Judy and Stink. I never know what types of shenanigans they are going to get into next...and I always like to be well-rested and prepared for anything!

While Mouse settles in for a rest, Toady hops and Jaws waddles to the front of the stage.

Toady: *(hopping up and down while addressing the audience)* How about all of you? Would you like to know what type of shenanigans are ahead for Judy Moody, her brother Stink and all her friends?

Toady and Jaws wait for the audience to cheer.

For schools reading *Judy Moody Was in a Mood* and *Triple Pet Trouble* together:

Jaws: *(pulls Judy Moody Was in a Mood and Triple Pet Trouble out from his cardboard box planter)* If you said yes, then you're in luck! *(holds up both books)*

Toady: *(grabs Judy Moody Was in a Mood from Jaws)* Some of you will get to read all about us, Judy, her friends, and lots of her adventures in *Judy Moody Was in a Mood*.

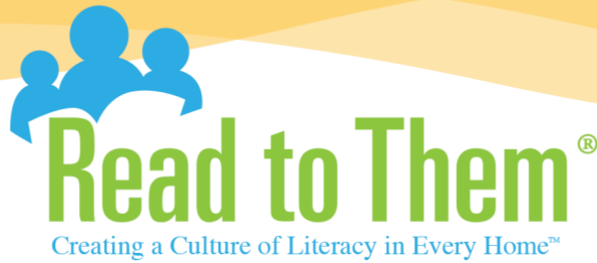
Jaws: *(holds up Triple Pet Trouble)* And some of you will get to read even more about us, Judy, her friends, and other adventures in *Triple Pet Trouble*.

Suddenly Mouse stands up on the couch/chair, also holding up copies of both books.

Mouse: And guess what else? *(waves books around in the air toward the audience)* No matter which book you get, reading together is going to be one awesome adventure for everyone!

All Three: *(to audience)* Let's get started!

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For schools reading only *Judy Moody Was in a Mood*:

Jaws: *(pulls Judy Moody Was in a Mood from his cardboard box planter)*
If you said yes, then you're in luck! (holds up book)

Toady: This book is *full* of crazy adventures – and some of them include us pets!

Suddenly Mouse stands up on the couch/chair, also holding up the book.

Mouse: So, jump right in! I promise – it is worth missing a nap for!

All Three: *(to audience)* Let's get started!

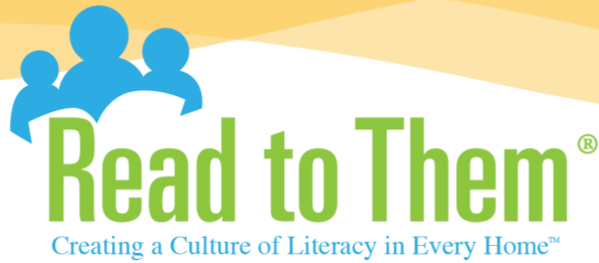
2. **Vic's Mini Mart** – Judy, her best friend Rocky, and her little brother, Stink, love to go to a Mini Mart near their houses called Vic's. They buy Band-Aids, fake tattoos, magic tricks, jawbreakers, fireballs, and even a fake hand. Have a staff member cast as Vic deliver a monologue.

Vic: Hi, I'm Vic.

I own Vic's Mini Mart, the best convenience store in the state of Virginia. Come by sometime and say hi. I've got all kinds of exciting stuff in stock. Snacks, candy, drinks, toys, fake tattoos, you name it.

Well, I've heard you're going to be reading all about Judy Moody. She's an interesting one, that Judy, but I think you'll like her. Judy and her best friend Rocky are my best customers. They come to my store all the time. And sometimes Judy's younger brother, Stink tags along. He annoys Judy, but the way I see it, he just looks up to his sister. Anyway, just about every other day, the three of them come racing over here. I even get worried if I don't see 'em!

Judy loves to buy Band-Aids, in fact I stock the colorful and patterned ones just for her. The Moody household must have more Band-Aids than the Red Cross! Makes sense though, Judy wants to be a doctor. She talks about it all the time, if you meet her you'll know what I mean.



I've also got this fantastic machine that sells jawbreakers and prizes...but only if you're lucky. That's what Rocky loves, that guy is all about the prizes. He especially loves magic tricks, and really, who doesn't? I always warn my new customers though, be careful on the jawbreakers. They are true to their name! Take care of those teeth or you might have to play a cavity in the Brush Your Teeth Week assembly. Judy will be able to tell you *all* about that.

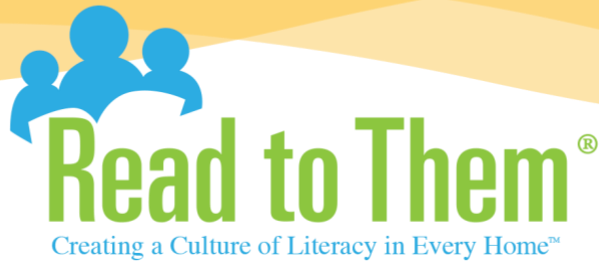
Stink also loves jawbreakers, sometimes Judy and Rocky buy one for Stink and bring it to him. That's always nice of them. Another thing you should know – Stink, Rocky, and Judy are in a secret club. It's called the T.P. club, I don't know what it stands for. Like I said, it's a secret. I've never been able to get it out of them, maybe you can? If they tell you, let me know! Maybe I'll even give you a free jawbreaker.

One last thing you should know is that Judy is a collector. She collects just about *anything*. Pencils, dead moths, fancy toothpicks, and fun erasers. Well those are just the collections she's told me about. Oh, and Band-Aids of course. I'm sure she'll tell you all about those collections, but ask if she doesn't.

Judy can be a little bit moody. Sometimes she just gets in a mood. But all you gotta do is grab some jawbreakers, start a new collection, or ask about the funniest thing that ever happened.

Enjoy reading about Judy and don't forget to stop by Vic's Mini Mart for candy and fake tattoos!

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3. **A Trip to Vic's** – Instead of a monologue from Vic, set up the store on stage. Cast three students to play the roles of Judy, Stink, and Rocky, and have a staff member play the role of Vic. You could use a cart with a bit of merchandise: candy, little prizes, Band-Aids, etc. You'll need actors to play Vic, Judy, Stink, and Rocky. If you can get some of your more reluctant readers involved as actors, all the better! Have Vic stand behind the counter and arrange items as Judy, Stink, and Rocky walk in. This dialogue is just a guide. Feel free to adapt it as needed.

Vic: Well hello! It's Judy, Rocky, and Stink. Right on time, too...I just restocked the prizes!

Rocky: *(Runs into the prize machine)* Yes!!

Judy: Hey, Vic.

Vic: Howdy, Judy. How ya doing?

Judy: Okay. About to start third grade.

Vic: Very exciting!

Judy: Not really. It means I have to brush my hair and memorize spelling words again.

Vic: Well, I guess when you put it like that...

Judy: Got any new Band-Aids?

Vic: You know, I do! Check these out. They have faces on them!

Judy: Rare!

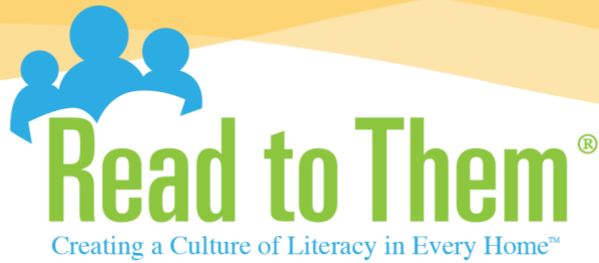
Vic: Haha, what does that mean, Judy? You're always saying that.

Judy: It means cool.

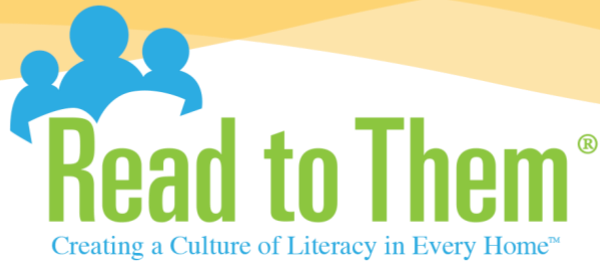
Vic: Rare.

Stink: Vic, I want to buy five jawbreakers. And eat them all at once!

Vic: All right, Stink. How much cash you got there?



- Stink:** *(Places a handful of quarters in front of Vic)* This much.
- Vic:** *(Starts to count them)* Let's count them out. One, two, three quarters. So, you can buy three jawbreakers.
- Stink:** Awesome.
- Vic:** Here ya go, bud. Promise you *will not* eat them all at once!
- Stink:** ...I promise.
- Judy:** Rocky, look at these new Band-Aids! Aren't they amazing?
- Rocky:** Yeah, they're all right I guess. Look at these new prizes!
- Judy:** Whoa, there's even mini magic tricks.
- Rocky:** So cool.
- Judy:** Rare.
- Rocky:** Wait... *(Digs through pockets)* ...I forgot my quarter!
- Judy:** What? Aww...I wish Stink and I hadn't already spent our money.
- Rocky:** *(Sighs)* It's okay. I'll just come back tomorrow. And I'll bring more than one quarter! Then I'll have more chances to win a magic trick. Maybe we'll even find some more coins on our way to China.
- Vic:** China?
- Judy:** Don't worry, it's what we named one of the speed bumps on the way here.
- Vic:** Right. Okay, that makes sense.
- Judy:** Yep, it does.
- Rocky:** See ya tomorrow, Vic. I'll be here right after school.



Judy: Bye, Vic!

Stink: *(With mouth full)* Bye.

Vic: Have a good one, guys. See ya tomorrow.

Rocky, Judy, and Stink exit. Then Vic asks the assembled students, Wouldn't you like to visit Vic's Mini Mart? Then, pass out the books.

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