

**Guide for Readers' Theater Demo.**

**(Excerpts adapted from script.)**

**Actor 1 or 2 or 3 presents the intro.**

Welcome to StretchABookClub!

We are going to show you how to turn reading into acting. (note: actors look up when reading, and look at and listen to other actor when other actor is reading.)

**Actor1:** I'm\_\_\_\_\_.**Actor2:** and I'm\_\_\_\_\_.**(Actor 3: And I'm.....)**

**Director's voice/or Mom's**

**part:** The author created a play from the book, *Serendipity Says...To Know Me Is To Love Me*.

(Note: Kids show book cover.) Let's do the scene about Serendipity's spell and see what happens.

**Actor 1:** I'll be Mermaid and Malinda Martha, and Mother. (Or Mom can be Mother.)

**Actor 2:** I'll be Serendipity, Seahorse, and Daddy. (or 3rd actor can be Seahorse.)

**Mermaid:** Hi, Seahorse. Have you heard that Serendipity, the sea serpent, won the SEA CREATURES AWARD this year?

**Seahorse:**What did he do?

**Mermaid:** Let's start at the beginning! One day a long time ago, Old Sol, the sun, cast a topsy turvy spell on a sea serpent.

**Seahorse:** Old Sol turns Serendipity into a tidal serpent.

**Serendipity:**I'm tired of slithering so far up onto the shore. Twice every day

is just twice too much.

**Malinda Martha:**(gets involved in the story) Isn't it fun to swish the beach with your tail and scatter sea life along the shore?

**Serendipity:**It's not like frolicking in the waves. I want to return to my kingdom at the bottom of the sea...and swim with my grand-sea serpents. I'm waiting for a child to break the spell...a child who loves me and understands me.

**Director/Mom: (praise)**

I like the way you read dramatically and looked up, too. Let's demo this line and show how you increased the punch from reading to acting.

**Mermaid:**In the morning, Malinda Martha runs to the beach with images of Serendipity still in her head. She skips stones and pretends they are stealing away to Serendipity's kingdom in the sea. She plays a game with her parents.

**Malinda Martha:** Hear Serendipity's cries and his moans! He's not very well 'cause he's caught in that spell. Who will break the spell?

**Daddy:**Time will tell. Time will tell.

**Malinda Martha:**I want to break the spell. I hope Serendipity left a clue.

**Daddy:**You can't look for clues. You can't look for Serendipity.

**Malinda Martha:** I've got it! I'll send Serendipity a letter in a bottle. (Reads part of the letter)

Dear Serendipity,  
I want to break your spell, but I can't look for you. Please look for me.

P.S. I love you.

**Mermaid:** It's the last day of summer vacation.

No more skipping stones.

No more Serendipity game.

**Seahorse:** But I bet Malinda Martha is still thinking about Serendipity.

**Malinda Martha:** Maybe I will send Serendipity another letter in a bottle next summer. But I still hope that Serendipity will look for me.

**Mermaid:** Malinda Martha glances out at the waves and imagines that her bottle is drifting far away to a kingdom in the sea. She sees a bottle floating toward her!

**Malinda Martha:** Oh, no! My bottle's floating back.

Something is in the bottle!

**Mermaid:** She grabs the bottle and pulls out the cork.

**Seahorse:** And she unrolls the paper and gazes at the message. I want to hear this.

**Malinda Martha:** The message is for me! (reads message)

CONGRATULATIONS!

SERENDIPITY AWARD

FOR UNDERSTANDING YOU  
CAN'T LOOK FOR  
SERENDIPITY!

P.S. Thanks for breaking the spell. Wishing you many fortunate discoveries when you're not looking for them... when you're looking for something else!

LOVE, Serendipity

**Malinda Martha:** (claps a jingle)  
Serendipity, Serendipity, I'm not looking. I'm not looking. I'm not looking for a clue. I can never look for you. I'll be looking for something else when you come into view.

**Daddy:** Serendipity is swimming free.

**Mermaid:** And...from that day to this, Serendipity has been known in his kingdom at the bottom of the sea as 'the sea serpent with a special name and an endearing spirit.'

**Seahorse:** Serendipity really deserves the SEA

CREATURES OF THE YEAR  
award.

**Director/Mom:** (praise) I like the way you read with punch...and looked at others when they were reading. What did you like about turning reading into acting?

**Actors'** answers...

**Actors:** Readers' Theater is Fun.

