**Grapefruit**

**from POPPLETON and FRIENDS**

by Cynthia Rylant

stage adaptation by Wally

CHARACTERS

NARRATORS

POPPLETON

TELEVISION DOCTOR

STORE CLERK

BAGGER

HUDSON

UNCLE BILL

SETTING

TIME: present day

PLACE: Poppleton’s home and grocery store

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NARRATOR: One day poppleton was watching tv.

NARRATOR 2: The doctor on tv said grapefruit made people live longer.

*A TV Doctor appears on TV and promotes the benefits of grapefruits for life-longevity.*

T.V. DOCTOR: If you eat grapefruit, bathe in grapefruit and use a grapefruit cream you will add many, many years to your life.

NARRATOR: Poppleton hated grapefruit.

NARRATOR 2: But he wanted to live longer.

NARRATOR: He wanted to live to be one hundred.

NARRATOR 2: So he went to the store.

STORE CLERK: *(counting grapefruit)* 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 …

BAGGER: Are you making a grapefruit pie?

POPPLETON: No. I’m hoping to live longer. To 100.

STORE CLERK: And grapefruit is gonna do it?

POPPLETON: That’s what the doctor said on television.

CLERK & BAG: Oh.

NARRATOR: Poppleton brought the grapefruit home.

NARRATOR 2: He cut it up and took a little taste.

ALL: Poppleton’s lips turned outside-in.

STORE CLERK: He took another little taste.

BAGGER: Poppleton’s eyes made tears.

NARRATOR: He took the tiniest taste he could possibly take.

MAN ON TV: Poppleton’s face turned green.

NARRATOR 2: Poppleton’s friend Hudson knocked at the door.

*(Poppleton knocks at the door.)*

HUDSON: Poppleton, why are you all green? *(coming in)* And where are your lips?

POPPLETON: I am eating grapefruit to live longer. And it is making me sick.

HUDSON: Then don’t eat it!

POPPLETON: But I want to live to be one hundred.

HUDSON: With no lips?

POPPLETON: What else can I do?

HUDSON: Wait here?

NARRATOR: Soon he was back with a very, very, very old mouse.

HUDSON: This is my Uncle Bill. *(loudly to Uncle Bill)* Uncle Bill, tell Poppleton how you lived to be one hundred.

NARRATOR: Uncle Bill nodded and leaned over to Poppleton.

UNCLE BILL: Friends.

POPPLETON: Friends?

UNCLE BILL: Friends. What did you do with your lips?

NARRATOR 2: After Uncle Bill and Hudson left, Poppleton threw all of the grapefruit away.

NARRATOR: And as soon as his lips came back …

ALL: … he went out to find some friends.

**The Shore Day**

**from POPPLETON and FRIENDS**

by Cynthia Rylant

stage adaptation by Wally

CHARACTERS

NARRATORS

POPPLETON

HUDSON

BUS DRIVER

SASSY SUES (x4)

OCEAN WAVES

CHERRY SUE

SETTING

TIME: present day

PLACE: Bus, beach and Cherry Sue’s home

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*(Poppleton is greeted at the bus stop by Hudson.)*

NARRATOR: Poppleton was tired of being landlocked.

NARRATOR 2: He wanted to go to the shore.

POPPLETON: Hudson likes the shore. I’ll ask him to go, too.

*(The bus arrives.)*

NARRATOR: Soon Poppleton and Hudson were on a bus, heading for the shore.

NARRATOR 2: There were a lot of older ladies on the bus.

ALL: They called themselves “The Sassy Sues.”

*(They all meet and greet each other.)*

NARRATOR: Hudson and Poppleton enjoyed the ladies very much.

NARRATOR 2: The ladies taught them new songs, and new dances, and how to win at poker.

*(They learn a new song and dance. Then they play poker.)*

BUS DRIVER: When the bus got to the shore, Hudson and Poppleton waved good-bye to the ladies.

*(OCEAN WAVES are seen and heard.)*

HUDSON: Poppleton had a big beach chair, which he unfolded.

POPPLETON: Hudson had a little beach chair, which he unfolded.

NARRATOR: They ate cheese sandwiches.

NARRATOR 2: They watched the waves.

NARRATOR: They collected shells.

NARRATOR 2: At the end of the day, they took the bus back home.

BUS DRIVER: Hello Hudson. Hello Poppleton.

POPPLETON: *(on the bus)* Let’s tell Cherry Sue about our day.

NARRATOR: Hudson and Poppleton went to see Cherry Sue.

NARRATOR 2: They gave her some shells and a cheese sandwich.

HUDSON: Would you like to learn a new song?

CHERRY SUE: Always.

*(They sing a new song.)*

POPPLETON: Would you like to learn a new dance?

CHERRY SUE: Certainly.

*(They dance a new dance.)*

NARRATOR: They were very happy.

NARRATOR 2: The shore day had been great.

ALL: But remembering it was even better.

**The Sky**

**from POPPLETON and FRIENDS**

by Cynthia Rylant

stage adaptation by Wally

CHARACTERS

NARRATORS (x4)

POPPLETON (x2)

HUDSON (x2)

SETTING

TIME: present day

PLACE: Poppleton’s home and outside

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*(Two casts perform this scene simultaneously, echoing and mirroring. Poppleton and Hudson are roasting marshmallows by the fire.)*

NARRATOR: Poppleton’s friend Hudson was visiting one night.

HUDSON: Let’s go look at the sky.

NARRATOR 2: Poppleton got blankets, and they went to look at the sky.

*(Poppleton gets one large and one small blanket for Hudson. They lay on them outside.)*

HUDSON: I see the Big Dipper.

POPPLETON: Yes.

HUDSON: I see the Little Dipper.

POPPLETON: Yes.

HUDSON: I even see Venus! Do you see Venus, Poppleton?

*(No answer. Poppleton’s eyes are closed.)*

What’s wrong, Poppleton? Are you sick?

POPPLETON: I am dizzy. Stars make me dizzy.

HUDSON: Oh dear.

POPPLETON: The sky is so big and deep. I get seasick.

HUDSON: Oh my.

POPPLETON: I wish I could look, but I can’t.

HUDSON: How sad. Let me think.

POPPLETON: Ho hum.

*(Poppleton closes his eyes. Hudson thinks.)*

HUDSON: I have an idea.

NARRATOR: Hudson cuts a tiny hole in his blanket and puts it over Poppleton’s head.

*(Hudson cuts a hole in his blanket and puts it over Poppleton’s head.)*

HUDSON: Now you’ll see only a tiny sky.

NARRATOR 2: Poppleton pepped up at two little stars.

POPPLETON: Beautiful.

ALL: And the two friends stargazed all night long.