



Annie Oakley

Characters

Narrator

Annie Oakley

Susan Mosley

Frank Butler

Buffalo Bill Cody

Chief Sitting Bull

Setting

This reader's theater begins in rural Darke County, Ohio, in 1868. The home of Susan Mosey sits alone at the end of a dirt road. The yard is noisy as her seven children play outside. It is the middle of September, and the sun is shining, but the air is turning colder as autumn nears. It is harvest time, but there is little food to harvest on the farm.



Act I

Narrator:

As Susan Mosey's seven children play outside, she is faced with a big problem. She is worried about how she will feed them this winter, and she wonders if she will lose the farm to the bank. Their father had been a war hero, but he became sick and died two years earlier. Susan Mosey remarried and had another baby, but her second husband died, too. Now she wasn't sure what she would do.

Susan:

Children, stop that commotion! Phoebe Ann, come in the house, please. I need to talk to you about something important.

Annie:

What is it, Mama?

Susan:

This is the hardest thing I've ever had to say to one of my children. But I simply don't know how I'm going to be able to feed you all this winter. So, I've made arrangements for you to live for a while with the family that runs the county hospital. I'll miss you, Annie, but I know you'll be well taken care of.

Annie:

But, Mama, I don't want to go. I want to stay here with you!



Susan: It's going to be all right, honey. I know you're not the oldest, but I'm asking you to go because you are the most independent. Even at just eight years old, you'll be best able to take care of yourself without me around. I know you're going to be just fine.

Annie: I'll do whatever you think is best, Mama. Just promise me that you'll come visit and that I'll be able to come home one day.

Susan: You have my promise, Annie. Now, go pack your bags. The hospital superintendent and his wife will be picking you up tonight.

Annie: All right, Mama.

Act 2

Narrator: At first, Annie is unhappy staying with the hospital superintendent's family. She spends a lot of time working at the hospital and doesn't get to go to school. But she's become close with the superintendent's wife, who teaches Annie how to cook and sew. Annie's mother visits her often, too. Annie knows she must stay as long as it takes for her family to get back on its feet. One day, on Annie's 12th birthday, her mother comes to visit.



Susan: Annie, it is so wonderful to see you! You are turning into such a fine young woman!

Annie: It's good to see you, too, Mama! Do you like this dress I made? I sewed two new dresses for myself this week, and I've make clothes for the rest of the superintendent's children! Maybe one day I will become a seamstress.

Susan: My dear, I have tremendous faith that you will accomplish whatever you set your heart on. Things are changing for women. One day we may even have the same rights as men! Annie, do you want to see the gift I brought you?

Annie: A gift?

Susan: You don't think I forgot your birthday, do you? I brought you something very special: your father's hunting rifle.

Annie: Papa's gun? But mama, I've never fired a gun before. I was only six when he died, but I remember watching him shoot. He sure was good at it.