ARThur"s UNDERWEAR

By: Marc Brown

A READER"S THEATER
MASTERPIECE

Performed by:
Marshall Second Graders
List of Characters:
Narrator          Arthur Amoeba
Mr. Ratburn       Buster
Binky Barnes      Francine
Arthur            Muffy
Arthur’s Mom      Brain
D.W.              Mrs. Macgrady
Voice of Science Film

NARRATOR: Binky Barnes was at the board doing a very difficult problem.

MR. RATBURN: That’s correct. Very good!

NARRATOR: Binky cheered and dropped his chalk.

BINKY: YES!

NARRATOR: As he bent down, the class heard a loud rrrrrrippp! Everyone laughed, except Mr. Ratburn.

MR. RATBURN: Go to the office and ask Ms. Tingly to sew them up.

NARRATOR: That afternoon at softball practice, when Binky came up to bat, Arthur thought about Binky in his underwear and laughed. During dinner, Mom asked:

MOM: Anything interesting happen at school today?

NARRATOR: Arthur started to laugh.
**D.W.:** What’s so funny?

**NARRATOR:** Arthur couldn’t stop laughing to answer.

**NARRATOR:** The next morning, Arthur woke up late. He hurried through breakfast and ran most of the way to school.

**ARTHUR:** Sorry I’m late Mr. Ratburn. I guess my alarm---

**NARRATOR:** Everyone burst out laughing.

**MR. RATBURN:** Mr. Read, being late is one thing, but not wearing any trousers---that is quite another!

**NARRATOR:** Arthur looked down…and screamed! Arthur’s scream woke him up.

**ARTHUR:** Wow! What a horrible dream!

**NARRATOR:** In school, the class watched a science film.

**VOICE OF SCIENCE FILM:** The amoeba is a single-celled life form...

**NARRATOR:** Arthur’s eyelids began to droop...Suddenly an amoeba that looked a lot like Arthur appeared on screen. It’s pants fell down showing its underwear.

**ARTHUR AMOEBA:** HELP! I NEED MY PANTS!

**NARRATOR:** All the other amebas started to laugh. Arthur Amoeba was too embarrassed to move. Then, he felt someone shaking him.

**BUSTER:** Wake up Arthur. The movie’s over!

**NARRATOR:** At lunch, Arthur didn’t feel like eating.
Arthur: What should I do Buster? Every time I go to sleep, I’m in my underwear!

BUSTER: Try staying awake. You can’t dream if you don’t sleep.

NARRATOR: That night, Arthur tried some tricks to stay awake. But as hard as he tried, Arthur just couldn’t.

ARTHUR: I’ll get you, Verminator…After…I take…a little nap.

NARRATOR: In Arthur’s dream, the Verminator was torturing the class by scratching his claws on the blackboard. Hearing cries for help, Bionic Arthur rushed to the rescue. But as he entered the classroom to take on the Verminator, everyone started laughing.

ARTHUR: My pants!

NARRATOR: Arthur gasped as he woke up with a start.

D.W.: Rise and shine Mr. Fancy Pants. They’re right here. Mom says you better shake a leg or you’ll be late for school. I’m going to ask Mom if I can sleep in my clothes too…and maybe my coat and books. Mom?!

NARRATOR: Arthur sighed and changed into his pajama pants.

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NARRATOR: The next day, Arthur was more worried than ever.

ARTHUR: What if people find out about my underwear problem? They’ll call me names and then I’ll have to change schools…

BUSTER: Don’t worry. Your secret is safe with me.
NARRATOR: At lunch the following day, Arthur sat with Francine and Muffy. They looked at him and started to giggle.

ARTHUR: What’s so funny?

FRANCINE: Do you have your pants on? Better make sure.

NARRATOR: Arthur checked. He was wearing pants. He moved to another table.

BRAIN: I heard about your nightmares. So I got out a couple of books on dreams. Apparently, you have a pathological fear of embarrassment...

NARRATOR: Arthur got up to find Buster.

ARTHUR: Buster! You told everyone about my underwear dreams! How could you?

BUSTER: Not everyone, only a few kids. I didn’t know how to help you. I needed some advice.

ARTHUR: This is so embarrassing!

NARRATOR: When Arthur turned to run out of the cafeteria, his pants pocket got caught. RRRRIPPPP! Everyone started to laugh. Arthur couldn’t move, but Binky grabbed two trays to cover him.

BINKY: Quick, to the kitchen!

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NARRATOR: Mrs. MacGrady wrapped her apron around Arthur and got a needle and thread.

BUSTER: I’m sorry. I shouldn’t have told anyone.
ARTHUR: It’s okay, you were just trying to help. The hard part will be telling my parents that I have to change schools.

NARRATOR: Mrs. MacGrady handed Arthur his pants.

ARTHUR: Thanks! Is there a back door?

MRS. MACGRADY: Afraid not, but do you know the old saying, “A banana without its peel is still a banana?”

ARTHUR AND BUSTER: HUH?!

BINKY: It means people get embarrassed all the time.

MRS. MACGRADY: But you’re still Arthur, a smart, kind young man— with or without your pants.

NARRATOR: A few days later, Arthur met Buster at the Sugar Bowl.

ARTHUR: Well, no more underwear nightmares.

BUSTER: That’s great. I never thought ripping your pants in the cafeteria would be the thing to cure you.

NARRATOR: As they stood up to leave, Arthur looked at Buster and frowned.

ARTHUR: Uh, Buster…I think you forgot something.

NARRATOR: Buster woke up with a scream.

BUSTER: Uh-oh! Here we go again!

THE END