

Making Up Megaboy
A Traditional Readers Theatre for Class Voices
By Virginia Walter
Adapted by Peggy Albers

Cast:

	Viet Nam Vet; Rev. Lewis Reporter Barber; Robert Jones Tiffany Robbie Louise Jones		Classmate Tara Correctional Officer; Attorney Mrs Koh, Cop; Ruben's Mom
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Louise: Robbi shoots somebody on his birthday. It should have been a happy day.

Robbie: Frankie Montalban climbed to the highest branch of the tallest tree in the park...

Reporter: Channel two news is live at the scene at the Main Street Liquor Store in Santa Rosita. Police investigators say that a witness to the incident saw a young boy shoot the victim, who has been identified as Jae Koh

Mrs Koh: I do not know this boy who shot my husband...in Korea, children respect old people.

Reporter: Tell the camera, what did you heard and saw?

Barber: I heard the shots...and ran out to see what was going on. I saw this boy come running out...

VietNamVet: He had a big old blue backpack. The boy looked like a silhouette against the open door....a kid about as big as a minute.

Robbie: He opened a packet of megachips and ate them.

Louise Jones: I didn't think he even knew about my husband's gun...

Ruben: Robbie liked to draw. He was good. Robbie thought maybe he'd get a computer for his birthday, and then we could do all kinds of cool stuff.

Robbie: Instantly, his eyes began to glow with special intelligence and his muscles bulged with special strength.

Correctional Officer: The subject shows no remorse for his action. After two weeks, he still refuses to see his parents. The subject has asked for drawing materials—

All: At juvie

Tiffany: Robbie was just a geekie little guy. I think he liked my friend Tara.

Tara: He gave me a picture he drew.

Tiffany/Tara: It was megaboy...what a weirdo.

Cop: We didn't find Robbie Jones until close to midnight...all we had to go on was the description from the witness and a blue backpack.

Mrs. Koh: What kind of boy is this?

Louise Jones: He just turned thirteen.

Robbie: Megaboy performed the familiar ritual even though he did not expect to receive an answer...

Ruben: I guess I was his best friend...We came to my house to draw because his mom and dad are kind of strict and they don't like me too much. I don't think they like Mexicans very much at his house.

Classmate: He was always doodling on his paper instead of paying attention.

Tiffany/Tara: Drawing megaboy...

Robbie/Ruben: Something was different this time...

Reporter: Channel Two news here with three of Robbie Jones' friends...

Tara: I told her lots of stuff about how he was always following me around...

Tiffany: I kept giggling...we were going to be on TV!

Ruben: He was shy about talking—mostly he drew pictures

Tara/Tiffany: We're going to be on TV!

Classmate: It was kind of silly; those kids didn't know him any better than I did, and now they are famous too.

Robbie: Megaboy felt a vibration through the entire tree after he sent his signal into deep space.....

Mrs Koh: Nobody cared about my husband—on the news and in the paper they all wanted to talk about this little boy with a gun. What did they know about him?

All: He drew.

Mrs. Koh: Do they know how much I miss him?

Females: It was his birthday three months ago today.

Mrs. Koh: I do not know if I can stay in this country.

Ruben's Mom: Robbie and Ruben didn't do rowdy things. He was not a boy who would kill.

All: But he did...on his birthday.

Robbie: The signal was emanating from a human boy locked in a room deep inside...

Rev. Lewis: I pray for Mr. And Mrs. Jones and for their son, Robbie, continually.

Louise: Rev. Lewis says I shouldn't blame myself. I've tried to be a good mother.

Correctional Officer: The sub-ject is still withdrawn. Megaboy appears to be a metaphor for the person Robbie Jones would like to be, an alternative persona.

Robbie: Megaboy knew that this was not really a bad child....

Attorney: I don't think that I could have prevented his being tried as an adult if he had been a year older.

Robbie: Together Megaboy and the human child escaped from the cold, lonely room....

Attorney: He won't be released until he is twenty-five.

All: Until he's twenty-five.

Robbie: Someday we will go home....

Robert Jones: What was he trying to prove?

Robbie: ...to rescue children from danger and anguish.

All:what kind of country is this?

Readers Theatre as a Strategy for Interpretation:

1. Choose a piece of literature that you are studying.
2. Engage in reader response to discuss the story.
3. Either the teacher or students can create their own readers theater, using phrases and voices that stand out, tell another story, and/or highlight the complexity of story through layering of voices.
4. Practice and perform.
5. Discuss the story again, drawing from the performances to see how that has layered meanings.