

## READER'S THEATER

### ***Brothers at Bat: The True Story of an Amazing All-Brother Team***

Written by Audrey Vernick and illustrated by Steven Salerno

BROTHERS AT BAT: THE TRUE STORY OF AN AMAZING ALL-BROTHER TEAM.

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#### Characters:

Narrator 1

Narrator 4

Narrator 7

Narrator 2

Narrator 5

Narrator 8

Narrator 3

Narrator 6

Narrator 9

N1: The 1920s and 1930s in New Jersey saw 12 brothers named Acerra run out every spring to play baseball.

N2: They had four sisters but they didn't play ball.

N3: Back then, most people thought sports were just for boys.

N4: The Acerras had so many kids that even on a baseball field, there were more boys than positions.

N5: The Acerras were always playing baseball.

N6: Their high school baseball team had an Acerra on it for twenty-two years.

N7: 1938 saw the oldest nine brothers form their own semi-pro team.

N8: Their father was the coach.

N9: The all-brother team always drew big crowds.

N1: 1939 saw the family honored at the World's Fair for having the largest family in New Jersey.

N2: The 1940s drew their attention away from baseball.

N3: Six of the brothers went off to war.

N4: The baseball team disbanded.

N5: After the war ended, all six brothers returned home.

N6: By the summer of 1946, the team was back in action.

N7: In 1952, they played their last game.

N8: The Acerra brothers were the longest-playing all-brother baseball team ever.

N9: In 1997, the Baseball Hall of Fame held a special ceremony to honor them.

N1: They took a bus to the ceremony.

N2: They were treated like kings.

**READER'S THEATRE**  
***These Hands***

Written by Margaret H. Mason and illustrated by Floyd Cooper

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Characters:

Grandfather 1

Grandfather 4

Grandfather 2

Grandfather 5

Grandfather 3

Grandfather 6

All: Look at these hands, Joseph.

G1: Did you know these hands used to tie a triple bowline knot in three seconds flat?

G2: Well, I can still help a young fellow tie his shoes--yes, I can.

All: Look at these hands, Joseph.

G3: Did you know these hands made the ivories sing?

G4: Well, I can still show a young fellow how to play "Heart and Soul" on the piano--yes, I can.

All: Look at these hands, Joseph.

G5: Did you know these hands could do card tricks?

G6: Well, I can still teach a young fellow to do a waterfall shuffle--yes, I can.

All: Look at these hands, Joseph.

G1: Did you know these hands used to throw a curve ball?

G2: Well, I can still help a young fellow learn to hit--yes, I can.

All: Look at these hands, Joseph.

G3: Did you know these hands weren't allowed to mix bread dough?

G4: These hands were only allowed to sweep the floor, work the line, and load the trucks at the Wonder Bread Factory.

G5: Because the bosses said white people would not want to eat bread touched by these hands.

G6: Well, these hands joined with other hands.

G1: We wrote petitions and carried our signs and raised our voices.

All: Now, any hands can mix the bread dough, no matter their color.