



Reader's Theater Classroom Edition

Adapted for stage by Bainbridge Island Storymakers Studio

# CAST OF CHARACTERS

In order of Appearance



Cat in the hat—Host of the show

Thing 1—A storyteller

Thing 2—A storyteller

Thing 3—A storyteller

Thing 4—A storyteller

Star Bellied Sneetch Father

Star Bellied Sneetch Mother

Ronald—The Star Bellied child of  
Father and Mother

Plain bellied Sneetch Child 1

Star Bellied Sneetch Child 1

Star Bellied Sneetch Child 2

Star Bellied Sneetch at Beach 1

Star Bellied Sneetch at Beach 2

Star Bellied Sneetch at Beach 3

Plain Bellied Sneetch 1

Plain Bellied Sneetch 2

Plain Bellied Sneetch 3

Old Wise Star Bellied Sneetch

Star Bellied Sneetch In Cave 1

Star Bellied Sneetch In Cave 2

Star Bellied Sneetch In Cave 3

Star Bellied Sneetch In Cave Child



*Somewhere, on the shores of the Beaches of the Sneetches*

(CAT IN THE HAT enters.)

### CAT IN THE HAT

Oh, hello! And welcome to our show. You'll love it, I know! *Ahem*, at the edge of each ocean you'll always find beaches. Beautiful, glorious, florious beaches. When I meander on peacefulous beaches I frequently find myself thinking of Sneetches...

(CAT IN THE HAT exits.  
T HING 1, 2, 3 & 4 enter)

### THING 1

Now, the Star-Belly Sneetches had bellies with stars.

### THING 2

The Plain-Belly Sneetches had none upon thars.

### THING 3

No stars on their bellies, no stars upon thars.

### THING 4

Those stars weren't so big. They were really so small.

### THING 1

You might think such a thing wouldn't matter at all. But, because they had stars, all the Star-Belly Sneetches would brag...

### STAR BELLIED SNEETCH FATHER

We're the best kind of Sneetch on the beaches!

### THING 2

With their snoots in the air, they would sniff and they'd snort...

### STAR BELLIED SNEETCH FATHER

Yes, we'll have nothing to do with the Plain-Belly sort!

### STAR BELLIED SNEETCH MOTHER

Ronald remember, when you are out walking, you walk past a sneetch of that type without talking. Keep your snoot in the air and remember to snort. We'll have no truck whatever with a plain bellied sort.

**RONALD**

I promise to not consort with any of the plain bellied sort.

**THING 3**

And indeed, whenever they met some, when they were out walking they'd hike right on past them without even talking.

**PLAIN BELLIED SNEETCH CHILD 1**

Hello!

**RONALD**

*Hmph!*

**PLAIN BELLIED SNEETCH CHILD 1**

(Sadly hangs head low)

*Oh...*

**THING 4**

When the Star Belly children went out to play ball, could a Plain Belly get in the game?

**THINGS**

Not at all.

**THING 1**

You only could play if your bellies had stars.

## THING 2

And the Plain Belly children had none upon thars.

(Star Bellied Sneetch CHILD 1  
and 2 are playing catch.)

### STAR BELLIED SNEETCH CHILD 1

(taunting)

Twink-twink, twinkle-twinkle, lovely little star...too bad you don't got any stars on yars!

### STAR BELLIED SNEETCH CHILD 2

(taunting)

*Yar-yar-ya-yar-yar!* Your belly has got no stars!

### PLAIN BELLIED SNEETCH CHILD 1

Twink-twink, twinkle-twinkle, stupid little star.

## THING 3

When the Star Belly Sneetches had frankfurter roasts...

## THING 4

Or picnics or parties or marshmallow toasts...

## THING 1

They never invited the Plain-Belly Sneetches.

## THING 2

They left them out cold, in the dark of the beaches.

### STAR BELLIED SNEETCH AT BEACH 1

From the heights of Muba-Muba, to the gullies of Gazoo.

### STAR BELLIED SNEETCH AT BEACH 2

There is nobody else who has one...

### STAR BELLIED SNEETCH AT BEACH 3

We're the favorite few who do.

### STAR BELLIED SNEETCH AT BEACH 1

So a toast! Raise your marshmallow stick!

### STAR BELLIED SNEETCH AT BEACH 2

A toast! Raise your goodfellow stick!

### STAR BELLIED SNEETCH AT BEACH 3

And toast the glorious gimmick-ick that makes us what we are!

### STAR BELLIED SNEETCHES AT BEACH

A toast to bellied stars!

**THING 3**

They kept them away. Never let them come near.

**THING 4**

And that's how they treated them year after year.

**THING 1**

They got snobbed, the got snooted. Their bottoms got booted.

**THING 2**

While the Star Bellied Sneetches taunted and hooted.

**STAR BELLIED SNEETCH AT BEACH 1**

They just are not suited.

**STAR BELLIED SNEETCH AT BEACH 2**

No stars!

**STAR BELLIED SNEETCH AT BEACH 3**

No Stars upon thars!

**STAR BELLIED SNEETCHES AT BEACH**

*Har! Har! Har!*

(STAR BELLIED SNEETCHES  
AT BEACH exit.)



**THING 3**

Then one day, it seems while the Plain Belly Sneetches...

**THING 4**

Were moping and doping alone on the beaches...

**THING 1**

Just sitting there wishing their bellies had stars...

**THING 2**

A stranger zipped-up in the strangest of cars!

(MCBEAN enters.)

**MCBEAN**

My friends, I have seen that *they* have been treating you mean. My name is Sylvester McMonkey McBean. I've come here to help you. I know precisely why you are so unhappy. And that I can fix. I'm the *Fix-It-Up Chappie!*

**THING 3**

Then, quickly, Sylvester McMonkey McBean put together a very peculiar machine.

(the McBean Machine has a  
"STAR-ON" sign on it.)

**PLAIN BELLIED SNEETCHES**

*Ooooo!*

**THING 4**

And then he said...

**MCBEAN**

My prices are low, and I work with great speed. And my work is 100 percent guaranteed. Buy my new patent process of polar-potoxis, of the inner sub-nuclear noosebomb-nogoxis, and *YOU* will get a star like the Star Bellied Sneetch. For the mere paltry payment of three-dollars each.

**PLAIN BELLIED SNEETCH 1**

A star? *Here?*

**MCBEAN**

Yes, my friend. There! And the first to go through gets the trip at half fare.

**THING 1**

So they all clambered inside with their money waved high.

**MCBEAN**

(collecting money)

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

**THING 2**

Then the big machine roared.

**THING 3**

The Star-On machine klonked. And it bonked. And it jerked. And it berked.

**THING 4**

And it bopped them about. But the thing really worked!

**THING 1**

When the Plain-Belly Sneetches popped out, they had stars!

**THING 2**

They actually did. They had stars upon thars!

**PLAIN BELLIED SNEETCH 2**

It works!

**PLAIN BELLIED SNEETCHCES**

Yeah! It works! It works!

**PLAIN BELLIED SNEETCH 3**

Them over there, they got stars upon thars. And we over here we got stars upon ours!

**PLAIN BELLIED SNEETCH 1**

They had them all, so now we got'em too! We're every little bitty-bit as goody-good as you.

**PLAIN BELLIED SNEETCH 2**

Now we're socially acceptable at marshmallow toasts.

**PLAIN BELLIED SNEETCH 3**

Yeah, so now you'll have to send us invitations to your frankfurter roasts.

## PLAIN BELLIED SNEETCHES

All the Sneetches on the beaches now got stars upon thars!

(PLAIN BELLIED SNEETCHES exit.  
Scene transitions to a cave filled with  
upset STAR BELLIED SNEETCHES.)

## OLD WISE STAR BELLIED SNEETCH

(Clears throat)

Ladies and gentlemen, we are faced with a most awkward dilemma. We're the true star bellies, we had them first. We're still the best Sneetches and they're still the worst.

### STAR BELLIED SNEETCHES IN CAVE

*Yeah!*

### STAR BELLIED SNEETCH IN CAVE 1

But how are we going to prove it?

### STAR BELLIED SNEETCH IN CAVE 2

Which is which?

### STAR BELLIED SNEETCH IN CAVE 3

I can't tell us apart.

## THING 3

The Star Bellied Sneetches all frowned.

#### THING 4

(to audience)

Does anyone know which kind is what, or the other way round?

(waits for audience response)

(MCBEAN enters.)

#### MCBEAN

Let me through, excuse me. Step aside, please. Thank you. You don't know me, my friends. But calm down if you can. I'm here to help the original star bellied clan. Those upstarts, it's true, now have stars just like you. But follow me, my friends, and you'll know what I'll do? I'll make you again the best Sneetches on the beaches. And all it'll cost you is ten dollars each'es.

#### STAR BELLIED SNEETCH IN CAVE 1

But we love our stars, we were the first to have stars on ours!

#### MCBEAN

Belly Stars, my dear friends, are no longer in style. And I'll have yours off in a very short while. In my wondrous *Star-Off* machine which eradicates stars. Then you won't look like Sneetches who have them on thars.

#### STAR BELLIED SNEETCH IN CAVE 2

Eradicates *these*?

#### MCBEAN

Eradicates *these* with the greatest of ease. Uh, provided you pay your ten bucks, if you please. This way!

**STAR BELLIED SNEETCH IN CAVE 3**

Here's ten for the boy and ten for me.

**STAR BELLIED SNEETCH IN CAVE CHILD**

No more stars on me? *Whoopee!*

(STAR BELLIED SNEETCHES IN CAVE enter the McBean Machine, which now has a sign that reads "Star-Off Machine.")

**MCBEAN**

(collecting money)

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

**THING 1**

And that handy Star-Off machine was working very precisely.

**THING 2**

It removed all the stars from their tummies quite nicely.

**STAR BELLIED SNEETCH IN CAVE 1**

How original!

**STAR BELLIED SNEETCH IN CAVE 2**

How distinctive!

**STAR BELLIED SNEETCH IN CAVE 3**

How exclusive!

### THING 3

Then, with snoots in the air, they paraded about.

### OLD WISE STAR BELLIED SNEETCH

Now we know who is who, and there isn't a doubt. The best kind of Sneetches are Sneetches without.

### THING 4

They all opened their beaks and they let out a shout...

### STAR BELLIED SNEETCHES IN CAVE

They old fashioned custom of walking about with stars on your belly is O-U-T out!

(PLAIN BELLIEDSNEETCHES  
ON BEACH enter.)

### THING 1

Then, of course, those with stars got all frightfully mad.

### THING 2

To be wearing a star now was frightfully bad.

### THING 3

Then, of course, old Sylvester McMonkey McBean invited *them* into his Star-Off Machine.

(PLAIN BELLIED SNEETCHES  
ON BEACH enter machine.)

## THING 4

Then, of course, from then on, as you probably guessed, things really got into a horrible mess.

(Both PLAIN BELLIED SNEETCHES  
ON BEACH and STAR BELLIED  
SNEETCHS IN CAVE enter machine  
over and over again, handing  
MCBEANmoney each time.)

## THING 1

All the rest of that day, on those wild screaming beaches, the "Fix It Up Chappie" kept fixing up Sneetches.

## THING 2

Off again, on again, in again, out again, through the machine they raced round and about again, changing their stars every minute or two.

## THING 3

They kept paying money, they kept running through, until neither the plain or the star bellies knew whether this one was that one or that one was this one or which one was what one or what one was who.

## THING 4

Then, when every last cent of their money was spent, the Fix It up Chappie packed up and he went.

## THING 1

And he laughed as he drove in his car up the beach...



**MCBEAN**

Ha! Ha! They never will learn. No. You can't teach a Sneetch.

(MCBEAN exits. CAT IN THE HAT enters.)

**CAT IN THE HAT**

But McBean was quite wrong. I'm quite happy to say. That the Sneetches got really quite smart on that day.

**OLD WISE STAR BELLIED SNEETCH**

My friends, today is the day that we Sneetches decide that Sneetches are Sneetches. And no kind of Sneetch is the best on the beaches.

**ALL**

*Hooray!*

**CAT IN THE HAT**

That day, all the Sneetches forgot about stars and whether they had one, or not, upon thars. The end.