Sylvan Dell Publishing
Science and Math through Literature

How the Moon Regained Her Shape Reader's Theater Play

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Characters:

Narrators
Moon
Sun
Comet
Round Arms
Painted Deer
Mother Rabbit
Women

Narrator 1: Once long ago, the moon was round and full, proud of her gentle light. She did not fear the darkness around her.

Narrator 2: She danced across the sky, laughing as she twirled her skirts.

Narrator 3: But one day she danced across the face of the sun.

Narrator 4: The earth darkened, and the sun spoke angrily to the moon.

Sun: You ugly scarecrow! People on earth need me to grow their crops. But no one needs you. Get out of my way!

Moon: I am sorry. I will stop dancing and get out of your way.

Narrator 5: The moon blushed very red and drifted away from the sun.

Moon: I would like to start dancing again but the Sun's words are tormenting me. My arms and legs are too heavy to twirl. I feel very alone here in the heavens.

Narrator 6: The moon walked slowly along her skypath, hanging her head. Her body began to shrink until she was a sliver of her former self.

Comet: I will go visit the moon. She is dwindling and dragging herself across the sky. Why are you dwindling and dragging yourself across the sky?

Moon: The sun told me I was not needed and to get out of his way.

Comet: There is a woman on earth named Round Arms who can restore you to health. She lives at the foot of a mountain. I will give you directions to get to Round Arm's home.

Narrator 7: The moon trudged to the mountain where Round Arms lived. By the time she had reached Round Arms, moon was nearly invisible.

Round Arms: Welcome Sister Moon. You look tired. Come in my home for some tea.

Narrator 8: Round Arms was a big woman with long, dark braids and bronze skin.

Moon: This tea tastes like mint and ginger; I am beginning to feel refreshed.

Round Arms: Why are you nearly invisible?

Moon: The sun told me I am not needed and to get out of his way.
Round Arms: The sun has a bad temper and sometimes speaks cruel words. Hold my hand, and I will take you to where you can hear what those who love you are saying.

Narrator 9: Round Arms lead the moon to the home of Painted Deer, the artist. Painted Deer was drawing a picture of a forest at night.

Painted Deer: Moon, I miss you at night. Your light makes the forest dreamlike and beautiful, and that is why I want to paint.

Moon: Thank you for your kind words.

Narrator 10: The moon smiled and began to hold up her head.

Narrator 11: Round Arms took the moon to a rabbit hole. A mother rabbit was feeding her two bunnies.

Mother Rabbit: I wish the moon would come back. In her moonbeams we can romp safely and find the corn and sunflowers that Painted Deer has left for us.

Narrator 12: The moon laughed and grew larger.

Narrator 13: Round Arms took moon to a field where a hundred women danced and sang.

Women: We sing to the moon, our sister, who pulls the seas to the sands, who changes her shape like a magician, who lights our path at night. Return to the sky, our sister, for we miss your gentle beams and your loving smile.

Moon: I am feeling much better, I think I will dance. Round Arms will you please join me?

Narrator 14: Round Arms and the moon joined the hundred women's dance.

Women: Sister Moon, we would like to give you this gift of a beaded necklace.

Moon: I too have a gift for you, here are special tiny bells.

Narrator 15: Round Arms hugged the moon. The moon's eyes were once more sparkling with joy.

Moon: I will return to the sky. I will never forget what I have learned. The sun has his job and admirers, and I have my job and my friends.

Narrator 16: The moon danced and sang all the way back to the skypath. Now, whenever someone insults her and she dwindles, she remembers her good friends on earth. Then she regains her strength and fullness.

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