

The Churkendoose
Written by Ben Ross Berenberg
Reader's Theater Adaptation by Riley Roam

Characters

Narrator

Churkendoose

Chicken

Turkey

Duck

Goose

Fox

Note: Other farm animals can be added for larger groups (cow, pig, goat, etc.). The birds can also be large groups instead of individual characters (ie: 5 chickens, 10 geese, etc.).

NARRATOR

Once upon a time on a farm there lived a chicken....

CHICKEN

(steps forward)

Cluck, cluck.

NARRATOR

A turkey...

TURKEY

(steps forward)

Gobble, gobble.

NARRATOR

A duck...

DUCK

(steps forward)

Quack, quack.

NARRATOR

And a goose.

GOOSE

(steps forward)

Honk, honk!

NARRATOR

One day a new egg appeared in the hen house.
The egg was very unusual. It was square with purple polk-a-dots!
(note: a large cardboard box works well for the egg)

CHICKEN

I've never seen anything like it.

TURKEY

I think it's weird.

DUCK

I think it's odd.

GOOSE

I think it's strange.

NARRATOR

No one knew who laid the egg, so the birds decided to take turns sitting on it.
First the chicken sat on the egg, then the turkey, then the duck, then the goose.
The goose had just gotten comfortable when suddenly they heard a...
CRACK!

NARRATOR

The egg hatched and out popped the most unusual little bird they had ever seen.

CHURKENDOOSE

Ta da!!!!

CHICKEN

What kind of head is that?

TURKEY

What kind of bill is that?

DUCK

What kind of body is that?

GOOSE

What kind of foot is that?

CHURKENDOOSE

I'll tell you!

I'm not a chicken and I'm not a duck
I have more brains than I have luck
I'm not a turkey and I'm not a goose

Can't you see I'm a Churkendoose!

CHICKEN
You talk very funny.

CHURKENDOOSE
I don't talk all the time, but when I do I talk in rhyme!

DUCK
Walk over here and let me take a good look at you.

CHURKENDOOSE
I can't walk, I wouldn't take a chance,
but if you give me some music I'll go into my dance.
(The Churkendoose dances a quick "Tea for Two")

NARRATOR
The Churkendoose's feet went tappity-tappity-tap!
Then he tap-danced his way over to the other birds. They were not impressed.

CHICKEN
What did you say you were again?

CHURKENDOOSE
I'm part chicken, turkey, duck and goose. I'm a Churkendoose!

CHICKEN
You are very strange, that's what you are.

Turkey
You're not one thing or the other.

DUCK
I think you're kind of ugly.

GOOSE
What are you good for?

CHURKENDOOSE
I'd like to tell you but I don't know.
I'm still little I've got to grow.

CHICKEN
Who has ever heard of bird that likes to tap dance?

TURKEY
Or talks in rhyme?

DUCK
I think he's dangerous.

GOOSE
Let's chase him off the farm.

ALL BIRDS
Churkendoose, go a-way!

NARRATOR
The poor Churkendoose tapped danced sadly away.
He tap-danced down the road, until he came to pond.
When he looked at his reflection a tear fell from his eye.

CHURKENDOOSE
Does the pear tree say to the apple tree, I don't like you 'cause you're not like me?
Does the green grass say to the sky so blue, I'm green why aren't you green too?
No it just depends on how you look at things.

Churkendoose sings (to the tune of "Walking Through the Park One Day")
*It depends it depends on how you look at things,
It depends it depends on how you look at things
Is a baby chimpanzee any prettier than me?
It depends on how you look at things
An alligator's not a thing of grace
And a camel hasn't got a pretty face
Is a hippopotami any handsomer than I?
Well It depends upon, begins and ends upon,
It depends on how you look at things!*

CHURKENDOOSE
I know I'm odd and my legs are bent, but am I ugly?
No! I'm just dif-er-ent!

NARRATOR
The Churkendoose dried his tears and continued tap dancing down the road.
Mean while, back at the farm, a fox had arrived at the hen house.

FOX
Why hello. I am The Fox.
I see a tasty meal over there in the hen house.
Mmmm...Chicken, Turkey, Duck and Goose, my favorites.

NARRATOR

The Fox tiptoed up to the birds.

FOX

Hello ladies.

CHICKEN

Ahhh! It's the fox!

TURKEY

The fox!

DUCK

The fox!

GOOSE

The fox!

NARRATOR

The fox chased the birds around the hen house.

(The Fox chases the birds in a circle)

The Churkendoose heard the commotion
and tap danced back as fast as he could.

CHURKENDOOSE

Stop!

(everyone stops)

FOX

Who are you?

CHURKENDOOSE

(he does a little tap dance)

I'm part chicken, turkey, duck and goose. I'm the Churkendoose!

FOX

The Churkendoose? The Churkendoose?

NARRATOR

The fox started to laugh.

FOX

The Churkendoose?

That's the funniest thing I ever heard in my life.

NARRATOR

The fox laughed so hard that he fell to the ground and kicked his feet in the air!

FOX

The Churkendoose.
He, he, he, he! Ha, ha, ha!

NARRATOR

While the fox was busy laughing,
The Churkendoose found a rope and with the help of the other birds,
tied up the fox and tossed him as far as they could.
The Fox laughed the entire way.

CHICKEN

Thank you for saving us, Churkendoose.

TURKEY

That was very brave.

DUCK

Not that we deserved it after the way we treated you.

GOOSE

You're a good guy Churkendoose. We're sorry.

CHICKEN

Won't you please stay?

CHURKENDOOSE

Hmmm, well...
Yes! I'll stay. I think that's swell.

NARRATOR

So the Churkendoose stayed on the farm
and they all lived happily ever after.

The duck taught the Churkendoose how to swim...
And the Churkendoose? Well, he taught everyone else how to tap dance.

THE END