**The First Thanksgiving**

***Performed by:* Emily’s High School English Classes**

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**Characters:**

* **Narrator 1**
* **Narrator 2**
* **Narrator 3**
* **Pilgrim 1**
* **Pilgrim 2**
* **Pilgrim 3 (15 years old)**
* **Pilgrim 4 (5 years old)**
* **Pilgrim 5**
* **Indian 1 (Squanto)**
* **Indian 2**
* **Indian 3**
* **Indian 4**
* **Indian 5**

**Narrator 1:** Many years ago, the pilgrims came to America from England. They sailed on a big ship, called the Mayflower. They left everything to start a new life in the new world.

**Pilgrim 1:** I am going to miss my family. I am going to miss England. I am going to miss life here. I am sad to leave, but we must leave…we have no choice.

**Pilgrim 2:** I am so excited to leave England and explore a new country! WOOOHOOOO! YAY NEW WORLD! OHH YEAH! We will be the first ones there! We will see what others have never seen! We are living the dream!

**Pilgrim 1:** I guess so, but it’s a wild country. Aren’t you nervous? I am so nervous. I get sea sick, too!!

**Pilgrim 2:** Yes, absolutely. But, let’s go on this adventure! ADVENTURE! This will be awesome. Let’s go! Let’s go!

**Narrator 2:** It took courage to cross the ocean. There were many dangers…storms, wild animals, and especially violent Indian tribes. *(Indians make noise)*

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**Narrator 3:** When they landed the pilgrims needed food to eat. They looked for fresh food in the forest.

**Pilgrim 1:** Go on children, find us some food in the forest!

**Pilgrim 3 (15 years old):** This basket is so heavy. I hate it here. I want to go back to my friends in England. I HATE IT HERE!

**Pilgrim 4 (5 years old):** Ooooh look! I found a mushroom! *(eats the mushroom)* Ooooh I found a strawberry! *(eats the strawberry)* Ohhh look at this wild potato! *(eats potato)* Ohhh look at these pretty berries *(eats berries).* Ohhh! I found a little rabbit! I will keep him as a pet forever.

**Pilgrim 3:** You aren’t helping with food! You are eating it all! That’s it! I give up. We are going to starve this winter, and it’s all YOUR fault.

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**Narrator 1:** They gathered seeds and berries to eat all summer long. Even so, the first winter in America was long and hard.

*(all huddled in a blanket)*

**Pilgrim 1:** We don’t have any food. *(holds stomach)*

**Pilgrim 2:** We don’t have any medicine. *(coughs)*

**Pilgrim 3:** We don’t have any wood for fire. *(shivers)*

**Pilgrim 4:** All of my animals are dying. *(cries)*

**Pilgrim 5:** I am dying! *(moans)*

**Narrator 2:** Many of the pilgrims became ill.

**Pilgrims (together):** cough cough cough *(pretend to be ill)*

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**Narrator 3:** When Spring finally came, it was a time of joy.

**Pilgrim 1:** Wooohooo no more cold! Fresh vegetables and fruit!

**Pilgrims (together):** yay!! Spring!

**Narrator 1:** One day a kind Indian came to the pilgrims’ village. He liked the pilgrims and wanted to help them. He spoke English and he really wanted to help the pilgrims survive.

**Indian 1 (Squanto):** How! *(raises hand in air)* Me name Squanto.

**Pilgrim 2:** Hi Squanto….Squanto is a funny name. Wait, you speak English?

**Indian 1:** Yes. I learn it many moons ago. I want help you. We help each other. You do everything all wrong. I help you make food and live.

**Pilgrim 3:** We need your help!

*(Pilgrims and Squanto shake hands.)*

**Narrator 2:** Soon, more Indians came. They were nice and showed the pilgrims how to plant corn.

**Indian 2:** You see? Corn plant, corn grow. Corn good for person, corn good for animal.

**Indian 3:** Corn good for popcorn!

**Indian 4:** Me love popcorn! Yum! It’s my favorite food.

**Narrator 3:** The Indians and pilgrims agreed to live in peace.

**Pilgrims (together):** *(hold up hands)* PEACE

**Indians (together):** *(hold up hands)* PEACE

**Narrator 1:** Together they hunted quail and turkey. They would be ready for the coming winter.

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**Narrator 2:** When summer ended, the pilgrims wanted to have a feast. They had plenty of food and many new friends. They wanted to give thanks to the Indians who helped them thrive over the past few months.

**Pilgrim 5:** Join us for a big feast of Thanksgiving. It is going to be special. Everyone needs to bring food to share!

**Pilgrim 1:** I have potatoes!

**Indian 1:** I have turkey!

**Pilgrim 2:** I have cranberries!

**Indian 2:** I have quail!

**Pilgrim 3:** I have gravy! I made it myself!

**Indian 3:** I have corn!

**Pilgrim 4:** I have bread and cheese!

**Indian 4:** I have deer!

**Pilgrim 5:** I have green beans!

**Indian 5:** I have pumpkins!

**Narrator 3:** Everyone came for the feast. Long tables were filled with wonderful things to eat. Everyone was excited. Everyone sat down to eat.

**Pilgrim 5:** *(stands from table)* I just want to say, thank you, Indians. We could not have survived without you. We are good friends now, and I want it to stay that way forever. Here’s to a continuation of friendship and many years of harvest to come!

**Everyone:** Cheers!

**Indian 5:** We give thanks for new friend, for new food, for new day. Sun shines brightly on us. *(Everyone holds hands and talks together.)*

**Narrator 1:** And everyone gave thanks and ate until the sun went down. What a wonderful first thanksgiving day!