

Everything that Has Breath

By Krista Zeh (NNE), Eastern Territory Star Search Scriptwriting Competition Winner 2025

Characters:

Reader 1: A leader, keeps everyone on track and has most of the answers

Reader 2: Inquisitive, asks the hard questions, genuinely wants answers

Reader 3: Silly and funny, comic relief or “class clown” of the group

Reader 4: Dramatic, the actor of the group, tends to be more serious

ALL: Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!

READER 1: Inhale (*inhale*)

READER 1: Exhale (*exhale*)

READER 1: Inhale (*Overdramatic Inhale from Reader 4*)

READER 1: Exhale (*Overdramatic exhale, while reader 4 forgets to exhale and “passes out”, the rest help them up*)

READER 1: Let everything that has breath...

READER 3: alright whose got breath? (*all Inhale and exhale*)

READER 2: I do!

READER 1: Check.

READER 4: Me too!

READER 1: Great! Now let's talk ab-

READER 4: Wait!

READER 1: What?

(Reader 4 Points aggressively to audience)

READER 1: (*Confused, then realizes*) Ah yes, and YOU! You have breath too! Everybody: (*Gestures to everyone, including the audience, to join in*) inhale (*pause and inhale*), exhale (*pause and exhale*)

READER 4: (*satisfied and proud*) Thank you.

READER 1: Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!

READER 2: So let me get this straight... (*processing while speaking*) we have breath so we should praise the Lord?

READER 1: Yes.

READER 2: What about dogs?

READER 4: Wait, what?

READER 2: Dogs have breath, should they praise the Lord?

READER 1: (*thinking then speaking decisively*) Yep, them too.

READER 3: My dog's name is Fluffy.

(*All pause and stare*)

READER 2: What about cats?

READER 1: Even cats.

READER 2: And birds?

READER 1: Yes.

READER 2: Alligators?

READER 1: Yes.

READER 2: Elephants?

READER 1: Yes.

READER 2: (*As if counting on fingers*) Hippos, koalas, and bears?

READER 4: Oh my!

READER 2: What about mosquitoes?

READER 3 & 4: Ooooooohhhhhh!

READER 4: Yea- wait, (*to reader 1*) do mosquitoes have breath?

READER 3: I don't know but they sure have a lot of bite!

(*At that, reader 3 and 2 giggle, Reader 4 looks irritated, and Reader 1 ponders*)

READER 1: Actually the Bible says that all of creation worships God. And if we don't do it, the rocks will do it for us!

READER 3: Wow, I bet they don't take God for granite! Get it?

(Whaa, whaa, whaaaa sound)

READER 1: The point is that the whole Earth- which includes you and me, and even the mosquitoes- should give God praise!!

READER 4: I don't know about you but standing here in this chapel, I realize how awesome God is! I can't help but praise Him!

(everyone nods)

READER 2: Wait a minute- what about everywhere else?

READER 4: What do you mean? The psalm says praise Him in his sanctuary!

READER 1: True, but His sanctuary is wherever He is, and He is everywhere!

READER 2,3,4: Cool, sweet, nice, great, etc.... *(All react in different ways, one person mimes "mind. Blown.")*

ALL: But WHY?

READER 1: We praise God for His power

(All strike power pose)

READER 1: We praise Him for His goodness to us

(Mime helping each other out)

READER 1: We praise Him because He loves us

(Everyone hugs, 1&2, 3&4 can hug or form a group hug)

(As reader lists, all try to act out but they are going too fast for anything to get done) We praise Him for his beauty, faithfulness, grace, mercy, peace, justice, creativity, sacrifice, wisdom, righteousness, forgiveness, patience- *(looks at the rest and notices they aren't moving, they are exhausted and panting)* What?

READER 4: That's a lot!

READER 2: My brain hurts just thinking about it!

READER 3: I can't feel my feet.

READER 1: Well, there are a lot of reasons to give God praise!

READER 2: So how do we do it?

READER 1: For starters, we praise him with trumpets

ALL: Do, do, dodooooooooo!

READER 2: Praise him with the harp and lyre (*cue harp sound effect, all look around mystified*)

READER 3: Praise him with timbrel (*shake timbrel*)

READER 4: And dancing (*dances a little*)

READER 1: Strings and pipes (*mime guitar*)

(*Reader taps reader 1 on shoulder*)

READER 4: S'cuse me, you forgot cymbals!

READER 1: Oh, yeah... (*sarcastic*) I definitely *forgot* that one. Brace yourselves folks! Praise him with cymbals!

(*They other readers dramatically plug or cover their ears. Big cymbal crash. Everyone reacts and once the moment calms they continue*)

READER 1: Psalm 150

ALL: Praise the LORD.

READER 1: Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens.

READER 2: Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness.

READER 3: Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre,

READER 4: praise him with timbrel and dancing, praise him with the strings and pipe,

READER 1: praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals.

READER 2: Let everything that has breath praise the LORD.

ALL: Praise the LORD.