

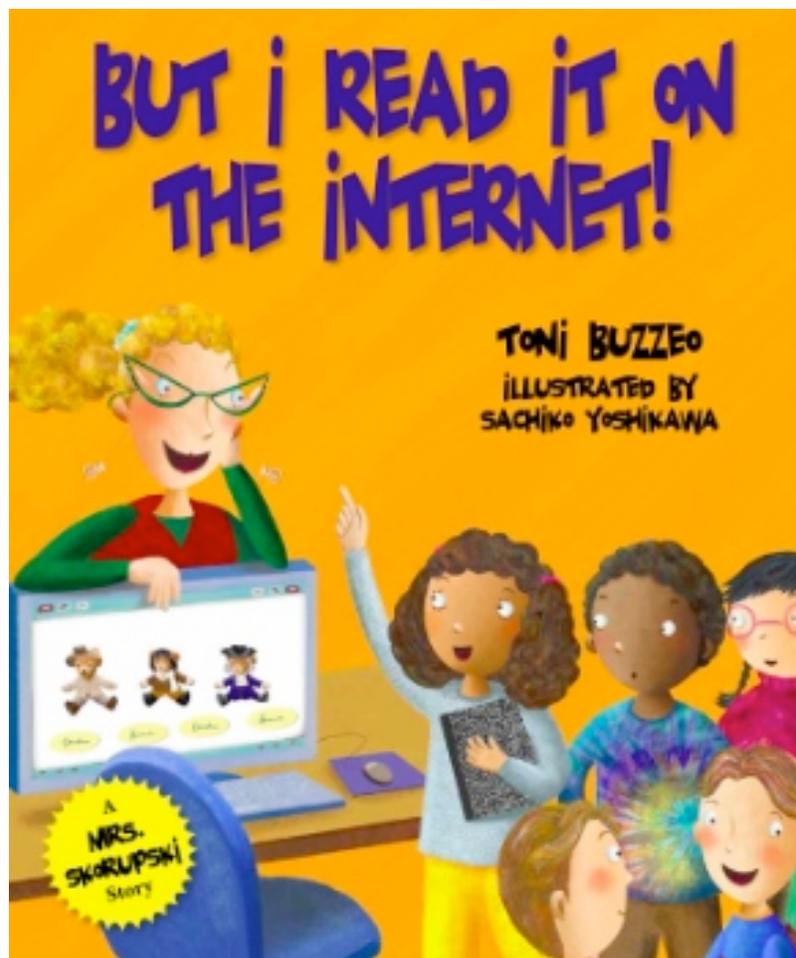
***But I Read It on the Internet!***  
***A Mrs. Skorupski Story***

by **Toni Buzzeo**

Read the book aloud to children first, so that they can enjoy the illustrations and become familiar with the story. Then, hand out a set of photocopied scripts to thirteen students. (Note that Louis, and Robert each have only a few lines and may work well for challenged readers.) Ask the remaining children to be the audience. If you have plenty of time set aside, allow students to practice their parts individually or as a group until they are reading fluently. If time is limited, have performers face the audience and simply read their parts on the first run-through. Once all readers are comfortable, have a second reading with the opportunity to use props if desired.

**Roles**

- Hunter
- Mrs. Skorupski
- Carmen
- Mr. Dickinson
- Hugh
- Louis
- Patty
- Robert
- Mr. Charette
- Narrator One
- Narrator Two
- Narrator Three
- Narrator Four



## ***But I Read It on the Internet! Script***

- Hunter:** The first thing I noticed when I walked into class on Monday morning was the bulletin board.
- Narrator One:** Hunter grinned.
- Narrator Two:** He wondered who Mr. Dickinson roped into making all those flags.
- Hunter:** Just then, my librarian, Mrs. Skorupski, sailed in.
- Narrator Three:** Hunter checked her accessories.
- Hunter:** Yep, she was definitely in on this.
- Narrator Four:** Mrs. Skorupski dumped an armful of books on Mr. Dickinson's chair.
- Hunter:** What's up with the flags?
- Mrs. Skorupski:** Oh, this research project is custom-made for a fact-meister like you, Hunter!
- Hunter:** Before I could say, "Fact-meister?" Carmen Rosa Peña tripped through the door and dropped her half-eaten granola bar on the floor.
- Narrator One:** She scooped it up and took another bite.
- Hunter:** Ewww, disgusting!
- Carmen:** Five-second rule, Hunter Harris. It takes five seconds for bacterial contamination.
- Hunter:** Says who?
- Narrator Two:** Carmen popped the last bite into her mouth.
- Carmen:** Says the *Internet!*
- Hunter:** (mutter) Oh brother! Carmen and her infallible Internet.
- Narrator Three:** After roll call, Mr. Dickinson dug right in.

**Narrator Four:** He flashed a K-W-L chart on the whiteboard.

**Mr. Dickinson:** Who KNOWS something interesting about a U.S. president?

**Hugh:** Abraham Lincoln was the tallest.

**Louis:** Kennedy was the youngest elected.

**Patty:** One president was born on the fourth of July.

**Narrator One:** Mr. Dickinson typed as fast as he could.

**Narrator Two:** Then Carmen's voice cut through all the others.

**Carmen:** George Washington had wooden teeth!

**Hunter:** No, he didn't.

**Carmen:** Yes, he did.

**Mr. Dickinson:** Hunter and Carmen, you seem to have different opinions. Let's start with the source of your information.

**Hunter:** I read a biography about Washington—a *true* book.

**Narrator Three:** Carmen threw Hunter a withering look.

**Carmen:** But I read it on the *Internet*.

**Narrator Four:** Mr. Dickinson grabbed his laptop.

**Mr. Dickinson:** Follow me, class!

**Narrator One:** In the library, Mrs. Skorupski projected the K-W-L chart.

**Mrs. Skorupski:** Okily dokily. Who wants to challenge anything in the KNOW column?

**Narrator Two:** Hunter raised his hand.

**Mr. Dickinson:** Hunter wants to challenge Washington's wooden teeth. We'll highlight it in red and try to verify it.

**Narrator Three:** Carmen threw a just-you-wait look at Hunter.

**Patty:** I don't think a stuffed animal would actually be named for a president.

**Hunter:** What if the president was Theodore Roosevelt and his nickname was Teddy?

**Patty:** Oh, maybe the teddy bear *was* named for him then.

**Mrs. Skorupski:** So let's highlight it in yellow—meaning we'll proceed with caution.

**Narrator Four:** Carmen couldn't wait for the highlighting to be finished.

**Carmen:** I made a list of all those highlighted items. I'll check the Internet and bring in the facts tomorrow.

**Hunter:** (whisper) The Internet, the Internet! Gram and I might not have the Internet. We might not even have a computer. But I knew lots more true facts than Carmen—all from books.

**Mr. Dickinson:** That's very generous of you, Carmen. But actually . . .

**Hunter:** I held my breath. *Finally*, I thought, *he's going to set her straight about the Internet.*

**Mr. Dickinson:** . . . Mrs. Skorupski and I have a different plan.

**Narrator One:** Before Hunter could exhale, Mr. Dickinson added more "facts" to the K-W-L chart.

**Mr. Dickinson:** To increase the challenge!

**Mrs. Skorupski:** For homework, choose one red, one yellow, and one un-highlighted item. Verify that each one is true—or not true. And let Mr. Dickinson know where you found the information. That's called citing your sources.

**Mr. Dickinson:** If you use sources from the Internet, cite them by giving me the URLs.

**Narrator Two:** Hunter stayed behind and checked out another Washington biography plus one about Theodore Roosevelt.

**Hunter:** Books! The best place to find *true* facts.

**Narrator Three:** The next morning, the class met Mrs. Skorupski in the multipurpose room to share their results.

**Hugh:** The teddy bear *was* named after President Theodore Roosevelt.

**Mr. Dickinson:** How did you verify it?

**Narrator Four:** Hugh's twin, Louis, plopped a bear on his table.

**Louis:** Carmen's sister, Frieda, helped us. Her teddy bear has a tag that says so.

**Narrator One:** Mr. Dickinson tapped the tag.

**Mr. Dickinson:** Do we all agree that this is a reliable source?

**Carmen:** My grandma bought that bear for my sister at the Smithsonian Museum.  
*The Smithsonian!*

**Narrator Two:** Robert raised his hand.

**Robert:** But the Smithsonian didn't make the bear. And companies will say anything about their stuff to make you buy them.

**Hunter:** Well. . . (long pause) I think Carmen's right, because I read it in a biography of Roosevelt.

**Mrs. Skorupski:** So, if it's in a book, it's true?

**Hunter:** Maybe not always. But the author is a professor. And the publisher publishes a lot of nonfiction books for kids. And you had it in the library collection. I know you buy only book with *true* facts!

**Mrs. Skorupski:** Excellent evaluation of your source, Hunter.

**Carmen:** Besides, *I* read it on the Internet!

**Mr. Dickinson:** Okay, Carmen, let's pull up your website.

**Narrator Three:** Mr. Dickinson entered the URL into the location bar.

**Narrator Four:** Suddenly, half a dozen teddy bears dressed like famous people filled the screen, accompanied by the notes of "Teddy Bears' Picnic."

**Narrator One:** Mr. Dickinson clicked on a chubby bear with glasses and a safari vest.

**Carmen:** It says that the teddy bear was named after the twenty-sixth president of the United States.

**Narrator Two:** She turned to Hunter.

**Carmen:** Theodore Roosevelt. See?

**Robert:** That's the same as the tag on Frieda's bear. They're just trying to sell it!

**Narrator Three:** Carmen's voice shook a little.

**Carmen:** But they couldn't say it if it wasn't true.

**Mrs. Skorupski:** Or maybe they could.

**Narrator Four:** Mrs. Skorupski handed each student a copy of her *Website Evaluation Gizmo*.

**Mrs. Skorupski:** Let's use the *Gizmo* to evaluate the ACCURACY of the website.

**Narrator One:** Robert raised his hand.

**Robert:** They're definitely selling us something.

**Hunter:** The owner is Berr-y Bears. They might not know much about presidents.

**Carmen:** But they do know a lot about teddy bears.

**Narrator Two:** Mr. Dickinson laughed.

**Mr. Dickinson:** That's true.

**Mrs. Skorupski:** What about the URL [www.berr-ybears.com](http://www.berr-ybears.com)?

**Hunter:** We all just looked at her.

**Mrs. Skorupski:** This URL ends in .com, which means it's a commercial business. If it ended in .edu—for education--we'd know the information came from a school, a college, or a university.

**Patty:** Super accurate, right?

**Mr. Dickinson:** Hmmmm, what if it's an elementary school website with information written by fourth graders?

**Carmen:** Then it just depends on how smart they are about the Internet.

**Hunter:** (snap) Or which sources they used. Like *books!*

**Narrator Three:** Mrs. Skorupski smiled.

**Mrs. Skorupski:** Or if they answered lots of questions in the Gizmo to make sure the source was a good one.

**Narrator Four:** After lunch, Mrs. Skorupski gave the class their final homework assignment in the library.

**Hunter:** I noticed she'd changed her accessories.

**Narrator One:** She said that books weren't always the best source for research questions.

**Mrs. Skorupski:** If we want to know the current weather in Washington, D.C., should we use a book or the Internet?

**Carmen:** (crow) Internet, of course! Besides, sometimes we don't *have* a book with the answer, but we *do* have an Internet connection.

**Hunter:** (whisper) I wanted to say, "Sometimes we don't *have* an Internet connection." But then she'd know.

**Mrs. Skorupski:** For homework, prove or disprove one presidential ‘fact’ using the Internet only, and evaluate your website source using the *Gizmo*. Stop and see me if you need to use the computers this afternoon or tomorrow morning.

**Hunter:** Wouldn’t you know it? Carmen and I both chose George Washington’s wooden teeth.

**Narrator Two:** Hunter spotted Mrs. Skorupski on bus duty after school.

**Hunter:** I’ve got Cub Scouts right now and an allergy shot tomorrow morning. So can I just use a book for the assignment?

**Mrs. Skorupski:** No! Absolutely *no* books, Hunter Harris!

**Hunter:** We both laughed.

**Mrs. Skorupski:** Could your grandma drive you to the public library tonight to do some online research?

**Narrator Three:** The Abernathy twins zipped past.

**Hugh:** (yell) The public library rocks!

**Mrs. Skorupski:** Have you ever been there?

**Narrator Four:** Hunter shook his head.

**Mrs. Skorupski:** I’ll write your grandma a note. Ask Mr. Charette, to help you. He’s the librarian in the Children’s Room.

**Hunter:** That evening at the public library, I was nervous when my Grandma pointed me to the right room and then sat down to read a magazine.

**Narrator One:** Hunter walked in.

**Mr. Charette:** You must be Hunter. Mrs. Skorupski said you were coming.

**Narrator Two:** They got right down to business.

**Mr. Charette:** Now, I don't know how skilled you are online, so if I tell you something you already know, just humor an old man, okay?

**Narrator Three:** Hunter smiled.

**Hunter:** He was funny like Mrs. Skorupski, but in a quieter way—and without the accessories.

**Mr. Charette:** Let's try a student search engine first. If we need more website suggestions, we can move on to a general one.

**Narrator Four:** Mr. Charette suggested Hunter type George Washington, in quotation marks, and then wooden teeth, also in quotation marks, inside the search box.

**Hunter:** Lots of website suggestions popped up on the page.

**Mr. Charette:** Be patient. This is where the *Gizmo* will really come in handy.

**Hunter:** We evaluated each site until we finally had one that was informative, easy to use, and best of all, accurate. Right there on the Internet!

**Narrator One:** Together Hunter and Mr. Charette filled out the Gizmo for the site and e-mailed the URL to Mr. Dickinson.

**Narrator Two:** Mr. Charette shook Hunter's hand.

**Mr. Charette:** I hope I'll see you regularly now—to use our computers *and* to check out our books.

**Narrator Three:** The next day was the showdown.

**Narrator Four:** Mrs. Skorupski had posted one sheet for each fact on the library walls.

**Carmen:** (whisper) I've got the final proof.

**Narrator One:** Hunter just sat quietly next to her with his Gizmo folded in his pocket, smiling like a Cheshire cat.

**Narrator Two:** At last, Mrs. Skorupski called Carmen and Hunter up to the wall.

**Hunter:** Carmen zipped to the chart with a red marker in her hand, and I followed behind.

**Narrator Three:** Mr. Dickinson sounded just like a game show host.

**Mr. Dickinson:** And now, Carmen and Hunter, for the one million dollar prize—just kidding!—did George Washington have wooden teeth?

**Narrator Four:** Everything happened at once.

**Narrator One:** Carmen’s marker flashed up to the chart.

**Narrator Two:** Hunter pushed her hand aside.

**Hunter:** (snap) He did not!

**Narrator Three:** Mr. Dickinson cheered.

**Mr. Dickinson:** You’re absolutely right!

**Hunter:** I blinked.

**Narrator Four:** There, in front of him, was Carmen’s bright red circle around NO.

**Hunter:** What? I mean, RIGHT! What made you change your mind?

**Carmen:** I read it on the Internet! But this time, I knew how to make sure the Internet was right!