



# Reconstruction After the Civil War

## Characters

Uncle Joe  
Patsy  
Moses

Salpy  
Miss Kit  
Carpetbagger

## Setting

This reader's theater begins on a farm, where Patsy, her two children, and her uncle are working hard in the hot sun. The setting then changes to a schoolhouse in town, which was once a hospital for Confederate soldiers. The scene moves outside the schoolhouse, as a carpetbagger tries to deceive the crowd with his promises of land. The reader's theater concludes years later at a schoolhouse where Patsy's son, Moses, is the teacher.



## Act I

**Uncle Joe:** I can tell lately that the kids are really missing their papa. I guess we all do. When will Hiram be discharged from the military?

**Moses:** Yes, Mama, when will Papa be coming home from the Rio Grande in Texas?

**Patsy:** I am not sure. Until Hiram comes home, how can we even hope for a better life?

**Uncle Joe:** Mind the hoe, Moses. There is no need to drift off into one of your daydreams.

**Patsy:** Here, son, chew on a fresh green bean. I just picked it.

**Moses:** I was just thinking that Papa should be here with us. He should be here to help us farm our own land and hoe our own garden.

**Patsy:** Hush now, child.

**Moses:** There is no need to hush, Mama. No one can hurt us anymore for saying what we think.



**Patsy:** Well, that might be so, but you never can tell who is listening.

**Uncle Joe:** Your mama's right. It is best to be forever mindful.

**Moses:** The war is over. I do not understand why the government needs my papa. Why should he guard land on the other side of our country?

**Uncle Joe:** Many people feel the way you do, Moses. People wonder why the Texas folk can't guard their own land.

**Moses:** Papa fought battles right here in Richmond and Petersburg. He protected the land he was born into. He should be rewarded for all that protecting. He should get to come home. He should get to keep some of the land, too.

**Uncle Joe:** Moses, lower your voice, son.

**Patsy:** Land for us? Right now, be thankful we can help your uncle, rather than a master, build a farm. Once your Papa returns home, perhaps we will get a piece of land to call our own.



**Moses:** But why must we wait? On the way to school the other day, I heard a man talking on a stage. There were flags all about him. He was dressed in very nice clothes. He said that the government will give us a piece of land now that the war is over.

**Uncle Joe:** I have heard that kind of talk, but I have not seen any land in this state of Virginia being given out for free. General Grant did not get Richmond easily, and neither will we. There will be a price.

**Patsy:** Yes indeed, that's for sure. Even all of this land that was abandoned by their Confederate owners still needs the taxes paid on it. But, child, who among us has any money when all of our lives we have been enslaved?

**Moses:** Uncle Joe, then how did you get this land?

**Uncle Joe:** Well, honestly, the farm isn't mine yet.

**Patsy:** Your uncle has been put in charge of tending it. Until all the details are worked out, we'll just have to hope that it will be his someday.