

READER'S THEATER

Pie-Biter

by

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Narrator 1	Tea carrier	Men in avalanche
Narrator 2	Gang boss	Cook
Hoi, Pie-Biter	Dynamiter	Spanish Louie
Ah Choy	Sleepy Kan	

Narrator 1: Long ago, before space shuttles or jets, Americans dreamed of trains. Fierce, black, fire-eating trains that would carry people and treasures from coast to coast. To make this dream true, railroad companies sent to China for workers.

Narrator 2: Hundreds, thousands of men crossed the Ocean of Peace to build the iron road America needed. Among them was Hoi, a boy with smiling face atop a body thin as a bamboo pole.

Narrator 1: Work on the iron road was hard and dangerous. The hours between morning and evening rice stretched long and hungry. Hoi's smile disappeared, and he became too weak to work. One day he complained.

Hoi: My stomach is shouting for food.

Tea carrier: A cup of tea will quiet its growling.

Hoi: But a cup of steaming hot tea could not satisfy me.
I need rice!

Gang Boss: You cannot hold a bowl, chopsticks, and pick axe too.

Narrator 2: Hoi thought a moment.

