



*Weddings by West*  
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*Wedding outline*

Prelude (Music)

Procession of the officiant

Procession of groom

Procession of bridesmaids &/or groomsmen

Procession of bride and bride's father/other

Welcome (By the Officiant)

**Consent (By the Officiant-reply by Bride and Groom)**

Address (By the Officiant)

Readings (Picked by Bride and Groom, read by their choice of officiant)

Wedding Vows (Bride and Groom with Officiant)

Explanation of the Rings (By the Officiant)

Ring Exchange Vows (Bride and Groom with Officiant)

Reading (Picked by Bride and Groom, read by their choice of officiant)

Wedding prayer/blessing (By the Officiant)

Unity Ceremony (Bride and Groom with Officiant)

Pronouncement (By the Officiant)

Kiss announced (By the Officiant or MOH/BM)

Presentation of Mr. and Mrs. (By the Officiant or MOH/BM)

Recession (Music)

## *Readings*

### *Quirky Readings*

*If you are looking for something a little different, try looking at sweet childhood books or for fun poems*

A Lovely Love Story by Edward Monkton  
Yes, I'll Marry You by Pam Ayres  
I Wanna Grow Old With You by Adam Sandler in The Wedding Singer  
The Colour of my Love by David Foster, Arthur Janov  
The House at Pooh Corner by A.A.Milne  
Oh, The Places You'll Go by Dr Seuss  
The Velveteen Rabbit by Margery Williams  
The Reluctant Bride by Lucy Mangan  
You've Got A Friend in Me  
A passage from The Little Prince by Antoine de St. Exupery  
Guess How Much I Love You? by Sam McBratney

### *Romantic readings*

*Want to show how much you love one another? Then using a piece of writing defining love is a wonderful way to do that.*

Love's Philosophy by Percy Bysshe Shelley  
Captain Corelli's Mandolin by Louis de Bernieres  
The Blessing of the Hands by Unknown  
The Future by Emma Salmon  
Excerpt from The Bridge Across Forever by Richard Bach  
Shakespeare Sonnet 116  
Ship by Carol Ann Duffy  
The Promise by Eileen Rafter  
This I Promise You by Mark Twain

### *Themed readings*

*To reflect you as a couple, talk about your city or country, or about your interests such as, the countryside.*

London by John Davidson  
My Country by Dorothea McKellar  
Falling in Love is Like Owning a Dog by Taylor Mali  
Always Marry an April Girl by Ogden Nash  
Love and Friendship by Emily Bronte  
A Red Red Rose by Rabbe Burns  
Not Only by Brian Patten

### *Advice readings*

*Ask an older happily married loved one to read an advice-giving reading.*

The Art of a Good Marriage by Wilfred Arlan Peterson  
Native American Wedding Blessing by Anonymous  
The Key to Love by Anonymous  
A passage from The Joyful Wisdom by Friedrich Nietzsche  
On Marriage by Kahlil Gibran  
To Love is Not to Possess by James Kavanaugh  
Don'ts for Wives and Don'ts for Husbands by Blanche Ebbutt

### *Traditional readings*

*Try looking for old readings that suit the occasion and tone of the ceremony.*

All That I Want and Have to Say by Unknown  
On Love by Thomas A Kempis  
Love by Roy Croft  
Allons! The Road is Before Us by Walt Whitman  
The Presence of Love by Samuel Taylor Coleridge  
Union by Robert Fulghum  
Happiness in Marriage  
The Most Wonderful Of All Things in Life by Hugh Walpole

### *Religious readings*

*If you are having a religious ceremony be sure to have a look at these readings.*

Song of Solomon  
Corinthians 13  
An Apaches Blessing  
Wedding in Cana  
Being in Love an extract from Mere Christianity by CS Lewis  
From the Old Testament: For Love is as Strong as Death  
From the New Testament: The First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

### *Funny readings*

*Want to inject a little laughter into your wedding? These readings will sure help.*

He Never Leaves the Seat Up by Pam Ayres  
I like you by Sandol Stoddard Warburg  
I'll be There by Louise Cuddon  
Wedding Vows by Dr Seuss  
Be My Homer by CJ Munn  
I Wanna Be Yours by John Cooper Clarke  
The Giraffe and the Monkey by *Daniel Thompson*

## VOWS and RINGS

### *Marriage Vows*

- Write your own
- Traditional, repeat after officiant
- Traditional with personal input
- Other (Bride and Groom)

### *Ring*

- Traditional, repeat after officiant
- Traditional with personal input
- Other (Bride and Groom)

## UNITY CEREMONIES

*There are several different ways to signify the unity of two people.*

***The Unity Candle:*** *This is probably the most common of the unity ceremonies. The bride and groom each take a lit candle and simultaneously light a third larger "unity candle."*

***Water/Sand/Crystal Ceremony:*** *The couple each pours different colored water or sand into a single glass, creating a third color with the water, or a layered look with the sand.*

***Wine Ceremony:*** *The bride and groom each take a carafe of wine and pour it into a single glass, which they both drink from.*

***Wine Box Wedding Ceremony:*** *The Bride and Groom write love letter to each other and nail them shut in a box with a bottle of wine to be opened at first major fight or 5 year anniversary*

***Planting:*** *A couple with at least one green thumb can plant seeds or a sapling. Its growth would be a reflection of their love and lives together.*

***Hand Tying:*** *This is just what it sounds like. The officiant literally ties the couple's hands together to signify their bond.*

***Cord of Three Strands:*** *The cord of three strands ceremony is a great addition to a traditional wedding ceremony. It adds a truly unique element to your ceremony that friends and family will remember.*

*The above information is not all inclusive, it is to help you get thinking. There is a lot more information online.*