



Dawdle Duckling

by Toni Buzzeo (Dial Books for Young Readers, 2003)

[Instructions: 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 scripts to eight children. Ask remaining children to be the audience. Have performers face the audience and simply read their parts on the first run-through. Once all readers are comfortable with their parts, have a second reading with the opportunity to act out the story while reading. Add costumes and props if desired.]

ROLES:

Narrator 1

Mama

Duckling 3

Narrator 2

Duckling 1

Dawdle Duckling

Narrator 3

Duckling 2

NARRATOR 1: Across the bay on the blue waves rolling

MAMA: One Mama Duck paddles and quacks.

DUCKLING 1: One

DUCKLING 2: Two

DUCKLING 3: Three

NARRATOR 1: Ducklings swim behind.

DAWDLE: But the fourth little duckling

NARRATOR 2: Dawdles and dreams.

MAMA: Quack! Catch up!

NARRATOR 3: Dawdle Duckling winds his zigzag trail.

DAWDLE: NO! Quack! Quack! I won't catch up.

NARRATOR 1: Up the cove toward the big rock rising

MAMA: One Mama Duck paddles and quacks.

DUCKLING 1: One

DUCKLING 2: Two

DUCKLING 3: Three

NARRATOR 1: Ducklings swim behind.

DAWDLE: But the fourth little duckling

NARRATOR 2: Dawdles and dreams,
preens and plays.

MAMA: Quack! Catch up!

NARRATOR 3: Dawdle Duckling nips his downy fluff.

DAWDLE: NO! Quack! Quack! I won't catch up.

NARRATOR 1: Along the shore to the green grass sprouting

MAMA: One Mama Duck paddles and quacks.

DUCKLING 1: One

DUCKLING 2: Two

DUCKLING 3: Three

NARRATOR 1: Ducklings swim behind

DAWDLE: But the fourth little duckling

NARRATOR 2: Dawdles and dreams.
preens and plays,
splashes and spins.

MAMA: Quack! Catch up!

NARRATOR 3: Dawdle Duckling splatters a foamy spray.

DAWDLE: NO! Quack! Quack! I won't catch up.

NARRATOR 1: Past the marsh with the cattails waving

MAMA: One Mama Duck paddles and quacks.

DUCKLING 1: One

DUCKLING 2: Two

DUCKLING 3: Three

NARRATOR 1: Ducklings swim behind

DAWDLE: But the fourth little duckling

NARRATOR 2: Dawdles and dreams.
preens and plays,
splashes and spins
dunks and dips.

MAMA: Quack! Catch up!

NARRATOR 3: Dawdle Duckling nibbles a tasty fly.

DAWDLE: NO! Quack! Quack! I won't catch up.

NARRATOR 1: Around the island in the shallow water waiting

MAMA: Quaaaaack! Look out!
One Mama Duck flaps and flutters.

DUCKLING 1: One

DUCKLING 2: Two,

DUCKLING 3: Three

NARRATOR 1: Ducklings hop up behind

DAWDLE: But the fourth little duckling

NARRATOR 2: Dawdles and dreams,
preens and plays,
splashes and spins,
dunks and dips,
looks --

DAWDLE: Quack! Quack! Quack!

NARRATOR 3: And leaps.