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 nine or more students. 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 with their parts, have a second reading with the opportunity to use props while reading.

Roles

- Elliot
- Father
- Ms. Stanbridge
- Magellan
- Narrator One
- Narrator Two
- Chorus (three or more readers)
**One Cool Friend Script**

**Narrator One:** Elliot was a very proper young man.

**Narrator Two:** On Saturday morning, Elliot’s father had an idea.

**Father:** Family Fun Day at the aquarium. Shall we go?

**Elliot:** I thought, Kids, masses of noisy kids.

**Narrator One:** But Elliot was a very proper young man.

**Narrator Two:** So he answered politely.

**Elliot:** Of course. Thank you for inviting me.

**Narrator One:** At the aquarium, Elliot’s father settled on a bench to read his *National Geographic*.

**Father:** Have some fun, Elliot.

**Narrator Two:** So Elliot did.

**Elliot:** I skipped the mobs of kids at the Giant Saltwater Tank, Amazing Jellies Display, and Hands-on Tide Pool Exhibit.

**Narrator One:** At the end of the hall, he discovered…

**Chorus:** PENGUINS!

**Narrator Two:** In their tidy black feather tuxedos with their proper posture, they reminded Elliot of himself.

**Elliot:** Even Ferdinand Magellan looked like my kind of guy.

**Chorus:** FERDINAND MAGELLAN, explorer, discovered the Megallanic Penguin in 1519

**Narrator One:** At noontime, Elliot’s father checked in.

**Father:** Are you having fun?
Elliot: Yes, thank you. May I please have a penguin?

Father: Sure!

Narrator Two: His father handed over a twenty-dollar bill.

Elliot: That’s very kind.

Narrator One: Elliot headed off.

Elliot: I emptied the school notices from my backpack, selected the smallest penguin, and popped it inside.

Narrator Two: Soon it was time to head home.

Father: Where’s your penguin?

Elliot: In my backpack. Thanks for asking.

Narrator One: In his room, Elliot dialed the air conditioner down to its very lowest setting.

Elliot: Maybe you’d like to skate?

Magellan: GROCK!

Narrator Two: So Elliot dragged his old wading pool upstairs, then fed the garden hose through the kitchen window and turned on the faucet.

Narrator One: Holding his finger over the end of the hose, he passed his father’s office.

Elliot: Forgive the inconvenience.

Narrator Two: Soon the air conditioner had done its work, and Elliot and Magellan enjoyed a skate.

Narrator One: Later, Elliot knocked on the door of his father’s study.

Elliot: I have some research to do at the library about Magellan.

Father: When I was in third grade, I got Captain Cook.
Elliot: Where did you keep him?

Narrator Two: But his father had already returned to charting the changing boundaries of the Great Barrier Reef.

Narrator One: Elliot and Magellan rode to the library.

Ms. Stanbridge: When Elliot set Magellan on my desk, Magellan held completely still.

Elliot: She didn’t blink an eye—even when Magellan blinked his.

Ms. Stanbridge: I helped them access penguinsRus.com, copy pages from Antarctic Anecdotes, and borrow Best Behavior for Birds.

Narrator Two: On the way home, Elliot stopped for eight bags of ice and a snack.

Elliot: Luckily my father’s twenty-dollar bill was just enough to cover it.

Narrator One: Back at home, Elliot’s father called out from behind his atlas.

Father: How did the research go?

Elliot: Great! Magellan was perfect.

Father: Just like Captain Cook.

Narrator Two: Elliot read his library book aloud while Magellan cooled down.

Narrator One: They shared a bag of goldfish crackers, but Magellan was still hungry.

Elliot: May I please bake frozen pizzas for supper?

Father: That’s nice of you. But the only flavor we have left is anchovy.

Elliot: Perfect. Magellan loves them.

Narrator Two: That evening, Elliot heard his father rummaging for ice cream.

Narrator One: Luckily, Magellan had politely moved the carton to the front of the shelf of the freezer.

Elliot: Unfortunately, Magellan forgot his manners overnight.
Narrator Two: When Magellan awoke, he was longing for a swim.

Elliot: I drew him a deep tub of cold water and left Magellan diving and holding his breath.

Father: I think I’ll have a bit of a soak.

Elliot: Wait! I left my penguin in there.

Father: I’ll set him on the hamper and do my best not to splash.

Narrator One: Elliot waited in the hallway.

Father: ELLIOT!

Narrator Two: Elliot rushed to the bathroom door.

Father: Young man, where did this penguin come from?

Elliot: The southern tip of Argentina.

Father: That’s right! As for Captain Cook, he came from the Galapagos Islands.