



Little Loon and Papa

Reader's Theater adaptation by Toni Buzzeo

Adapted from the book **LITTLE LOON AND PAPA** by Toni Buzzeo, illustrated by Margaret Spengler, Dial Books for Young Readers, 2004.

[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 photocopied scripts to eight children. Ask the 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		Moose
Narrator 2	Papa Loon	Bear
Narrator 3	Little Loon	Beaver

NARRATOR 1: Papa Loon calls to his timid Little Loon

PAPA LOON: HOO HOO HOO HOO HOO HOO
Time for diving lessons.

LITTLE LOON: Oh no.

NARRATOR 2: Little Loon backs away.

NARRATOR 3: But Papa dips Little Loon's head down.

NARRATOR 1: And Papa tips Little Loon's tail up.

NARRATOR 2: Little Loon wobbles back flat.

NARRATOR 3: Little Loon watches Papa

PAPA LOON: SQUEEZE air out,
TUCK feathers tight,
and—ZIP!—disappear from sight.

NARRATOR 1: Little Loon quivers

NARRATOR 2: and watches and waits

NARRATOR 3: until he spots Papa's sharp bill.

NARRATOR 1: Again—Papa Loon dips him and tips him.

NARRATOR 2: But Little Loon wobbles back flat.

PAPA LOON: SQUEEZE,
TUCK,
ZIP!

NARRATOR 3: Papa disappears from sight.

LITTLE LOON: Quick-quick

NARRATOR 1: Little Loon kick-kicks away from Papa's diving lessons.

NARRATOR 2: But at the weedy shore—

MOOSE: SPLASH, DRIP, HRROOOOO!

NARRATOR 3: Little Loon spots

MOOSE: great, bony legs and a wide antler rack with weeds dripping down.

LITTLE LOON: peep peep
Where is Papa?

NARRATOR 1: Little Loon zigzags toward the rocks,

NARRATOR 2: but—

BEAR: GRUFFLE, SNUFFLE, GROWL!

NARRATOR 3: Little Loon spots

BEAR: A great shaggy face and a wide brown snout with a trout hanging out.

LITTLE LOON: peep peep
Where is Papa?

NARRATOR 1: Gliding smoother, a little like Papa, he swims as fast as he can,

NARRATOR 2: until—

BEAVER: WHACK, WHAP, CRASH!

NARRATOR 3: Little Loon spots

BEAVER: a great, broad tail and wide front teeth with bark sprinkling down.

LITTLE LOON: peep peep peep peep!
Where is Papa?

NARRATOR 1: Then he hears

PAPA LOON: AHA-OOO-OOOO'OOOO-OOO-AHHH!

NARRATOR 2: Little Loon spins.
Little Loon flaps.
Little Loon backs away.
Then, Little Loon tries.

NARRATOR 3: He SQUEEZES air out and TUCKS in his fluff.

NARRATOR 1: He WIGGLES his feet, he WAGGLES his wings,

LITTLE LOON: and—PLUNK!-disappears from sight.

NARRATOR 2: When his head pops up—
There's Papa!

PAPA LOON: HOO HOO HOO HOO HOO HOO

NARRATOR 3: Papa splash-paddles close to his Little Loon,

NARRATOR 1: offers a treat from his long, sharp bill,

NARRATOR 2: and tucks Little Loon snug under his wing.