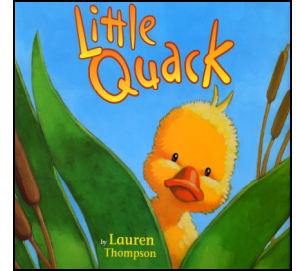


Minnesota Storytime
Reading Guide

Title: *Little Quack*
Author: Lauren Thompson
Illustrator: Derek Anderson
Publisher and Copyright Date: Simon & Schuster, 2003



Connection to Minnesota: Minnesota illustrator

Summary: This is the story of a little duckling and his four older siblings as they learn to venture from the nest into the water. It's a story about a reassuring parent and overcoming fears. The book also has a splash of math using a "quack-u-lator" to help count the ducklings.

Suggested ages: 0-3, 4-6

Tips for Reading:

- Use a calm, reassuring voice for Mama Duck.
- Read with a younger, nervous voice for the little ducklings. Give each duckling a different voice.
- Use the "quack-u-lator" on certain pages to count the number of ducklings who have jumped into the pond.
- Point out the expressions on the faces of the little ducklings as you read the story.
- After an initial reading, have the children repeat the ducklings' response "We're too scared" and the Mama duck's response "Yes, you can do it" and "I know you can."

Questions before reading:

- Have you ever seen a Mama Duck and her baby ducklings together? What were they doing?
- How many people are in your family? Are you the youngest, oldest or in the middle?
- Do you like to try new things? Are you ever afraid of trying new things?
- What does your mom or dad say to you when you try something new?

To Introduce this story say: This is a story about a mama duck and her five little ducklings. The ducklings are old enough to leave the nest, and they're anxious to explore the world. But they're also a little bit scared – especially the youngest and smallest duckling – Little Quack. Let's see what happens.

**Questions
After Reading:**

- Why were the ducklings afraid to jump in the water?
- What does Mama Duck say to encourage them?
- How do the ducklings feel after they jump in the water?
- Can you remember the first time you did something (like jumping into a swimming pool, riding a bike, or your first day going to pre-school or kindergarten) – how did you feel before you did it? And how did you feel after you did it?
- If you're nervous or afraid about something, who can you talk to about your feelings?

RELATED ACTIVITIES

Art:

- Use the three coloring pages from the web site of the illustrator – Derek Anderson. The link to the coloring pages is <http://www.derekanderson.net/ColoringPages.html>.

Dramatization:

- Using a tub and rubber ducks, act out how each duck jumps into the pond.

Math:

- Practice counting 1 to 5 by using any objects available, like fingers, pennies, etc.
- Have the children write the numbers 1 to 5. Younger children can trace the numbers.

Music:

- Play a recording of the song “Five Little Ducks” by Raffi (and others). Sing along to the song with the children.

Science:

- Visit a nearby lake or pond and watch the ducks. If there are baby ducklings, watch how close the mama duck stays near her little ducklings. Bring something to feed the ducks, and you'll probably get a closer look.

**Suggestions for
English Language
Learners:**

- How do you say ducks in your native language?
- Name the feelings that the ducks have. Have the children “make faces” for these feelings.
- Learn to count to five in another language.

Related Books:

- ***Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed*** by Eileen Christelow (Clarion, 1989)
- ***Come Along, Daisy!*** by Jane Simmons (Little, Brown & Company, 1998)
- ***Harriet and the Roller Coaster*** by Nancy Carlson (Carolrhoda, 1982)
- ***Little Engine that Could*** by Watty Piper, illustrated by George & Doris Hauman (Platt & Munk, 1961)
- ***Little Quack's Hide and Seek*** by Lauren Thompson, illustrated by Derek Anderson (Simon & Schuster, 2004)
- ***Five Little Ducks*** by Raffi, illustrated by Jose Aruego and Ariane Dewey (Knopf, 1988)

