

Funeral for a Crayfish

a 5-minute children's play
by

Tara Meddaugh



FUNERAL FOR A CRAYFISH

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EXCERPT

A 5-minute play for child actors

For the complete play, [visit](https://www.tameddaugh.com/funeral-for-a-crayfish-a-5minute-childrens-play):

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EXCERPT

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EXCERPT

MEET THE CHARACTERS

QUINN A child who is about 7-10 years old. Any gender.

ARI A child who is about 7-10 years old. Any gender.

SETTING: A school classroom. It's morning.

TIME PERIOD: Around 2019-Present.

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EXCERPT

AT RISE: QUINN and ARI, both around 7-10 years old, are in their elementary school classroom. It's the beginning of the day when children are filing into the room. The class has been enjoying a Science Unit on the crayfish, and each child is responsible for studying their assigned crayfish (marked with permanent marker). There is a tank for the crayfish. ARI holds and examines a crayfish. QUINN is looking at the crayfish too.

QUINN

Can you tell if that's your crayfish?

ARI

It could be Digger. But...I don't know for sure.

QUINN

What color permanent marker did you put on its back?

ARI

That maroon color.

QUINN

Well that one has maroon on it. So it's gotta be yours.

ARI

Yeah, but Juliet used the maroon on hers too.

QUINN

Why did she do that? You're not supposed to do the same color as someone else!

ARI

I know. I used it first. But she copied me.

QUINN

Mrs. Keefe didn't stop her?

ARI

No, because that's when Adrian knocked into the art station and all that blue paint spilled on the rug—

QUINN

Oh, yeah!

ARI

Mrs. Keefe didn't know anything going on for, like, five minutes.

QUINN

She was so funny squatting down and trying to clean up the blue paint!

ARI

Right? Then she sorta tipped over and got blue all over her pants.

QUINN

They're probably ruined forever now!

ARI

Yeah.

QUINN

Yeah.

(pause)

ARI

I'd be mad if my pants got ruined with blue paint.

QUINN

Me too.

ARI

I'm never gonna be a teacher.

QUINN

Or a painter.

(pause)

Okay. So...maybe we don't need the permanent marker dot to tell them apart. You know what yours looks like, right?

ARI

Kind of.

QUINN

So does the one you're holding look like Digger?

ARI

His claws kinda look like Digger's claws... but...his thorax might be a little smaller...I don't know if I can tell any of these crayfish apart, Quinn!

QUINN

Okay...Um...We can figure this out...You know, you know how I can't tell my grandpas' voices apart on the phone? They both sound kind of old and breathe really loud?

ARI

Yeah?

QUINN

Well, they say "Hello, Quinn" the same. But after that, my Grandpa Bob usually asks me about what video game I'm playing and lets me talk forever. But my Grandpa Phil is usually annoyed with the post office or a leaf blower or something.

ARI

Okay...so you're saying...we should call your Grandpa Bob and ask him what to do?

QUINN

No—I mean, we could, I guess. But I'm saying I can tell which grandpa is which once they start talking—because they have different personalities.

ARI

Like the crayfish...

QUINN

Like the crayfish! So? Is this one acting like Digger?

END OF EXCERPT

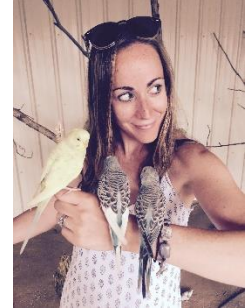
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ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

For the kids!

Hi, kids! So—here is a little bit about me! I like reading books, writing, acting, playing games, yoga, music, watching movies, baking, biking, swimming and traveling. A few of the favorite things I've done traveling are water tubing in a cenote in Mexico (a cenote is stream in an underground cave), climbing a waterfall in Jamaica, watching a flamenco show in Spain (the flamenco is a powerful and super high energy kind of dance), parasailing in Aruba, and walking up a huge round tower in Denmark. I have two kids and a husband who also like to travel, play games and eat what I bake! Growing up, I had a cat, dog, fish, turtle, bird, and sometimes a woolly bear caterpillar, but currently the only pets in our house are my son's sea monsters ("triassic triops"—some of you probably know what I'm talking about! They keep swimming straight down in their tank like little torpedoes!). I have really good luck finding 4-leaf clovers, I wish I could be an Olympic ice skater (but I can barely skate forwards, let alone backwards), and I love writing theater for kids like you! I hope you enjoy my work!



For the adults!



Tara's plays have been presented by theater companies around the world such as Fusion Theatre, Mosaic Theater Company of DC, The Directors Company, Le Petit Theatre de Terrebonne, Theatre One, Tutti Bravi Productions, Westchester Collaborative Theater, Possibilities Theater, Tagragg Productions, One Armed Man, Oracle Theatre, Inc, the Bobik Theatre Ensemble, The Acme Theatre Company, The Harlequin Players, Woman Seeking, and numerous schools, universities and colleges including Colgate, Gardner-Webb, Prince Williams, and Peru. Her work has showcased at festivals such as the Artists of Tomorrow Festival in NYC, The Bangkok Community Theatre Fringe Festival, the Pittsburgh New Works Series, and the Last Frontier Theatre Conference in Alaska. Tens of thousands of teachers, actors and students world-wide have utilized her monologues for competitions, course material, auditions, showcases, and in workshops at theaters, acting studios, colleges and schools. Tara has taught Playwriting at Carnegie Mellon, the Pittsburgh Public Theatre, for The Westport Country Playhouse, and she has led Creative Dramatics Workshops for children and teens in underserved areas throughout New York and New Jersey. She has script consulted on several animation and VR projects. Tara's work has been published by Oxford Press South Africa, the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts (LAMDA), Limelight Editions/ Applause Acting Series, YouthPLAYS, The Hunger Journal, Meriweather Publishing, Applause Theatre & Cinema, Performer Stuff and Ace-Your-Audition. She is a recipient of the Shubert Fellowship in Dramatic Writing, the Sloan Screenwriting Fellowship, the New Works for Young Women [Actors] Award, The Write Stuff Award, and is a member of the Dramatist's Guild. She holds her MFA in Dramatic Writing from Carnegie Mellon University.