

STARING AT THE SLOTH

BY
TARA MEDDAUGH



A 5-MINUTE CHILDREN'S PLAY

Staring at The Sloth

By Tara Meddaugh

A 5-minute play
for
Young Audiences or Actors

EXCERPT

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Special thanks to Mike Bouteneff, Dylan and Luke.

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Character Breakdown

(2 characters: male/female/inclusive casting)

RILEY A child, anywhere from 8-12 years old.

JAIME A child, anywhere from 8-12 years old.

Setting

Springtime. A zoo, sloth enclosure.

Time Period

Present.

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AT RISE: RILEY and JAIME, two children, are at the zoo, for a school field trip. They are looking at the sloth enclosure.

RILEY

Tell him to stop staring at me.

JAIME

How?

RILEY

Just tell him.

JAIME

Like, shout over the fence?

RILEY

Yeah. He's making me feel weird.

JAIME

Okay. Um...

(shouts toward the sloth)

Stop staring at Riley!

RILEY

(looking away)

Did he stop?

JAIME

No.

RILEY

Do you think he heard you?

JAIME

I think he heard me. I don't think he speaks English though.

RILEY

I know he doesn't speak English, Jaime. But he could get the point by you yelling at him.

(JAIME considers this for a moment)

JAIME
I don't think he gets the point.

RILEY
You should do it again in a teacher voice.

JAIME
Why don't you just do it?

RILEY
I don't want him to get mad at me!

JAIME
You know, I don't think he's actually staring at you.

RILEY
It looks like he is. See his eyes?

JAIME
I think he's just kind of...looking out. And, he's really slow, remember? I mean, he's a sloth. So it probably takes, like, an hour for him to move his eyes.

RILEY
I guess. So...you really don't think he's...like...making fun of me?

JAIME
No! Why would he make fun of you?

RILEY
I don't know. My hair.

JAIME
Your hair's fine.

RILEY
Adrienne said it looked spiky, like a triceratops.

JAIME
The triceratops is my favorite dinosaur!

RILEY
I don't want to look like a dinosaur, Jaime.

Okay, you don't.

JAIME

My nose.

RILEY

Everyone has a nose.

JAIME

My nose is weird.

RILEY

JAIME
All noses are weird, Riley! These two little holes in the middle of our face?

END OF EXCERPT

For the complete play, [Staring at The Sloth](https://www.tameddaugh.com/staring-at-the-sloth-a-5minute-childrens-play), visit:

<https://www.tameddaugh.com/staring-at-the-sloth-a-5minute-childrens-play>

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT



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. Tara holds her MFA in Dramatic Writing from Carnegie Mellon University. She lives near New York City with her husband and two kids.

For more information about Tara Meddaugh or her work, visit her website at www.tameddaugh.com.