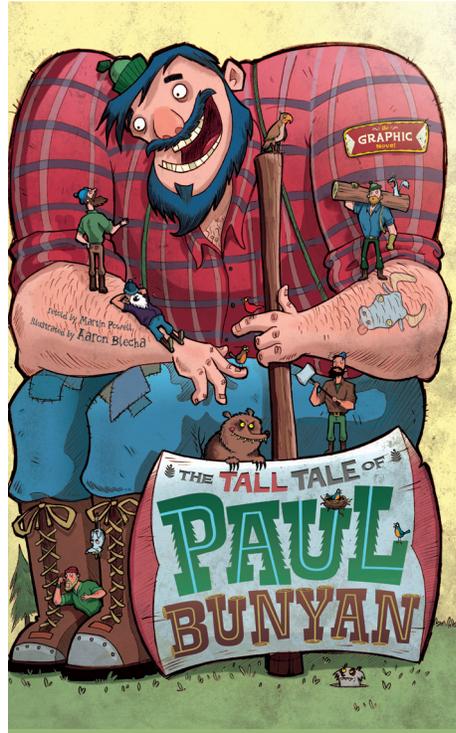




READER'S THEATER



The Tall Tale of Paul Bunyan retold by Martin Powell

Characters:

- Narrator** - reads above grade level
- Paul Bunyan** - reads slightly below grade level
- Ma** - struggling reader
- Pa** - struggling reader
- Teacher** - reads slightly above grade level
- Men** - reads below grade level
- People** - reads at grade level

Genre: Tall Tale

Ages: 8-13

The Tall Tale of Paul Bunyan page 1

Narrator: Have you ever read a Tall Tale? I mean, a story so big that its head could scrape the clouds? Well, get ready, because this is the tallest tale of them all.

Ma: Look, Pa! Up in the sky! Storks! Delivering a bundle.

Pa: No! Don't drop it on the –

Narrator: KRRUNNCH!

Pa: Crazy birds! It took me three months to build that shed!

Ma: Quit all your yapping, Pa, and look! They've brought us a baby boy!

Pa: He's a bit, um, big for his age, isn't he?

Ma: Nonsense, dear! There's more of him to love. Let's name him Paul! Paul Bunyan. Kind of grows on you, doesn't it?

Pa: I expect that he will grow, Ma. That's for certain.

Narrator: And grow he did, year after year...

Ma: Rock-a-bye baby, on the treetop...

Pa: On the river is more like it! This cradle is too heavy for me to rock!

Narrator: After year...

Ma: Wagon wheels make fine buttons for Paul's new shirt!

Pa: If you say so, Ma.

Narrator: After year!

Ma: Hurry now, and don't forget your lunch! Have fun at school, Paul! Oh, Pa, where have all the years gone?

Pa: He probably ate them!

The Tall Tale of Paul Bunyan page 2

Narrator: As young Paul grew bigger and bigger, so did his brain.

Teacher: Can anyone tell me about Benjamin Franklin?

Paul Bunyan: He discovered electricity by flying a kite in a thunderstorm.

Teacher: Very good, Paul! You've got a *BIG* future ahead of you!

Paul Bunyan: That's what my pa tells me.

Narrator: However, Paul's hunger for knowledge couldn't match his, well, actual hunger. And soon the mighty Paul Bunyan was fully grown.

Pa: Take care of that ax, Paul. It took the town a year to make it!

Paul Bunyan: I will, Pa. I want to do something big for this country. I wish I could take you both with me.

Ma: Make us proud, son!

Narrator: So Paul Bunyan left home in search of an adventure big enough for him. He quickly became the greatest lumberjack that ever lived. Every lumber company wanted to hire him, but Paul Bunyan wanted to make his own mark on the land.

Paul Bunyan: The trees here are even taller than me! This is the perfect spot to build my lumber camp.

Narrator: Soon, Paul was done.

Paul Bunyan: The camp is finished! Now I need to hire some workers.

Narrator: Paul hired the Seven Ax-men, each named "Elmer."

Men: When Paul calls one of us, we all come running!

Narrator: Paul Bunyan and his crew were happy and content...until the Year of the Two Winters.

Men: It's so c-c-cold that the snow has turned b-b-blue! We're f-f-freezing! We can't cut lumber in this weather!

