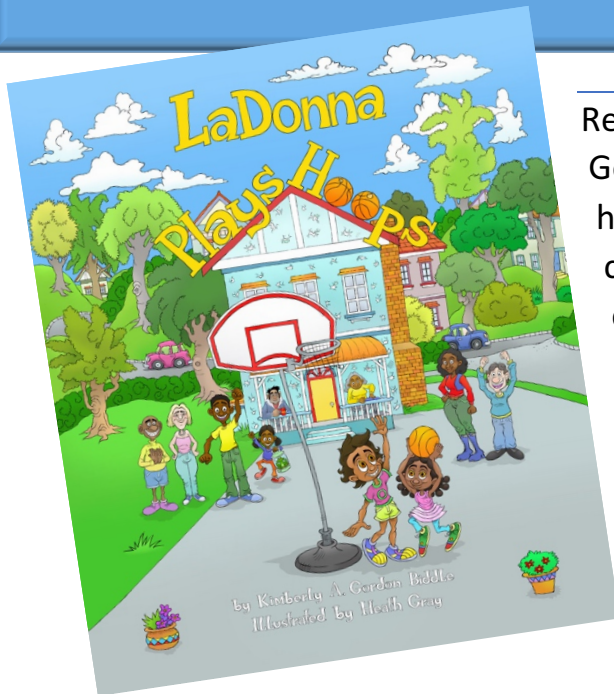


LaDonna Plays Hoops

Readers Theater Script by Marcie Colleen



Read aloud *LaDonna Plays Hoops* by Kimberly A. Gordon Biddle, illustrated by Heath Gray. Then, hand out a set of photocopied scripts to the class. Assign individual parts, the remaining children will be the Family or Chorus. For the first run-through, children will simply read their role aloud. Once all readers are comfortable with their parts, a second reading can include props and costumes, if desired.

This script was created by Marcie Colleen, a former teacher with a BA in English Education from Oswego State and a MA in Educational Theater from NYU.

Marcie can often be found writing books of her own at home in San Diego, CA. Visit her at www.thisismarciecolleen.com.

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Roles:

Narrator 1

Narrator 2

LaDonna

LaDonna's Daddy

Freddy

Grandma

Felicia

Tyrone

Veronica

The Family

Narrator 1: Today was the day of the big family reunion.

Narrator 2: LaDonna, her pet frog Freddy, and her daddy piled into the car.

LaDonna: I wonder what Grandma looks like now. Maybe she has more gray hair and wrinkles.

Freddy: Ribbit ribbit!

LaDonna: When will we get there? I want to play

LaDonna and Felicia: with Cousin Felicia.

Daddy: We'll be there soon, Honey. You know, Felicia's brother,

Daddy and Tyrone: Tyrone will be there, too.

LaDonna and Tyrone: Tyrone, the family hoops star.

LaDonna: But not for long.

Narrator 1: Two years ago, before summer basketball camp, LaDonna played Tyrone.

LaDonna: Fifty free throw shots with a basket too tall for me.

Tyrone: Tyrone proved he was better.

Narrator 2: He laughed when he won. But at five years old, LaDonna...

LaDonna: I felt the stinging shame of missing shots and losing.

Daddy: It's been two years since you played Tyrone. He won't beat you as bad. Besides, playing him will help you get better.

Narrator 1 & 2: The car pulls up to an old house with peeling paint.

Narrator 1: Grandma is in the doorway

Narrator 2: With silvery, sunlit hair and smooth skin.

Grandma: Well, it's my little tomboy! I haven't seen you in a while; you must have grown two feet!

LaDonna: Hi Grandma. Is Felicia here?

Grandma: Why yes, and your other cousins. They're all out back. Why don't you and Freddy go join them? Tyrone is in the driveway with your uncles playing basketball.

Grandma and Family: He's been waiting.

Narrator 1 & 2: Running to the backyard with Freddy

Freddy: Ribbit ribbit!

Felicia and Family: I see Felicia, Veronica, and Sharlene playing double dutch. My older cousins Amber and Charles are playing Bid Whist on Grandma's patio table.

LaDonna: Hello.

Felicia and Family: It's LaDonna and Freddy!

Freddy: Ribbit ribbit!

LaDonna: I haven't played double dutch in a long time. Can I play?

Narrator 1 & 2: Cousin Veronica will watch Freddy.

Freddy: Ribbit!

Family (girls): Double dutch, double dutch, 1, 2, 3.

Tyrone: Yeah! We won!

Narrator 1 & 2: LaDonna trips over the double dutch rope.

Narrator 1: She skins her knee.

Narrator 2: The blood seeps through her leggings.

LaDonna: The pain is prickly.

Family: Amber and Charles stop playing cards and get a cold, wet cloth to wipe and bandage the knee.

LaDonna: I walk around and soon it feels better.

Tyrone: Hey, LaDonna, are you okay? Do you want to play a game of hoops with me?

LaDonna: I knew this moment was coming.

Narrator 1: Tyrone towers over LaDonna.

Narrator 2: All eyes turn to look at her.

LaDonna: I wonder if I can beat the family hoops star.

Family: Remember two years ago.

LaDonna: Veronica, keep an eye on Freddy. I'm going to play basketball.

Freddy: Ribbit ribbit!

LaDonna: One-on-one, first to ten, two-point spread!

Tyrone: Look, Half Pint, I'll play you a game of PIG.

LaDonna: Stop calling me Half Pint! I've grown. I want to play one-on-one.

Tyrone: Ok, Cuz. You do know that I play AAU league ball now, right?

LaDonna: Let's flip for first.

Tyrone: No. You go first. This shouldn't take too long.

Narrator 1 & 2: Can she do this?

LaDonna: Even with my leg hurt I can beat you!

Narrator 1 & 2: She wonders if she can do this.

Daddy: It's not about winning. It's how you play the game. Just do your best

Narrator 1 & 2: says Daddy.

Family: The entire family moves to the driveway. Even Freddy.

Freddy: Ribbit, ribbit!

Tyrone: Game on!

LaDonna: He bounces the ball to me.

Family: LaDonna dribbles past him and makes a layup.

LaDonna: The hoop doesn't seem as tall as last time.

Family: Another bounce to LaDonna.

Narrator 1 & 2: She scores two more points in the paint.

Everyone: 4-0!

Family: Next, Tyrone bounces the ball high.

LaDonna: I run, catch it, and launch a three. "Tres Up!"

Everyone: 7-0!

LaDonna: Time out! My leg hurts and the bandage has fallen off.

Narrator 1 & 2: She cleans, wipes, and bandages her own knee this time.

Tyrone: LaDonna, don't stop now!

LaDonna: I'm not quitting, Cuz. I just need three more points.

Tyrone: Watch this!

Family: Tyrone bounces another one high.

LaDonna: I run, get it, shoot the three and miss.

Narrator 1 & 2: It's Tyrone's ball.

Tyrone: I bounce it.

LaDonna: He catches it and releases a three.

Tyrone: Sweet, tres up.

Narrator 1 & 2: Then Tryone makes two three-pointers in a row.

Everyone: 7-9!

LaDonna: Time out! My knee hurts.

Family: She walks around again.

Tyrone: Give up now, Cuz?

LaDonna: No. The game's to ten. I haven't beaten you yet.

Tyrone: Ok. She bounces the ball.

Family: Tyrone brings it in for a layup.

LaDonna: I jump and block the ball.

Tyrone: Foul!

Daddy and Family: No foul!

Narrator 1 & 2: Tyrone bounces the ball hard and high and rushes towards LaDonna.

LaDonna: I catch and release it.

Everyone: Making it rain. 10-9!

Tyrone: You need another point!

Family: Tyrone bounces the ball.

LaDonna: I catch it and fake.

Family: He goes for the fake.

LaDonna: I crossover.

Family: She dribbles into the lane and elevates for a jump shot.

Everyone: 12-9!

LaDonna: I won! I really won!

Tyrone: I beat you so bad last time that I just let you win. I want a rematch.

LaDonna: Maybe in two years, because

Family: she's the family hoops star now!

LaDonna: But don't worry, Cuz, you'll always have front row seats to my games!

Everyone: LaDonna! LaDonna! LaDonna won!

Freddy: Ribbit ribbit!

THE END