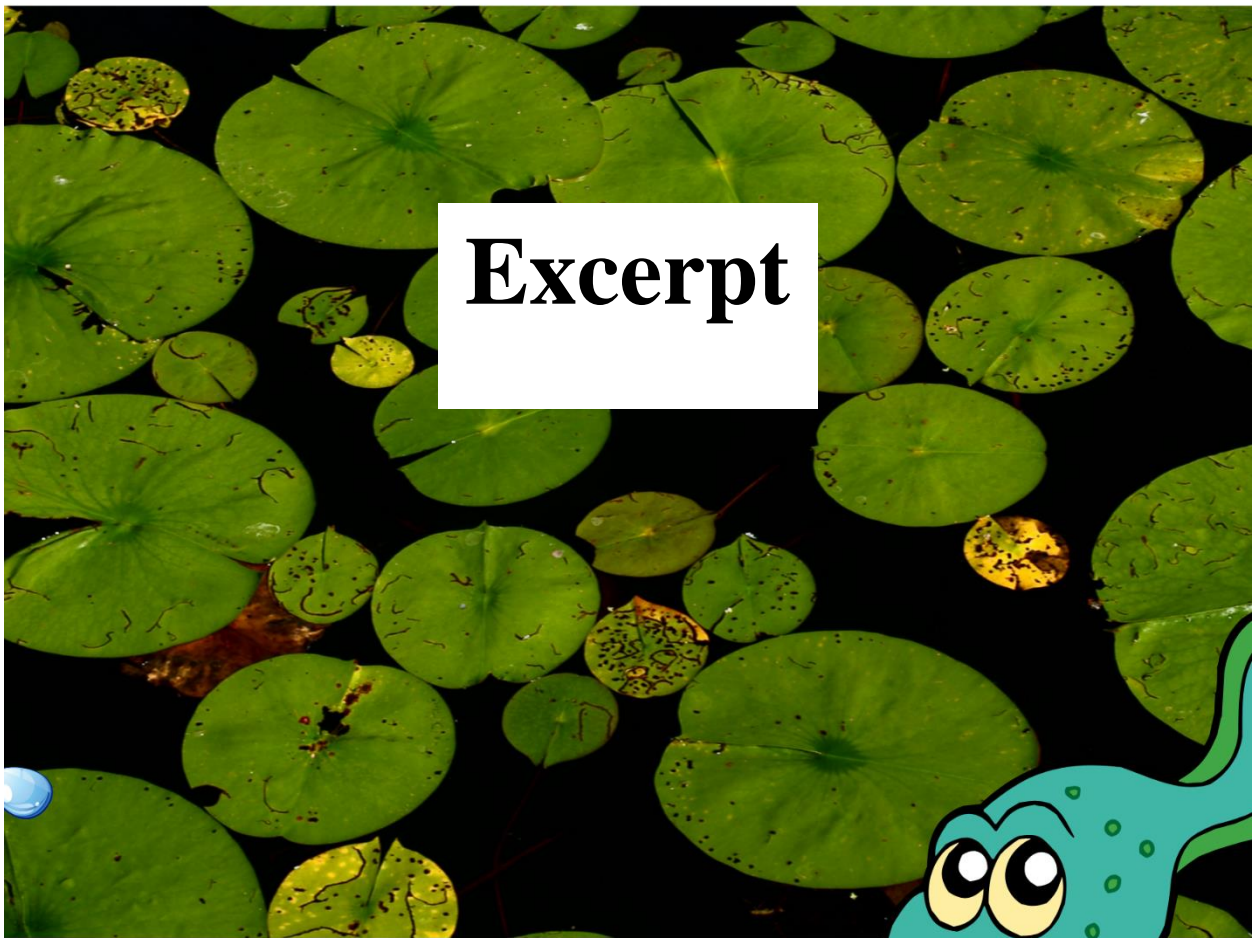


Pebbles and Tails

by

Tara Meddaugh



a 5-minute children's play

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EXCERPT

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Special thanks to Mike, Dylan, Luke, Kevin Snipes, Gabe Davis,
and all those truly amazing frogs out there.

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MEET THE CHARACTERS

SCOOT A tadpole. Any gender. Can be played by child or teen actor. Loyal to friends, worried about being left behind. Brave, willing to take risks to help friends.

WIGGLES A froglet (young adult frog). Any gender. Can be played by child or teen actor. Doesn't want to hurt anyone's feelings, likes to keep the peace. Kind and caring.

CRUNCH A froglet (young adult frog). Any gender. Can be played by child or teen actor. Doesn't worry much about offending others, confident, kind heart, protective and loyal.

SETTING: A pond.

TIME PERIOD: Present.

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AT RISE: Lifelong friends, SCOOT, WIGGLES and CRUNCH are in a pond. They are playing “Kick Pebble” with a blue pebble (for stage purposes, a blue ball). SCOOT is a tadpole. WIGGLES and CRUNCH are froglets (young adult frogs), although all are the same age. They have known each other since birth. SCOOT kicks the pebble/ball at Crunch (even though a tadpole, he has tiny back legs now). CRUNCH misses trapping it and the pebble/ball rolls off stage. SCOOT looks devastated that the pebble is gone.

SCOOT

My blue pebble...!

CRUNCH

Oh, no...I’m sorry, Scoot. That’s your favorite pebble.

SCOOT

It’s—it’s okay...There are lots of...other pebbles.

WIGGLES

But that was a really cool one.

SCOOT

Don’t worry about it.

(CRUNCH and WIGGLES exchange looks)

CRUNCH

I’ll go get it.

SCOOT

What?

CRUNCH

I’ll get it and bring it back. I can see it from here. It’s under that shrub.

SCOOT

You'll go out of the water for that long? That's suicide for a tadpole! No pebble is worth that! Look—here's a gray pebble. We can use this instead. It's fine.

WIGGLES

Just go get the blue pebble, Crunch.

(CRUNCH gets out of the pond and walks off stage toward the pebble/ball.
SCOOT watches as CRUNCH leaves and is shocked, noticing Crunch doesn't look like a tadpole anymore.)

SCOOT

What...

(turns to WIGGLES)

Crunch has...front and back legs now...

WIGGLES

Yeah...

SCOOT

You're not surprised? Did you know that already?

WIGGLES

Well...how do we *know*...that we know things? The great philosophers—

SCOOT

Wait! Did—Wiggles, did you lose your tail too?

(pause)

Did you?

WIGGLE

I...“Lose” is a weird word for it. We're not lizards who drop their tails. I mean, I still have a tail. It's just shorter.

SCOOT

So...you and Crunch...You're both... That means...I'm the only tadpole left!

WIGGLES

You're definitely not the only one left. I saw Gigi with a really long tail this morning.

SCOOT

Gigi just hatched a week ago! How does that make me feel any better? I hatched a couple months ago—same time as you! And all I have are these little back legs?

(CRUNCH comes back with the ball)

CRUNCH

Here's your blue pebble.

(SCOOT turns away)

You don't wanna play anymore?

(pause)

What, are you mad at me? Look, we couldn't keep it a secret forever. You must have noticed my front and back legs have been getting longer.

(to Wiggles)

Does Scoot know that you're also...um...a frog?

WIGGLES

(nods)

Well, we're froglets.

CRUNCH

Same thing.

WIGGLES

(to Scoot)

And Scoot, you're still a frog too!

CRUNCH

Just not as grown up as us. You can't hop through the woods or get the tree insects, but—

SCOOT

But I can sit here in the pond, by myself, 'cause you'll both be out on the land now, and I'll just be hiding from fish and birds.

END OF EXCERPT

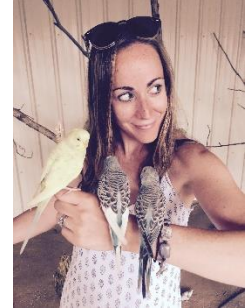
For the [full play, *Pebbles and Tails*, visit:](https://www.tameddaugh.com/pebbles-and-tails-a-5-minute-childrens-play)

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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! **When I was a child, I had a pet tadpole, and also “studied” the hundreds of tiny “peepers” that lived in our backyard pond. Frogs rock!** 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.