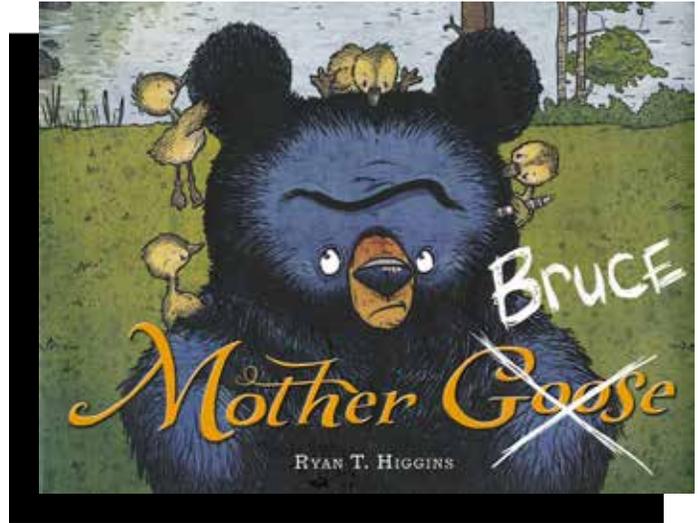


Booktalk!

Mother Bruce Script

For this Book Talk you will need

- 6 actors (Narrator, Bruce, 4 goslings)
- Bruce: black clothing, furry black mittens, black felt ears, bushy black eyebrows, black nose
- Goslings: yellow clothing, brown goose bill, flippers
- Additional props: grey or black blanket, sunglasses, umbrella, rabbit plush, laptop, small table, 4 white paper bags stuffed to make them egg-shaped, cloth shopping bag, fake fish, fake honey pot, copy of *Mother Bruce*



- Bruce:** *(next to table, standing at centre stage with arms crossed & looking his grumpiest)*
- Goslings:** *(hidden underneath blanket; spread out from one another to leave empty space in the middle)*
- Narrator:** *(standing at side of stage) Bruce was a bear who lived all by himself. (looking over at Bruce then continuing) He was a grump.*
- Bruce:** *(picking up sunglasses from table & putting them on as Narrator begins to speak)*
- Narrator:** He did NOT like sunny days...
- Bruce:** *(returning sunglasses to table; picking up umbrella & opening it as Narrator begins to speak)*
- Narrator:** He did NOT like rain...
- Bruce:** *(returning umbrella to table; picking up rabbit plush, looking at it & tossing it off to the side as Narrator begins to speak)*
- Narrator:** ...and he did NOT like cute animals. *(glancing at Bruce as he tosses rabbit plush aside) In fact, Bruce only liked ONE thing... (Bruce picking up 4 white bags & setting them in the middle of the blanket) Eggs!*

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- Bruce:** *(rubbing hands together then heading over to table with laptop set up on it)*
- Narrator:** But Bruce didn't eat eggs raw like other bears. Instead, he cooked them into fancy recipes that he found on the internet. One day, Bruce came across a recipe for hard-boiled goose eggs drizzled with honey-salmon sauce. *(pausing momentarily)*
- Bruce:** *(grabbing cloth shopping bag and heading to opposite side of stage)*
- Narrator:** *(continuing)* Since he already had nice, fresh goose eggs, he went out to get the missing ingredients: the fish *(Bruce bending down to pick up fake fish)*... and the honey *(Bruce picking up fake honey pot, then placing it and fish in shopping bag, walking back toward Narrator and setting bag on table)*.
- Bruce:** *(walking over to where he had set down the eggs and moving them around slightly)*
- Narrator:** Bruce prepared the eggs for hard-boiling *(Bruce heading back to table to get fish and honey out of shopping bag)* but when he went to fetch the other ingredients, he was met with an unwelcome surprise.
- Goslings:** *(throwing back blanket, emerging and saying in unison) MAMA!*
- Bruce:** *(startling and dropping whatever he was holding)*
- Goslings:** *(swarming around Bruce; Bruce trying to get away from them)*
- Narrator:** Bruce became the victim of mistaken identity. Bruce wanted hard-boiled eggs, NOT goslings.
- Bruce:** *(staring at goslings in shock)*
- Narrator:** He supposed he could settle for buttered goslings on toast... *(Bruce shaking his head and walking away from goslings)*...but for some reason, he lost his appetite.
- Bruce:** *(beckoning to goslings to follow him; goslings following along in single file; group walking to far side of stage)*
- Narrator:** Bruce gathered up the little geese and stomped back to their nest *(Bruce looking panicked)* only to find Mrs. Goose had flown south early.
- Bruce:** *(miming to goslings to stay put, then walking back toward Narrator)*

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- Narrator:** Bruce left the gosling there anyway and went back home. (*goslings looking at one another then heading in single file back toward Bruce*) But he was followed. Bruce was very stern and said things like:
- Bruce:** (*pointing back toward goslings' nest & sounding angry*) Go away!
- Narrator:** And...
- Bruce:** (*looking at goslings grumpily*) I am NOT your mother!
- Narrator:** And also...
- Bruce:** (*putting paws on hips and glaring at goslings*) I liked you better when you were eggs.
- Narrator:** Bruce could take it no longer and became EXTRA grumpy with them.
- Bruce:** (*clenching fists & shouting*) ROAR!
- Goslings:** (*looking at Bruce then at one another, then back to Bruce*) Mama?
- Narrator:** But, nothing worked. Goslings always follow their mother (*Bruce trying to get away from goslings; goslings following him*), even if SHE is a HE and HE is a bear! (*Bruce finally collapsing in centre of stage; gosling sitting down all around him*) It was no use... Bruce was stuck with them.
- Narrator:** (*holding up copy of Mother Bruce*) To find out what happens next, flock to your Scholastic Book Fair for your own copy of *Mother Bruce*!