

# LOUD MOUSE

A Reader's Theater Musical (Grades 3–5)

Reader's Theater script  
written by Cara Mentzel

Adapted from *Loud Mouse*  
by Cara Mentzel and Idina Menzel  
Illustrated by Jaclyn Siquett





## A Note from Idina and Cara About Reader's Theater

Dear Educators,

Reader's Theater is an instructional reading strategy used to increase reading engagement, develop reading fluency, and nurture learning communities. In Reader's Theater, students are tasked with performing a story using only the text and their voices—though no one's going to complain if student enthusiasm leads to a few costumes. As an instructional tool, Reader's Theater is an opportunity for students to practice proper phrasing, expression, and rate, and how all three interact to convey meaning. Reader's Theater scripts increase access for *all* students by allowing teachers to strategically assign parts based on interest, skill level, or instructional target. As such, scripts are not meant to be memorized, but to be *read*. And in the case of *Loud Mouse*, to be sung—LOUDLY!

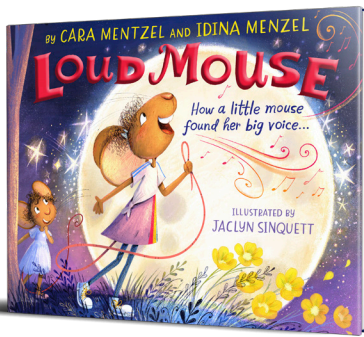
Finally, while *Loud Mouse* was written for savvy critters young and old, we know the text is advanced for our youngest pups and imagine a world where older elementary students deliver their best, biggest, loudest *Loud Mouse* performances for younger reading buddies.

Break a leg!

Idina and Cara







## ABOUT THE BOOK

Dee loves to sing. She sings during her morning yoga. She even sings while practicing her math facts. She usually sings to herself. But when her teacher asks everyone to share something with the class, Dee knows just what to bring: a song. And as Dee sings la, la, la, la, LOUDly in front of her class for the first time, something extraordinary happens. . . .

Complete with gorgeous illustrations and filled with humor and heart, *Loud Mouse* is a clever tale about learning that sometimes your best self is big, brave, and, yes, loud.

## ABOUT THE AUTHORS

**Cara Mentzel's** debut memoir, *Voice Lessons: A Sisters Story*, about her relationship with her superstar sister, Idina Menzel (yes, they spell their last names differently), was a Goodreads Choice Award nominee in 2017. Cara lives in Boulder, Colorado, where she and her husband raised their Brady Bunch of boys against the beauty of the Rocky Mountains. She has a master's degree in elementary education with an emphasis on children's literacy, and though she currently spends most of her time writing, she enjoyed teaching elementary school for well over a decade and can occasionally be found back in the classroom talking about books she loves. This is her first picture book.



**Idina Menzel** is a powerhouse: actor, singer-songwriter, philanthropist, entrepreneur, and now writer. She was Tony-nominated for her Broadway performances in *Rent* and *If/Then*, winning the prize for *Wicked's* green girl. People around the world know her as Elsa in Disney's Oscar®-winning *Frozen* and *Frozen II*. She has performed at the Oscars and the Super Bowl, and is the cofounder of A BroaderWay Foundation, whose mission is leadership development to amplify young women's voices through the arts. *Loud Mouse* is Idina's latest endeavor to build on the message of empowerment and finding our voices. Idina's greatest gift is her son, Walker.

## ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

**Jaclyn Siquett** grew up playing in her dad's garden and tossing french fries to seagulls at the Jersey Shore. She still lives in New Jersey and spends her time painting with her little girl, singing too loudly in the car, and illustrating books for children. See her artwork at [www.jaclynsiquett.com](http://www.jaclynsiquett.com).





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## ROLES

Narrator 1



Dee



Miss Pink



Ren and  
Narrator 6



(Narrator 4)



Narrator 2



Cara Lee



Simone and  
Narrator 4



Mr. Dimple



(Narrator 5)



Narrator 3



Mother



Manny and  
Narrator 5



Mr. Hummingbird



(Narrator 6)



# LOUD MOUSE

**NARRATOR 1:** Loud Mouse, A Reader's Theater Musical

## ACT 1

**NARRATOR 2:** Dee loved to sing. She sang during her morning yoga. She sang while practicing her math facts. She sang while running the bath for her little sister, Cara Lee.

**NARRATOR 3:** The simple feeling of the air in her lungs and her voice in the world made her happy.

**DEE:** *With my tail in my hand,  
My whiskers out proud,  
I sing it big,  
I sing it  
La, la, la, la loud . . .*

**EVERYONE:** *La, la, la, la, la . . .*

**NARRATOR 1:** Dee usually sang to herself. But today would be different.

**NARRATOR 2:** On her way to school, Dee sang by the towering evergreens. She sang as she passed the bright buttercups. She sang next to the humble anthill.

**NARRATOR 3:** Yesterday, Miss Pink said—

**MISS PINK:** Bring in something that symbolizes what you like to do.

**NARRATOR 3:** Miss Pink had a fondness for big words.

**NARRATOR 1:** So today, Simone brought her soccer ball.

**SIMONE:** I brought my soccer ball!

**NARRATOR 1:** Manny brought his drum.

**MANNY:** I brought my drum!

**NARRATOR 1:** Ren brought a marker and—



# LOUD MOUSE

- REN:** I brought a marker and made everyone watch me draw a detailed picture of the International Space Station!
- NARRATOR 2:** When it was Dee's turn, she stood up empty-pawed. Miss Pink looked confused.
- MISS PINK:** Dee, what did you bring for us?
- NARRATOR 2:** —she asked.
- DEE:** I brought a song
- NARRATOR 2:** —Dee said. She closed her eyes and took a deep breath.
- DEE:** *With my tail in my hand,  
My whiskers out proud,  
I sing it big,  
I sing it  
La, la, la, la loud . . .*
- EVERYONE:** *La, la, la, la, la . . .*
- NARRATOR 3:** Dee's voice was la, la, la, la loud. What Miss Pink would call—
- MISS PINK:** RESOUNDING!
- NARRATOR 3:** Dee's voice made construction paper flap on the bulletin boards. It made Simone's bangs blow off her face. It stopped Principal Hummingbird short in the hall.
- NARRATOR 1:** Dee's voice was strong and striking, but also comforting, like a cozy fire in wintertime.
- NARRATOR 2:** Her voice was colorful, like the ripest berries in springtime.
- NARRATOR 3:** Dee felt her voice filling the room and everyone in it, the way blue fills the sky.
- DEE:** I feel my voice filling the room and everyone in it, the way blue fills the sky.

# LOUD MOUSE

**NARRATOR 1:** Then something strange happened. Dee started to grow bigger. So big, she could see the patch of silver hair on top of Miss Pink's head.

**NARRATOR 2:** So big, she accidentally erased some of Ren's drawing with her butt.

**NARRATOR 3:** By the time Dee's song was over, she wasn't a little mouse anymore. She was a big, big, BIG mouse. What Miss Pink would call an ENORMOUS mouse.

**MISS PINK:** Spectacular!

**NARRATOR 1:** —said Miss Pink, and the whole class started to clap, even Ren.

*<Everyone claps>*

**PRINCIPAL  
HUMMINGBIRD:** Tip-top!

**NARRATOR 1:** —said Principal Hummingbird. Principal Hummingbird had a fondness for short words.

**NARRATOR 2:** Nothing like this had ever happened to Dee before. She needed a bigger chair!

**NARRATOR 3:** At first, she felt special, like a queen on her very own throne.

**DEE:** I feel like a queen on my very own throne.

**NARRATOR 3:** But at snack time, she started to feel lonely.

**NARRATOR 1:** In music, the class was so excited for Mr. Dimple to hear Dee sing.

**MR. DIMPLE:** Fortissimo!

**NARRATOR 1:** —he said. Mr. Dimple had a fondness for Italian words. But later he asked her to sing more softly so her voice would blend in with the chorus.

**MR. DIMPLE:** Sing more softly so your voice blends in with the chorus.

**NARRATOR 2:** In PE, when the class practiced their dance routine, it was cool that Dee got to stand in the middle—



# LOUD MOUSE

**DEE:** But really obvious when I made a mistake!

**NARRATOR 3:** At recess, Dee was finally big enough to play tetherball with the badgers. But then—

**DEE:** LOOK OUT!

**NARRATOR 3:** Her shout blew two kindergartners into the prickly potentilla bushes.

**NARRATOR 1:** By the end of the day, the joy Dee had felt earlier faded. And she could fit, once again, in her usual chair.

*<Intermission>*

## ACT 2

**NARRATOR 4:** Dee walked home confused, wondering if singing for her class had been a good idea after all.

**DEE:** I wonder if singing for my class was a good idea after all?

**NARRATOR 5:** She was afraid to sing again. Afraid to change. She began to cry.

**NARRATOR 6:** Dee cried as she passed the humble anthill. She cried as she passed the bright buttercups. She cried as she passed the towering evergreens.

**NARRATOR 4:** When Dee got home, Cara Lee noticed her big sister's soggy whiskers.

**CARA LEE:** What's the matter, Dee?

**DEE:** I think I have to stop singing

**NARRATOR 4:** —Dee told her.

**CARA LEE:** But why?

**NARRATOR 4:** Dee sighed.



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**DEE:** Because when I sang for my class, I got really big and loud and things changed.

**CARA LEE:** You've always been big and loud to me

**NARRATOR 4:** —Cara Lee said.

**NARRATOR 5:** Their mother stepped in, and Dee climbed into her arms, grateful she would always be able to do so.

**MOTHER:** How did you feel when you sang today?

**NARRATOR 5:** —her mother asked.

**DEE:** Like . . . well, like me. Like the best me I've ever been.

**NARRATOR 5:** Cara Lee quickly joined Dee in their mother's arms.

**CARA LEE:** I mean, who else would you be?!

**EVERYONE:** *I'm just gonna be me, who else would I be? Oh, I'm just gonna be me, who else would I be?*

**AUDIENCE:** *I'm just gonna be me, who else would I be?*

**NARRATOR 6:** That night, the two sisters snuggled together, their tiny noses cold in the night air.

**CARA LEE:** Do you think a star can choose not to shine?

**NARRATOR 6:** —Cara Lee asked.

**NARRATOR 6:** Dee thought about this for a moment.

**DEE:** I sure hope not

**NARRATOR 6:** —she said.

**NARRATOR 4:** By recess the next day, Dee was her big self again. She sang as she ran on the new Wonder Wheel.



# LOUD MOUSE

**DEE:** I sang on the Wonder Wheel!

**NARRATOR 5:** In art, she sang as she painted the wall mural.

**DEE:** I sang as I painted the mural!

**NARRATOR 6:** But best of all, in the school concert that night, she had a solo. With a full heart, Dee sang for her friends and their families.

**DEE:** *With my tail in my hand,  
My whiskers out proud,  
I sing it big,  
I sing it  
La, la, la, la loud . . .*

**EVERYONE:** *La, la, la, la, la . . .*

**EVERYONE:** Then . . . something even STRANGER started to happen.

<Everyone lifts their heads slowly and looks toward the ceiling.>

<Beat>

**PRINCIPAL  
HUMMINGBIRD:** Wow!

**CARA LEE:** Whoa.

**MR. DIMPLE:** Bravissimo!

**MISS PINK:** Unprecedented!