In this inspired take on Henny Penny, Chucky Ducky, Lucy Goosey, and Vickie, Nickie, and Rickie Chickie spread the alarm that the earth is quaking. Filled with clever wordplay, Margie Palatini’s rollicking romp is given added dimension through Barry Moser’s dynamic and playful illustrations.

“...belly-quaking, thigh-slapping, earth-shaking take on Henny Penny.”
KIRKUS, STARRED REVIEW

“A rollicking retelling of an old classic.”
SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL

“...rhythmic playful storytelling.”
BOOKLIST

BOOKSENSE PICK
New Jersey Governor Book Club Pick
Tennessee Volunteer State Book Award Nominee
Pennsylvania Young Readers Award Nominee
Indiana Young Readers Award Nominee
Georgie Picture Storybook Award Nominee
Oregon Patricia Gallagher Picture Book Award

More Belly Laughs from Margie & Barry

A SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL 'BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR’
“...a riotous treat for eyes and ears...”
SLJ, STARRED REVIEW

“...a celebration of team spirit...”
The LOS ANGELES TIMES

“...delightful...”
The WALL STREET JOURNAL

“...a great read.”
SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE

CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY ‘BEST OF THE BEST’
“...hip and punny text...”
SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL

“Comic flourishs galore...”
KIRKUS

“...riotous fun...”
BOOKLIST

MULTI-STATE AWARD WINNER and NOMINEE
EARTQUACK!

by Margie Palatini • illustrated by Barry Moser

READER'S THEATER
Adapted by the Author
For Non-Profit Use Only

CAST OF CHARACTERS

CHUCKY DUCKY
LUCY GOOSEY
VICKIE, NICKIE & RICKIE CHICKIE
BREWSTER ROOSTER
SUE EWE
SAM & PAM LAMB
NANNY GOAT
BILLY THE KID
MERLE SQUIRREL
IGGY PIGGY
HERMAN ERMINE
(Alias -- Wormy Weasel)
JOEL & LOWELL MOLE

NARRATORS
NARRATOR 1: Little Chucky Ducky finished swimming his morning laps.
NARRATOR 2: He dried off his bill and wiped off his two webbed feet ...
NARRATOR 3: When SUDDENLY ---
NARRATOR 1: He heard the ground GRUMBLE!
NARRATOR 2: He felt the ground RUMBLE!
NARRATOR 3: And then with a STUMBLE, Chucky Ducky went down in a TUMBLE!

CHUCKY: Oh, good golly!
The earth is crumbling! The earth is crumbling!
It’s a QUAKE!
I have to warn my friends!

NARRATOR 1: Chucky Ducky waddled and flapped across the meadow to Lucy Goosey.

CHUCKY: QUACK QUACK!
The earth is CRUMBLING! The earth is CRUMBLING! It’s a QUAKE!

LUCY: Are you sure?

CHUCKY: I heard what I HEARD. I felt what I FELT. I saw what I SAW. ---
And I SAW IT!

NARRATOR 3: SUDDENLY ... right below their FOUR WEBBED FEET ...

NARRATOR 1: They heard the ground GRUMBLE.
NARRATOR 2: They felt the ground RUMBLE.
NARRATOR 3: And before they knew it, Chucky Ducky and Lucy Goosey were taking a TUMBLE!
LUCY: HONK!  The earth is CRUMBLING!
      The earth is CRUMBLING!

CHUCKY: I tell you it's a QUAKE!  We have to warn our friends!

NARRATOR 1: Chucky Ducky and Lucy Goosey
         waddled and flapped and flapped and waddled
         up to the barnyard.

NARRATOR 2: Who should they meet SCRATCHING and HATCHING, but ---


CHUCKY: QUACK QUACK!
      The earth is crumbing!  The earth is crumbling!  It's a QUAKE!

VICKIE, NICKIE & RICKIE: Is this some kind of ---

VICKIE: CHEEP

NICKIE: CHEEP

RICKIE: CHEEP

VICKIE, NICKIE & RICKIE: trick?

CHUCKY: No!  Honest!  I heard what I HEARD.  I felt what I FELT.
         I saw what I SAW --- and I SAW it!

LUCY: HONK!  Me too!

NARRATOR 3: SUDDENLY ... right below their FOUR WEBBED FEET
         and SIX LITTLE CHICKEN LEGS ...

NARRATOR 1: They heard the ground GRUMBLE.

NARRATOR 2: They felt the ground RUMBLE.

NARRATOR 3: And before they knew it, they were ALL taking a TUMBLE!
VICKIE, NICKIE, & RICKIE: CHEEP! CHEEP! CHEEP!  
The earth is CRUMBLING!

LUCY: HONK! The earth is CRUMBLING!

CHUCKY: QUACK! I tell you, it’s a QUAKE!  
We have to warn our friends!

NARRATOR 1: So, Chucky Ducky, Lucy Goosey,  
and Vickie, Nickie, and Rickie Chickie ----

NARRATOR 2: flapped and waddled and waddled and flapped ---

NARRATOR 3: in a TROOP up to the COOP to see Brewster Rooster.

CHUCKY: QUACK QUACK! The earth is crumbling! The earth is crumbling!  
It’s a QUAKE!

LUCY: HONK! Sound the alarm!

BREWSTER: Sorry. But I only DOODLE-DOO once a day.

VICKIE, NICKIE & RICKIE: But you just gotta crow!

CHUCKY: QUACK! I heard what I HEARD. I felt what I FELT. I saw what I saw,  
and I SAW it!

LUCY: HONK! Me too!

VICKIE, NICKIE, & RICKIE: CHEEP CHEEP CHEEP! We three!

NARRATOR 3: SUDDENLY ... right below their FOUR WEBBED FEET, SIX LITTLE  
CHICKEN LEGS and TWO BIG DRUMSTICKS --
NARRATOR 1: They heard the ground GRUMBLE.
NARRATOR 2: They felt the ground RUMBLE.
NARRATOR 3: And before they knew it, they were ALL taking a TUMBLE.
BREWSTER: COCK-A-DOODLE-DOOOOOO! The earth is CRUMBLING!
VICKIE, NICKIE & RICKIE: CHEEP CHEEP CHEEP! The earth is CRUMBLING!
LUCY: HONK! The earth is CRUMBLING!
CHUCKY: QUACK! I tell you it’s a QUAKE! We have to warn our friends!
BREWSTER: COCK-A-DOODLE-DOOOOOOO!
NARRATOR 1: Nanny Goat, little Billy the Kid, Sue Ewe and her lambs, Sam and Pam, Iggy Piggy and Merle Squirrel all rushed over to find out what causing such a BIG ---
NARRATORS 2 & 3: COMMOTION!
EWE: So ... what’s NEW?
NANNY GOAT: Yes. What’s the big “to-do”?
BILLY THE KID: You woke me up from my nap!
IGGY PIGGY: And you interrupted my lunch.
CHUCKY: QUACK! The earth is CRUMBLING! The earth is CRUMBLING! I tell you it’s a QUAKE!
SAM, PAM, & SUE: Oh, it can’t be that baa-aaa-aaad.
MERLE: It sounds nutty to me.
CHUCKY: But, I heard what I HEARD. I felt what I FELT. I saw what I SAW -- and I SAW it!

IGGY: Hogwash!

NARRATOR 3: And then SUDDENLY ...

NARRATOR 1: They all heard a GRUMBLE.

NARRATOR 2: They all felt a RUMBLE.

NARRATOR 3: And one by one they went down in a TUMBLE!

IGGY: Run for the hills!

MERLE: Take to the trees!

BILLY: The doorway! The doorway you ninnies!

NARRATOR 1: So they listened to the kid, and ran to the door of the big red barn.

NARRATOR 2: They HUDDLED.

NARRATOR 3: And CUDDLED.

NARRATOR 1: And hoped they were safe from any more rumbling, grumbling and most of all crumbling.

NARRATOR 2: But, close by, hiding under a sticky thicket, was one very hungry ...

WEASEL!
WEASEL: Mmmmm -mmmm-mmmmm
YUM YUM!
My pantry is pretty paltry, but I have an idea that will get their goat,
and make me one big BANQUET BUFFET!

NARRATOR 2: So ... the sneaky weasel climbed out from the sticky thicket,
and made his menu for the month.

NARRATOR 3: Then ... he disguised himself in his long WHITE WINTER COAT
and ran to the barn shouting ...

WEASEL: The earth is CRUMBLING! The earth is CRUMBLING!

CHUCKY: QUACK QUACK! You know about the quake?

WEASEL: (grins to audience)
I heard what I heard.
I felt what I felt.
I saw what I saw ---
and I SAW IT!

BREWSTER: Just a minute.
I've never seen YOU around here before.
WHO exactly are you?

WEASEL: Why, the name is ... HERMAN ERMINE.
As it happens, I'm an EXPERT
in rumbles and crumbles.
In fact ... 
I have a QUAKEPROOF hideaway
very close by.
Don't stay here, when you can be
SAFE with me.

EVERYONE: Yes! Yes! We want to be SAFE!
NARRATOR 1: So ... Into the DEEP ... DARK ... THICKEST THICKETS of the woods the group trooped.

NARRATOR 2: After a ways, the weasel stopped.

NARRATOR 3: And pointed.

WEASEL: Down here.

VICKIE, RICKIE & NICKIE: But THAT looks like a HOLE!

NANNY: A DEEP DARK HOLE.

SAM & PAM: And it looks like a long wa-a-a-a-ay down too!

WEASEL: Come now. Don’t be sheepish.

NARRATOR 1: The wily weasel was just about to give the lambs a push when ...

NARRATOR 3: SUDDENLY, there there was a GRUMBLE!

NARRATOR 2: Then a RUMBLE!

NARRATOR 3: And the ground around the weasel began to CRUMBLE!
**NARRATOR 1:** First he tripped.

**NARRATOR 2:** Then he stumbled.

**NARRATOR 3:** Right through the sticky thicket --- and out of his WHITE WINTER COAT!

**WEASEL:** Uh-oh. I think I just FUMBLED.

**NARRATOR 1:** Brewster Rooster waved the coat for all to see.

**BREWSTER:** Well! What a weaselly little fellow we have here! Thank goodness were are SAFE!

**NARRATOR 2:** But then --- the ground GRUMBLEd

**NARRATOR 3:** It RUMBLED

**NARRATOR 1:** and crumbled crumbled CRUMBLEd!

**CHUCKY:** QUACK QUACK! I tell you it’s a QUAKE!

**LUCY:** HONK HONK! A QUAKE!

**VICKIE, NICKIE & RICKIE:** CHEEP CHEEP CHEEP! A QUAKE!

**PAM, SAM & SUE:** BAA BAA! BAA! A QUAKE!

**NANNY AND BILLY:** NAA NAA! A QUAKE!

**MERLE:** CHIT CHURP! A QUAKE!

**IGGY:** OINK! IT’S A QUAKE!
JOEL & LOWELL MOLE: Uh ... it's not a quake.

EVERYONE: WHAT? IT'S NOT A QUAKE?

JOEL: (shakes head) Nope. It's just us!

LOWELL: Joel and Lowell MOLE.

EVERONE: JOEL and LOWELL MOLE?

IGGY & MERLE: You mean the earth isn't GRUMBLING?

NANNY, BILLY, SHEEP: You mean the earth isn't RUMBLING?

LUCY, BREWSTER, CHICKIES: You mean the earth isn't CRUMBLING?

CHUCKY: No QUAKE?

JOEL: We don't know anything about grumbles, rumbles, crumbles or quakes.

LOWELL: We're just looking for our cousin ---- GARRET FERRET.

JOEL: (open road map) Does anybody know the way to SAN JOSE?

JOEL & LOWELL: We think we took a wrong turn at the LINCOLN TUNNEL.

NARRATOR 1: Wrong turn, indeed!

NARRATOR 2: So, they all showed Joel and Lowell which way to go ...

NARRATOR 3: And out of the woods and back to the barnyard went Iggy Piggy, Merle Squirrel, Nanny Goat, Billy the Kid, Sue Ewe and her lambs, Sam and Pam, Brewster Rooster, Vickie, Nickie, and Rickie Chickie, Lucy Goosey and ...

NARRATOR 1: That little Quack, Chucky Ducky.

NARRATOR 2: Who right from the beginning was ...

NARRATORS 1,2 &3: ALL WET!

THE END!
Questions

• What story did Margie Palatini use to create her own version? What are the similarities and differences?

  • Identify the Rhyming Words and Phrases used throughout.

  • Discuss earthquakes. Why is this book called, ‘EARTHQUACK’?

  • Discuss the wordplay, puns, and refrain.

  • Why did the author choose ‘moles’ as characters for the ending? What other animals or insects live underground?

• Where is San Jose? Where is the Lincoln Tunnel?

• What is another name for a weasel? Why did the author choose that animal for the ‘villain’ in the story?

Activities

• Make a road map of Joel & Lowell Mole’s journey. Do you know the way to SAN JOSE?

  Listen to the SONG that INSPIRED the ending to EARTHQUACK!

  http://www.last.fm/music/Dionne+Warwick/Do+You+Know+the+Way+to+San+Jose

• Research the Lincoln Tunnel.

  http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lincoln_Tunnel
  http://nyroads.com/crossing/lincoln/

• Draw a classroom mural of Chucky Ducky’s farm with all students taking part in creating a character or scenery.