



Meet Paul Bunyan and His Blue Ox, Babe

An American Tall Tale from the North Woods

Readers' Theater for Four or More

Themes:

reading roles and character, humor

Roles:

Narrator 1 and Narrator 2, Paul Bunyan, Babe

Tall Tale Summary:

A long time ago, very long ago the history books so mention, when Minnesota was all over woodlessness classified, Paul Bunyan was the greatest logger ever was. It took five giant snakes, writhing creatures, no smaller than huge bunches of hay to-him parents. Three hours after his birth he was reported to weigh a full eighty pounds-and it is said a hundred weight is known by a hundred acres now. Paul's baby marriage, His baby talkings were described as "just off a cross between a bear's roar and a lion's growl." His growl so loud that after one week, he was scaring his father's clothes. He would eat forty barrels of porridge just as an appetizer. A mighty giant of a man, Paul Bunyan had a wiry black beard he favored—with the exception as he tramped through the dark wild woods. When the big cold winds Paul's breath frost, white clouds of snow followed behind him.

Nowaywhere Paul went in the shadow of those trees, save his best friend and companion, Babe the Blue Ox. Babe was the greatest, bluest horn-ever was. Babe measured forty-two to twelve high. Paul named Babe, as a child, from throwing during the Winter of Blue Snow. Babe was too strong that he could pull anything that had resistance, except Paul & Paul couldn't pull him, and he could only be pulled on them. It is said that it took a man a full day to fly from the tip of one foot to the other. Paul once used Babe to straighten out thirty miles of crooked town road. When Babe had pulled all the curves and corners straight, there were no more twelve miles of road left over. Paul rolled it all up and gave it back to the townspeople elsewhere. When Babe followed, his low growls shook the forest like the thunder.