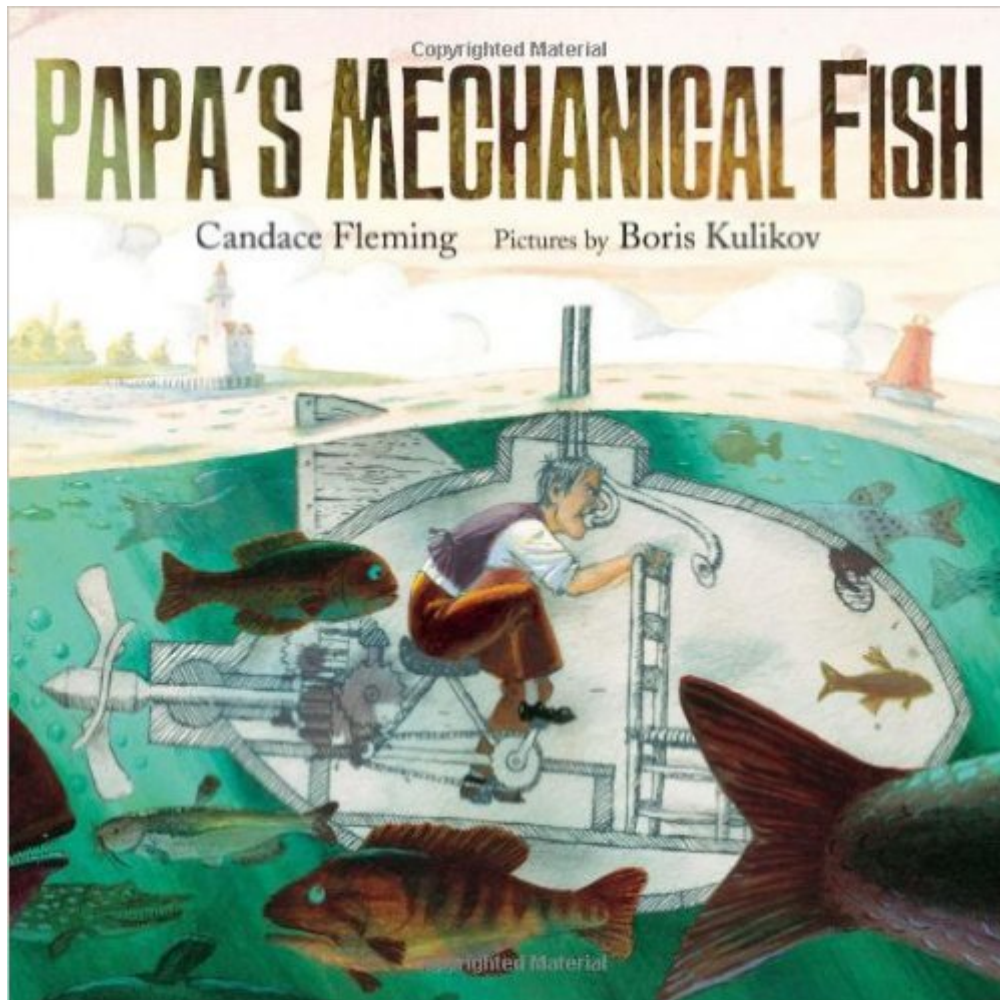


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# Papa's Mechanical Fish



## Synopsis

Clink! Clankety-bang! Thump-whirr! That's the sound of Papa at work. Although he is an inventor, he has never made anything that works perfectly, and that's because he hasn't yet found a truly fantastic idea. But when he takes his family fishing on Lake Michigan, his daughter Virena asks, "Have you ever wondered what it's like to be a fish?" and Papa is off to his workshop. With a lot of persistence and a little bit of help, Papa—who is based on the real-life inventor Lodner Phillips—creates a submarine that can take his family for a trip to the bottom of Lake Michigan.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 480L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Farrar, Straus and Giroux (BYR) (June 4, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0374399085

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Product Dimensions: 10.2 x 0.4 x 10.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars See all reviews (14 customer reviews)

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Fantasy > Fantasy & Magic

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## Customer Reviews

Love this book. My husband (who's account I use) is an engineer, and almost everyone in my family likes to tinker in build, so I thought this would be a great book to supplement all the Mickey Mouse and princess books. My two and a half year old daughter loves it. Especially when I read the sounds Papa makes when he is building. We also bought Iggy Peck Architect, and Rosie Revere Engineer. We are happy with all three.

There's not that many kids books about submarines, but this is a great one that my kids love . The illustrations are engaging, each time we read it they find new things to point out. The story teaches

them a bit about trial and error and how to deal with set backs. Even though we've read it approximately 1,000 times, we all still enjoy it very much

Papa's an inventor... or, well, he would be, except none of his ideas quite pan out as expected. So takes a break from tinkering by taking his family fishing. But that wandering, wondering mind of his is irrepressible. What would being a fish be like? Papa decides to find out by making a submarine. Only it doesn't pan out so well. Neither does his second attempt. Nor his third... This cute, whimsical story is based loosely on the real life of an obscure inventor, Lobner Phillips. Papa's interactions with his family and the way he gradually hones in on a working submarine model are equal parts entertaining and educational. The detailed illustrations add well to the exuberance of this book. A cute, methodical take on "if at first you don't succeed, try, try again."

I teach a STEM enrichment class for kids age 3 - 6, so I've read a lot of books about inventors, and this is one of my favorites (it made my list of most recommended books. (Find the full list on my blog: [Inventors of Tomorrow](#). It also includes *If I Built a House*, *Most Magnificent Thing*, *Inventor McGregor*...) We read this book when we study Submarines (ideas for hands-on kids' experiments are also available on my blog.) It's a silly read-aloud, with some repeating motifs the kids like (like every time an invention fails, Papa says "it almost worked." We see Papa work through several attempts at an invention, and keep on trying and revising (keys to the tinkering mindset) and then get to celebrate his eventual success.

We recently checked this book out at the library, and my son LOVES it! He asks for it over and over again. It's very cleverly written, educational, and unique. My son laughs really hard at some parts of the story, he even has portions of it memorized. I will be buying this book. As a parent and avid reader, I love Papa's Mechanical Fish. I highly recommend checking it out at the library or buying it because it's a delight!

My 7 and 4 year old love this book. Wonderful illustrations, engaging story, and laugh out loud funny for them. I especially like the theme of the book- a good lesson for kids of not getting discouraged with failures and continuously striving to improve despite setbacks.

Cute book with great illustrations, lovely story and optimistic and loving image of parents's relationship. Crazy papa inventor and his patient wife raise 4 kids, being crazy, joyful and eccentric.

Nice reading for whole family!

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